

Opinion

The Bulletin

EDITORIAL

Adam
Wratten
News director



adamwratten@capnews.com.au

Forget reality TV shows, real drama is here

MONDAY 7.30pm is going to be a special time for television lovers across Central Queensland.

That's when the television war between Australia's big commercial channels really starts.

And it's going to get off with a bang.

Channel 7 will launch with My Kitchen Rules (my favourite), WIN has Australia's Got Talent followed by The Farmer Wants A Wife – which features a couple of Rocky region people – and Ten has I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here.

It will be interesting to see how our locals go on The Farmer Wants a Wife.

Over the years we've had quite a few Central Queenslanders appear on reality television shows and have their moment in the spotlight.

But as good as these shows promise to be – and I'm sure they will deliver for their millions of viewers – I doubt the drama will be anything close to what is unfolding across the region in real life.

With two elections coming this year, the Rockhampton region is a real political hotbed at the moment.

There is plenty of action on the go as our politicians roll out their campaign strategies.

These involve real people and the decisions they make will impact on your life.

I'm sure we're going to see plenty of twists and turns as we get ever closer to the big days.

It would be great to think everyone is paying close attention to what's going on, so grab your Morning Bulletin to make sure you're making an informed decision at the polling booth.

We've got far more at stake here than what the television shows have.

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor | Frazer Pearce
Chief-of-Staff | Adam Wratten
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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

RESORT DEVELOPMENT

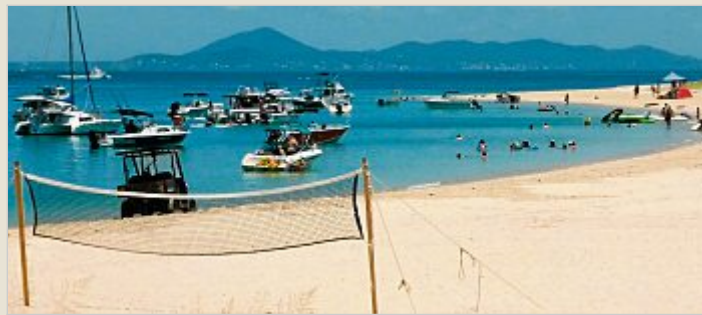
Great Keppel Island support not what it seems

I AM fed up, sick and tired of hearing misinformed information put forward by Johnny come lately people, that GKI proposed development is what I and the majority want. Not so!

The list of politicians, councillors, business people, Our Keppel their future and now even proposed mayoral candidates are given continuous unlimited media to peddle their uninformed propaganda.

If all their knowledge of GKI history and previous use was pooled it would not amount too much as none have had much connection with the island.

There are many in the



IDEAL DESTINATION: Visitors enjoying Great Keppel Island.

community who have had a great deal more association with GKI who would gladly accept a small resort, but are more than aware the major development proposed would eliminate the increasing

recreational use being presently enjoyed.

Their views have great difficulty being heard, overcoming the media bias.

The idea of 1500 local jobs is a fairy tale.

Resort islands do not employ local people, they much prefer backpacker staff.

Good luck to the lady who would like to see her children get jobs at the resort during school holidays.

Over the last couple of months I have never seen so many boats and local people enjoying the island as it is and this includes the time when GKI was at its height.

My very close association with GKI spans a lifetime of 80 years, including living there permanently in my own home for nine years during its heyday as a tourist destination.

Brian Morris
Lammermoor

Local people should look after their own

THE division of Queensland into three separate states has been mooted since Queensland separated from NSW in 1859.

It is ludicrous that a premier needs to travel to a far distant point where personal attention is deemed necessary.

In hindsight, surely the employment minister should be capable of such a task anyway.

How much simpler would it be if local people looked after their own affairs. Even in times of natural disaster, locals are the best ones to turn to when establishing priorities for assistance when and where it is required. Former mayor of Rockhampton, Ald. Rex Pilbeam, certainly knew how to look after his people

in good and bad times.

It also follows that money earned in a region should be spent in that region and who could not agree with that.

Alan Phillips
Macgregor

Start building GKI resort without a casino

THE GKI story is getting like a TV saga. Well, I have to ask, has anyone read or even seen this list of 1500 jobs?

Is it 1 job = 1 person, or 3 - 4 jobs = 1 person, multi skilled like most jobs in resorts.

If it is the latter then the real number would be 350 to 500 persons, if that, mostly casual/part time.

I say to Tower, forget a casino,

“Locals are the best ones to turn to when establishing priorities for assistance” – Allan Phillips

the condominiums and an international airport, just get on with building the resort part. And I say to the govt, bite the bullet and inform Tower in no uncertain terms, to start building now or forfeit the lease! The airport? Tower mentioned it in a press release some-time ago. Guests and supplies flown in direct, bypassing Rockhampton?

G Townsend, Emu Park

New prisons needed to fix overcrowding

THE basic problem with the overcrowding of our prisons is the failure of previous Governments to build new prisons in the past.

Let's face it, the efforts of the Judiciary to solve the problem by letting hardened criminals out at the rising of the Court are not exactly being greeted with paroxysms of joy by the Law Abiding Majority of Queenslanders.

Realistically, we need more space in our prisons.

Maybe the solution, as suggested by G Townsend in Wednesday's Letters to the Editor, is to build some new prisons West of the Dividing Range.

After all, that would provide some employment out there.

It would also help to promote the



Look for the results of this weekend's sport

GKI supporters chasing

The French Lesson

with
David
French



BACK in Rockhampton for more than 15 years I've been involved with more than my share of economic development initiatives.

I've been asked to step down from boards when I was too forthright in my views, some powerful and sensible initiatives I've seen implemented have been reversed, and I've been laughed at when I've been through the problems facing our region and pointing out the obvious deficiencies in addressing them.

Normally none of this worries me – I gave it a shot and it's up to people whether they listen.

My lawyer friend says, “these people won't value your time. Why not be happy just getting rich and employing a few people?”

He's right of course, but I am civic minded and I came back here to see our region prosper and grow, so my family could enjoy the benefits of a regional community and all of the things I enjoyed so much growing up. Now however, things are happening that reflect the very essence of stupidity. One of those things relates to the mooted redevelopment of the Great Keppel Island resort.

First let's recap the history.

The old resort was on the skids. A developer bought it, took over the lease and promptly shut the resort down.

After a clearing sale, fences are erected around the quickly deteriorating site.

The pools were filled in. Residents of Great Keppel and Yeppoon scream blue murder, but the developer gets proactive, promising construction, bearing gifts, and attending with associates, all manner of meetings.

But apparently the resort can't be built unless the developer is given public land!

The ploy fails, but an amended proposal is later approved by the then Federal minister, Peter Garrett.

Approval in hand, the site is quickly put to market through global investment bank, Moelis and Co which amongst other things, takes out full page ads in the Australian Financial Review. There is no real interest and the site sits languishing, until the outside chance for a boutique casino licence floats by.

State Government quickly knocks it back. Instead of assessing the history of the project, the bandwagon starts up, throwing money at a lost cause and blaming even stalwart supporters for the failure of the resort to rise again.

Now I know something about investments, and I can tell you that the Great Keppel resort is going nowhere.