

Jewellers queried

JEWELLERY advertising has come under scrutiny from Australia's consumer protection agencies.

State and territory Offices of Fair Trading and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission are scrutinising catalogue advertising and contacting jewellers to test claims that consumers will make savings by paying less than the normal price.

ACCC chairman, Graeme Samuel, said the lead-up to Mother's Day was a prime time for jewellery advertising.

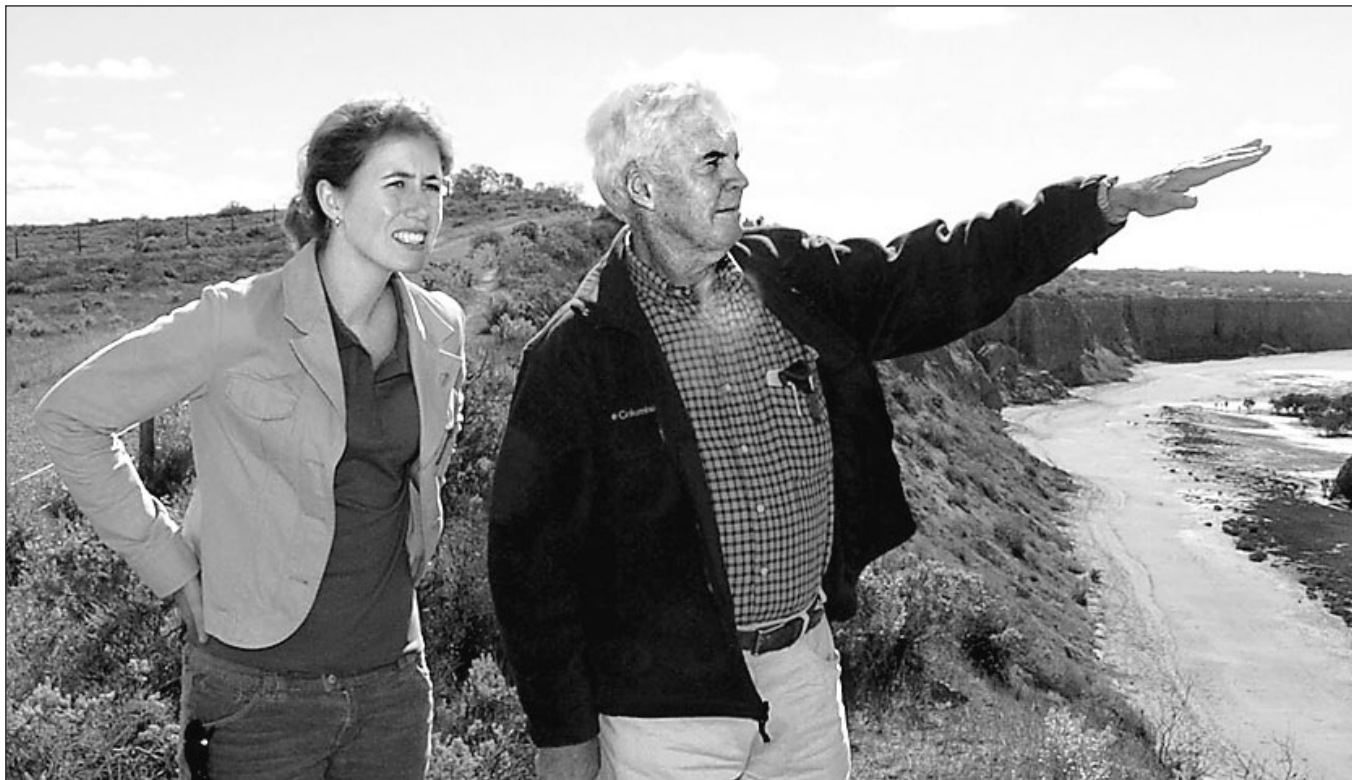
Compulsory vote claim

LOCAL Government Relations Minister Jennifer Rankine has refused to express support for the Government's policy to introduce compulsory voting for council elections.

Asked by Opposition local government relations spokesman Mark Goldsworthy, Ms Rankine said she had "not had discussions with anyone about the introduction of legislation for compulsory voting". Mr Goldsworthy said she did not want to confirm the policy "because she thinks it's not popular".

RURAL PUSH | Governor-General's plea

Let's help youth stay in the bush



POINTING THE WAY: The Governor-General and Felicia Carboon at Spencer Gulf yesterday.

Picture: MARK BRAKE

NIGEL AUSTIN
RURAL EDITOR

STOPPING the constant flow of youth from the bush to the cities has been highlighted as a major priority on the Back to the Bush Outback expedition by Governor-General Michael Jeffery.

On the first day of the Year of the Outback trip, from Adelaide to Wilpena Pound yesterday, Mr Jeffery said he fully supported the year's Youth in Front theme.

