



Analysing Argument - 2025

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Course Overview

In this area of study, students analyse the use of argument and language, and visuals in texts that debate a contemporary and significant national or international issue. The texts must have appeared in the media since 1 September of the previous year and teachers are advised to work with their students to select an issue of relevance to the cohort. Students read, view and/or listen to a variety of texts from the media, including print and digital, and audio and audio visual, and develop their understanding of the ways in which arguments and language complement one another to position an intended audience in relation to a selected issue.

Students consider the purpose, audience and context of each text, the arguments, and the ways written and spoken language, and visuals are employed for effect. They analyse the ways all these elements work together to influence and/or convince an intended audience. Consideration and time should be given to explicit teaching of the contextual and cultural background of the selected issue and the texts explored.

On completion of this unit the student should be able to analyse the use of argument and language in persuasive texts, including one written text (print or digital) and one text in another mode (audio and/or audio visual); and develop and present a point of view text. To achieve the outcome the student will draw on key knowledge and key skills outlined in Area of Study 2.

Key Knowledge

- Use of contention and supporting arguments including:
 - sequence and structure
 - supporting evidence
 - language
 - techniques and strategies
- the role of visuals in supporting and augmenting argument
- the ways authors employ arguments to position intended audiences
- the features of print and digital, and audio and/or audio visual, texts used by authors to position intended audiences
- the context in which a text appears and how the identity of the author can affect an audience's reaction to a text intended to persuade
- the conventions of discussion and debate such as active listening, monitoring and evaluating arguments, and questioning
- the ways that effective persuasive texts counter arguments through rebuttal, respectful disagreement, and a focus on the arguments, tempering personal responses to powerful, challenging or contentious issues
- the features of analytical responses to texts that position audiences, including relevant metalanguage
- the structures and conventions appropriate for spoken texts that present an argument
- the conventions of syntax, punctuation and spelling of Standard Australian English.

Key skills

- summarise the key points in persuasive texts
- identify and analyse, and apply:
 - the intent and logical development of an argument
 - the different evidence the author uses to support arguments
 - the language used by the author to position or persuade an audience to share a point of view
 - the way in which arguments and language complement one another and interact to position the intended audience
 - the effect of the author's identity and context on the intended audience
 - the role of visuals to support and enhance argument
 - the features of print, and audio and/or audio visual texts
 - the intonation, volume, pace, pausing and stress used when presenting a point of view in audio and/or audio visual texts
- apply the conventions and protocols of discussion and debate
- extend individual capacity to use language confidently
- apply relevant metalanguage
- use textual evidence appropriately to support analytical responses
- plan, review, edit and refine analytical responses, using individual reflection and peer feedback
- apply active listening, reading and viewing strategies to support a deepened understanding of persuasive texts
- apply the key structures and features of a spoken point of view text
- demonstrate understanding of purpose, context and audience
- apply the appropriate conventions of syntax, punctuation and spelling of Standard Australian English.

Assessment

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Outcome 2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse the use of argument and language in persuasive texts, including one written text (print or digital) and one text in another mode; and	40	An analytical response to argument in written form.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and present a point of view text.	20	A point of view oral presentation.

Analysing Language - Introduction

Read the following, then analyse how they are intended to manipulate language in order to influence readers. Consider tone, vocabulary, word connotation and content of ideas.

Letter 1: Importance of Mental Health Support

Mental health issues affect millions of individuals and their families, and it is time to address this pressing societal concern.

Mental health is not a matter of personal weakness but a genuine health challenge that can impact anyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. Unfortunately, stigma and a lack of resources often prevent people from seeking the help they need.

To create a healthier society, we must prioritize mental health in our healthcare systems, schools, and workplaces. This includes ensuring accessible and affordable mental health services, raising awareness to reduce stigma, and integrating mental health education into school curricula.

Moreover, employers should recognize the importance of providing supportive work environments and resources that promote mental well-being. By investing in employee mental health programs, companies can create a positive impact on productivity, job satisfaction, and overall well-being.

Policymakers, healthcare providers, and communities **MUST** collaborate and address the mental health crisis head-on. If we don't, we will face an exponential increase in people suffering, increased mental health crises and suicides and all of us will be the price for our inaction.

Madeline Cartwright, Essendon

Letter 2: Support for Higher Education Funding

I write this letter to express my concern about the current state of higher education funding and advocate for increased investment in this critical sector. Education is the backbone of a prosperous society, and it is essential to ensure that quality education remains accessible to all.

Unfortunately, rising tuition costs, budget cuts, and diminishing financial aid have made it increasingly difficult for students to pursue higher education. This poses a significant barrier to social mobility and stifles the potential of countless talented individuals. Where Australia was once the envy of other countries for its access to tertiary education, we are now the laughing stock with rates of tertiary graduates declining each year. It's time we asked ourselves why?

Investing in higher education not only benefits students but also strengthens our economy. Graduates contribute to innovation, research, and workforce development, driving economic growth and societal progress. By supporting higher education, we invest in the future success of our nation.

Let us recognize the transformative power of education and work together to provide the necessary resources for our future leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

Chris Tuckman, Point Cook

Letter 3: Climate Change Awareness

I write this letter to raise awareness about the perilous problem of climate change and the pressing need for immediate action. The evidence is overwhelming – our planet is a pulsating powder keg, primed for catastrophic consequences if we do not act now.

Rising temperatures, rampaging hurricanes, and melting ice caps are clear signs that the Earth's climate is careening out of control. But do we turn a blind eye to the sizzling statistics? Do we ignore the warning bells tolling in our collective conscience?

Did you know that the last decade was the hottest on record, with each passing year intensifying the heat? Our planet is gasping for breath, as carbon emissions continue to choke its delicate lungs. If we don't alter our course, we risk facing a future where our children inherit a broken planet, withering like a wilting flower.

I implore our community leaders to don their armor of courage and champion the cause of climate change. Shall we be silent spectators, or shall we rise like the mighty river, eroding the barriers of indifference and forging a path towards a sustainable future?

Let us not bequeath our descendants a world ravaged by our indifference. The time for action is now. Together, we can mend the wounds of our planet, breathing life into the battle against climate change.

Michael Drummond, Hawthorn

Verbs for Analysing Language

Use these specific verbs instead of **argues, contends, shows and demonstrates**.

Emphasize	Accentuate	Profess
Persuade	Underscore	Confess
Argue	Assert	Demand
Suggest	Maintain	Impugn
Convey	Claim	Tarnish
Highlight	Reason	Confirm
Evoke	Allege	Corroborate
Create a sense of	Opine	Depict
Illustrate	Dispute	Disclose
Insinuate	Deny	Endorse
Propose	Question	Establish
Advocate	Hint	Intimate
Recommend	Discredit	Substantiate
Advise	Inspire	Typify
Urge	Motivate	Uphold
Encourage	Embolden	Validate
Counsel	Fortify	
Indicate	Coax	
Demonstrate	Press	
Imply	Further	
Express	Nurture	
Stress	Cultivate	
Draw attention to	Strengthen	
Foreground	Hold	
Insist	Protest	

Words and Phrases for Argument Analysis

Words to Describe Tone

Abusive	Cynical	Negative
Admiring	Defensive	Nostalgic
Aggressive	Detached	Open-minded
Alarmed	Diplomatic	Outraged
Amicable	Disappointed	Passionate
Amused	Dismayed	Patriotic
Animated	Dull	Patronising
Apathetic	Earnest	Pedantic
Apologetic	Educated	Pessimistic
Appreciative	Regretful	Reasonable
Approving	Elated	Remorseful
Arrogant	Enthusiastic	Respectful
Astonished	Expert	Ridiculing
Attacking	Fervent	Sarcastic
Authoritative	Forceful	Satirical
Baffled	Formal	Scathing
Banal	Forthright	Self-righteous
Benevolent	Frank	Sensible
Bewildered	Friendly	Sentimental
Bland	Guarded	Shocked
Boastful	Hostile	Snide
Calm	Humble	Supportive
Cautious	Humorous	Sympathetic
Clichéd	Inspired	Understanding
Conciliatory	Ironic	Unequivocal
Condescending	Lamentful	Venomous
Confounded	Liberal	Vindictive
Confrontational	Moderate	Zealous
Conservative	Modest	
Controlled	Moralising	

Introducing Strategies

The author employs **[strategy]** to effectively persuade the audience by...

To strengthen their contention, the writer incorporates **[strategy]**, which...

The use of **[strategy]** plays a crucial role in convincing the audience that...

By implementing **[strategy]**, the author appeals to the reader's **[emotion/logic/values]**.

Focussing on **[strategy]** the author intends to highlight...

The use of **[strategy]** is designed to.....

Phrases

The power in this text stems from...
For the reader, the text produces...
The general pattern of language provokes...
The influence of this text lies in...
The dominant trend in this text is...
The writer has tailored this text to...
The text embodies...
The article generates feelings of...
The perception of the reader is sharpened by...
The text intensifies...
This accentuates controversy by...
This incites/ invites readers to...
Arouses deep concern in....
Leaves the reader with a sense of...
Presents the reader with an ultimatum that...
Affirms in the readers mind...
Encourages readers to...
Manipulates readers by...
Diverts responsibility by...
Exacerbates the controversy by...
Provokes a reaction by....
Challenges readers to....
The text given prominence to...
The text mobilises support by...
The language is designed to...
The article pinpoints....
The writer probes...
The text constructs an image of...
The author advocates the view that...
The writer endorses the position...

Analysing Tone

"Ah Tik Tok. The home of **motivating** dance challenges. The leading source of air fryer hacks to try. An **inspirational** platform for budding make-up artists looking to share their **beautiful** creations.

But while Gen Z **idolises** the platform for **energising** the **mundane**, it has proven to be nothing more than a time-sucker among people I know. All I see are my friends **mindlessly** scrolling through videos, learning **useless** skills, **burning** their eyes out in the process. And this is all happening while we're out for a friendly coffee.

Josie Jones, you clearly have no idea how Tik Tok is **destroying** my social circle, one **tragic** video at a time."

1. Review the words in bold and label them for their connotations.
2. What is the writer's tone at the beginning of the letter? Use evidence to explain your answer.
3. What is the writer's tone at the end of the letter. Use evidence to explain your answer.
4. Mark the point at which the tone begins to shift? What words cause the tone to shift?
5. What is the effect of this shift in tone? How does this help convey the writer's message.

Oral Presentation

For this part of the Outcome students are required to research, prepare and present a 5-7 minute persuasive speech on a topic of their choice.

There are multiple steps in completing this task:

- ☐ Decide on a topic. There are some listed below for your consideration. The better topics are ones that have a clear 'for' and 'against'.
- ☐ Research your topic. Create a OneNote page that has all of the websites you have visited, extracts from various sources, etc. You will need to submit this page as part of your assessment.
- ☐ Complete the following Oral Presentation planning sheet and have this approved by your teacher.
- ☐ Prepare your speech. Time yourself presenting this and make additions, etc. Create the flashcards that you will use to deliver your speech.
- ☐ Rehearse your speech. You should be familiar enough with the material that you are not reading but using the flash cards as a prompt.
- ☐ Complete the Statement of Intention for your speech following the template that appears in the following pages.
- ☐ On the day you present your Oral Presentation you are required to submit a Due Work Item that includes the text of your speech, your references, and your statement of intention.

Some topics you might consider for your persuasive speech include:

- All people should have the right to own guns.
- Human cloning should be legalized.
- All drugs should be legalized.
- Animal testing should be banned.
- Juveniles should be tried and treated as adults.
- Climate change is the greatest threat facing humanity today.
- Violent video games should be banned.
- Every citizen should be mandated to perform national public service.
- Schools should block sites like YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram on their computers.
- All high school athletes should be drug tested.
- Homeschooling is better than traditional schooling.
- Sexual education should be mandatory in schools.
- Cosmetic procedures should be covered by health insurance.
- Euthanasia should be banned.
- The drinking age should be 21.
- Vaping should be banned.
- Smoking should be banned in all public places.
- People should be legally required to get vaccines.
- The sale of human organs should be legalized.
- Social media has improved human communication.
- Humans should invest in technology to explore and colonize other planets.
- Governments should invest in alternative energy sources.

Oral Presentation Plan

Issue: (Phrase as a question – eg Should chocolate milk be sold at school canteens?)	
Context: (What sparked debate around this issue?)	
Contention: (What are you arguing in response to this topic?)	

Reason 1:
(What is the first reason that you are giving to support your argument?)

Evidence for Reason #1:

Reason 2:
(What is the first reason that you are giving to support your argument?)

Evidence for Reason 2:	
Reason 3: (What is the first reason that you are giving to support your argument?)	
Evidence for Reason 3:	

Rebuttal Argument (What do those opposed to your idea say? Why are they wrong?)	
Evidence for Rebuttal Argument:	
Conclusion	

Sources: (At least 5)	
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This plan has been approved by:

Name _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Oral Presentation – Statement of Intention

A written statement of intention should accompany your oral presentation, articulating the intention of decisions made in the planning process, and how these demonstrate understanding of the argument and persuasive language. This should be approximately 300-400 words.

Your Statement of Intention should address the following:

- What is your position on the issue?
- How have you structured your speech? Why have you structured it in this way?
- What are the key arguments you have drawn upon? Why do you think these arguments will be effective? How do you think these arguments may appeal to your audience?
- How have you attempted to use language in a persuasive manner?

Statement of Intention Model

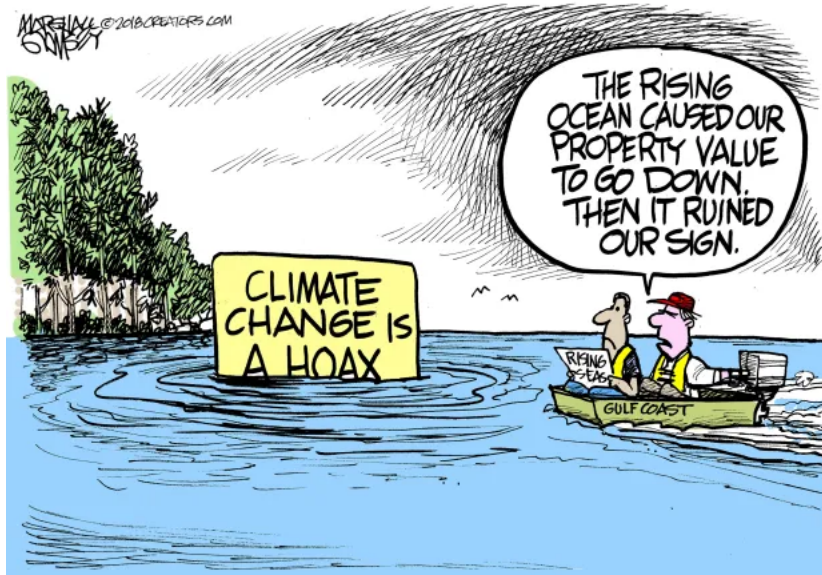
I have chosen to base my oral on **the contentious Australia Day date**. My intention is to persuade my classmates that **this day has been badly chosen given its association with the landing of the First Fleet and the dispossession of Aboriginal people from their land**. I will be arguing that **with the diverse composition of Australia today, it would better to choose in a day that resonates with all Australians**.

My speech opens with **an imaginative scenario of when Cook landed at Botany Bay**, which is designed to confront the injustice of colonisation. Here I aim to hook my audience by negatively associating the 26th of January with violent imagery. Next, I lead into my three main arguments and my rebuttal, and finish by **reimagining the opening scenario** in a more positive light. To end, I **pose a question** which aims to encourage my audience to reconsider the appropriateness of the date of Australia Day.

