

Geelong Advertiser

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LP

Big thank you to Jimmy and Nick

ON Friday night we watched strong competition between Geelong and Collingwood and enjoyed every moment, delighting in Geelong's win and appreciating Collingwood's determination.

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But better still, on Saturday night competition was put aside and men from the two teams shared a meal in friendship to honour a young man many held in high regard, and who died far too young.

In doing so they encouraged more than 300 people to spend up big and support the Michael Carmody Foundation, the aim of which is to support families struggling to educate their children. Well done and thank you Nick (Maxwell) and Jimmy (Bartel) for your leadership, both on and off the field.

Veronica Biddle, Highton

System falls down in every direction

IT'S the system that needs fixing.

As things stand it's more about employing people rather than meeting the needs of the community.

In every single direction I looked I came up against the system -- it's sad to say they failed to meet my needs in any direction.

I needed to get to my GP and I needed diagnosis and treatment. I needed to be located in a suitable area and housed in a location that suited my needs -- the unit I was forced to take was inappropriate.

Things like special shoes and an electric scooter were denied by a system where people had a job but my needs weren't met.

Initially I had an old scooter they could have helped me maintain but the system didn't allow it.

I could go on but in any direction I looked the system failed. The system should be about meeting the needs of the community.

I am not a stirrer. I have simply looked at the system as it is.

Brian Allen, Corio

Don't blame Aborigines for Lara shops impasse

PETER Moore's article (GA, May 25) about the hold up in the development of the Lara Shopping Centre blames the two warring Aboriginal representative groups, the Wathaurong Corporation, representing the traditional owners and the Wathaurong Co-operative, which has been representing Aboriginal people in Geelong for more than 20 years.

Both are right. The co-op has been supporting health, education and culture of Aboriginal residents for decades and has forged positive and responsible co-operation with the City of Greater Geelong to ensure both development of the city and the protection of Aboriginal interests.

Co-op CEO Trevor Edwards has performed a great but lonely task for most of his life.

The traditional owners are right too. They are descended from the Wathaurong people who bore the brunt of early white settlement.

When the State Government instituted a system to register Aboriginal parties (RAPS) it was always going to mitigate against co-operatives who worked on behalf of all Aboriginal people, not just a single group.

Brainwaves of government often have enormously divisive results and this is one. Citizens of Lara have every right to be impatient with this situation but please don't blame Aboriginal people alone.

The State Government knew this 'blue' would erupt as a result of their rigid template.

Yes, it would be good if both groups talked to each other just as it would be good if Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott ran in a marathon together.

Humans are notoriously cranky at times and the best outcome is reached by goodwill and diplomacy.

Peter's refusal to want to know anything about Aboriginal Australia is really unfortunate. I suppose you don't eat Greek or Chinese food either, Peter.

Knowledge of Aboriginal Australia, real knowledge Pete, not a smattering of boomerangs and witchetty grubs, would allow Australians to be surprised and proud of the civilisation Europeans supplanted.

Working in co-operation with Aboriginal Australia is not bleeding heart nonsense, it's called nation building and will draw Australians to love their country even more.

Citizens of Lara, engage with the Aboriginal people in your community and work toward a positive result. You can see where the disengagement of people like Peter Moore has got us. Nowhere.

Planning in conjunction with all user groups is called enterprise and is the only economically sound course.

Bruce Pascoe, Author of Wathaurong Dictionary, Convincing Ground and Little Red Yellow Black Book, and proud Bunurong descendant, Gipsy Point

Fraser resignation a bonus for Liberals

THE decision by Malcolm Fraser to resign from the Liberals is a real bonus for the party as his political legacy has absolutely no positives.

I suspect Tony Abbott will neither lose his trousers or any sleep over the decision.

Brian Handley, Geelong

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