

THE SOUTHERN ARGUS

Here we go again

Thursday, September 29th, 2016

Now we see the Government wanting to simplify changes to Council boundaries and are seeking more feedback from the public and to facilitate this they have extended the public consultation time by an extra two weeks to October 14.

The public should be very wary about extending too much power to just a few people in this direction and if past activities are anything to go by, there's every chance that they will get it wrong.

Electoral boundaries are changed on a regular basis to keep electorate numbers balanced, but these changes are not made without causing problems.

Families, farms and partners have been split during this process - all decided by 'which side of the bed one lays', partners have been issued a place in neighbouring electorates and one wonders if this may happen again as Council boundaries seem set to become more easily changed.

Why do these changes need to be made? Perhaps more amalgamations are in mind, or perhaps some of these will be reversed...

Only time will tell, but while public consultation remains open for two more weeks, one wonders what power the public really have in the making of the final decision on these matters and how long before these decisions would be over-ridden?

Now is the time to stand up and have your say on this important matter before the State Government and the Local Government Association agree on the proposed new framework and a Bill is introduced to Parliament before the end of the year.

Ladies gather at Salem

On 21st September, 34 ladies from the Adelaide Hills area met at Peace Lutheran Church Salem for the annual Rally of the Adelaide Hills Zone of Lutheran Women of South Australia/Northern Territory.

After morning tea, Pastor Wayne Kerber led us in worship and expanded on our theme "Surprise the World" (from the book of the same name by Michael Frost) using

the acrostic B.E.L.L.S. - Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn and Sent.

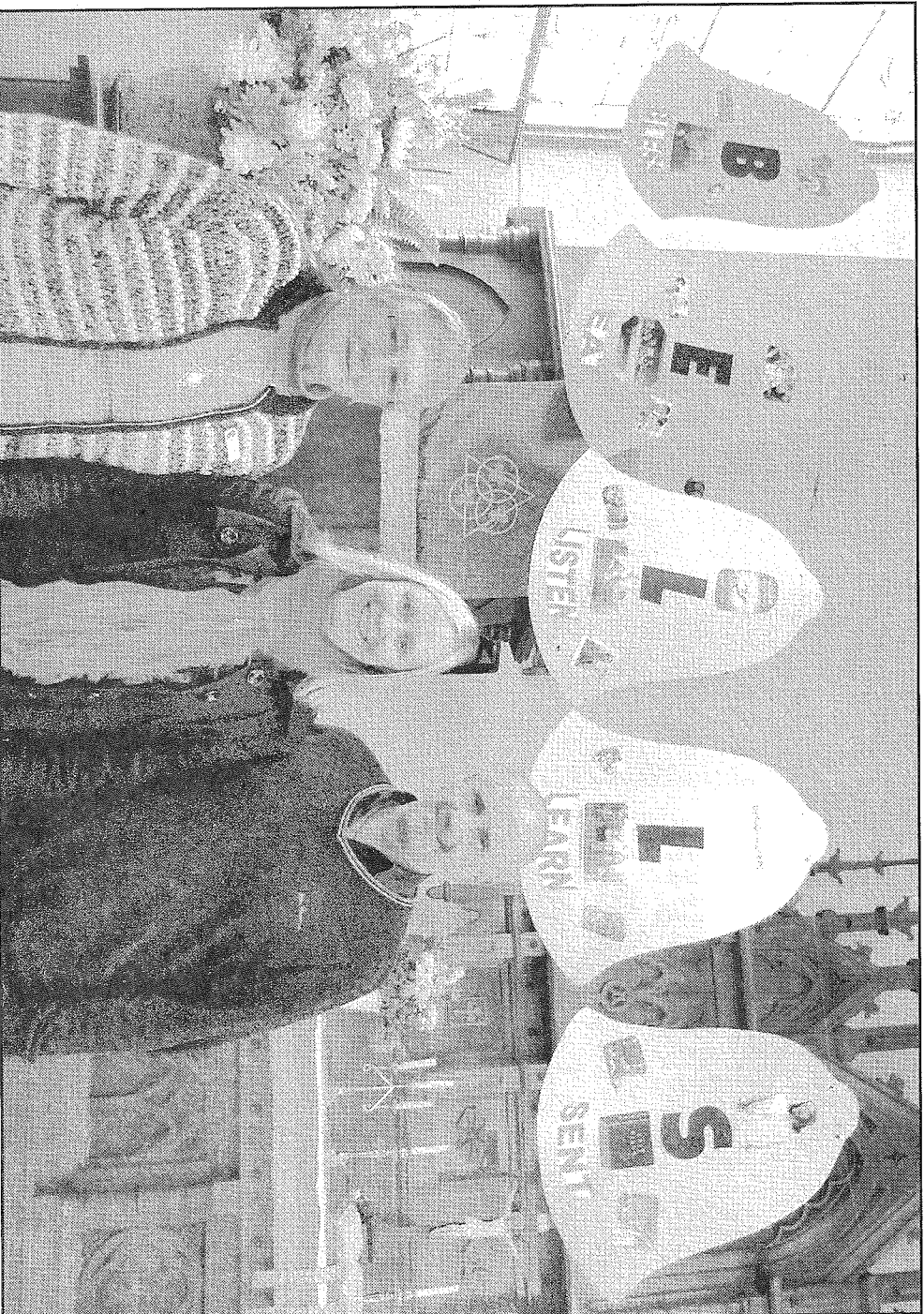
These five habits can help us become missionaries in our communities. The President of

