

# YOUR SAY

## Just harden up

Eve FISHER



IT was only a few days ago that I was reminded about the Age of Outrage by someone I admire and, given I was scratching around for a suitable topic to be outraged by, his words hit a nerve.

A chatty Tim Rogers (of You Am I fame) took time out from his solo gig at Birregurra on Sunday to voice his concern at a problematic world where everyone has an opinion — not just AN opinion but THE opinion — and where everyone thinks their outrage deserves more of a hearing than the next person's.

Take a quick look at any website of the big media players in Australia and frequently you will see stories tagged with opinion, comment or analysis (a smartypants word for just another journalistic viewpoint). Sometimes these stories literally and unfathomably lead the sites. Opinion. Not news. Opinion is today's news. I kid you not.

The arrogance astounds me, just as my arrogance astounds you. Only last month a reader "choked on his breakfast" reading my opinion that summer school holidays should be moved forward a couple of months to mitigate bushfire risk. The man was so offended by my views I almost caused his hospital-

isation. Naturally I found it funny (no offence to people who have ever had food go down the wrong way).

My breakfast-choking fan stopped short of saying he was offended by what I said but his vitriol in his letter to the editor made it clear offence had certainly been taken.

This is the era of being offended. Don't get me wrong, I'm guilty of it too.

Just a few weeks ago I posted a comment written by someone else: "Your triggers are your responsibility. It isn't the world's obligation to tiptoe around you."

The reply: "Ah yes, what the world needs is less consideration for others. And more sarcasm."

Boom. I was safe-spaced at the first turn. I returned fire (no offence to people who have been to war) with some line about selfhood and taking responsibility for your actions and reactions. It's not everyone else's job to save you or protect you, for that matter. Victim mentality is so pervasive in our society it would be embarrassing if it weren't so tragic.

I felt Eminem's *Rain Man* lyrics come to life (no offence to people who don't like rap). "You find me offensive. I find it offensive that you find me offensive."

Of course I think people should be kind and respectful at any available opportunity, but I'm a firm be-

liever in free speech and refuse to censor myself. If people don't like what I have to say, or what I post, then don't engage with me.

As Ricky Gervais pointed out on Twitter: "You found it offensive, I found it funny. That's why I'm happier than you."

He's not a victim. If you want to be a victim you will be treated as such. If you're not a victim, you won't be offended. Because it won't

someone's disability. And that's what it is. A face blowing up is serious, not comedy."

Now that is funny.

There are people in the world who think you are disabled if you have a food allergy. Are you kidding me? Because I get hayfever, asthma, hives and I'm allergic to cats and some foods I'm supposed to identify as disabled. Could this be any more insulting to people who actually have a disability.

Seriously, I'm just getting triggered reading this stuff (no offence to people who can't read).

You know what else is offensive besides comparing a person in a wheelchair to a person with a food allergy? Prince Andrew accused of being a paedophile and everyone caring more about Megxit. Pork-barrelling in Corangamite by our Federal Government. Barnaby Joyce. The state of our environment.

Devices making kids stupid. The plight of the bees. The list is literally endless.

There is so much we could be worrying about yet the best people can come up with is concern that a comedian is making jokes about food allergies.

We should ask ourselves if we ever graduated from kindergarten.

Humans have become so fragile. And pathetic. Our backbones are melting and the best anyone can do is try to silence everybody else.

It's time to end the era of the snowflake, take some personal responsibility and harden the hell up.



bother you what people think and say.

It's as though humans have developed some desperate need to be outraged and offended.

Let's go back to Gervais.

Someone told him on Twitter he shouldn't make jokes about food allergies. His response: "I make jokes about AIDS, famine, the Holocaust, cancer, kiddie fiddling, and someone just told me I should never joke about food allergies."

Naturally, some poor sap felt it necessary to defend those poor sufferers of allergies.

"It is not OK to make fun of

### Geelong Advertiser EDITORIAL

## Mother deserves some answers

PAMELA Tascas has sat through some gruelling court cases to find out how her son, Trevor died, but still, in the eyes of the law, has no definitive answer.

The most grisly allegations came from Jodi Harris (also known as Jodi Toulmin).

In 2009 she pleaded guilty to being an accessory to the 2005 killing of Mr Tascas, and received a discount on her sentence for promising to testify against her former boyfriend, Lawrence Alexander Butler.

She gave the promised evidence at Mr Butler's Supreme Court trial later that year, and he was convicted of murdering Mr Tascas, who was living with him in his Whittington home.

But years later Mr Butler had that conviction overturned on appeal, and in 2013 he faced another jury, this time being found not guilty of the manslaughter of Mr Tascas.

And that is where the case has sat for the more than six years. Ms Harris/Toulmin remains convicted of being an accessory to a killing that has not been solved and a killer who is not convicted.

