

YOUR SAY

Planned to fail

Eve FISHER



THE dog is barking, and as I look out, I see the top of the van above the fence.

I scan my memory for the eBay searches and Facebook adverts that have captured my attention, and realise there is simply no hope of guessing the contents of the parcel about to be handed to me.

This is the true age of online shopping, where we do it not only because we are lazy or misers but because, in many cases, it's the only option in this crazy COVID world.

The laundry list of online purchases in our household covers all manner of sins: clothes, shoes, music equipment, hardware, more music equipment and books.

All goods purchased actually proved to be great buys, except for the clothes, which found themselves listed on a second-hand page not long after arrival.

You win some, you lose some. Spending online has actually proven more of a bone of contention for me, and has symbolised the melding of wanton consumerism with the culture of waste and replace.

While I've been happy to spend quick-click cash on cheap, usually imported items online, one high-

cost house repair sparked a conversation, not just about my own consumerist hypocrisy but the much bigger problems of waste and planned obsolescence.

My external glass sliding door rail was busted. There was nothing planned about this, just simple ignorance that if you don't fix a broken roller on a sliding door, the jagged metal will eventually start destroying the rail and begin the downhill slide to acquiring a shoulder injury every time you need to go outside.

A local handyman told me the door needed replacing. A prominent Geelong door manufacturer said I would need a new door. The cost wasn't too prohibitive: \$1500 installed.

That was until I realised the standard door wouldn't fit and I'd need one made to measure.

The quote jumped to \$3500; 4cm was going to cost me an additional fortune.

I needed a solution and a quick call for recommendations online showed up the Sliding Door Doctor, who promised that no door problem was too big.

And he was right. A week, and just \$385 later, the rail was repaired and my door was sliding like a dream.

Needless to say I was livid that I was nearly done out of a further \$3000, not to mention the wasted

door that was otherwise perfect. But can I really blame the manufacturer for not telling me there were options for a cheaper fix?

Its job is to make doors, not help me find a solution to an unaffordable problem, and so this brings us to the question of immoral consumerism, and planned obsolescence specifically.

There was no plan for my door to break. It was ruined by me failing to fix a minor issue.

Yet I got angry because a busi-

I'm also happy to use a printer that I know will only be able to print a set amount — some printers have been found to have kill-switches built in that activate once a certain number of prints have been reached — or say it's out of ink when the cartridge is not empty.

A company can achieve planned obsolescence in four main ways: contrived durability (parts breaking down intentionally), software updates (lack of compatibility over time), perceived obsolescence (bigger and better arrives), and prevention of repair (such as Apple "bricking" a phone if opened by a non-licensed repairer).

We all own products that use one or more of those tricks but we never hold companies to account. We keep buying and reinforcing the notion that in the face of much-desired items, we are morally bankrupt and don't care as long as we get the fancy products we crave — and are more than happy to quickly complain, whether it be

about the lack of supplies in the latest Woolworth Ooshies campaign or any other marketing failure involving "freebies".

But try to sell me something I can't afford when there is a cheaper solution, and all of a sudden I'm wielding the morality stick and demanding retribution.

Ah, the joys of being a hypocrite and pretending not to be!



ness was doing exactly what it should do: sell me a new door.

But I'm more than happy to spend my life on a device like an iPhone where I know that within two years the battery will be dying and the phone will become frustratingly slow.

Then I'll upgrade and find they've changed the jack so now I need new cables and chargers.

ADDY READERS HAVE THEIR SAY - LETTERS AND TEXTS

MANY SEE TRUTH IN ABLETT'S VIDEO WARNING

I DON'T agree with the Addy headline describing Gary Ablett Sr's views as a "bizarre video rant" (GA 19/9).

On the contrary, many Bible-believing Christians would agree that Freemasonry, the Illuminati and other secret organisations are evil, dangerous, anti-Christian and anti-democratic. In other words, they are a danger to our democratic way of life.

There are other organisations with a globalist, unhealthy agenda that point to a "one world government" in the future and the "mark of the beast". The Bible often highlights these predictions and threats.

