

Miriam's column

< *Miriam McCartney*

Doctor, Doctor, Doctor! Let's get sensible about your proposal to cut Evans Head from the Richmond Valley Council local government area and paste it onto Ballina Shire Council.

Have you read all of the Local Government Act that deals with boundary changes? It is an haberdashery store that offers only thick red tape in unknown lengths and widths at airport prices.

That tape is sure to find its way into the state government machinery that rumbles oh so slowly beneath the New South Wales parliament, slowing down the gears of boundary changes with much hissing of steam.

No midnight oil will burn for you Doctor. Your proposal will be considered in the fullness of time. Elections will come and go and the documents will gather dust till one day, a filing clerk will blow away the dust, squint his eyes and ask out loud Doctor Who?

Consider the extraction of Pittwater Council from Warringah Council. The Pittwater people commenced their campaign in 1966, opposed by Warringah Council. Pittwater Council finally became a reality 25 years later on 1 May 1992.

Will your only accomplishment be the awakening of the Sartor Troll that lurks in the catacombs beneath State Parliament House? Like the flash of sunlight on a troll's fangs we'll be presented with a forced amalgamation of Richmond Valley, Lismore, Ballina, and Kyogle councils into a big new Richmond Council.

Is that what you want? The state government has already created the greater Clarence council out of a few other smaller councils. Consider also the proposal to cut-and-paste a piece of Gosford City to Hornsby Shire Council.

John, my secretary tells me that in 2004, talk of secession was rife around Mooney Mooney and Cheerio Point. In July 2007, the Mooney Action Committee submitted a boundary alteration proposal to the Minister for Local Government.

Their dream was to transfer Mooney Mooney and Cheerio Point from the Gosford City local government area to the Hornsby Shire local government

area. In October 2007 the Department of Local Government referred the proposal to the affected Councils for comment.

Neither Council supported the proposal. The Local Government Act requires then that the proposal be referred to the Local Government Boundaries Commission. In its report of January this year, the Commission rejected the proposal, stating:

Having considered the boundary alteration proposal, the submissions presented to the Commission by the affected councils, the submissions from members of the public and community groups and other material, and having regard to the factors set out in section 263(3) of the Act, the Commission considers there are no compelling reasons to suggest that the boundary alteration proposal should be implemented.

The report was forwarded to the Minister for local government in January. Where is it up to? Ask the minister.

The Boundaries Commission similarly rejected a cut-and-paste proposal from Palerang to Queanbean Councils, noting the following key aspects:

1. Implementation of the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on Palerang Council's financial situation.

2. Palerang Council has demonstrated that it is attempting to continue to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities with respect to the proposed transfer area.

If the Evans Head proposal manages to travel as far as the Boundaries Commission, I can see Richmond Valley replacing Palerang in a similar recommendation to the Minister.

So you see my dear doctor, getting the 250 signatures is the easy part. You'll also need to consider the opinion of the whole Richmond Valley local government area, not to mention those of the Ballina Shire Council area.

Who will fund your proposal? Not this Richmond Valley native.

Miriam McCartney is the pen name chosen by a veteran political commentator. The views she expresses here are not those of The Richmond River Sun.

Ian Drinkwater, our local business strategic thinker and a tax and public accountant shares his thoughts on operating a business.



The philosophy of time and where you fit?

In the heat of the battle Napoleon's Generals came to him - "ask anything of me but time" Napoleon stated. But how do we create more time? What do you know about how you structure or view time?

If you don't understand how you view time and appreciate that others may view time differently how can you maximise the time available to you and to others? How can you effectively utilise the differences to time, of the people around you?

Let us focus on two broad attitudes or orientations to time:

Firstly there are people whom we may call "Through Timers". For them, in general terms:

Time is a continuous, uninterrupted flow
They are aware of duration, of the passing of time

Time is linear, ie sequential
They stay better on the track with the task on the job

Life is an ordered or planned existence
There is a clear distinction between work and play, and these are enforced

Deadlines are taken seriously and others around them are expected to do likewise

There is a high need for closure ie to make a decision

Hold and frequently express the belief that "activity produces results"

In remembering or recall they tend to look through their own eyes watching themselves doing something (called "being disassociated from their memories")

Secondly, there are people whom we may call "In Timers". For them, in general terms:

Time is the here and now, they tend to

remain focused in the present notably in a chaotic situation

Less distracted on the past, present and future, they maintain a fuller concentration over time and hence are better on extended or long term projects

Have difficulty prioritising time and prioritising tasks

Require close management of time orientated tasks

Avoid setting deadlines and if forced to do so, will set an artificial one

Blur work and play and often, (to the annoyance of "Through Timers") work is play

More spontaneous and flexible in living and lifestyle

Have a high need to maintain options and will avoid closure hence may have difficulty in drawing a meeting to a close

In recalling - it as if they are looking through their own eyes, seeing what is around them (called "being associated with their memories")

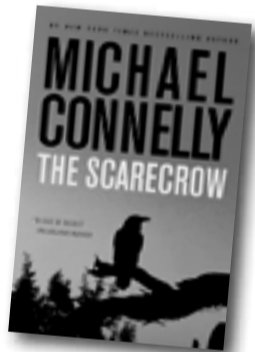
Notice a bit of yourself in both and yet you exhibit a preference, an orientation? So which do you think is more strongly favoured by you? "Through Timer" or "In Timer"?

