

## Letters

continued from page 11

this piece of land surely you realise you don't own it. As for maintaining it, I mow the footpath outside my home, but don't feel I have the right to deprive others of its use.

To P Morrisey, if you think walking or riding on the bush is dangerous, try doing it on our main roads. In all my 62 years around horses I've never known anyone to feed their horse weeds, and if you find a bit of horse dung offensive to the bush, go look at some of the rusting car bodies and other garbage people dump. Riding my horse I've rescued several different species of wildlife that the car driver would not even have seen much less have taken the time to help.

**W B Crompton**  
Mullumbimby

### Driving tips

Here's a note to the cretin who drove me off Wilsons Creek Road on the night of Friday April 25.

After more than 25 years without a motor vehicle accident, I've now had two in the space of a year, and the circumstances are virtually identical.

First I get driven off the road by a speeding truck between Federal and Eureka. Now I've been blinded by headlights sufficient to illuminate the Sydney Cricket Ground attached to a vehicle rounding a corner in the middle of Wilsons Creek Road. The first car was written off and the second might well be. You must have seen my lights

and you must have seen me dip them before the corner.

My evasive action, saving you, my terminally dill pickle, from a head-on smash, put all four wheels on wet grass and I might as well have been on an ice rink. Only the good offices of a coral tree (let's all be grateful for coral trees) saved me rolling down the bank and ending up roof down in Wilsons Creek.

If I'd been going a little faster or a little slower, the tree wouldn't have caught me and you'd probably be reading my obituary now.

Now while I'm having a little difficulty at the moment dredging up any enthusiasm for the preservation of your life, surely if you have even a modicum of intelligence (say sufficient to exceed that of pocket lint) you do have that interest at heart.

So for you, and all you other morons out there, here are some tips for driving on narrow country roads:

a) Drive at a speed appropriate to the road.

b) Keep left.

c) Dip your headlights before you blind an oncoming driver.

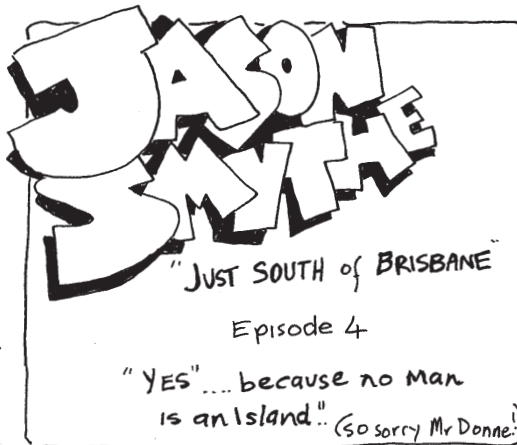
And if you don't know where the left side of your car is, don't drive.

I'm a pensioner. I can't afford you.

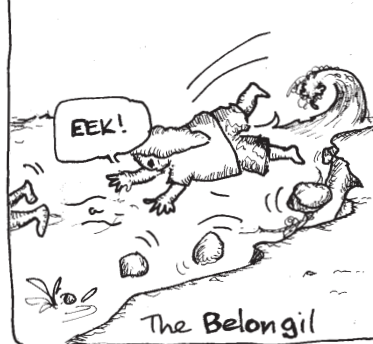
**Chris Bracken**  
Huonbrook

### Missing sign

In 1996 when my family moved to the region we purchased a property in Federal and went to great lengths to



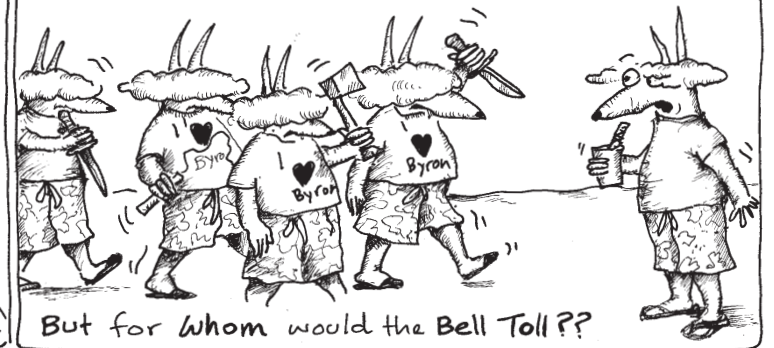
Perhaps some clods would be washed away by the Sea....



Does the Loss of a few Clods diminish me?(or my bank account?)



To justify having more Day of the Dead Festivals, more people had to die...



And so, as the seas rise, the tides of human flesh turn into tsunamis, and the bell tolls for thee and me, the biggest and possibly the last festival was held - "The Killing of the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg"



but this was all I could find on The End

have a sign made to name the property after our two daughters Keira and Lisa. The sign read 'Keirali' and was made of a very heavy timber and the letters were painted white.

It hung proudly over our property for many years. With the split of our family five years ago and the sale of the property, the girls and I left and bought a new home in Mullumbimby on Coolamon Scenic Drive not far from the golf course. Very proudly we took the sign with us and hung it on the roadside driveway fence, just below the Williamma sign

that has been there for ever. Three weeks ago someone stole that sign. I wonder who would take a sign with a name that means nothing to them. I'd like to know if anyone out there has seen my sign or would like to return it.

