

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL INDEPENDENT

CRIME IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

AFRICAN REFUGEES

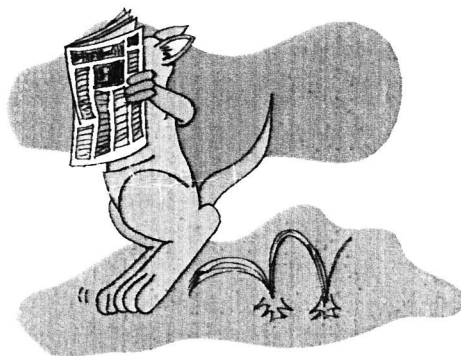
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Back in May of this year we were subject to some pretty gruesome stories of crime and violence in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. Many of these came to light when Nanette Rogers, a Crown Prosecutor from Alice Springs appeared on the ABC TV's "Lateline" program.

The crimes included the worst such as child rape, murder, incest, domestic violence and spouse abuse. In one particularly heinous incident a group of children ranging from four to eight-years-old were playing and swimming in a waterhole when an 18-year-old petrol sniffer grabbed one of the children and "anally penetrated her and drowned her, probably simultaneously".

In a similar program in June we heard of more crimes including an alleged paedophile ring, adults trading petrol for sex with young people, widespread venereal diseases among children, and communities dominated by violent Aboriginal men. Children as young as five were found in an abandoned house watching pornography while their parents were on a drinking spree hundreds of miles away.

Some of the culprits have been brought before the courts but others have escaped justice due the lack of police presence in the area or the fear of retribution among witnesses.

Not shortly after these events were reported we were told of incidents in Wadeye, the Territory's largest Aboriginal community, in which fighting between two gangs of young men had led to houses being destroyed and cars torched. Hundreds of people had asked to be evacuated to Darwin. Others had already fled to bush outstations.

At about the time these horror stories were unfolding ABC's "Four Corners" featured a program that showed a pretty typical Aboriginal community. We saw what appeared to be a normal day at the local school – half the children did not turn up and by mid-day all but one of the children that did attend were picked up and taken away by their parents. This seems a too typical attitude to education and one of a number of reasons why the problems of these communities will continue.

Late in June the Federal Government offered the states, including the Northern Territory, a total of \$ 130 million for programs aimed at stopping violence and abuse in indigenous communities. This included raising police numbers, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, a national intelligence unit to investigate abuse, and protection and support for victims of crime. These will no doubt mitigate many of the problems but they do not go to the fundamentals of the situation and remove the causes.

When we look at the problems now being experienced in Aboriginal communities the question must be asked – "What did we expect?"

Masses of land, including 50% of the Northern Territory, was handed to Aborigines, many of whom had little, if any experience in farming or other work for that matter. Aborigines are not too well represented on the IQ map but even they couldn't

have believed they would return to some sort of palaeolithic paradise, surviving on spirituality and bush tucker. The lack of services and opportunities in remote areas, and the isolation from the civilizing influence of white society could only exacerbate inherent problems.

Added to this are the not-so-benign effects of the welfare system. When young men can go onto the dole at 16 and stay on this or some sort of welfare for most of their lives they are not given a great incentive to better themselves. With girls the problem is, if anything, worse. They can have babies at a young age and get a range of welfare benefits that make education or work seem less desirable pursuits. Hence we have unusually high birth-rates among our least successful and the problem becomes inter-generational.

Perhaps the most intractable problem however is that so few of our leaders appear to want to understand the basics of the situation. None have even hinted that many of the problems have a lot to do with biological race and inherent inequality. They are not exactly "racial realists" and until they come to grips with this and put political correctness and myths of racial equality aside the poverty, pain and crime in Aboriginal communities will largely continue.

(Main sources: www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1639127.htm
www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1645753.htm www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1668773.htm
www.news.com.au/story/print0,10119,19592257,00.html

AFRICAN REFUGEES

About 30,000 black African refugees have settled in Australia since 2000-01, according to an article by Diana Bagnall writing in *The Bulletin* ("Out of Africa" 11/04/06). Over half come from the Sudan with others coming from countries like Liberia, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Congo and Eritrea. In 2004-05, 56% of the refugees from Africa were under 20-years-old. In that year 70% of Australia's refugee intake came from Africa but this was reduced to 60% the following year and will be reduced to around 50% this year.

The refugees are facing a number of problems according to Bagnall, including high divorce rates, poor employment rates and low levels of education. Some 18- and 19-year-olds have arrived with the equivalent of only two years of education. There is a cultural clash as children challenge traditional limits. Local infrastructure – schools, housing, and health services – is being strained with the influx of refugees and their special needs.

The article makes a great deal of the incident in Auburn in which Ruol Agang, a refugee from the Sudan, was killed. A teenager, apparently of Arabic background has been taken into custody. Bagnall fails to mention cases of violence and rape committed by refugees. (More recently an African was arrested over the murder of a female doctor but this happened after the article appeared.) There is some mention of Professor Andrew Fraser's advice that crime would rise with an influx of Africans and Bagnall admits that some people are not happy about letting these refugees into the country. She however does not show much appreciation of the long-term implications and problems associated with letting numerous Africans into Australia.

AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY STATISTICS

Although we often hear concerns about our forests and the industries dependent on them statistics indicate they are not faring too badly. Forest occupies about 21% of Australia's land area. This is equivalent to 164.4 million hectares of which a little over 1% is plantation forest. An average of 74,000 hectares was added to our plantations each year from 2000 to 2004.