Remember that neither attitude is better than the other, and, further, that one's attitude is not an excuse for behaviour. Be adaptable, playing to your, and to others', strengths. Apply the attitude to time that is required for each and every situation ie. what time orientation will bring the most effective result in this specific circumstance?

Roxine's Library Book Reviews

Roxine, one of our local librarians, provides reviews of new books available to be borrowed in our towns - come in to check out what's available @ your local library.

The Scarecrow by Michael Connelly



Forced out of the Los Angeles Times amid the latest budget cuts, newspaperman Jack McEvoy decides to go out with a bang, using his final days at the paper to write the definitive murder story of his career. He focuses on Alonzo Winslow, a 16-year-old drug dealer in jail after confessing to a brutal murder. But as he delves into the story, Jack realises that Winslow's so-called confession is bogus. The kid might actually be innocent. Jack is soon running with his biggest story since The Poet made his career years ago. He is tracking a killer who operates completely below police radar, and with perfect knowledge of any move against him, including Jack's.

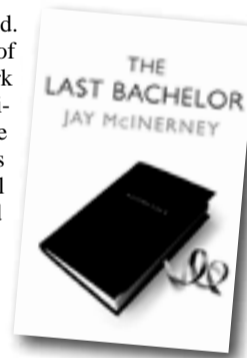
all along? Ben Hawkins, thrill writer turned private detective knows more than he is letting on too. He quickly befriends one of the dead girls parents and involves himself in the case but to what lengths is he willing to go to get his hands on his next number one book?

The Girl Who Played With Fire by Stieg Larsson



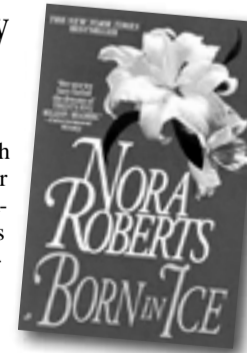
Book 2 of the Millennium series: Lisbeth Salander is a wanted woman. Two Millennium journalists about to expose the truth about the sex trafficking trade are murdered and Salander's prints are on the weapon. Her history of unpredictable and vengeful behaviour makes her an official danger to society, but no-one can find her. Mikael Blomkvist, editor-in-chief of Millennium, does not believe the police. Using all his magazine staff and resources to prove Salander's innocence, Blomkvist also uncovers her terrible past, spent in criminally corrupt institutions. Yet Salander is more avenging angel than helpless victim. She may be an expert at staying out of sight, but she has ways of tracking down her most elusive enemies.

for her next husband. From the streets of downtown New York during the 2003 anti-war march and the lavish hotel rooms of the wealthy social elite, to a husband and wife who share a marital bed with a pot-bellied pig, the people in these stories search for meaning while struggling against each other, colliding as the old world around them fractures and dissolves into a modern era full of new uncertainties, where ghosts of loss hang in the air. McNerney's writing has crackling humour and a feverish, clear-sighted brilliance that perfectly underpins the lives of people living in modern America. These stories are deftly constructed, subtle, insightful and heartbreaking. Steeped in history but yet alive in the present, this new collection is a companion to the sweet madness of life.



When the harsh storms of winter descended upon western Ireland the locals stayed indoors--and visitors stayed away. Brianna Concannon's bed-and-breakfast became a cold and empty place. But that was fine with Brianna. She enjoyed the peace and quiet, even when the icy winds howled at her window. But this year she's expecting an unusual guest...mystery writer Grayson Thane from America. He plans to spend the cold winter alone, but sometimes fate has a plan of its own. Sometimes a fire can be born in ice....

Born in Ice by Nora Roberts



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The Last Bachelor by Jay McInerney

In true McInerney style, this new collection of stories examines post 9/11 America in all its dark and morally complex glory. His characters include a young woman holed up in a remote cabin while her (married) boyfriend campaigns for the highest of all offices, a couple whose sexual experiments cross every line imaginable, a young socialite called home to nurse her mother and an older one scheming

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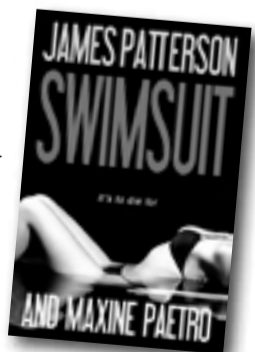
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Coraki: Adams St, Coraki Ph: 66832752
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Broadwater: Community Hall, Little Pitt St, Broadwater; Tues. 1.45pm to 4.00pm.

Swimsuit by James Patterson



Sun kissed beaches, palm trees, the warm breeze on a clear sea. Maui is a paradise island and the perfect location for a glamorous, glossy magazine photo shoot. But all is not as it seems and the tranquillity is shattered when a series of beautiful swimwear models start to go missing. When their bodies are discovered, one after another, each more brutally murdered than the last, the hunt is on for the perpetrator of these violent killings. But has someone been watching the murderer