

THE TIMES

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Calls for CEO salary restraint

EXCLUSIVE

COUNCIL CEO Keith Baillie's salary is well above the state's average pay, it has been revealed, amid calls for restraint on council chief's income.

The eleven executives at the Shire of Campaspe cost ratepayers over \$1.5 million last financial year, with their salaries all exceeding

\$120,000 a year. Mr. Baillie's salary is \$216,000 for this financial year, a \$16,000 rise from last year in a period of economic turmoil.

President of Ratepayers Victoria Jack Davis says that executive salaries are "getting out of hand."

"There should be restraint (on executive salaries) in

these tough economic times," he said.

Mr. Davis said that the CEO's salary and bonuses are decided upon by their colleagues.

"One CEO (in Victoria) gets unlimited travel to Queensland and a bonus of \$25,000," he said.

However councillors need to pass this first before tax payers money is **Page 3>**



The Dark Knight

Meet the Japanese whaler's newest enemy **P2>**

NO SUPRISES: Moama votes in Mid-West favour

Dark Knight of the sea ready to take on whalers

INSIDE STORY

IT SITS poised, as if ready to kill. It looks more like an alien spacecraft, than anything seaworthy but its design gives it an evil atmosphere, something to be feared. Perhaps that was the aim of the designers when they first drew up plans.

However this contraption is not some secret military experiment, in fact it's far from that. The ship, known as the *Ady Gil* has been constructed to combat whaling.

Sitting quietly in the pier in Hobart, we came across the vessel by accident. Its arrival had drawn quite a crowd, which is expected, seeing as the locals had seen nothing like this before.

The crew, members of anti whaling organisation Sea Shepherd, kept mostly to themselves, but were able to share the specifics of their vessel.

The *Ady Gil* holds the record for the fastest circumnavigation around the globe. It is the fastest ship in the sea; with its maximum speed an astonishing 40 knots. It can travel up to 24,000km on one tank of fuel and



holds 4-6 crew members. Costing \$1.5 million, it was formerly known as *Earthrace* until its multi-millionaire owner, Ady Gil, donated it to Sea Shepherd. Now it's ready for battle. *Ady Gil* left early this week from Hobart bound for Antarctica to chase down a fleet of Japanese whale ships.

However the whaler's should remain on alert as the *Ady Gil* is well equipped to take on any vessel, however large. The paint is able to deflect radar signals and it has been fitted with 9000W speaker, which they plan to blast Maori-inspired war cries.

"It's effectively a stealth boat. Made of carbon, with

carbon flecks in the paint you can have a big boat with a 20kW radar 400m away and they won't see you," skipper Pete Bethune said.

In the past, the *Steve Irwin* has only been fast enough to keep up with the whale boats. However with the addition of *Ady Gil* it is fast and nimble enough to physically block the whalers from harpooning whales and can catch harpoon vessels in every corner of the Earth's oceans.

They've had to strengthen the hull for it to smash through Antarctic ice however are confident that they can more easily block the Japanese slaughter of whales.

Calls for restraint on CEO salary

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spent on executives.

Mr. Davis said that the more the CEO is paid, the more the other executives are remunerated.

“The more the CEO gets the more the second and third in line gets,” he said.

Rates will continue to rise, he says, because council needs to keep paying the CEO’s of Victoria large amounts to run the community.

Mr. Davis believes there is a financial system between CEO and council.

“If you’re a councillor, if you want certain things done, you get the CEO on board... You have to sweeten the CEO... If the CEO doesn’t do what council wants then they don’t renew his contract,” he said.

The highest paid CEO in Victoria is Melbourne City Council chief Dr. Kathy Alexander, who receives \$390,000. Premier John Brumby receives \$300,000.

The largest non-metropolitan CEO is Whitehorse’s Noelene Duff, who is on \$322,837 a year. Mayor Peter Williams says that every council decides how much its CEO is paid, however they have “striven” to be in the moderate or lower side of the average of what CEO’s are paid across the state.

“It’s fascinating the level of pay for CEO’s across the state...



The head of the Prime Minister’s department gets more than the PM,” he said.

Cr. Williams says that he was not aware what the other executives were being paid.

“We approve the CEO’s salary and staff salaries but the CEO decides the individual executive salaries.

“Until I read in your paper, I was not aware of how much they are individually paid,” he told *The Times*.

The difference between councillor and executive salaries cannot be compared, he says, because being a CEO is a full time job, whereas “our councillors put in half of their time.” They are paid \$20,000 a year, which is one eleventh of the CEO’s salary.

Cr. Williams believes his councillors are underpaid, however are paid greater than our NSW counterparts. Councillors at neighbouring Berrigan Shire get \$7,000 a year.

Briefly...