Less than 1% of native forest area is harvested annually.

The value exports of wood products in 2003-04 was \$2.06 billion but our imports of wood products was \$3.9 billion. The value of turnover in forest product industries was \$18 billion in 2002-03.

(Source: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 2005)

USA CRIME STATISTICS

According to America's Bureau of Justice Statistics homicide rates have recently declined to levels not seen since the late 1960s.

- The US homicide rate nearly doubled from the mid 1960s to the late 1970s.
- In 1980 it peaked at 10.2 per 100,000 of population and then fell down to 8.00 per 100,000 in 1984.
- The rate rose again in the late 1980s and peaked at 9.8 per 100,000 in 1991.
- The rate declined sharply from 1992 to 2000 and then stabilized.
- Black Americans are 6 times more likely to be victimized and 7 times more likely to commit homicide than are whites.
- Almost half the offenders are under the age of 25.
- In the period 1976 to 2002 white Americans made up 51.1% of victims and 45.9% of offenders although they made up 84% of the US population.
- Blacks made up only 12.2% of the population during this period but 46.8% of victims and 52.1% of offenders.

(Source: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/ Last revised 28 September 2004)

The number of rapes in the US has plunged by 85% since the 1970s. A Justice Department estimate is that there were 2.8 rapes per 1,000 people in 1979 but this fell to 0.4 per 1,000 in 2004. Nevertheless it appears the majority of sexual assaults are not reported and some people have cast doubts as to whether rape has declined as much as it appears or victims are staying quite to avoid the public scrutiny that can occur when they report assaults.

(Source: David A Fahrenthold www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13389272)

America's prison population is burgeoning with about 2.2 million people behind bars. The total increased by 56,428 between June 2004 and the June 2005, or almost 1,100 per week. About two-thirds of the number is state and federal prisons while the remainder is in local jails. The states of Louisiana and Georgia had the highest incarceration rates, in both more than 1% of their populations are in prison or jail. Many more males than females are in prison.

In the 25-29 age group about 11.9% of America's black men are in prison or jail. The figure for Hispanic males is 3.9% and for white males it is 1.7%.

(Source: www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12901873/)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

When looking at the disastrous way Australia, and in fact many other Western nations, are being run one is provoked to ask whether the individual can make a difference or should he (or she) sit idly by and hope for the best. To be honest there is only a certain amount any individual can do but if enough people get interested and active on a particular issue their combined efforts can make an impact.

One way to provoke debate or raise interest in a topic is to call a talk-back radio program or write to the letters editor of a newspaper. If mainstream newspapers won't print your letters try the "alternative" media – the papers and newsletters that are not owned by the major media conglomerates and are more likely to accept politically incorrect materials. We list a few of these at the end of this article.

You may even try to produce your own newsletter although costs of postage can be a problem. Anyone with a modern computer will probably find software for simple publications came with it. If not it should not be too hard to purchase and load up the necessary software if you are familiar with how your computer works.

If you are Internet savvy there is the opportunity to build your own website or blog site. Some of these can be set up for free if you don't mind advertising being added to it.

If the Internet does not appeal, anyone with basic word processing skills can produce simple pamphlets or small posters. This brings us to the question of political parties, political campaigns and elections. Major parties spend millions at election time but an independent or small party can make an impact using limited funds if they do their homework carefully and are well-organised.

One trick is to get the name of the candidate, party and the issues they are pushing into the minds of the voters well before election day. By the day of the election most people would have decided who they are voting for although of course "how to vote" cards are good for directing preferences. Again, anyone with a computer can produce simple leaflets, small posters and stickers. If you cannot get to everyone in an electorate then see that these are well distributed. If this is done early enough you may be able to get your views spread by word of mouth.

An alternative, or additional strategy, is simply to write a letter to each registered voter. Cost of postage however will be a problem but you could send a smaller number to randomly selected voters. Again if this is done early enough you might find your name and views are being talked about out in the community hence giving you free publicity.

The chances of winning against the major parties is not great but if one does the research, plans properly and puts in the effort, a little money can go a long way in making life less comfortable for an incumbent politician.

And the details of those publications are:

The Australian Beacon, PO Box 642, NANANGO QLD 4615

The Strategy, 344 Commercial Rd., YARRAM VIC 3971

The Independent Australian, PO Box 8, ESSENDON VIC 3040
(Write and ask for a free copy of either their Summer 2005/06 or Winter 2006 issue.)

The Nation, PO Box 1199, BEENLEIGH, QLD 4207

Future Nation, PO Box 734, WODEN, ACT 2606

NATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

A GANG armed with nunchakus and a sword attacked two teenage boys in the Sydney suburb of Auburn. The gang of Asians demanded cash from the boys and chased and attacked them. Both boys had to receive treatment for wounds (MxNews 27/06/06).

THE NUMBER of Indigenous people in our prison system increased 12% from 2004 to 2005. Indigenous people make up 2.4% of the general population but 22% of the prison population (Green Left Weekly 28/06/06).

70,000 SKILLED MIGRANTS are due to enter Australia this year and this could increase to 110,000 in two year's time. They include beekeepers, trapeze artists, wine makers and guide dog trainers. Of those who come under the skills program, 26% are from Britain, 10% from India and 6% from the United States (Nicolette Burke, Daily Telegraph 30/06/06).

