

Golliwogs blackballed

HOW many kids grew up loving their golliwog rag doll and now as an adult probably still have one tucked safely away in a cupboard?

The dolls were never considered racist and were never intended to be racist when first popularised in 1895 by Bertha Upton in her book *The Adventures of two Dutch Dolls and a Golliwogg*, a story about toys that's still available online and still in print. It was inspired by the black and white minstrel shows she grew up with as a child in America.

But online shopping giant Amazon came under fire this week because independent companies listed for sale golliwog fancy dress costumes for adults and kids even though history of the golliwog had nothing to do with racism.

One of the costumes was advertised as a "fantastic recreation of the popular rag doll character" but some angry browsers called for its removal from the site.

One wrote "this is repulsive and offensive. Take it down Amazon ..."

A quick search on eBay came up with 367 listings for knitted golliwog dolls for sale ranging in price from \$10 to \$50 while there's hundreds of other internet sites selling them.

Golliwogs were taken off store shelves in the 1970s and were replaced in Enid Blyton's *Noddy* stories with a white character named Mr Sparks.

But golly gosh, what's all the fuss? It's only a kid's rag doll for heaven's sake.

Some on sale have been re-branded with more so-called politically correct names like scallywags or golly girls but they're still the same much-loved golliwogs.

And there's no sign of their popularity waning, despite whinges from the do-gooders.

It's a bug's life

Who would want to be a cicada?

They need fairly warm conditions when they emerge from the ground after a five to six year incubation period but in the past few weeks in Orange those boring up first were faced with light frosts after sticking their heads out.

And if the frosts didn't knock them around, the birds gleefully finished off those that survived.

The birds are still feasting.

A waste of Energy

In the mid 1990s the state government took over 25 electricity county councils and amalgamated them into six retailers with the aim of promoting competition, giving customers a choice and providing potentially cheaper electricity.

That's now laughable, of course, with power bills through the roof.

Ophir County Council in Orange, which had been going along nicely, was amalgamated with

Stop Press

Denis Gregory



RAGS TO RICHES AND BACK AGAIN: People grew up with a golliwog rag doll.

Central West Electricity, Southern Mitchell, Ulan Electricity and Western Power to form newly-named Advance Energy.

It wasn't long before Advance Energy's name was changed again to Country Energy and when the state government sold Country Energy's retail arm two years ago, it formed Essential Energy to carry out maintenance on the network.

Now Country Energy has bitten the dust and we've got new owners Origin Energy with Orange people getting new-look bills, new account numbers and new payment options.

Just think of all the money and time that's been wasted changing stationery and logos and everything else.

We can all wonder what next month's name will be? Maybe something like Sending you Broke Energy.

My Masters plan

Woolworths has a pretty successful investment in Orange and with Electrolux giving us the flick, there's an opening for Woollies to open one of its Masters hardware chain stores here.

Woolworths and its US joint venture partner Lowes are sitting on a bank worth nearly \$1.1

billion for land and properties for a national roll-out of new Masters stores on 100 sites.

With luck and a bit of pushing from council, Orange could well get one.

It would probably employ up 100 Electrolux workers.

Bedtime story

A grandmother is babysitting her happily-playing grandson and at 8pm tells him it's time for bed.

"It's too early," the six-year-old says.

"Your father said your bedtime is 8pm."

"You don't have to listen to him," says the little boy.

"Why not?" says Gran.

"Because you're his mother."

A lot of hot air

Here's something to make those climate change doomsayers jump up and down.

The global warming pause has now lasted for nearly 17 years and shows no sign of ending despite the unexplained failure of climate scientists' computer models to predict it.

When the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change launched its latest report a few weeks ago it was unable to say how long the pause would have to go on before casting doubt on the models, suggesting trends were only meaningful if they lasted 30 years.

The IPCC leaders insisted the climate pause had no significance and predicted 2016-2035 will be 0.3-0.7C hotter than 1986-2005.

But a Copenhagen climate expert says that since 1980 climate models on average exaggerated the extent of warming by between 79 and 159 per cent.

