



# THE COMET

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

## JOYRIDING? OR JUST PLAIN THEFT?

**THE LEGAL DEFINITION:** *Unlawful taking of an automobile without the consent of the owner, without intent to deprive owner permanently of the vehicle. Joyriding is a criminal wrong. Also referred to as Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile (UDAA) and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle.*

*Joyriding refers to driving or riding in a stolen vehicle, most commonly a car, with no particular goal other than the pleasure or thrill of doing so or to impress other people. The term "Joy Riding" was coined by a New York judge in 1908.*

*Joyriders often act opportunistically and choose easy targets (key-on-ignition while shopping, neighbour's car...) Like other car thieves, they can also gain access to locked cars with a flat-head screwdriver and a slide hammer, although modern cars have systems to prevent a screwdriver from opening locks. From Wikipedia web site.*

Modern day cars are harder to steal so the wrong-doers regularly commit "break-in" offences to homes and steal car keys which are usually in plain sight. For instance, keys thrown on kitchen benches or hanging on key racks are an immediate temptation for these criminals.

Although the records may say that, and I quote 'Joyriders often act opportunistically or for the thrill of trying to impress other people', the results in Queensland are quite different. Vehicles which are the second most expensive purchase of residents during their lives, most times find their cars written off in disastrous crashes. Dangerous driving has caused death; injuries to others or themselves, or after their dangerous driving exploits callously destroy the victim's by setting fire to property which isn't their own.

We have often seen stolen vehicles brought to a halt on TV News broadcasts. From a NINE News report in 2015....*the offender began driving erratically through suburbs in the south of the city, refusing to stop for police and ignoring spikes and stingers thrown at the wheels of the car by officers.*

The owners in those cases may have the "pleasure" of retrieving their vehicles but face a huge expense for tyres and any mechanical damage caused by the stingers.

Vehicle owners must be vigilant; don't hang their car keys on key racks in plain sight or throw them on kitchen benches. Hide them overnight. Break-in offences lead to the theft of vehicle keys and in some cases, sleeping residents have lost more than one vehicle.

- **The Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League calls on those politicians who are responsible for setting the legislation to call it out for what it is. STEALING. We also call on all Media outlets to drop the "Joyriding" terminology and use Vehicle stealing in all coverage of such stories.**

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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



MARCH 2022

P 1 JOY RIDING—NOT

P2 Information

P3 Editorial

P4 UKRAINE

P5 UKRAINE

P6 Anne Ring Article

P7 Qld Health Advice

P8 Misleading pricing

F9 Road Safety with Leyland

P10 EAC report plus

P 11 Pits and pieces

P 12 Branches.Gympie flooding

P 13 RSPCA

P 14 RSPCA

P 15 Word of the month

P16 CODE OF CONDUCT

Contact APSL State Office to enquire about membership and a branch near you. You can still contact Head Office on the usual number.

**APSL — MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

**A MEMBER OF THE EVERYAGE COUNTS COALITION OF ORGANISATIONS**





## EDITORIAL WITH CHERITH WEIS



Dear Readers

Firstly, I have to apologise for the lateness of this edition, but due to a number of unforeseen circumstances beyond my control, I'm sure you will forgive me.

I am forever asking for feedback and once again I ask you to send in your thoughts. Many say - I love the read and your work. However, I would like to hear what you think about certain issues.