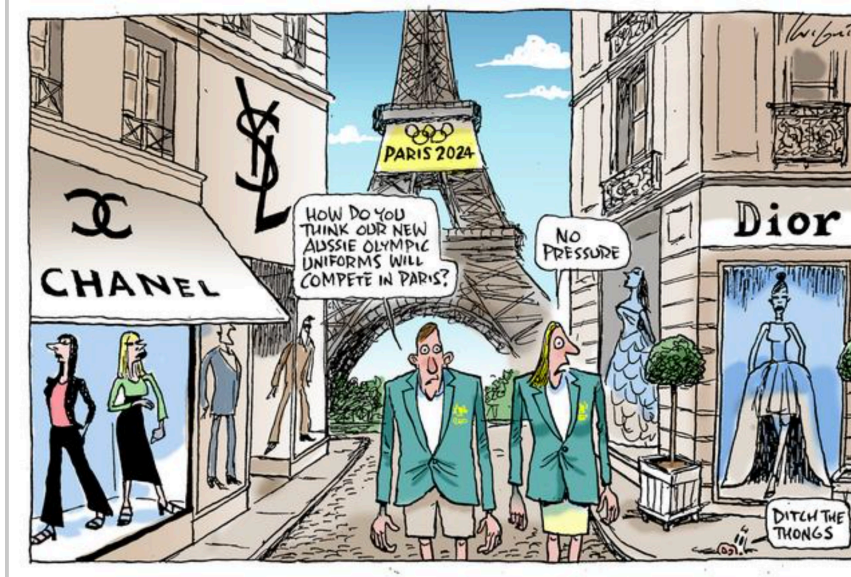
I have sequenced my arguments to begin with the **justice angle** because I believe that this lies at the **ethical** heart of this issue. Continuing, I shift to the **community aspect** of national inclusion as this issue appeals **personally** to my audience. Finally, I consider the **political dimension** of nationhood, attempting to harmonise our various identities as one. I seek to rebut the **historical** counter-argument that to change the date would not feel right, and challenge it by highlighting that progressive societies have a moral obligation to override historical discrimination.

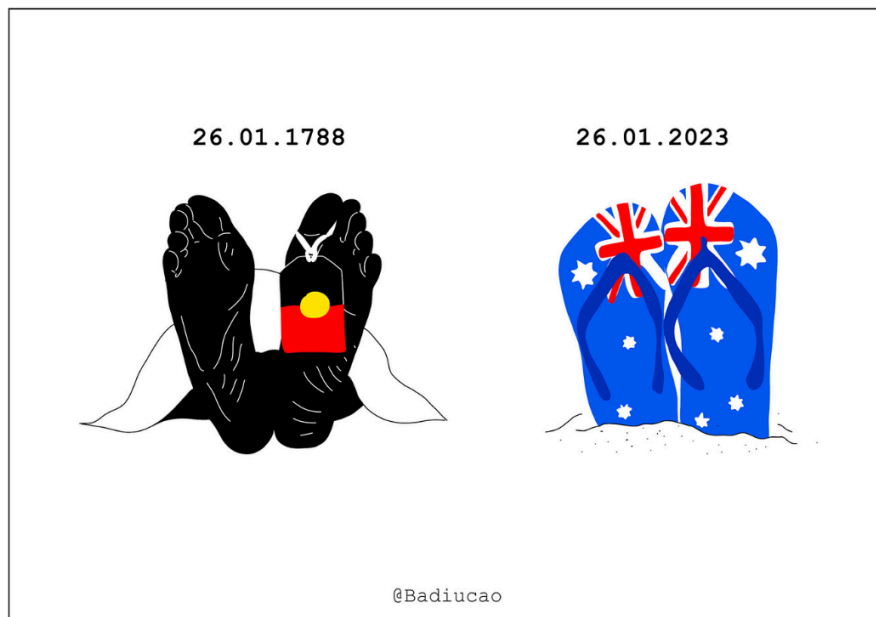
I use **questioning** to address my audience directly and offer **statistical evidence** to demonstrate the logic of changing the date. The **imaginative scenario** is intended to demonstrate how much better Australia Day could be with all Australians embracing the date. Throughout, I appeal to values of equality and justice as I am addressing young people who care about making the world a better place for all.

Visual Analysis









THE
AGE

Structuring a Single Argument Analysis Essay

Introduction – CCTAP

- ☐ Context – What is the background to the issue?
- ☐ Contention – What central point is the author making?
- ☐ Tone – What is the tone of the material? How would it sound if read out loud?
- ☐ Audience – Who is the material targeted towards? Be very specific.
- ☐ Purpose – What is the author trying to achieve?

Strategy - SALP

- ☐ Identify the first **STRATEGY** that the Author uses.
 - What **ARGUMENTS** support this strategy?
 - Identify the **LANGUAGE** used to present this argument.
 - What is the intended **PURPOSE**?
- ☐ Identify the second **STRATEGY** that the Author uses.
 - What **ARGUMENTS** support this strategy?
 - Identify the **LANGUAGE** used to present this argument.
 - What is the intended **PURPOSE**?
- ☐ Identify the third **STRATEGY** that the Author uses.
 - What **ARGUMENTS** support this strategy?
 - Identify the **LANGUAGE** used to present this argument.
 - What is the intended **PURPOSE**?

Visual

- ☐ First Impressions
- ☐ Foreground
- ☐ Background
- ☐ Words, Captions, etc.
- ☐ How does this support/ add to the argument?

CCTAP

Context
Contention
Tone
Audience
Purpose

Strategy
Argument
Language
Purpose

SALP

SALP

SALP

Conclusion

Sample Argument Analysis Response

Strategy
Argument
Language
Purpose

In response to the council's decision to cease funding for Maplewood Public Library, Director Alex Fairchild delivered a speech at an emergency town hall meeting, proposing a partnership with the technology company BrightFuture Tech. Addressing long-time library patrons and community members, Fairchild urges them to support this collaboration, arguing that it will not only keep the library operational but also allow it to expand and thrive in the digital age.

Fairchild begins by acknowledging the library's financial struggles while asserting confidence in the community's resilience. By describing the situation as "challenging," they downplay its severity, reassuring the audience that solutions are within reach. The inclusive use of "we" fosters a sense of unity, emphasizing the shared experience of patrons who have "learned, studied, and explored together." This approach instills pride in the audience, reinforcing their emotional connection to the library.

Fairchild reflects on the library's 62-year legacy, evoking nostalgia and appreciation. Using second-person pronouns like "you," they highlight the personal growth patrons have experienced, describing the library as a place where people have "discovered new worlds, unlocked knowledge, and shaped their futures." This is contrasted with commercial alternatives such as digital subscription services, which Fairchild frames as impersonal and restrictive, further elevating the library's unique role in fostering lifelong learning. Their enthusiastic tone underscores the library's significance, urging the audience to protect its future.

Transitioning to financial concerns, Fairchild adopts a serious tone, acknowledging past funding difficulties, including bureaucratic delays in grant applications. They use the word "dire" to convey the urgency of the situation, positioning the proposed partnership as the most viable solution. By presenting the grim alternative of the library being "shuttered and repurposed as office space," Fairchild evokes a strong emotional response, emphasizing the need for immediate action.

Fairchild introduces BrightFuture Tech as the key to saving the library, describing the partnership as aligned with the institution's mission of education and accessibility. A promotional image accompanying the speech depicts smiling students using tablets and virtual learning tools, appealing to both younger and older generations. The tagline "Bridging Books and Technology" reinforces the positive impact of modernization, framing the partnership as an opportunity rather than a compromise. Fairchild highlights the mutual benefits: BrightFuture Tech gains community goodwill, while the library secures essential funding and resources.

Anticipating concerns about potential conflicts, Fairchild acknowledges the library's traditional focus on physical books versus the company's emphasis on digital innovation. However, they downplay these differences, stressing the shared goal of increasing public access to knowledge. Referring to BrightFuture Tech as a "visionary partner," Fairchild uses aspirational language to maintain an optimistic tone while emphasizing the long-term advantages of the collaboration. They further argue that the company's expertise in outreach and digital engagement will attract new patrons, ensuring the library remains a vibrant community hub. Fairchild concludes by appealing to the audience's sense of civic responsibility, urging them to consider how their support will shape the future of the community. Their metaphor of "turning a page to a new chapter" likens the decision to embracing progress—perhaps unfamiliar, but ultimately enriching. With a hopeful and determined tone, they leave their audience motivated to support the partnership and secure the library's future.

Argument Analysis Tasks

Australia Day AA



Rita Panahi

December 3, 2024 – The Herald Sun

Take your apology and shove it.

Foreign-owned hospitality giant, Australian Venue Co, decided to engage in divisive, race-based political activism by banning Australia Day festivities at its 200-plus venues across the country.

In doing so they told the great majority of Australians – who love the day and want it to remain on January 26 – that our national holiday is something to be ashamed of, something that is harmful and controversial.

Australia Day is nothing of the sort; it is a celebration of our country and what it means to be Australian.

To have some Asian conglomerate lecture Australians about our national day takes a special brand of chutzpah.

It's clear they learned nothing from the Voice referendum where a clear majority rejected the politics of racial division and grievance.

Now, the nation's second-biggest pub group, owned by an Asian private equity firm, is sorry and backtracking faster than Lidia Thorpe after receiving a legal letter from Pauline Hanson.

"We apologise ... It certainly wasn't our intention to offend anyone," an Australian Venue Co spokesperson said.

The nation's second-biggest pub group owns the Duke of Wellington Hotel in Melbourne.

"We sincerely regret that – our purpose is to reinforce community in our venues, not divide it. It is not for us to tell anyone whether or how to celebrate Australia Day ... Whether you choose to celebrate Australia Day or not, everyone is welcome in our pubs, always."

No thanks.

There are plenty of other places to enjoy a drink or meal.

The apology appears insincere and comes only after the company's political grandstanding caused an almighty backlash with threats of boycotts.

If you want to see an end to corporate virtue signalling then be mindful of where you spend your money.

Nationals Senator Matt Canavan slams Australia Venue Co due to the second-biggest pub group apologising after plans to axe Australia Day celebrations received intense backlash.

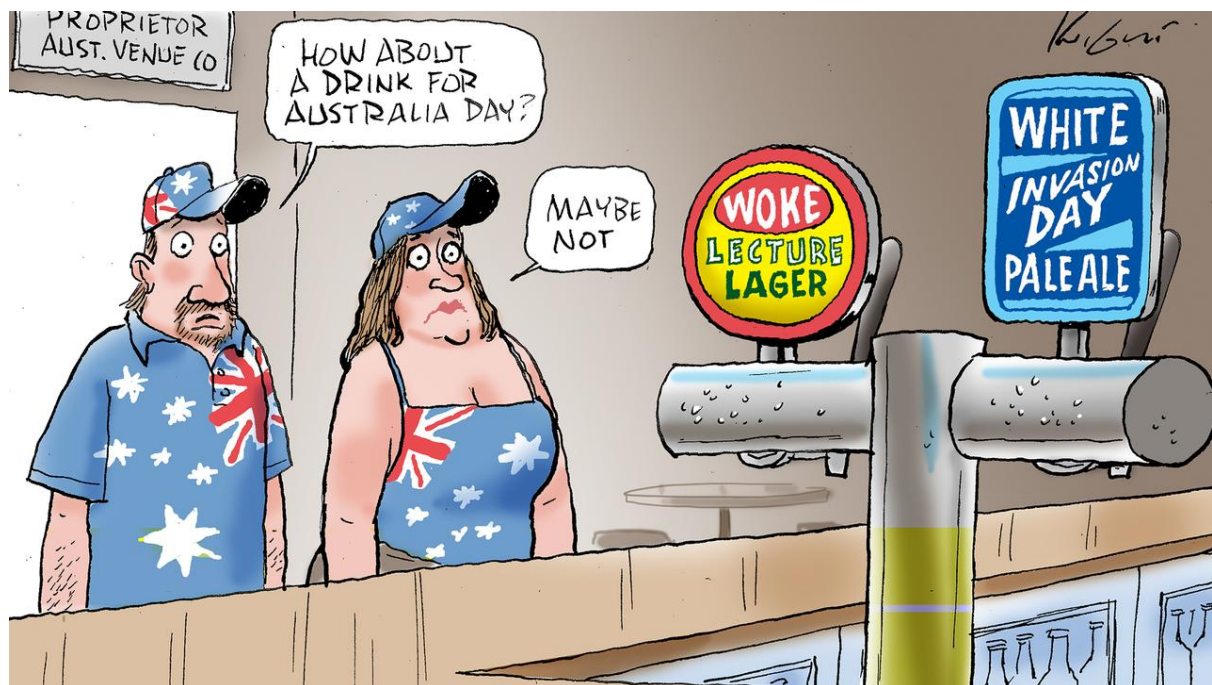
It's not "cancel culture" to expect corporations to be neutral and not engage in divisive political posturing.

Australians should think twice about spending their hard earned with businesses that hate them or their values.

We need corporates to stick to their knitting; prioritise shareholder value, take care of staff and deliver quality products and services for consumers.

That's it.

Leave the politics to the politicians.



Book Week AA

For most kids Book Week is about dressing up and getting out of lessons, but some pious schools are ramping up the pressure on costumes, even banning superhero outfits because of their stereotypical gender portrayals.



Susie O'Brien

August 20, 2024 – The Age

For most kids, Book Week is not about books. It's about dressing up, showing off and getting out of lessons. But this doesn't stop pious schools from "expecting" and "encouraging" kids to come dressed up in character from an actual book.

Some schools are even going so far as to make the kids bring the book with them. Can you believe it?

Parents don't need this sort of stress. First, this means they have to conjure up a costume representing a real character rather than grabbing a cast-off from their child's last superhero themed birthday party. Then they need to find a book to match. How mean is that? Some schools are going even further and banning superhero costumes because of their stereotypical gender portrayals. That's right, people, we have a common enemy, and it is a six-year-old with undies over his pants and a batarang in his hand.



Goldie, Harley, Poppy, Sonny, and Xander ready for Book Week. Picture: Jason Edwards

At one school in Terang, parents have been told to "encourage their children to be creative and to use costumes or make costumes from things that they have at home".

Sheesh. Never has there been so many chances for parents and their offspring to be judged for their lack of crafting skills.

Give me a store-bought inflatable dinosaur costume bought online for \$12.99 over a Lord of the Rings costume that took 37 hours of hot-glue gunning, 15 visits to Spotlight and a trip to the hospital for three-degree glue burns.

Look, I get that there needs to be some guidelines about what kids should dress up as. No one wants their kids looking like they have just finished at a Logies after-party or the poo jogger, for instance.

All this pressure takes the event away from the books it's meant to be celebrating. I am yet to see any tips for parents of kids who don't want to dress up, don't like reading and only remembered about Book Week at 8am.

Luckily, most parents are happy for their kids to go in any costume lying around the house. Popular characters this year include Emmet, Barbie, Minions and – I know! – Rachel “Raygun” Gunn.

Grab a green trackie and a baseball hat and get your kids to practise some kanga breaking moves. You're welcome. Enjoy Book Week and enjoy it even more once it's over.

Susie O'Brien is a Herald Sun columnist



Victoria Devine
Money columnist

September 10, 2023 — The Sydney Morning Herald

My favourite thing about Friday mornings is that my husband and I walk our dog to our favourite local cafe (Golden Child, in Glen Iris – if you haven't had their coffee, you need to) grab a coffee and enjoy the morning together before we get stuck into wrapping up the workweek.

Usually, it's a relaxing walk where we discuss our plans for the weekend and beyond, but this week – we found ourselves deep in conversation about the almost cashless society we live in now and how reliant we are on digital payment methods – after our local cafe was impacted by Square's service disruption and outages, which forced customers all over the country to pay cash, transfer money via PayID, negotiate IOU's or the businesses they were trying to transact with would lose business.



The sudden cost impost of everything from our mortgages to our supermarket trips requires some sort of strategy heading into the new year. CREDIT: DIONNE GAIN

It prompted for me a deeper conversation, especially in light of our impending referendum about how a cashless society may feel a lot more secure for many, but can also be prohibitive for a number of communities, particularly those in regional areas, those in emergency situations, Indigenous Australians, new immigrants, sex workers and the elderly.

Last year the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) reported that cash accounted for just 13 per cent of all payments made. Which makes a lot of sense if you remember that cash payments plummeted during the pandemic, with local cafes and shops not accepting cash and online shopping surging.

To further amplify this, the major banks like Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, NAB, and ANZ have been sharpening their focus on digital transactions, even opening cashless branches.

Between June 2017 and July 2022, Australia saw over 1,600 bank branches shut down, with a 'disproportionate number' affecting regional communities. It's not just me worrying about these communities, a number of Indigenous groups and social welfare advocates have sharply criticised a government proposal they believe solidifies cashless welfare strategies, which they argue unfairly target First Nations communities.

We already know that Indigenous Australians face significant disparities compared to their non-first nations counterparts. Data I've taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows that our Indigenous community experiences higher unemployment rates, lower levels of educational attainment, and shorter life expectancies – which are all things we should be ashamed of, and all are things we need to talk about more regularly in order to amend.

