
THE COMET

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

YOUTH CRIME - WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Some disturbing reporting in the Courier Mail recently was penned by Shayla Bulloch under the headline "LAWLESS JUVIES BASH STAFF."

With all the Juvenile crime happening in our State, my first reaction is to lock them up and throw away the keys, especially when one reads that one young criminal had 19 pages of criminal history and another had 80 reports against his name with no charges recorded.

Shayla's article outlined the traumatised state of staff in Queensland detention centres who are taking time off from workplace injuries in droves, as sources reveal how dangerous conditions have become for employees inside. She says that the number of staff who have claimed Work Cover benefits has almost doubled in three years.

In her Courier Mail article she writes that the state's detention centres have been at the centre of multiple serious assaults at the hands of juveniles over the past few years, including instances where workers were punched, kicked, had bones broken and were hospitalised.

Meanwhile the owner of the Dingo Roadhouse and the Dingo Hotel (a small town on the Capricorn Highway west of Rockhampton - halfway between Emerald and Rocky) Darren Bauman is fed-up with break-ins at his properties. He is quoted in a local paper CQToday that it is like living in the wild west! He blames mostly the bail conditions and was quoted as saying that they might only be 16 year olds but they've probably got the life experience of a 30 year old.

Then there's the Rocky Grandmother whose power went out at 11 pm one night so she ventured outside to check the meter box. The main switch was off. She turned it back on; went back inside only to have the power "fail" once again.

Once again, she ventured outside but this time she was set upon and assaulted by two young thugs resulting in being hospitalised. She said that the assailants were of "high school age". Apparently, the two fled. However in a separate incident an 18 year old was arrested two hours later. Police thought that two robberies were not linked.

Most of the offending youth are in the 15 to 16 age group. Well may we ask "where are their parents" and I believe it's about time they applied themselves to just that.

PARENTING! Too many innocent people are suffering some with their lives from the criminal actions of these young crooks.

After reading about the assaults including those on detention upon officers, I'm sure everyone is wondering where and when will it all end?



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Centrelink (Older Australians line)	132 300
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Public Trustee 044	1300 360
Qld Competition Authority 0555	07 3222
Qld Ombudsman's Office 908	1800 068
Residential Tenancies Authority 311	1300 366
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Senior's Advocacy Information & Legal Services (SAILS) 6333	07 3214
Senior's Card Senior's Enquiry 500	13 74 68 1300 135
Senior's Legal & Support Service Brisbane 6333	07 3214
Cairns	07 4031
7179	
Hervey Bay	07 4124
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Contact APSL State Office to enquire about membership and a branch near you. You can still contact Head Office on the usual number.



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

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

DISCLAIMER

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EDITORIAL WITH CHERITH WEIS



Dear Readers,

Sometimes people express feelings that we are living in a crazy world. My usual reply is not to blame it on the world - blame it on some of the people who are stark raving mad and in control of countries. I can think of at least three or four world leaders who fit the bill.

On the home front, you will read in this edition that Gladstone lost three of their members in December. I was rather shocked to find out that Nick Ferguson posted the passing of his Mum and our APSL dear friend, Joy.

If you wish to watch her funeral on live-streaming, details are available in this edition.

I have talked with Anneliese and although I have paid a tribute to Joy in this Comet, I plan to include a little more about her contribution to our APSL on our Facebook page in a few days.

Joy was a breath of fresh air and contributed greatly to the organisation and running of APSL during the time she spent with us.

Meanwhile from the office - Anneliese and her co-workers re-commenced work on January 9 and everything is progressing well. Our finances are holding up well and discussions will take place at our Zoom Management Meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

We are running "as normal" and organising for this year's activities, which is good.

I have asked readers to show some interest in some suggestions on the motoring page. I am looking for feedback to a couple of questions. I also ask for contributions; some human interest stories which you may think our readers might appreciate. Your thoughts on issues and you don't have to use your name in the publication

When you are sending photos please send them individually; not in a page, as sometimes I have to manoeuvre photos to fit.

Until next time; stay safe; stay well. Cherith.

**Every life is an
amazing story**

Write your final chapter and
ensure your story is remembered
by prearranging your funeral
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MASKING UP

By Anne Ring

Recently, I was in a big suburban shopping centre. With a lot of people. And yet, to paraphrase Wordsworth, I wandered lonely in a crowd: the ONLY person wearing a mask.

