
AUSTRALIAN

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT

Welcome to all readers and an apology for a dumb typo I made in the Autumn edition. Unfortunately it was not until a number of copies had been put in envelopes that I realised that the front page had the year as 2009 not 2010. Hopefully this won't happen again. This however is not the main reason for this current mail-out. As has happened before, suitable material is accumulating faster than it can be included in the quarterly issues of ANI so I have photocopied some of it along with some cartoons downloaded from the Internet. I hope you will enjoy this material.

On another matter and that is the economy. Our GDP grew 0.5% in the first three months of this year and the Australian Bureau of Statistics has revised their figure for last three months of 2009 hence giving us a growth in GDP in the twelve months ending March 2010 of 2.7%. This means we are doing better than a lot of other countries and living standards are improving for most of us. Much of the growth however is attributed to government spending aimed at propping up the economy, something which may taper off shortly.

On a not so good note we have received from a number of sources a comparison between what our government pays to an old age pensioner and what they give to an illegal immigrant granted refugee status. The pensioner gets a mere \$253.00 per week, and if eligible, a \$56.00 spouse allowance. The refugee on the other hand is given \$472.50 per week and can also be entitled to a spouse allowance of \$472.50. On top of that the refugee can get an additional \$145.00 'hardship' allowance which pensioners are not entitled to. This means that over a year, the pensioner who probably paid taxes most of their life gets a total of \$16,068.00 at most, while the refugee who may have never done a day's honest work let alone paid taxes can get a total of \$56,680.00. It's little wonder we are being flooded with boat after boat of asylum seekers.

Have you ever wondered whether the billions of dollars we spend on education have really been effective? Unfortunately while expenditure has increased dramatically over the years the educational outcomes have often stagnated – or in some cases gotten worse. This matter will be looked into further in our next issue.

The Australia First Party, which we have mentioned a number of times, is contesting the NSW state seat of Penrith by-election in June as well as a local government by-election in the Hawkesbury. They also intend putting up candidates in the federal election later this year. Best wishes to them all.

Thanks and now it's back to preparing our Winter issue.

Stop selling Aussie farm to China

Frank Lee

The alarm bells are ringing to stop the Australian nation from sliding into the orbit of Communist China.

For underwriting much of the growing government debt in Australia, (nearing \$300 billion) Beijing is demanding a bigger slice of the Australian economy and our very homes, thus posing a huge threat to our national sovereignty.

China's appetite for Australia's mineral resources, LNG gas, uranium, financials, residential and commercial property, and land holdings now extends to agriculture. The Shanghai Government's Bright Food has made an unsuccessful bid of \$1.5 billion for a takeover of the sugar division of Queensland's CSR Ltd.

The natural resources in the ground, such as iron ore, are, in effect, owned by the taxpayers, where mining companies are given a licence to mine at the behest of the Australian public.

However, Canberra and the states appear to be fascinated by China's cheque book, which is backed by \$2.4 trillion in foreign currency reserves.

In just two years, Canberra has waved through more than 110 Chinese acquisitions of our assets, valued at \$40 billion, increasing fourfold last year.

Let's be clear on this – the problem is not the Chinese – the issue turns on the Chinese state, being the Chinese Communist Party.

With the introduction of a "special category visa" for foreign nationals in March 2009, the Chinese-aligned communist elite have been buying up to half of the prestige and top end residential homes on sale in the cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.



A majority of houses with the best Sydney harbour views will be owned by Chinese people in a few years said one report.

In a report about the controversial new visas in China Daily, Jack Levine writes: "A majority of houses with the best Sydney harbour views will be owned by Chinese people in a few years."

While the soil remains embedded in the Australian continent, our land and freehold titles are disappearing into the bowels of the Middle Kingdom (The Epoch Times, Jan 21).

The China question is beyond the sole reach of Canberra and calls for a response from the Australian people to all the key aspects of the relationship.

A senior business analyst on The Age, Ian Verrinder, asks: "Can Australia capitalise on China's growth without compromising itself and our integrity and national sovereignty without selling the farm? Should we allow a foreign government – and an undemocratic regime at that, with a

history of brutality when it comes to dissent – to buy strategic Australian assets?"

China correspondent for The Australian, Michael Sainsbury, says it's time to play hard ball with China, as do the EU and US:

"We need to have an open, comprehensive and serious national debate about China – about how the investment, education, immigration and culture fit with Australia and our future, and how we can deal with that in a way that satisfies both sides and the majority of Australian citizens."

Former dissident and Czech President Vaclav Havel, in a recent interview with Foreign Policy Magazine, advised on dealing with the Chinese:

"They respect it when someone is standing his ground, when someone is not afraid of them. When someone

soils his pants prematurely, they do not respect you for that."

Last year, Kevin Rudd rightly said that unregulated free markets triggered the financial meltdown in countries of the northern hemisphere.

It therefore seems odd to be thinking of Australia as a financial hub and issuing more licences to foreign multinational merchant banks.

In the 1920s, Britain began a long decline after the bankers displaced the productive industrialists as the country's policy makers.

Sixty years later, in the US, the judgments of the bond holders and multinational corporations displaced productive industry, leaving America swimming in foreign debt today.

Writing in The Australian last year, Matthew Stevens praised BHP Billiton chairman Don Argus AC for proposing a bond market to fund our

"endowment assets". He pointed to the trillion dollar superannuation funds from which around \$250 billion a year is punted in foreign countries instead of investment in Australia.

The remedy is simple and urgent.

The Federal Government could replace the private banks' credit induced drought by establishing a development bank with the issue of bonds so as to take up the superannuation funds as major depositors.

Before their rise as government ministers, Kevin Rudd and Bill Shorten championed manufacturing for an Australia that made things.

It can be done through a loosening of the multinationals' grip from around the neck of the body politic.

Frank Lee is a former editor of The Clerk, the national journal of the Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

Too many people packed into dirty crowded cities



Dick Smith

AUSTRALIA's population is set to explode, reaching at least 36 million by 2050, and probably a lot more. As it stands, our population is already growing at a faster percentage rate than any developed nation, and faster than countries like China, India and Indonesia. Last year we added almost the equivalent of the state of Tasmania — 480,000 people — in a single year. Think about all the roads, schools, parks, hospitals and homes in Tassie. That's about what we have to build just to maintain our standard of living and we need to do it every 12 months!

If we maintain anything like this rate of growth in the years to come, I believe it will be a disaster. The way of life we love in Australia will be forever changed as we are crowded into packed and dirty cities.

State governments are already struggling to keep up with the current growth, let alone dealing with many millions more. Just look at the 30-year fiasco that is Sydney's mythical second airport. Brisbane can't decide what to do about dams, Melbourne can't implement a co-ordinated public transport system and we are building hugely expensive desalination plants just to have enough drinking water.

Does anyone really believe we are suddenly going to discover the secret of adding a city bigger than Canberra every year for the next 40 years?

As Labor backbencher Kelvin Thomson has previously warned, we are sleep-walking towards disaster.

And speaking of Canberra, don't look there for leadership on this issue. Last October the Prime Minister declared he was "unapologetically in favour of a Big Australia". But by last month, sensing that many Australians were uneasy with uncontrolled population growth, he had changed his tune.

When asked about the forecast of a 60 per cent jump to 35 million, he said, "I don't have a view on that, it's simply the reality". It was as if the Government has no plan and no influence on the outcome.

Yet Rudd controls the main lever on population growth: immigration.

Our current immigration intake is at record levels, a trend begun under the Howard government. Yet we have never been asked if we think it's a wise idea.

Just what exactly are the benefits of a Big Australia? Treasurer Wayne Swan argues we must keep feeding more taxpayers into the system to prepare for when Baby Boomers start retiring.

Yet his own study, the

Intergenerational Report, shows the number of seniors in the population will be less than previously predicted.

In fact Australia has one of the youngest population profiles of any advanced nation and Mr Swan's strategy ignores the reality that immigrants become old too one day.

It's like a giant Ponzi scheme, a short-term fix that will do nothing to provide for Australia's long-term security. But it would be unfair to just pick on the Government. In recent weeks the Opposition has been just as confused, both welcoming Australia's record level of immigration and threatening to slash it.

The result is that we do not have a population policy — no direction and no idea how many people our arid and fragile environment can sustain.

Are our politicians too frightened to offend the powerful business, religious and financial interests that support unrestrained growth?

This isn't about being a selfish nation that closes its eyes to a world heading towards nine billion people.

