

Selling Sydney to the world

If you build it, they will come. Or at least that's what the voice in the 1989 Kevin Costner movie, *Field of Dreams*, said. But real life isn't Hollywood, and if you're going to build a sporting arena, you're going to need to sell it. Which is a message the state government is hearing as it pushes forward with its \$2-billion stadium investment plan.

As The Daily Telegraph reports exclusively today, Western Sydney's leading business groups are pushing for the Berejiklian government to put together a crack team of experts to make sure that the new stadiums are filled with the biggest and most prominent global sporting events. Working alongside Destination NSW, the plan would be for a "Global Events Taskforce" to target "big five" international tournaments — including future Commonwealth Games, women's and men's rugby world cups, and FIFA men's and women's world cups — which have the potential to attract millions of dollars in tourism revenue to our economy. Assuming it is implemented, the plan would appear to suggest a strongly strategic and commercial leveraging of the government's stadium plan. When tied together with other

transport projects such as Sydney Metro, the light rail, and WestConnex, all of which would help improve transit between venues and accommodation and other tourist destinations, the development of truly world-class stadiums can be seen as part of a bigger picture of rejuvenation of the city's infrastructure. But even this must be seen in the context of local and international destinations, all of which are competing for the major sporting events dollar, with Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth all having made large investments in their own sporting grounds. For events such as the 2026 Commonwealth Games, international destinations as wide ranging as Edmonton, Canada, and Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur are all said to be in the hunt. FIFA's 2023 Women's World Cup will likely see competition between Australia and nations from Japan to Colombia to South Korea all putting in bids to host the games. And so on. The fact is, international sport is not just big business but a chance for successful cities to tell their stories on the world stage. Implementing a team to ensure new stadiums have their best shot at hosting global events makes sense.

Brushing up on brushing

Take care of your teeth and your teeth will take care of you. True, perhaps, but easier said than done for those in communities without access to fluoridated water — which is about 7 per cent of the state.

In response, NSW Health has launched a first of its kind community fluoride strategy that will include distributing fluoridated toothpaste and toothbrushes, along with teachers who can help students learn better brushing skills.

Given that tooth decay is linked to so many other health troubles, it's a worthwhile attempt to build skills for life.

Getting serious about flu

For anyone who remembers last year's horror flu season, news that staff in NSW's "high risk" hospital wards will be forced to be vaccinated against influenza by June 1 will come as welcome relief. According to the new rules, doctors who work in neonatal, maternity, child and adult intensive care wards, as well as transplant and cancer departments, will

should know better than anyone the dangers of flu would not avail themselves of prevention, the new rules are just common sense. Yet figures show that a voluntary policy leads to only about half of staff getting the shot, which is clearly not good enough.

Given that last year there was a tripling of reported flu cases, and that already there have

20 LETTERS

We pay for the thought bubbles of our elites

Andrew Bolt should be commended for his forthright analysis of how many of our political class and famous elites are living almost in a bubble ("Easy virtue of elites", 12/3).

He reminds us that they live in an environment far removed from the impact of violence caused by our refugee and immigration policies resulting in a small percentage of ethnic immigrants being responsible for a high percentage of crimes in a number of suburbs where enclaves exist.

A similar analogy could almost be applied to our legal fraternity, with many judges and magistrates choosing to live in the leafy suburbs of Sydney and seemingly out of touch with the real world that desperately needs appropriate jail sentences for serious repeat criminal offenders who threaten the community. Every light sentence given to them is an opportunity they are given.

David Klein, Glenfield

Ignorance is bliss

Andrew Bolt, how right you are.

The politicians of this country do not want to know what goes on in the suburbs where they have sent the refugees to because it has no impact whatsoever on them.

They think that if they don't have to think about what is happening, it will just go away. Sorry, but the problems are only going to get much bigger and worse. They need to pull their heads out of the sand and

realise the damage they have caused over the years of letting anyone into our country, which is slowly becoming like the countries they left. Deportation of those convicted of crimes needs to start happening and if they are citizens, that needs to be cancelled and have them and their families sent back to where they came from. They clearly do not want to be Australian as they do not wish to assimilate. They would rather turn this country into the one they left behind.

Something needs to be done now, and not in another 10 years, when it will be out of control.

Don't be foolish in thinking things will change for the better when everyone else in this country can see what is happening bar our politicians and judges.

Narelle, Sydney

Boats are like cars

Our law makes it compulsory for people in a motor vehicle to wear a seatbelt.

And we all know the reason for this law. So it also ought to be a legal requirement for people who go out in a boat to wear a safety belt (life jacket) too. Just check the number of those who go out in a boat and have to swim or drown when their boat sinks. It is virtually daily news. And having to risk one's own life to rescue those who fail the "stay safe" rule is also something that should never have to happen.

So what is the reason for not making it a law to wear a life jacket when going out in a boat?

Geoff Cass, Tewantin Qld

Enact mobile use laws

With thousands of drivers so addicted to their mobile phones that they are willing to risk their lives and cause much time for death



Our report yesterday.

Act to save needy from the greedy

The Australian government needs to crack down on dodgy migration agents who promise work visas and residency status ("Migration agents of disaster", 12/3).

These rogue agents are charging upfront fees in the thousands, often a lifetime of savings for desperate people escaping war-torn countries. Sadly, a big percentage of this network has been targeting their own people because of the language advantage, which helps them gain their trust in order to extract huge sums of money.

It has been reported that jobs are offered within the agents' network in shops and restaurants to these visa applicants at much lower terms than minimum wages and they are told not to speak up as they may jeopardise their chances of staying in Australia.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton needs to overhaul licences issued to all agents. He should perhaps start by checking every one of them.

Michael Kovas, Homebush

confiscate the phones as well as impose heavy fines and points loss.

Sure, these idiots can buy another phone but they would lose their contacts, photos and links to social media that are so important to their lives. Confiscation would reduce this menace overnight.

T. Padley, Paradise Point

Inking without thinking

I am amazed at the number of apparently sane people who are determined to display graffiti all over their otherwise pristine skin ("Joining the ink tank", 12/3).

It has become a fashion. In the words of Mr Pickwick, "the latest fashion is very seldom in good taste". This is doubly true in the case of these bizarre, ugly doodlings.

You cannot improve on the beauty and attractiveness of unadorned, natural human skin. With ink all over it, it is positively repulsive in many people's eyes, no matter what the subject matter may depict.

John Samios, Davistown

Hope and meaning

Congratulations and thanks to Michael J...

publishing it end", 12/3).

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