

generation for whom work is at the whim of employers, home is in the hands of capricious landlords and, as we see now, some relationships are just a toy for governments to whip up hate.

you will be working in that place next year. When you work in those conditions, you are at the mercy of your employers. The pressure on your mental health is huge and it hardly surprises this generation

contractors without employee are without super guarantee. make up 11 per cent of all independent contractors. Read the full column online star.com.au

THE EDITOR



HELP FOR HELP: As seen in Cloncurry on Friday, let's hope the roadside assistance to the roadside assistance doesn't need roadside assistance. Photo: Derek Barry

EDITORIAL

ONE of the things I was unaware until Cloncurry's C150 celebrated the connection to the town of Mary Gilmore. I was aware of Gilmore as a writer a poet and also because she appeared in the latest version of the Australian note, but knew nothing of her back story. Mary Gilmore (nee Cameron) was born on August 16, 1865 near Goulburn in South Wales, the eldest child of Scottish-Irish stock. She went to school in mid NSW becoming a teacher at Wagga Wagga eventually moving to Sydney. In 1890 she met Henry Lawson and became involved in a relationship. However any hope they might have wed was soured by Lawson's frequent absences from Sydney. In 1893 she became involved with the Australian Workers' Union and she became a shearer and maritime striker. She helped William Lane's New Australia movement which was intent in settling a socialist utopian colony in Paraguay (ended in miserable failure). She moved to Paraguay in 1896 where she married Victorian shearer, William Gilmore and their only child, William, was born there two years later. As the colony fractured in disagreement the Gilmore moved to Patagonia where she taught English before they came to Australia in 1902. Her literary work was published by the Bulletin and her connection with the "Australian Worker" in 1908 after asking for a woman's page. She was invited to edit it herself which she did until 1931. She and William split up and he moved to Cloncurry to work on the land. She devoted her later years to writing volumes of verse while encouraging other writers and she was awarded Dame of the British Empire. William Gilmore passed away in 1945 from blood poisoning and was buried at Cloncurry. Mary remained a Sydney celebrity to the end of her long life. She died in 1962 at age 97 and after a state funeral in Sydney her ashes were buried in her husband's grave. The headstone is in Section 4, Plot 1448 - Derek Barry

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assured that in the event Rob Katter is elected to the newly-established seat of Traeger, that they can depend on receiving the same outstanding standard of representation that Shane Knuth has been providing them since 2009.

Denise Ballard
Mount Isa

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FLINDERS HWY

I applaud the federal and state government for being on the same page to improve key roads in the Flinders Shire, which are vital to delivering a more reliable freight and tourist route in our region.

Work has started on a \$25 million upgrade of seven ageing culverts on the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Richmond, thanks to Australian and Queensland Government funding.

For far too long investment has focused on upgrading the Bruce Highway, but now federal and state funding is starting to flow where it is needed to ensure the economic

sustainability of rural and regional Queensland.

However, there is still a long way to go to bring our inland network up to standard. Sections of the Flinders Highway, are among those listed in a network of around 16,000 kilometres in the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) that are not up to scratch.

The IQ-RAP is not just about providing a more reliable and safe road network to our regional towns, it is also about providing a funded forward program to provide certainty for local governments to retain critical skills sets and maintain a stable workforce.

This is vital to the 33 local governments in the IQ-RAP region, with regional unemployment rates at an all-time low, particularly youth unemployment.

We look forward to further bi-partisan commitments to regional roads to support regional economic development.

Cr Jane McNamara
Deputy Chair IQ-RAP Working Group
Mayor of Flinders Shire

WITH US

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Preference is given to letters that are less than 300 words. Letters must include the author's name (for publication), address and daytime contact number. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

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