FATHER OF THREE children, Stojce Petreski, was murdered after he and others confronted a number of people trying to rob patrons and staff at a St Peters (Sydney) hotel. Three teenage males and a 20-year-old woman have been charged with murder, while another man is being sought by police (Sydney Morning Herald 12/06/06). It appears all the criminals were Pacific Islanders.

THE FAMILY of a two-year-old Burundian boy, who died after throwing a fit brought on by sickle-cell anaemia, is suing the Department of Immigration. The family are refugees who arrived from Africa last November and the boy died while his father, who could not speak English or use a telephone, roamed the streets looking for help (DT 3/07/06).

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD boy was seriously hurt and in a critical condition after he tried to stop a male boarder attacking his mother in their Strathfield home. The man and his victims are all Koreans, although the man was described as having his hair bleached white. (MxNews 7/07/06).

AN APPRENTICE training group is jetsetting around the globe in search of recruits to fill apprenticeships and says this is cheaper than advertising in Australia. The Golden West group has been looking for young people in places like India, China and the Philippines while in some parts of Australia youth unemployment runs at 35%. Meanwhile the government is planning to change the guest-worker program to allow the semi-skilled migrate here (DT 14/07/06).

WHILE LOCAL graduates are struggling to find jobs thousands of foreign technology workers are being imported. A labour market consultant said the foreign workers are often paid below normal salaries for computer science graduates and now fewer students were taking computer studies (SMH 24/07/06).

A RESTURANT OWNER in Richmond, on the outskirts of Sydney, has been charged over slavery allegations. Yogalingam Rasalingam who owns a string of restaurants paid for the ticket and visa of a 23-year-old man and then expected him to work up to 15 hours a day with no pay (Hawkesbury Gazette 26/07/06).

ATTITUDES in the community to high immigration have changed, apparently as people are worried about the aging of the population. In 1991 most people polled thought immigration excessive but more recently the proportion who thought immigration should be lowered had fallen from 60% to 40%. Annual net immigration since 1997 has more than doubled to 148,000 (David Humphries, SMH 24/07/06).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY from: The Australian National Independent
#38, 2006

A TRIBAL ELDER in Pakistan ordered the relatives of people who had kidnapped a 15-year-old girl to have one of their womenfolk marry the girl's 11-year-old brother as compensation. Unfortunately for the child he was strangled instead (MxNews 9/05/06).

SOMALIA witnessed its worst violence in a decade as clashes continued between warlords and al-Queda-backed militants. The country is in a state of lawlessness with no banks, no army, no budget and virtually no buildings. The president lives in Kenya and rules by correspondence as he believes his own country is too dangerous for him (Epoch Times 17/05/06).

A YOUNG GIRL in Kenya died after performing female genital mutilation on herself. The procedure is actually illegal but in the girl's village it was so common that the girl had been teased by others for not being circumcised (E T 4/07/06).

WHITE MIDDLE-AGED Americans are much less healthy than their British counterparts despite paying on average twice as much for the health care. (Yakima Herald Republic 3/05/06). Some claim that this is because many 'white' Americans have some non-white ancestry although how this can be proved is difficult to ascertain. DNA testing is easy & reliable. E.T.

SIGNICANT NUMBERS of white Britons have been lured into Islamic terrorism. White converts and other British Muslims were being targeted for recruitment by radicals at universities (SMH 3/07/06).

MINISTERS from 26 African nations met in Nigeria during July to launch a new attempt to combat people trafficking and related problems of child labour and sexual exploitation.

THE FIRST COMMAND, Brazil's largest prison gang launched a number of attacks in the state of Sao Paulo, targeting police at their homes, at banks and supermarkets. Five people were killed but in a similar incident two months ago at least 175 people died (14/07/06).

BELGIAN authorities arrested a key suspect in the rape and killing of two schoolgirls aged seven and ten. The suspect, a Moroccan named Abdellah Ait Oud denies any involvement (MxNews 18/07/06).

NINE FALUN GONG practitioners have been arrested in Singapore in what has been described as a stunt to please China. The nine had staged a peaceful protest outside the Chinese Embassy (Stephen Gregory, ET 19/07/06).

JAPAN raised interest rates to 0.25% in July. The miniscule rate of interest could explain why Japan's economy grows at the same rate as Australia's (around 3%) even though population growth is zero. Australia's population growth and interest rates are some of the highest in the industrialized world.

SBS TELEVISION had a program called "White Terror" on the 18 July 2006. The program originated in France and claimed to show how "white power" groups are spreading racist propaganda via the Internet, books, CDs and videos. Viewers were shown groups of young men from various countries, but mainly in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, giving Roman salutes and making a lot of noise. The violence associated with these people was emphasized but that emanating from non-whites barely rated a mention. That these groups are generally politically irrelevant was not mentioned and neither were real political parties like the British National Party.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

A TEENAGER'S birthday party in Green Valley (an outer Sydney suburb) in May was invaded by about 60 Middle-easterners and a brawl shortly erupted. Knives and broken bottles were used. Two 16-year-old party guests were later taken to Liverpool hospital with stab wounds and at least one other needed hospital treatment. The victims had been stabbed in the back after being swarmed. This was the largest such attack since last December. A few days later an off-duty police officer was assaulted by two men of Middle-eastern appearance at The Rocks (Paul Sheehan, Sydney Morning Herald 29/05/06). In July Mohamed Alhaje appeared in court due to an incident at Maroubra last December when a man of Greek origin was attacked with a baseball bat and had his mobile 'phone stolen (Daily Telegraph 27/07/06). NSW police announced that the taskforce set up to arrest people in the Cronulla riot and revenge attacks would be wound up as news comes of the arrest of a 22-year-old woman and a 17-year-old male said to have been involved in the riot. The Opposition Leader, Peter Debnam claimed that hundreds of Middle-eastern thugs had not been arrested (Andrew Clennell, SMH 12/06/06). Since Paul Sheehan's article appeared, men have been arrested over the attack last December when an Australian man was knifed in Woollooware following the Cronulla riot.

