

# SPORT

## Echuca keeps winning promise

IT WAS a predicted victory, and Echuca carried out expectations diligently when playing Bunnaloo in the hot temperatures last Saturday.

Echuca ended up winning by 52 runs on the second day of play, asserting 9/180 at tea time, against Bunnaloo's 128 runs.

Echuca's Adam Jones, who finished the first days match with 57 runs, continued on to make another 5, being bowled out by Tom Edgar. James McQuillan assisted the team after Captain Simon Maddox fell for 16. McQuillan teamed up with Jason Charlile to make 30 not out.

Bunnaloo then took back the bat to try for a second time to pick up their deteriorating score. Unfortunately their batting was not much better than the first time, with the team making just 57 runs at the end of the day.

Brad Jones managed to slot in 23 runs, however the teams talent clearly stood with the bowling.



Shaun Hon takes position as the wicket keeper.

Bunnaloo's Tom Edgar bowled well, scoring 4/62 off 15 overs, with Harry Shirley and Brenton Wagner both claiming two wickets. However the home sides bowling performance was also matched by Echuca's, with Maddox also taking 2 wickets. The final score saw Bunnaloo at 3/57 and Echuca at 9/180. Echuca South will play Echuca today.

### Thunderstorms excepted for match today

Echuca is set to go head to head against Echuca South today, with thunderstorms expected to rain down on the match. Rochester United and Rochester Tigers will also battle.

# THE TIMES

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## COUNCIL CONDEMNED

*Mass walkout and outrage as council votes for Mid-West Bridge*



Councillors deliberate their decision on the Mid West Bridge.

CHANTS of "Sack the Council" followed the Campaspe Shire's decision to vote in favour of the Mid-West Bridge on Tuesday night.

Most of the gallery walked out in disgust, with the vote seeing just two councillors go against the alignment, even after 15 speakers spoke at the meeting against the Bridge.

Cr. Greg Toll attempted to stop the motion being passed, pleading for an investigation into the Mid West 2 option.

In an emotional speech, Toll spoke directly to the councillors about the decision they had to make. "Life wasn't meant to be easy. We will carry these decisions to our grave. One day, our grandchildren will

say 'why did those councillors vote for that?'" he said.

However when the councillors voted, just Toll and Cr. Frank Oliver stood defiant against the other councillors who were not swayed by the grave evidence against the Mid-West alignment.

Cr. Neil Repacholi – who chaired the meeting – said he was against >Page 2

## EDITORIAL

# Meaningful, yes, but is sorry constructive?

LIKE fallen sports stars and celebrities before him, Kevin Rudd has gotten into the regular habit of apologising and profusely saying sorry.

From the likes of Wayne Carey and Ben Cousins, Rudd has now apologised for the Stolen Generations and this week to the “Forgotten Australians” – wards of the state who were abused as children.

“Sorry that as children you were taken from your families and placed in institutions where often you were abused... sorry for the physical suffering, emotional starvation and the cold absence of love, of tenderness, of care,” Rudd said.

But saying sorry does not heal the wounds of systematic abuse these many thousands of people went through. Saying sorry after, say, shooting someone in the leg would not help the situation. And the fact that it took almost 5 decades to actually say sorry to the forgotten



generation adds salt into the wounds. No brilliantly scripted speech or forceful tear from the opposition leader will ever be enough to help. Most say compensation is the ultimate answer, and that would indeed help. However the Government needs not to stuff people with cash to keep them quiet, but to do something that can actually help – like funding counselling for those abused. They could also consider establishing a publically funded group which helps console the forgotten generation, who Rudd hopes will now be known as

The “Remembered Generation.” What these people went through could also be deemed worse than that of the Stolen Generations. The children were not only taken from their parents, but told their parents never existed. Many were beaten and some were raped. It was not a pleasant experience for these children to experience. Although it may clear a few things up by saying sorry, and acknowledges the events which happened in times past, it does not do anything constructive to physically help these people who have already suffered so much.

# Outrage at council’s Bridge decision

From Page 1>

the motion for a Mid-West 2 alignment because it “interferes with Vic Park”, saying the Mid West does the same. “For the people that live in Crofton Street, there is absolutely an impact,” he said.

However, Repacholi shockingly voted in favour for the option, saying “There is no other option,” a comment echoed by other councillors. *The Times* can also reveal that Repacholi attended a number of Save Vic Park meetings, pointing to a potential conflict-of-interest.

Nationals Member for Rodney Paul Weller has claimed that the council was “bullied” into voting for the Bridge by the State Government.

“It was made very clear by a number of councillors at last night’s meeting that they were voting in favour of the Mid-West corridor because they had been told by the Roads Minister that it was ‘the only option.’ If the Mid-West was the only option then what was the point of the two year investigation and community consultation process?” he said.



