



## Crime and violence nothing to dismiss

**EVE FISHER**

A HARROWING thing happened in Torquay recently and it puts the whole Bec Judd spat into perspective.

A young woman discovered a prowler on her property in the middle of the night.

Too terrified to turn on the lights, she moved the blind and saw a large man shrink into the shadows.

She called police only to be told there was no one in Torquay and a patrol would have to be dispatched from Corio.

Despite being seen, the prowler remained hidden in the shadows for at least 20 minutes before finally leaving the property.

Police turned up a few minutes later to find nothing but wet footprints on the concrete surrounding the house and could offer little more in the way of any further support.

Just another local incident that they had no means of practically addressing.

Now, the woman doesn't live in a Melbourne mansion but her unease parallels that of Judd, who came out this week saying she didn't feel safe in her Bayside Melbourne home.

Our Premier Dan Andrews immediately took it upon himself to slam as untrue Judd's claims that she has seen a spate of "rapes,

bashings and home invasions" in Brighton and now feels unsafe in her own home.

Andrews decided someone in a mansion had no right to feel unsafe and his victim blaming knew no bounds.

This is despite police firing shots at a car and arresting a teenager in Brighton just days after Judd made her plea for the government to help bring crime under control in the area.

But Mr Andrews can't be bothered and is "not interested in having an argument with Ms Judd", which could be viewed as branding her an entitled and hysterical woman, twisting facts to support her paranoid claims.

How typical of the Premier to show his complete lack of empathy by shaming Judd for being wealthy and having the gall to complain.

These are predictable tall-poppo insecurities that are commonly held attitudes in this very insecure country.

Neighbours came out rallying behind Judd, backing up her claims and adding more of their own. They live there, so they ought to know



All Victorians deserve to feel safe in their own home. Photo: iStock

their own neighbourhood. Still the government did nothing but ignore the concerns and raise issue with the accuracy of some stats, as though they mean anything.

Fear does not abate just because of some meaningless crime stats. Not when we have a real and increasing problem on our hands as a broader community, regardless of economic bracket and median house price. And we all know it.

You know what the first words out of Mr Andrews' mouth should have been? "I'm sorry the people of Brighton are scared and I'm glad they raised their concerns."

But no, he was straight on the defensive and laid on thick, blaming and shifting focus like the best of them. Utterly avoiding the actual issue raised and dodging any accountability for it.

Meantime, the Torquay woman did what people in country towns do when their police resources are stretched to the limit.

She took matters into her own hands by telling her neighbours, installing security devices and ultimately accepting the fact she was alone.

It's something she will no doubt remember when the state election gets closer.

## Geelong Advertiser MOVED BY THE SPIRIT

It was a massive coup when the original announcement revealed the Spirit of Tasmania was moving its Victorian base to Geelong after 37 years at Station Pier in Port Melbourne.

Now just a couple of short years later, news of the first voyage from Geelong is the exciting next step in the journey.

The Spirit of Tasmania will officially leave on its first voyage from Geelong on October 23.

It has been dubbed a game-changer for the region and for good reason.

About 450,000 passengers a year will now board or disembark from Geelong each year.

That's a big number of visitors diverted to our region and a massive opportunity for extended stays – or even just overnight stays – to allow visitors to experience all that we have to offer.

It translates into a predicted \$54m increase in tourism spending in the Geelong region by 2029.

The Spirit of Tasmania will provide the region with exciting flow-on benefits for tourism, hospitality and accommodation providers.

Already, a new 12ha site at what is being dubbed Spirit of Tasmania Quay is well advanced, providing construction jobs to deliver a new terminal for passengers and space for 600 cars and 150 trucks.

Add the 100 ongoing jobs also predicted to be created and the word game-changer appears accurate.

## LETTERS & TEXTS

### PROMISES OVER POWER BILLS LOOKING SHAKY

I DON'T want to nag, but I have twice challenged our Corio MP Richard Marles, in this paper, to explain Labor's promise to "cut emissions, power bills and create jobs".

