



Cartoon: Clayton Carlon

## Men put to death by political games

### EDITORIAL

By **CLAIRE SAMS**

GIVING one thing to the majority of members of anything sends out one message, but then turning around and executing two members of the same group for a crime committed 10 years ago sends a very different one.

Bali Nine ringleaders Andrew Chan (aged 31) and Myuran Sukumaran (aged 34), were executed on April 29, 2015.

Out of the members of the Bali Nine, six received a sentence of life imprisonment, with one receiving just 20 years in prison. Why then, were two members alone sent to the firing squad?

With the Indonesian president Joko Widodo finally sending Chan and Sukumaran to the firing squad, a full 10 years after they were arrested and convicted, the answer is clear: politics.

Widodo made his opinions on drug smuggling clear, placing it as a zero tolerance issue for his government; it was one of the issues he used to gain a following among Indonesians during his campaign.

Even after the Australian government made the decision to

withdraw the Australian ambassador, Paul Grigson, almost immediately following the executions, the Indonesian government did not soften their stance. The message stayed the same, even through a high level of international outrage. It raises thoughts on what was really being portrayed – was it the policy of a country with a drug issue, or the political stance of a new president? For a country with a drug issue and a zero tolerance drug smuggling view, the separation of the two is murky and dubious at best.

There's also the fact that the executions took place 10 years after the initial arrest. The time gap was only there for an increase in international pressure, for failed or denied legal attempts for clemency and for the election of a new president.

Having two citizens of another country being executed is always going to be a touchy subject. Having two citizens of another country being executed after rehabilitating themselves is a very touchy subject. Having two citizens of another country being executed after rehabilitating themselves, a full 10 years after the arrest itself, well – that would be like holding a hand grenade. And yet, the Indonesian government thought it was a good choice to make.

# Maitland clubhouse set for modernisation

By **JOSH CRAWFORD**

MAITLAND netball courts are getting a makeover with a new clubhouse being built this year. Located on Park, Gipps and Blomfield streets, the netball courts are well-used by many teams in the Maitland region.

The clubhouse has been closed until recent weeks due to flood damage which occurred during the April floods. The canteen is still not up and running. The closure of Maitland Park during this time also pushed back the start of the netball season with wet weather rounds being played during the July school holidays. This has caused many coaches to feel frustrated.

It might be a good idea but it does take away some car parks and that has upset some parents and visitors to the park.

Karen Crawford, a current netball mum and a former player, says "The current facilities have been there for a long time and it would be nice to get new facilities".

She said, "So far the construction site hasn't caused as many parking dilemmas as I first thought, but once the actual construction starts it will be interesting to see what happens. However, I wouldn't know about the afternoon games because I'm only there for the morning session."

Mrs Crawford's daughter, Libby Crawford, a former player and current coach, said "It restricts access to the courts and will affect



The netball court clubhouse will be upgraded this year.

how you'll get to the games because of the time-consuming walk to the courts."

Miss Crawford said "MNA clubhouse has proven to be a great use over the time that it has been at the courts."

Although some would think about all the negatives, there is an upside. With a new clubhouse, in a strategically placed position, it gives a better view of the whole courts and should provide more modern facilities for all concerned.

## It seems Maitland isn't so boring after all

By **SARAH PEARSON**

DO you ever find yourself bored on a weekend? Sometimes it can be difficult to come up with new and exciting ways to spend your free time. Many people living in and around Maitland seem to hold the belief that the area doesn't have much to offer when it comes to entertainment, however, with a little searching you might come across the perfect thing to do on a day off.

There are several events that only take place a

limited number of times a year, such as the Aroma Festival, The Maitland Show or Groovin the Moo.

Despite the fact that they can't be a regular weekend activity, many of them are worth saving a spot on your calendar for.

Visiting the Walka Water Works, exploring Maitland Gaol, taking a tour of the Maitland Regional Art Gallery, going bowling with friends or family or having a picnic in Maitland Park are just some of the activities available.

There's also laser tag,



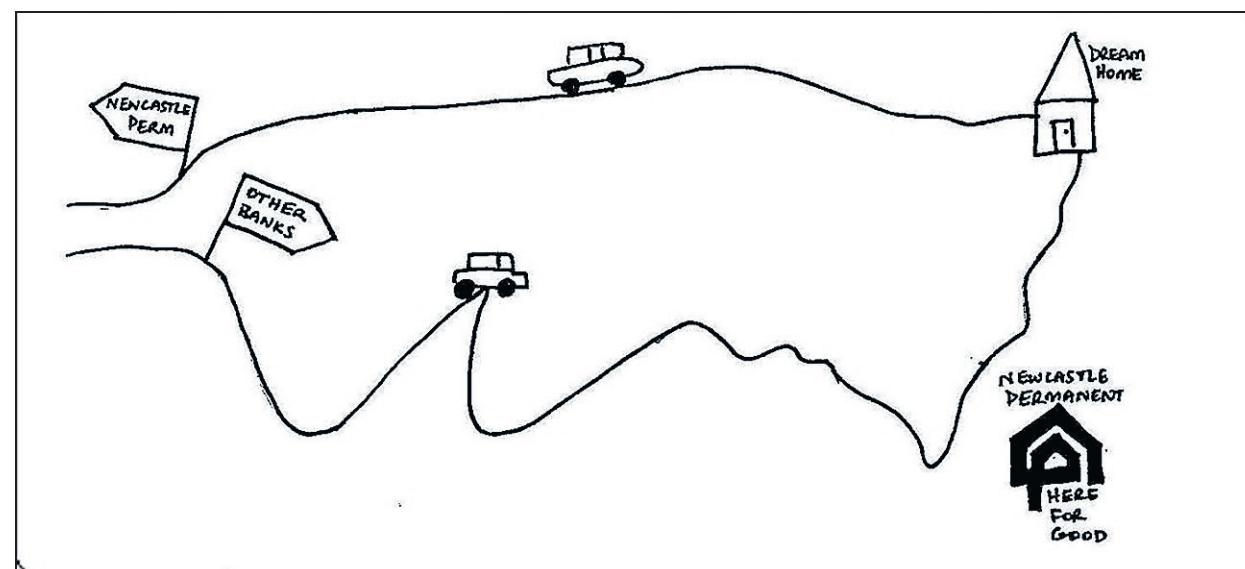
The art gallery is just one of the places you can visit.

skate parks, Maitland Mall and Reading Cinema. Visit [maitlandhuntevalley.com.au](http://maitlandhuntevalley.com.au) and browse the exciting and entertaining events listed.

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