In 2023, the life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men is about 8.6 years less than non-Indigenous men, while for women, the difference is 7.8 years. Furthermore, only 65 per cent of Indigenous young adults (aged 20–24) achieve Year 12 or equivalent qualifications, compared to 89 per cent of non-Indigenous young adults.

A digital welfare system, without careful implementation, could exacerbate these pre-existing inequalities. It underscores the pressing need to place Indigenous communities at the forefront of decision-making processes, ensuring policies holistically support their welfare rather than further alienate them – which whether consciously or unconsciously we are doing when pushing aggressively towards a cashless society.

To get political for a moment, this is also why I will be voting yes to recognise Indigenous Australians in the referendum because we need to listen more to our Indigenous communities about matters affecting their communities, and make a practical difference with concrete results.

Listening to the radio on the way into the office this week, Jase Hawkins drew a brilliant comparison about the way we treat our First Nations peoples in comparison to how New Zealand has seamlessly integrated Māori culture into its national identity through official recognition of the Māori parliamentary seats, and the establishment of the Waitangi

Tribunal to address historical grievances, which was a stark reminder that Australia's approach towards its Indigenous communities remains more fragmented.

And he's absolutely correct, we should be drawing inspiration from New Zealand to ensure direct political representation for Indigenous Australians, but I digress. The argument for increased digital transactions remains though, and rests largely on ever-evolving technology, convenience and safety.

However, this convenience is periodically compromised due to technology failures (like we saw on Friday with Square going down), and safety being compromised by cyberattacks, scams and fraud. Additionally, the RBA has noted that many still have privacy and security concerns related to electronic payments.

In the rhythmic cadence of our modern society, it's easy to be swept up in the allure of digital advancements, often overlooking those who might be left behind. It's important to stop thinking so much about ourselves and our own convenience, and start considering the impact it has on others.

As we embrace the convenience of a cashless world, it's essential to recognise that inclusivity isn't just about keeping pace with technology, but ensuring everyone has a seat at the table of progress.

My Friday morning cafe experience is hindered only slightly by the need to PAY ID the cafe money, juxtaposed with the larger concerns of a shifting societal paradigm, underscores the importance of an empathetic approach.

Like the heartwarming integration of the Māori culture in New Zealand, Australia should endeavour to champion a future that honours its diverse tapestry, where tradition and technology coalesce for the benefit of all.

Victoria Devine is an award-winning retired financial advisor, best-selling author, and host of Australia's number one finance podcast, She's on the Money. Victoria is also the founder and managing director of Zella Money.

E-Scooter Ban AA

Lucy Dahan

Nurse

August 13, 2024 — [The Age](#)

There's nothing easy about being a young nurse starting your career. It's rewarding, and I love my job, but it is also challenging. So I appreciate anything that makes my life a little easier.

That's why I've come to love e-scooters. They make me feel safe, they save me money, they're fun, and they make me feel good about not driving my car everywhere. So when Melbourne City Council announced its plan to ban hire e-scooters on Monday with no warning, I was naturally shocked and disappointed.



Nurse Lucy Dahan uses e-scooters to commute. *Credit: Joe Armao*

I know some people don't ride or park them as responsibly as I do, but a few bad apples shouldn't result in them being taken away from the overwhelming majority of good riders like me.

Commuting from my home in Port Melbourne when I am working a night shift in the critical and intensive care unit can be intimidating and daunting. It can feel unsafe walking alone in the early hours of the morning or riding on near-empty public transport, hoping nothing goes wrong and that no untoward characters get on before you get off. Everyone in Melbourne has at least one story of a train, tram or bus ride from hell, where someone having a bad day gets

on and makes everyone else feel unsafe. On an e-scooter, the worst that will happen is you'll be forced to wait at a set of traffic lights next to someone for a minute or two.

Commuting on an e-scooter means I can avoid that feeling of having to look over my shoulder and tightly grip my keys when arriving or leaving a late shift.

It's these types of journeys that often go overlooked by councillors and people who are frustrated at hire e-scooters being dumped in the streets or drunk riders behaving irresponsibly on a night out. But many people, especially women, know other commuting methods can, at times, be frightening at best and dangerous at worst.

Aside from the reassurance and safety, riding an e-scooter to work also reduces the financial burden of running a car and paying for parking, something we shouldn't be getting rid of during a cost-of-living crisis. And instead of spending 40 minutes in the car or an hour on late-night transport, a scooter ride takes just 20 minutes.

But even more than that, they're fun. After a long shift through the night, stepping outside into the morning light and being hit with fresh air as I ride home, while doing my part for the environment and not having to contend with mounting peak-hour traffic, is joyous.

Banning hire e-scooters is an impulsive knee-jerk reaction and an incorrect answer to the question of how to make commuting in Melbourne easier.

A ban is not a solution, it is at best a Band-Aid that will maybe quieten a vocal minority who complain often and loudly. It will only result in everyday Melburnians like myself punished for the actions of a few and unable to go about their daily lives without the safety and reliability of a green transport option.

If the council and Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece have concerns about safe riding and poor parking, then they should work with hire e-scooter companies and riders to address these issues. But don't be irrational and make me suffer for it.

It's reasonable that some people are fed up with seeing riders scare people on footpaths or dump a scooter like it's rubbish on the ground. It's also reasonable to give companies the chance to build upon improvements they're already trialling like installing cameras on e-scooters and bolstering their safety messages to riders.

But I'd also like to be able to keep riding e-scooters to work while Melbourne City Council and the lord mayor work with the companies to work out a way to get things under control.

Shared e-scooters have made my commute easier, safer, more affordable, and better for the environment. To throw that away on a whim would be a huge step backwards for our city and everyone who's lucky enough to call Melbourne home.

Lucy Dahan is an intensive and critical care nurse living in Melbourne.

November 28, 2024 - 2:30PM - The Herald Sun

When a person is sentenced to prison it is the deprivation of liberty that is the punishment — to deny them the right to birth is morally unacceptable. Naturally there is public discussion about a woman serving a 16-year prison sentence in Victoria accessing IVF.

Because of the nature of the crime Alicia Schiller committed, a fatal stabbing, it is an emotional debate.

However it is important to state at the outset because Ms Schiller is in prison does not mean she should be deprived of the right to access health care available to the rest of the community, including fertility treatment.

When a person is sentenced to prison it is the deprivation of liberty that is the punishment. To deny a prisoner the right to give birth or to have involvement in the life of their child is to further punish a person and this is morally unacceptable.

There is also the fact that prisoners who have young children with them in a caring appropriate environment, which all prisons are obliged to provide under international rules, rehabilitate better and therefore are a lower risk of reoffending on release.

Just as importantly, and this is something we all know, ensuring children can bond with their parents from birth is critical to ensuring their positive development.

Perhaps the case of Ms Schiller will trigger a broader discussion about the critical importance of our prison system ensuring a nurturing environment for women who are pregnant when they enter prison, or who were accessing IVF and other treatments before they went to jail.

Women and their children must not be punished when they live in prison.

Victoria is not the only jurisdiction that has allowed women prisoners to access IVF. Ireland has introduced a scheme recently. The head of the Irish prison service Caron McCaffrey said last year that “we need to be very clear that just because you are in custody, the only right you’ve lost is your right to liberty, you haven’t lost your other rights, including your right to family life and we do a lot, and as much as we can, to support the links with your family.”

This is right and should be remembered by all engaged in this current debate.

Greg Barns SC Criminal Justice Spokesman for the Australian Lawyers Alliance



Lunchbox AA

Laura Jackel

June 5, 2024 – Herald Sun

There are many ways the internet can make us mums feel intensely guilty. Everywhere you look it seems there are beautiful kids in their neutral linen outfits playing with wooden toys, while their mums serve looks and push fancy prams.

As a mum of two school-aged kids, I have recently had the misfortune of being sucked into an Instagram kids' lunchbox vortex.

Images of pretty pink bento boxes packed with the most immaculate and balanced snacks that a clever mum took the time to prepare, are filling my feed.

Think cut veggies, homemade sushi rolls tied with twine, berries and wholegrain crackers. Maybe a dark chocolate topped linseed and buckwheat muffin thrown in as a treat.



I pore over these 'lunchspo' images and feel two things: 1) vicious envy at the kids eating (or not eating) these high end delights and 2) huge guilt about the limp Vegemite sanga I pack my kids most days.

I also wonder how I can get these mums to make me my lunch as they look so darn appealing.

Of course, I love my kids but there are just some areas of my life I do not have the time to put 100 per cent into.

I give great cuddles, put on excellent kitchen discos and will ensure my kids know they are loved and supported in all things. But cutting kiwifruit into flowery shapes just 'aint on the list sorry and yet... does this make me a shambolic mother?

Possibly.

Also all those ingredients are pricey on the daily and we are living through a cost of living crisis -so who is buying all those blueberries anyway?!

But rather than feel alone in my shameful mum guilt, I conducted a straw poll of my mum friends who variously work from home, work part time or not at all.

These women slapped me out of my stupor and brought me to my senses.

Bento boxes look great and yet PERHAPS they are not as well used as Instagram might have me believe.

One pal, a "reformed bento box mum" had recently resorted to making 'normal' lunches for her three kids

"I used to make sandwiches in dumpling shapes using ravioli makers," the mum confessed.

"Until I realised there was more to life and no one ate them anyway. Now, I have one vegemite sandwich kid 365 days of the year, one that oscillates between a plain wrap or a ham sandwich, and one that eats nothing but cream cheese."

Another mum who works in education shares that she's a "basic mum" like me when it comes to school lunch.

"There's a bit too much junk food in our lunch boxes, and absolutely no pretty shapes," she explained.

"The best thing they get (in my mind) is a homemade cookie or cake, but they prefer nutri-grain bars and pocky sticks.

"But in all honesty, I couldn't care less, and I waste absolutely no time thinking about it."

She says that in the playground she does see some lucky kids eating warm leftovers.

"I see some impressive lunchboxes on duty- but by impressive, I mean delicious leftovers in a thermos that make me insanely jealous and quite often, the food is of a different cuisine so I see lots of yummy looking rice and actual meals as opposed to a traditional sandwich."

One mum, whose middle child is autistic, says while her lunchboxes are basic and made up of "Vegemite sangas with some fruit, a packet of chips and some sporty shapes from Aldi," she has to cut up and separate the fruit and vegetables or complaints will occur.

It seems that while some parents will continue to showcase their skills for pretty presentation and lovely Instagrammable lunchboxes, at least I now know I am not alone as a Vegemite sandwich mum.

And if you know where I can find someone who makes pretty bento box lunches for busy and tired mums who will absolutely appreciate the artistry of that chopping and presentation, please point them out.

I will place my order, stat!

Parent Responsibility AA



Susie O'Brien

February 7, 2024 The Herald Sun

Parents who are criminally negligent or abusive should be held responsible for the crimes of their children. Kids who kill, steal or assault others have often been treated badly by their own parents, so it's only fair that they, too, are punished.

Sure, there are some bad kids raised by good parents, but the link between youth violent crime and poor parenting is well established.

With youth crime on the rise in Victoria, as elsewhere, more needs to be done to hold parents to account. A recent US judgement is a welcome move in this direction. The mother of an American teen who killed four of his classmates has just been found guilty of involuntary manslaughter.



Jennifer Crumbley was found to be negligent in buying her son Ethan a gun and ignoring warning signs. Picture: AFP

A Michigan court found Jennifer Crumbley, 45, was negligent in buying her son Ethan, 15, a gun and ignoring the warning signs. These included being aware he had the gun and had recently bought ammunition and failing to get him treatment for mental health issues.

It's a growing issue of concern in this city, as elsewhere. Last night, dozens of teens went on a rampage in the CBD, robbing and assaulting passers-by. With youth crime involving kids as young as ten at a nine-year high, more needs to be done. Like other parents, I'm left wondering what kids that young were doing out at night. What were their parents doing about it? Did they know? Did they care?

While some parents are doing all they can to restrain and punish their out-of-control kids, others simply don't know and don't care. These are the ones who need to face greater consequences. Local laws allow parents to be charged for their child's crime if they have directly contributed to the offence, but charging parents for their failure to supervise or protect others from their crimes would be another welcome move.

Parking AA



Alice Coster

May 29, 2024 – Herald Sun

The bulging forehead vein was the first giveaway. White-knuckled clenching, a thumping of fist on the steering wheel. A loud toot would then be followed by one, extremely aggressive, long, continuous honk.

Frothing at the mouth like a rabid dog was when you knew they had seriously lost it. Growing up with my mother in the driver's seat meant I witnessed a lot of road rage.

Not, I might add from my parent, but from the red-faced, quivering with rage driver behind her, losing their proverbial at our car's seriously slowing speed.

Mum loves a red light, somehow slows on an overtake and happily takes her sweet time getting from A to B.

We used to call her the Lady Bowler driver, which would probably draw the ire of female lawn bowlers these days. But mum really has a knack for causing someone's inner Furiosa on the road.

Inwardly gleeful, I would usually stick up the bird while staring nonchalantly from my back seat as they went for the overtake. This would only confound their rage.

They would then be seen hollering at poor mum on the way past as we made our way to school.

Perhaps it was due to this childhood that I grew up to become a reluctant road rager.

Changing lanes? Nah, I'm cool to stay in this one even if it's clogged. Someone just cut in? No probs, come right on over, why not let two in while here. A driver up front has the telltale head down on the phone at a green light? I'll just hang around and wait too.

Always preferring to ride shotgun among friends, I've watched as they too start spitting and frothing, swearing and getting stressed as they try to switch lanes on choc-a-block Punt, or blood boiling as they try to get their way along Sydney Rd.

All that bluster and bother just felt so unnecessary and rather rude. That was until this week, the week when the rage set in.

My inner furiosa is not technically road rage – it's more parking rage in Melbourne's deeply congested inner-city suburbs and surely I am not alone.

Parking is to enter a battlefield. Vying for a park in peak hour leaves you either triumphant, or feeling deeply deflated.

It's always been a first-in-best-dressed scenario for the 2P prime spots across the road from me. These parks are like hen's teeth in our crammed 'burb of newly-built townhouses with minimal off-street parking.

Every week a new three-level concrete blob bobs up, usually with eight or so units, replacing what was formerly a three-bedder Edwardian home at best.

Now Port Phillip City Council have put up new parking signs marking the prime parking positions: WORK ZONES!

Grey ghosts now circle every morning on the off chance someone has parked into what have become tradies' car parks. Along with the early morning dew, the parking inspectors pounce to issue a \$115 fine at five minutes past 7am.

Don't ask me how I know this.

How has it become almost impossible to get a parking permit in your own suburb, yet the developers across the road can somehow get four prime parking positions on the street?

Most of the time the tradies aren't even there, but that doesn't mean you can park in the Work Zone spaces from 7am to 5pm from Monday to Friday, there is a two-hour reprieve on Saturday with a 9am start.

And it is no surprise that a little bit of research reveals car ownership is up and available parks are going the other way in a hurry.

The number of registered vehicles in metropolitan Melbourne grew to just over three million in 2023, according to the federal Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics, meaning there are about 1.5 cars for every dwelling.

Councils are approving monstrous new high rises, yet the number of car park spaces attached to the developments are embarrassingly low, with residents pointed in the direction of public transport.

That's all well and good and we all understand the environmental arguments about having fewer cars on the road, but that narrative doesn't wash given the parking deficit across Melbourne's local streets is now dire.

And this blatant revenue raising from greedy councils means we're on edge, stressed out by a constant two-hour deadline breathing down our necks.

Gulp, have I entered my Karen era?





By [Jessica Irvine](#)

January 20, 2018 — [The Age](#)

Who doesn't fondly recall their school tuckshop days? I remember jostling for position at the counter, six kids wide and six kids deep, with a fervour I've not since repeated at any bar serving alcohol.



Meat pies are an Australian favourite. *CREDIT: EDWINA PICKLES*

With whatever meagre savings I'd managed to scrape together ironing shirts or mowing lawns, I'd line up daily to buy up big on Redskins (immune to their racist overtones), fruit balls (containing, in hindsight, highly questionable levels of actual fruit) and Milkybars ("The Milkybars are on me!").

Lest you think I survived on snacks alone, our canteen also offered an array of substantial lunch options, my favourite being a lasagne of such cheesy-intensity and crisp outer-crusting I have sadly not enjoyed the likes of since.

As often as I could, I'd nag mum to allow me the \$2 required to slip into a brown paper bag – folded over and labelled clearly with my name and classroom – so I could have that delicious dish delivered, piping hot, to me come lunch bell time.

