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LETTER OF THE DAY

Awareness of boat safety is important

WE WOULD like to congratulate you on the subject of your editorial on Sunday and reinforce its message of the importance of wearing life jackets when fishing or using watercraft.

Few people realise the over-representation of men and watercraft accidents in our shocking drowning statistics.

In fact, the figures are worse than stated, with 284 people drowning, 36% of these being people aged 55+, and many, as you correctly say, involve watercraft and unintentional falls into water.

It is for this reason that Ithaca Caloundra City Life Saving Club is being sponsored by COTA and the Queensland Government to run, as part of Seniors Week, a free Grey

Medallion course.

This is a Royal Life Saving accredited course which covers being water wise, water safety, dry rescue, and CPR and coastal first aid.

The two-day course will be held on August 17-18 and those interested can find out more and/or enrol via the club's website www.caloundracity.asn.au or by calling 0403 071 651.

Thanks Ed, for highlighting people's reluctance on the life jacket issue ... it's something volunteer lifesavers note all too often when undertaking rescues that involve watercraft.

PATRICIA BARRY Hon Secretary, Ithaca Caloundra City Life Saving Club Patrolling Bulcock Beach and the Caloundra Bar



ROUGH RIDE: The Caloundra Coast Guard boat crosses the tricky Caloundra Bar. PHOTO: JASON DOUGHERTY

KATHY SUN

Being 1 this 'sp

"EVERY day is a spl gift", the smiling father, an obvious walking diff told the audience.

Then he shared how years earlier, after a b feeling unwell, he visit doctor.

And his life all of a s had to "start a new jou

I was listening to the tion Army staff choir this man, who I had n in the choir because of fectionous smile, began t his story.

I assumed he must been hurt in a car acci What he had was worse.

The father, husband, er firefighter and Sal Army officer was diag with motor neurone di

I don't know much motor neurone diseas

I set myself w I thought wou be a simple challenge: 'On day without a whinge'

what I know is that is ne to smile about.

It is a cruel, debilit crippling condition slowly eats away at the that control voluntary cle activity - such as wa speaking, breathing swallowing. There is n and it can be fatal. But you wouldn't

stronger economy.

K Rudd and the Labor Party have stuffed our economy and now he has said that things will get tougher. What a mess and this con artist wants us to give him another go! Get real.

BRYAN McCONNELL Maroochydore

Price tag stopper

SOME people may consider one is too many, but at \$10,000 a pop, how many Segways do you believe will be flying along our footpaths? Skateboards and bicycles can pose a threat particularly when they appear silently, right behind you.

CLAIRE JOLLIFFE Buderim

Small consolation

GREAT news that made my day. According to the article in The Daily, world studies have found if you get hit by a Segway injuries aren't as severe as if you were hit by a bike". So, instead of getting two broken legs, a broken arm and wrist and a couple of broken ribs with major head trauma if I get hit by a bike, I will only receive one broken leg, a slight crack in my wrist, 1 broken arm and minor lacerations over my botly if I get hit by a Segway. Having a couple of bandaids and a bandage somewhere in the cupboard I should be able to treat those lesser Segway injuries myself at home. I have always been of the

opinion that it was illegal to ride a pushbike on a footpath anyway so why is it legal for Segways?

ROY BARNETT Peregian Beach

Obstacle choice

THE next question on the hot seat. You are confronted side by side by:

- A. Two cyclists. B. Two pedestrians. C. Two Segways. D. Two shopping trolleys.

Which two are narrower and can you get past easier?

E WRIGHT Sunrise Beach

Danger worry

AFTER reading the Sunday paper, I am in total agree-

ment with the worry that Sunshine Coast retirees have concerning people with Segways legally able to use footpaths. As if we don't have enough annoyance with bicycles, skateboards, scooters and mobility vehicles, people will now be able to feel free to clog up the "footpath" (and I emphasise the word) with these new abominations.

Maybe the word "foot" should be taken out of the equation as it doesn't seem to matter any more.

And I noted that the Minister for Transport said there were a number of safety measures for Segway users. What about the pedestrians?

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