**LETTERS**

**Short takes**

This is the forum for those who want to make their views known. Letters may be phoned to (02) 4970 5660 between 10am and 1pm or by email to letters@then herald.com.au.

Under the planned redevelopment of Laman Street, will consideration be given to relocating the "His and Hers" statues from the foyer of the library to the new intended site outside the library where they could be properly viewed?

Rossa Robinson, Merewether

Greater than the tragedy of losing the figs is the knowledge that the people have absolutely nothing to say in the matter. We are forced to vote for someone or other every few years who demonstrates nothing except might of arm and mass of the match efforts in the first I was pulled. When I saw the mob-out of farmers on Earth, man's march, come to the crest I was incredulous. When I saw him get out two balls later I was furious at the selector. If they don't care about the people, how can professionals get away with it? If there's any chance for the future of the north a very few men of spectacular on their claiming their gender will never have to make.

Rheilt Morson, Cookies Hill

I have noticed lately that some atheists have publicly ridiculed religion, particularly Christianity. It is easy to condemn and probably encouraged by their gurus such as Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking. Of course they are entitled to transmit their views and to work for it, I prefer to believe in facts rather than theories. And I don't have to prove that God exists, he has promised to do that for me.

Allan Elliott, Glendale

When I saw that Matthew Wade didn't open in the second innings after his man-of-the-match efforts in the first I was puzzled. When I saw the mob-out of farmers on Earth, man's March, come to the crest I was incredulous. When I saw him get out two balls later I was furious at the selectors. If they don't care about the people, how can professionals get away with it? If there's any chance for the future of the north a very few men of spectacular on their claiming their gender will never have to make.

Jason Betty, Wickham

It got me stumped: How much money has been wasted on the Laman Street figs and associated police and security resources when people as young as 11 are being turned away from crisis accommodation. Save our figs or save our kids.

Glenn Bennett, Hamilton

While spending a few days walking around Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens I was surprised to see so many "killer figs" wild and unrestrained. They were providing much appreciated shade and shelter for all in an otherwise concrete jungle.

Sharon Ferrie, Cowes Beach

Aren't we lucky; Alan Jolson (SMS Your Say 7/5), that we live in Australia in a democratic society where we have the right to stand up for what we believe in. BHP Lagoon figs!

Sue Janssen, Coal Point

**SMS your say**

For the short, sweet and text-savvy, SMS your opinion to 0400 747 747. Please include your name, suburb and landline.

Regarding Paul O'Connell's opinion piece "We cry more for baby lambs than for cheeses", Herald 6/5, I found there were many faults. But most of all the Reader's Letter writer's ignorance of men speculating on a question their gender will never have to make.

Joseph Betty, Wickham

**Message board**

Your chance to say a brief "thanks" or contact people. Phone 4970 5660 between 10am and 1pm Monday to Friday for email letters@then herald.com.au.

From Allison Jordan: The Red Cross Telethon is a good opportunity for people to help those less fortunate. A recent letter was sent to the Herald by a lady who was allowed to do a Telethon for people who are unable to travel. She was told that it was a waste of time. People need to be aware of the needs of others and be willing to lend a helping hand.

Sue Janssen, Coal Point

**The future begins now**

A more pressing matter

Not exactly a majority opinion

LAKES Macquarie City Council is conducting its ratepayer satisfaction survey.

OGO 100 residents, selected at random, will take part in the survey. The council has residential and business ratepayers totalling more than 76,000, so slightly more than one person in 200 will be chosen by the council to tell itself how well it is performing.

My opinion one question to be asked is whether you think the council and its senior executive are competent financial managers. In the survey, a methodology questions designed to get the right answers for the council and executive staff to push the proposed massive across the council, which I believe are designed to cover fiscal mismanagement.

I can only assume I am not of those randomly selected to part take in the survey. Unfortunately, no one site I talk with on the western side of the lake do know being among the chosen few either.

John Tucker Bonellea West

System can be healthier yet

I AGREE that the boundary system (Australian Standard Geographical Classification) Remoteness Areas, or AGARS, that determines where GP incentive payments are paid is imperfect ("Sick of waiting for GPs", Herald 7/5). But it is a lot better than the one the Howard government had in place. The Royal Australian Medical Association of New South Wales has fought for years to have replaced.

From Alison Jordan: The Red Cross Telethon is a good opportunity for people to help those less fortunate. A recent letter was sent to the Herald by a lady who was allowed to do a Telethon for people who are unable to travel. She was told that it was a waste of time. People need to be aware of the needs of others and be willing to lend a helping hand.

Sue Janssen, Coal Point

**Open-cut cutting means open sores**

In response to NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galliers ("Open cuts mean open cuts", Letters 6/2) with an increasing world population, grass like the Liverpool Plains deep soil are necessary for man's survival. Governments can trivialise themselves against being sued by mines, leaving behind toxic areas that in areas such as this, all mined must be done underground.

Say no to open-cut mining on the Liverpool Plains.

Andy Ferguson Kurri Kurri

**Parents left to carry the burden**

LAST week we read about the diet, most beautiful diet and students and their parents by the conclusion over school transport systems and contracted services. As a community, we need to learn in a program that is not only rational to the families but also the government's past and present.

From B瞱telle 6/5, we look forward to the next hearing by year 12 my son was provided with transport from school and most are only available for a maximum of four days a week.

The moment he left school we were left to find our means. These teenagers and young adults go to attend day programs and after school programs. These programs run for fewer hours than traditional schools and most are only available for a maximum of four days a week.

These means it is almost impossible for parents to hold down a full-time job if they need to transport their children to and from day programs. Even part-time work is hindered.

Extra funding for day program centres and transport for the older disabled people in our community is required, sooner rather than later for many families.

Kathryn Russ Redhead

**They must go**

IN the wake of the debacle in which 6 million dollars was wasted on fir trees, the residents of Newcastle need to vote out the incumbent at the next council elections, from the 6/5.

Kay Everett Tarro

**Letter of the week**

This week the letter judged the best, most succinct and interesting will win a special Australian made engraved pen. The winner will be announced on Saturday on this page.