For variety of diet, I'd alternate this occasionally with a meat pie, sausage roll or collection of party pies, all plastered liberally with "marty" sauce, and washed down with pink milk guzzled straight from the carton.

Unless, of course, it was footy finals season, a period during which all Canberran children are peer-pressured into the patriotic – if unpleasant – display of purchasing "Raiders Lime" – a green-coloured milk which tasted, mercifully, more of sugar than of actual lime. But still ... blergh.

It's not hard to see why canteen purchases – being some of the first spending decisions we will ever make – come with a delicious thrill. And it's also not surprising to see that, when you put money in the pockets of children, we don't make the best food choices.

But perhaps it is surprising that, when we grow up and become parents, making decisions for our children, we don't make the best ones either. At least not from the point of view of our children's growing waistlines.

It is a sad fact that one in four Australian children are overweight, following in their footsteps of their parents, of whom fully two-thirds are overweight.

You would think parents would be keen to make healthier choices for their children. But not so, according to the results of a survey revealed at an economics conference this week.

The study, titled *The School Canteen Revolution – what food options do parents want*, was conducted by private research group CaPPRe and enlisted 421 parents or caregivers of primary school children into an online survey.

Parents were offered a series of choice for canteen menus, which began with "healthy" foods, and progressively added more choices of less healthy and unhealthy foods.

Parents were offered a choice of an entirely health lunch menu, comprising a selection of sandwiches, wraps and salads, or two more menus, one which added a less healthy selection of sushi, rice and pasta dishes, and then a final menu adding in pies, sausage rolls, chicken nuggets and hot chips. Snack menu options began with just fresh fruit, then added in popcorn, pretzels, cakes, muffins, icy-poles, muesli bars, and then chips and lolly bags.

So, did parents opt for the healthy choices for their kids' canteen? Or the wider selection of foods? After looking at the results, the researchers were able to divide parents into four groups, based on their choices. By far the biggest group – at 43 per cent – were labelled the "pro options" group. These parents chose the highest level of unrestricted options – for both meals and snacks – for their children.

The second group – at 20 per cent of parents – were labelled as "pro options meals". Like the first group, they also supported unrestricted meal choices, but preferred to have a more limited choice for snacks. That is, given a choice, the overwhelming majority of parents supported food choice over healthy diets.

The third group – comprising 12 per cent of parents – were more hard-core, labelled "pro-healthy everything". These parents preferred choice restricted to healthy-only options for both meals and snacks.

A final "pro healthy snacks" group of parents – 25 per cent – expressed neither strong support for meal choice or restriction, but strongly supported canteens offering only healthy snacks.

Interestingly, however, almost all of the parents surveyed were against offering soft drinks.

Simon Fifer, the director of research at CaPPRe, says it's not entirely a shock that parents would openly choose to expose their kids to more unhealthy meal and snack options.

"I don't think we were overly surprised, because that's what we know happens in the real world. There seems to be a group of very health-conscious parents, but then there's the majority who stick with the status quo."

Fifer says the result presents a challenge for policymakers hoping to nudge parents and children into healthier choices.

While support for banning sugary drinks is clearer cut, parents seem reluctant to deny their children the food choices they enjoyed growing up.

You can take our soft drinks, but you will never take our meat pies.

VCAA Past Exams Section C

for Part 1 – Analysis of language use.

This is a letter sent by Rosemary Collins to the Principal of Anyton Secondary College.



May 8 2002

Dear Ms Smith,

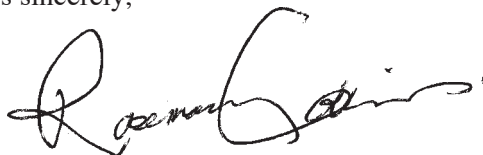
I am writing as a parent in response to the issues raised concerning school attendance at the Annual General Meeting of School Council last night. My research as a consultant shows that school absenteeism is a complex issue that will not be solved by a punitive model of discipline, one which is both ineffective and alienating. An attempt must be made to understand the reasons for absenteeism.

Most students who do not attend school regularly are shown by the research to have disengaged socially and educationally from the school environment. In Victoria up to 10 percent of students require support and special assistance to maintain regular attendance at school. Education Department data shows that absenteeism is most common among boys at Years 9 and 10 and is often linked to other problem behaviours at home and school. Regardless of the reasons, every student absent from school due to an impediment which can be addressed is equally deserving of attention according to their needs.

Given these facts, it is important that our school concentrates on an holistic approach to absenteeism, an approach that involves the whole community as well as individual student support where needed. This may mean, for example, that some students will benefit if they have opportunities for alternative curriculum options and positive community service experiences. For other students it may be that strategies to assist them in gaining better organisational skills are enough to lift their engagement with school and hence improve their attendance.

Finally, I would be happy to be part of a working group to investigate how our school community could work collaboratively to implement some of these initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



Rosemary Collins

Director, Key Educational Consultants

and

Mother of Fiona (Year 8)

Use only the material on this page for Part 1 – Analysis of language use

The following is adapted from an article which appeared in a popular magazine.

The Write Stuff ...



Email and text messaging may be fast and efficient, but nothing really beats receiving a long letter from a good friend in the mail or, even better, an anonymous love letter on Valentine's Day...

*Roses are red, violets are blue
If you SMS me this Valentine's Day
Consider us through!*



Picture this: it's Valentine's Day and your partner has just emailed through an e-card complete with dancing sheep and the words 'I luv ewe'. How sweet, you think. Just as you're about to show it off to a colleague, you notice her opening a thick, red envelope that sprinkles fragrant rose petals as she releases a handwritten letter. It's a note from her boyfriend and, by the time she's put it down, she's blushing pink, leaving your e-card somewhat pale by comparison.

'A handwritten note is like dining by candlelight instead of flicking on the lights,' says calligrapher Margaret Shepherd. And she's spot on. Isn't it better to make a gift instead of buying one? Isn't it better to enjoy a stroll rather than hopping into a car?

Unless you're illiterate or have a heart of stone, there's nothing quite like receiving a letter in the mail, especially for important occasions. It tells you that someone has put their hurried existence on hold long enough to write a letter, find a post office, buy a stamp and send it. In this era of instant gratification, that kind of effort really stands out.

If the social forecasters are to be believed, today we're not only too impatient to write letters, we can't even be bothered to sit down and read one. Instead we want everything pronto and have little time for one-to-one interaction—we're doing more of our banking, bill paying, gift buying and grocery shopping online and, as for information, we want it faster, shorter and sooner.

Information overload is largely to blame for our need for speed. According to lifestyle strategist Ian Hutchinson, we're now subjected to 20 million advertising messages before we hit 20. Add to that emails, text messages and voice mails, and it's no surprise that generation Y finds letter writing so passé.

Over the past decade, however, rapid leaps in technology have seen the written letter replaced by faster, more efficient and inexpensive alternatives. The result, in many cases, is an abbreviation of real communication and this is what worries social commentators such as Dr Bob Montgomery, Director of Communication for the Australian Psychological Society.

'The current generation has taken to SMSing in droves,' he says. 'These guys are the most visually literate generation... but they've got the attention span of a gnat. I don't think it's useful in the long run, as it's not good for approaching many tasks and a lot of relationships.' When it comes to making a relationship work well, good communication is essential, he says. 'But if all you're sending is a brief SMS, it has rather less impact than saying, "Hey, I've spent half the day thinking about you."'

You don't need an excuse to put pen to paper, but there are times when it's the best option. 'You've got time to think about what you want to say and you can polish up how you're saying it. It slows down the pace of the interaction and invites a more considered response,' says Dr Montgomery.

Letters are also an intimate, though non-intrusive, way to offer condolences for the death of a loved one, a job loss or the breakdown of a marriage (although preferably not your own—'Dear John' letters are taboo!). They're also perfect for expressing real appreciation (for that pricey wedding gift, for example) and can be like fertiliser to a friendship. Hands up who hasn't been disappointed to find a lengthy email from a friend has also been CCed to 23 others.

It's often said that love letters are the most re-read and regretted, but they need not be. When done right, they can take a relationship to the next level. The key is to be sincere. 'We're relying increasingly on commercial writers to state the sentiment for us,' Dr Montgomery says. 'But writing your own message can carry more clout than "Roses are red, violets are blue..."'



The Daily News

Friday 19 October 2007

OPINION PAGE

Overprotective parents stifle growth

How much longer will we continue to supposedly 'protect' our young people from the stark realities of life? It is perfectly clear to me, as a professional, that by mollicoddling them, we are ultimately creating defenceless young people unable to cope with future challenges.

Too often are parents willing to step in and stand up for their 'perfect' children involved in 'incidents' at school, or caught up in squabbles with their peers. Parents provide a continuous taxi service, transporting their precious offspring to organised sporting activities, to and from school, often running little errands for them. They blindly search for the child's lost jumper and they obediently bring the lunch when it is forgotten. Others even complete their children's homework.

One only has to look at teenagers today: incapable of making a decision on their own; followers, not leaders; still reliant on their parents for their creature comforts. Children need to make mistakes, experience rejection and maybe hurt themselves to learn how to cope with life. They must experience real pain and deal with disappointment to become resilient adults.

Nothing could be clearer to me than the belief that, by wrapping our young children in cotton wool, we are depriving them of the skills required to solve the problems which they will confront in the future. They cannot possibly learn to deal with challenging situations in adulthood if they never have to face a problem in youth.

Parents are so afraid their children will be hurt or abducted that they are refusing to let them play outside on their own until they are at least 14, research has revealed. Denied opportunities to meet friends, a generation of cosseted youngsters is becoming lonely and isolated, according to a study by the Children's Society in Britain.

The Children's Society stresses the importance of allowing children freedom to play with peers as it helps them 'practise making and consolidating friendships and deal with conflict'. Children who are isolated from peers are at greater risk of becoming depressed, overaggressive, antisocial and delinquent, they argue.

There is a mountain of evidence available now to show that children whose parents are at their constant beck and call are stifled, losing the ability to develop the skills to become fully functioning adults. Furthermore, they never accept responsibility for their own actions.

Jane Brown
Retired Principal

for Part 1 – Analysis of language use.



A reader has his say

REALITY CHECK

My granddad goes on about the good old days. He says that in his time kids could be kids. They were not hassled by parents and if they jolly well wanted to play in the street till dark, they jolly well did.

I used to actually believe this, but not now. Now I have my own family and I love my kids. The world has changed and it's weird.

I say unsupervised is unsafe!

Everywhere I turn, I see danger.

Cars are lethal weapons with hooners at the wheel. Newspapers scream stories of tragedy and evil. Even in our very own family room there is no escape. The News at 6 means that we are bombarded with scenes of carnage caused by suicide bombers wherever the bloodiest massacre of the last 24 hours has occurred.

If it's not that, it's films filled with foul language, violence or 'adult themes'. Even the Internet lures young people into sampling the 'thrill' of life in the fast lane.

It terrifies me.

Don't try the documentaries either. They are full of gloom and doom about climate change, mass extinctions and death of the planet.

Don't tell me that kids should be allowed to see all this. What does it do to them?

I want my kids to be able to survive in this crazy world, and to do that they need to be safe and secure and sure of some things – things like love and hope. They need to feel that they can make a difference.

That won't happen if they are traumatised – or worse!

Jack Lee

SECTION C – Analysis of language use (Using language to persuade)**Instructions for Section C**

Section C requires students to analyse the ways in which language and visual features are used to present a point of view.

Section C is worth one-third of the total assessment for the examination.

Read the speech *Taking Stock* and then complete the task below.

Write your analysis as a coherently structured piece of prose.

Your response will be assessed according to the criteria set out on page 14 of this book.

TASK

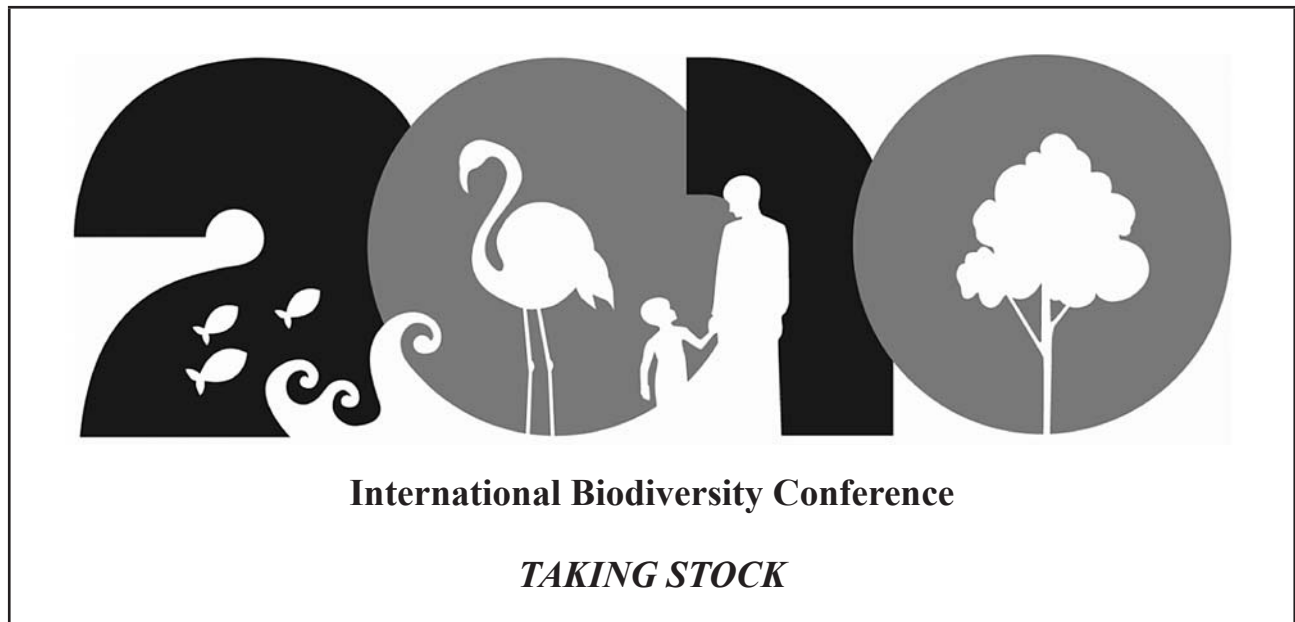
How is written and visual language used to attempt to persuade the audience to share the point of view of the speaker in his speech *Taking Stock*?

Background information

Biodiversity is the term used to describe life on earth – the variety of living things, the places they inhabit and the interactions between them.

The transcript of the keynote speech given by Professor Chris Lee at the International Biodiversity Conference 2010 held in Nagoya, Japan, from 25 to 27 October, is printed on pages 12 and 13.

In 2002 a commitment was made to achieve ‘a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth’ by 2010. The purpose of this Nagoya conference was to review progress towards achieving the target and to look beyond 2010.



Opening slide of speaker's presentation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a year of vital significance to our world. In declaring 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, the United Nations stated: "It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity in our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity".

Has this been a year of celebration of life on earth? Has this, in fact, been a year of action?

Eight years ago – in April 2002 – many of our countries made a commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss. Over the next two days we will be reviewing our progress in this area. Honestly, how well have we done?

It is with great pleasure – though not without a tinge of sadness – that I address you on this occasion and work with you to re-establish, indeed to strengthen, our goals for the next decade.

One may justly ask: how far have we really come in our commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to ensure the preservation of life on earth? For, perhaps idealistically, this is *exactly* what we set out to do.

Sadly, over the last one hundred years, we have lost 35% of mangroves, 40% of forests and 50% of wetlands. Due to our own thoughtless human actions, species are being lost at a rate that is estimated to be up to 100 times the natural rate of extinction. Of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of 44 837 species assessed, 38% are today threatened and 804 already extinct. It is too late for them.

In truth, for the first time since the dinosaurs disappeared, animals and plants are being driven towards extinction faster than new species can evolve. We are in the grip of a species extinction being driven by the destruction of natural habitats, hunting, the spread of alien predators, disease and climate change. Reversing this negative trend is not only possible, but essential to human wellbeing.

We know this. We are, in truth, the most educated generation of any to date. We have no excuse for inaction. Clearly it is our lack of unity and lack of genuine commitment to action that have led us to this grim situation.

SECTION C – continued

For too long our approach has been haphazard. Wonderful words, glossy brochures, inspiring documentaries are no substitute for real action. It is one thing to mouth platitudes in the comfort of an air-conditioned and sumptuously catered conference hall and quite another to produce concrete results. A zoo here, a national park there, faint promises at conferences such as ours, a talk-fest of targets. What have WE – what have YOU and YOUR country – actually done since 2002 to contribute to the achievement of our goals?

