

# OPINION

victorharbortimes.com.au/harbortimes

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Keeping the Fleurieu in top condition

ON SUNDAY, March 5, my great-grandson Oscar and I were proud to assist in the Clean Up Australia Day campaign at Victor Harbor. To the people who took the time to ask what we were doing, I thank you. Perhaps you would like to help us next year.

Although it is a good feeling to know you are doing something worthwhile for the community, there is a downside. Picking up plastic bags of doggy-doo that some proud animal owner insists on throwing over the side of the board walk at Bridge Terrace. Shame on you.

The other disappointment was collecting over a bag of rubbish from around and particularly behind the Yacht Club building. No comment needed.

May we collect less bags of rubbish next year.

Roy Jones,  
Encounter Bay

### DEATH OF AN ERA

I noted late Friday afternoon a security truck outside the Bank of South Australia picking up the last of the bank's goods and chattels, leaving a very sad shell behind. This is a historic milestone for Victor Harbor Town Centre and not in a good way. At \$180,000 a year rent, who can possibly inhabit this beautiful building? Only the owners, surely, would be willing to invest the kind of money needed to turn this building into something new. A rich bank wouldn't stay-what chance does anyone else have? Only one idea that has any merit and could help the town survive is to move the tourist information centre into it - please.

Glen Chenoweth,  
Goolwa North

### ELECTRICITY IN HIGH DEMAND

Readers have had a lot to say about the unreliability of our electricity supply, but while the debate has focused on the methods of generation, other factors need equal attention. Many blackouts have been from damaged power lines due to increasingly violent storms, which an overwhelming majority of scientists tell us is a result of the overuse of fossil fuels. So we need to steer away from fossil fuels, but more urgently secure the means of distribution or at least keep trees trimmed in the vicinity of overhead power lines until a better system is established. Meanwhile, everyone grizzles



**PHOTO OF THE WEEK:** Lidia Lipkiewicz was intrigued by a sculpture of sorts, which she came across on Granite Island recently.

about the soaring electricity bills but nobody wants to address how wasteful we have become. Electric doors whiz open when we walk past a shop, air conditioning is turned up ridiculously high in shopping centres and office buildings, and in many instances the doors remain open so the cool/warm air wafts out into the street. Houses are still being built to rely completely on air conditioning, and to add to the vulnerability to unpredictable elements, they no longer bother with raised foundations so when streets flood, the water comes straight in the front door. And to those who scathingly refer to our state as third world, I suggest you widen your horizons and find out exactly how the other half live - without any electricity at all. And then please explain to me why this disgraceful imbalance is allowed to exist.

Heather Lauterbach,  
Victor Harbor

### WARDS

Having read the recent Council vote on having wards or not, I think it is timely to

make some observations on the issue of democracy. Democracy infers an expression of the people's needs and wants between the electors and candidates, and having a publicly-designated councillor for the ratepayers in his or her ward makes that possible. So how does it function from an objective point of view?

The absence of wards in Victor Harbor is of benefit to the councillors because in effect the district is managed solely by the staff and it simplifies the role of the staff because, having voted the councillors are responsible for staff policies enacted. This suits councillors and the mayor because they are at arm's length from policy and decision making. The staff gives them a list of items on which they vote and that is about as far as governance goes. It is all an illusion. The very name of the council, City of Victor Harbor, means that ratepayers in Lower Inman, Hayborough, Waitpinga and further, are invisible by definition and any need for wards becomes irrelevant.

The vote against wards was not unani-

mous; clearly, some councillors know what responsible representation would look like in practice. I just hope enough of the ratepayers can see it too. Instead of making wild offers during an election campaign, candidates should approach the challenge without a personal agenda and have their community form the agenda. Maybe talk with the Ngarrindjeri; they have been governing that way for around ten thousand years.

Alan Oliver  
Normanville.

### NBN SHOCK

I am going to be connected to the nbn this Friday, imagine the shock I received that I will have to fork out at least \$100 for a modem that will take nbn.

Maggie Harding,  
Goolwa Beach

### GOOD SAMARITANS

I would like to thank the people, you know who you are, who came to my husband Derek's aid when he fell in Coral Street on Thursday, March 2. Also to Bronte and Bob who took Derek to the Victor Harbor Medical Centre for treatment given by nurse Monica, who cleaned and bandaged the wounds beautifully. Derek is healing quite nicely, thanks to you kind people of Victor.

Thank you all once again,  
Vera Brown,  
Victor Harbor

### PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Have you snapped a unique photograph on the south coast of the Fleurieu recently? Send your photos to [victortimes@fairfax-media.com.au](mailto:victortimes@fairfax-media.com.au) for a chance to feature in the Photo of the Week section. Please include your full name, where you live, and some information about the image. Photos must be at least 1 megabyte in size.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome topical letters of no more than 250 words. All letters must include the writer's name and contact details. By submitting your letter for publication, you agree that The Times may edit the letter for legal, clarification, space, or other reasonable reasons and may, after publication, reproduce or deal with the letter (in whole or in part) on the internet or in other media.

## COLUMN: LORRAINE MCLOUGHLIN



# A free week for all writers

**H**OW good is Adelaide Writers' Week with thousands of people congregating at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens in the city? Interstate visitors kept raving about our unique gem. This free event under the trees provides everyone access to share the pleasure of books with other writers and readers.

Australian literary heroes this year included novelists Kate Grenville, John Marsden, Hannah Kent and Elizabeth Harrower, poets Mike Ladd and Louise Nicholas, and radio giants Caroline Baum and Richard Fidler. So the list goes, with many overseas authors among the poets, novelists, biographers,

children's authors, playwrights and investigative journalists.

Authors I had never heard of moved me to wonder, sometimes tears. My head buzzed with new ideas and awe at people daring to share their writing, lives and experiences. Appreciative audiences were transported to other places, cultures, personal tragedies and successes, and challenged with analyses, histories and imaginative futures.

Since the first Adelaide Festival in 1960, this writers' gathering has grown enormously and been widely copied. Only ours remains free, and is renowned for its inclusive friendliness, with wheelchair access and Auslan sign interpreting.

Good coffee and food are available, but you can pack your own, join others at picnic tables and make new friends. Beware the financial dangers of the book tent though, when you get the must buy feeling after hearing writers spill their stories. Alternatively, ask your libraries to order the books or shop locally for them.

If you missed this feast of ideas and book sharing in 2017, vow to be there next March. It's a South Australian triumph to maintain this extraordinary event.

**Lorraine McLoughlin is an author involved in community literary events in the Yankalilla District. For more see [www.fitzmc.com](http://www.fitzmc.com)**