You can remain anonymous although I cannot **and for goodness sake, LIKE us on Facebook!**

Now for happenings over the past month:-

- *Russia's invasion of Ukraine which is the greatest threat to World peace that we have seen in our lifetime or at least since World War 2. Yes, we had the Cuban Missile Crisis and a number of wars since then but this one is a worry. I do not apologise for the inclusion of content in favour of Ukraine. I could not believe that the Russian leader claimed this morning that he could control the International Space Station among other insane threats and claims about Ukraine having chemical weapons. Remember—the first casualty in war, is TRUTH!*
- *The massive flooding down the Eastern Coast line and loss of lives and property. Mass numbers of properties; businesses; homes; cars and white goods ruined by the flood water. New cars and white goods were in short supply before the floods and it will mean a long wait for some to be replaced. There were shortages in Australia before the flood as I personally found out. The thought of the rise in cost of household and property insurance following this event, is definitely scary. Home prices were ballooning out and now, quite the opposite will probably be experienced as flood records will be listed against those who never before had experience a deluge like this one. APSL extends their sympathy to those who*

have lost property or suffered severe damage during this flood.

- The horrible occurrences of Domestic Violence incidents have continued to shock communities, and in areas where flooding has hit housing, availability of emergency housing will be hard to find.

In closing, APSL extends sincere condolences to North Rockhampton Branch Centenarian, Maisie Hammond who lost her son Brian last month. Maisie's daughter, Gail passed away prior to Christmas last year. Our love and thoughts go out to Maisie.

*Cherith Weis*

## Every life is an amazing story

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# PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,  
who change the hardened heart  
and break the power of violence,  
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;  
let them know not death but life,  
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;  
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength  
to live that truth in love,  
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Australian Catholic  
Bishops Conference

# UKRAINE

**Ukraine**, Country, eastern Europe. Area: 233,032 sq mi (603,549 sq km). Population: (2021 est.) 43,879,000. Capital: Kyiv (Kiev). Ukrainians make up more than three-fourths of the population of Ukraine; there is a significant minority of Russians. Languages: Ukrainian (official), Russian, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian, Belarusian, Bulgarian. Religions: Christianity (mostly Eastern Orthodox; also other Christians, Roman Catholic, Protestant), Islam. Currency: hryvnya.

Ukraine consists of level plains and the Carpathian Mountains, which extend through the western region for more than 150 mi (240 km). The Dnieper (Dnipro), Southern Buh (Pivdenny Buh), Donets, and Dniester (Dnistro) are the major rivers. The Donets Basin in the east-central region is one of the major heavy-industrial and mining-metallurgical complexes of Europe. There iron ore and coal are mined, and natural gas, petroleum, iron, and steel are produced. Ukraine is a major producer of winter wheat and sugar beets.

Ukraine is a unitary multiparty republic with one legislative body; its head of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Different parts of the area that is today Ukraine were invaded and occupied in the 1st millennium BCE by the Cimmerians, Scythians, and Sarmatians and in the 1st millennium CE by the Goths, Huns, Bulgars, Avars, Khazars, and Magyars (Hungarians). Slavic tribes settled there after the 4th century. Kyiv was the chief town. The Mongol conquest in the mid-13th century decisively ended Kyivan power. From the 14th to the 18th century, portions of Ukraine were ruled by Lithuania, Poland, and Russia. In addition, Cossacks controlled a largely self-governing territory known as the Hetmanate. Most of Ukraine fell to Russian rule in the 18th century.

In the aftermath of World War I and the Russian Revolution of 1917, most of the Ukrainian region became a republic of the Soviet Union, though parts of western Ukraine were divided between Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia. Ukraine suffered a severe famine, called the Holodomor, in 1932–33 under Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. Overrun by Axis armies in 1941 during World War II, Ukraine was further devastated before being retaken by the Soviets in 1944. By the end of the war, the borders of the Ukrainian S.S.R. had been redrawn to include the western Ukrainian territories.

Ukraine was the site of the 1986 Chernobyl accident at a Soviet-built nuclear power plant. In 1991 Ukraine declared independence. The turmoil it experienced in the 1990s as it attempted to implement economic and political reforms culminated in the disputed presidential election of 2004; mass protests over the results came to be known as the Orange Revolution. The effects of the revolution were short-lived, however, and the country remained divided along regional and ethnic lines. Another mass protest movement—this one centred on Kyiv’s Maidan (Independence Square)—toppled the government in 2014. As the interim government struggled to resolve the country’s dire economic situation, Russian troops occupied the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea. Shortly thereafter, in March 2014, Crimea declared independence from Ukraine and was annexed by Russia. Fighting between pro-Russian separatist militias and Ukrainian government forces remained ongoing in eastern Ukraine. In late 2021 Russia began a military build-up along its border with Ukraine, and in February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine.

