

THE COMET

Journal of the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League, Qld. Inc.

OPINION PIECE

With the advent of another scooter company being granted the right to supply e-scooters onto the footpaths of Brisbane, pedestrians appear to be the forgotten ones in the overall picture.

So now we have a battle of the Orange and the Green on the streets and footpaths of Brisbane.

It amazes me how the riders of these seemingly popular scooters get away with blatant acts of rule breaking as well as a total disregard for the safety of pedestrians!

Perhaps they believe that there are no rules. Perhaps they treat the rest of us with contempt.

I am up in years, relatively fleet footed and most times can side step out of their path. However, many cannot.

I cannot understand why these scooters are not "parked" properly at some sort of "station" and not left standing in various places which impede the paths of pedestrians. These machines are left near traffic lights; near corners - street corners - in paths of pedestrians and from one end of the city to outer suburbs.

The overstocked number of push bikes are all on their "parking stations", so why shouldn't e-scooters also be responsibly parked?

An alarming rule is that an e-scooter is allowed to travel at a rate of 25 kph on footpaths!

25kph per hour and shared by all pedestrians? I wonder how many near misses are not reported.

From a web page:-

**** You're not legally required to wear a helmet when using human-powered wheeled recreational devices. However, a helmet is required if the foot scooter has an electric motor. To reduce injuries you should wear protective clothing such as an approved helmet, knee and elbow pads, and wrist guards.***

A problem has been created which has to be looked into. To those in Council, please spare a thought for pedestrians.

I predict that a large number of these items will be found in the river as a small number of users always do the wrong thing.

Segways, when they were introduced to the public several years ago, were predicted to be a threat to the safety of pedestrians. However, nothing has eventuated regarding these machines to warrant as much concern as what we have with some irresponsible e-scooter riders.

The main source of trouble is when in-experienced risers use these types of personal transport.

I will include an Opinion Piece from any readers out there who would like to raise a matter which may concern all. Email comet@apsl.com.au Editor

APSL Mission Statement

To lobby powerfully with governments at all levels and private sector agencies, and within community sector, to promote all aspects of the security, well being and dignity of pensioners of all ages, superannuants, other self-funded retirees, low income families and other disadvantaged people, including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) peoples.

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The Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Qld, Inc. (APSL) provides advocacy and support services to pensioners and superannuants in Queensland.

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Services Directory

Commonwealth Government Directory

Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1300 366 700
Aust. Competition & Consumer Commission	1300 302 502
Australian Hearing	131 797
Aust. Securities & Investment Commission	07 3867 4700
Aust. Taxation Office	132 861
Centrelink (Older Australians line)	132 300
Child Support Agency	131 272
Commonwealth Respite and Life Flight Centre	1800 052 222
CRS (Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services) -	
Human Services	1800 277 227
Family Court of Australia	1300 352 000
Home & Community Care (65+ years)	1800 200 422
Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Comm.	1300 369 711
Immigration & Border Protection Department	131 881
Medicare	132 011
Migration Review Tribunal	1300 361 969
National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	
Legal Services	1800 012 255
Pharmaceutical Benefit's Scheme	1800 020 613
Private Health Insurance Complaints	1800 077 308
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	1800 640 695
Translating & Interpreting Service	1300 655 820
Veteran's Affairs Department	133 254

Queensland State Government Directory

Anti-Discrimination Commission	1300 130 670
Department of Communities	137 468
Department of Energy & Water Supply	
Electricity & Gas	134 387
Water	137 468
Energy & Water Ombudsman	1800 662 837
Health Ombudsmen	133 646
Legal Aid Qld	1300 651 188
Office of Fair Trading	137 468
Public Guardian (Adults & Children)	1300 653 187
Public Trustee	1300 360 044
Qld Competition Authority	07 3222 0555
Qld Ombudsman's Office	1800 068 908
Residential Tenancies Authority	1300 366 311
Safe Food Queensland	1800 300 815
Senior's Advocacy Information	
& Legal Services (SAILS)	07 3214 6333
Senior's Card	13 74 68
Senior's Enquiry	1300 135 500
Senior's Legal & Support Service	
Brisbane	07 3214 6333
Cairns	07 4031 7179
Hervey Bay	07 4124 6863
Toowoomba	07 4616 9700
Townsville	07 4721 5511
State Emergency Service Office	13 74 68
Youth & Family Support Service	07 3274 9917

Community Support Services Service Directory

Domestic Violence Crisis Line	1800 811 811
Immigrant Women's Support Service	07 3846 3490
	07 3255 1420
Qld Aged & Disability Advocacy	1800 818 338
Seniors & Go Card	13 74 68
Senior Shopper	1300 360 265
Sexual Assault Help Line	1800 811 811
South Brisbane Immigration & Community	
Legal Service	07 3846 3189
The Incapacitated Servicemen	
& Women's Assoc. of Aust	07 3356 9022
Women's legal Service	07 3392 0670
National Welfare Rights Network	1800 358 511

Department of Health Service Directory

Department of Health	1343 2584
Health Services Info Line	07 3837 5986
Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme	1300 443 570
My Aged Care	1800 200 422
Police link Queensland Police (non-urgent)	131 444
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000

Advertisers



JULY 2019

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Contact APSL State Office to enquire about membership. Check with Head Office as to the name of the Branch nearest to you.

