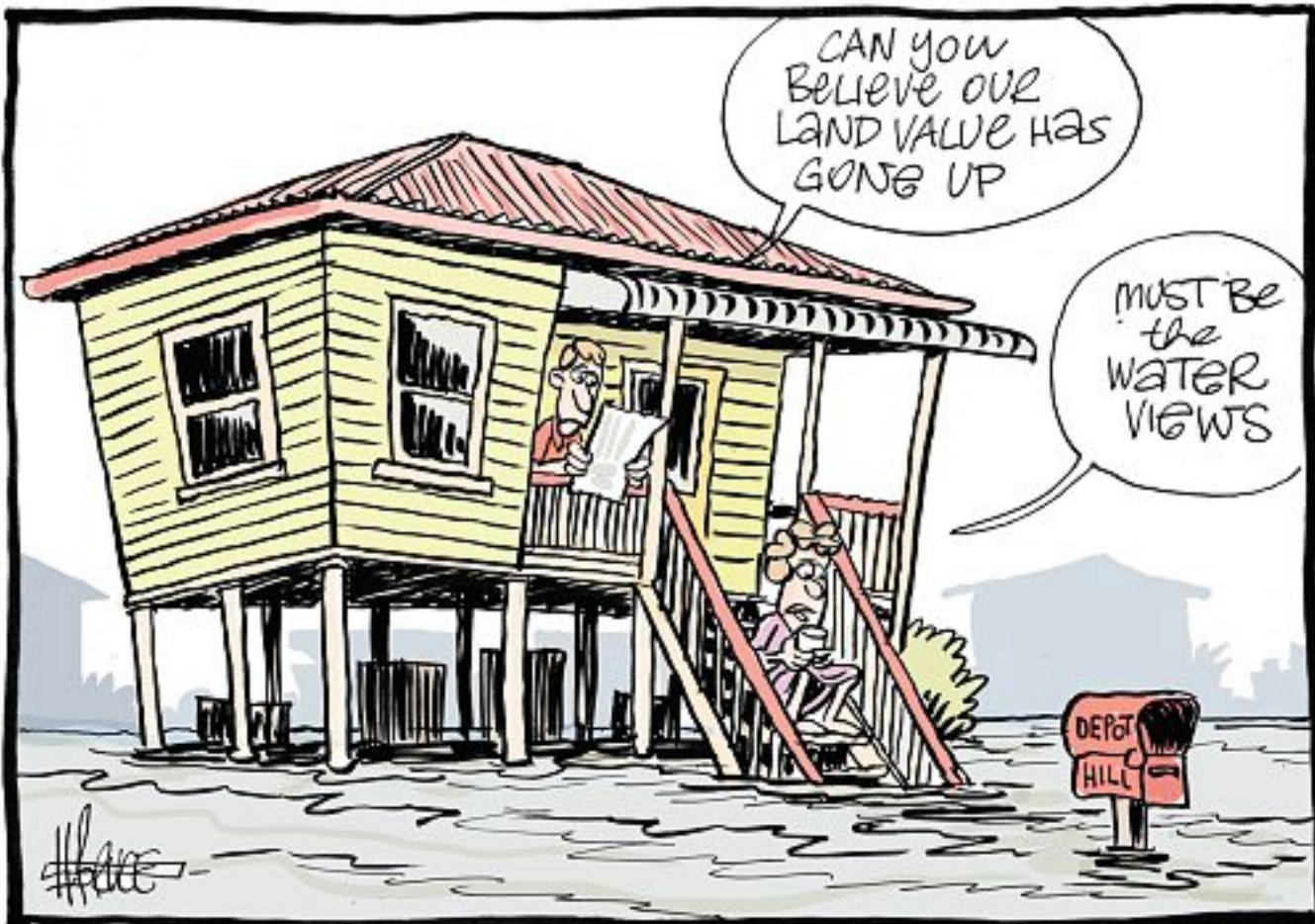


local voice



Losing economics in school adds up to dumbing down

SOME months ago I learned that RGS was abandoning its senior economics offering, making (I understand) our region totally devoid of the discipline at high-school level. As a trained economist, such news is incredibly disappointing.

First, consider that our region is not the centre of the universe and young people have little enough exposure to the wide world of potential careers. When I went to school, most of my schoolmates' fathers were tradesmen, clerks or meatworkers. It wasn't until I left school that I met a range of professionals and not until much later that I became seriously involved with business-people. Only now am I becoming aware of what it means to make your living as an artist or musician. Removing economics from the learning of our region removes exposure to a vast range of career possibilities. Secondly, economics is an interdisciplinary endeavour. Converting real world problems to maths and having to explain them in clear concise language is an art, overlaid with a scientific structure. In that respect it is a true social science. Whether in the newspaper or in academic journals, economists' judgments are available for assessment every day.

