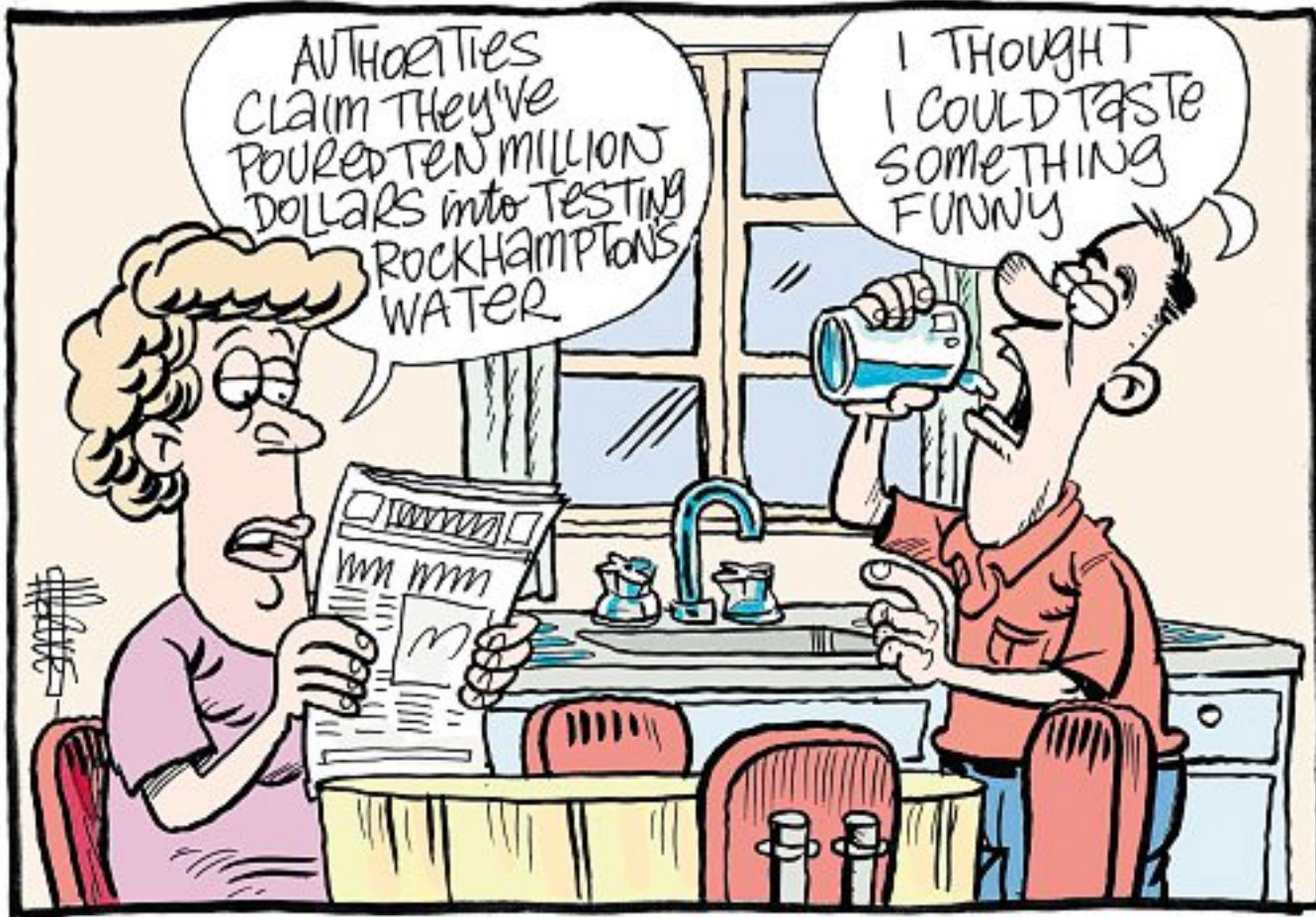


local voice



Let our Capricorn Coast be heard: get rid of wards

I RETURNED to Rockhampton 12 years ago. Full of enthusiasm for the region, I met The Whisperer. An accomplished street fighter, he said: "David, things round here will only change when some people die".

About that time, a solicitor friend said: "I don't know why you do all of these community things - they will use you, chew you up and spit you out".

Regardless, I joined the local Chamber of Commerce and Rockhampton Regional Development Limited, eventually merging the two.

In the event, many people have died, but the region is still shackled by small-minded politics and bureaucracy.

I was chastised for bringing to public light endemic problems with RRDL, generally related to conflicted and unsustainable reliance on council funding. The end result - no chamber, no RRDL, no mayor and no change. Behind the scenes, the same people with the same outdated and ill-informed ideas prevent the region's growth.