It's like a giant Ponzi scheme — a short-term fix

Developing nations need the food we export, but soon Australia will likely become a net importer of food, literally taking food out of the mouths of the poor.

Already our immigration system encourages the plundering of the best doctors, nurses and engineers from the nations that can least afford to lose them.

Once we were part of the Colombo Plan, training the brightest from elsewhere then sending them home to build their own nations. Now we are so desperate that we offer citizenship just to fill our own ever-expanding needs.

I've been criticised for calling for a reduction in our immigration levels, an increase in our humanitarian efforts and an end to schemes like the baby bonus.

I have even been accused of being racist and anti-family for even raising the population question.

I will let others judge me over many years of public life, but it is certain that if we continue to treat population as a taboo subject, then it will surely open the door to extremists to fill the void.

Population is the elephant in the room that we have ignored for too long. None of the issues we face — climate change, housing, energy, healthcare, our environment — gets easier if population grows out of control. I have never felt more strongly about an issue and I want future generations to enjoy this way of life.



Punished for doing the right thing for old age

Piers Akerman

BEFORE the last election, Kevin Rudd promised he would not change superannuation laws. "There will be no change to the superannuation laws one jot, one tiddle," Rudd said.

But Rudd has double-crossed his supporters, many of them retirees, again. In the 2009 Budget Labor slashed \$4 billion from superannuation and cut the Superannuation Co-contribution Scheme for low and middle income earners, many of whom are only now waking up to the fact that Rudd's promise was worthless.

Breaking the promise, he now says, is merely "fine-tuning at the edges".

In this fine-tuning process, prudent voters who wanted to be as self-reliant as possible in retirement; thinking people who did not wish to be a burden on the government; trusting people who did not

think a man who proclaimed his honesty as noisily and frequently as Rudd would be untrustworthy, have been clipped.

Like many others in their late 50s, and 60s, I have been told by my accountant to wind back the payments I had been making to my superannuation fund because Labor will punitively tax any contribution over \$50,000.

That is, I, along with hundreds of thousands of others, will be slugged for attempting to provide for my retirement.

The government says it will restore some of the superannuation settings in 2014 but to believe this it is necessary to ignore the fact that these changes have been pledged by a prime minister who has already broken his promise not to change superannuation "one jot or one tiddle".

Nearly two million Australians will wake to find they have been caught out by this broken promise and hundreds of thousands of others will discover that their retirement and superannuation plans have

Prudent voters have been clipped

been destroyed by Rudd Labor. In Rudd's public service vocabulary, the word "certainty" features prominently.

His economic programs must be accepted because they deliver "certainty". Where, though, is the certainty for those who were doing the responsible thing and planning for their retirement?

Where is the certainty for the increased numbers of people these cuts will force on to the public pension scheme?

Older Australians will no longer be able to help their children buy a home or afford house maintenance as they scramble to adjust their finances to plug the gaps in their incomes left by Rudd's cuts.

Many of these people voted for Rudd in 2007 because he promised to be a fiscal conservative; he promised to be like John Howard and bring prosperity to the nation.

In breaking those promises the Prime Minister has economically crippled older people and undermined the foundation stone of their independence.

The warning that we ignored



MIRANDA DEVINE

The latest headache for NSW prison authorities is how to safely house the five terrorists convicted this month of plotting bomb attacks in Sydney. With sentences ranging up to 28 years, the challenge will be how to prevent these unrepentant Islamist extremists from radicalising other inmates in Goulburn's supermax high security prison.

This week the Premier, Kristina Keneally, told Parliament the men are still a danger, as presumably were their four co-accused who were sentenced earlier. She has reportedly ordered a "deradicalisation program", although clearly the only surefire way is to keep them in isolation.

This reminder of the reality of home-grown terrorism came as the Prime Minister released the government's counter-terrorism white paper this week. As the *Herald's* Jonathan Pearlman reported, Rudd insisted on highlighting the threat from jihadist and home-grown terrorists in defiance of advice from departmental officials, who had deemed it inflammatory.

The timing of the release of the white paper was questionable - in the middle of the insulation furor - but it is still a credit to Rudd that he did not follow advice to sugarcoat the truth about terrorist threats.

Among other things, the white paper states the scale of the threat of home-grown terrorism depends on "the size and make-up of local Muslim populations, including their ethnic and/or migrant origins, their geographical distribution and the success or otherwise of their integration into their host society".

This is something that is rarely discussed. Debate over the make-up of immigration programs has been largely shut down and marginalised as a red-neck racist pastime. But we have vivid evidence of the consequences of poorly managed immigration in the disproportionate number of problems that have emerged from some Lebanese families who arrived in 1977 and integrated poorly into south-west Sydney.

The prime minister of the time, Malcolm Fraser, has been out and about lately, accusing the modern Liberal Party of extreme conservative tendencies, while promoting his new book. But he has never adequately explained why he ignored warnings from his immigration department that relaxing normal eligibility standards to accept thousands of Lebanese Muslims escaping the civil war was problematic.

As cabinet documents from 1976 revealed, he was warned that too many of the new arrivals were unskilled, illiterate and "of questionable character", and there was a danger "the conflicts, tensions and divisions within Lebanon will be transferred to Australia".

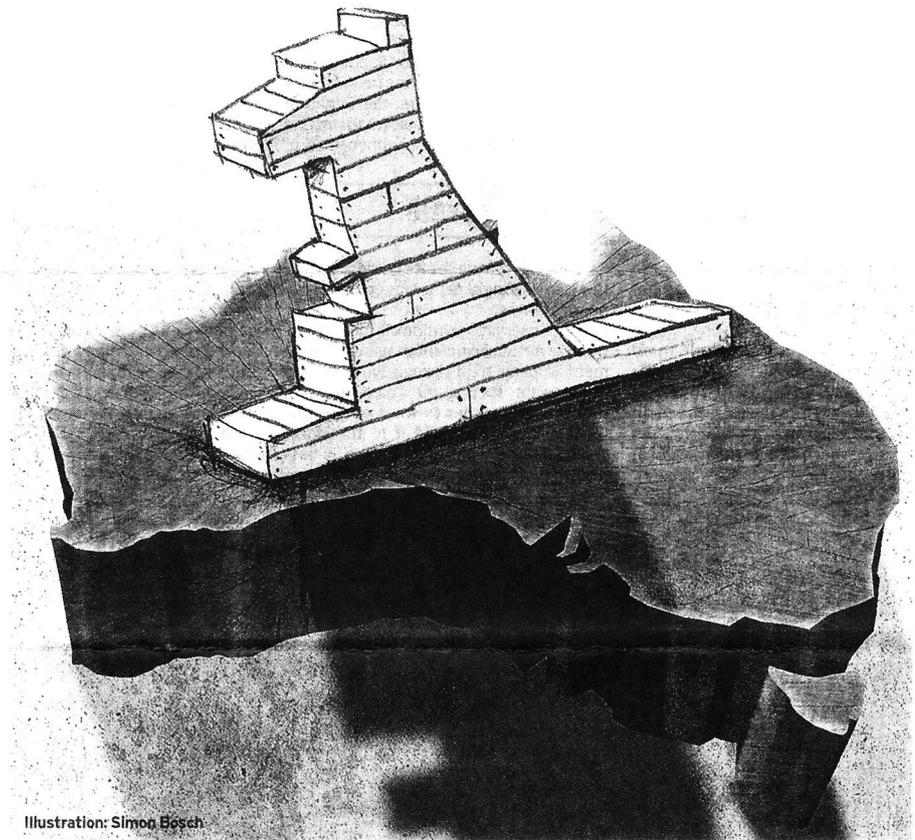


Illustration: Simon Besch

The consequences of poor integration today include social unrest, which culminated in the Cronulla riots and their violent aftermath.

And some of our worst home-grown terrorists have come from that community. They include M, the 44-year-old ringleader of the five men convicted of preparing a terrorist act this month, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

He came to south-west Sydney with his family from Lebanon in 1977, along with 11 siblings.

NSW Supreme Court Justice Anthony Whealy said in sentencing M this month: "There is no present indication that [he] will ever renounce the extremist views. [He] has all the hallmarks of an offender whose motivation is not that of financial or other material gain but ... from an extremist religious conviction."

Also born in Lebanon was his co-conspirator, Mr K, 36, who migrated to Sydney in 1977 when he was three. Justice Whealy said K had "absolute contempt for the Australian government and its laws [and an] extremist conviction that sharia law should rule, even in this country."