As someone whose husband is a long-time epidemiologist – since back in what now seems another life, in those pre-pandemic days when not every second doctor in the media was one – I get first-hand information, frequently, on how we're not out of the COVID woods yet, by a long shot, with ever more variants spinning off the original virus. And so, how important it continues to be, to wear effectively protective masks indoors, when out and about.

I do not enjoy wearing masks. Unfailingly, after a while the pressure of the elastic behind the ears builds up to a steadily uncomfortable irritation. But I continue to doggedly keep them on. I'm 80, and – so – in one of the more vulnerable groups. And I've read enough about the variety of possible effects in all ages, including the alarming symptoms of long COVID, even in some of the hyper-vaccinated like myself, not to be tempted to risk getting it. And even though I joke that getting it is a case of not "if" but "when", so far we two continue to be amongst the decreasing number who haven't yet had it.

Now, with our governments being variously more responsive to the pleas of business than

the advice of health professionals, I fear that

COVID will become more rampant as the days of required isolation have decreased to zero, while we're encouraged to recast this concerning range of variants – with potentially long term effects for some – as just a similar condition to the flu.

What business overlooks is that allowing infected people back to work, especially with their work-mates unmasked, is likely to have a whole lot more of their staff heading off to their sick beds, which - in turn - is likely to be literally counterproductive in the long run. Just before the Christmas holidays, as a for instance, a school had to close down for a period of time, and this was because – while only one student had a case of COVID – one third of the staff were off sick with it

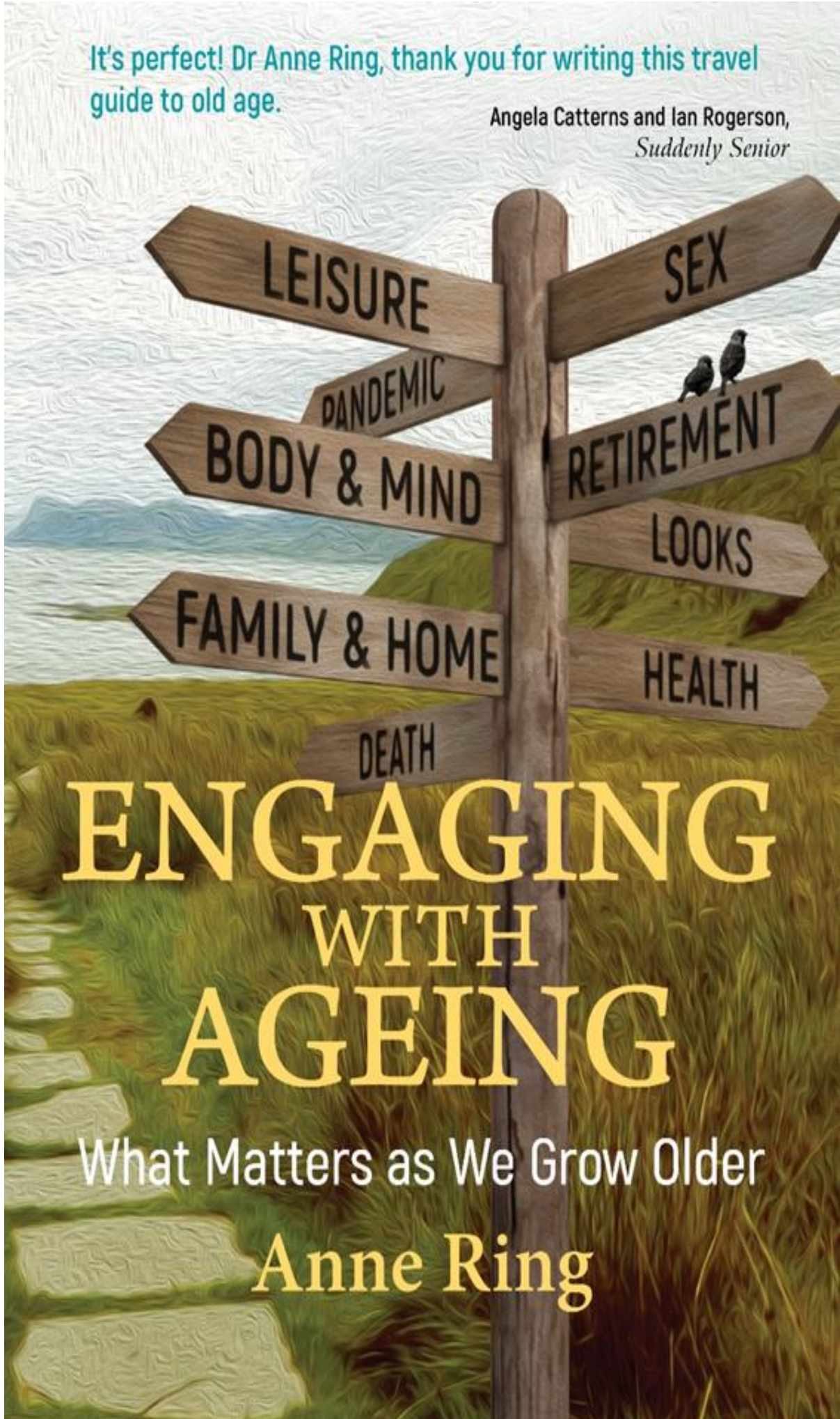
I worry about our community at large and meanwhile – since when push comes to shove it makes sense to get health advice from a doctor rather than from a politician – I hope that the health message takes hold, so that I won't be the only person masked-up in supermarkets, and in shopping malls and cinemas and theatres and meetings, and any other indoor venues where people gather.

