

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

Be sure to stay safe on our roads this Christmas period



MY SAY
TRINETTE STEVENS
JOURNALIST

WE'VE all spent most of our lives being taught about the fatal five.

We know not to speed, and to rest when we're tired.

We've all seen decades of prevention campaign advertisements on our televisions, most of them graphic and incredibly real.

And we know the Christmas and holiday period, with more and more people taking to the road to visit family and friends, carries with it an extra risk.

In my academic career I have studied paramedic science and learnt about road trauma, but nothing could prepare me for the first fatal accident I attended in my role as a news reporter – on my birthday.

There is a reason why governments pump huge amounts of money into road safety campaigns, and there is a reason why road violations are illegal offences.

It is easy to become complacent with your vehicle, you see it every day.

It is easy to think, it's just a text.

It is easy to dismiss a quick phone call while you're just going down the road.

And it's easy to think you can just go a few more kilometres before you take a rest on your eight-hour trek to see family for Christmas.

But it's not worth the risk. It's not worth the outcome.

Our Queensland road toll has hit at least 16 this year. Even one is far too high.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Being driven to distraction

DISTRACTIONS while driving is certainly a concerning issue with safe driving these days with the advancement in technology.

There are so many things that are fighting for our attention, that it is no wonder that crashes continue to rise.

Large visual displays that show data varying from the weather, news updates, road maps, audio controls and camera feeds, tempt our eyes from where they should be, on the road.

The other issues include the mobile phone, CB radio and in some case the laptop computer, all out there to grab our attention and risk injury from crashes.

How do we stop these distractions and keep our

eyes firmly on the road absorbing all the relevant outside data to keep us safe while driving?

The most important thing to do while driving is to adopt a "Not Now Attitude" and prioritise the tasks required in order to drive safely.

If a warning light or sound is displayed, look for a safe place to move off the road and then assess what the issue is, do not try to assess the problem while driving.

If a phone call comes in, don't be distracted, let the call go to message bank and reply to it later where it is safe.

Pre-program your audio device before your journey so that you don't have to search for specific music.



DRIVE SAFE: Driving instructor Leyland Barnett says there are too many things fighting for our attention on the road.
PHOTO: CHRIS ISON ROK170413CDRIVERS1

Set your GPS to guide you to your location before driving and ensure that it has an audio guide switched on, so that you

don't need to look at the display.

Please drive safely this Christmas and New Year period, don't get distracted

while driving and enjoy your time with family and loved ones.

— Leyland Barnett, North Rockhampton

Politicians should lead by example

I REFER to Michelle Landry's comments on the pension asset testing to be introduced on January 1, 2017 which appeared in the Morning Bulletin on Wednesday, January 21.

Ms Landry is quoted as saying the purpose of such measures is to act as a safety net and to have a system which is sustainable for the future.

Ms Laundry, please advise what changes, if any were made to the politicians' superannuation system so it will be sustainable.

Under the present system as I understand it politicians go out of office on a very generous six-figure pension.

Some are then appointed to other positions such as ambassador or to a board of a corporation for which there is substantial remuneration and they are allowed to keep both lots of income.

Should the average pensioner come by additional income they are obliged to advise Centrelink which may result in a reduced entitlement.

Why do not the same rules apply to our politicians?

Ms Laundry your treasurer is reported as saying that we have to tighten our belts and the day of welfare is over.

It appears that is for everybody except the politicians.

If the government wants to reduce unnecessary expenditure then why are they still paying and allowing benefits to ex-prime ministers who no longer work for us and a different set of rules for politicians' superannuation?

Please advise if you and your government plan to implement such changes in fairness and to set an example to the ordinary working people.

Please do not say your rules are different because you are elected on a three-year term.

This argument no longer holds water as if you and your government do your job you should have a chance of being re-elected and besides if you are not

aware there is a large portion of the workforce now employed on short term contracts.

— Ken McCrory, Kawana

Some sell-offs are not so smart

IMAGINE what the budget might have been if the government still 100% owned the Commonwealth Bank and Telstra?

They didn't sell the Post Office. Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday period.

— G Townsend, Emu Park

Santa elbows out Jesus at Christmas

IS SANTA the new god of Christmas? Why is Christmas celebrated? Do

the crowds normally associated with Christmas time, really understand the origin of this special occasion?

There is more commercialism than remembrance of who Christmas is really about!

The hype each year becomes the centre of the season, with no effort spared by retailers and advertisers to compel people to spend, spend, spend!

Credit cards are maxed out by individuals competing with each other to show generosity they can't afford. Guilt is used by children wanting and expecting the latest, to bribe parents into buying the best.

Lavish banquets are now the norm, with trolleys

Drop self-serving mantras



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

IT'S Christmas tomorrow. You can tell because from traffic, to work deadlines to the "present frenzy" everyone's gone a little mad. I like this type of mad, but it's been a big year featuring lots of mad and sad things. A blow off is exactly what's needed. Here's my list of Christmas wishes for 2017.

I want to see the West drop the failed agenda of multiculturalism in favour of integration. According to

the Index of Economic Freedom published by The Wall Street Journal and The Heritage Foundation, 15 of the 20 top ranked countries have Christianity as their predominant religion and all but two are Western (Australia is #5). The West is not perfect but it works. It's time we unashamedly spoke up about that. Western principles encourage sharing and helping those less fortunate. They encourage self-determination and responsibility, which provides the means to get ahead and to support those in need. The West has well established markets and rules that can be enforced. There is a reason people

want to come to the West, and surprise, surprise, it's not because things were great at home. The West's big let-down however is a distinct lack of guts and discipline in looking to formally integrate newcomers.

Integration means participating in the economy, in politics, in schools, by hanging out with each other, knowing how to use a Western toilet (the ATO is installing pan-style squats) and in a life generally defined by freedom of choice. It does not mean supporting the idea of living 10 to a house on the dole, getting patted on the head for being marginalised and railing

“I wonder what your past life was like and I hope you are happy here...”

against perceived and often made-up injustices supposedly perpetrated by the very people who opened their door. Multiculturalism does not work and it's the responsibility of our governments to provide a clear, robust and reliable path to integration.

I want to see women assert themselves. I want to see more women at higher

levels in organisations. I want to see more women on public company boards, not because they are women, but because some of the men are bloody hopeless and simply need replacing. After attending the national awards for Telstra Women in Business though, it's clear that too many women still hold dear their 1980s copy of the "All Men Are Bastards" diary. For women's own sakes, drop the self-serving mantras and whinges and just get on with it. For example, people who say women have to work twice as hard as men to get anywhere simply do not know that in a world of unbridled regulation and no political leadership, doing