

Marriage equality should be for all

EDITORIAL

By EMILY CLEMSON

GAY marriage in Australia has not yet been legalised because of the fear it will tear the current social fabric apart.

Now, think about this – do you really think a gay person would do anything to hurt fabric?

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has met with Christian Lobby managing director, Jim Wallace, and told him that anti-gay marriage rights is going to stay in the act.

Ms Gillard revealed her personal stand on gay marriage rights and states it is because of her conservative upbringing.

She grew up only knowing one side of the argument and we're letting one leader make a decision to go forward or backward.

In other nations such as Canada, the US, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil, marriage equality has moved forward. So why is Australia the exception?

Most recently New Zealand too passed its gay marriage bill successfully.

Many religions say it is a sin to be a homosexual.

They focus on this yet not the more horrific things that need attention like war, theft, murder and paedophilia.

Personally, this seems ridiculous, considering they have most likely never thought of the LGBT

(lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community's point of view.

If a person does not like homosexuals, whether they have a religion that's against it or not, if you don't want to see gay people walking down the street holding hands then turn away.

It's not like they're going to invade the whole world.

Australia has moved forward in achieving other equalities like religion, race, women's rights but not yet gay marriage.

If homosexuals marry it's not like the world will end, taxes will go up or your mother-in-law will move in with you.

The reality will be that homosexuals will marry and they will be happy.

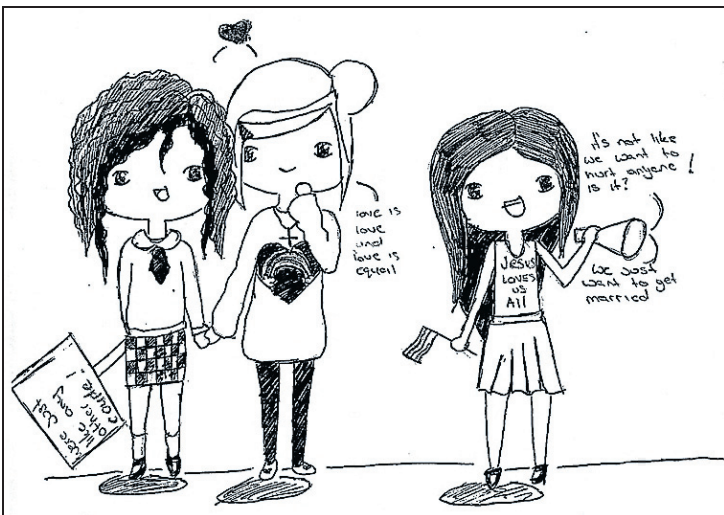
Harassment and bullying of the LGBT community is at a ridiculous level.

Considering more than half of the world are adults you would think the population would be a little more mature.

The LGBT community and numerous heterosexuals are trying to legalise gay marriage in all countries. It is unfair when others get to be happy together yet not homosexuals.

If you are reading this and have not changed your mind on gay marriage, try listening to the song *Same Love* by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. It is a beautiful and truthful song.

Gay marriage in Australia should be legalised. The LGBT community comprises average people who should have marriage equality just like anyone else.



CARTOON: Georgia Slade

Returning the T-rex to our land of living

By KEIRA EGTBERTS

THE *Jurassic Park* movie series dealt with bringing dinosaurs back from the dead, but it seems that this idea of reviving extinct animals has scientists actually trying to replicate the experiment.

On March 30, Australia's gastric-brooding frog, declared extinct in 1983, lived again.

A team of Australian scientists announced that it had successfully "revived and reactivated" the genome of *Rheobatrachus silus* using cells from tissue that had been frozen since the 1970s.

Even though scientists have created an embryo of the frog, it doesn't necessarily mean that it will be the same as the frogs that were born in the wild.

Nature plays a big part in the biological and behavioural development of animals.

Many born in the wild rely heavily on parental training and instincts, and it would require a delicate ecosystem to support the rehabilitation of these species into the world again.

Over the past few weeks, scientists have been talking about resurrecting animals that have been extinct for more than 50 million years.

That means dinosaurs. In *Jurassic Park* dinosaurs are



COMEBACK TRAIL: Animals that faced extinction could one day be back roaming the earth again.

Picture: Keira Egtberts

resurrected for their entertainment value. The disastrous consequences that followed cast a shadow on de-extinction.

Jurassic Park was just pure fantasy, but some scientists seem to believe that this could become a reality.

It would be nigh-impossible to bring back a full complement of *Tyrannosaurus rex* as they have been extinct for 65 million years, and the likelihood of being able to retrieve any living organisms of the animal is hard to fathom.

The ethics of reviving extinct animals is also questionable as it was mostly the human race that drove them to extinction in the first place through loss of habitat, hunting and development.

Panther on the prowl in backyards

By ADAM MURPHY

IT is rumoured that something big is lurking around the small suburb of Lake Munmorah.

Stories of a large cat-like creature, sighted around the area, are too numerous to be just stories.

The recent sighting by Lake Munmorah resident Michelle Wilson, on February 23, triggers the unnerving thought that something is out there.

Many stories from locals have been heard over the years – sightings and near misses – but everyone agrees they've spotted the same thing: a black panther.

In February Ms Wilson was shocked to find a large paw print in the backyard of her home in Lake Munmorah, which backs on to the national park.

She said: "I noticed these huge paw prints in the sand. The first thought was these belong to one huge cat."

While some believe Ms Wilson's story to be false, staff at National Parks and Wildlife were left speechless after seeing photos of the paw prints.

"One guy said to us that the prints were caused by a wallaby, but there's no wallaby that would leave prints that size," Ms Wilson said.

Many have commented on her story, sharing their own sightings of this large, mysterious predator that may be lurking in Lake Munmorah.

Voices combine to fill a room full of glee

By KEIRA EGTBERTS

MAKE way as the Lake Munmorah High School Glee club steals the spotlight.

The group has sung back-up for many school performances and starred in many stage productions.

The idea of starting the Glee club came from the show of the same name.

Song choice to showcase the team's abilities and allow the performers to shine onstage is a group decision, with top tunes from the recent music

charts popular options.

At the school Anzac Day ceremony last term, the club sang a heartfelt version of the national anthem.

As well as having the chance to perform in front of hundreds of people, being a part of this group has provided students with confidence and fun.

Music teachers Elizabeth Svensk and Andrew Westahof have made singing and accessible for all members.

And they've maybe even set up a chance at stardom.



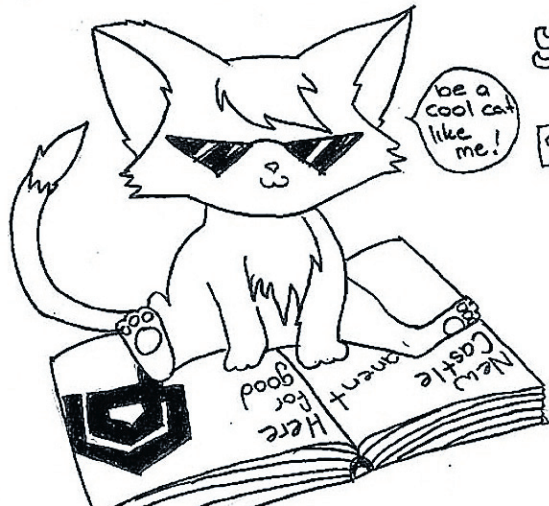
BUDDING STARS: The Glee club performs modern songs with pizzazz.

Picture: Keira Egtberts

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