And, now that we are getting into 2023, I hope that all readers have had an enjoyable holiday season, and have put doing all that it takes to keep safe and healthy high on the list of New Year resolutions.

Anne Ring 2023©

It's perfect! Dr Anne Ring, thank you for writing this travel guide to old age.

Angela Catterns and Ian Rogerson,
Suddenly Senior





ROAD SAFETY WITH LEYLAND

Be On Guard

When is enough, enough, 299 lives were lost last year from road fatalities?

There was a road safety summit recently and RACQ recommended more police presence on our roads which I highly recommend.

I have seen the progress over the years of extremely dangerous drivers on our roads, taking risks that put their lives and the lives of other road users into a situation where someone could die.

Is life that cheap these days where no one cares if they kill themselves or other innocent road users?

I am glad that I have dash cams front and rear to record dangerous drivers and it was pleasing to see what appeared to be an unmarked police car doing their work?

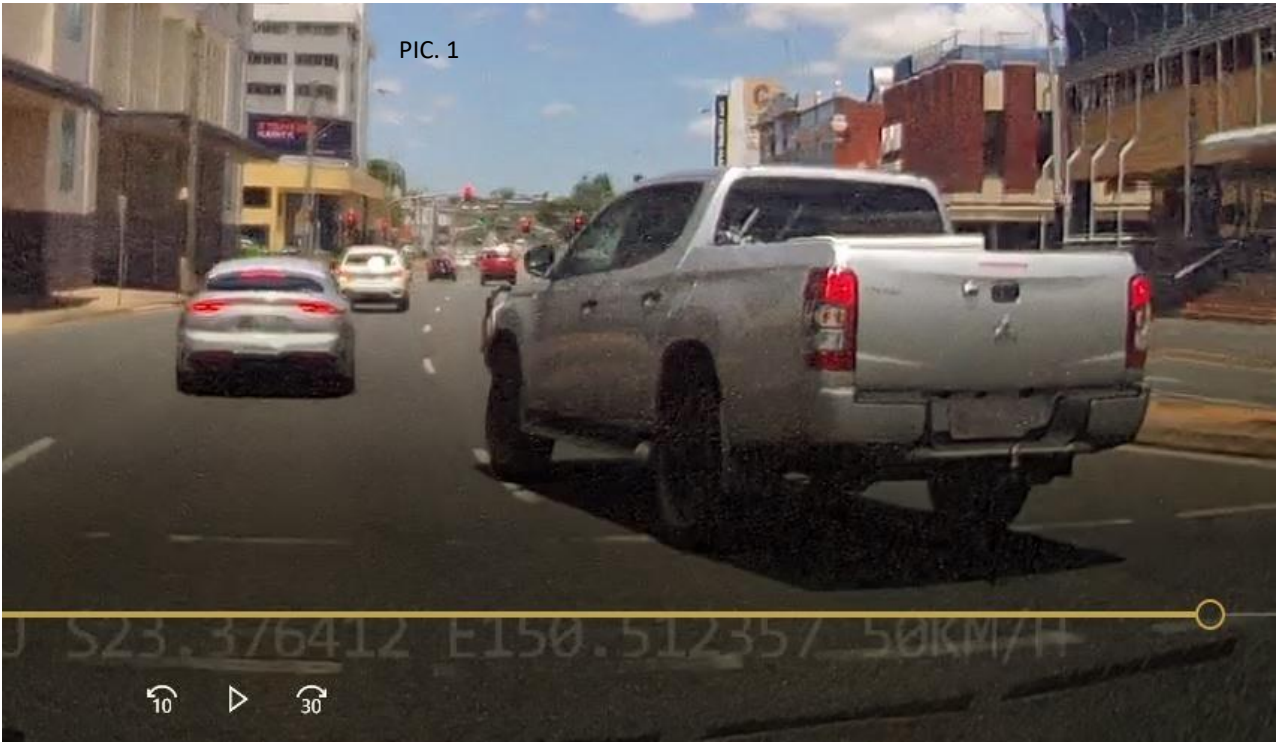
A silver 4wd ute decided to swerve into a gap at 50 km/hr where it nearly took out the front of my car and the rear of a brand new stinger unmarked police car?