There is no need to remind you why biological diversity is so important. As we all well know, our failure to conserve and use biological diversity in a sustainable manner is resulting in environmental degradation, new and more rampant illnesses, deepening poverty and a continuing pattern of inequitable and untenable growth on a global scale. Healthy ecosystems are vital to regulating the global climate. Poor rural communities depend on biodiversity for health and nutrition, for crop development, and as a safety net when faced with climate variability and natural disasters. Indeed, the poor are particularly vulnerable because they are directly dependent on biodiversity for their very survival, yet they are not in a position to do anything about it.

Species diversity affects the quantity and quality of human food supply. Biodiversity loss undermines the food security, nutrition and health of the rural poor and even increases their vulnerability. More than 1.1 billion people remain in extreme poverty and, while the wellbeing of all people is dependent on ecosystem services, it is the dependence of the poor on these services which is most crucial. Poverty eradication is crucial to a global action plan, yet the needs of the poor are often subordinated to the interests of us, the powerful economic giants. It is time we stopped kidding ourselves that the epidemic of affluenza is having little effect upon fragile ecosystems across our planet. We affluent hunters and gatherers must hunt less, gather less, conserve more and preserve more before it is too late!

Is any of this new information? Of course not! As leaders in the area of biodiversity, we know what damage our lifestyle is doing to our world. The time for talk is over: now, truly, is the time for serious action. We must reinforce this message to those in power: to the politicians, to the corporate leaders, even to the everyday householder.

I leave you with the words of the ecologist Thomas Eisner: “Biodiversity is the greatest treasure we have . . . Its diminishment is to be prevented at all costs”.

Thank you.



*Biodiversity is the greatest treasure we have . . .
Its diminishment is to be prevented at all costs.*

Thomas Eisner

Closing slide of speaker's presentation

**END OF SECTION C
TURN OVER**

SECTION C – Analysis of language use**Instructions for Section C**

Section C requires students to analyse the ways in which language and visual features are used to present a point of view.

Read the material on pages 12 and 13 and then complete the task below.

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Your response will be assessed according to the criteria set out on page 14 of this book.

Section C is worth one-third of the total assessment for the examination.

TASK

How does the writer use written and visual language to attempt to persuade readers to share his point of view?

Background information

A community has been discussing possible future uses for an area of land that has not been used since the closure of a railway line. The local city council owns the land and is considering proposals for its use. The Grow Slow Garden Group has proposed that the land be used for the establishment of a community garden.

The leader of the Grow Slow Garden Group has produced a newsletter, as shown on pages 12 and 13. Before the council's decision is made, this newsletter will be distributed to every household in the local area.

Getting our future back on the rails – slowly

As just about everyone knows, the Council is about to decide what to do with the abandoned railway yards to the east of our central business area, land that is currently good only for rats, snakes and those few antisocial citizens who think it's acceptable to dump rubbish illegally. Soon, the shouting will be over. We hope the Council will decide in favour of a community garden, and we'll all be able to get behind the project and get it moving.

Everyone has had the chance to put forward ideas, including those who wanted the land fenced and concreted over and used for skateboarding or for yet another car park. But there has been a lot of misinformation and misguided comment, so this newsletter is to clear the air and set the record straight.

Some people who objected to the proposed garden seem to think the idea comes from a radical group of environmentalists. Grow Slow are proud to be contributing to a greener Australia, but there's nothing extreme about us. In fact it's high time the Council took notice of international trends and gave the community the go-ahead to transform this shockingly neglected wasteland into fresh, natural land.

This is a forward-thinking Council and it has the chance to bring us up to date with the rest of the world. City farms and cooperative, shared garden allotments are common in other countries. And they can be surprisingly productive. It might sound like a hobby but these small gardens provide a lot more than just recreational activity. It's estimated that the number of people who eat food grown in urban farms or community gardens is in the hundreds of millions across the globe.

There are some who think the idea is all just a passing fashion and that the new garden will soon become ugly and overgrown, and won't be maintained properly. They should take a look again a few years from now. It's amazing what we can achieve when we work together and support each other.

The community gardening movement is no passing fashion. During the Second World War everyone in Britain was urged to 'Dig for Victory' by growing vegetables in every bit of spare land. Backyards and nature strips were dug up in the struggle to keep families fed. In the crisis of war, people suddenly understood how vulnerable a society is if we have forgotten or never learned how to produce our own food.

Many of those same community gardens are still there. The Queen herself has converted some land at Buckingham Palace into a food garden, just as vegies were grown there in her childhood, during the war. And in America the First Lady has started growing food in the grounds of the White House.

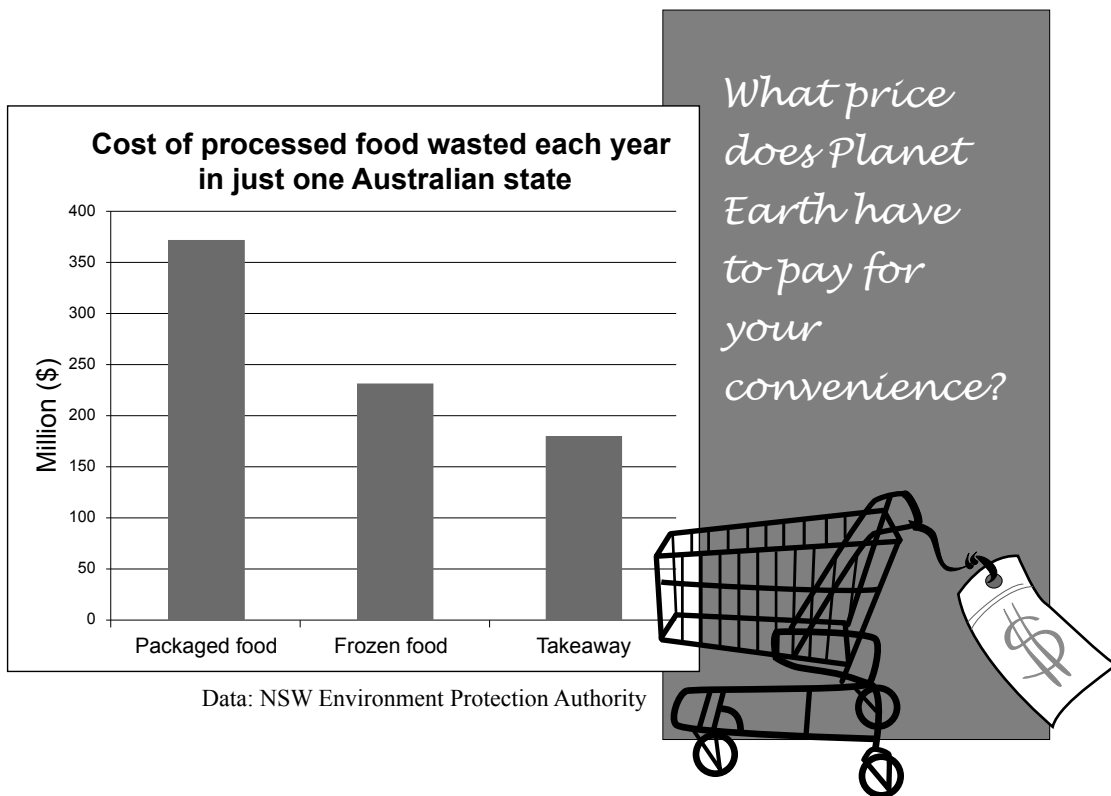
Now we are facing a different sort of crisis. It is pretty obvious that vegetables that arrive on your family's table by the 'slow' method, grown from seed in your own local garden, are going to be better for



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your health, but what some people don't see is that when we grow our own fresh food it is much less likely to be tossed out. When you've grown it yourself, you value it. If there's too much to eat, you don't throw it out: you share it with others. So everybody benefits.

People are used to making many trips in their many cars to pick up processed and packaged food. They are used to hopping into their cars to get takeaway food for their families too. Not only are these car trips bad for the environment but convenience food carries a hidden price tag because a lot of it is wasted and ends up in landfill, adding to environmental damage.



This is unsustainable. It's time we started to grow and use fresh food in a way that will benefit our planet, as well as ourselves.

And let's not forget the many other benefits to be gained from the activity of gardening. Primary schools across our state are establishing food gardens because it's a great way for children to learn. Most of us can remember our Dad or Grandpa showing us how to put seeds in the earth and water them in. We might remember the satisfaction of the first harvest. Our kids spend far too much time indoors and nothing could be healthier for them than doing some physical work in the fresh air, learning something that might even help them and their neighbourhood survive a food shortage one day. And they'll get to know their neighbours. Community gardening is for everyone, not just those few individuals who enjoy a certain activity. There are no barriers. There is always plenty to share and nothing says 'friendship' like a gift of homegrown fresh food.

We urge the Council to take the visionary step of voting for the garden. To you, the community, we say join in! Tell the Council you support the idea and help us make this a success. Opportunities like this don't come along often. It is a rare chance for all of us to get together and work towards a common goal, to 'Dig for Victory' again – this time for a healthier future, for ourselves, our children and our planet.

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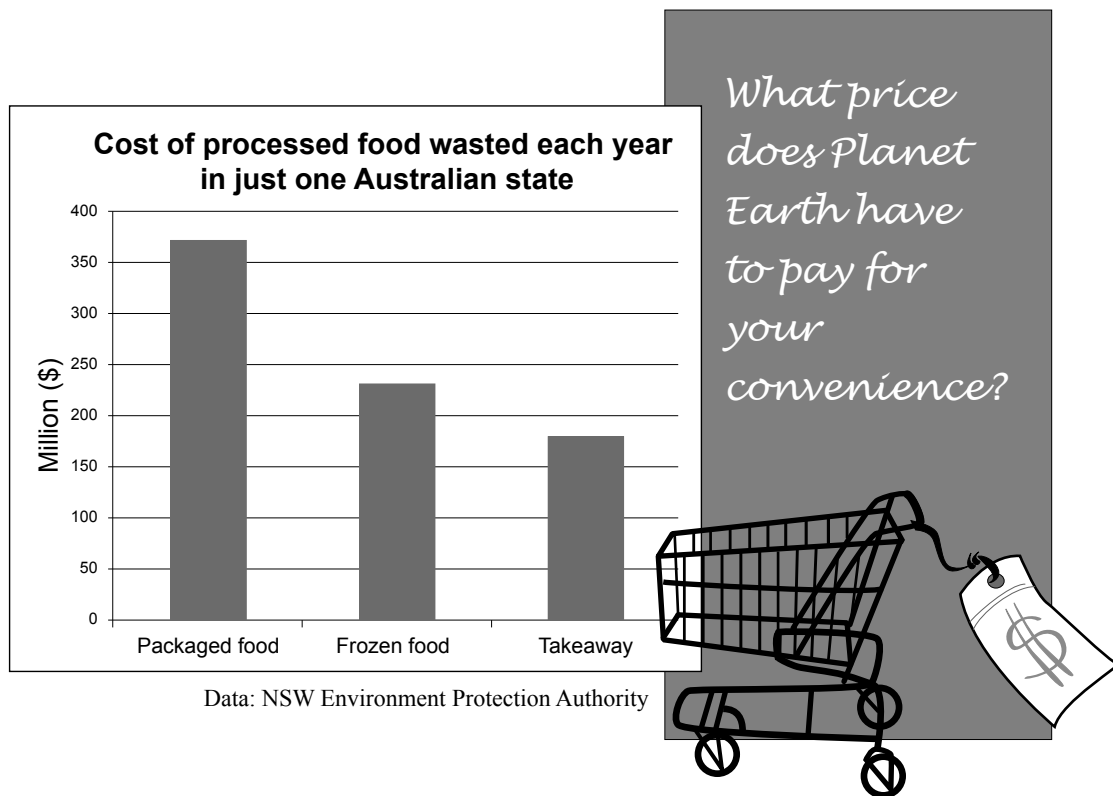
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TASK

How is written and visual language used in the newspaper article and the letter to attempt to persuade readers to share the points of view presented in them?

Background information

Yvette Yergon's opinion piece, 'Exploring our dreams', was published in the opinion pages of a daily newspaper. Dr Peter Laikis wrote a letter to the editor with the title, 'Off the planet'. This was later published. Both pieces are reprinted in full on pages 12 and 13.

Exploring our dreams

Yvette Yergon

Space is not as far away as you might think – only about 160 kilometres straight up. If you live in Victoria, you are closer to space than you are to Canberra. Space exploration has been on my mind this week after visiting an exhibition presented by an international group known as *Kolombus-21*. This is a group of influential thinkers who have been urging governments across the globe to pool resources and collaborate on further space exploration in the twenty-first century.

Touring the exhibition reminded me how inspiring exploration can be. It seems to be in our nature to dream about what's beyond the world we know, and setting out to explore the unknown is the biggest thing we do. The great explorer Christopher Columbus set off in a wooden ship powered by nothing but wind and with only his own skill and courage and the stars to guide him. That's pretty inspiring.

Most of us rightly admire the bravery of astronauts who, six centuries later, have taken the risk of exploring beyond Earth and have given us such a different perspective on the beautiful blue planet we call home.



But to get governments interested in spending the huge amount of money needed for space exploration, there must be more to it than the thrill of discovery. Perhaps there's a new mining boom waiting to happen in space, with people looking for more of the minerals we know well and maybe some we haven't dreamed of yet.

Evidently there are virtually unlimited resources out there for the taking because nobody owns them. A company recently set out to claim ownership of an asteroid, surprising the United Nations because there are no laws about ownership in space.

It's easy to understand why someone might want to own one of those lifeless rocks. An asteroid with the unromantic name '1986DA' suddenly became very interesting when scientists reported that it contains

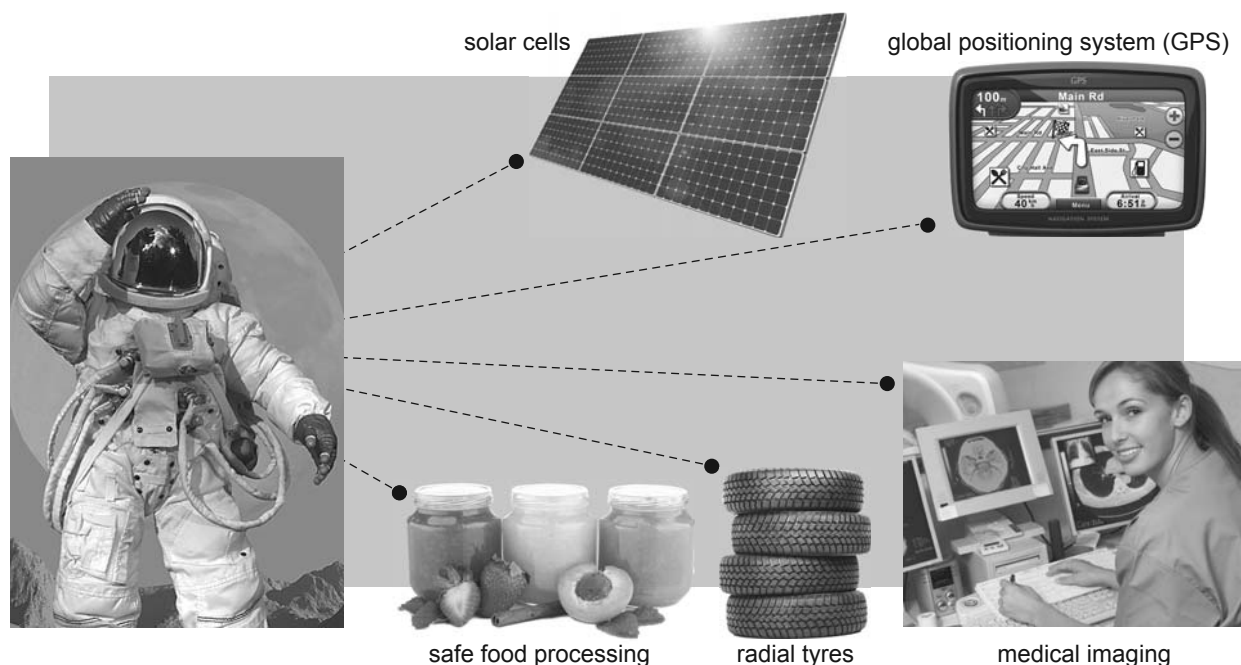
about 10,000 tons of gold and 10 times that much platinum, to the value of about a trillion dollars. Unfortunately this one is quite a long way off – about 32 million kilometres – but that doesn't seem to dampen anyone's enthusiasm.

