

THE VOICE OF ITALY



Recently Mrs. Gustin (pictured) and station 2CH, Sydney, celebrated the 10th anniversary of their program "Arrivederci Roma". The program is for the Italian community, and helps to build a bridge of understanding between the old world and the new. Mrs. Gustin, or "Mamma Lena" as she is known to her listeners, lives at Bankstown and has been decorated by both the Queen and her native country, Italy, for her efforts on the program.

Shopkeepers action ag 'unfair' comp

Many Bankstown shopkeepers are taking action against itinerant vendors who have been "winning" through unfair competition.

They complain in particular of one well-known ice cream vendor who, they say, comes and goes as he pleases, pays no council rates, and even parks outside their shops taking away customers.

Aldermen heard the shopkeepers' grievances at a meeting of Bankstown Council last week, with Ald. E. Duncan leading the attack.

He told the council he had received the most serious complaint from a cafe and restaurant where a truck had pulled up outside and given away free drinks.

Ald. Duncan said the shopkeeper was angry about this on three grounds: The big truck was unsafe, and was a traffic hazard; the "competition" was unfair; and the man giving away the free drinks was causing rightful anger among those concerned in the trade.

He said those who were concerned with the drink promotion should have made the drinks available to the shopkeepers.

"Many shopkeepers are having a bad time, and there is a right way and a wrong way to do such business," he said.

"I would like to see a report on the council's powers with a view to preventing interference with the rights of shopkeepers.

"I want to find out what powers we have to

deal with this," Ald. Duncan added.

Later, however, shopkeepers came under fire in debate, when former Mayor, Ald. J. Lockwood, sought action against those who were sweeping litter and rubbish, from their shops and footpaths, into the gutter.

"We should not only warn them — we should prosecute them," he said.

"If we have the power, we should write to some selected area and notify shopkeepers that those who sweep into the gutter will be prosecuted."

At the same meeting several other points were raised.

Dealing with litter Ald. L. Gillman said an area in Edgar and Marion Streets was overgrown with grass and rubbish and was one of the worst eyesores in the district.

Aldermen reported an improvement in the litter position in Bankstown since the replacing of the dismissed street sweeping staff by two street cleaners.

The anti-litter committee has arranged for an emergency gang of empty "be tidy" bins at commercial centres early Saturday mornings.

Gangs at present cleaning shopping centres on Sunday morning, will in future carry out the work on Saturday afternoons.