

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

Secrecy over plans hurting Michelle



MY SAY
KERRI-ANNE MESNER
SENIOR REPORTER

IT APPEARS Michelle Landry's colleagues in Canberra require her to trust them more than they trust her.

The Federal Member for Capricornia yesterday admitted she had not been shown the master plan for the expansions of Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area and Townsville Field Training Area, one of which is in her electorate.

She told media she had been advised that the Department of Defence were 'keeping it under wraps' and she believed the only people that had and will see the plan were the department chiefs, the Defence Minister Marise Payne and possibly Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Having covered this issue since the land acquisition letters were sent to graziers, I can only conclude two things - the Liberal Party is not divulging crucial information to their National Party colleagues that impact their portfolios or electorates and, secondly, there must be a negative reason for such secrecy. The excuse of national security falls short given foreign countries now have access to satellite imaging that will tell them where Australian military training is taking place.

The first part was backed by Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce when he visited Stanage Bay earlier this month and admitted he had not been briefed.

With Capricornia being one of the most marginal seats in the country, the Liberals are not helping their colleagues. To retain a marginal seat, constituents need to have faith and trust in their MP.

The Liberals need to help their colleague if they want to retain government.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waiting to see what's behind the headlines

RE "Skilled jobs for rural centres" (TMB 24/02).

While this sounds absolutely wonderful it is only the cover story, which is intended to attract the attention of interested parties.

For as we all know you can't judge a book by its cover because it does not always follow the actual story line.

experienced staff will be required to get these relocated departments up and running and it is logical to assume that our government will not increase the overall staffing levels. What will happen when

these government departments are relocated?

Will current staff members be transferred to the new destinations thereby eliminating the possibility of creating jobs for locals.

Or will locals be trained prior to the relocating by current workers whose jobs they will be taking over?

How many current workers jobs could be in jeopardy then?

So dear readers while the idea does sound wonderful, I will wait until I read the whole story before I start celebrating.

— Kev Hopkins
West Rockhampton

Who funds organised protest groups?

IN regards to my previous letter on the subject of the democratic process we have here in Australia and America and the response by John Christie of Hidden Valley, who was in support of my concern (about protest) but who explained it in much more detail than I could have done, and for the better I might add.

I appreciate your support John. But while on the subject of protesting in the streets after these particular people do not get their own way on a policy that they don't agree with, all of a sudden, overnight out come the printed shirts referring to the particular

Do our major parties have a protest fund to fall back on?

reason they are in the streets for all to see.

Who is supporting these protesters and where is the money coming from?

When you see all these professionally done shirts and signs that are on display for all the world to see - Yes, there are a lot of hand written placards as well, but the others have been designed specifically for such a protest.

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Horsing around puts Kenny on the path to fame and stardom



STAR POWER: Tony Hart has just sold his superhorse Kenny, who featured in Charlie and Boots with Paul Hogan and Shane Jacobson, to the Stockman's Hall of Fame. Full story Page 8.

BARNABY OPENS DOOR FOR CQ FAIR GO JOBS WIN

CQ mayors jump at Deputy PM's challenge to bring government agencies and high paying jobs to our region: Stories and hit list, Page 5

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LAKES CREEK FIRE BALL

Power drama: P6

PENALTY RATE OUTRAGE

Workers react: P7

IS H&M COMING HERE?

Retail buzz: Page 3

Do our major parties have a protest fund to fall back on when they are in opposition?

These protests groups are well organised and funded, but by whom?

— Jack Lewis.
Berserker

Customers should fund penalty rates

THE recent ruling of the Fair Work Tribunal reducing penalty rates is the wrong way to go.

Prior to the decision the employers paid for providing the weekend service.

After the ruling the workers will pay to provide the service.

The people that should pay for the service are those

that use the service.

The employers should put a surcharge of 10 or 15% on their weekend prices so that the users pay.

— Tom Bradbury
Norman Gardens

Compensation for swine flu vaccine

A BRITISH High Court has awarded a massive payout to a victim of the 2009 pandemic of swine flu.

He was given, as a child, the vaccine pandemrix which caused thousands of persons, especially children, to develop narcolepsy.

The British government of the time set up a \$92m compensation fund while hiding the truth about the vaccine.

Most received a paltry

sum except a few that sued.

When is the truth about vaccines going to be made public?

— G. Townsend
Emu Park

Hot and cold periods in Australian history

YES, climate change is a fact, but surely we humans have the right to evaluate what effect, if any, it will have on our future.

Unfortunately many unqualified people make misleading statements on social media.

Almost anyone of us can use the internet to discover that there have been very hot periods, and very cold periods in our Australian history.

Perhaps we should look at

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS IN DAYS LIKE THESE WITH HAIDEE JENKINS IN

The things kids can do with



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

IT'S been an interesting year so far and one of my favourite activities has been watching the responses of parents whose kids are leaving school, or in some cases are taking on projects that signify a separation from childhood and a desire to make their own way in life.

With our son having just

left home, my family is right in the fray.

One friend's daughter signed up to become an au-pair in the USA.

Organised through Cultural Care Au Pair, she gets to live in a lovely house, study nearby, use a car, and a corporate box for the baseball.

Another friend's daughter is off to PNG to apply her nursing skills to help village women manage childbirth and infant care.

It's organised through No Roads Expeditions and I can't imagine a more useful and rewarding activity for a young nurse.

One friend's daughter signed up to become an au-pair in the USA.

My son is completing a coxswain's certificate and is about to start work as a tour guide with Wild Bush Luxury at Bamarru Plains in the NT.

We though he might go to university, but "no way" according to him. Other kids are going to university, with some doing film, acting and history.

Parents have natural

concerns about these endeavours. But isn't it true that the best time to take risks is when you are young, when you have few responsibilities and no commitments?

Isn't it true that confidence comes from actually doing things of your own volition - for better or worse?

From putting yourself in

unfamiliar or difficult positions whether that be dealing with a new country, walking the Kokoda trail or keeping eager tourists three times your age from wrestling a crocodile?

The direct advice we give kids is also critical.

I heard a woman in the newsagent say she had told her daughter to focus on getting into the public service because "it's a job for life".

Really? What about all the government departments that no longer exist in Rockhampton, or at all?

What about the fact that