

Narooma News

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LP

The conspiracy widens!

AS readers of the 'letters to the editor' section of the paper will have gleaned by now, many climate change deniers discount the views of the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO, the IPCC, the UN, 97 per cent of climate scientists, etc., etc., on the basis that those organisations and groups are all part of some world-wide socialist conspiracy to tax the (deserving) rich and to redistribute the proceeds to the (undeserving) poor.

TD

Well it seems that the deniers will now have to add BHP Billiton to that very long list of socialist conspirators.

Last week, in a speech at the global energy industry's major annual conference in Texas, Dr Andrew Mackenzie, CEO of BHP Billiton, made the following statement.

"Predicting the detail of the future climate is complex but the geological evidence record provides compelling evidence. Substantial variation in CO2 and other greenhouse gases results in temperature changes with potentially significant implications for life on Earth. Warming of the climate is real, human activity is the dominant cause of this warming and physical impacts are unavoidable."

He went on to list a number of things that the fossil fuel industry must do in relation to the climate change problem.

One of those recommendations was for the industry to "encourage the development of constructive policy, including appropriate carbon pricing mechanisms, that enable the market to identify the most cost-effective methods of cutting emissions".

I can't wait to see how the likes of Tony ("climate change is crap") Abbott, Andrew Bolt, Alan Jones, Lord Monckton, etc., go about explaining to BHP Billiton's CEO and his top team of scientists and economists that they wouldn't know what they are talking about!

Jim Bright

Narooma

Catholic church opposes parking

THE car **park** proposed by council will be built 6 metres from the Presbytery's northern wall which means that all the Presbytery's bedrooms" and living areas" windows as well as glass sliding doors will face the car **park**, only 6 metres away.

The **site**, identified in a 2011 Council survey of Narooma's parking needs, meets Council's zoning requirements, but is in reality a deep, open-sided gorge which will need a huge amount of fill and heavy compaction.

The design includes a high retaining wall of massive concrete blocks to hold the fill from spilling downhill.

The Narooma Catholic Parish objected on the grounds that the car **park** will have a serious adverse impact on the Presbytery's amenity, privacy and value. It also mentioned that because the **site** is "landlocked", away from the supervision of any trafficked street, there will always be the potential for vandalism. The Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese also objected along similar lines.

Another and critical issue raised by the Parish is that of public access to the **site** through the lane next to the Vinnies Centre.

Before ratepayers' money is spent on this project, it would be sensible to re-examine the Right of Carriageway arrangement to determine whether public access can be challenged in law, now or in future, and particularly within the context of increased vehicular/pedestrian traffic and liability for injury or damage to public users.

The matter of insurance cover and responsibility also needs to be reviewed and agreed. The Parish is currently awaiting expert legal advice.

To date Council has been dismissive of the Parish's objections, notwithstanding the fact that an 88 signature petition was lodged and representatives from both the Parish and the Archdiocese spoke against the proposal.

In fairness, it must be mentioned that council has offered to provide some landscaping on the Presbytery's **property** in an attempt to lessen the impact of the development, however this is unlikely to have any worthwhile effect.

The Parish recently submitted to council a list and photos of underutilised, poorly signposted and in some cases rundown car parks in the Narooma business area which could be upgraded to promote parking options in lieu of developing 11 Canty Street.

In its May 2013 letter the Parish asked Council to provide its Environmental Impact Assessment, the budgeted cost for the 26 car **park** spaces and the easement provisions covering the Right of Way over Church land. Still no word.

Given the topographical nature of the **site** - big, big hole! - the massive retaining wall needed as well as the huge amount of compacted fill, the project may turn out to be one of the most expensive car parks per space in the shire.

As citizens and rate payers of the shire we believe that, we and your readers, have the right to know how wisely and efficiently our rates are spent; also that councillors are elected to serve the community, not ignore its requests for information.

Please tell us, Eurobodalla Shire Council, just how much is it going to cost the Shire's ratepayers to provide these 26 parking spaces?