the Salem-Callington Ladies Guild, Valda Jaensch welcomed everyone and conducted the business of the Zone.

Reports were given by the following representatives - Beryl Smith from LWSA/NT, Jan Hodgson from Lutheran Community Care and Clothing Committee and

Valda Jaensch from Team. The offering for the day went to Lay Committee.

Guest speaker for the day was Verena Johnson. She gave two inspiring talks on her life's journey leading up to her current position as the LCA Lay Worker Formation Officer and also her involvement with a Prayer Ministry. After a comprehensive vote of thanks from Margaret Wagenknecht, the afternoon concluded with a devotion with the singing capably accompanied by Vicki Jaensch and Katrina Klemm.



L.-R. Valda Jaensch President Salem-Callington Ladies Guild, Verena Johnson guest speaker and Pastor Wayne Kerber.

Drug driving flourishing in regions

Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire says every police officer needs to be trained and able to test drivers for the presence of drugs with drug driving now outstripping drink driving in regional areas.

Mr Brokenshire has forwarded these latest FOI statistics to 'The Southern Argus' to highlight the growing drug driving problem in country areas, a problem that could easily be much worse if more testing for presence of drug drivers was exercised.

"The Yorke Peninsula (14.58% of drivers), the Barossa (14.26%) and the Limestone Coast (9.17%) topped the charts for drivers testing positive for drugs in Local Service Areas across the state for 2015/16 and most other areas were not far behind," Mr Brokenshire said.

The call for better police resourcing follows a Freedom of Information application by Family First, which revealed that an average 6.1% of South Australian motorists tested during 2015/16 returned a positive result for drug driving compared to 0.79% of drivers found over the limit for alcohol.

"There is no doubt in anyone's mind that drugs are now a major problem on our roads and people's lives are being put at risk as a result," Mr Brokenshire said. "Unfortunately, while the statistics clearly

show more people are using drugs before getting behind the wheel, we are still not testing for drugs at anywhere near the same rate as we do for drink driving because police are clearly not resourced for the task.

This is a particular concern in both country and metropolitan areas where we are seeing an alarming number of drivers returning positive drug tests each year.

"Imagine how many drug drivers could be detected and taken off the road if every police car became not only a breath testing station but had the potential to drug test at the same time," Mr Brokenshire said.

Mr Brokenshire said the Labor Government had taken a soft approach to the drug problem for far too long.

"It is time the Labor Government faced the fact that drugs are a major problem in this state and helped stamp out this scourge. Drug driving is a major contributor to deaths on our roads and they cannot afford to turn a blind eye to it any longer."

"The government needs to find the money to properly equip police to test for drugs and they

Four Knot Zone Removed

Member for Hammond, Adrian Pederick is pleased to advise the four knot zone in place at Long Island Reserve, Murray Bridge, has now been removed.

"In 2009 the restriction was initially put in place due to safety concerns after the river was exposed to extensive slumping and erosion," said Mr Pederick.

As a member of the River Murray Boating and Recreational Advisory Committee (RMBRAG), we worked collaboratively with both Local Government and State Government throughout the process of removing this four knot zone.

"It is the belief of the Department that after careful consideration, this section of river no longer presents safety risks. I am pleased to advise that the four knot zone has now been removed and signage in the area will be removed by the end of the month. "With summer fast approaching, it is an ideal time for the removal of the four knot zone. "However with the restriction being lifted, it needs to be ensured that this section of the river is closely monitored as a means of avoiding future incidents. "Judging from the correspondence which has been presented to me, I trust that this information will be openly accepted by those who utilise the amazing Murray River," said Mr Pederick.

Shipping News

Historical information about transporting manure in the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship. It was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas.

As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks, and the first time someone came below at night, with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before the cause was determined.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term, 'Ship High In Transit' which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term 'S.H.I.T.' which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I.

I always thought it was a golf term.

Laughter is the best medicine.

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