

# SPORT

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# THE TIMES

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But Rob has good reason to do this. For decades Rob has paid over \$350,000 himself to keep the slipway maintained, just so the council's boats can use it "below cost."

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Mayor Peter Williams denies these comments. "He (Rob) has a lease on that property for a number of years to come... We don't have any secret or hidden plans to take it from him," he told *The Times*. Cr. Williams says that the extra demands, which have not yet been met, are completely unrelated to the slipping saga and go back almost twenty years. "We have to use caution. We really don't want to upset the slip way owner... We need to do this as soon as possible," he said.

THE CROFTON STREET TIMES

## EDITORIAL

# Coal is the lifeblood of the nation

ALTHOUGH we hate to admit it, coal is our lifeblood. Without it we have nothing. No televisions, no lights, no heating, no hot showers, no computers, no electricity. It's that simple. Brown and black coal provides 85% of Victoria's energy needs, possibly more. It's dirty and pollutant (roughly 42% of our greenhouse gas emissions are from coal power stations) but we need it to satisfy our daily consumerist lifestyles.

Although Canberra can make empty promises about carbon capture plants and reducing emissions, they know as well as we do that suppressing the coal industry is a bad move. Approximately 75% of coal mined in Australia's 32 major coal mines is exported overseas, backing up our economy substantially well – 25% of our export earnings are in fact from coal. So its little wonder the Government wants to cut



our greenhouse gas emissions by just 5-15%. It was an economic decision to do so, not an environmental one. Even so, perhaps our coal industry is what kept our financial system afloat during the economic tsunami. We export 340 million tonnes of coal to the world – making up 9% of the world's total coal consumption – so it's a very vital part of the world's energy sector. What about

renewable energy though? The government makes promises of solar plants (one in Mildura was stopped ironically because of the financial crisis), and carbon capture and storage – which won't begin until 2040. Wind is a possibility, but hydro is a lost cause when there's no water. Coal is our lifeblood, and it will be for decades to come. Promises can be made, but as our environment suffers our pockets still get lined with gold.

**ODD BOX** Tennessee deputy sheriff Richard Barnett went to the wrong house in Elizabethton but still made an arrest. Called to a domestic dispute, he knocked on the wrong door. A man, 33, asked him in and surrendered, confessing that a warrant was out for him for non-payment of fines. He was jailed for 40 days.

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“CHILDREN should be seen and not heard.” Of all of those annoying quotes from the nineteenth century, this annoys me the most – mainly because it was almost true. When your parents haul you off to their friend’s places for a dinner party and there’s no other kids there, there is nothing to do but sit there and be quiet! At least you don’t have to sound interested in their conversations that don’t make any sense anyway. Then everybody laughs at a joke someone said and you have no idea what it’s about either. It’s incredibly boring and if anybody does take notice of you its always “How’s school?”, “You’ve grown so much,” or “Who are you and why are you here?”



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 “Definitely! The Government controls us, man, they know where we are all the time! They brainwash us, dude.”



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 “Well, at least we don’t watch you in the toilet... well, most toilets anyway...”



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# Echuca population, growth increasing

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Two percent of Echuca's 12,358 population is migrating to Echuca, the Shire of Campaspe council says. Councillor Kevin Simpson told *The Times* that most of the people coming to this town were retirees from Melbourne.

He says that population growth benefits the community economically as it gives businesses a chance to expand.

"Some move to retirement villages, others into flash houses," he said.

It comes as Melbourne's population reached 4 million people this week and Australia's is not far from 22 million people.



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States and New Zealand rushed to help the victims. Many bodies are believed to be under collapsed buildings, but rescue teams have now arrived at many impoverished villages to help with the relief effort.

People are urged to donate food, clothes and money to the Red Cross so they can help with the 60,000 people who are now homeless.

## THE CROFTON STREET TIMES television

### Critic's choice

**Last Chance Surgery**  
Channel 7, 8pm Tuesday

"IF YOU don't have this surgery you will die in four weeks," was how the doctor explained it to a 17 year old girl. Talk about harsh. *Last Chance Surgery* is a repulsive show about people's "battles" with life threatening illnesses. Another man had a tumour on his spine and was going to die as well, but lucky Seven's cameras were there to capture all his tears and emotion and broadcast it to the world. What a disausting program.

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GOSSIP. Speculation. Rumours. Some people love it. Which celebrity is having a divorce? Is Robert Patterson getting married? Have Ange and Brad had another child? *TMZ* is a show based on the gossip website (which reported Michael Jackson dead 6 minutes before he actually died). It's trash TV at its finest, with *Entertainment Tonight* its only rival.

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I HATE spending money. My money anyway. It makes me feel guilty when I do, so that's why I shoplift things now. I just pick up a shirt I like, and run! It's that simple. Although it is frowned upon in the justice system, so try to do it discreetly. Anyway shop lifting is a rather easy process, and a quick way to save you some money – not that *Money for Jam* would tell you that.

No, Channel 9's latest cringe-worthy show is apparently a family program and would probably discourage such practices like theft, prostitution and paid murder. They're more into helping kids with Aspergers Syndrome to get fit, while having a joyful time and making a quick buck as well.

They also suggest letting a boarder rent out a room in your house – don't worry about police checks though, it might cost some more.

You could also get your hair done in the "Glam van" (a mobile hairdressing saloon that could drive straight to your house. However I thought a more logical way to save money would be to cut your hair yourself, or not cut it at all...

A segment called "Super scrooge of the week" also told us that we can save some cash by making our own bed linen! That's right! We can just slave away with some cheap fabric for 5 hours to save a whopping \$45! How simple is that



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# television

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