

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

OUR SAY

Jamie's run is inspiring

JAMIE Milne deserves some massive congratulations.

In the space of two-and-a-half weeks he's managed to run all the way from the southern edge of the Australian continent home to the Sunshine Coast, covering the equivalent of two marathons a day.

It's the sort of thing the human body is simply not designed to do – at least, that's what we're assuming given the pain and suffering he's put himself through.

It's become almost commonplace for people to travel over distances to raise money for various charities. There are people walking and cycling, driving unusual cars, riding camels, flying balloons, sailing boats.

There's probably someone out there using a pogo stick to travel from one place to another for charity.

This is not intended to belittle the efforts of people like Mr Milne or anyone else who tries to help others by doing something unusual.

On the contrary, the efforts of these people are extraordinary and, beyond their stated goals of helping people in need, fill our very human need to explore our world and test boundaries.

In a lot of ways, people like Jamie Milne are the Douglas Mawsons and the Burkes and Wills of our times. However, instead of exploring places they are exploring the limits of human endurance and the depths of our initiative.

Mr Milne has done something inspirational in his run from Melbourne, particularly following on from his gruelling run around Tasmania less than a year ago.

One can only wonder what he's going to attempt next.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough culling done

FOLLOWING the latest human-shark confrontation off a northern NSW beach, there are renewed calls from some quarters, including our former woeful PM, for a shark cull.

As humans are already responsible for 100 million shark deaths a year, and some say as many as 273 million, I would have thought that that would have been enough culling for even the most vengeful and blood thirsty amongst us humans.

— JOHN HANSEN
Little Mountain

Wyatt out of line

IT'S enlightening to see some of the Blue Brigade defending Wyatt Roy visiting a war zone and ensuring he was videoed to make headlines.

It would have been excusable rescuing a child from a bombed building and I'm sure troops don't want a civilian looking over their shoulder when they come under fire.

If it had been an ex-Labor minister, Your Say would have been printed in blood and I would have been on the front line criticising him or her and it has nothing to do with politics.

It's common sense, not initiative.

— ERNEST WRIGHT
Sunrise Beach

It's old technology

RE: THE futuristic vacuum trash machine in Maroochydore's new CBD. If only we'd installed it in 1960 when there were only a hundred houses to vacuum, we'd all have it now.

This is 1960s technology installed in over 1000 cities around the world. It sort of stretches the definition to call it futuristic.

The recycling rates are no

better than any other system, except perhaps the Sunshine Coast's which recycles almost nothing.

Like all boys, the councillors are preoccupied with how fast the trash moves, rather than what to do with it when it spurts out into storage silos.

The speed of their internet seems to be another fascination, instead of creating an environment conducive to the "innovative" people they are trying to attract to use it.

It's all speed, speed, speed. I hope those street signs don't turn off before you have time to read them.

As to the benefit for the "natural environment" – this development is being built by "bricks and mortar" type people. They are

building the same old buildings based on all the old ideas, with the outlying philosophy being that the purpose of cities is buildings and the profit to be made from selling them.

They glam it up with some quaint tech, connect it to a maze of solar panels in the \$4 million pineapple field – although I think I saw a \$9 million item for this project in council accounts – but what the heck, \$4m or \$9m as long as it reaches the right end and we never, ever, have to pay another electricity bill for those "smart" street signs.

There is no understanding of "New Urbanism" – perhaps in 50 years.

Just like they just caught on to 70kmh trashing half a

LETTER OF THE DAY

UNESCO's decision on the reef defies belief

GIVEN the amount of land clearing, spread of agriculture (not a bad thing in itself) and the resultant continual run-off of chemicals to the Great Barrier Reef, how could UNESCO not declare the reef "in danger" (Daily, September 29)?

If climate change is also contributing to the rise in sea temperatures and some reefs expected to not re-grow, perhaps Sir David Attenborough's recent warnings need to be revisited.

He says it is in "grave danger" and, indeed, the Australian Institute of Marine Science says the reef has lost around 50% of its coral cover from

1985-2012.

Coral bleaching has been reported since the 1980s.

With record warmer weather over the past two to three years and a rise in ocean temps of 1-2 degrees above the norm, federal and state governments as well as citizens of our country need to be alert to this possible destruction and be looking for long-term solutions so that the reef will be available for future generations to wonder at.

