



Tony Stublely . . . amazed by the new company's success.

Picture: MARTIN LANGE -PP368899

Spirit of past still supreme

Peter Bodkin

WHEN North Narrabeen's Tony Stublely met his friend Stuart Gilbert for lunch two years ago, he had no idea they would plan a "rum rebellion" that would take the pair all the way to the top.

They decided to brew a premium spirit using traditional distillation techniques, a decision rewarded late last year with a string of awards.

"At lunch, we started talking about how we couldn't believe there wasn't an Australian heritage rum brewed for both the local and export market," Mr Stublely said.

"Rum was the first currency in Australia, until 1813 when Spanish currency was punched out in the middle to make a small coin and a large coin."

Named in honour of that first coin, the pair's Holy Dollar Rum Company won every award it entered at the

prestigious 2009 International Wine and Spirits Competition, including what Mr Stublely described as the "Holy Grail", the Worldwide Distiller of The Year prize. "We knew we had a rum that was different and very special, but we just about fell over when they announced we had won. It was only our first year of production."

■ If you want to sample a drop, tastings will be held at Brookvale Cellars on the next two Fridays from 4pm to 7pm.

Residents to lose '\$10m of new services'

Danielle Nicastrì

NEW residents in the Warriewood valley land release will suffer from a lack of infrastructure and proper planning, according to a Pittwater Council report.

In response to NSW Planning Department directions, the report says both a cap on developer contributions and an increase in density for the area will mean less infrastructure, services and open space.

The report said the current cap by the State Government on developers' contributions will mean scheduled works are abandoned and the standard of services will fall below those in draft department of planning guidelines and council reports.

According to the report, this amounts to around \$10 million in non-essential infrastructure, such as open space, community and library services and a cycleway.

Possible reductions detailed in the report include traffic lights, bridges, reduced community facilities and a number of creek corridors.

The council report said the creek

line corridor system is "absolutely necessary" for flood and stormwater management and provides environmental and recreational benefits.

"Creek line corridors are the key to achieving an effective stormwater management and flood protection system for developed areas which, prior to development and otherwise but for the creek line corridor system, would be threatened by inundation and therefore not suited for urban development," the report said.

Pittwater mayor Harvey Rose said the contributions were designed to cover infrastructure costs.

"The amount from Section 94 contributions should be sufficient to cover all infrastructure and all related necessities, but it is not in this case and that is not an ideal situation," he said.

"I don't think the cap should have been limited to that extent."



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