

As a supporter of AFL, I was disgusted by the actions of a woman who threw a beer at Brad Johnson
 Ross Carter, of Southport, says the spectator should be banned from the Gabba for an incident after the Brisbane Lions-Western Bulldogs game



Blogger's view

Straddie scarred by mining

LARGE parts of eco-sensitive North Stradbroke Island are resembling a barren moonscape after a tripling of land clearing for sand mining.

Pam
 This is dreadful and must be stopped. I hope the State Government does go ahead and prosecute. They have a responsibility to guard and properly administer Queensland's natural resources, not sit idly by and watched such desecration.

Little Joe of Keperra
 I know how much money and time sand mining company Consolidated Rutile Ltd puts into bush regeneration. Mined areas are regenerated by professionals using carefully managed techniques.

No surprise
 Is it surprising that mining companies are butchering the land and leaving it an environmental disaster? This happens when you mine.

M of Brisbane
 The whole coastline between Coolangatta and Noosa has been obliterated by developer greed and poor planning. Might as well finish the job. Future generations will curse us.

CJ of Ayr
 Do yourselves a favour and visit Google Earth. After being horrified by the photo, I checked it out. Seems someone has done an enormous job of replanting trees in the mined area.

Andrew north Queensland
 Residential development is worse. At least when the mining is done the landscape can be restored.

Alayna Hague of North Stradbroke Island
 Look at all the money CRL has spent in restoring the land

Jerry Dean Smith of Glass House Mountains
 The social value of sand mining the ancient dunes is negligible. The business value benefits only a few people. It shouldn't have been allowed at all. It should be stopped immediately.

Island resident of Straddie
 Get all the facts and tell everyone about the good that CRL has done for the island. Come look at the regeneration that has happened and will continue long after mining has finished.

Seachange of Capricorn Coast
 So what's new? The coalminers in the Bowen basin have been doing the same for years. This Government has just approved a gas storage plant on Curtis Island off Gladstone. If it has problems, the southeasterly winds will blow all the pollution on to our beautiful Capricorn Coast.

Simone
 Smelly old blow-in hippies and journalists once again can't get their facts straight. CRL is committed to land regeneration and supporting the Straddie community as a whole.

Jim in Hervey Bay
 Is it my imagination, or is it foreign-owned mines that seem to escape scrutiny?

Ann of Deception Bay
 If we didn't know better it would seem that mining companies run this country, not elected governments. When we have been mined to nothing but an empty shell these countries plundering our land won't want to know us. Mining the guts out of an area that could sustain tourism for generations is just plain dumb.

Tony
 Another classic media beat-up with most information coming from a community group with an axe to grind. No consideration of the long history and superb remediation work of these miners, no understanding of 600ha in relation to the size of the island, no real information at all.

Kate Campbell of Bardon
 It is time to protect North Stradbroke Island so it can be enjoyed by Queenslanders for generations to come. The island should be preserved as green space for recreation and conservation. If the Government does not act now to make the island a national park it will be further degraded by mining and will be a tempting prize for developers.

Scrap logbooks

THE system of learner-driver logbooks is a farce.

Having had recent personal experience with this process, I would like to suggest an alternative that would be beneficial to learners.

Instead of logbooks showing 100 hours of supervised on-road driving, which is very expensive, time-consuming and not always the best instruction, learners should be required to take eight to 10 lessons from a qualified instructor and hold their learner's permit for one year.

That way they would be sure to receive accurate information and not some outdated advice from parents who learnt to drive before the invention of roundabouts. This would negate the need for the tedious filling out of data in the logbooks and just require the presentation of receipts for driving lessons taken from licensed instructors.

Graham Farrell, Calamvale

I HAVE spent 31 years teaching and 11 years working as a teacher aide in high schools.

During this time I have seen a dramatic fall in student behaviour, responsibility and maturity. Citing a year 12 class with which I have quite a bit of contact as an example, I fear for their lives and that of others when they attain their driver's licences.

The attitude of a large percentage of this group shows little or no maturity to be driving anything. They take no responsibility for work standards and show little ambition to achieve.

Their behaviour is extremely juvenile. No logbook that they had filled in themselves would mean anything.

I feel there should be some form of psychiatric testing of licence applicants to assure suitability or at least raise the driving age a couple of years and hope that the required maturity comes.

Harry Davis, Shailer Park

Big role for small creature

I REFER to the poll (Place & Time, Aug 14) on whether flying foxes should be culled to prevent the spread of Hendra virus. Perhaps people should have had the full facts before answering.

Fruit bats (flying foxes) are ecologically integral to the successful pollination and seed dispersal of native tree and shrub species, many of which are endangered and could become extinct if bats ceased to exist.

The bat is already under pressure due to habitat loss as a result of human over-population.

I applaud the fact that those directly affected by the Hendra virus have shown a mature understanding of bats and not called for a cull. We need to think before we act or speak, respect and learn to live with all species that share our world, not just those that look good, bring us enjoyment and economic benefit.

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Letters

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Place & Time

New Farm Park, Brisbane, Sunday, 1.30pm

Street vote. Cast your vote at couriermail.com.au

TODAY'S QUESTION»

SHOULD TEACHERS BE PAID MORE FOR TEACHING IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS?



Sarah Baqla
 35, TEACHER, NEW FARM
 I work with well-off children and that can be as hard as teaching disadvantaged children so, no, I don't think they should be paid more.



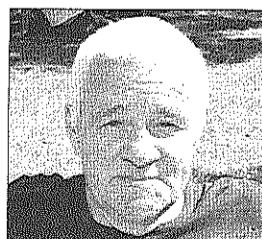
Tristan Smith
 25, PROJECT MANAGER, GREENSLOPES
 If they are having trouble getting people to work there, then money is probably a good way to do it.



Amanda Burns
 25, PHYSIOTHERAPIST, EVERTON PARK
 Teaching in lower socio-economic areas comes with its own set of challenges, like family and behavioural issues, so they should be rewarded.



Ben Kearney
 29, ARCHITECT, EVERTON PARK
 Doctors, engineers and most professionals are paid more for working in rural or disadvantaged areas so I think teachers should be, too.



Rod Gardiner
 60, BUSINESS ANALYST, NEW FARM
 Yes. They are not recognised for the effort and hours they put in and the lack of discipline that they have to put up with from students.

Saturday's results: Do you support sand mining on North Stradbroke Island? YES 20% NO 80%