

Getting down to business

MARIE SAMSON

BRUCE White is the real inner west version of celluloid sewage hero Kenny in the film of that name.

Mr White loves his job emptying portaloos for Sanihire in Mortlake.

"We don't want for anything. I've found it a good company to work for," Mr White said.

"It's not hard work. There's no strain on your back.

"I don't smell it. I've think I've got immune to it."

Like Kenny, he's a down-to-earth kind of bloke who isn't easily ruffled.

"You make your own dramas," Mr White said.

"You might get someone who doesn't want to move their car and they say: 'You're not going to pump that toilet out while I'm here. It smells.'"

"We don't want conflict. We'll go back next week and do it. They come around."

Mr White said since the film he'd become known as Kenny and things had got easier.

"It's just people recognising that there are people out there cleaning toilets for a living.

"I think a lot of people think portaloos clean themselves."

Mr White said he'd love to be in the sequel of *Kenny*.



Jason Wilson of Sanihire with some of the many loos he looks after.

Picture: Ann Moran

"We could call it Bruce meets Kenny," he said.

Sanihire manager Jason Wilson said the company had a couple of thousand portaloos, which it supplied to builders, functions and events.

The company provided 160 toilets for the recent U2 concerts.

"We effectively have a large vacuum cleaner and put the end of it into the toilets and suck out the

waste and dispose of it straight into the sewer," Mr Wilson said.

Problems rarely arose but when they did it was often down to blockages, he said.

People put all kinds of odd things down the toilet – including magazines, bricks and children's toys – which could play havoc with portaloos.

"You have to reverse the hose and suck whatever it is out the

opposite way – or use a stick to loosen it up," Mr Wilson said.

He believed the film had helped humanise the job.

"People don't really appreciate what these guys do.

They say: 'Here comes the poo man'."

Mr Wilson has heard all the sewage jokes going but kept his sense of humour.

One of Sanihire's slogans is 'Your business is our business'.

Road widening irks businesses

CARISSA JOSEPHS

LOCAL business leaders met State Opposition Leader to vent their anger over the Government's plan to widen Victoria Rd.

About 20 people met Peter Debnam at Drummoyne RSL Club on Tuesday as a precursor to a larger meeting this Saturday.

Liberal candidate for Balmain Peter Shmigel said he had been approached by many community leaders who thought the Government's failure to give any notice of the plans was "extraordinarily arrogant".

"I've had a tremendous amount of feedback from locals," Mr Shmigel said.

"(They've been) asking questions such as how big will (the road) be, how noisy will it be and how much pollution will it produce?"

Drummoyne Liberal candidate Greg Long said the meeting was a necessary measure to see what the public thinks about the changes.

"We feel it's very important to talk to the public and ask them to give us their ideas," Mr Long said.

"There absolutely needs to be a solution to the Victoria Rd situation, but what we're saying is that we can't allow it to be a Band-Aid solution – it has to be a long-term solution."

Saturday's meeting will be held at 10.15am near the car park at Drummoyne Olympic Pool.

Ideas from the meeting will be passed on to Mr Debnam.

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