'Well, OK, it might be only a dream right now,' said one young exhibition guide, gazing up at some spectacular star images, 'but one day it will come true. We've got to find answers to our problems to protect the future of life on Earth. That means taking risks and encountering the unexpected, but good things always come out of that.'

Columbus certainly encountered the unexpected – he expected to sail through to India and bumped into North and South America instead. And I agree that good things can come from exploring the unknown. A lot of the valuable products available to us now are the direct result of research associated with space programs of the last few decades, benefits that nobody predicted at the time.

Kolombus-21 talks a lot about international cooperation. This hasn't always been a feature of space exploration, but now that we have an international space station supported by 15 nations, the era of collaboration seems to be well established. If there was ever a good time to turn more of the unknown

into useful knowledge, it might be now. There's a strong view that it's time to inspire the next generation of scientists. Every government knows we've got to do that, just as we've got to invest in the next generation of technology. That's where the answers to our problems are really going to come from.



‘And the name of the group,’ I asked the guide at the end of the tour, ‘it’s in honour of Columbus?’
 ‘Partly,’ he smiled, ‘It also means “dove”.’

The international symbol of peace. I could see the point. It’s important to recharge our scientific batteries and get the next big thing going in space exploration – possibly a voyage to Mars. But it must be done for the whole planet and for peaceful purposes. Perhaps with big dreamers like *Kolombus-21* behind it, it might even turn out that way.

Off the planet

Thanks, Yvette Yergon, for drawing our attention to the ‘next big thing’. For a while there we were wasting our time thinking about little issues like hunger and disease and the environment. But no, let’s spend a few trillions more on the illusion that we can solve our problems by leaving Earth and finding somewhere better.

Wake up, Yvette! When did governments or kings or emperors ever fund exploration for peaceful purposes or the good of the world? The voyages of Columbus were powered more by greed than by wind. The ‘dreams’ involved were of more and more wealth.

Seems like nothing much has changed. Reality is, we don’t have to go into space looking for lifeless rocks. We just have to make sure that our infinitely precious blue planet doesn’t turn into one.

You know what I find truly inspiring? The idea of getting all the governments in the world to agree to keep working together on our real problems, one by one, step by step, until they are solved.

OK, that might be only a dream right now – but at least it’s a dream worth pursuing.

Dr Peter Laikis

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TASK

How is written and visual language used to attempt to persuade the audience to share the points of view of the speakers?

Background information

bigsplash, a large Australian financial institution, sponsors an annual award given to a noteworthy Australian volunteer organisation. Stephanie Bennett, its Chief Executive Officer, presented the 2015 award before a large gathering. Mathew Nguyen accepted the award on behalf of the winning organisation. The event was televised. Pages 12 and 13 contain transcripts of Stephanie's presentation and Mathew's acceptance speech.

Stephanie Bennett is at the lectern, on which is hanging a banner, shown below.



‘Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and volunteers from around the country, it is my great privilege to present the 10th annual **bigsplash** Australian Volunteers Award.

bigsplash offers a \$100 000 donation to further the aims of Australian volunteer organisations in any field, in Australia or overseas. As an institution with a strong commitment to the local and global communities it serves, it is part of our corporate ethos to extend a helping hand to volunteer organisations whose work complements our vision for a better future. Over 200 such organisations entered for the award this year. We at **bigsplash** were truly inspired by the various submissions. Choosing from so many worthwhile submissions was challenging, and we particularly congratulate those on stage who represent the short-listed organisations.

All too often, the work of volunteers is undervalued and under-recognised. Do you know how many Australians volunteer each year? A quarter of the Australian population! I think we take this wonderful band of Australians for granted. The website ‘Volunteering Australia’ reports that five years ago the total number of hours volunteered by Australians was estimated to be 713 million! What would the numbers be today? If the minimum hourly wage in Australia is \$17, we’re looking at billions of dollars of voluntary work. This is the kindness of strangers. In a world that may seem preoccupied with money, it is humbling that so many people, young and old, are prepared to give their time without payment. We seem, however, to be becoming more and more dependent on volunteers to make our country function. Far too often these people are taken for granted – which is why **bigsplash** inaugurated this award.

Volunteers and their organisations are heroic. Australian heroes! What would we do without them? Consider the scope of their contributions. There would be no ambulance volunteers to attend to medical problems at major events, no-one would clean up beach litter, there would be no lifesavers and no-one would search for children lost in the bush! Or, on a more everyday level – many elderly people live alone. Thanks to volunteers they are able to stay in their own homes. Volunteers take them to medical appointments, shopping centres, social gatherings. They deliver meals and provide company. Without volunteers these people would be stranded. My own mother has benefitted from these services. And when there is a disaster overseas, Australian volunteers are there to help build communities and provide help and hope to our neighbours. It would be impossible to name all those organisations that make our lives better. Consider how often we have overlooked this enormous workforce as we go about our daily lives. Our **bigsplash** award aims to address this lack of acknowledgment.

We Australians are blessed with volunteers who are so much a part of the landscape that we forget that they do so much without thought of reward. And we, to our great shame, so frequently disregard their contribution. We take it for granted that busy people will give up their time to coach junior sporting teams. We take it for granted that the State Emergency Service volunteers will work through the night securing a roof in torrential rain. Volunteers give to us that most valuable of life’s gifts – their time – and they give it generously. Their contribution stitches together the social fabric of our nation. Unselfish acts create a ripple effect that enriches us all. Volunteers remind us that we are one society

and one world. We should never forget or overlook them. **bigsplash** certainly does not. We at **bigsplash** recognise the value of the volunteers of Australia, and we thank them!

Applause

Without further ado, I would like to open this envelope ... and announce the winner of this year's helping hand from **bigsplash**, the 2015 Australian Volunteers Award ... It's ... Tradespeople Without Borders!'

Mathew Nguyen, spokesperson for Tradespeople Without Borders, steps forward to accept the award amid resounding applause. On the screen behind him, the image included with their application is projected.



'Thanks heaps, **bigsplash**. Cheers, everyone. We didn't expect this. Speaking isn't really my strong point but I'm totally blown away. I want you to know that we are really grateful that you have decided to recognise a fairly new organisation like ours and support tradies who want to help. We'll use the money to continue to do so.

My mate and I founded Tradies Without Borders when we realised how hard some people find it to afford a plumber when their sink gets blocked. We

offered practical help to anyone who needed it. Now we've expanded and we also go overseas to dig toilets – did you know that 2.5 billion people on the planet don't have access to a loo? – and to help to rebuild homes after natural disasters. We have many members now so we can offer lots of services. Some might think we just like trips abroad but that isn't it – we want to make a difference, and we do, and we hope we help Australia's reputation as a caring country too.

I'd just like to say this, though. Stephanie may be right when she says volunteers aren't appreciated enough – but we haven't found this. The people we help are always grateful and thank us over and over again. But we don't ask them to be grateful, anyway. When your home's been wiped out in a flood, you have a right to expect someone will help you and the same goes for someone without a proper toilet. Those of us who have been lucky enough to live in comfort, learn a trade and make some money shouldn't ask for praise when we lend a hand to someone who hasn't had these things – it's just what a decent human being should do. And the pleasure we have got from seeing things improve for people is even better than this award. Research actually shows that volunteers are happier than other people and we have found that it is true. Volunteering is its own reward.

Thanks to all the members of Tradies Without Borders for the fun we have. Congratulations to all the other finalists. And thanks again to **bigsplash**.'

Applause and cheering

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TASK

How is written and visual language used to attempt to persuade readers to share the points of view presented in the material on pages 12 and 13?

Background information

Lawton is a town of 3000 people. It used to be on a major highway. However, a recent highway diversion has isolated the town, causing a sharp drop in the number of visitors. This has caused concern for the economic future of the town. There is a range of ideas within the community about how to address this problem.

The local newspaper of Lawton publishes a weekly column written by the Mayor.*From the Mayor, Councillor Alexandra Wiley*

Fellow residents,

Since the highway was diverted to bypass our town, we have all enjoyed the resultant peace. How often have we thought how pleasant it is to be able to cross the street for a chat with a friend without taking our lives in our hands! How many of us have been glad to leave our windows open without fear of dust from the road invading our rooms! But there is a downside to this. We risk becoming a backwater, on the way to being a ghost town, if this peace is all we have. Of course we no longer want huge trucks thundering down the main street, but we do want cars: cars full of people who will eat at our beautiful bakery, socialise at our historic pub, buy our handcrafts and used books – even stay at our comfortable motel. We want tourists and, to be blunt, we need their money.

Council has been considering for some time how to attract travellers and we think we have the answer – we have stopped thinking small and have started thinking on a grand scale. Our region is famous for the quality and freshness of its luscious produce, but we need a showcase for it. We grow the most crisp, most succulent fruit and vegetables around, and they should be our emblem. Imagine a spectacular piece of modern architecture, a landmark, a building in which visitors can enjoy our hospitality and in front of which they can take selfies to show their friends! We would have it created right here by local craftsmen and women. There could be no better place for it than our verdant Centennial Park – soaring to a height of 20 metres or more, it would tower over the trees and even over the spire of St Martin's Church! Imagine the events we could hold and all the merchandise that would go with it – cuddly toys, cards and gifts in the tourist centre ... the list goes on, all to promote our region.

We don't yet have the final concept for what the structure will look like but already, of course, we hear the naysayers. 'It isn't original! It has been done! A giant attraction – can't we think of something else?' But do you know what – all the towns with giant attractions are thriving! Visitors love them! Research shows that towns with giant attractions receive 20% more visitors. We have been told there are people who make a point of seeing every one, of photographing them all, even making a competition of it. We deserve a share of that prosperity.

Fellow residents, this is our chance. We have to protect our lifestyle – our rural, wholesome Australian lifestyle in our own unpolluted town with its healthy food, sporting teams and annual Show. We must preserve our caring community where neighbours know and look out for one another. We want to welcome newcomers and offer them the chance to prosper among us. We want our farmers to have buyers for their produce, our young people to have jobs, our hospital and nursing home to be viable. We need to be on the tourist map and your Council feels this is the way to achieve it.

Please support this exciting idea for making Lawton a truly great town!

Alexandra Wiley

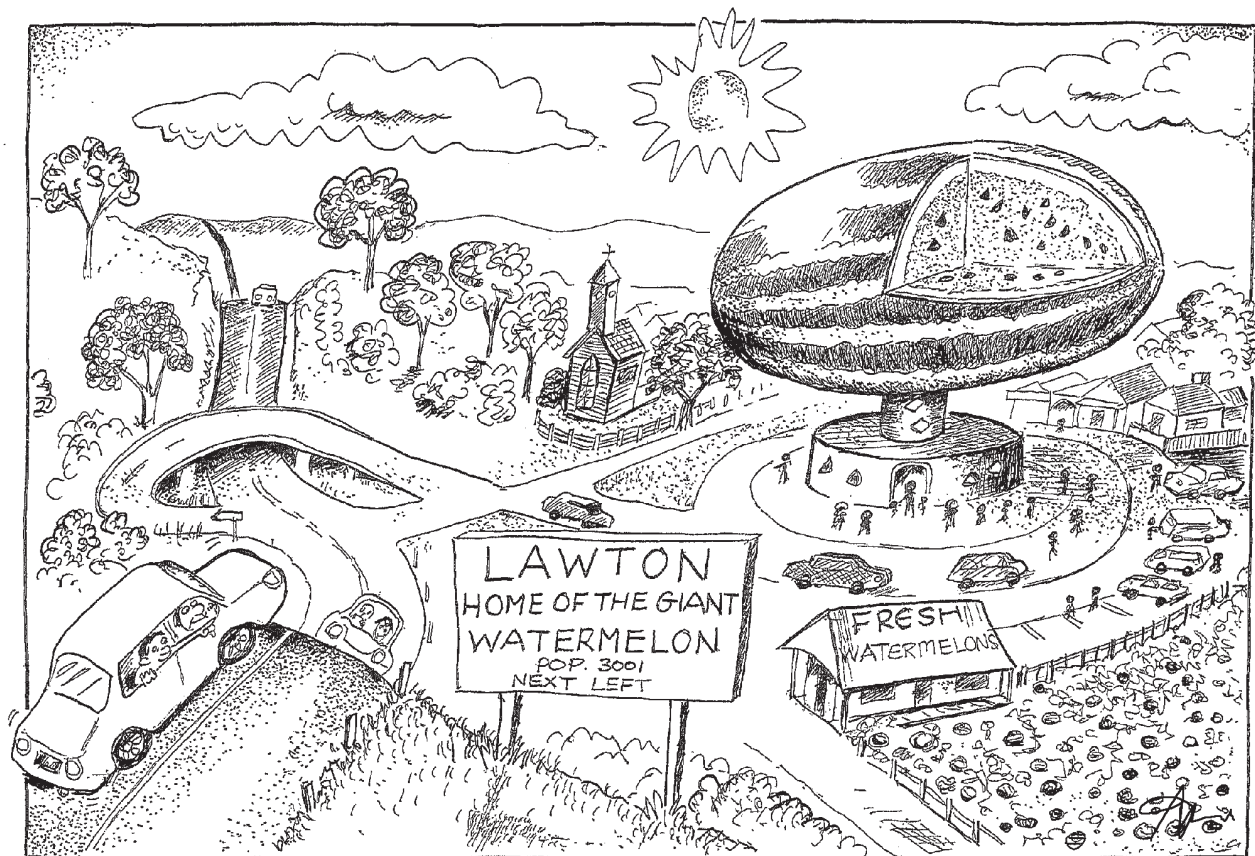
In the next edition, the local newspaper published the following letter.

Of course we share Councillor Wiley's concern. Of course we want our town to survive. But destroying its beauty is not the way to make it great. The country is paved with plenty of giant 'attractions', all large, ugly installations. Can't we be different? Can't we have a cultural focus? Surely an art gallery, an annual music festival, a literary week would be preferable to a monstrosity. The world already has many, too many, 'selfie' opportunities! Surely visitors who like this sort of thing are not the type we want. Before we know it, this 'showcase' will be overrun by loud children and defaced by vandals, and our air will be polluted by too many cars. Let us consider what gives value to our lives. It is not prosperity at any price, it is not sporting teams and the noisy Show, it is quality of ideas, it is the pursuit of beauty. Our young people would be better employed as catalogue designers, gallery guides or storytellers. We say to Council, please think again.

Ian Warwick

President, Lawton Progress Association

The newspaper's cartoonist also contributed to the debate.



SECTION C – Argument and persuasive language**Instructions for Section C**

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Task

Write an analysis of the ways in which argument and written and visual language are used in the material on pages 12 and 13 to try to persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background information

The Principal of Spire Primary School writes a weekly message for the school’s website. She invites comments, favourable or unfavourable, to be posted after her message appears. The Principal has been concerned about the amount of packaging waste she has seen around the school. Her message about this concern and a response from one parent are on pages 12 and 13.

Spire Primary School


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[About Us](#)
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[Newsletter](#)
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Newsletter>Principal's Message

Last updated 11:48 AM on 8 July 2017

Dear parents of Spire Primary School,

I write to you this week to introduce a new concept for us all to think about. 'Oh, no!' I hear you say, 'She has got another idea!' It is true that I often take this school down new paths, especially in areas that affect the preservation of our planet. We are the only local school that has a 'Walk/Pedal to School Day' once a week, rather than once a month or even once a term! We have four different bins for our waste products, not just three! Our vegetable garden is truly organic and our pet hens scratch and roam as they wish! But I think we at Spire can do more. We are responsible for the future of our world.



I have become increasingly concerned about the amount of superfluous packaging in our everyday lives. The newspaper in plastic, hamburgers in boxes, individual packets of tissues, little packages of rice crackers and chips. You might say that the material from which these containers are made are biodegradable or recyclable – but they still exist, are still clogging our bins and eventually, our country. If we do not do something positive about this now, the environmental damage will be irreversible.

Last week I walked around the grounds at recess time, talking as I do with any student who wanted to chat – many, I am glad to say. I kept seeing your children holding little plastic packets with a few biscuits in one side and some cheese spread in the other. When the children had eaten, the little packets became waste material! I have found myself wondering why those biscuits could not have been spread with cheese at home and brought to school in a re-usable container. Other children were drinking juice from cardboard boxes. Why not a washable plastic bottle? At our canteen I saw a child buy a sushi roll and apply soy sauce from a cute little plastic fish. That fish ended up on the ground until I asked the student to put it in the bin – more rubbish! Why not use a common flask from which the sauce could be pumped at the counter? (For that matter, how awful are those little tomato sauce containers given with meat pies – lethal if flipped in your eye!)

