

Upside of the backside

KENNY Smyth gets to the seat of the problem quickly. He's the focus of new Australian comedy *Kenny* which he happily agrees is "full of crap".

He admits he's flushed with success because, as seen throughout the film, the unlikely movie star enjoys his work with sanitary and porta-loo supplier Splashdown. We get to follow Kenny as he supplies lavatory equipment to outdoor functions, shows and even the Melbourne Cup.

"There's no avoiding it," he explains. "From the Queen to a mechanic, from an astronaut to a kindergarten teacher, Rupert Murdoch, you and me, we're all doing it."

"You can't boycott your backside. If you did, you'd be pretty crook."

"I don't call toilets rest rooms like they do in America. I haven't rested

in a toilet ever. Some of the noises I hear coming out of a toilet are anything but rest. It sounds like they're wrestling a bear into a box."

Of course, gags galore can be made about Kenny's film and its business: "I've always expected that, mate. It doesn't matter how they're throwing it at me as long as they're having a go with humour. Good on 'em."

Kenny was the idea of the Jacobson brothers (in another life, Kenny is one of them – Shane Jacobson). "He looks a bit similar to me – and I don't get on very well with him," says Kenny of Shane. "I don't think he works very hard. Every time I was on the set, I never saw him." Shane's brother Clayton directs *Kenny* while their dad Ronald plays Kenny's dad. Clayton's real-life son Jesse plays Kenny's son.

Aside from Shane, Kenny is also not keen on the new stainless-steel loos. "Every time one of those opens, I expect them to push a pine box into it," he says. "It looks a bit clinical."

"They need to sort of decorate them a bit, the same as a bedroom or a car. They spend all this money making them modern and now people go into antique stores and pay a fortune for the old stuff – wooden seats, toilet paper holders and so on."

The focus on Kenny and his ancient art form is deserved, according to the film's star. "They used to say prostitution was the oldest profession in the world," says Kenny. "I doubt it. People were pooing before that one. It's an old trade, isn't it?"

□ *Kenny* is now showing

– Stan James

