

is paying off

I'll admit it. I didn't think the NQ Cowboys were going to win their preliminary final on the weekend. In the discussion around the television before the game on Saturday, I said I hoped they would win, but I didn't know that they could. I was wrong and oh boy, am I glad I was wrong. I think it's fair to say that the NQ Cowboys have surprised and impressed people this season. Since the loss of their superstars Johnathan Thurston and Matt Scott to injury few people (myself included) had any faith that the homegrown rugby league talent could make it to the finals - let alone beat the Sharks in the first final, and the Eels in the second final to win their way into the semi final. What they have managed to show footy fans across the country this week is that they are more than just a two player team.

The Cowboys have shown that under coach Paul Green they have faith in themselves and their ability, and they are never out of the competition so long as there are minutes left on the clock. The Cowboys have the best completion rate in the competition - it's this kind of statistic that speaks volumes because of their determination to retain possession of the ball and reduce errors in their game.

I recall listening to swimmer Jon Sieben talk about his Olympic success at the 200m. When all other swimmers at the time were completing fast first and last laps with a slower middle section, he was the only one who was consistent in his approach. It was a winner. It seems to me it's like that for the Cowboys. The statistics said the Cowboys couldn't make it this far, but they have beaten those odds with their consistency.

They've made it this far and they deserve to make it to the grand final, so here's hoping they do.

increasingly important, isn't it time that council rearranged their expenditure priorities and allocated some of our rates to a recycling program?
BERYL EDMONDS, *Charters Towers*

I AM ...

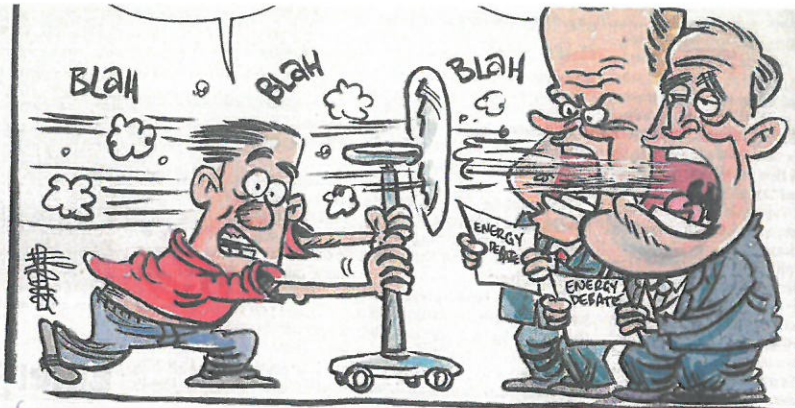
- I AM who I am, I stand by what I believe. I always speak the truth, no one do I deceive.
- I treat everyone like I expect to be treated in return.
- I make a note of all life's lessons, that I learn.
- I am at one with nature and all God's creation.
- We are the custodians of the world and every nation.
- I live in the now, this moment, on the past and the future I do not dwell.
- As we go through life, what's going to happen, who can honestly tell?
- As you go through your life in what you say or do.
- I know who I am, how about you?

CHRIS LUNT (aka THE POM), *Charters Towers*

HIGHWAY FUNDING IS A GOOD START

I APPLAUD the federal and state government for being on the same page to improve key roads in the Flinders Shire, which are vital to delivering a more reliable freight and tourist route in our region. Work has started on a \$25 million upgrade of seven ageing culverts on the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Richmond, thanks to Australian and Queensland government funding.

For far too long investment has focused on upgrading the Bruce Highway, but now federal and state funding is starting to flow where it is needed to ensure the economic sustainability of rural and regional Queensland. However, there is still a long way to go to bring our inland network up to standard. Sections of the Flinders Highway, are among those listed in a network of around 16,000km in the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) that are not up to scratch.



The IQ-RAP is not just about providing a more reliable and safe road network to our regional towns, it is also about providing a funded forward program to provide certainty for local governments to retain critical skills sets and maintain a stable workforce. This is vital to the 33 local governments in the IQ-RAP region, with regional unemployment rates at an all-time low, particularly youth unemployment.

