



Rail fare increase the last straw

FROM FRONT PAGE

CALOUNDRA'S Tina Sturtridge resigned from her Brisbane job in February after commuting from Landsborough to Central for five years. It cost her \$300 a fortnight in fares and petrol.

A 15% fare increase this year, on top of the daily toll of five to six hours travelling, prompted her to give it away.

"I was looking for a job on the Coast for a while and then I couldn't stand it any more, the delays and the price," Ms Sturtridge said.

She now works at Beerwah, a 15-20 minute drive from her home.

"My yearly income is less but by the time I take out what it was costing me to go to work, there isn't a great deal of difference," she said.

Jessie Hinds moved to Brisbane this year after three years of commuting from Glasshouse Mountains.

"It just wasn't worth it. In the end, I was paying \$100 a week and it was supposed to be a two-and-a-half hour trip," she said.

"I will never get the train again."

Toni Carroll, of the Glasshouse Mountains, has switched to car pooling after nine years of catching the train to Brisbane.

"It got worse all the time," she said.

Ms Carroll said fare increases combined with timetable changes that did away with some peak hour express services prompted her to give up train travel.

Commuter advocate Jeff Addison said he knew of other commuters who had surrendered Brisbane-based jobs for lesser paid ones on the Coast because they could not handle the time and cost of commuting by rail.

Mr Addison has been lobbying the government to duplicate the North Coast line to improve services but said the Newman government was yet to make it a priority.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



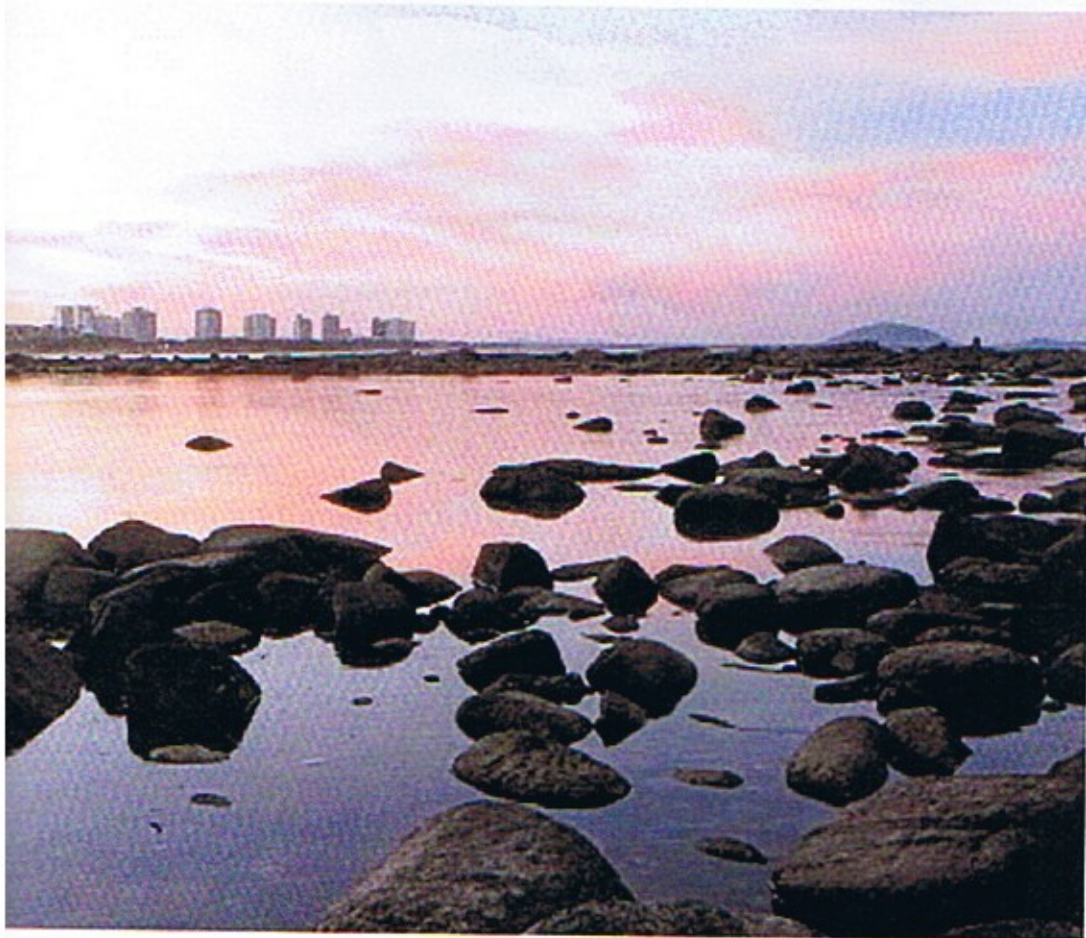
Doctor Who has never pretended to be hard science fiction ... at best Doctor Who is a fairytale, with fairytale logic about this wonderful man in this big blue box ... - British sci-fi writer Neil Gaiman. On this day in 1963, the BBC broadcast the first episode of the TV series (starring William Hartnell), the world's longest-running science fiction drama.

Licence to drive

A licence to drive, just recently to drive, star Daniel Craig passed, as you would expect of 007, at his first try. He and actress Weisz ear-bought an apartment.

All non-US citizens must complete a written test, a five-hour safety course and the short driving test, the New York Post reports. Craig passed, as you would expect of 007, at his first try. Skyfall, the latest Bond film, opened in Australia yesterday.

Reader photo of the day



It's time to catch Maroochydore

Used a 15-second exposure to snap this shot of Maroochydore. Sunshine Coast photo you would like to

share, send it to photo@scnews.com.au. Remember to include your name, where and when you took it, and a contact number.

THE DAY

Shona Symons offered a job at the packing plant? He was a good boxer! comes from Shona Symons of Buderim

Published in Saturday's Sunshine Coast Daily, wins a double pass entitling two people to it Aussie World, home of the Sunshine Coast's newest water ride - The Plunge! Send your photo to PO Box 56, Maroochydore, Q4558