From the Britannica website.

***Once again, we in the Southern Hemisphere are witness to the horrors of war. This time, in Ukraine. History shows that the stability of this region is again under attack by a super power as it was in the Crimean War which had begun in October 1853. The war lasted eighteen months and in that time escalated into a series of fragmented battles and sieges, causing huge loss of life and highlighting wider issues and failures pertaining to leadership, military intervention, mortality rates, medicine and mismanagement. This is a fertile country which successfully produces many agricultural products and is rich in many types of minerals.***



## TREASURED OBJECTS MEMORIALISED

By Anne Ring

### **What to do when you've got more treasured items than your children can take over**

There are some people whose homes are filled with items that they love, inherited from their parents, collected in their own travels, interesting purchases, precious gifts. Just so much stuff. We are certainly amongst those people. And we're old enough that our children have long set up their own homes, and accumulated so much of their own stuff that they won't have room for all of ours, even if our treasures were to their tastes. Which, in many cases, they're not.

We could downsize now, and spare them the trouble. But we like being surrounded by all of these items, far too much to do that. So, is there anything else that we could do to help our offspring to deal with them when the time comes that they'll have to? When, not to mince words, we're both dead.

That's something that I've been pondering. And the pondering has been worthwhile as I've come up with a solution that meets with their approval, and even enthusiasm. In case others might also find it to be a useful idea, here it is. Essentially, I realised that there are some items that are special in some way, over and above the motley. The ways in which they're special vary. They include items with some sort of personal historic value. For example, my parents migrated from Hungary via China, and there are some items that they brought here with them, that I grew up with. There are some items that we ourselves have collected in times past, that are linked with special memories. Some items stand out in our eyes as they are actually valuable in dollar terms, and could easily be missed amongst other items around them that are not. Also, we have a *lot* of carpets. Some of them, similarly in some way or another, are worth more than others, to help in deciding which ones to keep amongst similar-looking ones.

As someone who loves both writing and photography, what I realised that I could do is to photograph each of those special items, and put them in a catalogue, each with a short account of their story. Each of our family – children and grandchildren – will get a copy of this catalogue, which can be seen as having a dual purpose. On the one hand, it could help to guide their choices as to what they might want to keep, or not. And, on the other, whether or not they keep any of the items, through this collection they would anyway have what could be seen as a sort of partial, cherry-picked and illustrated memoir of aspects of our lives, and those of our parents.

Not only do our children like this idea, but – having now started taking those photos – I'm finding it to be nostalgic fun. And possibly an approach of interest to some others in the same boat. In which case, happy sailing!

*Anne Ring* ©2022

## OFFICIAL ADVICE FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT HEALTH WEBSITE

### How to isolate

If you get COVID-19, you will need to isolate yourself.

This is to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 to other people.

In most cases, you will be able to isolate in your own home.

If your home is not suitable, we can help you isolate somewhere else, like a hotel.

#### **Quarantine is different to isolation.**

If you are a close contact, read about how to quarantine.

Stay at home

You must not leave your home or accommodation.

**You can only leave your home for emergency situations like:**

- going to a hospital for urgent medical care
- escaping harm or risk, including sexual or domestic and family violence
- in an emergency or disaster, such as a fire or flood.

If you are leaving isolation for these very limited reasons, you must wear a mask. Now amended—to be worn in public transport, airports and hospitals, etc.

**If you can't isolate at your home**

**You may not be able to isolate at home if you:**

- are travelling and don't have a home in Queensland
- live in a share-house

- live with vulnerable or elderly people that you can't live with while you have COVID-19.

