

CONTACT US

PHONE \ 03 9249 5327
FAX \ 03 9741 7925

LOCATION \ Suite 1/75 Watton Street, Werribee

DISTRIBUTION \ 1300 656 678
distribution@fermax.com.au

ADVERTISING

SALES DIRECTOR \ BEN SUTTON
bsutton@starweekly.com.au

SALES MANAGER \ JAMES STUART
jstuart@starweekly.com.au

GENERAL SALES INQUIRIES
westads@starweekly.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS \ 1300 666 808
FAX \ 5945 0667
EMAIL \ sales@networkclassifieds.com.au

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF \ STEPHEN LINNELL
slinnell@starweekly.com.au

GENERAL EDITORIAL INQUIRIES
westeditorial@starweekly.com.au

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ENTRIES
communitycalendar@starweekly.com.au

Domain

REAL ESTATE SALES DIRECTOR \ JACK GILLESPIE
jgillespie@starweekly.com.au

SENIOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER \
JONATHAN BAKER jbak@starweekly.com.au
Mobile \ 0421 841 321 Office \ 03 8318 5763

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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier says the viability of truth is in the cooking

I start this week where I left off last week – with Jack Nicholson’s quote from *A Few Good Men*: “You can’t handle the truth.”

We can’t and we don’t, at least not all the time. The truth is often avoided for politeness, self-preservation and convenience, including the answers to “Does my bum look big in this dress?”, “How is everything with the meal?” and “Do you want to see photos of my new baby/grandchild/pet?”

In sport, is there any bigger lie than when a club president says he or she backs the coach 100 per cent? That usually results in a sacking nanoseconds later.

Politics abounds with lies and mistruths, as the likes of Rudd, Gillard, Abbott and Turnbull will attest.

In court, you are sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth – a mantra we might have to bring to day-to-day life very soon, if we are capable of dealing with it. Are you brave enough to tell a friend about their body odour, bad breath, the love of their life or that that love is having an affair?

Real friends apparently tell – if you believe the movies and television reality shows. Funny, though, whenever I have seen this occur, the friendship lasts about as long as a prime ministership. What most friends do is not say anything and make sure they are there when it all falls apart. I am sure we have all had the experience when, after an emotional break-up, a friend or relative gleefully says, “I never liked him or her anyway”, thinking it will ease the pain. It doesn’t and we all know it, but we still do it.

We seem to live in a world where we increasingly find honesty at the touch of a keyboard. If we don’t like it, we can keep searching until we find the honesty we like the most. That is good for our self-esteem for a short period, but eventually we have to face the truth. Real friends are honest, they have to be, but they know timing is the difference between helping someone face reality or plummeting someone into a downward spiral. The truth is, we can handle the truth. We just need it cooked to our liking. ■

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



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Briefs

Community invitation

Wyndham City Council is seeking expressions of interest from residents, community groups and businesses who would like to host a program or activity at one of the council's community centres next year. Expressions of interest will open on Monday, September 10. For information, call 8734 8935 or drop in to your local community centre.

Bomb scare

Employees were evacuated from a Laverton North recycling plant after a pipe bomb was located at the premises last Wednesday. Police officers attended the Gilbertson Road plant about 8.30pm. Bomb Response Unit officers were called in and conducted a controlled explosion of the bomb during the early hours of the morning, before declaring the industrial plant safe.

School upgrade

The Victorian government has announced a \$161,000 grant to upgrade the sports oval at Baden Powell College in Tarneit. Western Metropolitan Region MP Cesar Melhem announced the funding last week for the Baden Powell Drive school. He said the Victorian School Building Authority would work with the college to get the upgrade works started.

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8 WYNDHAM STAR WEEKLY \ SEPTEMBER 5, 2018