Father J. Tran, P. Bird, A. Dellamarta, J.Nash, K. Pisk. A. Shepherd and W. Smith

Parish Committee members

Seaside Fair says thanks

THE Bermagui Seaside Fair Committee and Dennis Olmstead, coordinator of the inaugural event "Umbrellas of Bermagui", and all sponsors and artists, wish to publicly acknowledge and thank Stan Gorton and staff from Narooma News for the fantastic media assistance leading up to and following another wonderfully successful event.

We also thank everyone who attended the fair including all the events held during the week before, and the concert on Sunday. Thank you all.

Lori Hammerton

Bermagui Seaside Fair publicity officer

Please identify yourselves

THIS week I received a letterbox drop from "a **group** of concerned citizens" inviting me to join their protest against the display and potential **sale** of firearms at Narooma HuntFest, on the basis that this will lead to a "gun culture" taking over the Eurobodalla.

I don't hunt or shoot, although I did many years ago and found that hunters and shooters were pretty much like any other sports people, mostly reasonable and responsible members of society.

Nor, as far as I can tell, did associating with them cause me any psychological damage.

And let's be clear, a "gun culture" is the sort of thing that the US has, written into law on the basis of its constitution.

Our firearms laws could hardly be further from that, and in fact are often quoted by US legislators who want to reduce firearms ownership/deaths in the States as a model for laws that prevent a "gun culture" developing.

Displaying guns at Narooma once year is never going to change our firearms legislation.

What does worry me though, is that the "concerned citizens" have failed to identify themselves: no names on the flyer, just email addresses and a post office box.

Anonymity usually means that people have something to hide. Is this a front for a political party " a reasonable question given that The Greens led opposition to the first HuntFest? Is there some other agenda? It is just the first step in an internet scam?

If the "concerned citizens" fail to identify themselves, I suggest your readers do what I will do: ignore them.

David Kelly

Akolele

Take climate action now

I FIND it disappointing that this country has managed to turn climate change into a political football, when it is too important a problem to be treated that way.

It is disappointing as well to see the same misinformation being trotted out ad infinitum.

Much is made of the temporary lull in the surface global temperature increase however it is not the first time there has been a pause.

The previous pause happened in 1950 or thereabout and lasted until around 1970 and it was followed by a sharp increase which continued unabated until the turn of the century.

The real problem is that while there may be bumps in the road the CO2 emissions continue to climb and the global temperature continues on an upward trajectory.

It must surely be clear to everyone that with wildfire and heat waves coming earlier in the season, temperature records being broken all over Australia and droughts, even though we are not in an el Nino year, something is happening to change the climate.

Science clearly identifies increases in atmospheric CO2 as the main driver.

We are now measuring global temperatures in multiple locations on land in weather stations, in the atmosphere with balloons and in the deep oceans with unmanned submarines.

It seems the deep oceans are absorbing some of the CO2 in the atmosphere, more in the cold waters of the Arctic and Antarctic than in the tropics, and this is producing ocean acidification, global warming's terrible twin.

Sadly when the oceans become more acidic, as is now happening, the natural carbon cycle is disrupted and some of the tiny phytoplankton that form the basis of the ocean food chain are starting to show damage.

Sudden cold spells as happened in the USA, can give a false sense of security and we may take refuge in the idea that global warming has stopped but that is not the case and the average global temperature continues to rise.

The changes that are happening to our climate will become clearer as time progresses but the prognosis will not be improved unless we stop burning fossil fuels and start to develop a sustainable society.

In the meantime we should recognise that we are headed for dangerous climate change and we have only a small chance of avoiding it. We need to take action now.

Jo Lewis

Akolele

Mayor's say"Have your say and feast your eyes

IF YOU are a resident of Tuross Head or you have an interest in this area, I encourage you to help Council plan how to manage and maintain some of the open space and outdoor furniture that is there for everyone to enjoy.

Council is currently looking for feedback from the community on the draft Tuross Head Open Space Facilities Maintenance Plan. When the plan is finalised, it will be used to maintain and replace items such as seats, picnic tables, shelters and barbeque facilities in Tuross Head.

You can have your say on the draft by letting us know what type of outdoor furniture you would like to see and where it should be placed. The draft plan and how you can provide feedback are on Council's website and on exhibition at our libraries and the customer service centre in Moruya until 28 February 2014.