If you need help finding suitable accommodation, please call 134 COVID (13 42 68).

If you live within safe travelling distance of where you currently are, you may be able to travel home and complete your isolation there.

Monitor your symptoms

Read about managing your symptoms at home and what to do if you get sicker.

Reduce the chance of spread to people you live with

**You need to take steps to protect others from getting COVID-19. The people you live with, or care givers that visit you, should also follow some of these steps to protect themselves.**

.....

### Avoid spreading Covid

Do not allow anyone to visit your home, unless it's for emergency, medical, or other essential care. That may include home care workers and nurses. You need to tell them you have COVID-19 before they arrive so they can prepare themselves to look after you.

If you live with an elderly person or someone with a compromised immune system or chronic illness, such as asthma or diabetes, they should stay elsewhere if they are able to. This is because they are at greater risk of being very sick if they get COVID-19.

As much as possible, you should stay away from other people you live with. This may include keeping 1.5 meters away from them, sleeping in a separate room and using a separate bathroom. Avoid shared areas, and avoid close contact with others, including touching, kissing, hugging and other intimate contact.

## MISLEADING PRICING ON SUPERMARKET SHELVES

There are laws about the way prices are displayed. Prices should be genuine and you should be able to easily see the total price of anything advertised. If multiple different prices are displayed on a product or in advertising, the business has to fix the display or sell you the item for the lowest price.

### Single pricing

When prices are advertised or promoted, products and services must clearly display a 'single price', which is the minimum total cost that is able to be calculated. This should include: all taxes, duties and extra fees the price of all aspects of the final product and service.

From 26 October 2019, the single price should include any optional fees or charges pre-selected during booking or purchase, unless and until you de-select them.

### Misleading prices may include:

- a 'before', 'was' or 'strike through' price that is not the price those items were sold for in a reasonable period immediately before the sale period started
- a 'before', 'was' or 'strike through' price where only a limited proportion of sales were at the higher price in a reasonable period immediately before the sale period started
- a comparison between 'cost/wholesale' and 'sale' prices if the 'cost/wholesale' price is greater than what the business paid for the products
- a price comparison with a competitor's price for identical goods, but the stated price is taken from a different market or geographical location
- 'savings' or 'discount' statements when compared to the recommended retail price (RRP), but the goods have never been sold at the RRP or the RRP does not reflect a current market price.

### Businesses may also mislead consumers about prices if they:

- promote a 'sale' or 'special' price which is not in fact a temporary sale price, thus creating an unwarranted sense of urgency to make an immediate purchase
- represent that an advertised price is the total price that you will have to pay when it is not.

### For consumers

- Not sure about your consumer rights? Try checking our Consumers section.

Find answers to frequently asked questions about your rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, including changes to services or cancellations caused by restrictions.

### If you still have a question or concern you can: Make an enquiry or Report a consumer issue

Call the ACCC on 1300 302 502 - Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm AEST/AEDT, closed national public holidays. (Information from the ACCC website)

Check out the ACCC website. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

*(A number of our members have noticed that some Supermarkets are placing a special price tags on shelves. In fine print, the tag does bear a date as to how long it has been that price, but who takes time to use a magnifying glass to read it. It's about time this practice was discontinued.)*





# ROAD SAFETY

## With LEYLAND BARNETT

### Rising Road Toll

A WIN news report 17/2 stated that our road toll hit 40 since January 1st this year, with 5 people killed in just the past 48 hours. The start to this year is breaking previous road toll records.

What can be done to reduce the rising road toll?

Does the community need; heavier fines and punishment; more police presence and law enforcement; better training in car control and road rules or a change in licensing regulations?

Something needs to be done urgently to stop the deaths and carnage on our roads from rising as everyone wishes to return home safely to their loved ones.