It was pleasing to see that the stinger changed lanes, maybe to pursue the idiot?

I believe that if this government wants to reduce the road toll, then there needs to be more unmarked cars and police bikes that can capture the idiots putting everyone's lives at risk.

Unmarked cars will certainly detect the dangerous driving activity that is happening in Rockhampton today and I wonder how many of these incidents were with criminals driving stolen cars?

Last month there were 88 stolen cars in Rockhampton and 92 stolen cars in Townsville according to the Qld Online crime map that allows you to check crime in your local community and in other local government areas.



Leyland Barnett is a Driving Instructor in Rockhampton and dedicated to improving Road Safety. He is also an active, respected member of the community who is not backward in “voicing” his opinion on community issues.

So I thought we would offer an invitation to you, the readers, as we would like to hear from you regarding Road Safety. Please involve yourselves; names will not be printed if you don’t want them used in print.

The road problems you have encountered? Other drivers bad habits which you have experienced?

Please send your comments to comet@apl.com.au by the 20th of this month. Thanking you.

Cherith Weis, Comet Editor.

Photos supplied. Thanks Leyland.



An exciting new television series is launching next month on SBS Australia – Wildlife ER! Wildlife ER is a heart-warming TV show produced by Wild Bear Entertainment showcasing Australia’s busiest Wildlife Hospital based at RSPCA Queensland in Brisbane. You’ll be able to watch our iconic animals rescued, treated, rehabilitated, and released and see what it’s like to work behind the scenes at their Wildlife Hospital.

Last year alone over 27,000 animals required care at the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital. Most of these animals were victims of habitat loss, disease, road trauma, dog attacks or natural disasters.

The new TV series gets up close and personal with our iconic Australian wildlife like koalas, possums, kangaroos, echidnas, reptiles, owls and more. You’ll be able to see the wildlife vets, nurses, rescue officers, wildlife carers and volunteers in action – saving the lives of our precious wildlife every day. You might even learn some interesting Australian wildlife facts along the way!

You can watch Wildlife ER on SBS Australia from February 8 at 7:30pm and SBS On Demand - enjoy watching the RSPCA team go above and beyond with animal rescues, wildlife receiving treatment in the hospital, rehabilitation stories, and wildlife being released back into the wild.

**For more information or an interview with an RSPCA Queensland spokesperson, please contact:
Emma Lagoon, Communications & Media Manager, RSPCA Queensland**

Email: elagoon@rspcaqld.org.au

Mobile: 0400 814 221



VALE

Joy Ferguson



It is with heavy heart that we announce that we have lost a beautiful and wonderful lady. Joy Ferguson passed away on Saturday, January 28. Joy was a dedicated member of the Bald Hills APSL Branch for many years until the closure of the branch in 2020. She was an active member of the State Management Committee; for some time as Assistant State Secretary and then as State Secretary in 2008. Joy was always so easy to get on with and applied herself to the aim and objectives of the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League. We all enjoyed meeting up again at annual State conferences where ever they were held with Joy. Just a precious human being! One of the most beautiful people one could ever meet. On behalf of all members of the APSL throughout the State of Queensland, I extend our sincere and deepest condolences to Joy's family and friends on this very sad occasion.

From Joy's son Nick on Facebook.....

