

# Feathers fly in Sparrow froth fight

## ROSE PARK

Gordon Armstrong

WHILE a group of Rose Park residents is locked in a legal battle with a local coffee shop over plans for outdoor dining, a band of al fresco activists has mounted a counter-attack.

Little Sparrow Coffee Studio is in an Environment, Resources and Development Court dispute with four residents over its plans for nine tables outside its Alexandra Ave premise.

The case briefly went to court last week, and was set for a further hearing on June

21. In the meantime, the al-fresco aficionados, including Joy Shepherd, are all steamed up.

"People I hardly know have been coming out of the woodwork to say they would do whatever was needed to keep the cafe open," Ms Shepherd said.

"The young owner is doing his very best to run a viable business.

"Some of these people complaining are really depriving someone from having a job and it is depriving us residents from somewhere to meet for a coffee."

Erica Tomkins also support-

A group of residents that is lobbying for Rose Park's Little Sparrow Coffee Studio to be allowed to offer outdoor dining.



ed Little Sparrow. "I would be devastated if this business closes," Ms Tomkins said.

"It is just a coffee shop with no other agendas. Some people are saying you have to dodge chairs while walking on the footpath. How petty."

Speaking after last week's ERD Court directions hearing, cafe owner Matt Davoson-Jones said the matter had been draining.

"All we are trying to do is to provide a service," said Mr Davoson-Jones, whose cafe also

serves as a tuckshop for nearby Rose Park Primary School.

"It's a cafe helping the community and providing a valuable service to the school.

"We are not opening at night, not on Sundays and we definitely won't have a liquor licence, which seems to be the issue for some people."

In an initial notice of appeal, lawyer Jamie Botten, on behalf of the outdoor dining opponents, said the council erred in assessing the proposal as an extension of an existing

shop or cafe because the cafe itself never had approval.

It was previously a deli called Rose Park Providore.

The outdoor dining was "entirely out of character in Alexandra Ave", Mr Botten wrote. It would "substantially detract from the high residential amenity" of Alexandra Ave and would "detract from the historic character" of Rose Park.

It also had no parking, making it "entirely contrary to ... the development plan".

## IN BRIEF

### Fall at the falls

EMERGENCY services were called in to rescue a man who fell at Morialta Falls last week.

The elderly man slid down an embankment on Thursday, May 31. A police spokesman said the man was not injured.

### Read all about it

NORWOOD, Payneham & St Peters Council wants people to read as many books as possible before December 1.

People who complete the challenge will go in a draw to win one of three \$50 Dillons vouchers. See npspsa.gov.au

### Students pipe up

SEYMOUR will celebrate 10 years of piping and drumming when it performs *Reflections* at Norwood Concert Hall on Saturday, from 7pm.

Old scholars will join current students, covering artists such as Ed Sheeran and Leonard Cohen. Tickets (\$30) from bit.ly/ReflectionsSCPB