

Voices Of The Coast



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OUR SAY



Shameful policy must be revisited

FORMER Human Rights Commissioner Catherine Branson pulls no punches when she describes Australia's policy of indefinite detention of asylum seekers as inhumane and expensive.

She is of course right. Ms Branson is a distinguished jurist, academic and former Federal Court judge who by the luck of timing avoided the scorn poured on current Human Rights Commissioner Gillian Trigg by Abbott Government ministers.



Ms Branson urges those without compassion to at least consider those numbers

She says history will judge us shameful policy settings that use people locked up on island detention centres as a deterrent.

The expense of the exercise estimated at \$100,000 per person annually as opposed to \$10,000 to have them on bridging visas in Australia is also senseless. Ms Branson urges those without compassion to at least consider those numbers and the \$10bn earmarked in forward estimates to sustain the status quo.

Both major political parties engaged in a disgraceful race to the bottom on asylum seeker policy. It is now more than time they found their way back to a position that will make the future proud.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History must be saved

THE article from the council's heritage library "Garages Fuel Growth" (Daily, October 24) prompted me to think of my father and his place of work in the late 1930s. Unfortunately, all I know is that he was a mechanic who worked at Weir's Garage, Memorial Ave, Cotton Tree and wish I knew more. It is gratifying to see the building still being used as a surf shop when so many of the other garages have disappeared.

Belatedly, I realise how little of my parents' history I know.

My mother, from Palmwoods and member of the Lingard clan, married dad in 1939 just before he joined the Army but I have no idea how or where they met.

And that is a salutary lesson for present generations, ask your elderly family members about their history, before it is too late.

ROBYN DEANE

Bli Bli

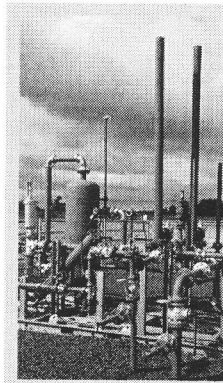
Teach the kids young

FURTHER to your article "Drowning deaths prompts push for people to learn CPR" (Daily, October 21) I strongly support your opinion poll responses (59%) that children should be taught lifesaving skills in school.

Many schools across the state, both public and private, are actively involved in the promotion and instruction of The Royal Life Savings Society's awards.

The society has an excellent structure catering for all ages from primary school to secondary school and beyond to professional lifeguard, Grey Medallion for those 55 and over and the elite Diploma of Life Saving.

With the many troubles in this world today, may I propose a compulsory Australia-wide school course (each and every year), from prep to senior year, that incorporates all areas of our personal growth.



LETTER OF THE DAY

Greedy the only reason politicians back coal seam gas

MONDAY night's Q&A was one of the best in a long time.

The issues covered were both confronting and enlightening. But the questions on coal seam gas by a daughter whose father committed suicide after fighting for 10 years to stop it happening on his property, brought home just how shocking this problem is. The answers from politicians were so typical with an empathy for her loss, then proceeding to explain how this problem will be looked into, but offering no real solutions. Why both our major parties deem it necessary to extract coal seam gas is beyond all comprehension.

It's associated health risks are appalling, and the risk to our water table is inconceivable. Why then, with so many real risks to our health, do we still insist on using methods of extraction which put a nation's health and water safety on the line?

The answer, of course, is wealth. It's a sad and terrible irony that innocent rural people who are the backbone of this country, are battling this national disaster with deadly implications when our politicians simply sit back and count the money.

JAN HOPKINS
Dicky Beach

We could simply call the 13-year subject "Australian". Topics or subject matter could include lifesaving skills, bullying, life and living skills (eg: applying for a job), understanding and respect of cultures (including Australian Aboriginal), drugs, justice system, religion, sex, violence, and the lists goes on.

We as one society need this understanding, and it starts with the children!

JIM McCLELLAND
Ithaca Caloundra City
Life Saving Club

Continuing to serve

IT WAS great to read Luke Simmonds' article on the surf life saving legacy of the Rigby family to the Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Club (Daily, October 26).

I'm sure Peter would have been proud to accept the No.1 cap on behalf of his brother John.

Peter, a six-time national champion in his own right, continues to serve his club and I note he was a finalist last year in the Senior Citizen of the

Year for the Sunshine Coast.

It's wonderful to read about our senior citizens who have given so much to the community in their youth and continue to do so in their latter years.

BILL GLASSON
Buderim

Parents not best teachers

I WOULD like to congratulate Rob Sands (Daily, October 25) on getting more awareness of what is an incredibly important aspect of driving safely "out there" for people/drivers to think about, hopefully talk about with others.

In a perfect world, wouldn't it be wonderful if drivers bothered to find out if they are motorway merging, indicating correctly, especially on and off roundabouts and performing lots of other traffic situations correctly/safely?

Does your writer have any idea what driving instructors, like myself, who he is quick to criticise, have to contend with in the pursuit of teaching Learner Drivers?

Is he aware that most Learner drivers never have more than one or two, if any, lessons with a professional driving instructor to find out how to safely gain experience and knowledge of what most people consider a life skill.

So many families just can't afford it or consider that mum/dad have been driving for 20 or 30 years and think they are okay.

They are blissfully unaware of the bad habits they may have and pass onto their sons and daughters.

For those students/families who do understand and do seek professional help, has he considered that until we put a student in that situation, such as motorway merging, we really cannot possibly know how capable, or not, that student is. That is when we begin to overcome the way they may have been taught by their parents and/or begin to safely build up their confidence to be able to do what so many people just take for granted.

Queensland Transport recently redirected the importance of this

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