THERE is a thriving black market in firearms and more than 1300 are stolen each year. Of those detained by police with guns, 60% bought them illegally (Sunday Telegraph 30/07/06).

AN ABORIGINAL teenager is the first to be charged under Western Australia's new racial vilification laws. The 14-year-old girl is said to have been part of a group who kicked a Caucasian woman in the head while racially abusing her (ABC Online 2/08/06).

WHILE CHINA'S economic growth is more than three times that of Australia the country is not without its problems. In 6 major industrial sectors between from 1999 to 2003 Indian companies delivered returns that were 80% to 200% higher than China's. China's banking system is riddled with non-performing loans and 30% of GDP is spent in bail-outs. In most Asian countries state-owned enterprises account for about 5% of GDP but in China it is 38% and a third of the urban workforce work for the state (Minxin Pei, Australian Financial Review 16/06/06).

AUSTRALIA'S unemployment rate fell to 4.9% in the middle of this year but some areas are still in the doldrums. The rate fell to 2.2% in central Perth but actually rose in the NSW district of Illawarra where it reached 8.9% (AFR 16/06/06).

SEVEN BOMBS exploded in 11 minutes in the Indian city of Mumbai. At least 163 people died in the terrorist attack that is thought to have been the work of Islamist extremists (MxNews 12/07/06).

TOTAL WATER consumption is higher in Sydney than in any other mainland capital but only a little over half of this water goes to residential use. On a per capita basis however Sydney-siders use less than any city except Melbourne (Essential Sydney UDIA Metro Metrics).

P & O FREMANTLE has 300 employees but not one apprentice on its books which could explain a lot about the so-called skills shortage. It's further claimed that employers are advertising jobs at such a low rate of pay that no locals will apply, hence they then bring in migrant workers to work at sub-standard wages and conditions. If the migrant is not happy the employer can threaten them with deportation (Ian Bray, Green Left Weekly 21/06/06).

TWENTY-FIVE years of current account deficits has converted the United States from a creditor economy to a debtor economy. In 1982 the US had net foreign assets equal to 7.2% of GDP but by 2005 they had net foreign liabilities equal to 25.1% of GDP. In 2005 US investment in the rest of the world was \$US492 billion but investments in the US by foreigners was \$US1,293 billion (Dick Nichols, GLW 21/6/06).

TEN STUDENTS were killed by security forces in Conakry, Guinea during a demonstration about university exams in June.

BRISBANE has an overseas born population of 22%, Adelaide 24.7%, Melbourne 30.3%, Perth 33.2% and Sydney 33.4%. The number of Arabs migrating to Australia dropped from 6,942 in 2000-01 to 6,000 in 2001-02 but has tended to increase since. 10,550 arrived in 2002-03, 11,321 in 2003-04 and 12,961 the following year. In 1996 Arabs made up 7.7% of our migrant intake but in 2004-05 this had risen to 10.5% (George Megalogenis, The Weekend Australian 12/02/06).

A MAN has been found guilty by the Equal Opportunity Tribunal of making anti-Semitic remarks. Martin Hargous said the "Jews are s**ts" outside the Russian Club in Strathfield in 2004 (Sunday Telegraph 6/08/06).

AN EASTERN SUBURBS woman in her 40s is said to be one of Australia's biggest cocaine importers. The woman of Columbian background has made millions from the illicit drug but has never been arrested as "She's just too clever" according to police (Neil Mercer, ST 6/08/06).

GENES that helped humans evolve big brains do not appear to have played a role in how intelligent we are, according to a report of a study by Queensland Institute of Medical Research. The Australian study is said to be the first to specifically look at genes, head size and intelligence in a normal population. It was found that those people who scored highly in intelligence tests did not necessarily possess versions of the genes that are expected to code for big heads. Professor Colin Groves, an expert in evolution at The Australian National University says human brains began getting bigger after our ancestor Homo habilis appeared. Now our brains have stopped growing and have gotten smaller, or at least more compact. According to Groves, brain size appears to be related to intelligence between species but not within a species. Our brains appear to have become smaller since the late Pleistocene and there is no evidence that Homo sapiens has become any more intelligent over the last 50,000 years (Judy Skatsoon, ABC Online www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200608/s1704016.htm 2/08/06).

HISTORICAL ARTICLE

RACE, WAR AND THE HOMEFRONT

In some previous issues we had articles about aspects of Australian society during World War II. Since then we have come across further sources that deal with race, ethnicity and the invasion of American servicemen.

While at the time Aborigines were not entitled to vote in federal elections and were subject to various forms of discrimination, many were happy to play a part in fighting the Japanese. In one incident a Japanese aircraft crash landed on Melville Island after being damaged during a raid on Darwin. The pilot survived and managed to hide out for a night. Next day a local Aboriginal snuck up behind him, poked the handle of a tomahawk in his back and said "stick 'em up". (The Aborigines at the time were great fans of Hollywood westerns). The first Jap prisoner to be captured on Australian soil was then taken to a military camp on the other side of the island.

