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## Big two need to have cuppa

WARREN Truss and Campbell Newman really need to sit down over a cup of coffee and work out how they can progress the Rockhampton region.

Given their passion for advancing regional Queensland, they might have already seen the Rocky region jumping up and down with its hand in the air.

"Pick me; pick me," was the cry from the Beef capital as it embraced the Queensland Plan concept being championed by Premier Newman.

Rockhampton's Qld Plan Task Force members delivered its "we're ready" message loud and clear to Premier Campbell Newman and Andrew Powell, the Minister responsible for the Queensland Plan, in Brisbane two weeks ago.

The Rocky plan is to attract more people to the region, increasing population numbers from about 111,500 to 570,000 in 30 years to become one of the state's major population centres.

We have hit the ground running in this race and our passion deserves support.

Why wouldn't Campbell back a region that has seized this opportunity?

He added fuel to the Rocky fire this week when he said more mechanisms needed to be created to encourage people to settle in regional towns and cities and he also wants to sit down with the Federal Government to ensure the Qld Plan vision becomes a reality.

Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss looks like someone he can talk to. "We (the government) are committed to helping regional Australia pursue and seize more ambitious opportunities," he said after the September election.

"Well Campbell, Warren, how about having that Qld Plan cuppa in Rocky?"

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# Letters



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**STAND JUSTIFIED:** Ted Eggleston believes Premier Campbell Newman (left) and Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Jarrod Bleijie's crackdown on bikies is justified. PHOTO: DAN PELED

### BIKIE GANGS CRACKDOWN

## Reader 'missed point'

I AM more than confident that the Premier knows who the government is targeting in relation to criminal bikie gangs, and I strongly suspect so too do most Queenslanders.

Media statements put out by the government clearly state the intention, yet it seems Mr Schuback has either missed the point or is attempting to mislead the public into thinking that all motorcycle riders are the intended target. That is clearly not the case.

There can be no denying that the police organisations within

Australia have evidence which suggests certain criminal activities are being carried out by either individuals or groups of individuals belonging to certain bikie groups.

You state that "All you are doing is creating fear & uncertainty in the eyes of the general public". What a piece of unmitigated rubbish.

I ask you, if you have no involvement in a criminal activity, then what do you have to fear?

**Ted Eggleston  
Lammermoor**

## Action on bikies needed to restore law, order

I AM not a great fan of the Newman government but I am a big fan of law and order, and I wholeheartedly agree with his stand on the bikies.

For far too long points of law contested by high profile criminal lawyers, coupled with lenient judges, have taken precedence over the facts and commonsense.

Violence, intimidation and organised crime have reached a point where they seem to be immune to the "law of the land".

Drive by shootings now seem to be commonplace and violence part of our everyday life in places such as restaurants, airports, sporting venues and even innocent bystanders shot in shopping centres.

This may be our last chance to take back our streets and give law abiding families the country they have worked so hard for and are

**Col Goltz**  
This may be our last chance to take back our streets

entitled to enjoy in safety.

As for those who think that our current laws are adequate, they should look back on the history of these gangs.

In the early 70s the Hells Angels were formed by a French-Canadian in Canada and more than 70 people were murdered in shootings and car bombings, including judges and high ranking police officers, before he was finally jailed after many years beating the law system by intimidating witnesses and procuring the best criminal lawyers that money could buy.

This organisation not only survived but has now grown in great numbers around the world.

This is only one of many such gangs.

The rule of law in this country in the 21st century is clearly not working.

Extraordinary times call for an extraordinary response whether we like it or not for the sake of this and future generations.

■ **Col Goltz**  
Emu Park

## Jesus taught us way to salvation for eternity

KIORE (TMB 26-11-2013) says "you can call God Shivaya, Allah, Jehova, Yahweh or Krisna and he is still the one and only".

Combining gods does not make one real god. Most of these gods mentioned have different characte-

ristics representing religions that do not match with others.

Christians only need to concern themselves with the Biblical God.

He is the one who created Divinity, as recorded in the Old Testament.

When he revealed himself to the world in the New Testament, he became known as the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is Jesus who taught us the way to achievable salvation for eternity.

■ **Robert Bom**  
Rockhampton

## Let voters judge the results of direct action

THERE was never any approval from the people in 2010 or 2013 for the previous Labor/Greens government to have a carbon tax.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott and the Coalition government have



## Do you reckon you're a true Rocky gal or bloke?

# Give love for Christmas

### The French Lesson

with  
**David French**



IT SEEMS no longer kosher to talk openly about Christmas, but the fact is the Australian way of life and that of the rest of the West is based on Christian principles.

Christianity's revolutionary feature is that of a positive philosophy based on love rather than rules – simply, respect other people, expect good of people, make your own choices and accept the consequences.

Clearly, many of the assumptions underlying Christ's philosophical construct have not

been met. Indeed some modern day "Christians" seem teleported straight out of the Old Testament! Sometimes it seems the philosophy on which our civilisation is based is being deliberately undermined. Mainly it is because we have forgotten or fail to understand what love is.

I've been mulling this over as I get older. So far, my conclusion is that love is a choice. Sure I accept all of the emotions that go with it. I have even experienced a few (surprise, surprise). But I am saying those emotions arise from a choice to love.

Taken further, that means we can love anyone, or we can ignore them, or even hate them. And if we love someone, we need to keep making the choice to love,

**my conclusion is that love is a choice**

despite distractions and challenges.

We also need to show we love. That might not always be pleasant. Flowers and kisses are one thing but sometimes you might have to yell to be heard. Or you might have to say no – to yourself or to others. Those that don't agree are saying that the sport's coach does not love their players. They are saying that it is unloving for a parent to tell a child not to touch a hot stove –

again, tripe.

So here we are, coming into Christmas. You don't need to max out the credit card to show you love someone. Make the choice to love. Make the choice to have some family outings. Make the choice to say "no" to too much Xbox (even though it will cause tears, no doubt). Make the choice to drop work for a while and make time for yourself and others.

Australia will do well to avoid a recession next year. Many businesses and individuals will do it tough, as mining construction remains subdued and government winds back spending and sells assets.

You will need the love and the rest. Invest now.