The amount of bad driving that I have seen in recent months is beyond belief; people still using mobile phones despite risking a 1000 dollar fine while driving; people driving through intersections facing a clear red light; people failing to stop for stop signs; people speeding through road works and school zones and people totally ignoring road rules such as giving way to the right at uncontrolled cross roads and giving way while doing a u turn.

Only yesterday, I witnessed a driver, too impatient to check if the intersection ahead was safe to move into and ended up driving head on into a line of oncoming traffic near the TCC on the Bruce Highway. It is about time that some of these drivers face a reality check; a 4wd is not an army tank that can be driven head on into traffic without repercussions.

Please plan ahead while driving and remain alert s you don't know what could be coming around the corner; a stolen car perhaps doing 100 in a 60 zone.

I have had another incident recently where a driver used a turning lane, to overtake on a multi-lane round-



about which is extremely dangerous behavior.

#### 147 Moving from 1 marked lane to another marked



#### lane across a continuous line separating the lanes

) A driver on a multi-lane road must not move from 1 marked lane to another marked lane by crossing a continuous line separating the lanes unless—

(a) the driver is avoiding an obstruction; or

(b) the driver is obeying a traffic control device applying to the first marked lane; or

(c) the driver is permitted to drive in both marked lanes

under subsection (2); or

(d) either of the marked lanes is a special purpose lane in which the driver is permitted

to drive under this regulation and the driver is moving to or from the special purpose lane.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

I believe that the road safety message is not getting through to some drivers and that tougher measures need to be looked at, to reduce the road toll and make our roads safer.



## Coalition Steering Group meeting 22 February

The EveryAGE Counts Coalition Steering Group is drawn from members of the EAC Coalition and provides governance to the campaign. **More information on the EveryAGE Counts Coalition Steering Group can be found on our website here** <https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/about>

**Items that the meeting covered include:** Ageism, Covid and Aged Care. Ageism is inherent in the failures that older people have experienced in the pandemic response, and the group discussed how we can more effectively counter this.

**Planning for 2022.** The EveryAGE Counts team presented campaign plans for the year ahead, including key 'campaign moments' to occur across the year. This first of these will start with the Global Rally for a Convention for the rights of older persons this Thursday (3 March), more details below.

**Human rights and ageism.** The protection of older people's human rights has featured strongly in EveryAGE Counts activity since the beginning of our EveryAGE Counts campaign. We will be taking this focus further in 2022, including the release of a new policy position statement and actively campaigning for Australian Government support for the International Convention for the human rights of older persons. Details of related activities that your organisation can participate in are included below.

**National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study.** The meeting heard from Rae Kaspiew, Deputy Director, Research with the Australian Institute of Family Studies on the first National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study. You can find more information here <https://aifs.gov.au/projects/national-elder-abuse-prevalence-study>

### EveryAGE Counts campaign events for 2022

Thursday (3 March) is the Global Rally for an International Convention for the Rights of Older Persons. As members of the EveryAGE Counts campaign, we encourage your organisation to participate on 3 March 2022 in the virtual Global Rally supporting the #AgeWithRights campaign, organised by GAROP (the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older People). Immediate actions you could take include:

- your own social media on the day using the wealth of resources at this Global Rally link
- you can also contact Levi Joule, our Social Media Specialist, at [levi@hortonadvisory.com.au](mailto:levi@hortonadvisory.com.au) if you would like to let him know that you will be active on social media on the day, so he can ensure that we share and promote your posts
- keep an eye on the EveryAGE Counts our Facebook page, Twitter account or LinkedIn in the lead up and on the day. You'll be able to share our posts and content produced for the day.

**Webinar on human rights and ageism.** Following on from the Global Rally we are organising a webinar on Australia's role in supporting an international convention for the rights of older persons. We are looking at a date in early April, please keep an eye out for more information as it arises.

**Ageism Awareness Day 2022 has been confirmed for 7 October.** More information is to come as planning progresses, and we look forward to liaising with your organisations through the EAC Comms Network on the planning and scheduling.

