

# YOUR SAY

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think Australian cricket as an entity is on the nose and a little bit of trust has been lost."

— WACA CHIEF CHRISTINA MATTHEWS ABOUT POOR TICKET SALES AT PERTH TEST



# Healing songs

Keith Fagg



Former Mayor of Geelong

DURING our lifetimes, we meet people who inspire us.

Parents or grandparents, teachers or tutors, sports coaches or youth group leaders, work colleagues or managers. Or people you just happen to come across in unexpected places but nevertheless leave us touched with their compelling combination of talent, achievements, oratory and character.

More often than not, inspiring people will book-end their many captivating traits with a desire to serve others at one end and an abiding humility at the other.

One such person, of our very own community, is Kym Dillon (pictured). Musician, conductor, teacher, composer, and more. Many in Geelong's musical community will know of Kym and his prodigious talents, but let me introduce you to him.

Music always being a passion, Kym was playing piano at his local church at the tender age of 10. He pursued this passion through secondary school and into the Victorian College of the Arts.

Enter Geelong's One Voice Choir. Tanya de Jong of Creativity Australia launched the One Voice choir movement in 2008. Tanya, an operatic soprano and social entrepreneur, realised

the health and social benefits of group singing, particularly for those who may otherwise be socially disconnected.

Victoria now has 10 One Voice choirs, in places as diverse as St Kilda and Mildura. But, of course, the best is in Geelong.

When Geelong's One Voice choir was in its infancy almost a decade ago and their first conductor moved from town, Kym was recommended by John Shawcross — his high school jazz piano teacher — who recognised Kym's talent and potential.

Then only 20, in his first year of VCA and never having conducted anyone before, Kym took on this significant musical and leadership challenge. In this, Kym took inspiration from Tom Healey for his approach to choral leadership together with his musical knowledge, humour, clarity and encouragement.

Under Kym's leadership, Geelong's original choir of 10-12 people has now grown into 60-70 people.

Rehearsing every Monday at 5.30pm at Wesley Church (except the first Monday of the month, when they rehearse

at the University Hospital cafeteria), One Voice is a choir for all-comers.

Kym's choir comes from a diversity of circumstance —

some working, some retired, some with a disability, some dealing with disadvantage, some who just want a sense of community. The choir just love performing, sharing their music with infectious joy.

People with such immense musical talent as Kym's often, understandably, pursue careers as performers and some make it to the very top. But something else entirely drives Kym,

something that is abundantly clear when you spend even a short time with him. You



can sense Kym taking a deep, quiet pride when acknowledging that One Voice gives people a chance to sing. "Most people come into the choir thinking they can't sing, but over time grow in confidence and skill. For the vast majority, this is the first time they've ever sung in public — that's very exciting for me!"

To watch Kym conduct One Voice from the keyboard is to see someone totally immersed in the music. Kym doesn't so much play the keyboard as become part of it.

His body moves with the music. With his choir, he is actually more encourager than conductor. They draw energy from him, and he from them.

Kym's heart is grass roots service, directly helping people. "Since I have been given gifts, talents and opportunities, I feel a calling to make the most of them wisely whatever context I'm in," he says.

What an inspiring gift to the Geelong community.

During this season, we celebrate the birth of another inspiring person, whose life and teachings changed the world.

After the year Australia has had, when national leadership has been disappointingly unsettled with few political leaders providing much inspiration, we can still draw inspiration from local people doing marvellous things. Kym Dillon is one such — a Geelong treasure to be celebrated and encouraged.

Geelong's One Voice Choir will perform at Johnstone Park Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve.

## Geelong Advertiser EDITORIAL

# Season of road safety

YESTERDAY morning, most of us woke to the news of the two young men who died when the car they were travelling in veered off a bridge on the Western Ring Rd.

As the day progressed, our journalists and photographers were kept busy with a series of prangs and bingles on local roads, including a ute into a service station wall in North Geelong, a car into a fence outside the Leopold CFA and, later in the day, a minibus crash at the nearby intersection of the Bellarine Hwy and Melaluka Rd. That Leopold intersection is also the same one where a 77-year-old man was hospitalised only two weeks ago after a collision that closed the highway for several hours and ended with a car smashing into a pizza restaurant.