With the anxiety caused by the bombing of Darwin, many people, including Chinese and Aborigines, started moving south. In one notable case a group of white people with over 100 Aboriginal children crossed from Croker Island to the mainland. Surviving largely on home baked loaves, buns, cakes and whatever they could scrounge on the way, the group was trucked through virtually trackless bush to Pine Creek. There they were put in cattle trucks and railroaded to Birdum. They were then driven in jolting military trucks to Alice Springs from where they had a relatively easy journey by train to safety in Adelaide and Melbourne. The whole journey took two months.

The presence of Italians in Australia became a matter of contention once Italy joined the war in 1940. Many had not taken out Australian citizenship and there were calls for them to be interned, even though some had originally come to this country to escape Mussolini's fascist regime. The "Truth", a popular periodical of the time was vehement in its denunciation of the Italians and sometimes carried a column called "Dago Doings". As it was, some were interned, others forced to move south from north Queensland, and the government in that state imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Italians.

While there was little sympathy for the Japanese, many people considered anti-Japanese propaganda emanating from the Department of Information a little over the top. The material consisted of newspaper advertisements and radio programs that drew criticism for being distasteful, overstated, racist, and simply silly. Even "The Bulletin" criticized them.

An example of the so-called hate campaign was a radio broadcast that contained the words: "The Japanese hate us with a vile savage hatred, but we do not hate them. We find them too loathsome to hate. We shall never stop till we have cleared such loathsome creeping creatures from the face of the earth".

Following more criticism, the hate campaign subsided. Exactly what its critics thought at the end of the war, when the full extent of Japanese atrocities became known, is not recorded.

When American servicemen began arriving in Australia in 1942 they were welcomed as allies and big spenders. Their presence was also seen as a threat, especially in the way their uniforms and money tended to attract local women. As many of the Americans were Negroes this threat took on a racial dimension.

The overwhelmingly white Australia at the time had for years been subjected to an influx of American movies that dominated local screens. When blacks appeared in these movies they tended to be minor characters such as servants and criminals. Stereotypes of blacks were generally negative. From just before the First World War Australians were shown the "Rastus" comedies in which Negroes were portrayed as rolling-eyed and slack-jawed. Their main characteristics were laziness, dishonesty and stupidity.

The negative stereotypes remained during World War II and turned up in cartoons and comic strips such as the famous "Bluey and Curley" series where American blacks were often portrayed as cowardly, childlike and stupid.

The presence of American servicemen, both black and white, was accompanied by an increase in sexually based crimes and the greater incidence of venereal disease.

In Queensland for instance, the state had an average of six rapes or attempted rapes per year in the 1930s. In 1942 and 1943 the incidence of these crimes trebled. The most notorious crimes occurred in Melbourne where the American soldier, Edward Leonski, was convicted of raping and murdering three women.

In Brisbane, within a month of the American's arrival, a Negro soldier had been charged with rape, and three months later another Negro was charged with attempted rape. In the next 16 months a further 16 Americans were charged with sex-based offences. Some of the more notable offences included a case where a United States serviceman procured a retarded girl for prostitution, the rapes of a 15-year-old schoolgirl and an 83-year-old woman, a gang rape, the carnal knowledge of a 6-year-old girl, and the sodomising of a 14-year-old boy.

A state government committee of inquiry set up in Queensland in 1944 found that there had been an increase in many categories of crimes, including rape and carnal knowledge, although of course not all these crimes were committed by Americans.

In New South Wales the incidence of sexually-transmitted disease in women increased from 962 cases in 1938 to 1,255 cases in 1943. Things in Queensland were worse were rates of these diseases

among women trebled. Surprisingly the reported rates of venereal disease among men dropped in both states.

Early in 1942 the Advisory War Council had asked that no blacks be included among the US troops being sent here. The Americans ignored this request but assured the Australians that the Negroes would be mainly working in heavy labour defence installations on distant outposts. Blacks and whites in American services at the time tended to be segregated. By August 1942 there were 7,258 black American troops in Australia. This constituted 8% of all the US forces stationed here and most of them were in Queensland.

Attitudes to race mixing at the time were not particularly tolerant or consistent. Relationships between white males and black women were more likely to be accepted than relationships between black men and white women. In 1928, five women had been arrested after being discovered cavorting with a troupe of Negro entertainers. In 1939 "Smith's Weekly" carried an article criticizing associations between white women and black boxers. Attitudes of white Americans at the time seem similar.

Despite the removal of some discriminatory policies in the American services, tensions still arose between black and white troops. After some violent clashes in Brisbane certain areas were declared either for blacks only or whites only. An unofficial rule, enforced by US Military Police, tried to keep blacks out of the central business area of Brisbane. Occasionally blacks did venture into the area. In one case a white MP was attacked and injured after he told three blacks they should not be there.

In country areas tensions arose when Negroes thought they were being discriminated against. In Ingham about 50 of them were forcibly removed from a dance and marched to the local police station. About four were arrested and this added to their anger. Later in the evening a truckload of Negroes drove back to the police station but were forced away by MPs.

In Mount Isa a brawl erupted between 25 Negroes and five Australians. In another incident a

Negro was shot in the stomach during a brawl between black and white servicemen.