Mr Jeffery spent much of the day travelling with Felicia Carboon, 22, a symbolic representative of the nation's youth.

Miss Carboon, from Bendigo in Victoria, said she had never dreamed she would get a chance to sit in the same vehicle as Mr Jeffery and discuss youth issues with him.

"One of the things I was talking to him about is that there is often not a lot to do in country towns, but there are opportunities and they need to appreciate them," Miss Carboon said.

"I've lived in a country town all my life and I love it, I won't be leaving anytime soon."

Miss Carboon said Lead On had helped a lot of young people to find jobs in regional areas.

Mr Jeffery said the aim of Year of the Outback's Youth in Front theme was to retain and attract younger people to our regional centres and particularly females.

"We need to encourage more young people to stay in the country," he said.

"It's interesting to note that 85 per cent of Australians live within

50km of the coast and 65 per cent of that lot live in the capital cities."

Mr Jeffery said he wanted to get the message through to urban communities that there are great things to see and a great life to be had in regional areas.

At the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta, Mr Jeffery said the centre had great potential and encouraged doctors, dentists and tradesmen to go there for work.

He is joining up with Year of the Outback chairman Bruce Campbell to promote rural and regional Australia on the Outback trip which takes in Adelaide to Birdsville on its first leg.

Mr Campbell said Year of the Outback was involved in a number

“ There are wonderful opportunities

of measures to try and help determine a brighter future for young people in inland areas. It included involvement in youth events around the country including the federal Rural Youth Council.

"There's a desperate need for youth in the bush to take up family enterprises and careers," Mr Campbell said.

"It's hard because so much of what they read is negative, but there are wonderful opportunities."

Mr Campbell said cities were being strained to the limits and encouraged more people to look at the country and see the opportunities for youth.

IN BRIEF

Heroin haul

POLICE have stopped more than 1000 heroin street deals after arresting four men at Mansfield Park on Tuesday.

Police from Operation Mantle went to an Ely St address and found two ounces of heroin packaged and ready for distribution. Four people were charged with possession of heroin for sale.

Cheap credit

BANKSA has released a new low-rate credit card, which the bank says is the cheapest of its kind in Australia.

The Vertigo MasterCard offers up to 55 days interest free, a rate of 8.99 per cent and an annual fee of \$45.

A zero per cent rate on balance transfer in the first six months applies for a limited time.



www.news.com.au

Medical issue

AN ADELAIDE man accused of the murder of a 36-year-old man may have been mentally incompetent, the Supreme Court has heard.

Anthony James Ridings, 37, was arrested at a West Croydon house last September. Justice Tim Anderson yesterday ordered two further medical reports and an adjournment until July.

Pet charges

CHARGES against a pet store operator accused of selling dogs he "knew or suspected" were sick, injured or diseased have been withdrawn.

Johann Griessel, of Hawthorn, was charged with 22 counts of breaching the code of practice over the care of animals. The RSPCA said they would not proceed on legal advice.

Drugs found

TWO people were arrested after police discovered 14 cannabis plants growing in a house at Highbury.

A 27-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman, both of Highbury, were charged with producing cannabis and will appear in Holden Hill Magistrates Court at a later date.

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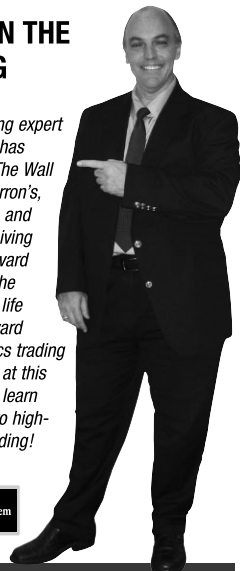
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Fleurieu, Barossa on move

LOUISE TRECCASI

FLEURIEU Peninsula and Barossa Valley were South Australia's building and population hot spots last year, a new report has found.

The Housing Industry Association yesterday released its *Population and Residential Building Hotspots* publication.

It shows more than \$140 million worth of residential and renovation work was approved across the Fleurieu, which in-

cludes Victor Harbor and Yankalilla, during 2005.

The area also recorded a population growth of 2.7 per cent.

The Barossa area followed with residential approval worth \$87 million in 2005 and a 2.2 per cent population increase.

The hot spots data was based on local government areas with more than \$50 million worth of residential work approved in 2005 and with a population growth rate in excess of the

national average of 1.2 per cent.

In the entire Adelaide metropolitan area, \$1.266 billion of new housing and renovation was approved last year with a 0.5 per cent population rise.

The report shows the value of new housing approved across SA rose by more than \$30 million from \$1.57 billion in 2004 to \$1.6 billion in 2005 while the value of approved renovations jumped \$25 million from \$279 million to \$304 million.