

## Again a buzz of new life in river city

Revitalisation of the inner city of Maryborough is one of the trump cards in the tourism hand now held by the Fraser Coast. It has taken an extraordinarily long time for the card to be tabled but it could be the city is about to take a trick at last.

For the last 10 years the city has seemed to be hovering on the edge of a re-blossoming into a new life as a pedestrian precinct. All that has been missing has been the pedestrians to make the concept of coffee shops, bistros, art galleries and boutiques viable.

It has been a chicken and egg impasse over the years of planning and visualising a Montville-by-the-river. Wharf Street has grown to become a Bridge-to-Brolga concept but always entrepreneurs have hesitated to take the "build it and they will come" risk.

The building of upmarket unit complexes overlooking the river and the development of more inner city residential areas would give the city heart concept impetus on which to build the day-tripper trade.

The first small units venture has now begun in Wharf Street. The unveiling this week of new marina plans plus for further development on an open-options block at the corner of March and Kent Streets has again put a buzz in the air.

Like the Maryborough Sugar Factory plans for a 3000-person development downstream, however, results will not be seen for some time.

Until then, we need the Fraser Coast Regional Council to push on with the promise of attracting grey nomads – a market cities such as Bundaberg are already moving to capture. Let us hope we do not miss that boat too.



**Nancy Bates**  
Editor

### TODAY'S TRIVIA

- Who did Sports Illustrated say was the best-looking female athlete of 2006?
- Kate Middleton recently moved in with which English prince?
- Cliff Richard said which band's music was "horrific"?

#### Yesterday's answers:

- Dying recently was Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand conqueror of Mount Everest.
- In 1988, Pat Cash mocked Boris Becker by wearing a pink wig at a press conference.
- Pete Townshend composed the rock opera Tommy.

### BRICKBATS

Brickbats to people who think they're better than the rest. The truth is going to crash down around you. – P. T., Maryborough.

### BOUQUETS

Bouquets to the club owner for recognising the violence and shutting. You're to be commended for your responsibility. – A. T., Pialba.

### TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Boxing is a lot of white men watching two black men beat each other up." – Former boxing champion Muhammad Ali. He lit the flame that opened the centenary Olympic Games in Atlanta on July 19, 1996.

# Opinion

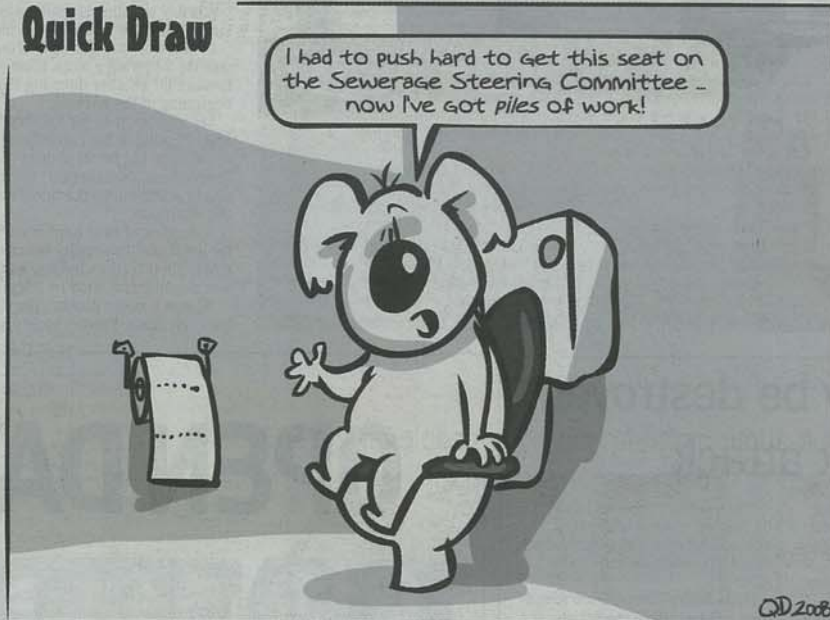
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### Quick Draw



## User pays system would be fair

J. Hammersley (FCC 18-7-08) made some very good points. While I don't agree with him or her regarding the environment, I agree with the main thrust.

The letter says "If we, as ratepayers, are never going to use or benefit from the properties being bought, why should we pay?"

Let's take this one step further. I am more than happy to pay top dollar for what I use.

Provided I don't have to pay for what I don't use, the concept of user pays is fair and equitable.

Personally, I'd be miles in front. I am with J. Hammersley, user pays. Bring it on. – JOHN A. NEVE, Torquay.

### What's changed?

Five years ago we bought our rural property in Woocoo. The rates were \$440 a year. We lived on tank water.

We drove two kilometres to throw our rubbish into bins supplied by the council.

That's pretty much all we got from the council (I am led to believe Woocoo council had \$2 million in the bank at the time; correct me if I am mistaken).

Today I hear our rates are more than \$950 a year.

We still live on tank water. We still drive two kilometres to throw our rubbish into a supplied bin.

You've got to love amalgamation and progress.

If I get rid of my own rubbish can I have a \$700 discount? – R. MCDONALD, Yengarie.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the Editor to: PO Box 217, Hervey Bay, 4655.  
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### Caught out

Oh dear Anna – a reduction of crime in West End only means you didn't catch them. – L. FLANDERS, Howard.

### Green levy fair

I was pleased the Fraser Coast Regional Council appeared to be doing something proactive about the environment.

A \$25-a-year green levy seemed more than reasonable, especially given the grave consequences of inaction on the issue.

Sue Brooks wasn't the only one who was disappointed when councillors decided a \$10-a-year levy for each ratepayer was sufficient. Ms Brooks was also right when she said the environment was the region's greatest asset; Fraser Island proves the point.

I would rather pay \$250 a year and ensure there is somewhere for koalas to live on the Coast than take a penny-pinching attitude to something as precious as our natural environment. – F. THOMAS, Hervey Bay.

## Bring back right to punish children who misbehave

I agree with Nancy Bates in her editorial (FCC 15-7-08), to a point.

What started this epidemic in the first place was the so-called experts, such as academics, child psychologists, never heard of in my day, too much mumbo jumbo in social behaviour and the rights of children.

What happened to the motto "Spare the rod, Spoil the child"?

I can remember my school days, when I had the cane or the strap. This did not do me any harm. It taught me right from wrong and respect for other people.

I agree that parents should help solve the bullying but what mother would not protect her child, whether right or wrong?

The parents must face up to the fact that in this day and age there are no angels.

Bring back the authority of the parents to punish their children if they are misbehaving.

Bring back the authority of



Discipline from parents and teachers is what's missing.

the teachers to send students to the principal to determine punishment according to their behaviour.

The rights have been taken away from the parents and teachers by these mind benders.

Let's get back to basics; put the laws back in place.

You cannot change this generation but there are always the parents of the next generation if it is still not too late.

Untie the hands of the parents and teachers, then see what these bullies can get away with. – TREVOR PASSEY, Torquay.

### Matter of time

Speaking of unsafe pedestrian crossings (FCC 18-7-08), has anyone else had trouble turning on to Hervey Bay's Esplanade from Bideford Street, the corner where the Torquay Hotel is?

The crossings that run across both sides of Bideford Street and across the Esplanade are far too close to the corner.

How is one supposed to watch

for traffic coming from the right while keeping an eye on the crossing on the left?

It's a busy area, with lots of people around, and often when you turn your head back towards the left someone steps out on to the crossing.

The crossings should be moved away from the corner before someone is hit. Surely it's only a matter of time. – A. PAGE, Hervey Bay.