

# The Mercury

HOBART, AUGUST 23, 1976

## Reasons to be thankful

I couldn't agree more with the sentiments expressed in your columns by Grote Reber (19.8).

One needs only a few weeks' Mercury Tour to South East Asia to open one's eyes to how the other half of the world lives, and to cause one to breathe a sigh of thankfulness as one then puts foot on the Llanherne tarmac, that in Tasmania there are no crowds of poorly-dressed sellers with their wares spread on plastic on the footpaths, no chickens running in and out of the earthen floors of the homes, no little narrow, dusty, rubbish-lined earthen streets full of all kinds of traffic and crowds of people of all ages, with no apparent rules of the road, no money in poor families for such things as appendicitis operations, and in the towns here we have a footpath laid over solid earth instead of being made of flagstones covering smelly sewerage drains.

In those countries there are a great many fine buildings and well-dressed people about, but the squalor of the poor has to be seen to be believed — and not only seen from the comfort of the huge international hotels.

In spite of the potholes in many of our roads and the eternal political wrangle over who does not do what, Tasmania is still a good place in which to live, and I, for one, am truly thankful that I am a Tasmanian.

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