### EveryAGE Counts Advocates Training

We have completed the testing and review of the training materials, and are preparing for the first group to start the training. We've also been looking at opportunities to repurpose the materials to provide workshops for member organisations, or for you to reuse to develop your own anti-ageism training materials. If you'd like to have a chat about this project please get in touch, or register your interest in participating at [https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/advocates\\_training](https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/advocates_training)

### EveryAGE Counts Comms Network

A meeting of the EveryAGE Counts Comms Network is being organised from 10.30am March 16, to outline our campaign plan and key campaign events for 2022. Further details will be sent to Comms Network contacts.

## LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU; WEEP AND YOU WEEP ALONE

The owner & bartender, was so sure that he was the strongest man around, that he offered a standing \$1000 bet.

The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and then hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze two more drops of juice out of it would win the money.

Many people had tried, over the years: weight-lifters, longshoremen, football players etc., but nobody had ever been able to do it.

One day, this scrawny little fellow came into the bar, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit.

He sat down, ordered a glass of draft, & started looking around the bar.

After reading the sign on the wall about the lemon challenge, he said in a meek voice: "I was just reading your sign, and I'd like to try the bet."

After the laughter in the pub had died down, the bartender grabbed a lemon and squeezed the heck out of it.....Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little fellow.

The Crowd's laughter turned to total silence....as the man clenched his little fist around the lemon....and six drops fell into the glass.

As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the guy his \$1000, and then asked little man: "Do you mind if I ask what do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weight-lifter, or what?"

The little fellow quietly replied: no "No!

I work for the Australian Tax office!



ENGLISH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU DRIVE IN PARKWAYS AND PARK IN DRIVEWAYS.

IT'S ALSO THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU RECITE IN A PLAY AND PLAY IN A RECITAL.

YOUR FINGERS HAVE FINGERTIPS BUT YOUR TOES DON'T HAVE TOETIPS.

YET, YOU CAN TIPTOE BUT NOT TIFINGER.

THE WORD **QUEUE** IS JUST A **Q** FOLLOWED BY FOUR SILENT LETTERS.

JAIL AND PRISON ARE SYNONYMS. BUT **JAILER** AND **PRISONER** ARE ANTONYMS.

WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY CAR, IT'S CALLED A **SHIPMENT**. BUT WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY SHIP, IT'S CALLED **CARGO**.

## Life before Computers



Memory was something you lost with age



A program was a TV show



A keyboard looked like this



the web was made by a spider



A virus was only the flu



A hard drive was a long road trip

## BRANCH NEWS

***If any Branch has photos taken during flooding in their particular area, please send them into The Comet on comet@apsl.com.au. ASAP.***

**IMPORTANT!**

***When sending them, please remember that at this end there is work to be done. However, you can save me some work by "cropping" them - making sure that they are no bigger than 1 mb, and sent as an attachment (jpeg file) and one at a time, please. As I haven't received all of the branch reports, I will publish them in the April edition.***