No answer from him, despite a well-staffed office able to collect the details for him.

We now learn that electricity power prices in Victoria are to rise, not fall, by 5 per cent, while electricity futures for Victoria have risen from \$50 to \$271 per MW hour.

This means that much more than a 5 per cent retail price rise can soon be expected.

Yes, coal and diesel prices have risen thanks to Russia's activities, but where are the costly and unreliable windmills and solar panels that were supposed to step in to save us?

I have never known election promises to look so shonky within a week of the closing of the polls.  
**P.A. Feltham, Geelong**

### MORE ACCESS NEEDED FOR KIDS' SPEECH HELP

I WAS disheartened to read about

the mum facing costly care for her daughter after speech therapy cuts (GA, 21/5).

I want to make the generic comment that every country – including so-called developed countries such as the US, Australia, and Canada – needs to spend more money on increasing access to speech therapy for children.

I applaud this Norlane mum for bringing public attention to this situation.

I want to recommend the website of the charity The Stuttering Foundation (StutteringHelp.org) because it gives out a ton of free resources for the parents of children who stammer, such as electronic books and streaming videos.

People in their home countries have to fight for more access to speech therapy for children, whether it be for stammering or any other of the speech disorders faced by children.

**Michel Parizeau, Montreal, Canada**

### SELECTING DUTTON AS LEADER IS A MISTAKE

TO appoint the automaton-like Peter Dutton as the new leader of

the battered federal Liberal Party is an act of political suicide.

The seemingly emotionless former Queensland policeman carries too much baggage with him.

A literally, quite frightening politician for whom a smile would seem to be a sign of weakness and whose politics are perceived as being to the right of Genghis Khan.

Dutton simply does not possess the core qualities/attributes required to lead the Liberal Party out of the political wilderness in what are dramatically changing times.

The talent pool of the Liberal Party opposition may now be shallow, but surely not that shallow.  
**Michael J. Gamble, Belmont**

### DITCH COAL AND GAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

JOHN Calvert, in his ongoing saga against renewables, strangely quotes 13-year-old energy costs from another country ("Time to quote cost of renewable dreams", GA, 24/5).

Why doesn't he just read the CSIRO's annual GenCost reports that consistently show that

renewables in the form of solar and wind, even including integration costs such as storage and transmission, are the cheapest sources of new energy in Australia.

It is also true globally.

In July last year, the World Economic Forum reported, "Renewables were the world's cheapest source of energy in 2020."

But cost is only one factor. Minimising greenhouse gas emissions is an urgent necessity.

Another reason for ditching coal and gas as soon as possible.  
**Ray Peck, Hawthorn, Vic**

### SLIPPERY WHITE LINE SENT FRIEND CRASHING

RE "State's line in sand for safety is dangerous" (GA, 27/5), Ross Kroger is correct.

A friend of ours was on his motorbike and ran over a newly painted slippery white line. His bike went one way and he went the other way, landing in a ditch.

The motorbike was a write-off and he was taken to hospital with a broken ankle.

So much for road safety!  
**P. Ward, Highton**

## ON THIS DAY

**1533** Anne Boleyn is crowned Queen of England. The second wife of King Henry VIII, Henry married her in a ceremony in January and in May the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer declared Henry's first marriage null and void.

**1850** The first transported convicts arrive in Western Australia when 75 prisoners disembark from the Scindian. On board is 10-year-old George Throssell, the son of a guard, who is destined to become the second Premier of Western Australia.

**1880** The first telephone box for public use goes into service in the US.

**1941** British and Allied forces are finally withdrawn from Crete with heavy losses in the face of the German advance. Almost 3000 Australians are lost in the evacuation.

**1995** Helen Demidenko (pictured) is awarded Australia's Miles Franklin Award for *The Hand That Signed The Paper*. It is later revealed her real name is Darville and her claim the events of the book "really happened" were false.

**2015** Caitlyn Jenner, one-time Olympic decathlon champion formerly known as Bruce, unveils her new name and look on the cover of US magazine *Vanity Fair*.



## WRITE TO US

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