Thirdly, economics is an applied discipline and contrary to popular belief, it is about people not money. Without a knowledge of economics and markets, it's difficult to understand many things that go on around



The French lesson
with David French

us. Importing cars, for example, when Australia has an automotive industry of its own. Instituting something like the National Disability Insurance Scheme, when "of course" everyone wants to look after people with a disability. Recognising that Kevin 07 (recession 09) is full of rubbish when, in the face of thousands of years of evidence, he publicly claims markets no longer work and socialism is the answer.

Last is the gravitation of education into the "pure" disciplines. Marking of subjects in the humanities and social sciences is subjective but not generally in maths and some pure sciences. In an era of Naplan and Tertiary Entrance Scores, it's not the learning that counts, just opening the gate. The great results mask a dumbing down of the intellectual capacity of western society. Overstating the case? It's happening in the face of an electronic assault from the banal, ill-informed and a new-age amoral righteousness.



SMS ON ALP LEADERSHIP

■ **COOEE KID.** if julia Gillard thinks that that is the end she is right just wait until september when we all get a say .

■ **BILL TENNENT, COOWONGA** Will 21st March now be classed as Australia's Ground Hog Day?

■ **EDDIE.** Forget kevin rudd simon run yourself .

■ **RM, ST LAWRENCE.** I'd bet Miss Gillard will be sleeping with one eye open from now on, & one eye over her shoulder the rest of the time ! Mr.Rudd (& cronies) is/are not likely to forgo forever what he/they think is his place in the scheme of things ,& ,to be fair,to which he was TRULY elected by the people,without needing to make unsavoury deals. So,to steal a phrase,"uneasy lies the head that wears the crown ". And so it should.

■ **KEN, KAWANA.** Gillard voted back in with no opposition against her. Labour had no choice but to keep her.

When we vote at the next election we only have two choices both a no win result for us all. Only the pollies get a win.

■ **IC, ROCK.** RUDD will never challenge guillard not after the way she stabbed him in the back. he is letting guillard take the blame 4 the demise of the labour party 2 get even with her. i dont blame him.

■ **JD, YEPPON.** Amazed that Simon Crean turned on Julia on Thursday after history of labelling Kevin "not a team player". A little too amazing I think. A Gillard double agent to draw Kevin out to show his hand I feel. Not surprised Kevin sat tight as not even Kevin wants to be at the helm of a certainly sinking ship. What better way for Kevin to finally get back at Julia than to intentionally leave her to carry the bag standing at the helm of SS Labor as it sinks beneath the waves. Scuttled.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Is cheese or rabbit the major ingredient of Welsh rarebit?
2. In Sydney in 1984, which British rock star married Renate Blauel?
3. Which NSW regional city was shelled by Japanese submarines in 1942?
4. Which Australian NRL team won the 2013 World Club Challenge?
5. Who was the sole survivor of the 1997 Thredbo landslide disaster?

(pictured).
5. Stuart Diver
4. Melbourne Storm
3. Newcastle.
2. Elton John.
1. Cheese.



Lap or many other champions. Others have carried heavy weights to bring them back to the field, yet cleverly putting her in WFA races means you will never see her as top weight. And others have won over greater distances. Great yes, the best? No.

■ **IW, ROCK.** To anon. Tony Abbott's role is to be the Leader of the Opposition. He is expected to stop the government as possible so that what is passed by parliament is good for us. His name is not Dr No, his role is.

■ **TERRY, YEPPON.** To Drew Cawarral You certainly sounded like the little kid with your name calling and tantrums.

People vote the way they want not how you want. If you think they are selfish and stupid then that's your problem. I am glad it's getting up your nose. Have a nice day.

■ **FOOTY.** To MG, yeah from what I know Vossy is calling Warriors games for Sky Sport NZ. So we get the pleasure (not) of Hadley on 9.

■ **BAZ, FRENCHVILLE.** Frenchville road is 50k an hour if anyone was wondering. Its not 80 or 100 or a drag strip. I have a 2 yo daughter who loves to play outside. When I tell her she cant because its too dangerous it breaks my heart because idiots are hooning up and down like its a

race. Come on people what does it take to just slow down before someone gets hurt or killed. And to the motor bike that goes up and down I dont know how your bike is legal; next time I see you, you will be reported.

■ **DM, WANDAL.** I can't help but notice lately how many garage sales are in Yeppoon - often more than in Rocky. Is this the way Yeppoon residents are trying to make money to cover their future rate rises for King Billys kingdomship?

■ **REB.** O.M.G. NWH, are you really that gullible to believe that the split wasnt just about the coast? It was really about

Chancellor Ludwig & his sidekick Wyatt wanting power at any cost. The vote should not have been a simple majority and boundaries should be redrawn so that all areas that voted against a split should be left with RRC. The NO voters are obviously far more astute and dont want our communities to be run by these self-centred cowboys.

■ **RP, RTON.** Re C Lawson letter on 22 March; the grass growing on your nature strip is like one outside my home in West st, council weed eat it about once a year; we also have an overgrown tree they don't care about, good luck.