

## Editor's Comment: The Politics of Politeness

IT HAS become fashionable again to blame your parents for everything wrong in your life.

For once I'm thinking Freud may have a point, specifically when it comes to how effective we are as citizens.

I know this is unfortunately close to Mothers' Day, but those guardians of goodness do have a bit to answer for.

Good manners are drummed into most of us from the moment we can say Please and Ta.

The average child is well-taught with motherly memos on the importance of being polite. Mind your own business, Ble your tongue, Don't backchat. If you don't have anything good to say don't say anything at all. Turn the other cheek - don't stop to their level. Respect your elders, and those famous last words 'Why? Because I said so'.

We are trained not to

question our elders, not to voice our opinions too loudly, and not to challenge those in positions of authority.

This is handy when you are an exhausted parent trying to get through the day without checking a child.

There comes a time however, when good manners and being permanently polite can be detrimental to you, your family, your colleagues, your community and yes, your country.

Recently the NSW Government announced an inquiry into a number of their agencies to "investigate the prevalence of bullying, harassment and discrimination".

I have no doubt that if you poked many organisations you would find that lying backstabbing, blaming, taking credit for other people's work and other forms of unacceptable playground behaviour is becoming more common.

How does this happen?

How does it get to the point where the public purse has to be pilfered to put the finger at some super-powered executives who've gotten so big for their boots they have to stomp all over their staff?

Why didn't previous bosses, workmates, or someone - anyone - put them in their place?

Did no-one notice? You could try it. Why didn't someone step in, grab them by the earlobe and drag them from the boardroom?

Because they were all too polite to make a noise and call a bully a bully or a liar a liar.

Large corporations, and even smaller businesses, make their money by selling us stuff we often don't need and dressing the pig up as a high-fashion purse in all kinds of fancy language, usually with nice pictures and motivational music.

Political parties get into

power by promising things to all sorts of people that they have no capacity, and sometimes no intention, of delivering.

Are the public too stupid to realise when they're being sold a shipload of spit? Not likely.

We're just too well-trained to call out BULLSHIT, to ask many questions, or argue in public, or laugh and make fun of their outrageous claims when we have the chance.

Mothers' Day is over. Don't get me wrong. Mothers deserve all the gratitude they can get.

But some of mum's advice just isn't useful in every situation.

Bring back the cheeky brat. Ask more questions. Call out the bullies and liars and kick their tails.

Laugh loudly when someone seriously tries to sell you their best B-S.

Because you are properly trained, you can do it politely and with respect. Make mum proud.

## Letters to the Editor

All correspondence received is printed at the discretion of the editor. All correspondence must be signed & include an address & phone number.

## APA Values Landowner Input

Dear Editor,

APA would like to thank Ross McAlary and Brian Hanigan for further articulating their concerns and detailing their understanding of local weed management challenges in their joint letter of 10 May.

We recognise the extensive local knowledge of landowners in the region and value their input to our planning of the Western Slopes Pipeline Project.

The information provided by Mr McAlary and Mr Hanigan regarding weed species along the preliminary pipeline alignment is exactly the type of specific feedback that we are seeking from landowners when we consult with them regarding the

project.

We continue to actively engage with the relevant Local Land Services offices and landowners along the preliminary pipeline alignment regarding these issues.

We remain at an early point in the process and can confirm that field survey work will only be conducted once relevant agreements and/or authorities are in place.

We would encourage all landowners along the alignment to speak directly with our project team with contact details available on the APA website.

Jim Fieldsoe  
Access & Approvals Manager  
APA Group

## Congratulations Coonamble

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to announce that we have received almost 700 submissions objecting to the Narrabri Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement.

Local volunteers started collecting signed submissions at the Ag Field Day, and have also been at the Streets Ahead markets, visiting businesses and at the recent meeting at the Golf Club.

It has been encouraging to see that people are willing

to put pen to paper to show their opposition to Coal Seam Gas in our area.

The mining of Coal Seam Gas in the Pilliga, which is one of the main recharge areas of the Great Artesian Basin, is a serious threat to our livelihoods and our communities.

If the artesian water is in any way contaminated or depleted - no more Coonamble.

There is still time to submit your views if you contact me by Thursday 20 May.

You can also do it online.

We will be taking the pile of submissions from our local area to the Department of Planning and Environment in Sydney by the 22 May.