It is with deep sadness the Ferguson family announce the passing of our much loved Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandma and Great Grandma, Joy Frances Ferguson on Saturday 28th January, 2023.

We would like to extend an invite to our families and friends to join us in celebrating the life of such a wonderful lady who will be greatly missed.

Please see below for details:

Funeral service: Thursday 9th February at 11am.

Great Northern Garden of Remembrance

Tallowood Drive Deception Bay

For those who will be unable to attend in person, the service will be live-streamed and you will be able to watch online at the time of the service.

Please click the following link (at the time of enter the service) to start viewing. The PIN code you will need to enter is 4150. <https://www.gngor.com.au/live-streaming/client/...>

Following the service you are welcome to join us for refreshments at the Community Hall at Pacific Palms Home Village, 98 Bruce Highway Eastern Service Road, Burpengary East, 4505.

—oOo—

Gladstone President Joan Green has advised that Gladstone Branch lost three of their long serving members in December.

Peggy Kurkowski on December 4, 2022 - at 96 years of age

Life Member Eddy Mercer on December 19 - 96 years of age

Betty Irene Brett passed away on December 24 - also aged 96 years.

APSL extends deepest sympathy to all family members and friends who have suffered loss of loved ones in recent times.

NORTH ROCKHAMPTON BRANCH CHRISTMAS



North Rockhampton Branch celebrated at their Christmas function on December 14 at the Frenchville Club. Indoor bowls play re-commenced on January 25 and the group is seeking more players especially women. If you are new to the game, there is plenty of help from serving members.

NRPSL meets every Wednesday at Bauhinia House from 9.30am with play at 10.00a.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1936

TOORONGA CHRONICLE

DARLING BOWNS GAZETTE

(PAGE FIVE)

KING EDWARD'S RENUNCIATION THRONES OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

IRREVOCABLE DECISION

DEED OF ABDICATION SIGNED

Duke of York Named Successor

Ascension of Throne to Take Place on Monday

Simultaneous Announcement to Dominions

LONDON, Friday Morning.—STANDING at the Bar of the House of Commons Mr. Stanley Baldwin (Prime Minister), read the message from King Edward. "After long and anxious consideration I have determined to renounce the Throne, to which I succeeded on the death of my father. I am now communicating this, my irrevocable decision, Realising as I do the gravity of the step, I can only hope that I have the understanding of my people. I do not enter into my private feelings, but it should be remembered that the burden which constantly rests on the shoulders of the Sovereign is so heavy that it can only be borne in circumstances other than those in which I now find myself. I can see that I am not overlooking the duties of a Sovereign in declining that I am no longer conscious that I can discharge the heavy task with efficiency and satisfaction to myself. I have accordingly this morning executed this instrument of abdication. I, Edward VIII, King of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Dominions beyond the seas, and the Empire of India, hereby declare my irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for myself and my descendants. I desire effect to be given to this instrument of abdication in which I have set my hand, this tenth day of December, 1936, in the presence of witnesses, whose names are subscribed. Signed, Edward VIII. My execution of this instrument has been witnessed by my two brothers, the Duke of York and the Duke of Kent. I deeply appreciate the spirit which has actuated the appeals which have been made to me to take a different decision, and before reaching my final determination I have fully pondered over them, but my mind is made up. Moreover, delay cannot be but most injurious to the peoples I have tried to serve as Prince of Wales and as King, and whose future prosperity is the constant wish of my heart. I take my leave of them in the confident hope that it is the best course for my people in the Empire. I am deeply sensitive of the consideration they have always extended to me, both before and after my accession to the Throne, and which I know they will extend in full measure to my successor. I hope there will be no delay of any kind in giving assent to the instrument I have executed, but that all necessary steps will be taken immediately to secure to my lawful successor, my brother, the Duke of York, accession to the Throne.

"It is said that a reign begun in such auspicious circumstances should end so soon and in such a manner," said Mr. Baldwin. "When King Edward succeeded his illustrious and beloved father to the Throne, he did so with the affection and good wishes of every one of his subjects. No member of the British Royal family had ever made himself so well known to his people."

The King's deed of abdication was immediately placed in the hands of the Dominion Governments. The King's decision had been made, Mr. Baldwin announced that he had seen the King on December 10 and had signed the instrument of abdication. The King said "I am very sorry to see you this morning, but I am glad to see you."

