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Comments had no place anywhere

LAST week's paper featured an interesting story titled "Insulting words get councillor in trouble".

The article, which was written by our senior reporter Shery Demian, detailed the misuse of a council website intended to combat the intermodal proposal.

This article, as I am sure anyone who read it would be aware, caused quite a stir on the *Champion* website.

We had residents commenting in favour of councillor Jim McGoldrick's anti-religious slur, those who commented against, and those who raised the question — what on Earth does this have to do with the intermodal?

For those who asked the last question, let me answer you. Nothing.

Of all the comments made relating to this story one caught my interest more than the rest.



FACE THE FACTS
with Farah Abdurahman

In an interview with one of our reporters, Cr McGoldrick was quoted as saying, "I can say whatever I like on my website, it's freedom of speech".

Well, no Jim you can't, and if you don't know why, that's alarming for various reasons.

The first being that freedom of speech is an implied right under our constitution, not an applied right. Yes, there is a difference.

Secondly, I am concerned that a Liverpool councillor serving and representing the local community has either never read the Australian constitution, [the supreme law governing the country he claims to be protecting with these

insulting words] or, he has foolishly mistaken our country for the US where freedom of speech is an applied right.

Frankly, I find it embarrassing that this ever surfaced.

But, in all honesty, I am more embarrassed that Liverpool residents are being misrepresented by someone for whom the benefits of a religiously and culturally diverse Australia are not apparent.

I could go into the nitty-gritty detail, such as — as Australians we should be entitled to express ourselves but what is the limit?

But who really cares?

Let's get back to the real fight, serving the community, accurately representing voters, and fighting for what the Liverpool community wants.

Liverpool City Champion editor Eric Kontos is on leave.

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CHECK IT OUT

The Australian Turf Club's big autumn race meeting at Warwick Farm is this Saturday, March 10. The feature events are the Chipping Norton Stakes (1600 metres) and Liverpool City Cup (1300 metres). And admission is free. Gates open 11am. Details: australianturfclub.com.au

PAPER DELIVERY

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MY JOB

Name: Daniel Berardinelli.

Job: Barista/owner Luddenham Village Cafe, The Northern Road, Luddenham, (next to Caltex).

How did you end up in your current job? My early years were spent working at the Conca D'Oro Event Centre, where I got the opportunity to see first-hand how much satisfaction I gained from the hospitality industry. I then worked a few years as a waiter and barista at a few local restaurants. Life took a turn when I was diagnosed with cancer. I recovered two years later and began working at Luddenham Village Cafe. I then bought the business.

Do you need any formal qualifications for your job? There are no necessary tertiary qualifications to be a barista, but if you love coffee in my opinion that is the best foundation, the rest is just personal will and pride in what you produce.

What is the best part of your job? For most customers especially first thing in the morning, my cafe is their first step and it's important they are satisfied with their first coffee so they can have a productive and enjoyable day. That makes my job worth getting up for. Coffee is a facilitator with a social dynamic and it has many purposes other than to drink.

Would you recommend your job to young people? Yes. Definitely. Especially if you have a genuine interest in the craft of making espresso. The job can become very tedious, and the point of difference is to be able to better yourself more each day with persistence.

Outside of work, do you have any hobbies or interests? I am a massive foodie, so every chance I get there's nothing better than visiting cafes and restaurants. I take joy in critiquing each one.

What other talent did you wish you had? I have always



wanted to be a restaurant reviewer for a credible newspaper, I have the willpower but not sure about the patience.

What is your favourite local haunt? Macquarie Hotel at Liverpool. It has a great atmosphere. And Vinnie's on the Hume Highway at Casula is also a must for a nice night out.

Describe Liverpool in a few words? I think Liverpool is rich in multicultural influence and Liverpool's pubs, bars and restaurants are in a convenient location.

CONFIDENTIAL

RIGHT in the middle of the caucus vote for the Labor leadership between Prime

Minister Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd, returning officer Chris Hayes, the member for Fowler, got an SMS message from our editor Eric Kontos saying, tongue in cheek: "If you are not doing anything important give me call." But Mr Hayes did call a few minutes after addressing the press at Parliament House. A slightly surprised Eric congratulated Mr Hayes on his "ministerial standard" performance in front of the cameras at Parliament House. "Thanks," Mr Hayes said, "but more importantly, how are you after your heart bypass operation at Liverpool Hospital?"

"I don't want to get Chris into trouble by saying he thought my condition was more important than the Labor caucus leadership vote, but there's no doubt this bloke's got his priorities right," Eric said.

Following his successful operation, our editor is expected

back at work in three to four weeks. Eric said his first experience in Liverpool

Hospital as a patient, not a journalist, was all good.

"I can't fault any of the staff, from my surgeon, Rebecca Dignan to the wonderful nurses in both 3D ward and ICU, he said. "They are all wonderful, and they are doing a tough job with dignity. I want to thank them every single one of them."

■ Horse racing fans should be pouring through the turnstiles in big numbers this Saturday at Warwick Farm for their bumper Chipping Norton Stakes Day and Liverpool City Cup meeting.

The Australian Turf Club has shown great generosity in throwing open the gates and it's free admission for racing fans.

Given fine weather, Warwick Farm should see a big crowd turnout for the top racing action. Gates open at 11am.

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