

Mercury Friday April 3 2015

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Medical Ignorance

I recently became aware that in one medical centre in the Huon there are at least 100 people in any month simply not turning up for appointments. No phone calls and no explanation given. A small percentage of these may be too ill to attend but the rest are just ill-mannered and selfish. This is a waste of precious medical resources and shows disregard for the good people trying to keep us all alive. If that is the situation in one practice, I wonder whether this is common to others. Perhaps the AMA might provide comment and send a message to thoughtless folk.

Helen Walne
Glen Huon

State of the union

TO the vocal minority who insist the word marriage remain anchored in an otherwise fluid language, the list of words whose meaning has changed in my lifetime is far too long to include here, but I a few from the top of my head include — apocalypse, forensic, unique, terrific and decimate. Why is "marriage" sacrosanct?

To the MPs who obviously ascribe a greater importance to the vocal minority than to the silent majority, let me suggest that because all committed couples, regardless of anatomy, deserve equal rights and protections under law, can we not have civil unions under Commonwealth

Electrona

Smoking gun

IT is disappointing Roger Groom, health minister in a past government that had a cosy relationship to Big Tobacco, is being touted as someone to whom we should listen (*Mercury*, March 25). His advice that more "information" should be given to smokers is an inadequate answer to an industry that has aggressively targeted the young for the past 100 years. This approach did not work when he was in government and will not work now. These are tired, failed tobacco lobbyist cliches, pushing politicians to stay with policies that are globally discredited.

As the World Health Organisation has said, the tobacco industry is the "vector" of the smoking pandemic, like rats are for the plague. The WHO calls them "rogue" organisations to be shunned by politicians.

According to the Menzies Research Institute, more women now die from lung cancer than breast cancer in Tasmania. A major reason for our health crisis is former governments and health ministers failed to prevent generations of youth becoming addicted. Hospitals are packed to the rafters with patients who were unprotected by governments from the ravages of cigarette promotion when they were young.

Haydn Walters
Smoke-Free Tasmania

be frightened and hurt like us

fish catching
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mouths? Catch and release, while with good intentions, can have a detrimental effect on that animal. Often death is a result. In this case, though, that beautiful majestic animal was "taken for the table". This is completely unnecessary and selfish as we have an abundance of cruelty free food available to us. Game fishing is ego boosting even newsworthy when a big one is "landed".

That trophy fish was fighting for its

life. It was frightened, it suffered and it died.

We wouldn't impale a dog, horse or each other on a hook and drag them about for hours before finally killing them and be OK with that. It is about time we considered the truth carefully and stopped thinking the way our inheritance has taught us to think.

Clare Knight
Longley