

**Jennifer Williamson**

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**Subject:** FW: EF1144415 - PR.DEC.4 - The proper usage of Apex Drive.

-----Original Message-----

From: David & Beverley Bird [mailto:[dfbnbird@iinet.net.au](mailto:dfbnbird@iinet.net.au)]  
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2011 11:23 AM  
To: Melissa Organ  
Subject: EF1144415 - PR.DEC.4 - The proper usage of Apex Drive.

Hi Melissa,

Got your acknowledgement of my letter.

As I, and a lot of the other writers, pointed out, we built Apex Drive as a Scenic Road. Just that. All the other things which were put there subsequently were additions and not the reason for the Drive.

None of us were aware that the Albany Soapbox Club had been given permission to close the Drive so many times during the year. Plus the Motor Cycles and the 2 days for the Vintage Cars as well means that as it is always weekends or Holiday weekends, a great many people are denied access to the Drive, the views, the Avenue of Honour and the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial. Many of these visitors have a very narrow margin of opportunity to see this icon and it is seriously to the detriment of the City that this is so.

For a group of people who operate a very minor sport in Albany they have been given vastly too much in the way of opportunities to obstruct people from their rights and entitlements to use the whole of Mt. Clarence. The membership is apparently less than 20 families and it is frequently the case that only 4 or 5 children actually compete on any given day.

I do not know of any traffic count ever having been done on Apex Drive but I believe that such a count might reveal just how many tourists use Apex Drive and if carried out over the whole year would reveal that holiday weekends such as Easter, Anzac Day and Queen's Birthday (The June holiday) would reveal that a great many people use the Drive.

I do not think that anyone wants to completely stop Soapboxes from having their fun but if anyone suggested closing York Street for 25 or 30 afternoons per year there might be a bit of an outcry. Same applies to Apex Drive.

For your information, the claims by the Albany Soapbox Club that they contributed vast amounts of energy and even vaster sums of money to build the Drive are not valid. They may have, from time to time supplied work or even funds for their own needs to run their events but they made no contribution to the building of the Drive.

This is perhaps the largest undertaking ever attempted by any Apex Club. The road was built by Members of the Apex Club with the considerable help of operators of trucks and graders and bulldozers. The Town of Albany

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contributed exactly \$60 to pay for the royalties on gravel used in the construction. When handed to the Town for the benefit of all people it was never envisaged that a small number of people would ever be in a situation where they could exclude vast numbers of visitors, for whom the Drive was built.

You have received a number of letters from Apexians who actually built the Drive and helped with the planting of the Avenue of Honour. You will have noticed that they have written from all over Australia. They are prepared to go to any lengths, including massive media campaigns to prevent the Drive being closed off as it now is. This will be all over Australia. It will generate very adverse publicity.

My best regards, Melissa.

David Bird.  
Life Member of the Apex Club of Albany.