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➤ HARRY'S VIEW



overloaded with expensive speciality Christmas goods, promoted by clever marketing.

Families compete to outdo the other. Selfishness is manifested in every motive.

While Syria is in crisis and Aleppo is under siege, shops are making every effort to encourage the masses to spend on high end technology and expensive items.

Half the world is fleeing persecution and suffering hunger and thirst.

It is a world of anomalies.

The great divide between the world's richest countries and the poorest, the nations at peace and those in conflict, is highlighted particularly at this time,

when the world needs unity and caring for others.

The one common factor: our humanity, is forgotten at a time when the emphasis is on getting rather than giving.

There is a culture of entitlement in the West, in particular, with individuals expecting families, governments and welfare groups to provide life's best without contributing any effort.

The Christ-child of Christmas hardly gets a mention!

It is about Jesus and God's wonderful intervention into human life at the first Christmas, to save those who cannot save themselves.

While Trump attempts to save America and make it great, there are forces which are breaking down the old traditions of worship of God and His Son, the greatest Gift, replacing them with self-worship and greed.

It is a time where tempers flare easily, suicide is more common, family violence, road and shopping rage all are exacerbated under the pressure to perform and deliver.

Happy Christmas.

— **Eloise Rowe**
Tannum Sands

Pensioners keep MPs in clover

FEDERAL Government please leave the aged

pensioners alone.

The number one savings for government is waste of taxpayers' money.

A few examples, \$300 million by Gillard, \$180 million by Abbott and Bishop to the Clinton Foundation, billions on climate change by our premier and prime minister and the list goes on. We could get to \$500 billion over the past 10 years without much trouble.

What happened to the harder you work the luckier you get? Instead we have gone the other way – the bigger the snout, the bigger the trough, the luckier you get.

— **Dominic Doblo,**
Rockhampton

➤ TEXTS TO THE EDITOR

SMS the Editor on 0428 634 025 with the word **ROCK** and a space in front of your message.

■ **ANDY, NMN GDNS.** Good on Matt Canavan for calling out the rampant, unapologetic left wing bias in the ABC. Big city latte-sipping socialists should not be subsidized by the taxpayer. Force ABC to decentralise back into regions!

■ **SN, YPN.** Thanks Viv Forbes for exposing the hypocrisy of the green extreme. On same page CEO of ACF says our jobs don't matter and India's poor don't have a right to the cheap power he is enjoying sitting in his air-con office.

■ **HOPEFUL, GRACEMERE.** Will new riverbank look like made up photo in paper, or will we be crowded out by usual drunken riverbank inhabitants swearing and carrying on?

■ **ROB, PARKHURST.** With all the improvements in Quay St is there any plans to light up the old bridge.

■ **HH, RTON.** A Christmas thought: What would have happened to salvation if Joseph had posted in the Census Forms instead of travelling to Bethlehem?

■ **RAMP.** Every week I read the court reports and these people have every excuse under the sun for why they have broken the law. A hard childhood or loss of a loved one, the list goes on. Well, I've got news for you, most of us have had hard times but we deal with it, get help, and carry on with our lives, so if you break the law cop the consequences.

■ **IAC.** Tortured corpses of violently slaughtered animals they may be, but gee, they taste really nice.

■ **WSTM.** Rocky riverbank. One good flood and it will all be goooooooooone.

■ **ANON.** Well said Bob Pacey, please people, it's a false boom

■ **POONIE.** How boring is the main street in Yeppoon. Very few Christmas lights, no music and only dark dingy takeaway stores open and this is the week before Christmas. Come on guys, you are a

holiday area, at least make an effort and the council could do a lot more as well.

■ **GRAP.** Gordon bleeding Bennet, if women want the same amount of pay for playing cricket then they need to start attracting the fans to increase the revenue. Making the male players take less is as stupid as it sounds.

■ **RIP.** Why all the kerfuffle over the Seven so-called sex scandal. An affair between consenting adults should not be such a big drama.

■ **MOOSE, DEPOT HILL.** 5.30pm 22/12. To the moron driving in East sStreet going all over the road. You are no Peter Brock you idiot. School holidays and you drive like that? Your number plate and your outdated car has been passed on to the authorities.

■ **DOC.** We all want jobs for the region but Senator Canavan's outburst accusing the ABC of bias reporting against Adani maybe be a bit premature. In fact he was out of the blocks faster than Ben Johnson in defending Adani's business practices. I hope the State Government is a little more prudent.

In this case we have to be careful that something appears just what we want it to be is on the level

■ **EMERALD, QLD.** Thumbs up to the two young girls at the green eat. The lunch was amazing. We will be back. From the sweet potato fritters eaters.

■ **ANNIE, NORMAN GARDENS.** Great photo on Thursday's front page. Well done AI and best wishes to the Carr family who are obviously a lovely caring family and take a great photo too. How refreshing.

■ **ANON.** In reply to GH Rocky. The carpark in Yeppoon is for the use of all the Rocky people who come down here every chance they get. Now they won't have to walk miles to get to the beach and all the other entertainment we have down here.

and get on with it

anything worthwhile is difficult. The fact is, whether it's raising a family, running Westpac or being the Premier or Prime Minister, you have to be single-minded, and if you are making any difference at all (even at home), you'll cop plenty of crap. Sadly, competence is not always necessary and neither is honesty.

It's time the lefties acknowledged that neither men nor women have a monopoly on being right, competent or good. We are all just people.

And then there's the LGTBI scene, concerning which the front page of the December edition of the Australian Financial

Review's Boss Magazine features the Outstanding 50 LGTBI Executives.

Now I don't know about you, but I was of the understanding that business and governance is all about equality, not sexual orientation.

When I fly Qantas, I'm hoping the plane is sound, the staff are attentive and that I reach my destination on time. Never once have I wondered what Alan Joyce feeds his gerbils.

On Virgin the mirrored ceiling in John Borghetti's Italian boudoir is simply not an issue for me. Honestly, grab me on the arse if you must, but I'll be happiest if you just do your job.

And finally as per an

article in The Weekend Australian Magazine, there is the issue of people of colour saying they feel intimidated if people look at them in the street.

Some of them say that a simple glance is most likely a put-down. What a crock.

Don't feel special if someone yells at you – I nearly fell off my bike when some louts yelled at me last week – there are far too many idiots everywhere.

But for me, let me tell you what I'm thinking. Aside from not wanting to crash into you, I'm probably thinking, wow – what a striking look. Or what beautiful hair – how do you do that! Or what exquisite clothes.

Or how fit is that guy! Or, I wonder what your past life was like and I hope you are happy here. And if you are doing it tough I am feeling sad.

I'm thinking what can we do?

Why haven't we got more traction on fixing these problems?

So basically I'm hoping that 2017 will be a year of honesty. A year of leadership. A year when the lowly white male is accepted back as a valuable part of society.

A positive prosperous year. A happy year.

It'll only happen if we make up our minds to listen less to our feelings and more to the facts.

➤ PHOTO OF THE DAY



NEW ARRIVAL: Taronga Zoo's koala keepers received an early gift this festive season, with two koala joeys emerging from the pouch just in time for Christmas.

AAP IMAGE/TARONGA ZOO