APSL—YOUR VOICE!



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

As the time draws nearer to our State Conference, I would like to remind members that **all** paperwork (Credential Forms; Planner orders; Agenda Items and so on) and payments for meals must be lodged with Head Office **by** July 12.

Agenda items play an important part of the State Conference, so please send them in as soon as you are able. Remember to research the subject and add your arguments/reasons with the Agenda Items.

All are acted upon and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

Every branch has received full details of accommodation; meals (please advise if Dietary needs are required.) Branches are responsible for booking their own accommodation.

You may think it strange to include an Opinion Piece on the front page.

By so doing, I feel I am drawing you to the fact that I am inviting readers to “get something off their chest” which you feel may be of interest to all readers.

You may have an issue with a statutory body regarding pensions or a consumer body regarding a product. Government departments, State or Federal also provide fodder for complaints.

Please let us know what annoys you or is worrying you. Perhaps we can do something to help you out.

Our Motto is APSL—*Your Voice*.

*On a sad note, I have to inform fellow members that the Babinda Branch has lost two of their long serving members. **Gladys Jones** who joined the branch in the 1990's passed away suddenly in April.*

Gladys never missed a meeting unless there was a reason for her being away.

Rene Herlily also joined the branch in the early 1990's and passed away in December. Rene loved

attending the meetings and always looked forward to attending the Christmas Luncheon.

Babinda Branch Secretary, Beryl Ball said that both deaths came as a shock to fellow members and also said that they just maybe holding meetings in Heaven.

Many members are fighting Winter ills and chills. Until next time, please keep safe and warm.

Cherith Weis

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WITH

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Driver Attitude

It has been a very tragic time on Queensland roads when there have been many lives lost in such a short time.

I have seen many poor decisions made by drivers in the last few weeks and I have to ask the question why?

Why do some drivers use their vehicles as weapons to intimidate or push other drivers off the road?

Why do some drivers speed up to intersections and don't bother to scan, and with the luck of grace don't hit anyone at the wrong time or place?

Is it a poor driver attitude that is being reflected by a poor attitude against society, or is it a suicidal tendency because of severe stresses in daily life?

No one knows, however a tragic incident involving a mother and 4 children having a head on with a truck This resulted in their deaths and with crash investigations revealing that no attempt of braking by the mother and a suicide note being found near the crash scene, makes you wonder.

Every day that you go for a drive on our roads, you are taking a risk against having a collision with a driver that has a poor attitude against everyone in our community and it is so important that we all stay alert and drive defensively.

The most important thing to realize is that a motor vehicle that weighs over 1.5 tons has the potential to kill people, if the driver has a poor

attitude towards other people and drives recklessly.

What can you do to minimize risks from I impatient, reckless drivers?

The most important thing is to be constantly aware of your surroundings, check your rear view mirror often, shoulder check before making lane changes or moving out into traffic, try and anticipate the other drivers actions and reduce speed when necessary.

Keep to the left at all times where practical and if you feel intimidated, pull over and let any impatient driver pass to reduce the risk of an incident.

At the end of the day, we all want to return home safely to our families and it is important to remember to be a defensive driver and reduce risks of an incident at all times by being alert.

If you have had an emotional incident with family, an employer or a close friend, please consider that you don't take your anger out onto the roads and put your life and other innocent lives at risk because of an unsatisfactory moment in your life?

Your attitude will determine your altitude in life, stay positive when driving and flush any negative experiences.

Please check out Leyland's website

www.evolutionintraining.com.au/roadrules

Absentee Land Tax deleted from budget

When I opened my emails on the morning after the State Budget was brought down—2 emails greeted me. This is one of them.

"I wish to convey my deep gratitude to you and your organisation for taking up the cause to protest against the Absentee Surcharge against Australian citizens. As I have found out today, the QLD Budget has removed Australian citizens as being classified as Absentees from 1 July 2019.

I believe the continual pressure from our campaigning, complaints, media, your newsletters and proposed contact with Members of Parliament has pressured Treasurer Jackie Trad with Premier Palaszczuk to amend this pernicious piece of legislation.

