

OPINION

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COLUMN

Lorraine McLoughlin: Will there ever be order?



WILL there ever be order? We tumbled into life, literally, in a bloody mess, though nurses soon cleaned us up, and our parents tried to make order of the chaos we brought them with broken sleep, dirty nappies and strewn toys. It proved an ongoing challenge.

As little folk we too instinctively ordered things by putting people in pigeon holes: those who loved us, scared us, read stories, ignored or played with us.

On a good day, we even, when cajoled, put away our toys and clothes in their proper places.

We discovered which kids to trust in the school playground, which teachers were tough or soft, and sometimes cleaned out the bottom of our school bags to start over in orderliness.

After decades many of us are still clamouring to know who and what to believe, and to establish order. Sometimes I achieve it momentarily.

Yet in spite of labelling boxes and files, and acquiring extra cupboards, I can't find the keys I had just minutes ago, those bills to pay, and the address of my next appointment. Things aren't always in the places I assigned them as I imposed my latest system. I agree with the writer who said, "Order is what exists before you start arranging things." But it's no joke as I turn out organised drawers while looking.

Categories for ideas and people are just as unsatisfactory, in conversation my words spatter around to find a line of reason. Like most humans I seek sense in the world's chaos, yet I have to admit the universe's logic eludes me. I succumb gratefully to Henry Adam's dictum: "Chaos was the law of nature; Order was the dream of man."

But what a relief if I could find that gift voucher before it expires, or I do.

Lorraine McLoughlin is an author, who has been involved in community events on the Fleurieu Coast.

PRIMO PIC OF THE WEEK: RUTH MILLER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plea to support local shops in Port Elliot

AS A resident of Port Elliot and one who prefers to shop locally, I was dismayed to hear that our produce shops are doing tough due to local support. It seems locals prefer to drive to Victor Harbor to shop in the large supermarkets for their 'fresh' produce. This is a form of false economy. If you think about it, yes, you might buy your produce at a few dollars per kilo cheaper, but consider the alternative. How many kilograms of produce do you actually buy to make a substantial saving? Have you factored in your fuel costs and time? Can you talk to the supermarket staff about the produce they are selling and where it is sourced from, and its quality?

Have you factored in that the produce is probably grown interstate, transported to a distribution centre interstate and then transported here? Apart from the carbon footprint, the freshness does not stack up against locally-grown produce, which is also not coated in sprays or kept in cold storage. These shop owners want to be part of our community - they employ locally, and want to give back to the community by sport sponsorships, providing produce for raffles and competitions and the like.

Maybe this is where some of that \$2 per kilo goes. These shops rely on our local support in non-tourist seasons, if we don't support them then we lose them. So please shop locally. I have not financial affiliation with any of the shops.

*Martin Smee,
Port Elliot*

RE: 'BUY LOCAL'

Living in Encounter Bay for the last 25 years there have been times that I have tried to buy local only to be disappointed. I, like many others would prefer my money to be spent in the local community. On several occasions I contacted several local companies to give me a quote (at different times) on work at my home. I waited and waited and finally gave up. I contacted a company in Adelaide. On both occasions they turned up on the appointed day and time, measured and quoted and after considering their quotes I accepted both renos. They were done in a timely and professional manner. I am still waiting (after three years) for a quote from the local company.

Two weeks ago I tried to purchase a large electrical item advertised in a local catalogue, (which advertises Buy Local). I went

to the store only to be told by the salesman they didn't have the item and that I could purchase it online. If I am going to purchase an expensive item advertised in a catalogue I think it's reasonable that I want to see the product I am buying before purchasing. Whilst I support the 'Buy Local' campaign many times it's just not possible when service is so lacking in the local area.

I would like to thank the locals who have done the right thing so getting the jobs of building my deck, installed my outside blinds and sold me my new car, etc. We need more people like you.

*Chris Dunn,
Encounter Bay*

PRIMO PIC OF THE WEEK

Port Elliot's Ruth Miller took this photo during an eerily foggy morning at Horseshoe Bay. Ruth has won a \$20 voucher for Primo Victor Harbor. Submit your local photo to victortimes@fairfaxmedia.com.au. Not all photos will be printed. Winners can visit The Times to collect their \$20 voucher for Primo Victor Harbor.

Letters to the editor: Send to victortimes@fairfaxmedia.com.au by 10am Monday. The word limit is 250 words.

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