

your voice

Local government is no place for party politics. Local councils should be independent, where each decision is considered on its merits. — Jeffrey Jones, Sandy Bay

Quickviews

Labor has a nerve

ALP state secretary John Dowling calls Richard Herr's criticism of the decision to endorse Labor candidates in local government elections "astounding" (Letters, August 24). The only astounding thing is that Labor has the audacity to attempt to get its grubby paws on local government, given its track record in federal and state government.

Michael Scott
South Hobart

Keep parties out

LOCAL government is no place for party politics. Party politics is rife in councils in mainland Australia and I have seen good developments blocked and bad developments approved because of party politics. Local councils should be independent, where each decision is considered on its merits.

Jeffrey Jones
Sandy Bay

Just like state

IN local government elections, if we are to be swamped with candidates who are "endorsed by the Labor Party" or any other political party, any of these candidates if duly elected, would be hamstrung to behave along party political lines. A "rubber stamp" approach to decisions would then pose the question, why have a duplicated system between state and local governments?

Raymond Harvey
Claremont

Useful legacy

I DO hope Human Services Minister Cassy O'Connor is negotiating with the Federal Government for the temporary use of the Pontville refugee detention centre for homeless Tasmanians after it is closed. It would be a shame to see so much money wasted.

Lindsay Morley
South Arm

Hopping to Asia

IT was good to learn that Qantas still managed a \$250 million profit (Mercury, August 25), despite the hard times. Planeloads of Qantas investors are clearly keeping their shares aloft, with the help of an Irish CEO, no less, who is leading them towards a wok of gold in Asia. Good luck to the frying kangaroo.

Michael McCall
New Town

Qantas fan

AS a frequent flyer, I find Qantas has a high standard of safety and care for passengers. On a recent flight from London, our aircraft was delayed in Hong Kong due to discovery of a mechanical defect. We were stranded at the airport overnight. After arriving home, Qantas sent me a gift voucher and \$500 off my fare, a goodwill gesture.

Robert Rodway
East Risdon

Say it right

I HAVE been criticised for picking on Anthony Albanese and his pronunciation of Qantas. I listened to him on ABC TV's 7.30 show and could not detect any lisp or speech defect. He still called the airline Quonnus, as do a lot of Australians. Why don't they pronounce the T?

Mark Pearce
Howrah



OFF LIMITS: Places like Uluru (pictured under a rain cloud) cannot be mined.

We protect Uluru so why not the Tarkine?

IT appears that the Tasmanian Minerals Council's argument against World Heritage listing of the Tarkine wilderness is based on the principle that there should be nowhere on the planet that's off-limits to mining ("Miners urge state to fight Tarkine listing", Mercury, August 26).

Taking that principle to its logical conclusion, will they also want to dig up Uluru, the Great Barrier Reef, the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge and St Paul's Cathedral?

John R. Wilson
Daisy Dell

HOT TOPIC | MARRIAGE

Strong support for tradition

READERS of the story "Gay wed free vote push" should treat its message on Australia's views on marriage and homosexuality with caution (Mercury, August 25).

The article seemed to suggest that the numbers for and against changes to the Marriage Act to legalise gay marriage were quite similar overall.

Eighteen of the 30 MPs who spoke in Parliament reported that the overwhelming majority of their electorate wanted the present definition of marriage to remain. Six MPs did not report numbers and only six reported majorities for changing the Marriage Act.

Of the six MPs who did report majorities in favour of gay marriage, only two had ensured that they did not include emails from activists outside their electorate in the count.

It is because of the vast majority of Australians in support of marriage between a man and a woman, evidenced by the recent national consultation, that the same-sex lobby groups have given up on the Labor Party changing its policy to preserve marriage, instead hoping for a conscience vote on the issue.

Christopher Rayner
Fern Tree

End the violence

ANOTHER issue in the marriage equality debate is that so-called traditional marriage was frequently a site of terror and oppression for women and children. Who in their right mind would want that?

Is the concept of equality and re-

spect within the relationship, whatever that relationship may be, made especially urgent by the need to reduce and prevent family violence and also for all MPs to support the Federal Government's National Plan of Action to end all forms of violence against women and children?

Anne Costin
Kingston

Celebrate differences

IF an argument for same-sex marriage is about ending homophobia, then we need to address the wider issues behind victimisation in our society.

Marriage for the majority of people has a broader significance than two people in love. It represents the centrepiece of the relationship between a man and a woman, husband and wife, mother and father. These are absolutes in themselves and to decry these in the name of discrimination is to discriminate against the status quo. Marriage is at the heart of religious convention, yet the question of religion has largely been ignored in this debate. Let's celebrate our differences and not follow the Pied Piper.

A. Farrow
South Hobart

Don't dwell on it

I WISH to bring some sense of perspective to Jackson Tegg (Letters, August 25).

At 21 I thought I was with the man I would be with forever, totally in

love and committed. I am not. I also had a four-year gay partnership. At the time we thought it extremely unfair that we couldn't marry. I thought I was with my soul-mate, forever. Guess what, I am not.

Years later, I am married to my husband and look back at my 20s and 30s with a grin, remembering wonderful relationships I enjoyed. Most of my friends, hetero and homosexual, are divorced or with different partners. Statistics are pretty grim for happily ever after, either way.

Your life is ahead of you to be lived. Not being married will not affect you at all if you don't dwell on it and blow it up to be something more than it is. There are more important things, like health, education and work to get het up about. Enjoy all your relationships. If you stay with your existing partner, that is great. Be happy and if you are never allowed to marry, the world will not come to an end.

C. Rayment
North Hobart

Truly equal

I REFER to Jackson Tegg's letter and the accompanying picture and caption (Letters, August 25): "Marriage: it is time equal rights apply in Australia." Marriage is one of the few things in which men and women are truly equal. Every male has the right to marry a female and every female has the right to marry a male. You cannot get more equal than that.

Allan Mabbott
New Norfolk

STING IN THE TAIL

After his hospital rounds yesterday Daniel Geale is a winner — win, lose or draw.



Streettalk

What would you like to do before you kick the bucket?

I'd like to explore the canals of Europe.
Sheryl Simmons,
59 Sandy Bay



Go to a decent bar in Hobart that plays alternative music.
Scott Free, 43
West Hobart



I would like to travel the world.
Heather Graham,
46 New Norfolk



I'd like to go to America.
Jessica Ryan, 15
Lindisfarne



I haven't made a list yet, but I want to go overseas again and go on a date with Bettina Arndt (sex therapist...).
Tony Manley, 74
New Town



I haven't made a bucket list. I've already gone sky diving and bungee jumping, but I'd like to do more travelling.
Bill Thomas, 49
Old Beach



I nearly carked it last year, so I live every day to the full.
Barry Blazley, 63
Old Beach



Webwords

Anger at wee wee fee

Hobart Waterfront greed and/or incompetence puts my Tassie visit off yet again. Toilets blocked off by security guards demanding money is not a good image. No hurry to get back, sadly.

Posted by: **Richard Phillips of Bundaberg**

JOIN THE DEBATE



TODAY'S TEXT

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

Luke 4:18