Gary's words fit with what's happening worldwide, especially in these last few years, where Christianity is often ignored and abortion is acceptable. Now there is a push to encourage euthanasia. In other words people can make decisions about whether an unborn baby or an adult's life should be terminated. What value is placed on a person's life?

As a Christian, we believe every

life is precious. Where does God, our creator, come in all of this? If anyone wants to find out more about Jesus our saviour, you could google Christian churches. Many churches are doing online meetings and worship.

We have the opportunity to repent of our sins then ask Jesus the messiah into our life. Don't delay, we are approaching end times.

Janet Clough, Grovedale

MORE KUDOS TO LIBRARY FOR SPEEDY DELIVERY

MY compliments also in reply to Ross Kroger (GA 19/9), about our wonderful library services.

A few days before we went into this second lockdown, I checked with my Waurin Ponds library if some books I had ordered had come in.

The librarian said they had not. She asked if I knew about the click-and-drop service that was about to start, and I did not. She told me to log in the following Wednesday and order what I wanted, which I did.

The following day she rang to say

my order had been done and the books would be delivered in about seven days, depending on the orders in my area.

They arrived on the second working day later. I was so impressed.

My thanks for this wonderful service. And for our lovely librarians.

GD, Highton

HELP EASE IMPACT ON AUSSIES WITH DEMENTIA

THE number of Australians living with dementia is close to half a million — a number set to double in the next 25 years — with an estimated 1.6 million involved in their care.

In the electorates of Corangamite and Corio, there are an estimated 6560 people living with dementia, which is expected to increase to 15,000 by 2058.

For this year's Dementia Action Week, September 21-27, the theme is "Dementia — a little support makes a lot of difference".

Findings from a survey by Dementia Australia reveal just how big an

issue discrimination is for people living with dementia, and is calling on our communities to make change.

A little bit of knowledge can make a lot of difference to understanding what people can do to support someone with dementia.

During the week, Dementia Australia will share one tip a day showing simple, yet effective, ways to support people living with dementia.

To find out how you can make a difference to the lives of Australians impacted by dementia, please visit dementia.org.au/dementia-action-week

Maree McCabe, Dementia Australia CEO, Phil Hazell, Dementia Australia Advisory Committee Chair

TEXT TALK

I'M so hoping the people of Geelong vote for new councillors, as the present ones have achieved very little, and the only time we hear from them is at re-election time. Sad but true.

Stu

Geelong Advertiser EDITORIAL

Our region suffers in focus on name game

WHAT'S in a name?

Shakespeare's Juliet knew that monikers were unimportant when considering the merits of the person or thing they represented. But it appears our state and federal politicians are a little behind the 16th century teenager in this regard.

On Monday night, the City of Greater Geelong voted in favour of changing the name of the Northern ARC project to the Northern Aquatic and Community Hub.

It was acting on feedback that the project — which has been the source of constant advocacy over the past five years — would be more likely to attract state and federal funding support if it had a more descriptive working title.

So forget the fact that Geelong's north is one of the most socially disadvantaged areas in the country, with unemployment consistently above 20 per cent.

Forget that Corio and Norlane residents have a shorter life expectancy, higher rates of lung cancer and almost double the likelihood of babies being born underweight.

It seems the key to attracting support is not extreme and demonstrated need in the community — all you need is a new name.

Fortunately a name change is a quick and simple solution — and much cheaper than the extra \$800,000 on top of the already \$20m the council has agreed to tip in to make the project shovel-ready.

What a shame our leaders in Canberra and Spring Street haven't taken time over the past five years to look past the title at the merits of the project within.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1846 — The planet Neptune is discovered by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle

1939 — Death of Sigmund Freud, Austrian psychiatrist and founder of psychoanalysis

2015 — Volkswagen chief Martin Winterkorn stands down following the emissions-cheating scandal affecting millions of diesel cars

ADDY ONLINE POLL

Yesterday's question: Do you think Geelong will beat Port Adelaide in the first final?

YES 49% NO 51%

Register your vote at geelongadvertiser.com.au

WRITE TO:

POST: PO BOX 91, GEELONG 3220 or 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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