

LETTERS

ART AND SOUL

Thank you Peter Craven: what an amazing story about art historian Ros Hollinrake ("A life less ordinary", May 20-21). It took me hours to read the article, with cross-referencing all the names and places mentioned. Praise for Hollinrake's quest for wider recognition of painter Clarice Beckett; her artworks are eerie and spiritual. Now to get to Geelong to see the exhibition.

*Philip Hollingsworth
Windsor, Vic*



Wonderful article by Peter Craven, and I am looking forward to seeing the exhibition. I grew up in Beaumaris in the 1950s and would often walk to the beach along those same paths trodden by Beckett. Many of her works feature early morning or late afternoon light, as during the day she was a carer for her ailing parents and could only paint in snatches of time when she could get away.

*Robyn Evans
Taringa, Qld*

FAMILY TALK

With great foresight, Bernard Salt collected "a shoebox stuffed with cassettes", containing invaluable recollections from relatives ("Blast from the past", May 20-21). All too often, after a parent or other relative is no longer with us, we regret not having asked a multitude of questions. The births, deaths and marriage registries can offer factual details – but to really appreciate the richness of a family's history, wide-

ranging chats with parents and relatives before they pass on are priceless.

*Ross A. Butler
Rodd Point, NSW*

IN PLAIN SIGHT

That photograph of the curious sea lion is great ("Heart of the Nation", May 20-21). Like the 300 people at London's Natural History Museum, I missed the leafy sea dragon, and likewise went "Ah" when it was pointed out. That animals can evolve like this dragon is why the natural world is so endlessly fascinating.

*Ken Moore
Chapel Hill, Qld*

OPEN ROAD

Most weeks I read Stephen Corby's motoring reviews with a smile on my face. I love his truth – the worst part of driving a car like the BMW M340i is handing it back ("Cry me a river", May 20-21). And when he's got a lemon, he is perfectly happy to bucket it in quite colourful language. I feel sorry for him when he must return the great demos to the dealers. Go Steve!

*Greg Latemore
Moffat Beach, Qld*

I write to you as CEO of Committee for Perth following Stephen Corby's article. As an advocate for Perth, I found the tone and overall nature of the article very destructive. "Does

anyone really LIVE in Perth?" Corby asked. In fact, 2.2-plus million people live – and love living – in Perth, where they enjoy a great quality of life with easy access to the CBD and coast, unlike people in larger cities that are gridlocked by traffic.

*Paula Rogers
Perth, WA*

SILENT STRUGGLE

If only walls could talk, Nikki Gemmell unveiled the pain and suffering families are going through, or have gone through ("The absent generation", May 13-14). Our son used to take three hours to dress, undress and dress again. Then the anxiety would intervene either in the car, or on the way to the car. This was, as Nikki says, soul-destroying. Fortunately, we finished year 12 last year. Our son has a new environment and is slowly making social connections. It's a challenge most days, but when our son experiences happiness it is all worth it.

Name and address provided

My son was labelled a "school refuser" initially by the GP, and then ongoing by the school, community and friends – even when diagnosed with a chronic health condition. My child and I felt shunned – he was not only too sick to go to school, he was judged, and so was I. And yes, as Nikki

said, we lost friends. I quit a job and had difficulty with finance. I am thankful my son is now participating in college and doing really well. He never wanted to miss school. And it made it more difficult and stressful for both of us to be labelled like he was.

*Veronica Sierink
South Hobart, Tasmania*

A CLASS ACT

My sincere thanks to Phillip Adams for his tribute to Charlie Chaplin, also a composer of fine music ("The last laugh", May 13-14). With his humanitarian values, he could never be categorised as a fascist. Long live the legend of Charlie Chaplin!

*Beverley Murray
Southport, Qld*

I texted my nephew in London to offer my commiserations on the crowning of Charlie ("Golden oldies", May 20-21). I wrote: "I despair for you all. You deserve better than this." His response, which I thought Phillip Adams might approve of, was: "They're just another oversized, dysfunctional family in social housing and on state benefits, not even earning enough to pay tax. It makes me proud that we took this German refugee family to our hearts."

*Phil Wilde
South Yarra, Vic*

Write to:

magazinefeedback@
theaustralian.com.au
The Weekend Australian
Magazine,
GPO Box 4245, Sydney 2001.

Letters must bear a full
address and contact number
and may be edited for
clarity and length.