In Roma, an Australian soldier was viciously attacked by a group of Negroes who had left a dance when the local girls refused to dance with them.

There were some violent attacks on women too. A young married Brisbane woman was stabbed by a Negro soldier when she refused to go to a dance with him. Another woman was stabbed in the buttocks when she was accused of playing two Negroes against each other. A Negro who allegedly raped a woman in Darra later committed suicide, and five Negro sailors were sentenced to death for the rape of a woman in Townsville.

Nevertheless many, if not most, of the Negroes felt well received by white Australians. Some white Australian women actually married Negroes, although there is little in the history books to record how well these unions fared in the long-term. In one case a married woman left her husband for a Negro but when it came to custody of the children the judge decided they should be sent to a state home rather than have a coloured stepfather.

Inter-racial marriages were only a tiny proportion of the thousands that occurred between Australian women and American servicemen. In the majority of cases the couples went to America to live but in a few cases the men came back to Australia to settle.

The social history of Australia during the war is as interesting as the history of our military exploits. Looking at the attitudes our society had about race two or three generations ago shows how much we have changed. Whether the changes are for better or worse I'll let the reader decide.

Main sources: Campbell, Rosemary "Heroes and Lovers: A question of national identity", Allen and Unwin, Sydney 1989 (ISBN 0 04 332133).
McKinlay, Brian, "Australia 1942: End of Innocence", Collins, Sydney 1985 (ISBN 0 00 217473 1)

BOOK REVIEWS

"DNA and YOUR BODY: What You Need to Know About Biotechnology" by Colin Masters, University of NSW Press, Sydney 2005 (ISBN 0 86840 984 7)

In the 50 years or so since James Watson and Frances Crick first described the structure of DNA, science has gradually unraveled more of its mysteries. Developments in biotechnology have accelerated this process and scientists are gaining extraordinary new knowledge and insights.

DNA (or deoxyribonucleic acid to give it its proper name) is a large complex molecule that is found in the cell nucleus of all multi-cellular organisms. A small amount of DNA is also found in the mitochondria that float around the cell outside the nucleus in humans.

In animals DNA is organized into complexes called chromosomes and sections of DNA with particular functions are called genes. Most DNA in humans however, over 90% in fact, does not code for anything. This "non-coding" DNA used to be called "junk" DNA.

Scientists are only now learning the significance of non-coding DNA but it seems to have something to do with defining differences between species. Human and chimpanzees have 98.5% of their coding DNA in common but far less of their non-coding DNA in common.

All very interesting but what are the practical implications and what impact on society is research on DNA likely to have? The answer is quiet a lot and in some very important and controversial ways.

Most readers will recall the controversy over stem cell research that arose not long ago. Embryonic stem cells are undifferentiated in that they are at the stage where they have not started to develop into any of the hundreds of types of specialized cell types in the adult human body. Scientists may soon be able to program stem cells to produce whichever particular type of specialized cell is needed. This would have important implications for treating disease.

In the future it may be possible to deprogram adult cells back to stem cells, hence allaying concerns about destroying embryos.

Perhaps the most controversial question dealt with in the book is that of cloning humans. After the successful cloning of the famous "Dolly" the sheep, it was thought a similar process could be used on humans. As it turns out cloning of humans (or other primates) is much more difficult for purely technical reasons. Then of course there are the moral, legal and social complications. If it became technically feasible would we really want to produce duplicates of living people?

The book deals with many other matters: genetic disorders, the genome project, genetic engineering, aberrant development and aging. Nevertheless the book is surprisingly easy to read and obviously meant for those without specialized knowledge. As the importance of genetics is becoming more obvious, books explaining the basics of this science are also becoming important reading and this one is highly recommended.

"RACE DIFFERENCES in INTELLIGENCE: An Evolutionary Analysis" by Richard Lynn, Washington Summit Publishers, August GA 2006 (ISBN – 13:978-1-59368-021-3)

Richard Lynn is something of an expert in psychometrics (the measuring of traits like intelligence) and has written a number of very controversial books, including "Dysgenics: Genetic Deterioration in Modern Populations" and "Eugenics: A Reassessment".

In his latest book, Lynn has drawn together data on intelligence scores from most of the world and produced an IQ map showing the brightest and dullest regions as well as those regions falling in between.

His map has seven colours, although the areas of the world shown in any one colour are not always contiguous geographically or racially. The populations are those considered indigenous. For example the scores of Aborigines are taken for Australia and those of South American Indians for South America.

Using an IQ standardized at 100 for the white English population, Lynn's results are summarized as follows:

IQ 105 – This is the approximate average for north east Asia, or more specifically China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. Scores for migrants or their descendants who came from this region are substantially the same except for some Chinese Americans who score a little lower. Lynn thinks these people may be descended from poor or low class Chinese migrants. He makes no distinction between Southern and Northern Chinese.

IQ 100 – This is the average for most of Europe except for the Balkans, including Greece, and a few other nations such as Ireland. Populations in other parts of the world, that are of European descent, score pretty much the same as those in Europe.

IQ 90 – This is the average in a number of different areas that are not always geographically connected. They include the Balkans in Europe, Turkey and south east Asia. The Inuit (or Eskimos) of Alaska and Canada also fall within this range.

