

# YOUR SAY

## Sick of the lies



Eve FISHER

ANOTHER day, another example of Andrew Bolt making sense. Wait, what now?

As we begin to emerge from our collective cocoon, questions are being raised about the legitimacy of the panic, despite our leaders insisting we must still live in fear of the virus.

This week Bolt accused State and Federal governments of making up the data about COVID-19 deaths in Australia and popped in a juicy quote from Queensland chief health officer Jeannette Young, in reference to a young man who recently died.

"He had a complicated medical history and that also needs to be worked through," Dr Young said on camera.

So did he die from COVID or not? Actually it turns out he didn't have the virus at all.

But as Dr Young said, it doesn't really matter.

"Whether or not COVID-19 was the precipitating cause for his death, that is how we report it: any person who died who is infected with COVID-19 we declare it as a COVID-19-related death," she said.

Where is the outrage? There has been literally none.

They are literally lying about the number of deaths, here in

Australia and around the world. We don't know the real virus mortality rate yet the government bods are acting as though they do.

And when they do speak truth — like Dr Young — no one bats an eyelid.

Where is the demand for the real statistics? Are there actually any to be found?

Where are the videos of doctors around the world telling us the exact same things about fudged stats? Oh, that's right. You can't see them because YouTube censored them. You can't even get health advice these days unless it's Big Pharma-sanctioned advice.

Because this is the Brave New World, the average punters believe censorship is OK because they are so scared. I get it. Their cognitive dissonance is a powerful and controlling influence, and cannot easily be shaken.

While everyone is watching as the US descends into the murky depths of racial and social despair, our leaders keep giving us cute pep talks as we venture out into our world again.

"Staying apart keeps us together."

Yeah, so does the truth. But they don't give us the truth.

As Bolt said in April, politicians "don't have

the courage" to tell us what is really going on.

Of course, we already know politicians lie for a living, so I guess it's a case of just sucking it up as we limp back into our fractured and frightened society.

Our collective mental health is now the worry — the stats are unlikely to be fudged on that one.

No one ever considers diagnosing a whole society from a mental health perspective because it's such an individual thing. If we did take a collective view we'd probably declare our poor society certifiable.

Since lockdown began, domestic violence and suicides, including among teenagers, have gone through the roof.

Meanwhile our hospitals stand empty.

And the unemployment line continues to grow.

Chairman Dan has insisted on another few weeks of an emergency declaration and workers are being forced to stay home longer.

It will be curious to see, in this environment of fear, how we get the wheels back on the cart.

Our most recent event was the global financial crisis and that shaped the confidence and foundations of our collective experience for the next decade. It was a hike getting back from that one and this virus trek will be far longer.

We now need to define the new normal: more people wanting to work from home, shorter work weeks; kids demanding to be homeschooled; fear of handshakes, hugs and blowing out candles on a birthday cake.

The new normal is about a life lived in fear. Get used to it. Big Psychiatry is going to have a field day.

It won't be long before viral anxiety or sickness depression make their way into the diagnostic and statistical manual.

Bolt has done his little bit to help rock the faith in our "system". Now it's up to all of us to demand how we want the new normal to look.

We might not be America but tensions are rising. The distrust is evident. More and more people have legitimate concerns. It is time to speak up and be heard.

Bolt has done it. Anyone else game? As the Indian philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti so aptly pointed out: "It is no measure of health to be well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society."



Commentator Andrew Bolt has accused State and Federal governments of making up data about COVID-19 deaths.

### Geelong Advertiser EDITORIAL

## This is the year of leading by example

THERE are some qualities that simply cannot be taught.

No matter how accomplished, dedicated, passionate or trained a person is, certain traits cannot be faked — especially during times of real need.

Leadership is one such quality.

Our world is battling tremendous challenges and people are hurting, frightened and looking to be led. Fractures are becoming chasms and fear is evolving into anger.

It is under this microscope that our leaders are being appraised — and in some cases even discovered. Be they political, business or community leaders, they are being increasingly called on to navigate their people through uncertain and often terrifying waters.

