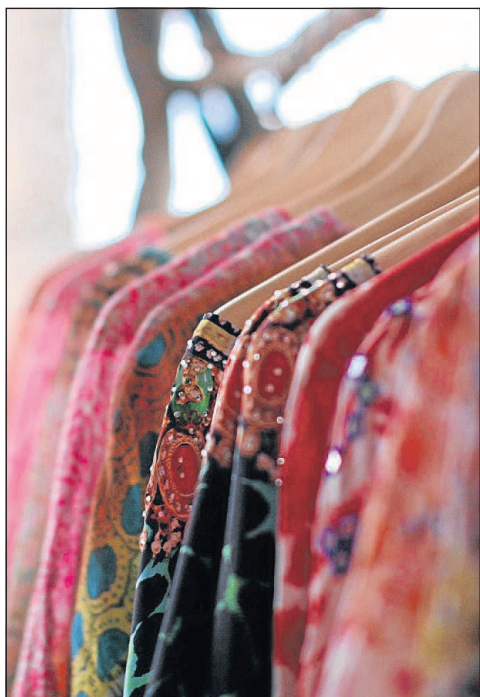


# OPINION

victorharbortimes.com.au/opinion

## COLUMN

### Lorraine McLoughlin: Bombarded by choice



**S**POILED for choice.

Is that a positive claim, or are you, like me, overwhelmed by the assault of daily options?

The supermarket makes umpteen selections available, obscuring the few healthy ones. Which book will I take from the unread bedside stash, which old favourites will I revisit?

What's the next travel destination? Something from the bucket list, returning to already loved places or visiting faraway friends. When I determine to declutter, can I let go of everything that is not useful or beautiful. Must I cling to what's neither but, overlain with memories, just takes up space? How many bowls and mugs do I need?

Invitations from friends proliferate amid family and community events, and films, concerts and plays multiply our choices. With "been busy" a common catch cry and excuse, we become victims of overload if we refuse to make choices and selections. Social media gives us too many glimpses into others' lives, the media at large bombards us with information but we do have the ability to turn off the switch. While the world has sadness and tragedy on the screen and at home, what we can do is control our attitudes to such events. Hamlet overthought to be or not, and Anthony was destroyed by being torn between love and duty, Egypt and Rome. Yet, as Harry Potter was advised, "Choices...show what we truly are."

Without filtering options we become overwhelmed by both life's riches and its mundanity. "We are our choices," said Satre and while that applies to picking careers or partners, big decisions reflect our smaller everyday ones. Surprisingly, limiting options doesn't take away life's joys. When we claim time to sit and appreciate the moment, yesterday's choices might reward today with space to enjoy the present. And in 300 words, what more can I say?

*Lorraine McLoughlin is an author with community ties to the Fleurieu Coast.*

## PRIMO PIC OF THE WEEK: ROB MACAULAY



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Ideas for new Victor Harbor artistic space

**I**HAVE been interested to read of various proposals to upgrade Ocean Street and attract more people to that area. I also note various suggestions have been made for improvements to the arts facilities provided in the heritage buildings in the town hall and adjacent buildings. In walking in this area recently I find that the best building for a new arts complex is currently for sale. This is the heritage building previously occupied by the SA Savings Bank. This would make an excellent gallery, in which to display the significant art collection owned by the council and would have adequate space to provide a separate gallery for local artists and the conduct of arts workshops. It could even provide space for an 'artist in residence' and be a good place for the office of a new arts and culture facilitator. I suggest the council should reconsider its decision to allocate further funds to more works at the end of Ocean Street and reallocate those funds to purchase this building. A good art gallery would do far more to attract locals and visitors to Ocean Street than more street-scape upgrades at the end of the street. Implementation of this proposal would also not have adverse effects on the businesses in the street. The full town hall

area could then be devoted to improving the facilities for the performing arts.

*Bill Harris,  
Encounter Bay*

### SHACK DECISION

The recent decision by the Yankalilla Council to issue a lease to the shackholders is questionable on a number of counts. First is the fact of the land being Crown Land, which means that the state and its agencies have every right to demand the removal of the buildings. I can appreciate that with a state election approaching, followed by council elections in November there may be a reluctance to take any direct action. I would guess that none of these properties pay rates because they would not have a title or a VG valuation in which case one could say that council does not represent the 'owners'. Building a house on someone else's land does not confer ownership. If the Kurna people lodged a land rights claim for this part of the coast it would most likely succeed. The Letters Patent, in instructing Governor Hindmarsh to obtain ownership from the indigenous owners of South Australia, is an acknowledgement of the existing rights of the First People and

that right still exists for those who are able to think clearly.

*Alan Oliver,  
Normanville*

### UNIMPRESSED BUS USER

Since my brain aneurysm I have been left no choice but to catch the Victor Harbor bus to the city. The Premier bus service that used to be, at least had the convenience of a toilet on board. As those who use the service are all aware, it's a two-hour trip. However, the new company that has taken over, Link, are treating our service like a metro service and not a country service. There is no toilet on board and I'm not alone in believing that our country service needs the convenience of a toilet aboard.

*Deborah Caire,  
McCracken*

### PRIMO PIC OF THE WEEK

*Middleton's Rob Macaulay submitted this photo of a yellow-tailed cockatoo on a hakia bush in his garden. Rob won a \$20 voucher for Primo Victor Harbor. Submit your photo to victortimes@fairfaxmedia.com.au. Not all photos will be printed. Winners visit The Times to collect their \$20 voucher.*

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