

Voices Of The Coast



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RELIGION

Halloween ghosts not all ghouls

LAST night the streets were alive with ghosts and witches, wizards and zombies and all manner of other strange creatures of the night... along with characters from dozens of movies, books and TV shows.

Halloween seems to take hold more and more each year – and I love it. I love the fun and the laughter, the sense of community as otherwise quiet streets are filled with the squeals and laughter of kids enjoying themselves.

I also love it because it reminds me once again of the importance of believing in ghosts.

Most of the time I don't call them ghosts – I try to pretend the dead stay dead, and that they have no influence on my life.

Halloween calls forth all the long forgotten ghosts in my life – all those things I thought were dead and buried and yet still have a hold on me, still come back to life and haunt me even as I pretend they don't exist.

There was the person in my class at high school we excluded because he didn't quite fit in; there was the time I was caught shoplifting as a child and my parents were more disappointed than angry; there are the missed opportunities, the things I did and wished I hadn't, the things I didn't do and wished I had.

Each time I think they're gone, that I've pushed them all deep down inside, they inevitably find a way to bubble to the surface to come back and haunt me.

Halloween, the evening before All Saints (or All Hallows) Day, has its roots in the Christian remembrance of all those who have died.

Happy All Hallows! Perhaps it's time to put some of the ghosts that haunt your life to rest.

– THE VEN JEREMY GREAVES
ARCHDEACON OF THE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More should get involved

SUNSHINE Coast Safe Communities wishes to confirm that by supporting some hopeful candidates it is not working against any particular councillor or the Sunshine Coast Council as a whole.

SCSC believes the council has displayed a willingness to listen to the community on many issues.

Our purpose in supporting local council candidates is to encourage community-minded young people to become involved in our political system and contribute to our nation in a meaningful way.

We expect local council candidates to represent their constituents and not adhere to any particular group or political party platform. We therefore applaud Cr Christian Dickson's decision to disengage from party politics. Perhaps others could follow his lead.

Community involvement in local, state and federal politics is an essential part of our democratic process. We encourage people to become engaged by making their opinions known to their state and federal representatives as well as their local councillors.

Australia is a representative democracy and, as citizens of this nation under the Australian Constitution, it is our duty to make our elected members aware of "our will" so they can effectively represent us in all levels of government.

SCSC is concerned that young people have become disengaged from politics and do not understand that the freedoms and privileges of our democratic society are fragile. Supporting this democratic process is crucial for our future generations. SCSC therefore encourages community-minded citizens to stand for office in all levels of government. SCSC welcomes an integrated, multi-ethnic society where everyone is subject to, and obeys, the same laws, respecting Australian values of equality, human rights and freedom.



Our primary concern is the safety and sustainability of our community and nation.

Part of our platform is to ensure our community is made aware of threats, including ideologies that are incompatible with, or threaten, these Australian values.

■ RON HUTCHINS
SCSC President

River dangers

OUR rivers are beautiful but more people drown here than anywhere else.

I would like to highlight to our readers that 993 people have drowned in a river, creek or stream in the past 13 years. This makes rivers the leading location for drowning in Australia.

All types of people are drowning in rivers, from young children to the elderly. What is most alarming is that almost three quarters of people who drowned in rivers were close to

LETTER OF THE DAY

Unsustainable development will damage the Coast

BILL Hoffman's article (Daily, October 28) was spot-on with his take on progress and the environment. Many politicians and councils seem to have an inherent belief that development must take place at any cost.

Maroochydhore has lost much of its green space and we now have condensed urbanised living for hundreds. Our council has also had a complete turnaround with planning for a sustainable development at Palmview, and now there is Aura, south of Caloundra. There is also a sand mine proposal for Diddillibah.

Council's sustainable vision for our region needs to come under the microscope right away. We have such diverse natural

beauty here, so surely we can have both sustainable and environmental development and protection, rather than totally clear areas for urban construction. Perhaps the biggest irony in this is the fact we are destroying the very essence of our being, as trees and the ecology contribute so much to minimising our carbon footprint, whilst also providing shade, cooling and much more.

To our decision-makers, think clearly as to what is really important for our region. There is global concern for this planet, and surely it's high time those who make these decisions choose the right ones, for the right reasons.

■ JAN HOPKINS
Dicky Beach

their home and a majority were male.

So why are so many drowning in our local rivers?

The flat, still surface of a river gives a false sense of security. You can't see ice cold water, snags like tree branches or strong currents, but they can be lethal.

Dangerous activities such as consuming alcohol, driving through floodwaters and not wearing a lifejacket are also adding to the alarming figures.

People need to act responsibly around rivers and avoid any behaviour that may increase the risk of drowning.

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia has launched a campaign to save lives on Australian rivers and is asking when enjoying our rivers to please remember to always wear a lifejacket, avoid alcohol around water, never swim alone and to learn lifesaving skills.

It's simple. Respect the rivers. To get more information, go to www.royallifesaving.com.au/respecttheriver.

■ JUSTIN SCARR
RLSCA Chief Executive Officer

Noosa is doing okay

TO BE fair to the critics of Noosa Council and its finances, they are probably still in recovery from the referendum that de-amalgamated Noosa from Sunshine Coast Council.

I presume their continuing disappointment at this outcome is ameliorated somewhat by chronic carping. I certainly hope so. Some good should come of it.

Noosa Council, through its planning director Martin Drydale, has at last used the Daily's pages to explain that, with one-quarter of the financial year gone, the council has spent or committed about one-quarter of its budget.