The majority of the gallery walked out in protest, to calls of “hang your head in shame”.

Repacholi ordered the doors closed to cut out the “background noises.”

Cr. Kevin Simpson said of the incident: “The objectors weren’t able to offer the same courtesy as we have for them. It’s pathetic the behaviour we’ve just witnessed.”

Simpson went on to discredit most of the information objectors had spoken about.

“I feel really sorry for the objectors. They think they’re significantly affected by the Bridge. Their

opinions are not statistically in line with our survey results. They’re the vocal minority in this issue.”

The study, which surveyed 500 people, said that 44% of Echuca people supported the Bridge, while 49% opposed it. In the rest of the Shire, 200 more were polled, which found that 48% supported the corridor, and just 23% opposed it.

The latter of these results was what the councillors based their opinions around, when there was evidence that the survey was flawed.

Mr. Weller also presented his own survey, which was twice the size of councils, and had greatly >Page 3

**ODD BOX** Latvian tourist chiefs have scrapped a campaign after their slogan was mistranslated into: "Easy to go, hard to live," on posters and leaflets. The \$890,000 campaign to promote Latvia to English-speaking travellers was meant to say "hard to leave", a spokesman admitted

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

Analysing humour is like dissecting a frog. Few people are interested and the frog dies of it.  
**E. B. White**

**JOKE BY JAKE**

Q: What's the difference between prayer in church and prayer in a casino?  
A: In a casino, you really mean it!

## HOROSCOPE



UNLIKE primary school teachers, I don't think saying sorry is enough. If you knocked over my priceless Ming vase (I don't actually have one, but anyway) I would think that saying sorry does nothing at all. Only if it was an accident, does saying sorry mean anything. Although I'm quite certain no one would knock over my Ming vase intentionally. It's a bit like the Government apologising to the "Forgotten Australians" who were institutionalised and abused. That wasn't an accident. It's not as if the foster homeowners accidentally whacked kids over the heads with blocks of wood or accidentally raped them. It's nasty stuff, but when it all happened decades ago, a late apology is even worse.

## "Can you trust a politician?"



**Monica Lewinsky**

"Depends on which politician you decide to trust..."



**Robert Mugabe**

"Of course you can. However in Zimbabwe we build Bridges with correct community consultation."



**John Brumby**

"That's an interesting question. Well you trusted us to build *you* a pipeline, and did you thank us? No."

Councillor Judi O'Farrell (left) and Cr. Carol Howell both voted on the alignment.



## Contrasting survey results from Weller

**From Page 2>** differing results. Weller's poll, which had 1007 respondents, found that just 39 people supported the Mid West Bridge – which represents just 4%. Another 767 people supported the Mid West 2 option, 76%, while the remaining 20% we're against both. "There is overwhelming support for the Mid West 2 Bridge. It's critical that we make a decision for this town's future... If council votes for the Mid West Bridge tonight, we will lose part of this town's future," Mr. Weller said. His comments followed 15 residents speech's opposing the alignment. Save Vic Park member Peter Conway began the marathon by attacking the council's survey statistics. He questioned the way the survey group educated people

about the Bridge and where it goes. "Recipients weren't told the truth. The survey became tainted at that point and should be regarded with suspicion," he said. Don Oberin attacked the way the Community Consultative Group was managed. "Every paper we got was confidential – we couldn't ask, we couldn't see," he said. However Cr. Simpson brushed off these claims, saying "It's laughable the CCG was gagged." Murray Shire has deferred their decision on the Bridge until next month; however their executive has recommended they endorse the route. An independent planning panel could now be called in to make a decision on the route, however the state Planning Department have the powers to go ahead with the alignment, irrespective of stakeholder opinion.

## Briefly...

### Street

- CAMPASPE Shire councillor Neil Repacholi has admitted that Crofton Street and Vic Park will be significantly impacted by the Mid-West and Mid-West 2 Bridge options, however he has still voted in favour of the Mid-West option, much to the disgust of opponents.

### Local

- MEMBERS of the community have held a mass walkout in outrage to council's decision to vote in the Mid-West alignment. "Hang your head in shame," was the cries of many, however Cr. Kevin Simpson described the actions as "pathetic."

### National

- ANTHONY Sherna, 43, was subject to years of taunts, abuse, infidelity, insults and isolation for 18 years from his partner, until her strangled her to death with a cord. Sherna was tipped over the edge when she started to abuse their pet dog, Hubble, and killed her. He was sentenced to 14 years jail for manslaughter.

