



quote of the day

I am right when I say that there will be better days ahead in a stronger economy, when workers can get the jobs they need.

PRIME MINISTER TONY ABBOTT ON QANTAS'S DECISION YESTERDAY TO AXE 5000 WORKERS

YOUR OPINION

HOT TOPIC

Zorbing gets the nod

Could zorbing become the next big tourism attraction on the Surf Coast?

I would go to Geelong/Great Ocean Road just to do this.

Catherine Chapman

Hopefully they carefully consider where they put this so it doesn't interfere and get in the way of other people. But it looks like fun, I'd give it a try.

Terri-Lee Champion

If it was in some sort of massive enclosed area, even outside, but in a fenced grassland or something, that would be awesome.

Eloise Purcell

Still doesn't beat ice blocking at Eastern Beach.

Scott Casey

Loved doing this in New Zealand.

Wendi Hansen Hickey

Depends on how safe it is.

Eloise Purcell

Very safe ... as long as you don't stand downhill from it.

Randall Lay Tin

We used to ice block at Eastern Beach too. Great fun.

Rhonda Grant

Have done it in Queensland — awesome fun.

Trent Power

Absolutely. Looks great fun. I'd do it for sure.

Shamana Heart-Fire

My family did it in Rotorua and loved it. I wish I'd had a go now.

Rachael Millar-Zivic

I would go for a spin.

Rosalie Stillitano

Now this is a lot better than hav-

ing pet dogs pulling you along on a cart like a bloody horse.

Deb Mason

Sure would. Something I have always wanted to try.

Heather J. Hancocks

Maybe it's an idea for Adventure Park to get this up the top hill. Then that space is being used and visitors wouldn't have to pay because it's on the entry price.

Kristen Clark

We did this in Vanuatu. Was super fun and great for all ages. I'd love to see this rolling around our gorgeous green hillsides.

Melissa J. Fisher

I'd definitely give it a go, but I wonder if, like every other fun thing to do, this is going to have a hefty ticket price too. Most "family" attractions are

unaffordable for the average family, so maybe it'll just be more money down the drain.

Emily King

Have done it in New Zealand — great fun and would be up for it again.

Brad Wiedmann

Good fun but too old to do it myself.

Judy Addison

My grandsons would just love it.

Jennie Craven

I did it in New Zealand and it was so much fun. Why the hell would you not approve this?

Tiana Bencich

Hell yes, this is awesome.

Cherie Ranner

It's a definite win for the area. I can't believe people would vote against it.

Narelle Seaton



An animation is projected on to the track during the opening ceremony of the UCI Track Cycling World Championships at Alcides Nieto Patino velodrome in Cali, Colombia.

Picture: AFP/LUIS ROBAYO

LETTERS

THE COUNCIL'S RETAIL POLICY DISCRIMINATES

IF the council has a retail policy that doesn't involve cosy-ing up to landlords and beating up on small shopkeepers, I've yet to be able to divine it.

Kevin V Russell, Geelong

SMELL A RAT IN SHELL REFINERY SALE

LAST week's news that the Shell refinery had been sold, nearly had the City of Geelong on its knees until the news from the succeeding consortium broke.

That every person employed at the refinery would remain in their jobs, without any pay cuts, had the champagne corks popping and cheers of elation rung through the streets. I think it would be hard to find anyone that wasn't

happy about this decision.

But after sipping on my champagne, I couldn't help but notice a nasty aftertaste.

In the back of my mind, I hear a tiny voice of reason asking the question that if a massive company like Shell was struggling to the point that it had no other option than to sell its company, then how is the new mob going to make a fist of it, when it is replicating what Shell stood for? Same staff, same hours, same pay.

Unless, of course, there is a plan to increase the price of either its petroleum or gas. Privatisation is another word for pain in the hip pocket in my dictionary. I just hope that our toothless tiger, the ACCC, can keep abreast of the situation.

I hope that my voice of reason is wrong and I truly hope that only good will come of the

sale of our refinery. But I do smell a rat in the wood pile. One, I suspect, that is wearing a gold tooth and an eerie smirk.

Robert Lymer, Belmont

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE WORKERS AT ALCOA

I AM sorry to hear about Alcoa shutting down later this year.

I enjoyed working there in the gardening crew with Kommercial for five years. All the best to all the workers at Alcoa.

Steve Barron, Bell Park

THROW THE BOOK AT TREE KILLERS

I THINK the selfish, malicious environmental vandals poisoning the trees along the waterfront would be the first to whinge if they had someone

graffiti their walls or scratch the duco on their flash car(s). Don't you?

If caught, they should be subjected to the maximum penalty for destruction of public property. Not a paltry fine.

John Willet, Geelong

ALWAYS BE WORK FOR THE WELL-TRAINED

GEELONG may be down but it is not out.

It has endured worse, in the past. Our second largest city has a well-trained workforce which can relatively easily be transitioned into new economic opportunities.

The focus of all our attention should be on identifying these opportunities and bringing them to fruition.

Michael J Gamble, Belmont

Geelong **Advertiser**
EDITORIAL

Youth need our backing

THIS community's challenges with youth crime have been well documented.

You only need to look at our alarming story today about 10-year-olds allegedly involved in a stabbing to see how acute the challenge is.

The usual response to youth crime stories is to call for tougher sentences for young offenders.

But as has been shown by numerous studies, putting people in jail for long periods of time is not always the best way to rehabilitate people who might still have a chance at a productive life.

What has worked in the past is diversion programs.

In Geelong, the Operation Newstart program has been particularly successful in engaging youths with a criminal past, turning their lives around and stopping the criminal cycle.

Sadly though, as we report today, that program is facing a significant

financial challenge.

Should this program be axed, not only will at-risk youth no longer have a chance to turn their lives around, our city will also pay a price.

And youth who might have had a chance of leaving crime behind may not now.

They could be the young people who break into your house — or they could commit worse crimes.

Whenever decisions to stop funding or support are made, it is imperative that careful consideration is given to the consequences.

It is not just a line item in a budget.

It is not just a saving an accountant can deliver on a balance sheet.

It comes at a cost. Operation Newstart is a good program, it is well run and it gets results.

It's time for a pause on the cost-cutting and a commitment to keeping the program going — because it works.

At last, wheel turns for cyclists

FOR so long, cyclists have been treated like second-class citizens on our roads.

For some particularly stupid drivers, they have been seen as a nuisance, people who have no right to be on our roads.

But it seems that, finally, the message is getting out that cyclists have every right to be on our roads, just as drivers do.

The détente began yesterday with keen cyclist and Chief Commissioner Ken Lay laying down the law on cyclists' rights — saying it was time for a little respect.

And in further good news for the two-wheel brigade, as we report today our council is looking to spend \$4 million to upgrade cycling routes and plans to upgrade Portarlington Rd. That is a serious commitment to cyclists and their safety.

Let's hope that all this means peace will now break out on our roads in the long-running battle between cyclists and drivers.

Let's hope from now on both parties obey the road rules, show respect to each other and ... just get along.

ADDY ONLINE POLL

Yesterday's question: Is it time for Alan Joyce to be replaced as Qantas CEO?

YES 86% NO 14%

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