

# "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



## MORE THAN A CLEANUP

There it was, a roadside stop with a difference. Situated by the side of a busy motorway, it called out, "Hey! You need to stop here and enjoy what I have to offer." So enticed by what we saw, we stopped. It became evident that this was no ordinary roadside toilet stop. Immaculate lawns, a children's playground, and a unique information board extolling the local features, while a cleverly designed section explained the local indigenous peoples' heritage, customs and connection to the area. And the toilets! Shiny clean with plenty of toilet paper and hand towelling. While no doubt the planning and construction of this facility had been done by some government authority, the dedication of this man pictured above made it sparkle and stand out. He was actually wiping down bench seats, polishing toilet door handles and washing out the bin before replacing the new bags. He was friendly and explained how he enjoyed his work as it helped travellers enjoy their day.

We all need the rubbish taken out of our lives to "enjoy the day" better!

Unfortunately, we all have some rubbish sometimes blown into our lives, sometimes dumped, which, no matter how hard we try, still clings and hangs on to spoil the day. Words can tear apart once healthy and caring relationships. Financial worries burden and bow down a life.

Then there are the haunting thoughts of past actions, always lurking like mould in the corner. Thoughts from the past cloud a life created to be filled with joy and happiness. A life that looks forward with anticipation, not backward with dread from a continuous accusing conscience. Accusing and resistant as if never to be eradicated.

"But if we tell God we are sorry, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our wrongs and purify us from all our wrongdoing." **(John 1:9)**. With these words, God of the Bible, filled with love for all people is offering to clean out the garbage, the mould from our lives. He will not only clean out the recurring thoughts we can't get rid of, but he also wants to shine our lives with new thoughts, a new attitude, and a new spirit of thankfulness and love, first toward God, then to the people around us. Think about it. Then just like the keeper of the roadside stop who caused people to stop and enjoy, your life can cause people to stop and enjoy what God has to offer.

God bless,  
Kevin.