

What the Oswals do for charity

December 8, 2007

As a personal friend of Pankaj and Radhika Oswal, and a part-time member of their company, I am writing to express my concern at the mealy-mouthed views expressed by a handful of your readers in last week's POST.

It is disappointing to see that the Tall Poppy Syndrome is flourishing surprisingly well in parts of the western suburbs.

The Oswals are making an important contribution to the WA economy. They alone, of many Australian and international companies who considered setting up business on the Burrup Peninsula, had the guts to proceed with their project.

They have created many jobs in the region - and in Perth - and are boosting Australian exports by approximately \$300 million a year.

Importantly, they are adding value to our NW Shelf gas instead of exporting it as a raw commodity, something Sir Charles Court and successive governments of both political persuasions have been unsuccessfully exhorting Australian companies to do since 1975.

The Oswals had the courage of their convictions, and have been successful, so how they spend their money is their business.

However, their critics need to be aware that they are certainly putting a lot back into WA.

Burrup Fertilisers is part of the Karratha community. There, Pankaj and Radhika have committed more than half a million dollars to a scholarship program to help Karratha youngsters meet the costs of living in Perth while studying at university.

They are also strong financial supporters of the region's Early Learning Specialist Scholarship Program, and a program to attract and retain general practitioners for the Shire of Roebourne, as well as a host of other sponsorships to assist local events, schools and sporting clubs.

At Christmas they will sponsor a Christmas party for the children of Karratha.

I am also aware that the Oswals contribute generously to a wide range of community and charitable organisations in India aimed at assisting people in need.

The letter writers who have expressed environmental concerns should be aware that green energy will be the sole power source for their new house.

Be assured, the Oswal family are putting a lot back into Australia, but they are doing it where they feel it can do most good, and without seeking public recognition for their actions. Give them a break!

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