

Your say

The best reader comments from print and online

Cut your fire risk now



MY SAY
CHRISTINE MCKEE
Deputy Editor

YESTERDAY began as a quiet day in the newsroom. No advertising staff and a typical public holiday slow news day. Then it exploded, from zero to 100 in five minutes flat as fires flared up on the Mt Morgan Range with two properties already under threat. The escalation in the newsroom reflected the very nature of fire itself. Before long, all roads to Mt Morgan were closed and evacuation orders put in place. Then it becomes a day of wait and hope as our emergency services call for reinforcements on the ground and in the air. Through experience, people are beginning to understand and respect how quickly fire can escalate. It's just the start of the fire season and after the Gracemere fires in particular last year, no-one is as complacent as we maybe once were. Please take note of what the fires are saying and prepare your property. Central Queensland is a dry tinderbox with no significant rain in sight. We all have a part to play in protecting our own properties, our own lives and the lives of those who will come to help if things get out of control. Clear your property, clear dead leaves out of gutters and mow long grass. We have a long, hot fire season ahead - let's hope for the best because the odds are against it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

English language has changed so much with the influence of America

NO-ONE seems to be aware of it so I thought I'd point out that parts of our language have been permanently abolished by the Australian media. The generation of potential teachers into universities who were far from qualified, and would normally be declined entry but were admitted simply because numbers were down, have reduced our language from well-spoken to illiterate, and this is coming from America who we slavishly follow. The plural verb "are" is gone. Everything now is the singular "is", e.g. "there's masses". "Who" is dead. Everyone now is referred to as "that" which is for animals/buildings/situations.

Extremely disrespectful to see in a funeral announcement that "Fred was a wonderful person that was much loved.....". The possessive "s" apostrophe" (correct English has never had an extra s) is a cracker now, where I read in a book about a man called Ross, who had a shed, which the illiterate author kept referring to as Ross's shed. That's 4 "esses"! Bad for those with a lisp. Then there's "like" instead of "said" favoured by kids, models and Hugh Jackman, e.g. "He's like 'why don't you...?' and I'm like...". So everyone can speak New World and I'll keep speaking English.
Teri Robertson
The Range



NEW WORLD: Letter writer Teri Robertson is concerned about young people changing the English language to sound more 'American'.

Time, like the river, flows to who knows where

THERE is a spot on Lion Creek where a small park has been set aside for the oldies in the area.

A dedicated few who call themselves 'The River Mob', less sinister than they sound, meet there on a daily basis to relax on the homemade benches, commune with nature and reflect on life and at times wonder how it all went so wrong!

They feed the fish, the turtles, the ducks and the waterhens while discussing whether or not the world is worth saving from the projected climate change apocalypse, earthquakes, volcanoes, aliens and consecutive suspect governments. Conspiracy theories are aired, dismissed or otherwise considered as the world they once knew seemingly goes digitally berserk, politically correct or in their vernacular just "off the rails". They often reference letters to the

editor of the local paper which are sometimes the starting point for some fairly animated, pun-laden and humorous debate.

They discuss recently read books, events that confound them and have mostly got past talking about the weather.

Now and then a joke is shared at the risk of being tossed into the creek if it fails to get a laugh.

There has been some talk of crocodiles which is why the same jokes get told without the penalty being applied. They have over the years planted quite a few trees there and can still be seen carrying water to them in the long dry spell.

As time passes, those trees might just provide shade for another generation of retirees and atone for the inconsequential carbon footprint of The River Mob.

Al Bymand
Wandal

Time to cut back on the emotions in letters?

AS MANY letters become more emotional, perhaps it is time to desist.

There are among many others two very important things in my life, my daughter diagnosed with cancer and my faith in Jesus Christ.

My emotions are overcome when both are affected at the same time. My daughter defeated a melanoma some 17 years ago.

This before she accepted Christ. Now she has a new outbreak which gives more unwanted news every week. She is now a firm believer in the power of Christ to heal and is attending a faith church. I must add, her attitude is remarkable and noted by many unbelievers.

But, what happens when you are told by two doctors there is no future for her?

What right have medically trained people to encroach upon God's will?

Can they prove my experience,

wrong? After four heart attacks I was prayed over when the pastor came and said "I believe there is a member of the congregation with a severe heart problem." My first time in that church and that is over 30 years ago.

Who can one believe?

Alan Shinkfield
Emu Park

We need to make our city attractive to workers

WARREN Acutt's column September 25 re council offering incentives to attract people to settle here was spot on.

Recently one of my nieces looked at moving back to Rockhampton. Married with two pre schoolers they want to buy a home, and Rockhampton real estate is affordable.

She worked in the media here in Rockhampton and when she went to the big smoke she worked in high-end hospitality on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

How little daily treats can

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DOLLARS AND SENSE
DAVID FRENCH

EVER since an Ethiopian goat herder named Kaldi noticed his charges became frisky after eating the berries from a certain tree, coffee has been synonymous with energy and stamina.

Monks brewed it to stay alert during the long hours of evening prayer. By the 16th century, throughout the

Middle East, patrons visited coffee houses not only to imbibe the drink but to talk, watch performers, play chess and exchange news, to such an extent coffee houses were referred to as Schools of the Wise.

The European clergy grew suspicious of this "bitter invention of Satan" until Pope Clement VIII gave it papal approval.

Americans revolted against British taxes during the Boston Tea Party and took up coffee drinking instead.

New nations were established on coffee economies and, after crude oil, it remains the most sought-after commodity. Here in Australia, it seems we've overthrown the kitchen jar of

Nescafe for the urbanity of sipping our store-bought lattes during the school run.

So why, after so many centuries of favour, has "a coffee a day" become the hallmark of profligate spending, and doing without said cup a day the new benchmark for fiscal responsibility?

For we've all heard it said, "rethink that one cup of a coffee a day", "saving the cost of just one cup of coffee a day", "you can save a life for the price of just one cup of coffee a day" ...

And why, when our local politicians want to decry political activists such as the anti-Adani protesters, do they refer to them as "almond-milk,

latte-sipping greenies from down south"?

I don't think it's the coffee per se. Most workplaces would go to war if the staff were denied their daily fix.

Medical research concludes that a limited quantity per day may actually be good for your health. And there are thousands of Rockhampton citizens who owe their living, in hospitality or retail, to the ever-popular brew.

No, I think it's an analogy about how little spending habits, when they become ingrained habits, may cost us more money in the long term than the occasional splurge.

How easy it is to forget the power of small, daily savings. And the un-