### World

- SIX British politicians could face fraud charges in coming months over a long-running expenses scandal that has rocked Parliament. Police would soon pass files to prosecutors on three MPs and three peers, or members of the upper House of Lords, over alleged abuse of the expenses system after an investigation, *The Daily Telegraph*

# Council unswayed by Bridge emotion

**COMMENT**

BRIDGE opponents needn't have spoken at this weeks meeting as it was obvious the councillors had already made up their minds. Democracy did not have a place at the meeting, even after 15 speakers stood in front of over 100 people to speak out against the Bridge. Emotions were pulsing; however by the end of the meeting those emotions had changed from hopefulness to rage. Although it was not only anger the gallery felt towards our elected representatives, but sadness. Sadness for the fact that they had trodden over their own conscience to make a decision based on economic benefits and 'tainted' surveys, rather than what was best for the community. Cr. Kevin Simpson

ridiculed the opponents after they stormed out of the chambers, calling them "pathetic," a quite offensive remark from a councillor. However, like an independent senator, unconstrained by the party line, Cr. Greg Toll stood up and spilt a heartfelt speech to the gallery, urging his counterparts to vote against the Bridge. "We will carry these decisions to our grave," he said. Although council did not listen to this, instead voting for an alignment that will – as the VicRoads studies have indicated – have a severe impact on Vic Park and the cemetery. They are politicians, we cannot forget, and as countless have learnt in the past, it's incredibly difficult to avoid their endless spin.

**BEST QUOTES**

"It's too late for 'I told you so' when this Bridge is built." – Jenny Mayes

"The flooding issue is unknown. In previous floods we've sandbagged, and that's only just held. I think, in the future we're going to have some major issues with flooding." –John Carter

"Democracy in this debate disappeared a long, long time ago." – Glen Barrage

"Council has two options: succumb to the bureaucrats or stand up and fight for the community." –Paul Weller

"No one has spoken in favour of this option. There comes a time when you've (councillors) got to listen to what the citizens are saying... Don't just make a decision, make the right decision." –Hugh Melville

"You can do anything with (noise) statistics or mathematics. You'll either listen to compression brakes or heavy engines." –Alf Grigg

"The sacred owners have sacred locations all over the place, but they didn't put headstones on them – we did, at the cemetery, and I've had the misfortune of laying down two of my nearest and dearest there." – Don Oberin

"People come up here to enjoy the lack of traffic when playing tennis. If this project goes ahead, their participation in the competitions would be restricted." – Ian Sinnet

# television

## Critic's choice

**Dead Set**

**SBS1, 10pm Monday**

IN ANOTHER confronting episode of *Dead Set*, we see the Big Brother house turned inside out with the fact that the outside world has been zombified and that everyone's eating each other alive. The producer is stuck in a room guarded by a wheelchair bound zombie and some other nasty stuff happens. Recommended for family viewing

**Spicks and Specks**

**ABC1, 8.30pm Wednesday**

IT'S just an excuse for the *Spicks and Specks* team to show bloopers, but its sure to be funny. Looking back at all the bizarre moments, believe me there are many, and things that were too odd to make it onto TV, this is the last show for 2009. Last week we saw the 'best bits' and you can probably look forward to a Christmas special coming up as well.

**Man vs Wild**

**SBS1, 8.35pm Monday**

IT SEEMS slightly absurd to think that a person might be stranded in the Ecuadorian jungle, however if you ever are then it's probably essential to watch this show. If you need to catch a fish then Edward "Bear" Grylls, will show you how – with a bow and arrow, of course. You can also learn how to make a ladder out of bamboo to cross the piranha infested river.

## 'Rove quits Rove'

SITTING down on a quiet Sunday night to tune into *Rove*, we were all shocked at his announcement that this would be the last ever show.

"I know we've made jokes about this on the show before where I've just gone, 'Oh, I'm leaving', and it's was like, 'Oh, I'm going to come back after the break'. Not this time," Rove said at the start of the show.

After 10 years on TV (which is the same time as the *Paul Hogan Show* and two years older than the *Don Lane Show*) and three gold Logies, Rove has finally hung up the – well, whatever a TV presenter might hang up.

Rove has given us a lot of happiness and laughter over the past decade, from the 'What The?' segment, to 'PeteSpace'.

The final show was no different to any other episode, although it was a Barbeque edition so they were outside cooking food.

"It was a difficult call to make but after 10 years it felt like time to step away from the show and take a break to properly reflect on what I want to do next as a performer," he said.

Rove made jokes with guest Sam Worthington about living in a car for the rest of his life, however that's probably far from the truth. Rove still owns Roving Enterprises, which produces *The 7PM Project* and *Before the Game*.

So this might not be the last time we see Rove... Watch this space.



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