I am asking (and, in the case of the canteen, insisting) that we do away with unnecessary packaging. I want the canteen to sell products that have no need for it. I hope to influence the staff to replace the coffee pod machine – those multiplying little pods – with a machine that filters the coffee straight into a jug. I might even ask our teachers to bring out our old communal teapot and do away with the pretty teabags!

How many nights a week do you eat takeaway? Plastic boxes of beef in black bean sauce, plastic bags of lettuce for the paper bag of spring rolls, little plastic containers of sauces – all these things increase the mounds of waste products. I am told you can buy carrots ready peeled, washed and sliced – in another plastic bag – but why not prepare your own snacks for the lunch box?

I know reducing our packaging will be a challenge at school and at home but we must confront it for the sake of future generations. I will be implementing a curriculum unit to teach students about sustainability at every year level.

As usual, your comments are welcome.

Denise Walker, Principal

Comments (1)

Fair go, Denise. My partner and I have always supported your green ideas. We are already doing what we can. Our kids walk to school every day! They are really interested in what rubbish goes where. They love the chooks and the garden. But mornings are chaos in our house as it is. How much worse if we have to spread cheese on biscuits (and won't they go soggy)? Have you any idea how many plastic bottles we have lost over our time at Spire? And filling them also takes time. Both of us parents go to work.

The soy sauce – what a mess little kids will make of pumping that! As I recall, the Parents and Friends donated the coffee pod machine for the staff – do you want it to join the hard rubbish? I would think we had passed the days when civilised people were happy to all drink the same stewed tea.

Finally, why begrudge us all the odd easy night off? Takeaway food is often a lifesaver for busy people.

It is a great shame if, for a vague principle, our lives become more difficult and we can't enjoy the benefits of 21st-century living.

Louise

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Background information

A new cafe called Calmer Coffee, part of a chain, has opened in a small shopping strip on High Street in the suburb of Benmore Village.

A review of the new cafe appeared in the local newspaper’s column, ‘Man about Town’, written and illustrated by Jonty Jenkins.

Gonty Jenkins Man About Town



It was a week after Benmore Village's Night Noodle Market on High Street that I found myself in front of the latest cafe to spring up in our quiet neighbourhood. High Street, which runs through our leafy corridor, is typical of the many older main streets that grace our suburbs, with two thriving cafes, Bonnie's fashion boutique, and who could forget Ken's butcher shop, which has been there for over 65 years? Our small strip of shops has always been the heart of our community. Ask yourself, how many times do you visit 'The Village' or meet friends down on High Street? Cafes have come and gone in the 20 years I've lived here and I've reviewed many of them in my column. I have been warm in my praise for the successful cafes – The Beanies Full Moon Cafe springs to mind here – and honest and cool in my dismissal of those that offer a service that is not befitting this fine neighbourhood.

There are 'coulda-beens' and 'has-beens', and newly opened cafe Calmer Coffee boasts that it 'has beans'. To say that this foretells the cafe's imminent future would be an understatement. There is a sense of foreboding as you enter through the main door. Both the decor and the 'Steps to Good Customer Service' sign appear to be taken straight from Head Office and, although this place has only been open for three weeks, already Jessica's photo is framed and on the wall as 'Employee of the Month'. Next door, at Flo's Patisserie, I am always served at my table by the ever-effusive Marcel, offering lattes, short blacks or cappuccinos. Here at Calmer Coffee, I am almost ignored when I approach the counter.

A tablet-wielding employee with a man bun barely looks up at me from his screen when it is my turn to order. He recites from memory the exhaustive list of frappés, soy and almond milks and chocolate sprinkles, but already I can see he is tired of the drudgery of it all.

From the logo and branding to the noise level, the cafe's atmosphere is an attack on all of your senses. Coffee beans assault you from the moment you walk in the door. The decor does nothing to create an atmosphere that is in harmony with that of our street. A sprawling graffiti monstrosity riddled with coffee beans grubbies the wall behind the kitchen. There are plastic-packaged coffee-bean-shaped biscuits on the counter. They look stale, dry and uninviting. Most overwhelming is the display of at least 20 different blends, roasts and styles to buy over the counter. This cafe is part of a chain as off-putting as the skin that will form on your poorly made frappé latte.

The bland quality of the coffee does not seem to bother those sitting around the blank, blond-wood booths and benches. It has become a place to sit, with free wi-fi and milky concoctions. Teenagers and twenty-somethings are plugged into sleek headphones blasting inane beats, staring at their tablets. The bored employees don't smile, don't rush and don't stop to chat with me as they clear tables. I cannot see Jessica anywhere; maybe it's her day off.

There is no table service. After my first coffee, I have to get up from my booth and line up again to order. Is this the service we have come

to expect from our strip of shops? This time, I order a 'mooost excellent soy mochaccino grande latte poured with extra foam'. As a dedicated foodie for over 20 years, I have become accustomed to menus with names of dishes that are difficult to pronounce, but Calmer Coffee had me stuttering. I can just see the look of horror on the face of Ken the butcher if he tried to order his regular coffee and was confronted with a fancy frothy frappuccino.

Calmer Coffee is another example of an ever-creeping shift towards soulless franchises that can be found at airports around the world.

They are all the same, wherever you are. Benmore Village's High Street, with its vibrant streetscape and cosier cafes, won't tolerate this intrusion for long. Those of us who live within walking distance of High Street would all agree that we are not Calmer Coffee's target demographic.

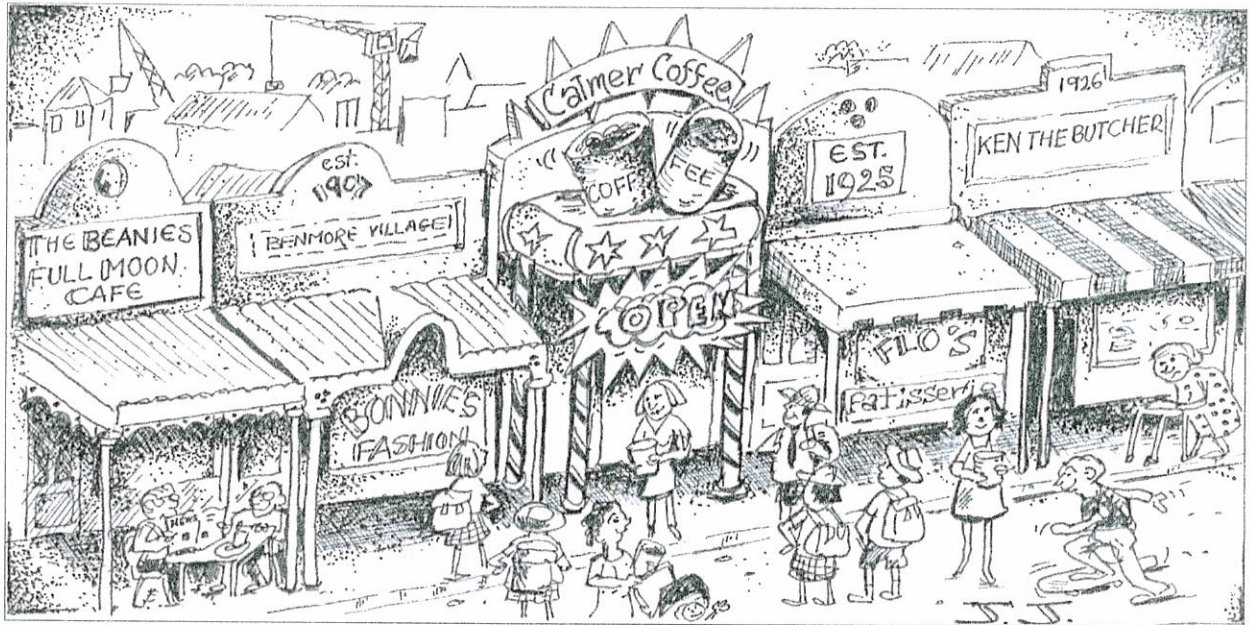
Decor – 2/10

Service – 2/10

Food and drink – 1/10

Hits – It sure smells like coffee.

Misses – That coffee smells burnt.



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Background information

A local grocery store decided to become cashless, meaning it would no longer accept payments using cash, that is, physical money. The manager of the store placed an advertorial¹ in the local newspaper about what going cashless would mean for customers. One week later, a member of the public responded to the advertorial in a letter published in the newspaper’s ‘Community Voice’ section.

¹**advertorial** – a paid advertisement that looks like an article

The advertorial below was published in a local newspaper.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

A BETTER, FASTER SHOPPING EXPERIENCE



An open letter to our valued customers,

As you know, Hailey's Local Store is not your average grocery store. We're a bit different – we always put our customers first. We offer lots of healthy meals, many specials, locally sourced food and, as you know, we abolished plastic carry bags four years ago – long before the big stores. Why did we do these things? Because you told us that was what you wanted and needed.

From 1 July, we will introduce another improvement to serve you better. We're going cashless! All transactions will be done electronically. What will it change? For the vast majority of our customers, nothing except less time spent in the store!

We're talking about having no actual money in the store – you won't need to go rummaging through your bags for coins. You won't ever have to worry that you don't have the cash to cover your essential food supplies – your card will ensure that you do.

I'm in our store every day and I know that most of our customers don't pay cash for their goods now. You use your credit card or debit card, and more

and more of you use an app on your mobile phone, your smart watch or even your smart ring. You just tap and you're done. Simple! Welcome to the twenty-first century.

Australians have embraced the digital economy – we're already one of the biggest users of electronic payments in the world. A decade ago, nearly 70 per cent of household spending was in cash; now it's half of that and most of that is on small purchases, such as a cup of coffee. It's just much easier and safer for all of us not to carry wads of cash in our wallets given the recent pickpocketing in the area.

Last year, Philip Lowe, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, said Australia was now at a turning point and cash was set to become a rarity. Some have predicted that Australia will be a cashless society in less than a decade.

Why is this store becoming cashless now? We have always tried to be a leader in our community and respond to our customers' needs. In our cashless store, you'll breeze through the check-out faster, which will save you time. Paying electronically is safer than paying cash, with all the banks' security checks in place. For our staff,

it means not having to spend hours sorting, storing and securing cash, so they'll have more time to serve you and make our store even better.

We understand the concerns a minority of our customers may have. What if you prefer cash, don't feel comfortable using credit or debit cards, or don't have a mobile phone or smart watch? We don't want to leave anyone out. For the next three months, we will offer cashless payments but still accept cash to give people time to adjust.

We know that other, less customer-centred shops will continue to take cash, but we think that they will soon catch up with us.

We are excited to be taking this step. Cashless shopping is easier, faster and safer. If you have any questions, please come in for a chat. As always, we are here to serve you.

Hailey Astaire,
Manager of Hailey's Local Store

The letter below was published in the same newspaper a week later.

Community Voice



In response to Hailey Astaire's announcement that Hailey's Local Store – where I shop – will become cashless on 1 July, can I just say: who is she kidding? To pretend that eliminating cash from the store is for the customers' benefit – 'to serve you better' – is dishonest. Yes, more of us are using cards and devices such as phones to

pay for things but, even by her own estimation, a third of our spending is still conducted in the old-fashioned way, with cash.

So why rush this change before many

of us are ready? My mother is in her 80s and relies on cash. She's on a pension and, every week, she goes to her bank and withdraws the cash she needs. She knows exactly how much money she has in her purse and she spends it carefully. This move to eliminate cash says to people like her that they don't matter. We are a better

community than that – or I thought we were.

And who really benefits from a cashless grocery store? The store! I found research that concluded that people who don't use cash tend to spend more because it's harder for them to keep track of their spending. Going cashless will help the store make more money, and that's what this is all about. I urge everyone to tell Ms Astaire exactly what they think about this so-called better shopping experience.

Samuel Morricone,
Resident

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Background information

The shire of Byways in regional Victoria depends on both farmers and tourists for its prosperity. The local community is concerned about the increased recreational use of drones by many of the tourists visiting the area. The following is the transcript of a speech made by young farmer Warwick Bandle at a public meeting called by the Byways Shire Council to discuss the community’s concerns. Bandle provided two images to be projected on a screen to accompany his speech.

Good evening, everyone.

Drones and their inexperienced users are proving to be a costly problem for us farmers. Drones are not toys. What happens when a drone flies out of range? What happens when the battery runs out? A drone being flown out of control, or crashing out of the sky, can be lethal. Just imagine the damage that can be done by a falling drone. Imagine, then, these drone users, realising that they have lost their drone, searching, crashing through crops, or leaving gates open and letting livestock out. And finally, when they don't find the drone, it's just left to rust away in the field until harvest time, when it's swept up, damaging the harvester.



It's time our council started to defend the farmers rather than the tourists. The farmers are the backbone of this community, many of us having lived in this area for generations. While we understand the importance to our town of visitors supporting businesses and, indeed, have welcomed the holiday-makers, when they start causing havoc while searching for their wayward drones it's time to say, 'Enough!'

Don't get me wrong! I'm not just another technophobe complaining about technology. As a young farmer, having just taken over the family farm, I'm introducing new technology on a daily basis to improve efficiency. In fact, we're using drones – more correctly called unmanned aerial vehicles – on the farm. For farmers, drones save time and money in tasks such as dusting and spraying crops, or monitoring crops for pests and growth. There is absolutely no way we want to ban drones.

It's not just in farming that these remarkable little workers have helped us out. We all remember last year when that bushwalker went missing. The drones flew tirelessly over large areas, including those difficult to access. Their eyes led to the speedy and happy conclusion we reached.



The issue is that flying a drone for fun is the latest 21st-century fad. The numbers of recreational drone users are mounting each year. Consequently, incidents involving drones are increasing. Drones out of control. Drones lost in trees. Drones causing power cuts. Drones hitting and hurting people. Drones in flight paths and even, in extreme cases, drones in near misses with aircraft.

As incidents have multiplied, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority has introduced strict rules to regulate both commercial and recreational use of drones in order to protect privacy and safety. They do a great job of managing the rapidly escalating and competing needs of the users of our airspace. There is, however, a startling incongruity in the rules applying to commercial drone flyers and recreational drone users. Commercial drone flyers are required to have a licence. Recreational drone users are not. Commercial drone flyers are required to do training in flying. Recreational drone users are not. Currently, commercial flyers and operators of drones must have a Remote Pilot Licence. On the other hand, all recreational drone users have to do is watch a short video and complete a test consisting of a few multiple-choice questions on a website. There is no way of even proving that the person completing the test is the person who will be flying the drone. They just print the computer-generated certificate and head out to launch their new toy.

Why this difference? Why is such a large group of people who have no training allowed to fly drones? Do we let learner drivers out on the roads on their own after simply completing their online Learner Permit Knowledge Test? Why, then, are the rules for drone users any different?

I have no problem with the recreational use of drones but I think that everyone flying a drone should complete the same rigorous licensing process. Anything less is not fair and not safe.

As a community, we must consider the needs of the farmers as well as the tourists. It's time for the council to ban drone flying for non-licensed users.

Thank you.

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Background information

A cinema in the regional town of Topppdale is struggling to attract patrons and is at risk of closing down. The cinema’s marketing manager, Ava, has written the following social media post on the *Topppdale Community Voice* page. Members of the page are residents of Topppdale and the surrounding district.


www.toppdalecommunityvoice x
www.toppdalecommunityvoice/socialmedia

TOPPDALE COMMUNITY VOICE

Public group 68 220 members



Ava @ Toppdale cinema
12 September at 19:01



Many of you know that Toppdale's unique cinema has been part of our town since the 1910s. As the town's backbone for so many decades, it has survived the Great Depression and the invention of television, videos and, more recently, DVDs by offering a shared experience that goes beyond just viewing a blockbuster movie on a massive screen. After standing strong during two world wars and offering us the latest, greatest films from around the world, Toppdale's cinema is at risk of closing its doors. Forever! By connecting with you through this page we hope to galvanise community support for Toppdale's cinema and remind you what it can offer: the social value of 'going to the pictures'. In the 21st century, this must not be underestimated.