## FLOODS

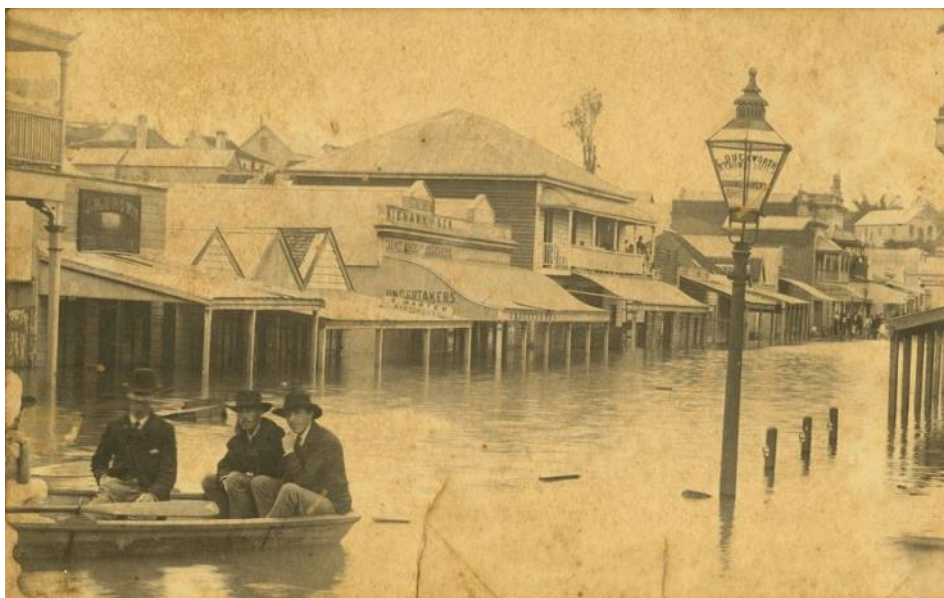
Who would have thought that the Eastern Coast would be bombarded with torrential rain and widespread flooding, which extended as far south as Sydney. Closer to home, Gympie was hammered and branch members affected. The impact on many residents and businesses will be experienced for a long time from this deluge. Residents will find that the replacement of white goods lost in the flood will not be easy as these products were in short supply prior to the flooding.

The availability of tradesmen will also be a huge problem when it comes to bringing housing back to normal. The huge Gympie employer, Nolan Meats suffered a staggering loss of around \$15 million in flood damage and loss of stock including a huge number of carcasses.

Significant floods along the Mary River have caused inundations of the city in 1870, 1873, 1893, 1955, 1968, 1974, 1989, 1992, 1999, 2011 and 2013. The first recorded flood in Gympie was in 1870. Most of the floods occur between December and April and are typically caused by heavy rainfall in the headwaters to the south.

**The highest flood ever recorded in Gympie occurred on 2 February 1893 when the river peaked at 25.45 m. Gympie was declared a natural disaster area during the 1999 floods. The river peaked at 21.9 m in that year. Below — a photo from that flood.**

Numerous highways and roads in and around the city which were destroyed or damaged during floods in 2011 were repaired under Operation Queenslander, the name given to post-flood reconstruction efforts in Queensland. (Details from Wikipedia.)



**“We’re going to need a bigger boat,” says RSPCA Queensland Spokesperson Emma Lagoon about the lack of resources RSPCA Queensland has in order to respond to animals in flooded areas.**



RSPCA Queensland Rescue Units have been kept busy over the past week responding to calls for assistance regarding wildlife and livestock impacted by floods. On Monday alone the team received 148 new animal rescue requests.

*“It’s been a tough time for our rescue teams. Like many others, we’ve been limited with our ability to get to every call for help due to flooded roads and staff and volunteers also stranded. Our Rescue Units can only get to places the roads will let us,”* Ms Lagoon says.

While RSPCA Queensland attends calls for injured and sick domestic and wild animals every day, in disaster situations like this, the charity’s resources are limited.

SES and Council can be contacted for stranded livestock and pets.

Some RSPCA shelters in affected areas have been closed due to roads cut, resources and power issues in affected areas, but all animals onsite are safe thankfully with a small number of incredible staff and volunteers that are still able to access the area and provide care to the animals.

Surprisingly, RSPCA Rescue Units are still responding to possums and birds hit by cars, and also an increase in waterlogged wildlife in need of rescue. By 2pm Monday the RSPCA teams responded to 90 rescue calls and many staff and volunteers have worked through the night to get to more animals. It’s another busy day ahead.

Ms Lagoon says, “Sadly we are now seeing more deceased animals that couldn’t survive the weather event, it’s just devastating.”

If you do find injured and sick wildlife contact RSPCA’s 24/7 Animal Emergency Hotline 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).