A few weeks ago I was invited to an interesting international networking opportunity in Canberra that welcomed the Shanxi Province Delegation from **China**.

The event was organised by the Australia International Trade Association and Associates who cite their aim as building a bridge between Australia, **China** and the rest of the world.

The **Chinese** delegates included the deputy governor and senior government officials in the areas of tourism and agriculture. Along with Mayor Bill Taylor from Bega Valley Council, I was delighted to be able to talk about what the South Coast has to offer as a tourist destination and our growing reputation as a food producing area, particularly in the oyster and dairy industries.

It was useful to hear some ideas on how we could promote the south coast to the **Chinese** traveller and what they may be looking for.

I also caught up with Richard Colbeck, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture. We spoke about the local fishing industry and the development of the Australian Oyster Coast project.

The Australian Oyster Coast project will be launched at the Narooma Oyster Festival on April 6.

If you're looking for some creative inspiration this week, I can highly recommend a visit to our local libraries in Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma.

The libraries will host three artists' floor talks where you can meet and chat with some amazing local artists and gain a better understanding of who they are, and what their works means.

The artists' works are on display in the libraries throughout the month. For details of what's on at the libraries visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au

I am always pleased to hear from residents about issues you believe Council can help with. You can contact me via email to mayor@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or on my mobile phone, 0418 279 215.

Cr Lindsay Brown

Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

A challenging read on migration

READERS of non-fiction books in Eurobodalla are advised that my hard-hitting book on Australian society "Musings at Death's Door" (recommended by the US Review of Books) is now held as a reference book (not for borrowing) at Moruya Library.

However, a copy is available, together with four of my other five books, at the Narooma Library.

The sixth book, my memoir, "The Dance of Destiny," is lodged in the Nowra Library, because of the expected wider readership.

All my books were endorsed pre-publication by senior academics and other notables, and reviewed favourably post-publication.

The US Review of Books has recommended four of my books in all, and given a favourable review of my book of fiction "Pithy Perspectives".

This is a bicultural collage of short, short stories: ranging from funny to weird/wacky to uplifting/dramatic.

"Destiny Will Out", "The Karma of Culture" and "Hidden Footprints of Unity" relate to all aspects of migration, based on my experiences as a settler (commencing with the White Australia era) and as director of policy in the then Department of Immigration & Ethnic Affairs on ethnic affairs, multiculturalism, citizenship, and settlement support.

The department has thanked me for my "valuable books".

The books are now available as ebooks for \$US2.99 at Amazon Kindle Direct and Smashwords (with my royalty to be donated directly to Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders)).

My five non-fiction books uphold my belief that Australia needs unity from ethno-cultural diversity (not tribal enclaves, or dual systems of law). The books were written as if spoken, and are thereby readable. Do support a worthwhile charity, while having a challenging read.

Raja Arasa Ratnam

Narooma

Wonderful Seaside Fair

WHAT a wonderful three days we have enjoyed! We went to the South Coast to the Bermagui Seaside Fair. It was a wonderful, happy, colourful, fun, community event. The parade of beautifully decorated floats, community groups from pre-schools, through to U3A, CWA, Scouts, etc., dressed in a variety of costumes was wonderful.

It must have taken a lot of dedication and hard work to produce the quality of entries we saw.

There were many large outdoor umbrellas that had been hand painted, and they were auctioned to raise money toward a skate **park**.

The market stalls were varied, colourful and attended by happy, welcoming people. This is a community event that many towns and cities should have a look at, as it was so well organised and a true welcoming community spirit shone through clearly. Congratulations to all involved.

Noeline and Rex Rowlands

Goulburn

End inhumane treatment

JOHN Cowan's "A different kind of solution" (NN March 5) suggesting how we need to treat asylum seekers, his suggestions would give them the opportunity to find peace and a decent life instead of the added pain of post-traumatic stress, grief, mental illness and anger at being locked away all due to our inhuman treatment and policies.

I for one want to be able to look myself in the mirror and say that we did our best to make these courageous people feel welcome.

Carolyn Watt

Narooma

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