And the challenge is tremendous. In times of dire instability, sometimes the tried and true playbook needs to be abandoned. Leaders need to be instinctive, nimble and unselfish.

Often it is more important to unify than to fan the flames of division.

But they need to stand up. They need to be bold, brave and shelve their personal ambitions for the sake of their people.

If the year 2020 has taught us anything, it is the value of true leadership.

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

#### A MOVING REMINDER OF THE FUTILITY OF ALL WARS

I READ Keith Fagg's part 1 and 2 of the story of Syd Worth (GA, 1/6 and 2/6) and enjoyed — if that's the right word — reading all about his story and tragic end.

It's just a reminder to us all how war and violence are no answer to solving problems.

Thank you, Keith, for writing such a moving article and sharing it with the Geelong community.

Phyl Westhorpe

#### GIVING THANKS FOR ADDY'S 179 YEARS OF SERVICE

WITH so many communities losing their newspapers, it is heartening to read the Geelong Advertiser is to continue in print, as well as online.

Articles on local issues bring a different perspective from that provided by the national media. Over the past 179 years the people of Geelong have been informed by this newspaper about issues within their community.

Our lives are richer by the informative articles such as those

written by Trevor Pescott for 60 years on birds of our bush and backyards, recent Deakin discoveries and inventions, City of Greater Geelong Council initiatives, the work of CSIRO scientists, positive input of Humans in Geelong, reflective editorials and opinion pieces, and the reporting of local artistic, musical and sporting events, are but some of the things that this newspaper encompasses.

Long may it continue.

Lynne Dowling, Newtown

#### SCHOOL HISTORY ALSO WORTH ACKNOWLEDGING

THE bell and bell post are in Kardinia International College, or Morongo when I went to school there.

They are listed in the Victorian Heritage Register, along with many of the buildings.

I believe it was installed to alert the population to the arrival of ships coming up the bay to dock. It may also have been used to warn of indigenous people's movements.

While sympathetic to indigenous concerns, we cannot change history — where would you draw the final line of change?

If the suburb's name is to change, then why not use the indigenous name of "Morongoo" or Morongo? This also pays tribute to the school sadly no longer in existence, its proud history and importance to many members of our community.

Gillian Norris, Leopold

#### FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLED NOT REAL ISSUE

WITH the current furore over renaming of Bell Post Hill, perhaps it might be better to leave the name as is, until all these upset (white?) people have read John Cary's book, and fully informed themselves of all issues with our native peoples.

I have managed to live with the name of my neighbouring suburb for decades but am more concerned with the ongoing mistreatment, at government hands, of our native peoples all over Australia.

Kevin Rudd's "Sorry" statement has made not one iota of difference for native Australians, as witnessed by the fact that these people are still regularly dying in custody, essentially because of neglect and outright abuse by their custodians' abuse, Tanya Day and the Mr Ward incidents being two cases in point.

Readers might remember that Mr Ward was transferred via a police van in Western Australia, the van having inoperative airconditioning in the compartment Mr Ward occupied.

Mr Ward was said to have cooked to death.

Is changing the name of a suburb, or a bogus apology from a Prime Minister going to prevent this sort of thing happening to other Aboriginal people? I doubt it. This is just something of a populist storm-in-a-teacup and possibly fake outrage.

Change the name, fine. But make sure everything else affecting our Aboriginal people so diabolically changes as well.

Gary Oraniuk, Geelong West

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1083 - Henry IV of Germany storms Rome, capturing St Peter's

1937 - Britain's Duke of Windsor, formerly King Edward VIII, marries American divorcee Wallis Simpson

1946 - Louis Reard unveils the bikini bathing suit, which he named for Bikini Atoll, where US nuclear tests were being held. Reard thought his two-piece suits would be "highly explosive"

1989 - Chinese troops storm Tiananmen Square, killing hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators

2017 - A terrorist attack starting on London Bridge leaves seven dead, including two Australians

### ADDY ONLINE POLL

Yesterday's question:

Have you got (or would you consider getting) solar panels on your home?

YES 59% NO 41%

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

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