The King's decision was announced in the House of Commons. Mr. Baldwin said that the King's decision was a surprise to everyone. The King's decision was a surprise to everyone. The King's decision was a surprise to everyone.

WHAT PASSED BETWEEN MR. BALDWIN AND THE KING. Mr. Baldwin said that the King's decision was a surprise to everyone. The King's decision was a surprise to everyone. The King's decision was a surprise to everyone.

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This Edition contains all the News concerning the King's abdication available till 6 o'clock this morning.

My Mother saved this double Broadsheet page from 1936. The death of a King. Followed by Edward VIII!! Renouncing his right to be King for the sake of his love for Wallis Simpson, an American Divorcee culminating with the coronation of King George VI, the father of Elizabeth II.

CHRISTMAS IN GLADSTONE



Gladstone Branch pics continued



Received from the CPSA (Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association, NSW)

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A better was to assess older drivers.....

LIKE the rest of the developed world, all Australian states and territories require a medical by a GP to determine if people aged 75 and over are still fit to drive a car. NSW also requires a road test for drivers over 85 every two years.

Problems with eyesight are relatively easy to spot. Disqualifying somebody from driving a car because of such problems are also likely to be accepted more easily.

It's a different story where somebody presents with loss of cognitive skills. A form of dementia, in other words. Even in cases where it might be pretty obvious that a driver with dementia should hang up their car keys for good, getting the driver to accept they have to stop driving might be difficult.

Then there are the cases where the dementia is not advanced, and a GP might not be able to judge driving capacity.

To solve this problem, University of Queensland researchers have been awarded a \$1.3 million grant to develop video-based driver safety tests for use by GPs. That may seem a lot of money, but if you consider that there are between 386,000 and 488,000 Australians living with dementia, it may be a good investment.

The University of Queensland researchers are developing a video-based hazard perception test that can be used to aid GP assessments of older drivers.

The test aims to test an older person's ability to predict a traffic incident by spotting a hazard before it's too late.

The researchers are working with people with dementia to fine-tune the test, which will incorporate real on-road footage that individuals view and respond to.

Apart from making life easier for GPs, what this new video approach may achieve is that the transition from being able to drive to not being able to drive is done in a respectful way.

For more information please call our media contact on 0410 612 182

Foot note....In Queensland, we are required to undergo a health test every year after we turn 75 years of age. The test basically focuses on an Eye test. We are not required to undergo a road test once we turn 85 years of age every 2 years or at all, as required in NSW. I would be interested in receiving opinions from our readers e.g.

(a) Do you think the 2 yearly test for drivers should be introduced for 85 year old drivers or

(b) all drivers 75 years of age?

Reply by February 20 to comet@apsl.com.au. (Ed)

A SENIOR'S DIAGNOSIS

Poem Written by Paul Toebeke.

Thought I'd let my doctor check me,
Cause I didn't feel just right.
All those aches and pains annoyed me,
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He could find no real disorder,
But he wouldn't let it rest.
What, with Medicare and Blue Cross,
It wouldn't hurt to do some tests.

So to the hospital he sent me,
Though I didn't feel that bad;
He arranged for them to give me,
Every test that could be had.

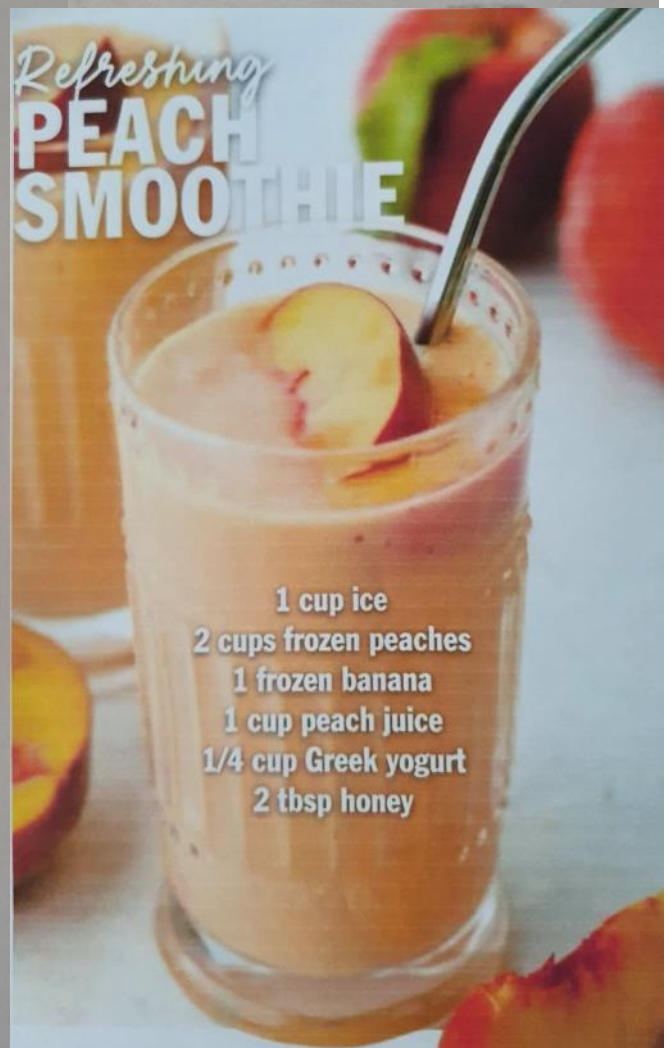
I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,
My aging frame displayed,
Stripped upon an ice cold table,
While my gizzards were x-rayed.