Also convicted was his brother, L, 32, born here and likely to represent a danger to the community "even upon his release many years hence".

The court heard the five men had

bought laboratory equipment and chemicals that could be used to make bombs: vast quantities of battery acid, acetone, hydrogen peroxide, methylated spirits and sulphuric acid. They shopped at Bunnings for PVC pipe and silver tape.

Whealy said they had on a USB stick "step-by-step" instructions for manufacturing explosives; electronic copies of *The Sniper Handbook*; and DVDs "glorifying the 9/11 hijackers".

There were videos showing the execution of hostages or prisoners by the mujahideen which were "particularly brutal, distressing and graphic".

Justice Whealy also refers to an instructional video found in all but one of the offender's houses. On it, "a masked mujahideen speaks in English with a very obvious Australian accent and says: 'You kill us, so you will be killed. You bomb us, so you will be bombed'. This is an overly simplistic but reasonably accurate summation of the mindset of each of the offenders in this trial."

It's hard to believe in hindsight, now the evidence has been laid out and the men found guilty, but in 2005, when counter-terrorism laws were being amended and the men arrested, there was strident criticism of police and the government.

Instead we should have been thank-

ing police and security agencies for protecting us from attack.

But as the white paper says, past successes "should not give us any false confidence that all plots here can be discovered and disrupted".

"Australia is a terrorist target," it says. "Public statements by prominent terrorist leaders and other extremist propagandists have singled out Australia for criticism and encouraged attacks against us both before and after September 11, 2001."

"There are Australians who are committed to supporting or engaging in violent jihad in Australia and elsewhere. Most of these were born in Australia or have lived here since childhood."

The paper says one of our strengths is our "inclusive multicultural society" and we must all work together to "reject ideologies that promote violence" and work at "reducing disadvantage, addressing real or perceived grievances and encouraging full participation in Australia's social and economic life".

Home-grown terrorism is as much a threat to the vast majority of law-abiding Australian Muslims as anyone else. So efforts to suppress the facts are counterproductive and ultimately lead to distrust and disharmony.

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It is time for Israel's friends to condemn its acts of terrorism

There has been much debate about the terrorism of such transnational and subnational actors as al-Qaeda, Jemaah Islamiyah, Hamas and Hezbollah, but little has been said in our mass media about state terrorism. By and large a one-dimensional approach has characterised our approach to understanding the phenomenon of terrorism. However, the recent gruesome killing of a Hamas figure, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, in Dubai should make us cast our net wider to focus also on state terrorism.

The Dubai police have claimed with almost undisputed evidence that the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, was behind the killing. Israel has as usual maintained a policy of ambiguity by neither confirming nor denying Mossad's actions, although some of its political leaders, specifically the Opposition Leader, Tzipi Livni, have applauded the killing on the grounds that Mabhouh was a terrorist and deserved to be eliminated.

If it proved beyond doubt that Mossad agents, using forged passports in the names of British, French, Irish, German and Australian citizens, perpetrated the act, the killing clearly underlines a very disturbing aspect of Israeli behaviour.

It constitutes a blatant act of state terrorism, which places Israel in a



**AMIN
SAIKAL**

position parallel to the very forces that it has unfailingly condemned as terrorist groups or networks.

This is not the first time, and may not be the last time, that a state has engaged in such operations. In the case of Israel specifically, it has historically never shied away from targeting those it has regarded as either acting violently against it or violently threatening it. In this, it has never made a distinction between those perpetrating violence for the sake of violence and those who have sought to defend themselves against Israel or to free themselves from Israel's territorial-strategic expansion and physical subjugation.

This form of terrorism has a long history in the Middle East. It began with the founders of Israel, led by David Ben-Gurion, who showed no moral qualms about forming the first subnational terrorist groups, such as the Stern Gang and Irgun, in the early 1940s to terrorise the British out of Palestine and create the state of Israel in 1948 on what had traditionally been recognised as Palestinian land.

Since then, this aspect has continued to be an important function of the state of Israel in terms of what it has called self-defence. This aspect has received persistent backing from Israel's international supporters, including Australia.

These supporters either tacitly backed or conspicuously remained silent on Israel's targeted assassination of Palestinian figures inside and outside the Middle East, which peaked from the 1970s, either as retaliation or as acts of pre-emptive elimination.

Ariel Sharon took full advantage of America's "war on terror" to accelerate targeted assassination of Palestinian leaders.

One of the most prominent Mossad operations was its bungled attempt in September 1997 to kill the current spiritual head of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, in Jordan, which invited the ire of the late King Hussein, who threatened to cancel the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty unless Israel provided the antidote that cured Mashal. The right-wing Benjamin Netanyahu was then Israel's prime minister, as he has been since early last year.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001,

the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, who came from the same conservative side of politics as Netanyahu, took full advantage of America's "war on terror" to accelerate targeted assassination of Palestinian leaders and activists, especially those of Hamas.

In the process, Israel killed dozens of such figures, along with hundreds of innocent Palestinians in what Israel called "collateral damage". Mossad was given carte blanche in this respect.

Israel has justified all this and

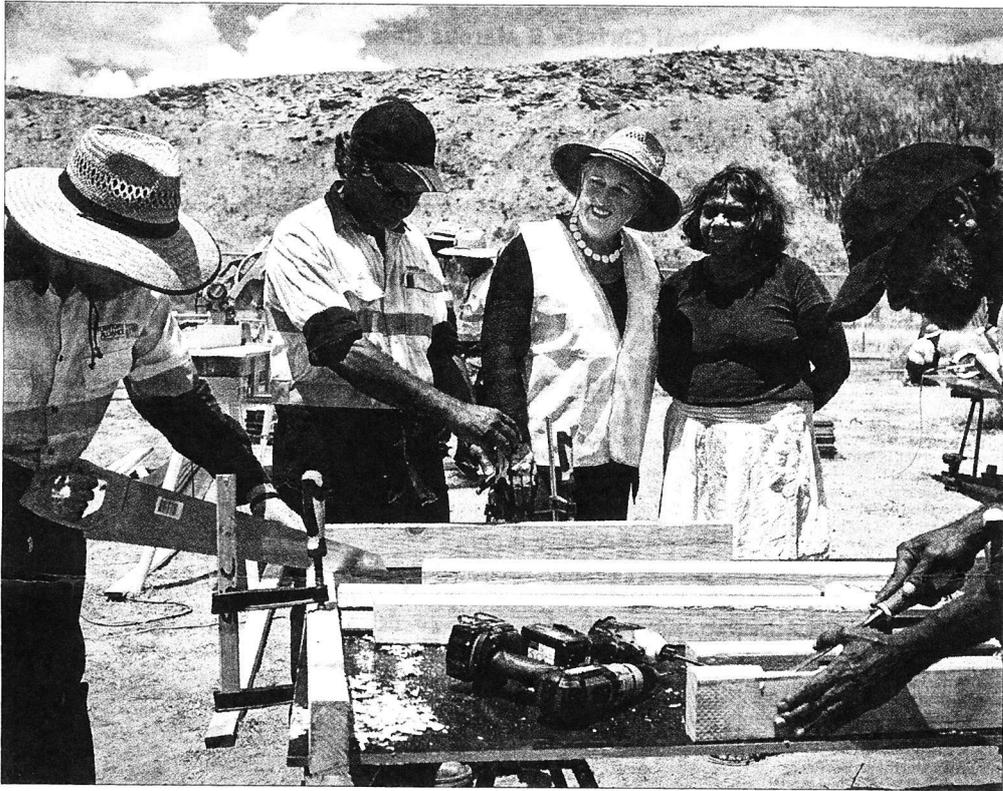
settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

If indeed Israel is responsible for the killing of Mabhouh, the state may have gone too far. It may not only have grossly violated the position of several of Israel's international supporters by forging their passports, but also enacted a transnational operation in Dubai, well away from the theatre of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in total violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates.

It has acted in no less condemnable a fashion than the very forces that it has accused of being terrorist groups or of supporting these groups, such as Iran and Syria.

Its actions can only embolden these forces to justify further operations against Israel and its backers. It is time for the international community, specifically those states friendly to Israel (Australia included) to condemn Israeli state terrorism, as they should any state terrorism, and put pressure on it to behave within international norms and laws. And thus stop being a delinquent actor, but one with a claim of being democratic, in world politics.

Amin Saikal is professor of political science and director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (the Middle East and Central Asia) at the Australian National University.