Perhaps extra specific funding to marine scientists would be in order and be an obvious first response?

— CLAIRE JOLLIFFE
Buderim

Keep your kids safe

THANK you for publishing extracts from this year's Royal Life Saving Drowning Report "Keep your kids water safe" (Daily, October 1).

We would like to emphasise the point that Mr Justin Seum makes in the article about encouraging people to actively supervise children around water.

It is tragic that 81% of drowning deaths in young children are the result of falling in.

Many people don't realise that, unlike the movies, drowning is silent and it takes only seconds for a child to drown.

As summer approaches and aquatic activities become more popular, the important message for

century late, maybe they'll catch up with the rest of the world's thinking that people make up a city, not a pile of bricks.

— MICHAEL BURGESS
Parrearra

Figures wrong
IN YOUR report headed "Plebiscite support slipping" (Daily, September 29) you give the figures "62% would vote yes to marriage equality and 2% no, with 6% uncommitted."

If I was of a more suspicious and less charitable frame of mind I could imagine this was deliberate (given media bias in favour of change) but I assume it was a mistake.

The figure for "no" is 32%.

— ROBERT ARMSTRONG
Buderim

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ON ANY SORT OF TOPIC? GO ONLINE TO OUR WEBSITE OR

QUICK Q&A

What is the most athletic thing you've ever done?



I ran 20km from Woombeye to Tanawha. I was late for work and my bike broke. I was hurting for two days.

— Samuel Fulcher, Coolool



Probably running 5km. We were just doing the parkrun at Brightwater. It was just a community thing.

— Rachel Leggott, Buderim



I surfed Wurtulla once for six hours. It was amazing. When the surf is amazing on the Sunshine Coast you have got to take what you can get.

— Barry Tonns, Caloundra

How far will celebs go for exposure?



SOAPBOX
DAMIAN BATHERSBY
damian.bathersby@scnews.com.au

I ADMIT I was a bit ashamed in myself but when I saw a news flash that Kim Kardashian had been held in her Paris hotel room by a group of armed men, my first thought was that it was a publicity stunt.

I'm not sure if that makes me a bad person but I'm sure I wasn't the only one who thought it.

That's the problem with

so many "celebrities" jostling to get their faces in the media. We don't know how far they will go to get exposure, so we start to treat every situation as potentially dodgy.

I feel very sorry for Kim Kardashian if she was actually held at gunpoint. It would have been no less terrifying for her than it would be for anyone else.

But it's now my fault she and others like her chase publicity. I'm only vaguely aware of who she is, have never watched her family's TV show and would never buy a magazine based on her being on the front cover. She may be a completely lovely person but I can only

guess that she enjoys publicity as she seems to go out of her way to get it.

And the people who buy the glossy mags or watch the trashy TV shows can share the blame for the situation existing at all.

It's a vicious circle, which results in people like me being suspicious of everything people like Kim Kardashian say and do.

I'm still not sure if that makes me a bad person but I do know that I'm big enough to apologise to Kim for my reaction.

I hope she's okay. Even a publicity-hungry, C-grade celebrity doesn't deserve to have that happen to them.

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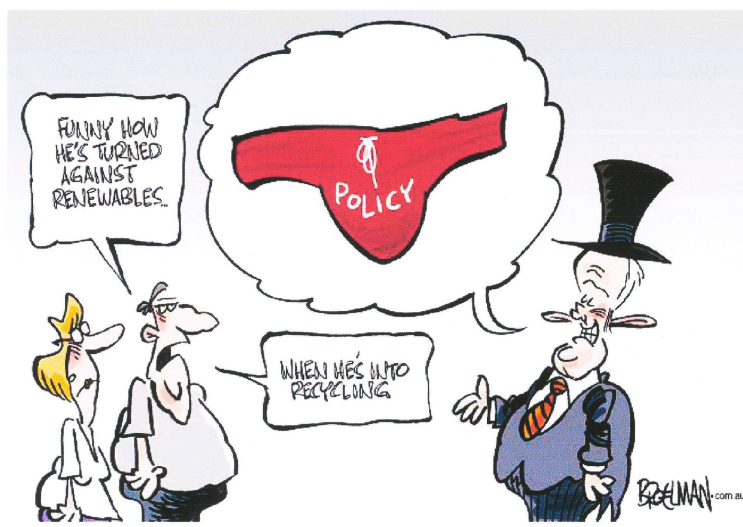
OPINION NEWS 15



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people looking after kids near the water is to:

- Be within arms' reach.
 - Give all of your attention.
 - All of the time.
 - Be prepared.
 - Learn CPR.
- Ithaca-Caloundra City Life Saving Club offers free CPR courses to local not-for-profit community groups. Contact us at secretary@caloundracity.asn.au.

