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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier casts an emphatic vote for smarter candidates

Is this the lull before the storm or have our potential political representatives run out of things to whinge and moan about? Is it because of their collective inactivity that no one has much to say? I think the latter is definitely true of all politicians in the current political climate. They don't seem to have the ability to express an original view or opinion on anything; they can only oppose and criticise what their opponents are doing.

That says a lot about the quality of candidates, doesn't it? Intelligent, open-minded thinkers without an axe to grind are not leaping forward to run for office, are they? Who could blame them?

Ann Peacock spoke at the Werribee Football Club ladies' day function last Saturday about throwing her hat in and out of the ring for the position of Lord Mayor of Melbourne. In the end, the things that she is most passionate about changing and making better looked like they may have got lost in the bureaucratic wash. She decided she is more likely to achieve her goals through her ongoing charity groups

and work with Crown Entertainment. That is a sad reflection on the fundamental flaws in the system. Why would someone leave the private sector to go to a world where the handbrakes to progress are so numerous? The short answer is: They don't. And until we do something about it, we will get the candidates and representatives we deserve. The sooner governing on all levels is about action, accountability and outcomes rather than endless paperwork, committees and consultants all covering their posteriors, the better it will be for all of us.

Local pride is something we want in all our representatives, but it needs to come with a modicum of reality. We all know our area is not perfect. We see the blemishes every day, and acknowledging them and trying to improve them is something we can all share. Ignoring them or dismissing them as non-existent is ridiculous – the kind of head in the sand thinking that has held back this area for years. It's like blaming the dog for the smell at the kitchen table ... we all know the truth. Deal with it. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au



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Briefs

Crash under scrutiny

Police are investigating a collision between a road bike and a car on Old Geelong Road in Hoppers Crossing, about 3.30pm on April 20. Investigators believe a Kawasaki road bike struck the side of a Hyundai, which was exiting Elm Park Drive. The driver of the car was uninjured, but the male bike rider was treated for minor injuries. Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000.

Women in sport

Councils and organisations in Melbourne's west will undertake a study into women and girl's participation in sport and recreational activities. Wyndham, Melton, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley, Brimbank and Melbourne councils, Women's Health West, Sport and Recreation Victoria, the Institute for Health and Sport at Victoria University and Inside Edge Sport and Leisure Planning will take part in the study.

Plan for action

Wyndham council has announced plans to develop a 2018-21 Wyndham Accessibility Action Plan. The council has called on residents who have a disability, medical condition or injury, along with their carers and guardians, to fill in a short survey to help out with developing the plan. See www.theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au for details.

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