

Opinion

TODAY IN HISTORY

10 years ago



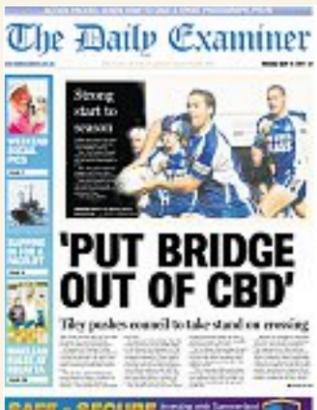
April 12, 2002: A SAWN-OFF shotgun, along with other firearms and cannabis, were seized on a property south of Grafton on Wednesday following a tip-off to Grafton Police. Two men have been charged and will appear in Grafton Local Court on May 6.

Five years ago



APRIL 11, 2007: A CLARENCE Valley teacher regarded by many as being in a class of his own, has saddened students, staff and parents alike by taking early retirement. Barry Bartley, principal of South Grafton High for almost 11 years, has called it quits.

One year ago



APRIL 11, 2011: THE NSW election may be over but the issue of a second Grafton bridge is still a hot agenda item. A number of Clarence Valley councillors have put their names to a notice of motion to be put to the council's civil and corporate committee meeting in Maclean tomorrow.

Protecting their homes

THE natural reaction when someone tells you your home or savings are threatened is to go on the defensive, perhaps reject the claim as flawed or attack those who made it.

For a while that appeared to be what was happening when residents of the original Woolli village were told there was an erosion threat to the headland on which their homes were built.

Understandably, they dug their toes in.

But what is happening now is a remarkable demonstration of community cohesion and one that could become the model for



COMMENT
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other coastal communities under threat from erosion.

The Coastal Communities Protection Alliance – Woolli, has drawn together people with a vast array of skills who put their hands up to work with governments to identify the threats, study them, understand them and then devise possible solutions.

Until they did that, the Clarence Valley Council and NSW

Government seemed intent on a policy of planned retreat.

The first and perhaps most counter-intuitive thing for the alliance to do was to recognise there was a problem.

In Byron Bay, for example, residents have been involved in ongoing and fruitless legal battles with their council in an ad-hoc campaign to try to get protection work done on their properties.

That could easily have happened in Woolli, but the protection alliance cleverly offered to help the council identify the problem, its cause and work

co-operatively on resolutions.

They seem to have forged a strong partnership.

The data collection now underway and the analysis to follow would have been beyond the means of the council, but with the help of volunteers who pooled their skills and put their expertise to the test it has become achievable.

In the end the analysis might still find few options to provide permanent protection for the property owners on Woolli headland, but there is much more hope there now than perhaps at any time in the past 10 years.

Highway traffic

YOUR picture of traffic presumably on the Pacific Hwy (DEX, April 2) is worth a thousand words.

If the driver of the car towing the camper trailer had to brake suddenly, how could the car and truck behind not crash into him as they are both tail-gating and in atrocious conditions.

I once put that question to a truck driver who was seriously tail-gating me at the time, and the answer was "Good f..... question."

Perhaps drivers should more often look to their own driving techniques rather than blaming the road, government, council, P-platers, etc.

D NORRIS,
Grafton.

Beeped off

I have found that my life is now controlled by the great "beep beep".

The washing machine beeps at me to tell me that it is finished doing its job, the car beeps at me until I secure myself with my seatbelts, the fridge beeps at me if I leave the door open too long.

My mobile phone beeps at me when I have a new message and the microwave oven beeps like mad when it is finished.

When I get to Heaven (if I do) I wonder if the Pearly Gates doorbell is really a giant beeper.

Beeep; okay I gotta go now, that's the front door bell.

JACQUI WILLIAMS,
Grafton.

Iluka Rd conundrum

ON November 16, 2011 during the Clarence by-election campaign Chris Gulaptis stated on radio that he had in his possession a 1500-signature petition calling for an increase in the speed limit on the road leading into the small coastal town of Iluka.

By the next day the position had changed to his never having seen the actual petition (The Northern Star, November 17, 2011).

Despite an extensive search, to this day I can find no official mention of any petition, except as one having only 800 signatures in 2006 when it was taken into the NSW Legislative Assembly by the former state member (NSW Hansard, September 26, 2006).

One Iluka resident informs me that this petition was remarkable for the fact that it contained a significant number of signatures of people who did not actually live or work in the town.

On February 18, 2012, The Daily



THE Coastal Community Protection Alliance – Woolli has created community cohesion.

Examiner reported that Clarence MP Chris Gulaptis had requested a review of the speed limit on Iluka Rd and that the NSW Road and Maritime Services had confirmed that it was considering such a request.

Yet on March 7 Clarence Valley Council's deputy manager (civil and corporate) wrote of this review that its current status was that of a rumour.

By March 29 the CEO of NSW Roads and Maritime Services was writing that this state agency would, in consultation with Clarence Valley Council, be reviewing the current speed limit, from Woombah to Iluka by the end of April 2012.

I leave it up to readers in the Lower Clarence to decide who is telling the truth to local voters, residents and ratepayers.

JUDITH M MELVILLE,
Yamba.

Can't be ignored

IT'S hard to keep pen from paper, so to speak, and just ignore the antics of some politicians, mainly the "lefties", who love the lime-light and in doing so reveal their true selves.

We heard Anna Bligh's post-election speech and also from Kate Jones, defeated Member for Ashgrove, while full of praise for their own achievements and with a "how dare they" background, the fact that they themselves were the instigators of this un-

precedented and ignominious decimation went completely over their heads.

Then of course we have Bob Brown the "one planet one vote global government" prophet.

Most Australians have always suspected Brown was on another planet. After his latest out-of-this-world speech to his fellow Green "earthians" in Hobart we can now suspect that maybe Bob did come from another planet.

Bob wondered why we don't get any intergalactic phone calls from extra-terrestrials checking on their rellies down under, although Bob also believes that all those other civilisations out there in the cosmos did not follow the same strict environmental rules that Bob advocates and "extincted" themselves.

Not much sense in waiting for a call from that lot Bob; try any government department, at least there is recorded music.

We can't forget good old boy Bob Katter, with 11% of the vote his dream of his KAP being a major force in Queensland government quickly evaporated when the KAP only managed to snare two of the 89 seats up for grabs; a far cry from the 76 KAP candidates Katter proposed to stand.

As for the nil tally for the Greens, the less said about them the better.

FRED PERRING,
Halfway Creek.

Bike blues

SATURDAY March 10, about 11.30am my daughter had her pale blue ladies mountain bike (with head and tail light) stolen from outside Valley Country.

Sunday, April 8 my son had his royal blue older-style racing bike stolen from outside his work place ... KFC. If you know the persons who have acquired my kids' bikes, dob them in.

My kids need their bikes to get around, especially sports training sessions as I work 10am-6pm.

LEANNE PILBEAM,
Grafton.



YOUR SAY

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