Today, the biggest threat to the cinema's survival is the rise of streaming services. Without your support, our cinema will be the next victim of the streaming revolution. Did you know we had an estimated 250 000 people a year come through our doors just a few years ago? We are now down to 100 000 people a year. That's a drop of well over 50%. We can't let this happen. Or we risk losing something really special.

This great cinema has always been the beating heart of Toppdale, offering so much more than just the alluring smell of popcorn and local employment opportunities. It has always been a place people came to, not only to watch a movie but to be together and to embrace the magnetic ambience of the cafe, which is home to the best handcrafted ice cream in town. More than just a business, this cinema provides a diverse range of entertainment options for moviegoers of every age. We have discount senior citizen screenings, which include a cup of tea and piece of cake, baby-friendly sessions for parents, 'cheap Tuesday' for students, and our specially designed kids cinema even has a slide.

www.toppdalecommunityvoice x +

www.toppdalecommunityvoice/socialmedia


Did you know that the word ‘cinema’ derives from the Ancient Greek word for ‘movement’? We want to bring energy back to the cinema complex, not just on the big screen but also with live music, stand-up comedy and door prizes to make the experience value for money. If you don’t get off your device and off the couch, the cinema can’t continue to be the meeting place that it has been for decades in Toppdale.

Think of it like this: we have kitchens at home to make perfectly fine food but we still enjoy going out for a meal with friends. Well, that’s like going to the cinema! Cinemas have ingredients you can’t find at home, such as access to the latest must-see blockbuster movies. Even though surveys show us that viewing content streamed to devices is on the rise, almost 60% of new movies from around the globe are still watched in the cinema. That’s because the cinema offers a supercharged emotional experience that you can’t recreate at home. AND, at the same time, you can enjoy it with your friends. The cinema experience is truly one worth making time for.

Have you forgotten the magic of watching a blockbuster movie or cinematic masterpiece at Toppdale’s unique cinema? The lights dim, the velvet curtain opens, the surround sound envelops you and ... *action!* This is an experience you can’t get while watching a movie streamed on a device or on the television. People are social creatures and sharing the experience of watching a movie on a massive screen, munching on popcorn or on double-dipped chocolate-covered ice creams eclipses the lacklustre experience of viewing content on a tiny screen at home on the couch.

I know trends come and go. The popularity of going to the movies has waxed and waned as technology has advanced but the cinema has stood its ground. So, when I hear people say there is nothing for anyone in this town to do, I shudder! Because we have our cinema – a place for people to connect with each other, a place for the community to socialise and have fun. When the novelty of holding a small screen in your hand wears off, the cinema must still be here. It is the beating heart of this town. Think what our community would lose if this heart stopped.

Share this post, grab your friends or family, get your buttery popcorn and sink into the plush seats. Spread the word! Save the Toppdale cinema before its doors slam shut forever, relegating it to the dustbin of history.



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Background information

Hapsey Happenings is a podcast hosted by lifelong Hapsey resident Janelle Tanley. She discusses local events and issues, and promotes the conservation of the town’s local environment. In the most recent episode of her podcast, Tanley discusses a proposed development plan for the Hapsey Wetlands by Nature+Adventure Group, who run commercial excursions into unspoilt areas. The following text is a transcript of this episode, with images provided by Tanley.

www.hapseyhappenings.com
www.hapseyhappenings.com/podcasts/transcripts/episode32

Hapsey Happenings – Transcript of podcast, episode 32



Hello and welcome to *Hapsey Happenings*. I'm your host, Janelle. I'm sure all of you listening have heard about the recent development plan that has been proposed for the Hapsey Wetlands, one of the very last protected sanctuaries in this local region. Nature+Adventure Group's plan includes bike paths, boat ramps, kiosks and cafes. The local newspaper is being flooded with letters and emails from people for and against the plan, and my socials have also been overflowing.

Let's consider our wetlands. They are quite a distance from the town, so they're mainly visited by nature lovers – people who don't mind a walk from where they can leave their car. The paths are narrow and unpaved. Walkers have to be careful but this means the native flora is taken care of. My friends and I frequently meet in the wetlands to relax but we talk softly without disturbing the tranquil surroundings, so the native fauna can live in peace.

But now, our wetlands seem to be just another area of Hapsey under threat of destruction. In my lifetime, I have often seen people bring proposals for developments to council meetings, which are disguised as plans to protect the environment, claiming that they will provide access for people who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. The suggestion that this proposed 'revitalisation' will protect the environment and preserve the magnificence of this natural space for future generations sounds like something that is said to placate those of us who want this habitat to be kept as it is. In fact, the destruction of the natural home of over 40 different species of grasses to put up money-making ventures – cafes and so on – serves the interests of humans and businesses rather than the precious environment.


As locals, we are the guardians of this area. Many of us have worked tirelessly to protect these native plants and animals from all kinds of danger. We know from experience what will happen if the development plan is approved. First, Nature+Adventure Group will send in digging machinery and desecrate the home of fragile species, which will be damaged beyond repair. Then, they'll build footpaths and bike paths. Inevitably, one careless tourist will go stomping on a delicate fern to look at a frog and will take out an entire species that is unique to our wetlands. How are we going to protect these plants, flowers, insects and other animals from human intrusion?

This current development plan will only be the start. Attracting walkers, cyclists and cafe patrons will only give impetus to further development. With increased traffic, Nature+Adventure Group will build car parks (and charge for parking) and facilities such as toilets and gift shops. If we let this proposal through, it will set in motion a chain of proposals that will erode the protection that we have provided for the wetlands over all these years. Suddenly, this area will have been concreted over, and the Hapsey Wetlands will have become the Hapsey Wetlands Shopping Centre or the Hapsey Amusement Park!

www.hapseyhappenings.com x +

← → ↻ ⓘ www.hapseyhappenings.com/podcasts/transcripts/episode32

If we're looking at increasing the opportunities for outdoor adventures in the Hapsey area, there are other equally scenic and tranquil places to the south of the town, where installing walking and cycling paths would not disturb the delicately balanced ecology of the natural wetlands.



These would-be developers claim in their proposal that they have an 'excellent record in terms of environmental responsibility'. They say that they see cycling and boating as leaving a 'small footprint on the environment' and as being environmentally responsible activities because these activities use no fossil fuels. They acknowledge that transporting equipment, such as bikes and boats, will leave a bit of a carbon footprint but that they are working towards reducing the impact of transporting their bikes and boats. Believe that if you like!

I realise that these people feel that they are offering an excellent opportunity to the Hapsey community. They claim that they are very protective of our precious resource and that they share the goal of preserving this special place. But will an increase in the number of visitors promote the preservation of the wetlands? Will all these new visitors, grasping disposable coffee cups, share the values of those protecting the native inhabitants of the wetlands? Is the wetlands' survival helped by people falling off bikes and out of boats? Aren't these arguments just a selfish attempt to paint a commercial venture in a favourable light? Can we trust Nature+Adventure Group's mission statement: 'Above all, we acknowledge that environmental and ecological concerns are our number one priority in the expansion and development of our business'?

We must consider what is best for our wonderful wetlands. I would love to hear from you, listeners of *Hapsey Happenings* – how do you feel about this? Leave your comments on my website. Don't forget to follow the podcast to receive updates about the proposal for the wetlands.

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Background information

The Narrow Valley region comprises small rural towns that border a large regional city. A group of young musicians who live in Narrow Valley have decided they want more opportunities to perform in their area. The group has written an open letter to the Narrow Valley community, which has been published on social media and in the local newspaper. In addition, copies have been displayed in shops and businesses. The following text is this open letter with images added by the young musicians.

An open letter to the Narrow Valley community, young and old, who wish to see our region rejuvenated ...

Please allow us to introduce ourselves!

We are a growing group of high-school music students, teachers and mentors from the five Narrow Valley secondary colleges. We are eager to seize opportunities to bring dynamic and long-overdue changes to our region through an inclusive, youth-driven, energetic and shiny new music festival. Our festival will provide a space for all budding musicians, regardless of age and abilities, tastes and styles to come together and enjoy music.

Our passion, talents and all-encompassing abilities enable us to experiment with, explore and master all types of music, including rock, pop, opera, hip-hop (to name just a few), which are all played by our various orchestras, ensembles and solo artists. We celebrate diversity in our local region and already have thousands of followers on social media, who are sharing our endeavours every day.

‘What?’, we hear you say. ‘An unrelenting cacophony disrupting the peace and quiet of our streets? Corrupting the impressionable? Shattering windows? Driving the dogs, cats and budgerigars crazy? What *type* of music did you say? *Another* music festival? The *cost*? And ... what about our Gorgeous Gardens Festival?’

Yes. What about our garden festival? Who doesn’t love a garden? Like music, gardens never fail to nourish the soul. However, our garden festival is tired. The number of visitors is dwindling – fast. Council data shows that the visitor numbers have dropped by 50 per cent over the past five years and it can only be expected that this trend will continue if we don’t plant some new ideas. With a decline of those proportions, the income from the festival is dwindling dangerously, too. It’s time for a change in tempo and style!



For generations, the same Gorgeous Gardens organising committee has done a remarkable job of planning and hosting this event – planting and replanting – but we now need some companion planting. Consider our proposed music festival as ‘festival fertiliser’ that will re-germinate interest and energy in our regional towns, otherwise stagnation will fully set in and we will end up in the compost bin.

Few music festivals enjoy the geographical advantages that our region offers. We have a natural amphitheatre overlooking the valley, which could provide not only perfect acoustics but also a stunning backdrop for performances, particularly at twilight. Imagine this cathedral-esque space with the surrounding trees lit up for an evening performance, casting light and shadow on our home-grown superstars. Imagine the sounds of melodic folk tunes wafting across the valley, of hard rock and metal exploding into the night, or the sounds of jazz sizzling under the summer sunset.

Like all semi-rural areas, we have buildings that have been standing silent and empty for a long time, including old town halls that could provide brilliant spaces for lessons, workshops and jamming. Our towns can proudly boast that our spaces are accessible to people of all abilities, so musicians and audiences alike can fully enjoy the festival offerings wherever they are staged. The district's gardens could be opened for a different purpose – not just for admiration but also for musical events. Rock with your roses or mix some Mozart among the marigolds. Dare to put some tubas with your tubers! Melodious offshoots will enrich your world!

We know that our Narrow Valley region has seen some tough economic times lately and it might seem that a music festival is a frivolous

waste of money. However, we see it as an opportunity to establish innovative partnerships with regional businesses – including fresh food producers, cafes and delicatessens, local artisans and artists – as one solution to overcome financial concerns. Our student bodies don't just include musicians who can be involved but also media students, foodies, technology gurus and writers. We are confident that we can entice visitors, tourists and music lovers from far and wide to stay, eat and explore. We can see only *increased* prosperity for our region.

Imagine, too, how a visitor to our festival will see new musicians not in the cutthroat world of television talent

shows but against the wholesome natural backdrops and the quaint historic buildings that abound in our regional towns. Visitors will eat fresh produce made into delicious meals and buy local. Visitors, residents and local businesses will all be much richer, and not just financially!

We are the youth of our region. Younger voices need to be heard so that our communities can find new energy, new purpose and new perspectives. It is time for generational change. We have talents that deserve to be seen and appreciated and nurtured – and not just on social media. Let's share our triumphs. Let's share our aspirations. Let's provide opportunities for *all*.

We invite you, the residents of the Narrow Valley region, to our initial meeting, next Tuesday, in the Narrow Valley Botanical Gardens. The meeting will be followed by a performance by the Narrow Valley North College band. Please bring your ideas, your energy and even any concerns, so that we can begin our shared journey towards a new, prosperous future through our state-of-the-art music festival.

Yours, in harmony,

The Student Music Leadership Group, Narrow Valley

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Section C – Analysis of argument and language

Instructions

- In this section, you are required to analyse the use of argument(s) and language to persuade an intended audience to share the point of view expressed in a persuasive text.
 - Read the background information on this page and the material on pages 16 and 17, and write an analytical response to the task below.
 - For the purposes of this task, the term 'language' refers to written and spoken language, and 'visuals' refers to images and graphics.
 - Refer to the assessment criteria on page 18.
 - Section C is worth one-third of the total marks for the examination.
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Task

Write an analysis of the ways in which arguments, written and spoken language, and visuals are used in the material on pages 16 and 17 to try to persuade the intended audience to share the point of view presented.

Background information

Our Local Gym is a fitness centre that caters to a local community. Until recently, the facility was supported by a council subsidy. This funding has been withdrawn and reallocated to other council projects. The Our Local Gym committee has called an emergency meeting for members of the gym to vote on a proposal to keep the facilities operating.

The chair of the Our Local Gym committee, Sandy Gestalt, presented the following speech with accompanying slides.

Thank you for attending this emergency meeting to vote on the future of Our Local Gym. We find ourselves in an uncomfortable position, but as a group of people who have worked together – worked out together – for years, we know that together we can save Our Local Gym, and ensure its future.

Before we move on to possible solutions to our situation, I want to acknowledge the history and the value of Our Local Gym to both you, our members, and to the wider community. Our Local Gym has been in operation for 47 years. We built it from scratch with council support, local fundraisers and fees from you, our members. We have, for years, been a safe space for all people, and for the young and young-at-heart. This space is where you have built your fitness, your strength and your confidence. While larger commercial gyms have flourished, they cater for a different clientele – for people who perhaps are looking for a more competitive place to achieve their fitness goals. People who flock like moths to the flame to shiny new equipment, giant flatscreen TVs, obnoxiously loud music, matching athleisure wear – and who love posting gym selfies on their socials. But Our Local Gym has never been that; we just provide an opportunity for anyone to experience success at any level of fitness. At Our Local, we value acceptance for all bodies and all fitness journeys. We train for life.

However, we have recently lost the annual council grant we have relied on for decades to keep Our Local open. As you know, we tried to appeal to the council to reverse its decision but, unfortunately, we missed the deadline and the funding has already been reallocated. The council grant was important to Our Local for two reasons: it supported the maintenance of our building and it enabled us to keep our fees low, in line with the needs and lived experience of our community.

In seeking alternative funding, we have considered a series of bleak options: raising admission costs beyond what our community (including young families, refugees and seniors) can afford; privatising the fitness centre; or closing the facility entirely and watching Our Local be demolished and turned into a carpark.

But we have found another option. A lifeline.



We have been approached by a company about the neglected shopfront on the south side of our building. This group sees real potential in the vintage, grassroots community vibe of our building.

The proposal includes an agreement that they will upgrade the shopfront at their expense, and they will pay us rent, which will cover what we have lost in the council grant. This will guarantee Our Local Gym's low membership and admission fees, and may even leave extra funds for upgrades.

The group is Long Live Lollies.

Long Live Lollies is a popular confectionery company. You might be familiar with this brand – they sell lollies at reasonable prices in a retro-themed shop. Recently, their own lease has been terminated. This offers us a chance for a win-win situation.

Clearly, while this proposal solves our immediate financial problems, it does present challenges. Our Local Gym and Long Live Lollies do not, at first glance, share much in terms of values. Our Local offers education about nutrition and the best fuel for our bodies and supports members of the community for whom fitness can feel out of reach, while Long Live Lollies sells foods with limited nutritional benefit. There is no doubt that bringing these two businesses together in one building presents a serious clash.

Taking into account this clash of purposes – we are for community and they are for profit – I want to make it clear why we support this proposed partnership. The first is – unsurprisingly – money. Long Live Lollies have been nothing but a sweet delight to work with. They understand our dire financial position, offering us up-front rent payments that will keep the lights on and the doors open. They are keen to see our gym thrive and be part of the Our Local Gym community. So they will also pay for gym memberships for their employees – a concrete gesture that shows their support. The second: while eating lollies excessively isn't great, the occasional treat, or sugar hit, can be a joy. At Our Local, we know that fun and laughter are as important to our health as regular exercise.

This partnership can bring colour and deliciousness to our doorstep. And so, we hope that a new community will be enticed to Our Local. Perhaps parents who don't know we exist will take their children to buy treats from Long Live Lollies, discover us – and join up! We don't have the advertising budget of large commercial gyms. This is an opportunity to broaden our reach by tapping in to the customer base and marketing expertise of Long Live Lollies.



Before we vote, remember that we are not just voting for ourselves. We are voting for the many who cannot attend tonight and for those we hope to reach in the future. This is the only viable solution, and we as a community understand the need for compromise. To save Our Local Gym – this wonderful place where we all get so much for our bodies and souls – we will need to bend and stretch some uncomfortable and perhaps stiff muscles. It will not be perfect but, if we can make it work, it will allow our imperfect community to flourish.