

# Opinion

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EMAIL: [hume@leadernewspapers.com.au](mailto:hume@leadernewspapers.com.au)

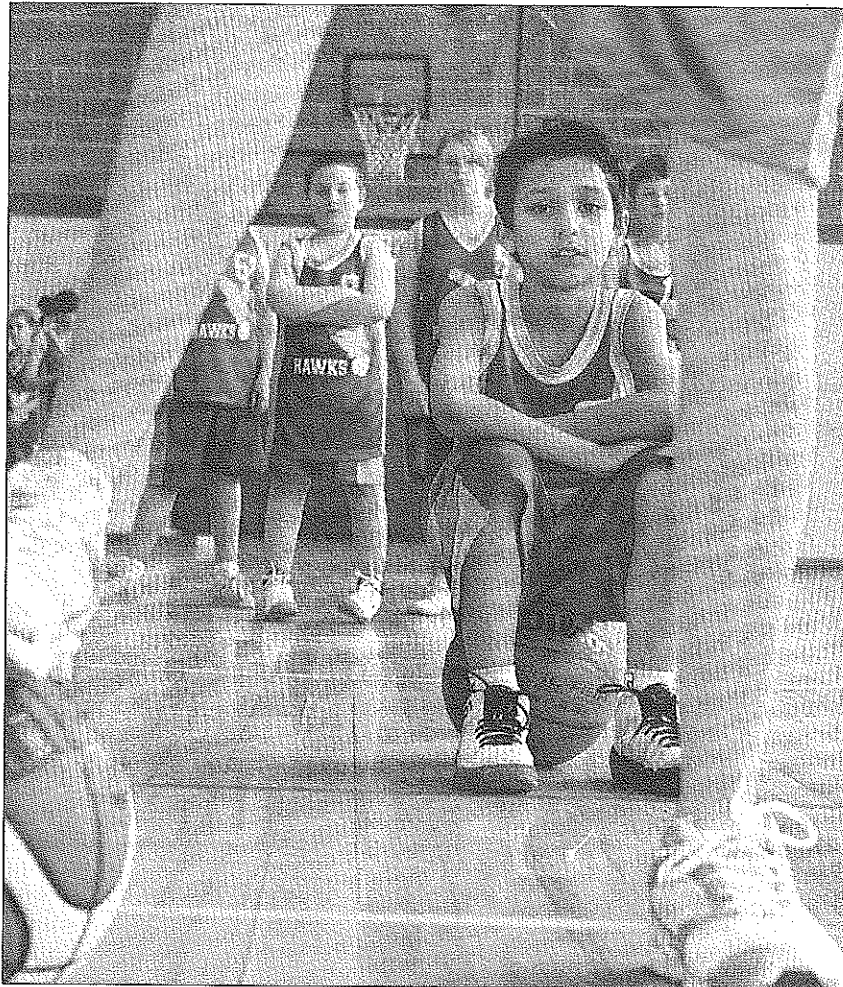


MAIL: The Editor, Hume Leader,  
Level 1, 144 Melrose Drive, Tullamarine, 3043



WEB: [www.humeleader.com.au](http://www.humeleader.com.au)

FAX: The Editor (03) 8318 6262



Hume Council's inaction on Craigieburn's basketball courts shortage is a sore point for readers.

## Broken promises

REPORTS in the *Hume Leader* (October 23) regarding the council's \$50 million black hole in the provision of sporting facilities do not surprise me.

The only real thing our local councillors talk about is the widening of Bridgewater Rd. That seems to be the extent of their achievements.

The Craigieburn Basketball Association has been asking for more courts to accommodate growth for the past six years. We were promised new courts to be built in 2007, but once again this never happened.

Year after year we have to turn away children because there are not enough courts for them to play on.

The council must have closed their eyes for a long time to just realise the population in Craigieburn has exploded beyond their expectations.

I have been assured that the court facilities are to be the first stage to be built when the leisure centre is built, but with so many broken promises, it makes you wonder if you can trust them or not.

**Kathy Bailey, president of Craigieburn Basketball Association**

## Poor taste

NO one could be forgiven for saying and doing things when under stress but the comments made by Hume Cr Adam Atmaca regarding John Ilhan (*Hume Leader*, October 30) were ill-conceived and in poor taste when considering the divisiveness of them. Like many others, I always thought John Ilhan was an Australian citizen of Turkish descent who had nothing to prove because of his success and whose death was a terrible tragedy.

However Cr Atmaca, for whatever reasons, proceeded to play the race card and tell us that "(John Ilhan) helped show Turks are just like Aussies".

We all know that a lot of ratepayers in his ward are of Turkish background, but they are Australians not Turks.

Comments like this might appeal to the fanatical few who refuse to accept this country as their own, but please Cr Atmaca, you more than anyone else would be aware of the tension that such a comment could create.

Grieve for your friend with my blessings, but try and score a political point and you will be taken to task.

**Jack Medcraft, former Hume councillor**

## Eggs in one basket

HUME Council has known for years about the population growth in Craigieburn – it's not like this has just crept up on them.

The sad thing is they have put all their eggs in one basket – spending money in Broadmeadows.

\$23 million for the town hall and \$500,000 for a European coffee strip.

Meanwhile, the residents of Craigieburn and Greenvale keep getting told that there is no money. I wonder why. What should our kids do to occupy themselves? Run amok and get in trouble with the law? Nothing much else to do.

**Peter Cooper, concerned resident**

## Let them pay

LET'S get real about property crime in Hume: first when they are caught hit them in the pocket.

If they work, have the courts take money from their wages.

If they are on Centrelink benefits, have money taken from that too.

Let them pay for the damage they have done.

If they don't work and there are not on Centrelink benefits, hit the parents in the pocket. If the parents are being hit in the pocket they will soon know where there kids are at night.

And if they do it again, they pay again. They will soon think twice before they do it again.

They say crime doesn't pay. Make it pay!

**Ron Allen, Craigieburn**