

OPINION

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COLUMN

Lorraine McLoughlin: Tip of the iceberg



AS A multi-coloured leafy seadragon emerged from the waters of beautiful Second Valley recently to launch the 2017 Festival

Fleurieu program, I pondered on the huge amount of talent not only before my eyes but in our wider district, and across the whole peninsula. So many people made that evening a success by creating an amazing art work, diving to release it from the water, singing, playing the recorder, organising and catering for the event. They created excitement and joy in the air.

I'm conscious that we often only acknowledge the tip of the iceberg of effort in artistic pursuits, sport and other activities going on around us. Hundreds behind the scenes make events happen. Thousands more people, not involved with festivals and sports clubs, are also doing special things elsewhere, alone, in families, other niches or groups. Oh the riches of living in a small community where we can step up to play a part, or just participate in a range of opportunities. When someone says there is nothing to do in a country place I am speechless. Yet I know some are afraid to be joiners, or think they will incur costs and get stuck on committees. Or feel too alone and self-conscious to join. Those of us connected to groups need to invite others and encourage them if they wish to participate, or having offered, to recognise and respect their preference to be separate.

If we wish for certain things or activities to happen, however, we have to get on board, act to make them materialise. Praise be to those who keep the faith with long-term organisations such as Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, festivals and sporting clubs and, as successive teams and generations, they step-up to make sure their central purposes continue.

Lorraine McLoughlin is an author, who has been involved in community events on the Fleurieu Coast. For more see www.fitzmcl.com

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: BETH NIXON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bravo to production of West Side Story

WE WENT to see *West Side Story* last night and there is only one word to describe it: Energy. It was played at such a fast pace it left us over 80-year-olds exhausted just watching them dance and fight, how they remembered all the moves, I cannot imagine.

We left the town hall tired but happy, with talent like that around we are looking at a long time of wonderful entertainment. Thank you Zest, long may you reign.

*Denis Haynes,
Victor Harbor*

STOCK ROAD SUBDIVISION

I've been following and have real concerns with regard to Victor Harbor council and what seems to be one fiasco after another, an extremely badly handled situation that puts us ratepayers at risk.

Has this administration advised the Local Government Risk Service (LGRS) of the potential litigation threat from Stock Road subdivision, and if not why haven't they?

Has the council advised the audit committee and the independent member of this risk of litigation if not why haven't they?

I understand if they do not report this

to the LGRS and the audit committee they will have not acted honestly and against Local Government act, and that's a sackable offense and may void the terms of the council insurance policy and forfeit the legal protection it offers. Ratepayers really need to elect people who have expertise, not just nice friends with smiley faces and I thought we had well-paid staff to answer questions and do the job their paid for.

This is supposed to be a business. Our business. As a concerned ratepayer I would like to see a solution to what seems to be ongoing circus.

Thanks,
*Rachel Price,
Victor Harbor*

TENNIS IS THE WINNER

After watching the finals of the Australian Open Tennis I am sure tennis itself was the winner. The quality of tennis, endurance, and most of all the sportsmanship displayed by all finalists, male and female, was a pleasure to witness.

Also a wake-up call to Australia's male players to stop being prima donnas and get real with using their natural abilities, by tightening their mental approach in major

tennis matches. So much natural talent being wasted by poor on court attitude. Is the coaching or life-style causing this unhealthy approach? I personally am hoping to notice a change in future.

*Glen Chenoweth,
Goolwa North*

POST OFFICE CONCERNS

Its little wonder that the Post Office is not making any money. Today (February 3) I received a rather important letter that was posted from Victor Harbor on January 25. It took nine days to arrive! My reaction to this is that I will not use the PO for any correspondence in the future and this will only make their situation worse as far as increasing their financial receipts.

I have taken the step of arranging future correspondences from a number of offices to to be done by email. I sent this letter by email as if I had sent it by post it would be questionable when it would be received.

*John Bigatton,
Goolwa North*

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: *McCracken's Beth Nixon snapped this shot of a Tiger Moth flying over Goolwa during the Milang to Goolwa Freshwater Classic on January 22.*

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