

Driving test wait concern

By Angela Norval

Dugie’s Driver Training owners Linda and Jason Dugdell are over the considerable wait times for their students to take their driver test, so have started their own e-petition after speaking with Bundaberg MP Tom Smith.

Linda said their issue was that Queensland Transport was not employing enough long-term driving examiners to serve the needs of the ever-growing population in the region.

“As a professional driving school that provides training in Bundaberg and surrounding areas, we are concerned that the Bundaberg Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre is not managing their resources correctly or fairly for the community they are here to serve,” she said.

“When it comes to going for a test for their licence, we are seeing there is no continuity for the community to organise and plan ahead, so as to move forward in life.

“We have made repeated complaints to Bundaberg MP Tom Smith because we can see first-hand the local CSC putting the needs of their staff before the needs of the community they are supposed to be serving.”

Before starting the petition, Linda and Jason sent several emails to the local CSC assistant manager Quentin Beaumont and Tom Smith MP has taken it to parliament sittings, unfortunately to no real avail.

“We have also received multiple phone calls from our clients asking for test slots, and wondering why there is nothing available for weeks on end, meaning that local business is losing clients to other areas.”

Since lodging their e-petition and encouraging the community to help them get this changed permanently, Linda and Jason are clear on their desired outcome.

“We want to see more permanent driving examiners to be employed to cover the growing population, a continuity of future planning for a seamless experience for our community and the possibility to book up to three or four months ahead of time for a test.”



Jason from Dugie’s Driver Training is concerned about the lack of Bundaberg licence assessors. (Matt Gees: 561734_01)

Bundaberg Tourism’s sterling support for traditional owners

By Angela Norval

For Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation chief executive officer Bec Domaille it is clear, Bundaberg Tourism has been a fantastic supporter of Taribelang Bunda Cultural Tours from the beginning.

Bec said their guidance, promotion and industry connections have helped them reach new visitors, build confidence as a tourism operator and continue growing our authentic cultural experiences.

“Cultural tourism gives visitors the opportunity to experience the region through the eyes of its Traditional Owners,” she said.

“It adds depth and meaning to their visit, allowing them to connect with the history, stories and living culture that make the Bundaberg region unique.”

As business members of Bundaberg Tourism, Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation has seen that tourism provides them with a platform to share our culture in a respectful and authentic way.

“Every tour is an opportunity to break down misconceptions, share our stories, and help visitors gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Taribelang Bunda culture and Country.

“We hope every visitor leaves with a genuine connection to Country, a greater appreciation of the world’s oldest living culture, and a better understanding of the importance of caring for our environment and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.”

Taribelang Bunda Cultural Tours continue to be an interesting way for locals and visitors alike to learn more from traditional owners. (Supplied: Paul Beutel)



How much stock do you put in all these political polls?

“There is nothing I like better than a good opinion poll,” said no one ever!

Yet what seems to be every day now, we see a new one released, all with politicians making the same claim about not reading the polls yet manage to crow about it when they are on top.

The latest ones are doing the rounds are one by the unions who surveyed members and found out that their members trust them more than the government, and the One Nation one that surveyed One Nation members who found out that they support One Nation.

Who’d a thunked it!

I mean they would hardly publish a poll that said anything but.

Or the one that found 49 per cent of people think housing prices are too high.

Which tells me that 51 per cent of people



don’t want to see the price of their nest egg drop, and rightly so – you want top dollar for your house if you go to sell.

But reality is polls are meaningless – they tell you how a small group of people are thinking about an issue, based on the type of questions they ask you, which are designed to drive

you towards a particular answer, at that point of time.

Then the pollsters extrapolate the numbers out.

If out of 100 people surveyed, 10 people said something, then that 10 represent 10 per cent of the entire population who would say that.

But poles do two things well, and none of it has anything to do with how you’re voting.

The first is they set up the lines to divide us.

Think the “intergenerational debate” or the “housing for first home buyers” headlines that are dominating the airwaves are fortuitous terms?

Divide and conquer is alive and well.

It manifests itself online in the form of, “if you don’t agree with everything that I think, then you are not only wrong, but don’t deserve

to have a voice.”

Its tribalism fed and controlled by the agenda - your either with us or you’re wrong.

The second is that poles erode confidence.

They seed confusion and doubt around an issue, often to the point where people have no idea what is right or wrong, up, or down.

We are societal animals, where belonging has always been essential for our survival.

So how can I be so wrong on this if everybody thinks that? Or worse is, “I don’t know what to do, so I will do nothing!”

What started with continuing changes to the tax system, has now evolved into something far worse, something that will take the economy a long time to shake off.

Batten down the hatches – more pain coming.