He says this didn't mean there wasn't some global warming but it meant temperature rises will be much lower than originally expected which he says makes alarmist scenarios even more unlikely.

Christmas jingle

We know Christmas is on the way when raffle ticket sellers make a welter of setting up in Orange shopping centre doorways in their hundreds. Well, not quite hundreds.

But soon we won't be able to move until we buy a ticket in something or other.

There's also an influx of young buskers hitting the footpaths in Summer and Anson streets but good luck to them.

They're as game as Ned Kelly to just stand there and perform to the milling crowd to earn a few bob for Christmas.

Some of them are pretty talented, too, and one day might end up on *X Factor* or *Australia's Got Talent*.



FRIDAY

□ Empty Nesters walking group is looking for new members to join for exercise, fun and a brisk walk. Meet on the corner of Panpande Crescent and Wiare Circuit at 6.45am.

□ Music for Little Ears at Orange City Library, 10am. Conducted by Orange Regional Conservatorium. Bookings essential 6393 8132. Free session.

□ Grow mental health group meets every Friday at 2pm in the Senior Citizens' Centre. Call Sharon on 0406 796 017 for more information.

□ Fusion Australia and Anglicare Orange lunch, craft, fun and friendship, Anson Street Uniting Church, 11am to 2pm. Gold coin appreciated. Contact Bev or Mal 6361 0014.

□ National Servicemen and Vietnam Veterans' Association meets at the Ex-Services' Country Club, 10am. Contact Ben Cooke 6362-5398 or Bill Penrose 6362 3820.

□ Orange Playgroup, Five Ways Uniting Church, 10am to 12pm.

□ West Orange Playgroup, Girl Guide hall, 10am to 12pm.

□ Christian Lending Library, 560 Cecil Road, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Contact 6362-2391.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous Orange meets Salvation Army hall corner Kite Street and McNamara Street at 10.30am. Daily reflections meeting. Contact Brett 0439 257 350 or Allan 0401 216 468.

□ For free and confidential tenants' advice, call the South West Tenants' Advice Service on 1800 642 609.

□ Orange Family History Group meets at Orange City Library from 10am to 12.30pm to help people with their family history research. Contact Orange City Library on 6393 8132.



Men's Health

FRM2009536

Improve how you age by building better balance and strength



Exercise is a great way to gain strength and being strong helps prevent falls.

Supervised group exercise sessions for seniors provide a fun way to stay fit and strong.

Stay fit and strong with exercise

THE importance of men looking after their health is well researched and referred to often in the media.

Men in retirement often find it difficult to be motivated and consistent with their exercise routine and maintain their fitness.

Supervised exercise classes are a good way to get men to keep fit and strong as they age.

Jeremy Wallace of Rhythm Personal Training and Frances Young Physiotherapist are ensuring their role in men's health is an active one with the exercise classes they run twice weekly for men.

These classes are geared towards improving strength and mobility, but also using measured tasks which indicate improvement.

Evidence suggests that exercise regularly may reduce the risks of developing dementia.

There is encouragement to keep weight at a healthy level and maintain a healthy

lifestyle. Cognitive function especially memory and organisational tasks improve with regular exercise.

The benefits of men exercising as a group are: The social interaction on a regular which extends out of the class; support for one another during life changes or stress; improved confidence due to interaction and increased well being.

With increased awareness of prostate cancer the support provided by other men in a relaxed exercise class setting insures there is appropriate information from personal experiences.

Frances Young Physiotherapist and Rhythm Personal Training provide rehabilitation and services for a broad spectrum of problems from joint replacement, stroke, neurological conditions, continence, weight loss and fitness.



Right: Personal trainer Jeremy Wallace leads an exercise class.

Frances Young
PHYSIOTHERAPIST

129 March St, Orange
ph 6362 1238
fax 6361 4297

RPT
Rhythm
Personal Training

'Get Rhythm & Get Results'

Phone Jeremy Wallace 0428 294 291
129 MARCH STREET, ORANGE