

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inman Valley intersection upgrade success

WE WOULD like to sincerely thank The City of Victor Harbor and DPTI for their joint efforts in the recent upgrade at the corner of Hancock and Inman Valley Roads. Their work has significantly improved the visibility for all traffic accessing this intersection, greatly improving safety at this notorious location. We would also like to thank the tireless efforts of everyone who was involved in initiating this project and following it through to completion. Our family is very grateful and happy with the result. We very much appreciate the efforts of all concerned.

*Darren, Susie, David and Diane Lush,
Lower Inman Valley*

UNTIDY TOWN

On Saturday, September 3, advertising material from Allphones, Victor Central, was placed on the windscreen of my car parked in the underground car park of Victor Central.

As I did not notice it until I was exiting the car park, I stopped to retrieve it from the windscreen noting on the ground many of these flyers which had blown off other cars.

This form of advertising is illegal in New South Wales and Victoria for obvious reasons. These flyers become litter, which builds up on our streets, blocks our gutters and drains, eventually finding its way into our creeks, rivers and onto our beaches. It can injure people and wildlife. It encourages pests such as rats, mice and seagulls, and spreads germs and disease.

The targeting of my windscreen by Allphones to my mind constitutes an offence under the Environmental Protection Act and has been reported as such. I question Allphones as to what action they have taken to collect the discarded flyers from the car park and on Acraman Street where they were last seen blowing.

I am proud of my community and its 'Tidy Town' awards. While we can discourage this advertising, I respond to idiotic and damaging acts such as Allphones' windscreen litter by voting with my feet. They will never see me as a customer as long as I value and care for this beautiful, clean city in which we live.

*Karen Nangle,
Encounter Bay*

YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY

I must confess some sympathy for the residents of Victor Harbor, and for the ex-



PHOTO OF THE WEEK: Young Victor Harbor photographer Brannon Jackson, 16, captured a strike of lightning over the ocean on Tuesday, August 30.

asperation they have been expressing every week in *The Times* in my eighteen years as a reader. As an outsider, let me point out what appears to be not understood about local government and accountability.

Elected members are accountable to the electors; their agenda should be to represent their constituents, and to keep them informed. How that happens in the councils of Alexandrina and Yankalilla is through having wards. This makes very clear to everyone which councillor is accountable to the residents who elected them. In local government policy it is supposed to be

formulated by the elected members, and the staff and executive are responsible for implementing those policies.

The recent articles suggest this is not the case in the City of Victor Harbor.

Essentially, the current CVH and your concerns come from the way we all think. Whatever the state of the district, please be aware that for as long as you think the way you have been thinking nothing will ever change. It doesn't help when councillors think they represent the staff and the executive. You and they need to think in an entirely different way. Maybe even try

democracy.

You also need a strategy for the next council election, and articulate your policies rather than accept whatever the candidates may claim to represent. Forget the airy fairy notion of being a city and become a whole of a district community.

*Alan Oliver,
Normanville*

RATEPAYER CONCERN

The Council meeting of August 22 contained two matters that should be of concern to ratepayers. The council needs to review the performance of the CEO annually, an activity which has been held behind closed doors previously. In an attempt to bring this process into the open, a group of councillors voted against that process. Councillors Chigwidden, Dutton, Andrews and Schofield voted to maintain the secrecy on this important matter. Cr Hayles was absent, requiring the mayor to have the casting vote. He supported the motion. Crs Charles, Marshall, Glazbrook and Jenkins opposed it.

So we have no idea what performance criteria was used to grant the CEO a per cent salary increase. At the same meeting a motion to advise the CEO that at the end of his current contract (2017) his position would be advertised (but that he could re-apply) was defeated. Councillors Chigwidden, Dutton, Schofield and Jenkins voted against the motion which again was lost (once again) on the casting vote of the mayor. Crs Charles, Marshall, Andrews and Glazbrook supported it. So we now have a situation where half the council consider that we, the ratepayers, do not need to know what basis of efficiency or achievements support the CEO's salary increase, the same proportion which feels the position should not be made open and available to outside applicants. Openness, transparency and accountability and an ability to change are issues which seem to evade this dysfunctional council.

*Peter Reedman,
Victor Harbor*

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COLUMN: LORRAINE MCLOUGHLIN



Books may change your life

WATCHING the ABC's *Q and A* on Monday provided an inspirational hour of television. Great minds, of beautiful and creative young people and of older, but not jaded, experts came together to discuss the value of Shakespeare during the Sydney Festival of Dangerous Ideas. The chemistry worked to give viewers an opportunity to watch an unfolding conversation of extraordinary breadth and depth. It was a sublime moment, connecting people and their thinking. Some audience members queried the value of still performing and watching Shakespeare in the 21st century, but the debate tackled universal truths

which have made Shakespeare a favourite in many countries and cultures over 400 years. Shakespeare's works speak to us today with relevant themes and characters which have never become stereotypes. They portray dilemmas of human beings of all times, sadly including ongoing issues of personal foibles, power struggles and treatment of refugees. The conversation was continuously lively, often moving, sometimes bawdy and frequently funny.

Theatre, books and reading thrill many of us and are our way into an inner personal life. Being part of a long tradition brings a joyous sharing of ongoing conversations about books when we get together with

like-minded people. For many of us, that is the essence of a rich life. In Yankalilla this was the aim behind the founding of the Books and Words Group so that lovers of reading could together enjoy literary events and discussions. We might live in regional Australia and without neighbours or theatres close by, but when we get together we can laugh, cry or argue about the same things. A warning though, sometimes reading and such exchanges about words and ideas can change your life.

Lorraine McLoughlin is an author and is involved in community literary events in the Yankalilla District. For more see www.booksandwordsgroup.weebly.com