IQ 85 – This takes in a large part of the world including north Africa, the Middle East except for Turkey and Israel, and the Indian sub-continent. Polynesians, including full-blood Maoris, and Amerindians also score at around this level. Arabs in Israel fall into this range but Israel's Oriental Jews score better and Ashkenazim score higher still.

IQ 67 – This is the average for the blacks of sub-Saharan Africa, except for the Kalahari Bushmen and Pygmies. South African Coloureds score about half-way between whites and blacks. IQ scores for those of African descent living outside Africa varies considerably but tends to be a little higher than in Africa. Hybrid populations score higher again depending largely on how much white ancestry they have.

IQ 62 – This low level of intelligence is considered the approximate average for full-blood indigenous Australians and New Guineans. In those parts of New Guinea where the natives have mixed ancestry (such as those who are part Polynesian) the IQ scores are a little better.

IQ 56 – This extraordinary low level of IQ is considered the average for Kalahari Bushmen and related peoples. Evidence on the IQs of African Pygmies is pretty scarce but Lynn thinks they would fall in a similar range to the Bushmen.

How did these differences occur and what do they mean?

According to Lynn, environmental pressures led certain populations to evolve larger brains and higher intelligence. More specifically the cold harsh environment of Europe and north Asia selected for smarter people; the not-so-smart were less likely to survive. The greater need to hunt for food, rather than simply gather it, in the colder regions meant there was further selection for intelligence and the ability to work together with others. Those in adjoining regions became nearly as smart, either by evolutionary pressure, inter-mixing, or both. Meanwhile those peoples living in tropical and the warmer temperate areas tended to lag behind in brain size and intelligence.

What this meant was that certain races gained the ability to build and maintain complex civilizations while others, left to their own devices, stayed in the Stone Ages. As history progressed, primitive societies were not left to struggle on with their own limited abilities but, by being colonized by more advanced peoples, or by migrating to more advanced nations, they began to enjoy the benefits created by more intelligent people. This led to an increase in their numbers and nowadays they are literally out-breeding the more advance races.

Lynn unfortunately does not go into this aspect but most Western societies now have the problem of less able minorities, either migrants or indigenous, who do not contribute sufficiently to society but are disproportionately on welfare or in prison. Many are basically a drag on the societies they live in. This is probably the most serious, and least discussed, problem the nations of the West face today.

What Lynn does emphasise is that intelligence, and the differences between races, is largely a matter of genetics. Those who deny this must be, in his words "either totally ignorant of the basic principles of evolutionary biology or else have a political agenda to deny the importance of race. Or both."

"GUNPOWDER: A History of the Explosive that Changed the World" by Jack Kelly, Atlantic Books, London 2005.

Gunpowder, a mixture of sulphur, saltpeter, and carbon from charcoal, originated in China around the 9th Century AD. For the better part of a thousand years it was the main, or for that matter, the only explosive material used in any quantity. This volatile black powder was to play a major part in the world's history.

Although the Chinese originally used gunpowder for pyrotechnics, they soon saw its military potential. A small container of gunpowder attached to an arrow could make it an effective incendiary device. The Chinese also invented rockets, rudimentary bombs (noted more for the noise they made than for the damage they did) and "fire lances" which were the forerunner of the first guns.

Yet while the Chinese invented gunpowder and the first firearms it was not long before Europeans not only adopted these weapons but developed them to a much superior level. The first reference to gunpowder in Europe dates from 1267 and its first military use was noted in 1331. In 1346 when the English King Edward III landed on the continent to fight for the throne of France he brought gunpowder and cannon. These weapons were at an early stage of development and not likely to have a dramatic effect on the outcome of a battle. Nevertheless things were soon to change and cannon became deadly and effective.

This was well illustrated in 1453 when the Ottoman Turks took Constantinople. The Christian forces were outnumbered ten to one but may have had a chance of surviving if they had retained the services of a man called Urban. Urban is believed to have come from Hungary and was highly skilled in metallurgy and the technical aspects of gunpowder. Unhappy with the meager amount offered by the Byzantines for his services, he approached the Turks who were happy to shower him with riches if he produced cannon capable of breaching the walls of Constantinople.

The guns Urban produced were massive. One had a barrel 26 feet long and threw a projectile weighing more than half a ton. After weeks of bombardment with these weapons the city fell.

The use of gunpowder, cannon and muskets had radically changed the way wars were fought. The armoured knights that seemed to symbolize the Medieval Age became ineffective and anachronistic. The knights were no match against highly disciplined regiments of infantry armed with muskets.

Europeans developed better mixtures of gunpowder and more sophisticated firearms. Chinese armouries had stagnated and in the 1500s when Portuguese arrived in China there weapons were far superior. The Chinese induced Europeans, mainly Christian missionaries to produce weapons in China. In the 1640s for instance a German cleric built and operated a cannon foundry near the Imperial Palace. Soon bronze cannon barrels were being produced in China inscribed with the names of saints and Christian symbols. Nevertheless Chinese enthusiasm for innovation waned and in the Opium War of 1841 they were using guns dating from 1627.

In the meantime, Westerners using black powder, cannon and muskets, had conquered and settled the Americas and the Antipodes, and had gained control over large parts of Asia and Africa. Exactly why Europeans were so successful while the Chinese, who had invented gunpowder, were comparatively timid is hard to fathom. Whether it was something innate, or their culture, or both, Europeans with the use of gunpowder came to dominate the world militarily and politically.

