

Opinion

The Bulletin

EDITORIAL

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Consumers are not convinced

AS I said in yesterday's opinion, I don't think Labor or the LNP has the blueprint for solving the escalating cost-of-living problems.

There are a few Band-Aid solutions from the major parties but nothing to address the trend of monopolies and corporate greed sucking the captive consumer dry.

Why else are interest rates at record lows?

This causes a double whammy for self-funded retirees copping income losses on cash deposits.

The irony of the economic slump is that low home loan rates are putting more cash in the pockets of mortgage belt battlers but as retail data suggests, it has not triggered a spending spree.

The people who got burnt in the last round of interest rate rises would remember the Reserve Bank of Australia's previous warning that people can't expect rates to stay so low.

If they can they're saving, not spending.

Once bitten twice shy but not a bad place to be if you have a job.

There is also the impact in Queensland of 14,000 jobs cut from the public service and 7000 lost in the mining downturn.

No wonder they're not spending.

Most people are expecting business and consumer confidence to rise following what appears to be a certain LNP victory.

The carbon tax and NBN rollout that the nation couldn't afford will be replaced by lower-cost LNP alternatives.

Unless there is more disposable cash to spend – and I can't see that – the economy will only chug along with inflation in check and rates down.

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Letters



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



EMERGENCY STRIP: Robert Bom wonders if Emu Park airstrip could become a suitable alternative to Rockhampton during floods.

PHOTO: CHRIS ISON

FLOOD-PROOFING

Airport at Emu Park

IF SOUTH Rockhampton and Wandal were a grazing property, where would a grazier build a dam?

Depot Hill, of course! Those hills we have provide a lot of run-off.

Every grazier also works with a hydrologist; a four-legged animal that checks out the water supply, sniffs out the country and helps with the rounding up of cattle.

A levee around the airport would suit our family fine, but is it right for the area overall?

The best idea I have read so

far on ensuring road and transport are not cut off during a major flood, apart from building a levitated highway around Rockhampton, is one from Graham Dooley, long-time chairman of the Rockhampton Aero Club.

Graham tells us that in all the years he has flown around Rockhampton, the best place for another auxiliary, upgraded airport is at Emu Park.

I am sure Graham would be happy to elaborate on his ideas.

Robert Bom,
Rockhampton

Wouldn't dream of criticising hospital staff

K. BOLGER (TMB August 28), if you were truthful you would admit that I called to ask you if you were the Kevin Bolger who was a classmate of mine at South Townsville State School. This was not the case.

As for calling you "a naughty boy for praising staff at the hospital", I strongly deny this.

I am a retired ambulance officer and I have worked with medical staff at the Old Yeppoon and Rockhampton hospitals.

Recently, both my wife and I have received treatment at the Yeppoon hospital and at Rockhampton Base ICU and the care and attention we both received was above reproach.

I have also, in recent years, been a patient in ICU wards in both the Prince Charles and Princess Alexandra hospitals.

Again the care and attention was

“We shouldn't get involved in Syria

T. Robertson.

first-class and I can assure you that I have the utmost respect for medical staff, and have written letters of appreciation to all these hospitals.

There is no way that I would criticise you for offering praise to hospital staff.

So if you want to criticise me, be truthful about it, or check your facts first.

As for being "sitting ducks and wearing pot shots", if a person wishes to contribute to this column, they should put their full name and address and just roll with the flack. Yes, I have contacted people who were critical of my letters and discussed it, not given them an

"earful" as you have quoted, but this number pales into insignificance to the number of abusive phone calls and the two death threats that I have received.

As I grow older I have learnt that pleasing everyone is impossible, but annoying everyone is a piece of cake.

■ **N.W.H. Timms,**
Bungundarra

Bible helped shape Western civilisation

A CERTAIN "BE" of Wandal recently replied to my letter about same-sex marriage.

I am well aware that I cannot have same-sex marriage, God forbid.

I can comment about that idea.

That person remarked about "weird beliefs".

If that person is talking about a

belief in the Bible, those beliefs have helped to shape our Western civilisation.

That person said these beliefs are based in the Bronze Age.

Belief in the Bible is relevant in the Bronze Age, our modern age and every other age of human history.

Opportunistic remarks by "BE" of Wandal will never discourage me.

■ **Franklin J. Wood,**
North Rockhampton

Sea Eagles critic forced to eat humble pie

ONE of our local radio identities, who supports the Dragons and who has been very vocal in his sarcasm of the Manly Sea Eagles for this season, must be overjoyed with the performances of the Mighty Saints while the muppets are 'struggling' in third place.



Monday: Frazer is over the tooth fairy and on to his

The dream now reality

The French Lesson

with
David French

IF YOU know the history of Capricorn Investment Partners Limited, you will know this week I realised a dream. To grow a business for the benefit of our region, and to take it to the national stage. It's the subject of our logo and this week we achieved it. We did it through acquiring a much bigger business in Melbourne, and finding a way to list the whole group on the Australian Stock Exchange. It's a great outcome for our 50-odd shareholders, our clients and for our staff. For the region, it's been

a long time between drinks, but along with The Rock, RTQ7 and Denham Brothers, CIPL is a great example of what our region can achieve.

Next cab off the rank is The New Grand on the corner of Archer and Bolsover Sts. Here around 250 locals have invested in The Capricorn Diversified Investment Fund to, among other things, complete a building that will be one of the finest in the region. With Suncorp Bank secured as a major tenant, it is a win for our community – a big name national customer supporting local investors and local jobs, all with no debt.

We have achieved these goals because ordinary people with no axe to grind supported CIPL.

“They supported us by investing in or alongside a local company...”

They supported us by investing in or alongside a local company they believed in, and through becoming clients. Despite the GFC, clients have enjoyed excellent portfolio returns and levels of service many larger organisations find difficult to match. At the same time, investors in CIPL have been rewarded. Most of the employees have been locals with mortgages, kids and aspirations of their own.

Training others has launched at least three new businesses (rather galling for me, but there you go) and a number of careers – all because of the skills I brought back from my 18 years down south.

Getting CIPL to this stage has taken more than six years. The result is a business managing more than \$430 million, being run from little old Rockhampton. It is the long-term investment in (home grown) software, systems and staff that enabled this.

Perhaps if more people focused on building our community rather than divisive politics and polishing their put-downs, the region could regain the pre-eminent positioning it began to lose 40 years ago.