

## To the editor [stevak@toonews.c-link.com.au](mailto:stevak@toonews.c-link.com.au)

Maximum 250 words. Full name, postal address and signature required. Daytime telephone number is required for E-mail contributions. Preferences given to short, neatly typed letters.

### □ Thwarting pay grabs

The solution to pay grabs by councillors, as raised by the independent candidate for Toowoomba North (TC 8/2) and by all politicians is to put them on the same footing that they have put the workers.

That is, they must negotiate workplace agreement contracts with their employer.

Seeing that it is the ratepayers and taxpayers who are the employers of all politicians, this would require all candidates to sign a workplace agreement contract for the term of office before election.

This would stop the long-held practice of politicians making their pay grabs as soon as possible after elections, and as long as possible before the next.

If the jobs are as difficult and as underpaid as they claim when justifying their salary increases, it raises the questions of why there is such fierce competition for the jobs; and why they renominate for the positions?

Why is it that workers seeking a pay rise must apply to a court where the application can be opposed by employers and governments, but politicians' pay rises are awarded by a tribunal where no opportunity is provided for employers (the taxpayers) to oppose the pay rise? — Eric SORENSEN, *Bellidon*.

### □ Help in emergency

May we express our sincere thanks to the many people who offered help on Sunday evening, February 4, near the Empire Theatre when our elderly mother collapsed, specially to the two doctors who came to her assistance until the Toowoomba Ambulance arrived.

Everyone's prompt action helped to save her.

She is a patient in the Toowoomba Hospital Critical/Coronary Care Unit. — Loretta NAUMANN, Pittsworth, and Bob NAUMANN, Toowoomba.

### □ 'Cruel' creation

In reply to K. Hood (TC 6/2), it must be emphasised that Jesus was a mere mortal politician and we know the gravy train attracts them.

Much more to the point is Yahweh's reputation.

The Jewish deity is a cruel creation, who supported slavery and child sacrifice among the chosen few and has increased its bloodlust in modern times to include his barbarous attacks on babies in Vietnam and Iraq.

The Hebrews lived in constant terror of their mythical storm god, whose actions are far removed from the word "love".

Question the pastors and you will be told their deity is no longer the sex-crazed, gold-oving God of ancient times. Really?

Then why don't they abandon the blood-stained Bible and bring a little honesty into their lives? The pagan, loving deity, a political invention, watched as little girls were hanged by the US Christians in Salem and approved the napalm burning of Vietnamese children.

It moves in mysterious ways, indeed.  
— David JONES, Toowoomba.

### □ Atomic invitation

I have no wish to waste valuable column space in an exchange of letters with Mr C. Brickhill, who finds a lack of balance in my January 31 letter regarding Veterans' Affairs matters. I do wish to congratulate Mr Brickhill for his efforts over the years to help veterans with their claims for war-caused disabilities.

As a welfare officer with the Atomic Servicemen's Association, I also try to make my small contribution on behalf of our members, despite my own disabilities.

I invite *The Chronicle* to pass my telephone number to Mr Brickhill.

If he wishes to learn more about Australia's part in atomic bomb tests and in the nuclear industry, together with some of the less well-known practices of Australian governments past and present, perhaps he might care to call me, so that we might enjoy a private and constructive discussion in good spirit. — J. COLLINS, Toowoomba.

### □ Bunya festivities

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association will be 25 years old this month.

In order to celebrate this we are inviting members, both past and present, to join with us at the Bunya Mountains on the weekend of March 10 and 11. For further details contact the Secretary, Ruth Humphrys, M.S 501, Dalby, 4405 or 4863 4744. — Andrey SAMPSON, Maldenwell.

### □ Citizenship lost

John Howard's comments to journalists at the National Press Club after his Australia Day speech that "there is nothing better anyone can do than become an Australian", may well be true.

Conversely, I would argue that the loss of Australian citizenship is probably a very distressing event if it happens to you.

Many readers might not be aware that this does in fact happen to at least 600 Australians every year — through section 17 of the Citizenship Act.

This provides for the loss of Australian citizenship on the acquisition of another.

Up to 5 million Australians hold a second nationality because they migrated to Australia or were born in Australia and gained another nationality by descent.

That's legal under the Citizenship Act.

So why is the other three-quarters of the population being denied the right to hold dual nationality if their personal circumstances allow them to apply for a second nationality at some later point in their lives?

Sir Ninian Stephen's Citizenship Council recommended in February 2000 that Section 17 be repealed, and the Labor Party supports this recommendation.

But the Government has failed to act. This would be a great gift to the Australian people in an election year, and budget-neutral to boot.

And it would mean that there are no longer two classes of Australian citizens under our law. — Anne MacGREGOR, North American Co-ordinator, Southern Cross Group, Washington DC 20009 USA.

### □ Seeking Walkers

I am researching the family of George Rae WALKER (d) 18.2.1949 and Margaret Adam Alexander WALKER (d) 7.4.1928 who came to the Toowoomba district around the beginning of the 1900s.

On a recent visit to Toowoomba Cemetery, I noticed there appears to be someone caring for the gravesite, which is also the resting place of G.R. Walker (d) 1933, James Walker (d) 1930 (their sons?) also James and Ann ALEXANDER.

If anyone is able to share any information about this family or is a descendant of the above people, I would be pleased to hear from you.

I am also researching the SMART family who were related to these Walkers and whom I believe were sponsored by the Walker family.

Both families were from Forfarshire in Scotland.

My address is 431 Frenchville Road, Rockhampton 4701. — Glenda FAGG, Rockhampton.

### □ Election Notice

Only material from election candidates that is aimed at enhancing the lifestyle or living standard of those within the electorate they are seeking to represent will be considered for publication through the election period.

Photographic opportunities will be considered on their newsworthiness.

The Letters to the Editor section is not a campaign forum for candidates, however it can be used to defend personal criticism.

The newspaper's advertising section is the appropriate environment for supporters to offer endorsement.

The Chronicle is also seeking reader support in compiling possible questions to be put to candidates. Either write or e-mail us with questions that could be considered.  
S.G. KEATING, Editor.