Self-help: Jenny Macklin at the Larapinta Valley town camp outside Alice Springs

Picture: Amos Aikman

Help those on welfare to help themselves



Sue Dunlevy

IT IS costing taxpayers \$4400 a year to ensure an unemployed person doesn't spend their welfare payments on drugs and alcohol — but we're spending only \$500 helping them find a job.

That is the stark economics of the Government's controversial move to hold back 50 per cent of the welfare payments of the unemployed and single mothers to ensure the money is spent on food, clothing, rent and utility bills.

The push for mutual obligation in welfare — the idea that recipients have a duty to look for work, send their kids to school and spend their money on good food and rent — has great merit but it doesn't come cheaply.

Federal Parliament this week approved a new \$350 million welfare quarantining scheme that will affect people who have been unemployed for 12 months, single mothers, those assessed as "vulnerable" to financial crisis, domestic violence or economic abuse and those referred to Centrelink for income management by child protection officers.

It's part of a move by Families and Community Services Minister Jenny Macklin to ensure the welfare quarantining that currently applies to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory ceases to be racist.

From July welfare quarantining measures in the Northern Territory will extend to all on welfare in the Territory, indigenous and non-indigenous. From 2011 it will extend to the whole country.

The Government's social inclusion unit is deciding which other disadvantaged postcodes will be brought on board and areas such as Macquarie Fields in Sydney could be included.

Under the income management scheme, welfare recipients will have 50 per cent of their fortnightly welfare

payments controlled by the Government and will have to spend it on "priority needs" such as food and clothing.

Key welfare groups are at war with Families and Community Services Minister Jenny Macklin over the move.

The Australian Council of Social Services says we'll spend nine times more on seizing control of a person's welfare payments, directing which shops it can be spent in, and on which goods, than we spend helping them get a job.

An unemployed person receives just \$500 worth of help from the government employment service Job Services Australia once they have been unemployed for more than a year — but it will cost the government \$4400 to manage their welfare payments.

The St Vincent de Paul Society told a Senate inquiry the move was returning

The push for mutual obligation in welfare has great merit but it doesn't come cheaply

welfare policy to the Depression-era Sustainment Allowance that "stripped any remaining dignity from recipients".

Other groups say too few shops are accredited to take the basics card used to control what goods are bought.

And they are concerned that individuals who are good at managing money will be affected simply because they live in a region that has been designated for quarantining by a group of bureaucrats.

The changes were welcomed by the Brotherhood of St Lawrence, which believes that as a society we have a duty to provide welfare, education and social services so every person can have as good an opportunity in life as their neighbour.

But it says those receiving that welfare have a duty to pull their weight and should in return actively and responsibly participate in the economy and society.

That's a view few taxpayers would argue with.

Jenny Macklin says welfare quarantining in Aboriginal communities has been welcomed by women in violent relationships who had to hand over their welfare money to their partners, who wasted it on gambling and alcohol while the children went hungry.

She says a series of studies shows welfare quarantining in Aboriginal communities has seen increases in the amount of healthy food sold.

Welfare groups claim the sample size of just 76 people in these studies proves nothing and lacks rigour.

They say other studies show there has been no change in healthy food sales.

Some of the \$350 million spent on this program will provide financial counselling and pay for a scheme where the Government will match the savings of welfare recipients up to a \$500 limit.

They key problem with these reforms is their expense and the way they will be applied on the basis of geography.

Where a person lives, not whether they are bad at managing their payments, is the criteria that will be applied.

Welfare recipients in regions placed under income management will be able to ask for an exemption but they will have to be able to prove they send their children to school or that they look for work regularly.

We should be teaching welfare recipients how to manage their money, ensuring they send their kids to school and that they are looking for work.

But the mutual obligation system might be cheaper to taxpayers and less humiliating for those on welfare if it targeted only those who weren't doing the right thing.

And we should be asking our government why it is spending more of our taxes keeping these people on welfare than helping them get a job.

'Sorry' he did it with a horse - again

CONWAY, S.C. — A South Carolina man caught on video having sex with a horse was sentenced yesterday to three years after pleading guilty for the second time in two years to abusing the creature. Rodel Verreen was also ordered never to go near the

stable where the horse's owner caught him over the summer and held him at shotgun point for authorities. He apologized to the woman and to himself after admitting to buggery. "I'm sorry about what I've done. I didn't mean to do it. It's my fault. I'm sorry for what

I've done to myself," Verreen said yesterday.

Verreen was arrested in July after Barbara Kenley caught him entering the barn at Lazy B Stables in Longs, 30 km northeast of Myrtle Beach. She had been staking out the stable for more than a week

after setting up a surveillance camera and videotaping Verreen's assault on her 21-year-old horse named Sugar.

Kenley said she became suspicious because Sugar was acting strange and getting infections, and she noticed dirt was piled up near the

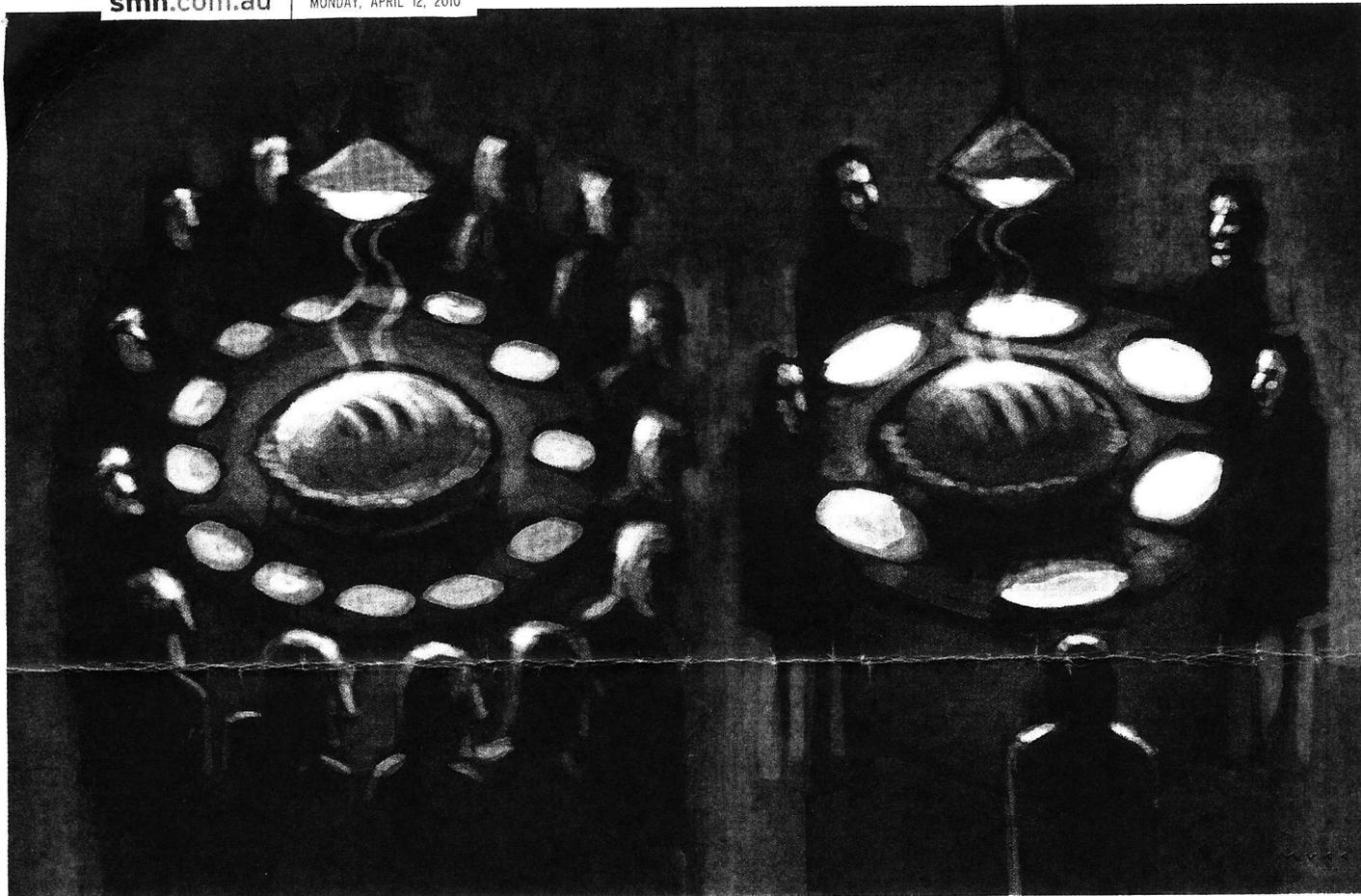
horse's stall. In late 2007, Kenley found Verreen asleep in the hay after assaulting her horse. For that offence, he also pleaded guilty to buggery, received probation and had to register as a sex offender.