Street

- THE Murray Shire council has voted in favour of the Mid-West Bridge. In an unsurprising result, 6 of the nine councillors voted in favour of it, while two – Cr. Tom Weyrich and Cr. Betty Murphy – were against. Cr. John Pocklington had a conflict of interest and did not participate in the vote.

Local

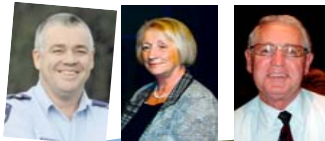
- CAMPASPE Shire CEO Keith Baillie has a larger than average salary for a Victorian council chief, according to Wage Line. There are calls for executive salaries to be restrained after revelations Baillie receives \$216,000 a year. However one council CEO receives almost \$323,000 a year which is more than Premier John Brumby.

National

- AUSTRALIA will bring 114 delegates to the Copenhagen Climate Change conference, compared with the UK’s 71. The number of people has been attacked by green groups saying that the Government is not setting a “green” example by sending that many people. PM Kevin Rudd blamed the size on the States.

World

- PRESIDENT Barack Obama yesterday admitted that there was some controversy over his winning of the Nobel Peace Prize when he was the commander-in-chief of a country engaged in 2 wars. Mr. Obama used the awards ceremony in Oslo to speak about America’s involvement in the wars.



Mayor Brian Sharp and (left) five other councillors who voted in favor of the Mid West Bridge.



Stone demoted, 'done over' by Right

FEDERAL Member for Murray Dr. Sharman Stone has been demoted in a Coalition reshuffle and believes she's been "done over by the Right."

Speaking to *The Australian*, Dr. Stone says that she sought to steer a middle course while in her Immigration portfolio, however has been dumped in favour of Sydney MP Scott Morrison.

"It's about payback. Immigration was so difficult because you were sandwiched between the left and the right wing of the party. I happened to believe that I was steering the right path and I had a lot of support for that, including, of course, from the leader at the time," she said.

Dr. Stone will now take up the position as spokeswoman for women, youth and early childhood.

No surprises as Murray Shire votes for Mid West Bridge

COMMENT

IF THEY call Echuca Moama the twin towns, we're basically mirror images of each other in terms of politics.

This week saw the very unsurprising result of the Murray Shire voting in favour of the controversial Mid-West Bridge.

Every aspect of the vote was parallel to the Campaspe Shire's recent vote. One councillor (Phil Hosking) left the room because of a conflict, just like Peter Williams.

Six voted in favour of the option, the same number as Campaspe had and two very

brave councillors stood firm and voted against. Councillors Tom Weyrich and Betty Murphy are adamantly against the route, saying it will "decimate" the towns, just as Cr. Greg Toll and Cr. Frank Oliver said in Echuca.

Of course, the usual excuses were used for voting in favour, such as it's "the only option" and "we just need a bridge."

This trail of thought is quite dangerous and demonstrates a lack of forethought as to how their decision will impact the community in years to come.

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SPORT

Another game, another victory

ECHUCA will today battle it out against Rochester in a match which is likely to see Echuca win.

The team has won all their games this season, setting a high bench mark for other teams to jump if they want to make it into the finals.

On the first day of the two day match, Echuca scored 224 runs from 79 overs, just four balls short of 80 overs.

Echuca was batting to begin with, commencing with an unsteady opening with Grant Harrison dismissed for 4. However partner Adam Jones went on to score 40 before being bowled.

Steve Tonkin and captain Simon Maddox both scored over 50, with the two merging to make a 81-run partnership.

Rochester's leading wicket taker was Grant Wachter, with 4/32, while Brad Major collected 2/40 from 21 overs. Rochester will start their batting innings today.



Echuca takes on a Rochester bowler.

Hawks swoop on Williams in draft

HAWTHORN has recruited Echuca's Jordan Williams in last month's football draft. Williams is described as having good endurance and a left footer who uses the ball extremely well. On draft camp he got 14.4 on the beep test and averages 18 possessions per game. Williams is wished the best of luck in 2010.



EDITORIAL

Clichés don't cut it

IF YOU pick up a newspaper, watch TV or listen to the radio, there's a good chance you'll encounter a cliché. Clichés are annoying and are lazy English, but we hear them all the time – no matter how lame or dorky they may be. Here's an example of a cliché infested story: (Clichés are in *italic*)

Keep your fingers crossed because you're about to end up on *death's doorstep*. It's too late to *put your foot down* because there's no way you can avoid going *into loggerheads* with your boss. He's *as stubborn as a mule* and won't take any of your nonsense. You must be *scared to death* because what you did has made him *pay through the nose* to get out of this mess. You should *set the record straight* and tell him the truth. *It's better to be safe than sorry*. You're already in trouble and you don't want to *fall out of the fry pan and into the fire*. He will leave *no stone unturned* to find the truth, so you should *let the cat out of the bag*.



