

Opinion

Knox Leader



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Bad signs for area

OUR Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Orange Grove, Bayswater, is such a lovely church.

A place where people worship, but the vandalism to it is disgusting.

People trying to sell properties and their signs being defaced is a disgrace.

Everywhere I walk, graffiti is absolutely everywhere down this street and down every other too. They burn rubbish bins in my area, they deface all.

They burn cars, wreck letterboxes, it is getting to be a bad area.

Catharine Oldfield, Boronia.

Not too late to act

THE release of the draft Ross Garnaut report into climate change presents the global community with one of its greatest challenges yet.

While the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts massive increases in greenhouse emissions without serious reform, the Garnaut report poses a case much more severe.

Investment in clean energy and the advent of carbon pricing has been delayed by insufficient government policy.

There is no doubt that Garnaut will recommend a cap and trade system to implement carbon pricing. I pose the question to those supporting all sides of politics: Is either a \$34 billion or \$31 billion tax cut the best way those resources can be expended?

I suggest that the billions already spent in tax cuts would have had a far more beneficial effect on the economy by establishing appropriate carbon pricing (while having a sliding scale of subsidies for lower income earners), coupled with greater grants for investing in research and development of carbon con-



A letter writer is upset the church was vandalised.

strained or carbon neutral technologies. The time for change was yesterday, but we can still change today.

Ben Smith, Wantirna.

Utility belt for Citylink

TO ALL those utility drivers who are currently paying light commercial rate on Melbourne toll roads, I suggest they call CityLink and EastLink and ask why NSW drivers who drive the same model utes as them can come to Victoria and drive on our roads cheaper than these toll operators' own customers.

I then suggest they look at applying for a NSW e-tag from the NSW RTA and save around \$1400 dollars a year.

Tony Ruschmeyer, Rowville.

Report 'outrage'

REGARDING the letter by an outraged Bill Birmingham.

If he was so 'outraged' at the sight of a drug

deal transaction in broad daylight in the Boronia Mall, and he was appalled at this happening, why didn't he report it?

Take the number of the number plate, use a mobile phone if available. And as was reported in another letter, the police station was only metres away. The police can't be everywhere.

N. Miller, The Basin.

Top name for estate

I WORKED at the Austral brick yards, for eight years, and left 20 years ago. A good name for the estate could be Terracotta Terrace.

David Campbell, Ferntree Gully.

Praise for backflip

KNOX Council should be congratulated on its change of heart regarding the Lewis Park skate bowl.

It is the right decision. Knox Ratepayers Association is sometimes criticised for opposing some Knox Council policies and being

critical of expenditure levels, but in fact we support most council programs and decisions.

In this case it is not only the right decision – it is good to see council prepared to change a decision it had already made. Too often governments at every level make decisions and then fight to defend them at all costs no matter how wrong they obviously are.

While supporting council's decision, I did permit myself a wry smile when I read that Mayor Jim Penna had congratulated skate bowl protesters on their "professionalism, courtesy and sense of decency". Ironic really – when you consider that the loudest and most uncontrolled demonstration against council in recent years was staged by a group led by Jim Penna and David Cooper.

How times change.

Peter Baird, Knox Ratepayers Association.

Despicable behaviour

IT WAS at Boronia Junction where I witnessed very worrying behavior from a group of six young males (I hesitate to call these truculent foul-mouthed guttersnipes men).

One of the group amused himself trying to do tricks on his skate board, weaving among shoppers.

Three others sat on their bikes minus safety helmets and watched, having a foul, loud mouth competition, the other puny lad elevated his horizontally challenged stature by spitting on the ground every few seconds.

In all I found this group to be physically and verbally offensive, and in need of a shiny size 10 copper's boot in the place where it would do most good.

But the most frightening thing was to consider that in a year or so this unruly, lawless mob of drongos will be unleashed on the public when they get their driver's licenses.

Bill Birmingham, Boronia.