

Opinion

The Morning Bulletin**EDITORIAL**

Adam Wratten
Reporter
adam.wratten@capnews.com.au

Premier, let our judges rule on legal merits

WHEN members of rival bikie gangs became involved in a public brawl on the Gold Coast in September, the Newman Government had no choice but to step up to the mark.

It did so by matching a tough-talking approach with new laws to clamp down on members of outlaw motorcycle gangs.

These gangs had done themselves no favours, particularly on the Gold Coast, where they had allowed their activities to spill very much into the public domain.

The government let the community know these bikies would no longer be able to behave the way they had as they empowered the relevant authorities with the ability to tackle the problem.

However, what is questionable is the following pressure government representatives have put on these authorities with comments.

Now instead of the bikies being the villains in the piece, we have had a public stand-off between the Premier and a well-respected member of the judiciary in Judge George Fryberg.

In my view the government has done more than what the community expected in standing up to these criminals; now it must step aside and let the judiciary judge each case on its merits.

The Premier may be correct in that many members of the community expect certain courses of action, but just because the majority may want something, doesn't mean it is right.

The magistrates and judges, with their wealth of legal training, knowledge and access to all pertinent points, are best placed to make the rulings.

CONTACT US**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Editor | Frazer Pearce
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Letters

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tmbully@capnews.com.au
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Letters to the Editor,
PO Box 397, Rockhampton QLD 4700

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRESH START: Livingstone Shire mayoral candidates Cr Bill Ludwig, Kay Becker and Brian Fisher. N W H Timms hopes no candidates are linked to a political party. PHOTO: TRISH BOWMAN

LETTER OF THE DAY

Take the politics out of new local council

ANY candidate in the up and coming election for our area, whose aim it is to get elected and push a political party agenda, should pack their bags.

We have enough party politics in the federal and state arenas and we have seen what political party agendas have done to Rockhampton council; we don't want to go down the same path.

The LSC encompasses not

just the coastal strip.

We have been given another chance, so let's prove the anti de-amalgamation squad wrong and get support whoever is elected to council to help build a stronger shire and create a showplace, and jobs that benefit locals and attract people to this area, helping to build our economy.

N W H Timms
Bungundarra

Set up a national disaster fund

A WHILE ago, like many others, I was calling for a national disaster fund to be set up.

With insurance and finance companies taking so long to compensate those affected by these natural disasters, the people of NSW have been left with nothing but a pittance supplied by the government, \$1000 for both parents and \$400 for each child.

This amount is a joke, when you look at our politicians who claim up to \$5000 to go to a mate's wedding, among other things, at the taxpayers' expense.

If every state contributed \$50 million a year to such a fund and every taxpayer paid, say a percentage of his wage every month, then we would have more access to money to help these people in need.

Money is what they need, even

“This amount is a joke, when you look at our politicians who claim up to \$5000 to go to a mate’s wedding”

though some people have donated clothes, food, furniture and whatever else they thought would help.

But money is the main problem and we, the general public, will be called upon to donate whatever we can, when all that is required is a national disaster fund to speed up the healing process for these Australians who have lost everything.

Our Federal Government sends money to countries that have been crippled by such disasters but are

not even considering the concept that has been mentioned.

■ Jack Lewis
Berserker

Not suitable as mayor of Livingstone

LIKE most people being forced into voting in the upcoming Livingstone debacle, I have read with interest most of the information being published by TMB.

I found the comments by Bill Ludwig (a person I don't believe I have ever met) about his suitability for the mayor's role most interesting.

Mr Ludwig claims to have plenty of support and that he will happily stand on his record.

First of all, the entire situation does not have a great deal of support as the returns from every polling booth not on the coast were

against the de-amalgamation.

Also, Mr Ludwig talks about concern for the people of Livingstone, then says when he gets to be king of the coast again he will conduct a survey of the areas that don't want to be in Livingstone, then run another vote to allow them to return to Rockhampton.

This says a lot about Mr Ludwig.

As with the RRC (a body to which Mr Ludwig theoretically swore allegiance), if things don't go his way he will undermine and disrupt them until he gets his way. Of course, ably supported by his good mates Wyatt, Lancaster, Kerr, et al.

If we were to have another vote who would pay for it? Livingstone won't have the funds to spare, RRC won't be interested because they didn't want this to happen in the first place and the state government won't pay because they are not even paying for this one.

Mr Ludwig also says he should



Catch up with Kathleen Calderwood for her Monday

Reputation doesn't rate

The French Lesson

with
David French



I HAVE always assumed that people came to our business because of the service and performance.

These are the parameters against which I expected we would be measured, and in terms of performance, there is little to fault.

On service, however, I have come to realise that the term means different things to different people.

From dealing with Centrelink to organising term deposits, we

do massive amounts of “leg-work” for our clients.

And, notwithstanding the demands of being the managing director, I have always maintained an open-door policy.

The GFC taught me that this was not enough.

In bad markets, many people didn't care that we were holding up better than others, nor did they care particularly about our other efforts.

Many didn't take advantage of the open door.

In a recent article the Association of Financial Advisors surveyed clients of financial planners to find out what characteristics mattered most.

The results were amazing. Despite the strong views of ASIC,

industry associations and even me, only 7.1% of people ranked “professional reputation” as important, and less than 20% for each of “technical skills”, and “achieving investment returns”.

Which quality did clients and advisors rank as most important?

Interpersonal skills.

And of those interpersonal skills, which ranked highest?

Communication skills.

Where would we normally expect to find someone who was very strong in interpersonal skills and particularly in communication skills? Sales.

Personal finance is complex and for most there is no way of checking the accuracy of the information beforehand.

Instead many people rely on

trust – trust conveyed through great interpersonal skills.

Funnily, it seems that even the purveyors of that trust, may not even recognise what they are saying is fundamentally flawed.

No wonder so many people get into trouble with personal investment advice – they are using the wrong filters.

In such a situation it is the advisor's responsibility to help the client make a valid assessment of the situation.

They can provide clear information on assets and fees, and what can go wrong. They can genuinely put time aside for each client and give people time to think, and they can be honest to the point of losing a client, if the situation requires.