And now we have the brilliant scheme that is de-amalgamation. Queensland Treasury Corporation estimates de-amalgamation will result in rates increases for Capricorn Coast residents of \$429 in the first year after the split, and an additional \$194 the year after that.

Money is important and people should take note of those figures, but there are bigger things to consider.

Large external investors look at only two things: the size of the



community and its growth rate. The Capricorn Coast population is small, and Rockhampton is without growth.

We have John Rolfe, a respected academic economist, myself, a well-trained and experienced business economist and manager, and Geoff Murphy, a successful businessman, all screaming that de-amalgamation is a very bad idea. It will deliver increased rates, eliminate any chance of getting our region back on the map, and reinstate to power the exact same people who already had a go.

The problem at hand is not so much an amalgamated council, but a regional council not stepping-up to a 21st Century leadership role. A major factor is the protection offered by a ward system specifically designed to maintain the status quo.

Mayor Margaret once berated me for being too direct on some matter, insisting "you catch more flies with honey". I'm not that interested in flies and I think this matter is important. Let the Capricorn Coast be heard - abolish the ward system.

YOUR VIEW ON ROAD HABITS

■ GR, ROCKY. Patsy, I called the police to check what the law is, & IT IS NOT ILLEGAL to speak on a phone in a private carpark!! I probably went 4 METRES! I did not continue to drive around the carpark! At no time did I endanger anyone, I certainly did not deserve the foul abuse from the halfwit who I'm sure was trying to impress his teenage followers, what a big man he is! He was very derogatory & psycho, not called for, I'm sure if I wasn't a lone woman he would have said nothing!

■ RAMP, YEPPON. If you do not drive defensively in Yeppoon you would not survive. Please people indicators are designed to let other drivers know what you are doing. Never assume that you have right of



way until it is given.

■ ANON. It is amazing that peapol filming or taking pics of other cars n trucks on there phones wen as the pics prove they r taken by the driver. Is it not ilegal to use ya phone wile driving? These peapol r hipocrits. Lol.

■ GAZZA, EMERALD. last time i looked it was illegal for drivers to take photos while driving they no different even to people passing on double lines correct me if i am wrong

QUICK QUIZ

1. Nina Proudman is a character in which TV show?
2. In 1984, who was on her way to a Peter Ustinov interview when she was assassinated?
3. As part of a pay dispute, engineers from which airline recently struck for one minute?
4. In 1429, who was crowned King of England at the age of seven?
5. What is the name of David and Victoria Beckham's baby daughter?

1. Offspring.
2. Indira Gandhi (pictured).
3. Qantas.
4. King Henry VI.
5. Harper Seven.



women by demonstrating professional behaviour & stop strengthening that 'glass ceiling'.

■ JY, RTON. To ANON who wrote a thank you to the 'bulldog loving council surveyor'. I hope that surveyor reads the Bully & read your msg cause your thank you & blessings made me smile & remember there are still beautiful people on our planet. May our Lord bless you & your's too.

■ JS, KAWANA. I loved your 'De-amalgamation Free Zone' on the local voice page today. Tomorrow, can we have a 'De-amalgamation and FIFO Free' newspaper edition? SMS

Editor: Thank you JS, we do but try. Unfortunately they are such emotive issues that your request may well be impossible. As a special treat today we will run de-amalgamation messages last.

■ THE POOR PENSIONER. Gee Paul Lancaster i feel sorry for you all this deamalgamation stuff holding you up from collecting your \$600,000 catamaran. Any wonder you cannot understand that pensioners & the working poor cannot afford your \$495 rise & then the \$194 rise for the next few years. We don't have enough money to meet all the increases in rates, electricity, rego, insurances, petrol &

food. But don't you worry about us just go & collect your \$600,000 catamaran.

■ RATE PAYER. To all the voters in old LSC that only rent, in my opinion you should all vote NO as i am sure your rents will increase if deamalgation does happen. You will not have to pay the increased rates BUT your landlord WILL!

■ COL, THE CAVES. Maybe when Paul Lancaster gets his boat up and running he takes Ludwig and Wyatt as far from here as possible people are sick of their constant whinging. Which ever way the vote goes their moaning and groaning will continue as it will be always someone else

to blame for their shortcomings

■ DREW, CAWARRAL. To KH, Cawarral. Family subdivisions were disallowed nearly 20 Years ago due to it being abused by 90% of those who applied for & were granted approval. Clean & plentiful underground water unpolluted by sewage was a prime concern. The decision to stop this abuse which created far too many useless blocks was right then & is right now. RRC have had the foresight to retain a sensible policy brought in by the old L.S.C. before Ludwigs time. Thats another good reason to vote NO to deamalgation.



ultimately claiming 25. 1885 - John Lee escapes execution when the gallows malfunction three times.