You're *on thin ice* at the moment and right now it's *the calm before the storm*. He's going to get really angry and *lay down the law* for you to understand. Don't be too shocked if he *cuts to the chase* straight away and *gives you the sack*. *Every dog has its day* and this might be your last. It's *easier said than done* to go into his office and talk to him but it *goes without saying* that you should *go him one better* and quit. You should *jump the bandwagon now* before the *storm hits*.

See how annoying it is? We can all admit to using a few clichés here and there (oops there's another one) to help a writing piece, but creativity can go a long way. English teachers judge people by what they write and if it's littered with overused clichés which have been used so often they no longer carry a legitimate meaning, then perhaps you should select your words better. *In a nutshell* clichés are sadly a part of everyday writing, but in many cases are unavoidable.

OPINION

Your views, your say, your Opinion

ODD BOX A thief who robbed a US church left a note saying: "Sorry, but I'm poor. Forgive me, Lord." The church has now been robbed four times, and the Reverend Roger Davis said he's considering putting up a note asking potential thieves to call him and he will take up a collection for them

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

God did not intend religion to be an exercise club.
Naguib Mahfouz

JOKE BY JAKE

Q: If you peel my skin off, I won't cry, but you will.

What am I?
 A: An onion.

HOROSCOPE



I THINK, if you're ever going to become a hairdresser, at least take a course in conversation skills. "Sooo... what's on for the weekend?" is the usual line, mine is "not much." That's basically where the conversation stops, and the hairdresser gets on with massacring my hair. "How's school?" is also another one of their favourites. You could ramble to them for hours about yourself and they'd just nod and go "Mmm... ok... yep..." Although I've had a few hairdressers that just talk about themselves, which can get a little tiring. However you'd want to be nice to them, as they are, after all, cutting your hair and you don't want to walk out of there missing half of your ear.

"If you could buy anything in the world, what would it be?"



Kevin Rudd

"Well a device to stop climate change would be nice, although I really want a new Porsche, so I'd probably get that."



Malcolm Turnbull

"A really, really big gun."



Tiger Woods

"A fake passport and plane tickets to Nicaragua."

Critic's choice

AFI Awards

Channel 9, tonight 9.30

TONIGHT, Julia Zemiro steps up to the challenge of hosing to Australian Film Industry awards. She's a good choice and will probably have a few witty jokes up her sleeve. The Best film nominees this year are *Balibo*, *Beautiful Kate*, *Blessed*, *Mao's Last Dancer*, *Mary and Max* and *Sampson and Delilah*.

Survivor

Channel 9, 7.30pm Tuesday

ON TUESDAY night you're in for a blockbuster of American game shows. *Survivor* is on at 7.30, in, of all places, Samoa. I didn't actually think it was that hard to survive a place like Samoa, but anyway. At 8.30 is everyone's favourite, the *Bachelor* (on GO!), where a bunch of bimbos crawl over one lucky man. Finally at 9.30 on Seven the *Amazing Race* finale is on as culturally insensitive American teams race to the Las Vegas finish line.



“The Morning show(s)”

BEING on holidays, I have rediscovered the magical world of morning television. Apparently there is a demographic of housewives that watch television all morning, possibly while ironing, but unfortunately they have not accounted for the bored-teenagers-who-just-got-up-and-have-nothing-to-do demographic. Everything is marketed towards mid aged women, who need to lose weight, get better skin and clean showers and stove tops, because that's what they try to sell us in every possible gap of programming time. So for all the bored sleepy teenagers, like me and many others, this is very boring.

Now, I admit, I have been a bit harsh with my reviews of *The Morning Show* in the past, however my views have changed (slightly) on the program and my new found hate lies with the *Today* show on Channel 9 – especially with their hick Hollywood “correspondent” Michelle Mahone. However Seven's *The Morning Show* is good to watch if you don't want to concentrate and take in anything intelligent. The zany hosts, Kylie and Larry are very relaxed and make odd jokes about everything from horror movies to “dohnnanas” (a combination of doughnuts and bananas – don't ask).

Although the show is a shameless time filler, pumped with endless advertorials and marketing, it's strangely funny. Unlike *Today* and *Mornings with Kerry Anne*, also on Nine, who endlessly cross promote their shows to the point where you dry reach, *The Morning Show* has a sense of humour. The personalities actually have personalities, whereas Channel 9 and Ten's *9am with David and Kim* presenters are constantly reading off an autocue.

Seven has got it right in the balance between news and programming. After the 5.30am News and then three hours of *Sunrise*, viewers are sick of news and want something different to fill in the time before the 11.30am News. *The Morning Show* is that space.