**Janett Calland**  
Mullumbimby

### Farewell Snoop

I just wanted to express my great sadness at the recent loss of one of Brunswick Heads' little icons, Snoop the Boston Terrier.

Anyone who has been down to Bruns to pick up a DVD will know who I am

and topped off my emotional day as I cried all the way home in the car. So here's to Snoop, a beautiful dog who will be sadly missed. PS: I'm also quite fond of Daisy and Dre.

**Anais Hatch**  
Yelgun

### Those phonebooks

I write in response to a letter to the editor published in *The Echo* of April 22 regarding the distribution of the Yellow and White Pages directories in the 2483 area.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain that

# China's exploitation of Tibet deplored

■ Please, Jenny Coman (Letters, April 22), don't rehash other's unresearched opinions on Tibet. Read its history. Read what is happening there now regarding cultural genocide, human rights abuses etc, and I guarantee you will still not get the full picture. The Chinese propaganda machine makes no apologies about its debasement of truth. They actually tell the masses it is for their own good. Other 'authorities' pick up these snippets and think they're fact.

I spent twenty months in Tibet. Education and employment for a Tibetan in their own country is abysmal. The Chinese push for a dominating Han population is killing their culture.

In Tibet you will get jailed for mentioning the word 'Dalai Lama'. In Drapchi Prison, Lhasa, the Public Security Bureau violates and torture monks, nuns and everyday folk with all forms of barbaric hi-tech implements.

For nine months I taught English to Red Cross and MSF employees. I was told

from another NGO that I was under surveillance. I had to be very careful who I talked to, how loud I talked, for their sake. Three Tibetans who I talked to were interrogated and their homes ransacked. I never spoke politics with any of them. People's Liberation Army?!

Anyone with a semblance of intelligence knows that Tibet has been an independent state since their history began. They had protectorship relations with Mongolia, China, Manchurian run China, even Britain; even Russia tried to get in on the act; just as Australia has protectorship relations with the United States. Do we like the US? Do we think we are Americans?

Only a century ago, after Britain tried to extend their colonialist might, did China realise Tibet might be a strategic prize up for grabs. It was at this time that Tibet said sorry, thank you, but no thank you, we will now be officially independent, and ousted their Sino government reps. Two world wars went by and China invaded

Tibet in the 50s and said it's ours, citing arguments like Tibet's first king, King Songsten Gampo, had a Chinese wife. They fail to mention he also had a Nepalese wife and three Tibetan wives.

Yes, I agree there are people full of pretensions as to Tibet being a Shangri-La of Buddhist peace. I have seen violence on the streets. I have seen domestic violence. Yet I have seen no less in Australia. Yes, they had a feudal society, but do you seriously believe the propaganda you regurgitated in your letter. Do you really think Tibet would have remained the same if China hadn't invaded?

The cultural degradation feared in the Woolworths debate is not dissimilar to the cultural genocide of Tibet. The latter is obviously risking torture and death if you mention it in Tibet.

**Craig Hearps**  
Mullumbimby

■ With so much media attention focused on the upcoming Beijing Olympics in August 08, the

Tibetan struggle against the brutal occupation by the Chinese Stalinist totalitarian regime is timely and deserving - particularly now as we witness the rising tide of Chinese nationalism worldwide.

Tibetan people deserve the right to self-determination to determine their future from Chinese rule, in order to develop any meaningful democracy and independence should they decide it. Free Tibet!

Another under-reported issue is the Chinese construction workers at the Beijing Olympic sites - 10 hour plus working days, no weekends off, some not getting paid until the end of the year or not at all for \$US5 per day!

While China marches relentlessly further on with 'economic growth' of around 10% per year, so has the Chinese working class grown enormously - in 2006 national workforce was 746 million workers.

China today is analogous to the pre-unionised period in Western industrialised

countries where workers were routinely exploited by industrialists and factory owners - [www.clb.org.hk/en/files/File/research\\_report/Worker\\_Movement\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://www.clb.org.hk/en/files/File/research_report/Worker_Movement_Report_final.pdf)

Today we must expose the Chinese state capitalist regime for what it is: a brutal imperialist power whose ferocity against its colonial subjects is matched only by its hyper exploitation of its workers.

**Boyd Kellner**  
Newrybar

■ The Olympic torch relay is one of the less sinister practices the rest of the world has adopted from the Nazis. Nevertheless, such facts should be remembered by those who believe the modern Olympic Games, saturated with nationalism, commercialism, and undetectable drugs, still have something to do with the Olympic spirit of the ancient Greeks.

The idea of the torch relay was first approved and put into practice by Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goeb-

bels, who could see the light, or rather the propaganda value, in staging such an event, as have all host countries since.

The same goes for the tradition of the opening ceremony, a disgusting exercise by the host countries in unrestrained self-adulation and shameless hypocrisy, since 1936.

I would not be surprised if during the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics we were presented with a performance by a group of dancing Tibetan monks displaying the wonders of Tibetan culture to a young Han Chinese girl who looks on with a benevolent smile on her face.

Seeing this, the millions of viewers around the world, having grown up on a steady diet of bread and plenty of circus, will reach for another tissue to wipe their teary eyes, overcome with the realisation that, after all, everything is just fine in Tibet, in China, in fact the whole world.

**Tom Koo**  
Alstonville