I congratulate you on your efforts to help us, which in turn has helped countless retirees to continue to be able to enjoy extended overseas trips away without the fear and anxiety of receiving a financially devastating. Take care and God bless!"

—oOo—

I woke up to the news, that in the State budget, QLD is exempting expat Australian citizens from being lumped in with foreign investors and corporations when it comes to land tax, this of course, includes retirees taking extended holidays or retiring overseas. (from July 1).

This also brings QLD into line with all other states.

I just want to thank you, you supported our cause from day one, mobilized action on it and kept everyone informed. I really do appreciate your support, and quite unbelievably, the result has been a good one for people like myself, Tyson and all Australian retirees.

A truly grateful thank you to you and your organization, you've helped make a huge difference. I will write a similar letter to your publication to express my personal thanks and announce the victory!"

—ooOoo—

COMBUSTIBLE CLADDING

On March 28, 2019, Lucy Stone from The Brisbane Times wrote an article on Flammable Cladding in Queensland. In her article, she stated that more than 18,000 buildings have been registered on line as part of the State Government's efforts to remove dangerous combustible cladding from apartment buildings and office blocks.

In September 2017, flammable cladding was found on five Queensland government buildings including the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Logan Hospital a Queensland Rail Building in Brisbane and the form Children's Court on Quay Street.

Apparently in some cases remediation work has been done, but it would be interesting to know just how many and how many are still on the waiting list.

This matter at an APSL State Conference several years ago and the matter should once again come under scrutiny.

Also the appalling circumstances that residents have been met with at the Mascot Building in Sydney is probably only the tip of the iceberg. Trends to safe apartment living are now being questioned.



Toowoomba Residents!

*Would you like to help in the fight for a better deal
for pensioners and superannuants?*

*Interest has been shown in the re-establishment of a branch in
Toowoomba - So why not be involved?*

Please feel free to contact our West End Office

Phone 07 5434 5878 or Mobile 0432 295 344.

Free Computer lessons

APSL HEAD OFFICE

174-176 Boundary Street.

West End.

Mondays and Thursdays

Book with Gabriela or Roger,

Phone 3844 5878.

Kurilpa Kitchen

2 course meals

Monday & Thursday

Cost \$8.00



*Seniors'
Luncheon*

The Comet needs your contributions! Send all Comet articles to comet@apsl.com.au
Please phone/text me on
0432 295 344.

Check out our website

www.apsl.com.au



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By "Liking us", you show
support for The Comet!

BE CONNECTED AT KURILPA HALL

by Anneliese Tolbert

There are ongoing efforts to enhance and expand the existing computer help being offered for seniors at our centre in West End.

Our volunteers are enthusiastic and passionate about sharing their knowledge for the benefit of frail aged clients. This is another way in which the Kurilpa Kitchen project is advancing its goal to help older Australians in the area to remain independent and active in their communities.

*To this end, a second volunteer, Roger Arnaud, has joined the lovely Gabriella as a Digital Mentor under our **Be Connected** network partnership program. A grant from **Be Connected** helps to fund new computer devices, learning materials and marketing campaigns to promote our computer tutorials and help sessions. We received a further \$1,500 grant to finance a special community engagement event aiming to spread the word and entice new service users to socialise, learn, and enjoy a fresh and tasty meal at our centre.*

*The event is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2019 at Kurilpa Hall, featuring games, prizes, and a special guest speaker. Accomplished genealogist, biochemist and author, **Helen V. Smith** has confirmed she will give a brief talk about how to utilise free online tools to research your family history. Helen is a well-known and frequent speaker with several publications to her name. We are really looking forward to having her at our venue and enjoying a stimulating presentation.*

A further grant has been awarded to the APSL to put on a seniors' art exhibition and luncheon for Seniors' Week in August. The plans are underway to make it a very special day, with a raffle, musical entertainment and another fabulous lunch cooked by our Chef, Craig.

Would you like to become more confident using your laptop, tablet or smart phone?

You can learn more about:

Services & Information – finding, storing and protecting

Communication– interacting, collaborating, and sharing online

Transactions – online banking, buying and selling goods and services

Problem- solving - accessing tutorials to build new skills, finding internet support groups to solve common problems, accessing tech support online

Creativity– writing, photography, music and video





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Freebies include a continental breakfast, limited parking and Wi-Fi in common areas. Interconnecting rooms available. Guest laundry facilities. Overseas guests; families; group representatives and State-wide patients requiring medical attention have all enjoyed their stay at **Motel on Gregory**.

Free On-site Car Parking. **Free** Taxi phone. Airport shuttle contact which is renowned for reliable and punctual pick-up times. Brisbane Bus service at front entrance (321) to Queen Street terminus (CBD) at Post Office Square.