We look forward to further bipartisan commitments to regional roads to support regional economic development.
CR JANE MICHAMARA, *Deputy Chair IQ-RAP Working Group and Flinders Shire Council Mayor*

ANSWERS ARE NOT AS SIMPLE AS WIND POWER

WHEN I worked for a successful mining company here in the Towers, over a long period of years we would have three mill superintendents. When the first one came along, he said I have this great idea, how to revolution the gold mining industry. So we tried and tried but we could not make it work. Then the next one came along, suggested the very same thing. We told him it doesn't work. He became very

adamant that we do. We argued back and forth. So we went through same process again - total failure.

So when the third one appeared this older employee said to us just do what he wants. Just tell him what a wonderful idea it is. After the superintendent left, because of the failure the same chap wondered why some of the learned folk do not listen to people with experience? Most of us are not against renewable energy like wind power.

I recall many years ago. If you had driven through the cane growing areas of North Queensland all you could see where these huge windmills pumping water to irrigate the cane. When farmers realised it was cheaper to use electricity they let them fall into disrepair. They became useless.

Now they have developed windmills on a huge scale - call them wind farms that cannot produce enough power. I wonder how many households have an emergency generator? How many government buildings have diesel powered generators to keep the power on?

But one thing I know, the answer is not blowing in the wind.
TOM ALEXANDER, *Charters Towers*

REGO RISES NOT GOOD FOR FAMILIES

EARLIER this year, the LNP committed to not increasing family car rego by any more than the inflation rate in Queensland, for the term of a re-elected LNP Government.

We did this in the face of two straight years under the Palaszczuk Government where family car rego increased by 3.5 per cent - more than twice the rate of inflation! In the recent state budget, Labor once again increased the cost of family car rego by another 3.5 per cent - that's 10.5 per cent in just three years. The LNP is listening to Queensland families about cost of living pressures. That's why we have now committed to freezing family car rego for the term of a re-elected LNP Government.

While the Palaszczuk Labor Government treats them as cash-cows, the LNP has a proven track record of delivering cost of living relief for Queensland motorists. The previous LNP Government also froze family car rego costs for three years. This is part of our practical plan to keep the cost of living for Queensland families under control.
ANDREW CRIPPS, *LNP spokesman for Northern Development*

Online

Have your say: Local teen Pacey Whitney was at a loss when he found his beloved push bike had been stolen from a bus stop along Broughton Road on the weekend. Thinking the bike was now long gone, you can imagine his - and his family's surprise - when on Tuesday morning they learned the bike had been returned along with a very apologetic note from a "drunk guy".

THEY were very pleased to get his bike back. Good to know there are still honest people out there, drunk or otherwise. Not often you get a good ending to a bad story these days.
IVENA MYERS

JUST a typical day in CT.
LOGAN GULDBRANSEN

YOU were lucky to get it back. What is the chance of that happening as we know when cars

go missing? Buckley's and none.
LEE SMITH

COOL as Pacey
LYWINE MARSHALL

I REALLY don't understand this kinda thing. Even if it was returned, the bike had been taken or stolen that moment and it's being accepted in this town. God.
SUNHYOUNG SON

GOOD on you drunk guy. A bit of

old-fashioned honesty is good.
BO DESCHAMP

CHARLIE'S Trousers, nothing much changes in these beaut Aussie towns, still honest.
KELLIE RICHARDS

THAT is brilliant. Good on you drunk guy.
MERYL CLARKE

HE'S got a good story to tell for the rest of his life.
LORRIE FETT

CHARTERS Towers is a meme.
SAM STAINER

GOOD on ya drunk guy
ERICA MORRIS

THAT'S a classic.
JILL ADAMS

ONLY in Charters Towers.
COURTNEY JAY

IT'S been the laugh around town.
SAMMIE RAE BONNEY

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Charters Towers teen Pacey Whitney with the apologetic note left by the "drunk guy" who stole and later returned his bike.

Letters must be signed and contain either street address or PO Box number. They must not be anonymous. A telephone number should also be provided. Letters not exceeding 250 words are preferred.