— The Associated Press



RODELL VERREEN

Sex offender caught on video



Less can be more, for people, pensions and government

Australia emerged from the global financial crisis as the second wealthiest large economy in the world. While nearly every other Western nation was struck hard by the crisis, Australia was insulated in large part by a historic resources boom in China. Thus, among countries of more than 10 million people, Australia now ranks only behind the United States in per capita wealth.

My source for this is the Central Intelligence Agency, not a dull organisation, even when it is gathering statistics. Every year the CIA compiles a table of the world's economies, measured by gross national product, per person, expressed in "purchasing power parity", which is designed to remove currency distortions.

By the CIA's ranking, a dozen countries had higher per capita wealth than Australia last year, but all of them, with the conspicuous exception of the US, were much smaller economies than Australia. Indeed, most of them have populations either smaller, or barely larger, than Sydney or Melbourne.

Size does matter but Australia is in the grip of a size mania, led by the Rudd government, pushed by the business lobby, and cheered on by numerous commentators. The argument for rapid population growth and



PAUL SHEEHAN

high immigration is presented as if it is the only way of avoiding a slow and inevitable stagnation. This argument is propagated with a religious zeal, as if GNP growth, by its very nature, is the paragon of progress.

This is why the government is pursuing a highly aggressive immigration program, and a projection that Australia's population will reach 36 million by 2050.

Like all dogmas, this argument is not a truth, but merely an opinion proffered as a truth. Bigger does not mean better. It can often mean worse. "One would have to be blind, deaf and dumb not to notice how urban congestion has already reduced the quality of life in Australian capital cities," says Bob Birrell, of Monash University, one of Australia's most prominent scholars on immigration and population studies.

Birrell makes the point rapid population growth incurs several trade-offs, beyond congestion and environmental stress. It also retards the growth of per capita wealth.

Here we can again refer to the current CIA rankings. Nine of the 10 wealthiest nations on the CIA wealth index have fewer than 8 million people. By way of one example among many, Germany, the paradigm of a large, advanced, wealthy economy, with 82 million people, has a markedly lower per capita GNP than adjoining Austria (8 million) and Switzerland (7.5 million).

It is not necessary to resort to sustained high immigration to

The Australians who created this country did not expect a retirement subsidised by the government.

provide the bulk of the drive for economic growth and ease the demands on the federal budget caused by a greying population. There are other tools we appear afraid to utilise.

Just over a century ago, in 1909, when Australia was still a very young nation and Canberra had not even been envisaged, the federal govern-

ment introduced the age pension. The qualification age was set at 65 for men and 60 for women. It was not generous. Average life expectancy at the time was 55 for men and 56 for women. Statistically, you should have been dead by the time you qualified for a pension, and long dead if you were a man.

Even those who did make it to 65 could not qualify for the pension if they had lived in Australia for less than 25 years. Or were Aborigines. Or Asian. Or a New Zealander. Or a Pacific Islander. Anyone who owned a property worth more than £310 was disqualified. So was anyone deemed not of "good character".

Unsurprisingly, the age pension did not impose a significant burden on the national treasury. The Australians who created this country did not expect a retirement subsidised by the government. A culture of entitlement barely existed.

A hundred years later, average life expectancy for Australians is 78 for men and 83.5 for women. Yet the bedrock qualification age of 65 for the pension did not change for 100 years, and for women it will not even take effect until 2013.

Increasing the entitlement age to 70 would be an obvious response to the significant cultural change over the past century. Why should coming generations be expected to

carry a burden far heavier than all previous generations? Failure to raise the pension age is a breach of generational faith.

In 1909, the population of Australia was 4.2 million. Today, there are well over 4 million Australians who directly rely on various welfare payments from the state. The size of government has increased exponentially over the past century, along with the expectations of what government should provide.

One unsettling response to this growth has been the public sector reaching a scale of political self-perpetuation. Hence the dominance of the ALP, the party of the public sector unions. The arrival of the Rudd government accelerated this trend. Driven by a Prime Minister with enormous energy, ambition and an obsession with process, numerous departments were pushed into becoming service providers, which they were not set up to do. The result has been a series of debacles embroiling departments, across the policy spectrum, from the roof insulation scandal, to the profligate school-building program, to the navy being turned into an escort service.

What these debacles should be telling us is that we have reached the point in the history of government when we need to realise that bigger is not better, and less can be more.

Genetics show there's a caveman in us all

LEIGH DAYTON
SCIENCE WRITER

ONLY a decade after a global consortium decoded the human genetic blueprint, another team has done the same for Neanderthals, the legendary "cavemen" discovered in Germany in 1856.

The surprise result is that those extinct humans are more like us than anyone expected. There's even genetic evidence of the occasional spot of human-Neanderthal hanky-panky.

"Those of us who live outside Africa carry a little Neanderthal DNA in us," said team leader paleogeneticist Svante Paabo at Leipzig's Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

Writing in the journal *Science*, Dr Paabo and his team of 56 researchers from seven nations report details of a "draft" sequence of the Neanderthal genome, a list of more than 60 per cent of the estimated three billion biochemical units that make up the species' genetic complement.

The human genome also has three billion base pairs.

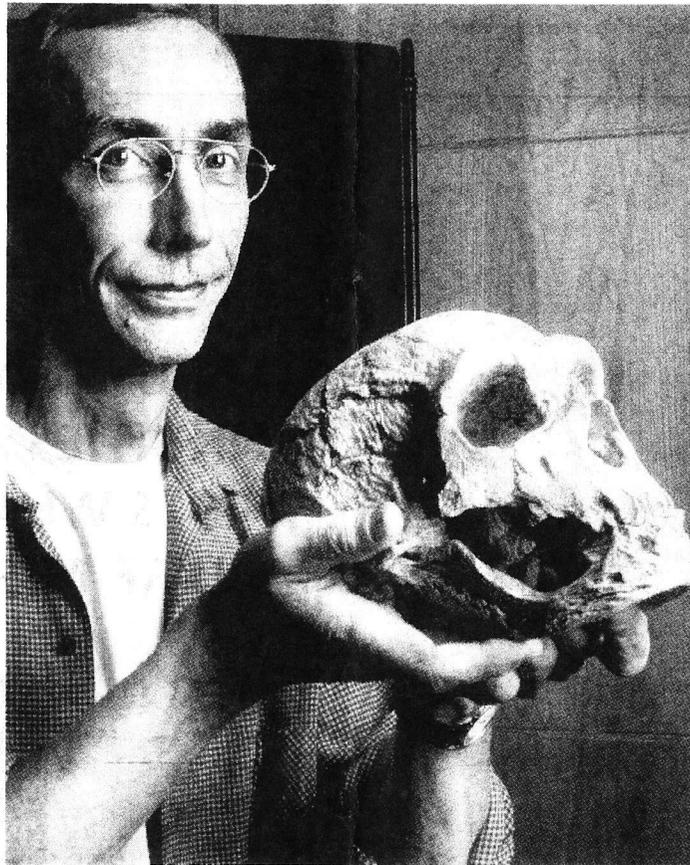
The team's analysis of the genetic variation between us showed that Neanderthal DNA is 99.7 per cent identical to ours. Neanderthal and human DNA are 98.8 per cent identical to that of chimps.

"There are a smaller number of (genetic) changes than you would have expected," commented Alan Cooper, director of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide.

Key differences were noted in three areas containing genes involved in intellectual, skeletal and skin development, wound healing and metabolism.