If you can help animals without putting yourself in harm’s way, keep them warm and secure until help can arrive, or call your local vet.

Once the clean-up begins across Queensland, learn when it’s safe to return home with your pets and what to do here.

Emma Lagoon  
Communications & Media Manager RSPCA

For Immediate Release  
23 February 2022



## Fight for koalas

*53 koalas already cared for by RSPCA Queensland in 2020*



Koalas now listed as endangered in QLD, NSW and ACT, it's never been more important to protect their future in the wild.

RSPCA Queensland continues to treat new koala patients every week at their Brisbane Wildlife Hospital and Eumundi Rehabilitation Centre with 53 koalas admitted for care this year already.

Dr Tim Portas, RSPCA Queensland Wildlife Vet says, *"The peak months when we're seeing koalas in need of treatment are June through December with September consistently having the highest number of koala admissions."*

Last year RSPCA Queensland treated 601 koalas with 900 admitted for care in 2020.

Koalas are largely impacted by habitat loss, road trauma, disease and dog attacks. The slight decline of patients admitted to the RSPCA over the past year could be attributed to many factors – better climatic conditions due to higher rainfall and moderate temperatures, koalas being admitted to other wildlife hospitals, and potentially declining numbers of urban koalas.

Chase is one of the koalas receiving care at the RSPCA. Hit by a car in Moreton Bay in January, this nine-year-old koala was brought in to the Wildlife Hospital for veterinary treatment. Sustaining a fractured pelvis and chest trauma, Chase is now undergoing rehabilitation at the Eumundi Centre with the hopes of making a full recovery.

Cosmo is one of a few repeat koala patients coming into the RSPCA, finding himself need of help once again.

First admitted as an orphan in 2019, Cosmo was found without his mum and too young to fend for himself in the wild. After some time with a dedicated wildlife carer, Cosmo was released back into the wild and joined part of a research project to monitor his health and ability to make his way in the wild. In January 2022, Cosmo came back into RSPCA care. Noticed in the wild with a dirty bottom, Cosmo was treated for Cystitis. After making a full recovery, **Cosmo has just been released back into the wild.**

**Pictured with Cosmo above is our own Ash Barty.**

*"We couldn't possibly return hundreds of koalas back into the wild every year without our dedicated vets, nurses, rescuers, wildlife carers and volunteers helping to save these precious animals.*

*"I just hope we never see koalas extinct!" Ms Lagoon says.*

**If you spot a koala or any other animal in need of rescuing contact the 24/7 RSPCA Animal Emergency hotline 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625) for assistance.**

**To support a koala in the RSPCA's care today, learn more here.**



# TOP TEN SPELLING PEEVES

1. "YOUR" AND "YOU'RE" ARE NOT SAME WORDS.
2. THE CONTRACTION OF "COULD HAVE" IS NOT SPELLED "COULD OF."
3. "THEN" SHOWS SEQUENCING OF EVENTS. "THAN" IS USED FOR COMPARISON.
4. MOST OF THE TIME, "AFFECT" IS A VERB, AND "EFFECT" IS A NOUN.
5. "THERE," "THEY'RE," AND "THEIR" ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORDS.
6. "TO," "TOO," AND "TWO" ARE ALSO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORDS.
7. D-E-F-I-N-I-T-E-L-Y—THERE IS DEFINITELY NO A IN THAT WORD.
8. YOUR PANTS ARE "LOOSE." YOU "LOSE" YOUR KEYS.
9. YOU "BEAR" WEIGHT WITH YOUR "BARE" HANDS.
10. "A LOT" IS ALWAYS TWO WORDS.

Grammarly



The word for this month is

## COMORBIDITIES

Used in a sentence about COVID deaths.

COMORBIDITIES— Study identifies four main comorbidities associated with COVID deaths. Coronavirus patients with cancer, chronic kidney disease, diabetes OR hypertension were found to be most at risk of death.

**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 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.

#### **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.