"INSIDE the WAR CABINET: Directing Australia's War Effort 1939-45" by David Warner, Allen and Unwin, St. Leonards 1996 (ISBN 1 86373 9688)

Unlike the First World War it was decided in 1939 that Australia would have a special War cabinet. This would be our key decision making body during World War II.

The War Cabinet included the prime minister, a number of other ministers, and the Chiefs of Staff of the three armed services. Later a body called the Advisory War Council was formed but its authority came from the presence of members of the War Cabinet serving on it.

The War Cabinet suffered a severe blow in 1940 when, in a dreadful air crash, three ministers, Henry Gullett, J.V. Fairbairn and G.A. Street, were killed. Also killed in the incident

was Sir Brudenell White, who had recently been called out of retirement to join the Chiefs of Staff.

Nevertheless the War Cabinet continued to operate. Over the course of the war it included nine men who at some time had held the office of prime minister. Its more distinguished advisors included the American General, Douglas MacArthur, Australia's only Field Marshall, Sir Thomas Blamey, and the industrialist, Sir Essington Lewis.

Horner's book may be a little too specialized for many readers but it covers a topic that receives very little attention in more general histories of the war.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"A soldier who leaves his unit and his mates without authority is branded and dealt with as a deserter. A civilian who selfishly deserts his country is no less a traitor."

John Curtin 1942

"The idea that members of the Jewish Diaspora can only be the victims of racism, rather than the practitioners of racism, like every other group, is now a dead letter and untenable."

Paul Sheehan, Sydney Morning Herald 10/07/06

"The later shift towards a multiracial society has been the product of an ongoing, trans-national, managerial revolution from above which can and should be resisted by all patriotic Australians."

Prof. Andrew Fraser 2005

"What were the motivations behind the White Australia policy? Central to its establishment was the desire of Australians to build a strong and prosperous society founded upon the principles of racial and cultural homogeneity."

Gwenda Tavan, "The Long, Slow Death of White Australia" 2005

"They funnel money from the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other foreign 'aid' organizations into the coffers of huge corporations and the pockets of a few wealthy families who control the planet's natural resources."

John Perkins, "Confessions of an Economic Hitman" 2005

*"They were, after all, the stock from which all non-Africans developed, and all the evidence suggests that the variation **within** individual groups decreases the farther away from Africa one goes, even today. Yet, it is also the case that differences between one group and another, between, say, Chinese, Native Americans, Polynesians, Melanesians, and Australians, increase the farther we move from Africa; so the total diversity **between** the so-called races might seem to increase with distance from Africa."*

Stephen Oppenheimer, "Out of Eden: The Peopling of the World" 2003

"Immigrants must accept the basic values of the society, must obey the law, learn the nation's language(s), and share not only in the treasures history has bequeathed to the nation, but also in its burdens."

Amitai Etzioni, "The Rights and Responsibilities of Immigrants" Quadrant June 2006

"Yet today, surprisingly, many nice, clean, sweet-smelling middle-class folk have somehow persuaded themselves that the tribal world, where there is no soap, no toilet paper, no shampoo, no deodorant and certainly no tampons, represents a better way of life than their own."

Roger Sandall, "10,000 Years of Nostalgia" Quadrant June 2006

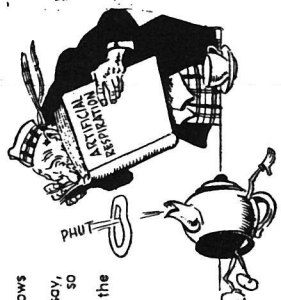
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"You've made a mistake, you've put some beer in my water."

"WAR WITHOUT TEARS!" — WELL JUST A FEW!

"Come droon y'r sorrows
in a cup o' tea,"
The old saw used to say,
But noo' the brew's so
weak, y' see,
Y'r sorrows droon the
tea!



FAREWELL TO
GLAMOUR!



No rouge or mascara, and no
liquid hose,
No fragrant powder to daub on
my nose,
No lipstick, no lacquer, no hair
colour-schemes,
And vanished at last are those
vanishing creams!

Ratining though not welcomed, was seen
as a means of allowing a fair distribution
of goods.



IN MEMORIAM

Words fail to paint the ache
I feel,
Cruel fortune's made me
larynx queer;
It ended me a dirty deal
The day the pub said out
of beer.

BLUEY AND CURLEY—

"TALK ABOUT DAMES! LISTEN BUDDY,
WHENEVER I AGREE IN A FIGHT, I'LL
GIVE THEM A LESSON IN THE
MILITARY. I'VE GOT A GAL ON THAT
ARM!"



Not So Fast

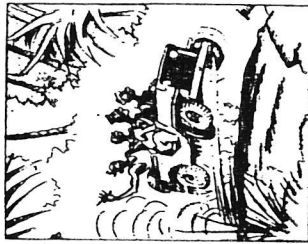


27-8-1945



Courier Mail 3-9-43

BLUEY AND CURLEY—



Topped It

Courier Mail 2-6-44

BLUEY & CURLEY—



Saves Time

Courier Mail 16-6-44

It was difficult to find a comic strip that did not portray the black American soldier in any other way than as a caricature. In some of the Bluey and Curley cartoons, such as the top two strips above, they appeared more like large soldier ants than human beings, while their actions were invariably portrayed as cowardly, childlike or slightly stupid. (COURIER MAIL 1943-1944. COURTESY THE HERALD AND WEEKLY TIMES LIMITED)