The fossil record suggests

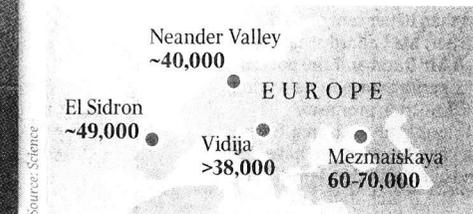
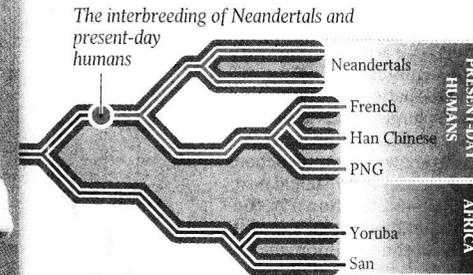
HOW NEANDERTALS INTERBRED WITH PRESENT-DAY HUMANS



Svante Paabo is a paleogeneticist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. He began the Neanderthal Genome Project in 2006

KEY FACTS

- About 60% of the Neanderthal genome (genetic blueprint) has been sequenced (decoded)
- People and Neanderthals had a common ancestor about 800,000 years ago
- People and Neanderthals diverged about 400,000 years ago
- Neanderthals became extinct about 30,000 years ago
- People and Neanderthals interbred occasionally in the Middle East, but not in Africa
- People without African ancestry are up to 2% Neanderthal
- People and Neanderthals are very close genetically: Neanderthal DNA is 99.7% identical to our DNA and 98.8% identical to chimp DNA



Key sites and dates where Neanderthals have been found: The three Neanderthals whose DNA was taken for the study come from the Croatian site ●

Neanderthals, *Homo neanderthalensis*, separated from the primate lineage leading to *Homo sapiens* about 400,000 years ago in Africa. Neanderthals spread into Eurasia via the Middle East where

they contributed to our gene pool before going extinct about 30,000 years ago. Dr Paabo's group obtained the sequenced DNA from 38,000-44,000-year-old bones from three Neanderthals found in a

Croatian cave. They compared it with that of five people from southern and western Africa, New Guinea, China and France.

Because of interbreeding in the Middle East but not Africa,

Neanderthals are closer to people without African ancestry.

"This... is a technological tour de force," US National Human Genome Research Institute director Eric D. Green said.

HAL G.P. COLEBATCH

LESSONS FROM ABROAD

THE BRITISH HOUSE of Commons has something like 650 members. So far, about 325 of them, Labour, Tory and Liberal Democrat, have been found to have attempted to cheat the taxpayers of their country by claiming on expenses things that have nothing whatever to do with parliamentary life, and, on a far bigger scale, by "flipping" first and second homes to avoid taxes. If some of them have not broken the letter of the law, they have certainly broken and then spat upon the fragments of the spirit and ideals which made parliamentary democracy possible.

One Tory grandee, the son of one of the most respected men in British politics, put in to have his moat dredged at taxpayer expense, as vital for his parliamentary duties. Another charged to have a floating island, stylishly decorated as a Chinese pagoda, built on his lake where his ducks might find refuge from foxes. Then there was the Labour chieftain who gave "champagne socialist" a whole new meaning by charging the taxpayer for champagne flutes, and the very senior Labour minister who charged the taxpayer for her husband's hire of pornographic videos. But much of the corruption over real-estate portfolios runs into five-figure sums, or perhaps more. The Prime Minister himself has shamefacedly agreed to pay back about \$27,000 improperly obtained. However, many members of the mother of parliaments, having been exposed, instead of exhibiting shame or contrition, are fighting tooth and nail to hang on to their ill-gotten gains.

And yet, oddly, enough, I derive some hope from the present situation. Britain must have a general election in the next few weeks. It seems likely that at that election the thieves and criminals, from back bench and ministry alike, will find their political careers obliterated under a tidal wave of public fury. Many in the Commons, and perhaps in the new ministry, will be fresh and new and, one hopes and prays, imbued with a different ethic.

Plainly the House of Commons has become saturated with a culture of immorality. Whether or not this is the

fault of the culture the government has imposed on Britain for the last thirteen years is hard to prove, but I think it is much more than probable. The decline of Christian values and the various official and quasi-official political and cultural attacks on Christianity have also, I am sure, more than a little to do with it. This, like the eccentric and risible pronouncements of certain clergymen, must have some effect of public life, and not only in parliament.

SOCIETY

But what of the new people who will be entering parliament this year? One certainly does not want too much idealism in politics (think of Cromwell or Robespierre, to say nothing of even more egregious examples). They are bound to be, in some cases at least, callow and with impractical ideas or ideals. But at least it looks certain that there will be enough of them to mean the real possibility of a break with the present culture of amorality and shamelessness that has become so widespread among Britain's law-makers and people's representatives.

I have written on Britain a great deal because I believe it is the crucial point (the *schwerpunkt*, as the German General Staff used to say) of the great culture war between Christian civilisation and nihilism and moral relativism raging around the world today. It is there that that culture war is being fought with the greatest intensity, and what happens there will affect us. It might do no harm to pray for those new MPs.

AFRICAN PRELATES HAVE recently been denouncing modern Western values as toxic and poisonous and as things to be rejected by Africa.

To a large extent I agree with them: I have no desire to mingle with Madonna, Paris Hilton or Boy George. If I were facing a lion on the savannah I would much rather do so in the company of a Masai warrior than with Gary Glitter. Like the prelates, I consider the

creeping spread of euthanasia and the rest of the death-cult an anti-human abomination. Western governments, and many non-government organisations, are deeply culpable for having poured literally hundreds of billions of dollars worth of "aid" into the pockets, and thence into the Swiss bank accounts, of African leaders who include some of the most revolting tyrants the world has ever seen, when all the time a major part of the solution of Africa's economic problems was potentially at hand in the simple mechanism of permitting free trade of agricultural products with Europe, plus possibly a bit of discreet regime change to get rid of the Amins, the Bokassas, the Mugabes and the Bongos.

But having said that, the fact remains that the prelates, as well as emphasising the importance of African culture and values, might have said a little something about Africa putting its own house in order. Africa has been independent for decades. It can no longer blame the West for its plight.

In 2007, the former Secretary General of the Catholic charitable organisation Caritas, Duncan MacLaren, spoke in Australia of the organisation's work in Nairobi: "We bought cats for people suffering from leprosy ... because at night rats were gnawing their limbs. So we bought cats to chase the rats away." Say what you like, that doesn't happen in the West.

Mark Steyn has noted that Liberia only *took up* large-scale cannibalism towards the end of the twentieth century. He pointed out that Liberia was not a "victim" of European colonisation:

In the seventies, before nude warlords came a-rampaging, Monrovia bigwigs didn't merely pull their pants on ... they favoured morning dress of an anachronistic gentility reminiscent of the antebellum South. In other words, Liberia went backwards.

Among a litany of countless wars, atrocities and tyranny, in Kenya, which had been doing relatively well in the post-colonial period, auto-immolation broke out again in 2007. Journalist Aidan Hartley visited the country and reported that huge gangs of youths destroyed schools, clinics and fields of crops as if to prove that if they were left behind, then they would destroy life for everybody else, too. It was reminiscent of Hitler's final "Scorched Earth" policy, but was apparently spontaneous, without needing a Hitler to initiate it.

In the book *An Imperfect Offering* (2008), James Orbinski, a Canadian doctor and former president of Medecins Sans Frontieres recalls, among scores of other vignettes of his experiences, how in Rwanda in 1994 people were "bussed or marched to pit latrines or mass graves where they were not shot but had their hands

and feet cut off and were left to bleed to death, unable to climb out of the graves. People often begged—and paid—to have their children shot rather than suffer this particular terror."

The few instances I have quoted here could be multiplied a thousandfold.

Yes, the prelates are quite right to condemn much of Western culture. But let them look closer to home as well.

A BILL OF RIGHTS—AN idea now being floated in Australia—should be absolutely opposed by all Christians.

We have seen appalling cases in Britain, and now increasingly in the USA (in the latter instance largely driven by the so-called American Civil Liberties Union), of how "rights" legislation has been used to trample on liberties including to a great extent freedom of religion.

A bill now before committees of the British parliament would, if passed, enshrine the "rights" of, say, atheists or pagans to be hired by Catholic institutions in a large number of capacities. These institutions would not have the "right" not to hire them. Compulsorily-hired atheist or pagan cleaners or dinner-ladies in Catholic hospitals or churches would have, if the recommendations of this report become law, the "right" to have holy pictures or icons removed which offend their own beliefs. If a "right" to so-called "death with dignity" is enshrined, this would deprive doctors of the right not to carry out euthanasia.

The ACLU has brought actions to have crosses on public ground demolished and prayers and other Christian observances eliminated from the Boy Scouts lest the rights of atheists not to have their feelings offended be hurt. Various private institutions have been told they are not allowed to offend the "rights" of applicants to join them by refusing them membership—even private clubs, thanks to "rights" legislation, cannot control their own membership. We have seen shocking cases in which "rights" legislation has protected heinous criminals but has penalised their victims, if those victims have made even mild attempts to defend themselves.