I was checked for worms and parasites,
For fungus and the crud,
While they pierced me with long needles,
Taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,
Probed and pushed and poked around,
And to make sure I was living,
Then they wired me up for sound.

They have finally concluded,
[Their results have filled a page]
What I have will some day kill me:
My affliction is **Old Age**.

No matter what, once in your life, someone or something will hurt you. It will take all that you are, and rip it into pieces and they won't even watch where those pieces land. But through the breakdown, you'll learn something about yourself. You'll learn that you are strong, and no matter how hard they destroy you... you will be able to conquer anyone and anything.



Fun for Seniors



Inala & District Pensioners

Tina EJimenez · 24 m ·

Inala pensioners Christmas lunch richlands hotel.14/12/22 Merry Christmas everyone



JUST A LITTLE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE WEIS BAR— ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY THE FATHER OF LES WEIS, CYRIL

The sweet taste of success

Have you ever tasted a Weis Bar - if you haven't you are missing out on something really special - if you have you'll know just how hard it is to stop at one. But do you know how this magical fruit bar got started.

Back in the 1930's Cyril Weis and his wife had a corner store, opposite where Myer is now. They had a waste not want not attitude and turned slightly damaged fruit into fruit salad ice blocks with real



Les Weis and the fruits of his efforts

cream on top. They called them Fruto's. Wrapped in greaseproof paper they sold well from day one, and became famous around the Darling Downs until wartime rationing of cream, fruit and sugar brought an end to production.

In the 1950's their son Les began operating a milk bar opposite the Empire Theatre, relying on its patrons, 2,000 on a good night. Television was not far away and Les knew that neither The Empire nor his milk bar would not long survive its introduction. In 1957 he resurrected the old Fruto recipe, called them Fruto's and began selling them, wrapped in cellophane this time, from the shop. Because home-made ice-blocks had not been around for a long time, a whole generation thought they were something new. They advertised an opening special on 4GR, giving away 1,000 free samples on a freezing cold August day. Les remembers that one boy managed to get 13 of them - ah the gluttony of youth!

It didn't take long for the word to spread and for demand to increase to the point where the production and distribution of Weis Bars became a full time occupation. In 1966 Les and his family took the plunge and purchased land at Harlaxton and built a factory there. Sadly Cyril lived long enough to see the purchase of the land but not building of the factory.

Today Weis Bars are made on a production line using the most modern technology available, but still utilising the original pre-war recipe. Interstate markets have been progressively developed in every State in both the supermarket and route trade sectors.

Recently the Weis' have taken the obvious next step and broken into the Japanese market and are conducting negotiations in both Hong Kong and Taiwan. These markets allow better utilisation of the factory and much longer employment of casuals as the Australian production is mainly over the summer months and production for the Asian markets occur during our winter.

Interestingly Les has had to make some minor adjustments to some of the flavours to cater for Japanese tastes, including removing the passionfruit seeds from the Fruto bars and the Macadamia edge from Tropicoco's. Nevertheless they are as sensational to overseas palates as they are to ours.

So now you know! By the way the name of the family is pronounced "wise" and the product is pronounced "weecee" - but that is another story.

Thanks to Les Weis for permission to write this story

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.

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.