— PATRICIA BARRY
Secretary
Ithaca-Caloundra City
Life Saving Club

Lack of respect

I FEEL sorry for all those people that turned up on Moonoolaba Beach for the beach scavange (brilliant idea) on Saturday.

They did a fantastic job! I only picked up one coffee cup lid.

On Sunday there was rubbish everywhere (especially around the base of the bins). Come on visitors - have a bit of respect.

— HELEN COPELAND
Buderim

LETTERS: All letters must be submitted with the writer's full name, suburb (both for publication) as well as their full address and a contact phone number (for verification but not publication).

FACEBOOK PAGE, OR WRITE TO US

Unbridled emails can rule your life



HACKED OFF
DR DAVID LACEY

I HAVE to make a confession of sorts - I dislike emails.

In fact, in my former role in government, I paid seldom attention to them.

I figured the taxpayers of this country didn't afford me the decent pay packet I was receiving to sit all day, every day and respond to the 300-plus emails I received.

Surely my contribution to the community does not distil to typing a sentence here or there and pressing send (or delete).

I have another habit I live by. Never send an email to a person after 5pm when the content of the message could raise your blood pressure.

Practically, this is a rule by convenience and some emails need to be sent irrespective of the time of day. But it's a rule for the most part that has seen me navigate complex and contentious communications relatively unscathed.

What I like about my life now is that I have a lot more life/e-communication balance.

I still receive a lot of emails, but I don't feel as though life will end as I know it if I don't immediately respond, or worse still, I don't immediately read them.

That takes hard work. Don't underestimate how hard it is to detox from our electronic addictions.

Alexander Graham Bell, the father of the telephone, invented things out of absolute necessity.

His mother and his wife

were profoundly deaf. His research on speech and hearing led to him tinkering with aids and ultimately the telephone.

What I admire about Bell is that he apparently refused to have his invention on his work desk - he argued that it intruded upon his real scientific work.

Now that's an attitude we should all aspire towards.

Electronic devices have a great way of conditioning human behaviour. In psychology these traits have their beginnings in classical conditioning.

Around the same time Alexander Graham Bell was tinkering in his lab, Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov was proving that you could associate one event with another and elicit a response based on the anticipation of this second event.

In his case, the sound of a buzzer engendered increased saliva production from his dogs because they were conditioned to anticipate food.

So if we're going to be conditioned by electronic devices, we may as well have a choice of ring tones. Smart phones allow you to change your ring or alert tones by the sender of the message.

Applause for some of your contacts? Boos for others? Perhaps even crying?

These take the standard ring tone conditioning to a whole new level.

I sent my former boss a message when the Lions beat Carlton - a recording of the Lions club song.

I felt he needed some re-conditioning.

■ *Professor David Lacey is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of the Sunshine Coast and Managing Director of IDCARE.*

THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

TO Noosa Council. I reported a tree down via the app "Snap, Send, Solve" and within a couple of hours they had attended and remove it.

— Brian Fox

TO the beautiful sunshine for the school holidays - spectacular!

— Michelle Cavesneyd

TO the lack of toilets at Mt Coolom.

— Catherine Steer

ONLINE POLL

Should interactions between people and dingoes on Fraser Island be more controlled?

Yes. People's safety is a priority 0%

Yes. It would help protect dingoes 82%

No. Things are fine as they are 18%

LOOKING BACK | Front pages for this date over the past five years

2011



A FORMER flatmate of slain Alexandra Headland "party girl" Justin Jones told a court the man accused of murdering her had attempted to break into their flat one night.

2013



SEKISUI House unveiled plans for a \$1.1 billion development at Yaroomba, featuring 2300 apartments, 300 detached houses, a 450-room six-star hotel and retail space.

2015



THE weather turned it up as a sell-out crowd descended on Kings Beach for the second day of the Caloundra Music Festival. Organisers expected 9000 people to rock along.



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