It is one of the ironies of a so-called bill of rights that it may in practice pose a major threat to free speech. It may, for example, become illegal to criticise another religion. This has already reached a stage of grotesque confusion in Britain, where it is now more-or-less illegal to criticise homosexuality, but also to criticise Islam which believes in capital punishment for homosexuality! Already in Victoria we have seen evangelical clergymen prosecuted, at ruinous cost to themselves, simply for reading passages from the Koran

in a critical context.

Obviously in practice all this "rights" legislation, written and administered by members of the adversary culture who seek to destroy existing traditions and values, particularly Christian ones, works only one way. We can already see aspects of this happening in Australia before a bill of rights entrenches it even further.

Our present rights derive from English common law. It is not a perfect system, but it is the best we know. Hundreds of years of precedents have established a system of checks and balances on competing rights which could still do with improvement but which is the envy of much of the rest of the world, including many countries with high-sounding constitutions and bills of rights of their own. Protection from, say, environmental pollution—one of the potent potential sources of new "rights" and laws—is already covered in case-law centuries old. So is the right to life. Let it be noted that without a bill of rights in the sense we are talking about, Britain, the USA and related Anglophone countries have, at least until recently, preserved freedom and civil liberties better than virtually any other societies in the world. A bill of rights is a can of worms, some of them very toxic. We don't need to open it.

* * *

SHORTLY BEFORE THE Second World War an over-the-hill British politician, out of office and washed up, began to write a history of the English-speaking peoples. Of the ninth century, the dark heart of the Dark Ages, when every English kingdom but Wessex alone had been conquered by the Vikings and dragged into their barbaric empire of emptiness, he wrote that the fact that, miraculously (perhaps literally miraculously!), Wessex did not succumb was due: "as almost every critical turn of historic fortune has been due, to the sudden appearance in an era of confusion and decay of one of the great figures of history".

Later generations might find in these words a strange resonance. The man who Winston Churchill was writing about was, of course, Alfred the Great. More than a thousand years of scholarship and revisionism has failed to find evidence that might threaten to topple Alfred from what Churchill called his "pinnacle of deathless glory".

Noblest of all English kings, he beat back the Vikings,

not only winning final victory after countless shattering defeats, and from a low point as a hunted fugitive in the marshes of Athelney, but persuaded the leader of the Great Viking Army, Guthrum, later known as Athelstan, not only to accept Christianity but to follow it in truth. It was of this victory that Chesterton wrote: "You and I were saved from being savages forever."

Throughout England, Alfred restored learning which he had found dead, restored the decayed monastic life and monasteries shattered by the Viking raids, introduced new and better laws, translated important works of literature and moral philosophy into English for the first time, reformed weights and measures and founded the British Navy. All this was in spite of a debilitating chronic illness, possibly malaria. Unusually for a great man, he left sons and grandsons of a strength, generosity and wisdom comparable to his own. Though I am ill-qualified to pronounce on such matters, I believe the case for his canonisation could be strong.

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Recently, however, the forces of political correctness have begun chipping at Alfred's memory, at least in his capital of Winchester. It has been reported that Alfred was considered out of date, and "focus groups" have been set up to find a more up-to-date image for the town. Ms Eloise Appleby of the Winchester Tourist Board was quoted as saying: "King Alfred represents the past. His image is not forward-looking enough for today's cut-throat commercial market place. Winchester is a town with many creative artists and new buildings and Alfred doesn't tell the whole story." Cut-throat? It was Alfred who saw throats cut, in a very literal sense, as he fought for years against armies led by gentry rejoicing in names like Eric Bloodaxe, Thorfinn Raven-Feeder (not to be confused with his professional colleague Thorfinn Skullsplitter) and Sigurd Worm-in-the-Eye. There was, to be fair, one particularly gentle Viking known as "the children's man", for his eccentric habit of allowing children to live.

Many people come to Winchester precisely because of its associations with Alfred, Arthur, and other figures of high and heroic nobility, chivalry and romance, whose memory may still inspire and uplift. It might well be argued that the nobility, piety, valour, goodness, and love of learning and science which Alfred epitomised were qualities in which we stand in special need today.

Hal G.P. Colebatch's books include *Blair's Britain*.

AK-47

Mikhail Kalashnikov, inventor,
at 90 years of age
plans to die in bed.

His hundred million, more or less,
AK-47s
are spread around the world right now,

based on what the Wehrmacht used
to cut his friends to pieces;
developed first, he still insists,

to "save the motherland".
Some have argued Mikhail merely
"bent the magazine".

The Russian Federation's found
these days it can do better than
the present it was given.

For sixty years and more, however,
the AK-47's been
dependable and cheap

all up and down the continents.
An AK-47 holds
no permanent opinion.

It works and works and keeps on working.
When slung with style across the shoulder
it adds a splash of glamour.

Thirteen-year-olds can wear it well.
Its justice is a tidy cough;
its presence, an unspoken order.

They say he is a poet, too,
Mikhail Kalashnikov;
six books in all, right back to childhood.

He makes no special claims for them.
The name there in cyrillic script
is better known elsewhere.

In 1959 I drilled
and wheeled on summer asphalt
with what had once been used to storm

the cliffs at Anzac Cove—
same wood against the cheek when firing,
same movements with the bolt.

We liked our sessions on the range:
the pasted targets reappearing,
the smoothness of the breech,

the cordite smell, the cartridges,
and how the sergeant joked,
comparing 303s to women.

Always keep your good girl handy.
And clearly he was serious—
as was the bruise-back on the shoulder.

Two years on a fellow student
would walk across a hill and put
its barrel to his mouth.

Stuck neatly there between the wars,
Korea/Vietnam,
we hoped our luck was holding out.

The 303 Lee Enfield
is in museums now—
or secret on remoter farms.

There's probably an armory
that keeps its smell somewhere—
a memoir of cleaning oil,

of flannelette and pull-through.
The 303 is not a woman,
for all its sweet ambivalence.

The men who used it on Kokoda
are gone, or almost gone, its weight
still balanced in their hands.

Geoff Page

Ordinary blokes, everyday heroes

Pride binds a nation



PAUL
HOWES

NOT all heroes wear their undies on the outside.

Bruce Kingsbury was a real estate agent from Melbourne; Keith Botterill a textile worker from Sydney. They never knew each other, but they shared a common bond. They were two ordinary blokes who did extraordinary things.

Bruce joined the army in May 1940 and was shipped off to the Middle East. He was 22.

Keith enlisted in August 1941 and was sent to defend Singapore. He was just 17. Six months later he was a prisoner of war.

Keith was captured when Singapore fell to the Japanese.

The Japanese swept through Asia before landing in New Guinea. It was the time of our greatest peril. Prime Minister John Curtin called our troops home to defend Australia. One of them was Bruce Kingsbury and he would meet the Japanese on the Kokoda Track at a place called Isurava.

The Japanese outnumbered the Australians five to one, using their numbers to out-flank the Australians. Our command post was about to be overrun when Bruce put up his hand. He grabbed a machine gun and charged — alone — into the enemy, killing 30 and pushing the rest back into the jungle.

When he ran out of bullets, he lent against a rock to reload his weapon. Then bang — he was struck by a sniper's bullet. In an instant he was gone.

Bruce's actions earned him the first Victoria Cross on Australian territory.

His courage halted the Japanese offensive that day and saved the Australians from being overrun. Some say his actions saved Australia.

Bruce Kingsbury's war ended



JASON
CLARE

in a single violent flash. Keith Botterill's would not end so swiftly. For the next three years, he was starved and beaten.

He was one of more than 2400 prisoners of war in Sandakan in Borneo. In 1945, as the war came to an end, they were marched more than 200km from Sandakan to Ranau. More than 1000 began the march. Just over 400 made it. Those who couldn't keep up were shot or bayoneted. Two weeks after the end of the war, the Japanese killed the remaining soldiers.

We only know what happened because six Australians escaped. One was Keith Botterill. There are so many stories like these. Stories of courage and sacrifice. They should be as well known as Simpson and his donkey. But they're not.

I didn't hear these stories at school. I learnt about Bruce when I walked the Kokoda Track this time last year. It was the hardest thing I have ever

done — and the most important. I went with Liberal MP Scott Morrison and young people from the areas we represent — Bankstown and Cronulla.