Ms Tascas is the mother of a son who died in his home at the age of 27, but whose body has never been found. She deserves definitive answers.

### ADDY READERS HAVE THEIR SAY - LETTERS AND TEXTS

#### TIME FOR SOME CLEAR THINKING ON POOLS

RE Ross Mueller, "Off the deep end" (GA, 23/1). There is no doubt that the case for the 50m \$30 million outdoor swimming pool at Surf Coast was dodgy.

So was the City of Geelong's case for a 25m pool, aka Northern Arc, at Norlane Waterworld.

Sarah Henderson was thinking too big at Surf Coast, and CoGG too small at Norlane.

The Geelong Aquatic Sports Partnership (GASP) would like to see the Surf Coast money teamed up with CoGG's allocated Northern Arc funding to create an aquatic sports facility to replace Waterworld.

Victoria does not have a facility anywhere that is suitable for holding (without major compromise) a national or international event in underwater hockey, underwater rugby, water polo, canoe polo, swimming competitions, synchronised swimming, diver training, rescue training etc.

All these sports require water that

is clear and 2m deep, and a pool with semi-slip tiles. Not too smooth, not too rough.

GASP was formed to try to open the eyes of Geelong's leaders to the feasibility of a major centre that would not only serve the health and wellbeing of Norlane residents but also provide local jobs in the tourist industry.

At the recent National Underwater Hockey Championships in Sydney at the Knox Grammar school pool more than 1500 people (including a 200 strong, healthy contingent from China) enjoyed a week in Sydney.

Shane Gould's advice is fine for swimmers but no help for other deep-water sports that need a competition venue.

Is there enough money to build Surf Coast a 25m indoor pool and a 50m Geelong aquatic centre for the whole of Victoria at Norlane?

**Stuart McCallum,**  
Geelong Underwater Hockey Club  
Geelong Aquatic Sports Partnership  
Victorian Underwater Hockey Commission

#### REMOVE THE MONITOR AND GET CREATIVE WITH CASH

THE \$12,000 for the Geelong Mayor Stephanie Asher and a city staff member to attend the UNESCO Creative Cities meeting could easily be paid for if ratepayers were not currently obliged to pay \$100,000 for a State Government-appointed "monitor" who provides no benefit to our community.

All Creative Cities members have an "obligation" to attend these annual meetings as part of their membership. Let our mayor promote our area to the wider world.

**Lynne Dowling,**  
Newtown

#### LIBRARY REVIEW WELL WORTH THE READ

A LITERATE society is a civil society. Public libraries are central to early learning, literacy/language development, acquisition of knowledge and keepers of our histories and identities. They are free, democratic, inclusive and equal. This is our Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

To those who oppose the proposal of the GRLC review of the current opening hours of branch libraries, please read the recent GRLC annual report outlining achievements, awards, events and programs for all ages and abilities.

The GRLC has been awarded the best Victorian Library Service on several occasions. The collection is first rate, and on rare occasions when an item is not available, it is purchased.

The proposed review is based on research and data on usage of library resources. The proposal is comprehensive and outlines the key recommendations:

**ELEVEN** of our 17 branches will open their doors earlier;  
**TWO** branches will open on days they are currently closed; and  
**SIX** branches will be open for more hours per week.

A broad community engagement process has been launched inviting feedback from the community on the proposal.

**Yvonne Adami,**  
East Geelong

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1851 - Edward Hargraves discovers gold at Summerhill Creek in NSW, triggering the Australian gold rush.**

**1993 - Two 10-year-old boys lure two-year-old James Bulger from his mother at a shopping mall in Liverpool, England, and kill him.**

**1996 - Yasser Arafat takes office as the first Palestinian president.**

**1999 - US President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the Senate in an impeachment trial stemming from the Lewinsky scandal.**

**2009 - Sydney man Glenn Orgias loses a hand to a great white shark while surfing at Bondi Beach.**

**2018 - An unexploded bomb from World War II is removed from London's City Airport after all flights in and out were cancelled.**

### ADDY ONLINE POLL

Yesterday's question:  
Do you enjoy reading?

**YES 78% NO 22%**

Register your vote at [geelongadvertiser.com.au](http://geelongadvertiser.com.au)

#### WRITE TO:

POST: PO BOX 91, GEELONG 3220 or  
[yoursay@geelongadvertiser.com.au](mailto:yoursay@geelongadvertiser.com.au)

Letters should be less than 300 words, carry full name, address and phone number of writer and be signed.  
We reserve the right to edit letters.

#### TEXT ADDY: 0429 839 887 (THAT'S 0429 TEXTUS).

Please include your name and address

If you believe the Australian Press Council standards have been breached contact [journo@geelongadvertiser.com.au](mailto:journo@geelongadvertiser.com.au) or the council at [info@presscouncil.org.au](mailto:info@presscouncil.org.au).