As Christmas rapidly approaches, our roads are becoming increasingly busy with last-minute shoppers, people attending Christmas events and various end-of-year activities.

The recent downpour of rain has made conditions on our roads far from ideal for heavy traffic, while there are also still plenty of roadwork projects around as crews frantically rush to complete jobs before the festive break.

Throw in exhaustion, impatience and the beginning of holiday-makers making their end-of-year pilgrimage to the coast, and our roads become one of the most dangerous places to be at this time of year.

It is the type of recipe for disaster that the Transport Accident Commission warns us about every year — and yet we still are faced with multiple car crashes, serious injuries and even death, all on the one day.

At the time of printing, the road toll for 2018 was at 202, putting us on track for a better year than 2017 in which 240 people died on our roads. But we need to remain vigilant to ensure there is no more senseless death.

Christmas is only a week away and the roads are only going to get more busy. Let's all slow down, take care and try to keep our patience in the coming days to do our part in reducing this year's road toll.

## ADDY READERS HAVE THEIR SAY - LETTERS AND TEXTS

### OBVIOUS CHOICE MISSING IN BIKE ROUTE PLAN OPTIONS

THE four bike options portrayed in the council survey omitted the choice I and the majority of bikers preferred: the Francis St route.

It's all very well to quote the stats and figures obtained but when to survey is biased the results will be biased.

I doubt I will be riding the "council's bike path".

Terry Bohan, Belmont

### BOATS MAY HAVE STOPPED, BUT WHAT ABOUT PLANES?

G. BARNES (GA 15/12) advises we should check our facts regarding current refugee issues being the fault of previous Labor governments.

I agree, it is a great idea to be accurate and check facts. So it may come as a surprise to you, G. Barnes, that while Mr Dutton keeps harking on about stopping the boats, under his watch, over 27,000 people have ar-

rived in Australia by plane and subsequently claimed to be refugees.

Yes the boats have stopped, however we don't know how many boats have departed for Australia, so we don't actually know how many have been stopped.

What we do know is that while the boats have stopped the planes have not, and Australia continues to receive large numbers arriving on our shores and lodging refugee claims. Which by the way is NOT illegal. Mr Dutton also forgot to tell us that bit.

Joseph Petyanszki, Torquay

### DON'T FORGET THE INTENT BEHIND REFUGEE BILL

G.BARNES of Leopold (GA 15/12) missed the point of Peter and Cathy Coghlan's letter (GA 11/12) about the Urgent Medical Transfer Bill.

Their letter highlighted the indecency of the Coalition 'filibustering' a cross-bench bill that would ensure

that sick and dying refugees, held in the offshore camps, were brought here for urgent medical treatment in a timely manner.

With amendments put forward by Labor, the Minister would have final sign-off for each transfer, but would be required to report to Parliament the reasons for any refusals. Grounds for refusal would include the uncommon case of someone having an adverse security assessment.

Nine people have died in the offshore camps because they were not provided with the medical care they needed. One young man died from a bacterial infection which could have been easily treated with the correct antibiotics, yet he was refused appropriate treatment until it was too late.

G. Barnes, you should focus on the intent of the bill, which is to provide a duty of care and save lives, rather than your own prejudices and fears.

Linda Cusworth, Bannockburn

### TECHNOLOGY NO SOLUTION TO UMPS MISSING NO-BALLS

BEING an umpire myself, I cannot believe umpires miss so many no-balls in Test and other first-class cricket, as was seen in the first Test in Adelaide recently.

In that Test Ishant Sharma bowled at least 16 no-balls that were not picked up by onfield umpires. We could argue that the upstairs umpire should call them, but costs rule this out. The umpires in all other forms of cricket have to call no-balls so international umpires should do the same. It seems to me that a lot of the umpires stand too far back, and simply need to get closer to the wicket.

It is interesting that the commentary on TV never mentions this, and points to technology to overcome this problem.

If technology cannot help in certain decisions, the umpires are there to do it and must do it — no excuses.

Denis Ryan

## ADDY ONLINE POLL

Yesterday's question: Have you finished Christmas shopping?

YES 43% NO 57%

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