We wanted to prove that if two politicians from different parties can be mates, so can people from different backgrounds and religions.

But what began as an effort to bring together two communities after the Cronulla riots became something much more important.

We realised we were walking in the footsteps of Australians whose sacrifices are not as well known as they should be.

Men like Bruce Kingsbury believed they were the only thing that stood between an invincible enemy and Australia. And they fought like it. Sandakan was the worst atrocity in Australian military history.

We need to rekindle these stories and tend to them.

That's what Anzac Day means to me, and that's why, this time next year, Scott and I are going to walk in the footsteps of Keith Botterill from Sandakan to Ranau.

My grandfathers are my heroes. One fought in New Guinea, the other was a prisoner of war. Their names weren't Bruce or Keith, but they were still heroes.

You don't need to go to the movies to see heroes.

They are the old man who lives next door. The bloke at the club with the medals on his chest. The men and women still marching today.

Say hello and ask them to tell you their story, lest they are lost to us forever — lest we forget.

■ Jason Clare is federal MP for Blaxland and parliamentary secretary for employment



Real hero: Keith Botterill at the end of World War II

ANOTHER long weekend — hallelujah! For me, this year has been a little more significant, because it's the first time one of my children has asked me to explain what Anzac Day means.

Luckily, over the summer holidays, I managed to fit in a bit of reading.

One of the books I most enjoyed was David Day's recent biography of Prime Minister Andrew Fisher.

It's a terrific read: an account of a man who rose from being an unschooled child coalminer in Scotland to become a three-time prime minister.

He was also our first true wartime prime minister.

Before his third-time election, he said: "Australians will stand beside the mother country to help and defend her to the last man and the last shilling."

The challenges that faced Fisher were many, but none greater than the literal stalemate that followed the landing of Anzac troops at Gallipoli, and it was on this day, 95 years ago, that we cut the apron strings to mother England.

In 1915, Anzac troops were under the command of the British. As the death toll mounted at Gallipoli and it became clear that the invasion was failing, Fisher dispatched the journalist Keith Murdoch to report to him the true situation.

Murdoch reported that the expedition was "a continuous and ghastly bungling". He accused the British general in charge of little short of murder of his own soldiers. In all, some 11,000 Anzac soldiers were killed during the course of the campaign.

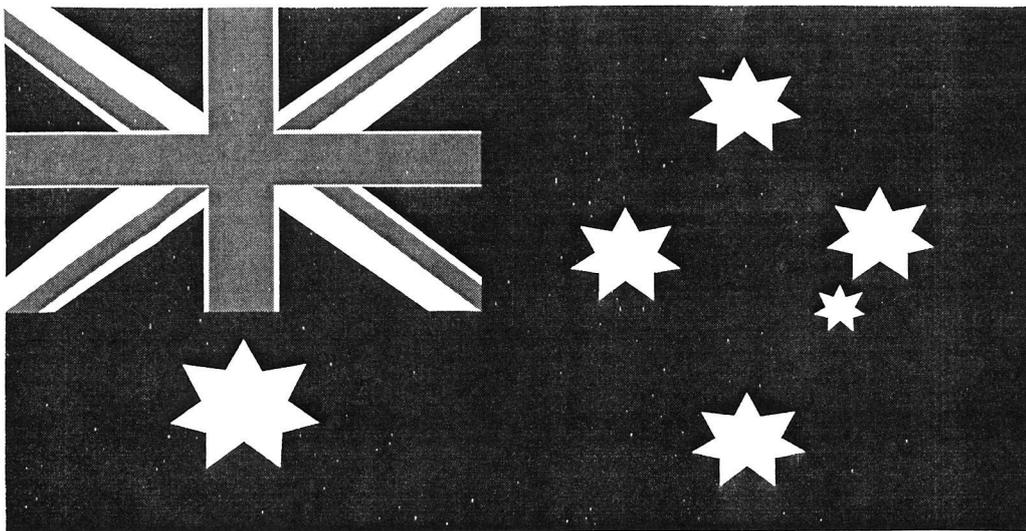
Generations later, Anzac Day has different meanings for different Australians. Those of us who have never served in war can't fathom the meaning of the day for soldiers and veterans from all wars.

For widows and children of service personnel killed in the line of duty, today will have its own personal and emotional meaning.

But after reading about Fisher, I have come to fully appreciate that Anzac Day is also, in a way, our independence day. It was the day when we stopped being a dominion of an empire and became a proud and sovereign nation.

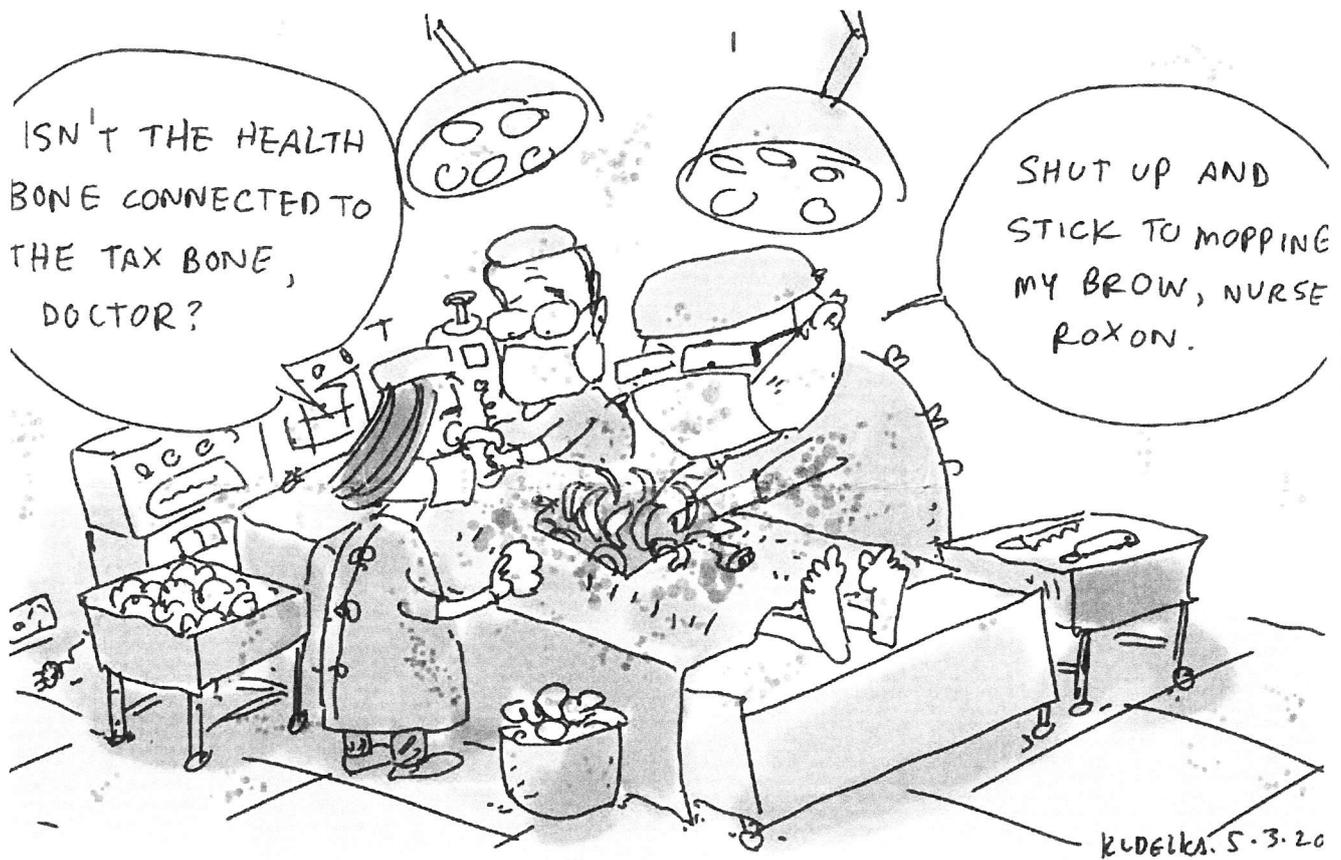
And 95 years ago today, Australia grew up. And the sacrifices that made that happen are worth remembering — worth telling to our children.

■ Paul Howes is national secretary of the Australian Workers' Union



Galleries: Kudelka's gallery

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/gallery-e6frg6zx-1111120349509?page=29>



<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/gallery-e6frg6zx-1111120349509?page=17>