Sincerely,  
Pam Goldsmith,  
Great Artesian Basin  
Protection Group,  
Avalonleigh, Coonamble

We welcome your Letters to the Editor on topics of concern to you and the community. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the name, address and telephone number of the author for verification. You may request to have your name withheld however the above information is still required. By submitting your letter for publication you agree that we may edit or omit it for legal or space reasons. Letters reflect the opinion of the author, not that of the Coonamble Times or its staff. The deadline is 2pm Mondays, however letters may be held over until the following week at the editor's discretion. Submit via email: [editor@coonambletimes.com.au](mailto:editor@coonambletimes.com.au)

(Ms) Kay Nines  
Name and address supplied.

## Barking Mad

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your article on the coming Coonamble Show, and congratulate the writer, but... where are the dogs? Underrepresented, marginalised, the old story. Will there actually be a Dogs Section this year? My blue heelers have been dismayed, disconsolate and

dyspeptic this week as we await news. I know we live in a "dog-eat-dog" society, but this is no time to be sheepish. The omission gives me paws for thought.

Kelpies of the world, unite!

go ahead I would like to ask what moral rights and what legal justification do they have to force the people of the North West to live in fear of losing their healthy lifestyles and the destruction of their land, air and water for some gas that will supply Asia for around thirty years?

What do we as a nation have to gain from the extraction of this gas and all of the destruction that it can cause compared to the wonderful productive land that we have for generations to come and the technology of renewables at hand?

The trouble today is those companies that have the most risk of harming the environment must spend the most on politics if they are not to be regulated out of existence so politics comes to be dominated by the dirtiest companies.

Is our Government that led into the multi national firms overseas that they have to sell their souls by destroying our land and our people to please these companies that seem to be ruling those in power?

Don McKenzie  
Cresline  
Coonamble NSW

• Great Artesian Basin Protection Group members (left to right) Vicky Lampe, Anne Kennedy and Pam Goldsmith are pleased with the submissions received against Santos' Narrabri Gas Project.



mail to PO Box 18, Coonamble, 2829  
In person: 73 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble.

## Crunch Time for CSG Communities

Dear Editor,

I believe it is crunch time for the people living in the North West of the state.

The communities that live around the pristine Pilliga Forest are about to be enveloped in a battle with Santos and the Governments who are backing them.

We are fortunate to be living with nature where we have clean air, crystal clear water and rich food producing land.

One can wake in the mornings and listen to the world of nature coming awake as the birds and animals all make their cry to start the day.

If Santos have their way all of this will change forever. Our landscape will be turned into an industrial wasteland where the roar of diesel engines running 24/7 to power the pumping stations to move the gas and toxic waste that will be coming from deep underground.

There will be the constant light from the flares along with the noise that they create and our once clean air and water will be gone forever.

With the flaring comes the spread of heavy metals falling out of the air which in turn will poison our rain water.

With the drilling we have the thousands of tons of toxic salts and drilling waste that

no one as yet can say what is going to be the plan to do with this highly toxic by product of the gas industry.

The spill sights in the Pilliga are total dead zones that Santos has spent millions on over the years with no success.

The once breadbasket farming country, which produces so much, will be covered in roads and pipelines every 500 metres which will make it almost impossible to farm.

At the moment Santos only want to put down 850 wells in the Pilliga but the long term aims for 11000 wells across the area from Moree in the north down to Dubbo in the south, from Come-by-Chance in the west to Scone in the east.

All communities living on and depending on the water of the GAB will perish as eventually the water from the GAB will be destroyed as the wells break down and collapse.

Is this the legacy that you want to leave your children and grandchildren to have to face in the future?

Hypothetically speaking, if I were to dump some of this highly toxic waste into the Sydney water supply then I would be looked upon as a terrorist.

With both the Federal and State Governments pushing for this project to

NSW Rural Fire Service  
Bush Firefighter Grassland  
Workshop

Bush Fire Grassland Training is being conducted at the Coonamble Fire Control Centre.

When: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017  
Bam to 12 noon

Where: Coonamble Fire Control Centre- Buckley Drive Coonamble

New and prospective members are welcome to attend.

Lunch will be provided on the day.

Contact Michael at the Coonamble Office on 02 6822 4422 for any further information and to register your attendance.

RSVP REQUIRED BY THE 30 MAY 2017  
FOR CATERING PURPOSES