CONTACT DETAILS:

It is recommended that guests book directly with Motel on Gregory for a great deal for your stay
Phone 07 3026 1201

Email to stay@motelongregory.com.au Check out Motel on Gregory website
www.motelongregory.com.au

Meet Kay and Ross! Your hosts at Motel on Gregory



RSPCA NEWS

CUP CAKE DAY

If you love to bake, or enjoy a good party, why not celebrate this August for a great cause?

Every year the RSPCA's Cupcake Day (or Patty Cake Day if you prefer) is held in August to raise vital funds for animals in need.

This year is no different with people right across Australia taking part to host their own morning tea or gathering to raise some 'dough'. You don't have to consider yourself a Master-Chef to take part either!

Your baking skills may even be a bit more adventurous and unusual like Mrs Cropley from the Vicar of Dibley, and that's purr-fectly fine.

The reason fundraising events like Cupcake Day are so important is to ensure animals like Luna here can get a second chance.

Luna's story is awful. She was abused as a kitten but survived. She's since gone on to find a loving, new family and the RSPCA brought the offender to justice

Prosecuting people who neglect and abuse animals in their care takes time, valuable resources and money. So every dollar raised for RSPCA Cupcake Day helps.

When Luna came into the RSPCA, veterinarians found that she had breathing difficulties and was non-weight bearing on her right hind limb.

Radiographs showed that Luna had sustained a fracture to her right hip and had a collapsed lung. Despite her horrific injuries, Luna was in good hands.

It would take months for Luna to completely recover from her ordeal, but she was a little fighter and pulled through!

RSPCA Queensland is 96 percent funded by the community.

If you'd like to get involved in RSPCA Cupcake Day and help pets like Luna get the care they need, visit rspcacupcakeday.com.au for more information.



**“YOUR SUP-
PAWT
HELPS!”**

RSPCA 
Queensland

BRANCH NEWS

North Rockhampton Branch holds Indoor Bowls every Wednesday at Bauhinia House. The popular morning attracts many keen bowlers.

Pictured are (standing) President Dawn Dobby; seated left to right—Maisie Hammond Snr Vice President; Secretary Dell Waite and Treasurer Pauline Jasperson.



Gracemere Branch. At the June 24th meeting, Rockhampton Regional Councillor Ellen Smith brought members up-to-date with the number of projects being carried in the town and district.

The Branch will hold their Annual Meeting on July 29 in the Gracemere Community Centre. A general meeting will follow.

Members will then enjoy a lunch at the local Hotel.

Gracemere Branch.

President Desiree Reynolds chats with President of the Gracemere Community Voice, Peter Priem - a local organisation looking after ratepayers' interests within the town and its boundaries. On top of the needs list for Gracemere is a High School; a cause in which both organisations have been deeply involved.



Kurilpa Branch.

APSL is happy to announce the formation of the Kurilpa Branch which is based at 174 Boundary Street, West End.

Several meetings were held to discuss forming a branch and we are happy to announce the go-ahead has been made by members. The branch officially met on Monday July 1.

President: Mr. Barry Ramsay
Secretary: Dr. Denise Boland
Treasurer: Ms. Anne Collins.

“The Ten Cannots”

Rev. William J. H. Boetcker

1. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
2. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
3. You cannot help little men by tearing down big men.
4. You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
5. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
6. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.
7. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
8. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.
9. You cannot build character and courage by destroying men's initiative and independence.
10. And you cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they can and should do for themselves.

Message to Branches

This space box is provided to insert your Branch contact details when you leave The Comet at Doctors' Surgeries /Libraries and so on



CODE of ETHICS and PERSONAL CONDUCT

The Australian Pensioners' & Superannuants' League (Qld) Inc.

Be patient and courteous in all dealings with fellow members.

Be inclusive - Members to welcome and support people of all backgrounds and identities and discriminate against no one.

Be considerate - Each member should respect fellow pensioners and superannuants. Our decisions and comments will affect our fellow members, therefore we must always take this into consideration.

Be respectful - Each member may not agree all the time, but disagreement is no excuse for disrespectful behaviour. Each member may experience frustration from time to time, but we cannot allow this to become a personal attack. An environment where people feel uncomfortable or threatened is not productive or creative and not in the best interest of The League.

Choose your words carefully - Always conduct yourself professionally. Harassment and exclusionary behaviour is not acceptable in The League. Differences of opinion and disagreement will occur, each member must resolve and disagreements and differing views constructively and respectfully.

Our differences can be our strengths - Members can find strength in diversity. Different people have varying perspectives on issues, and that can be valuable for solving problems or generating new ideas for the betterment of The League.