



Education on social issues can prevent descent into crime

THE *Courier-Mail's* Let the sun shine in law and order forum highlighted two things Earsay has been thinking for years. The first is that a good percentage of people believe social issues should be addressed before they get to a criminal stage.

For example the dangers of drugs and alcohol, the increasing violence in domestic situations, an increasing number of people on the poverty line, et cetera.

Gold Coast lawyer Chris Nyst pointed out that a fortune was spent on warning about the dangers of smoking tobacco.

He asked why the same couldn't be done to address the dangers of drugs. "Kids should be told if they use drugs it will kill them," he said.

Many believed education about major social issues which led to crime should be part of school programs.

The second point was that many people still believe rehabilitation is better than straight punishment. The question remains about how best to achieve rehabilitation but it is certainly a worthwhile topic for far greater minds than mine.

There was a perfect example of the value of rehabilitation during the admission of new lawyers this week.

One of those admitted was a man who was convicted of armed robbery in the 1980s but had since turned his life around.

He was proposed by Sisters Inside founder Debbie Kilroy, who also is a lawyer.

Chinese civil servant Kai Cheung Li, who was jailed for 14 years on money laundering charges this week, did not miss his bail reporting conditions once in four years. He also was on time every day of his two-month trial. But it didn't go unnoticed when it came time to sentence him – due to a clerical error, he was late getting to court from the watchhouse.

One of Queensland's leading legal figures, James Thomas's, book *An Almost Forgotten World, Jim Thomas's Memoirs*, will be available next week.

Published by the Supreme Court Library it isn't just a book for the legal fraternity although it will obviously appeal to those who love the law.

It also is a look at a different Queensland and a time many will remember fondly.

The Ipswich boys are always hard to beat with any court story. Last week, Earsay reproduced a *Courier-Mail* article from 1938 complaining about the leaking court complex.

Ipswich's Paul Tully wrote: "Leaking court roofs around Queensland are nothing on Ipswich's colonial past when, almost 150 years ago, an Ipswich judge wanted a special Act of Parliament to keep himself



Heart set on a new beat

One of the best known faces around Queensland's courts, stenographer Roxane Canning, is literally off to greener pastures.

Roxy, who joined the Court Reporting Bureau "some years back", aged 19, has resigned to run a B&B in the Barossa Valley.

She is copping plenty over its name – Country Pleasures – but it does so well she doesn't want to change it.

Roxy and her solicitor husband Peter are leaving the Sunshine State after her last day on September 30.

Roxy has mainly worked in Brisbane and Ipswich but has also been on regular country circuits.

PS: She's a great cook if you are thinking of a holiday. Her culinary skills and her reporting will be missed.

dry! I don't think anyone could beat this."

Queensland's leading succession lawyer Caite Bewer is to return to the Bar. She will be one of only three accredited specialists in succession law at the Bar. It was only last year the Queensland Law Society changed the rules to allow accredited specialists who moved to the Bar to keep their accreditation.

On the subject of Caite, she wanted to point out there was plenty of work done at the recent Society of Trust and

Estate Practitioners conference in Cairns, despite the lure of the Cairns Amateur race meeting (*The Ear*, September 9). The conference was so successful, attracting leading succession lawyers from widespread regions, that plans started immediately for next year's event.

The Court of Appeal has unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Securities Exchange Guarantee Corporation arising out of the collapse of Opes Prime in 2008.

HopgoodGanim acted for Samuel Holdings last year in its successful claim for compen-

sation against the Securities Exchange Guarantee Fund, which had rejected all claims for compensation by Opes Prime clients who lost money and shares after the collapse.

This decision has been affirmed on appeal, with Justice Chesterman extending the grounds for allowing the claim by finding that under the relevant legislation, the money deposited into Opes Prime's account had been held "on behalf of" Samuel Holdings.

Surely, the court story of the month was about the Maroochydhore man in court for alleg-

edly threatening police with a large python. For those who are sure to ask, the snake was not hurt in the incident.

However, as always our magistrates court men came up with a challenger for court story of the month, with the one about a man who tried to steal two cars to get home. He had a very big night at the pub and, yes, he did mumble he was too drunk to walk.

Your past always seems to catch up, even for the state's top lawyers. At Justice Jim Henry's swearing in, in Cairns last week, the about-to-retire Attorney-General Paul Lucas was among the speakers.

"I recall you were the (International) college's representative on the University of Queensland Union Council. You were president of the Inter-Collegiate Ball when it attracted *Courier-Mail* coverage for a rowdy night at City Hall," Mr Lucas joked.

The court battles over speeding tickets continue at a rapid rate. It seems just as fast as the District Court upholds appeals from the Magistrates Court, the Court of Appeal overturns them. The Court of Appeal this week upheld an appeal by police against a District Court decision which had scrapped a speeding ticket for a man who disputed the radar reading.

It appears some prisoners still fear being named in the media but not always with good cause. In the District Court this week a prisoner put on a turn telling his lawyer he didn't want to be in the newspaper. The funny thing was no one in the media had ever heard of him.