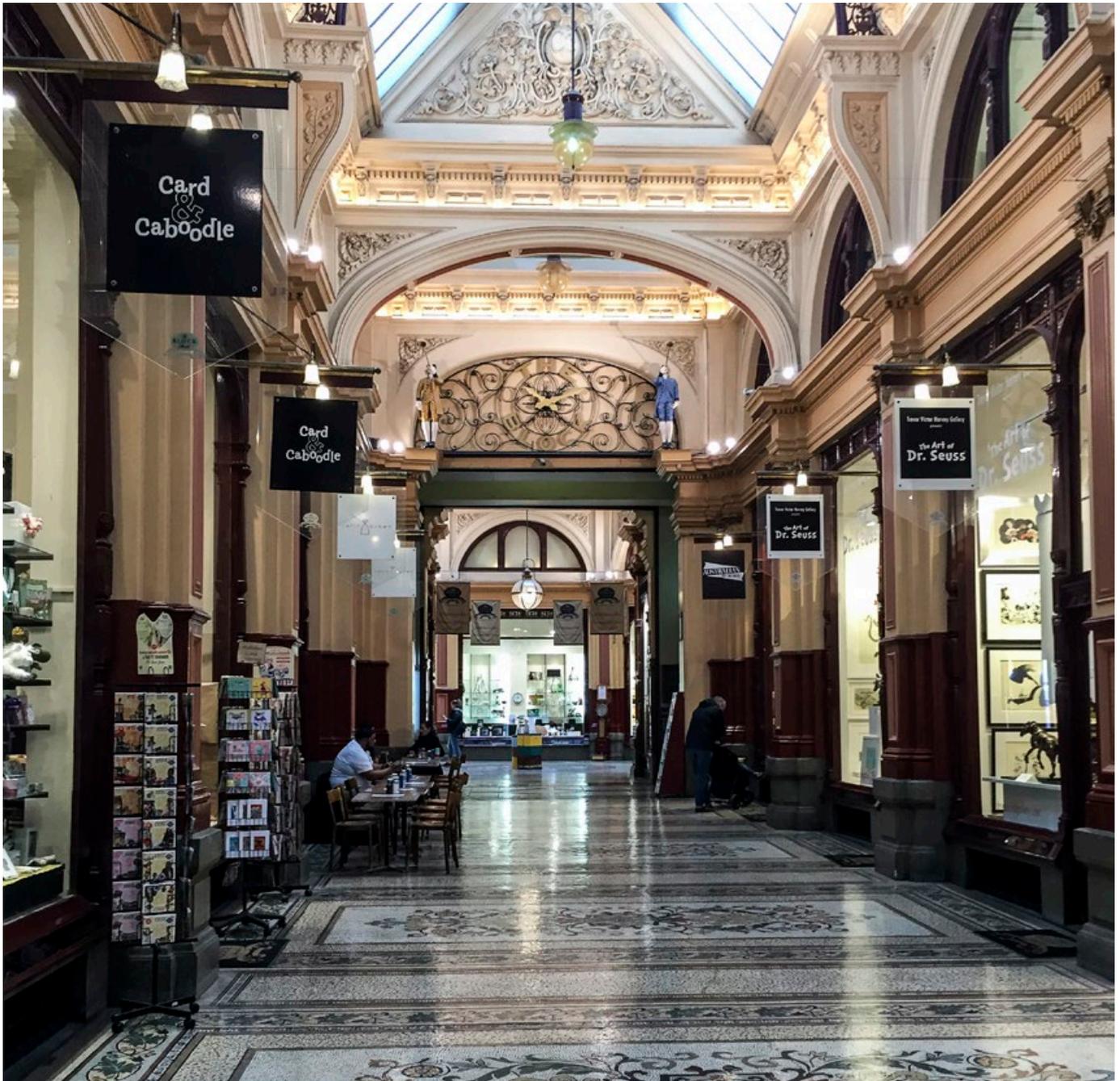


LETTER FROM MELBOURNE

A monthly public affairs bulletin, a simple précis, distilling and interpreting public policy and government decisions, which affect business opportunities in Victoria and Australia.

Saving you time for twenty-four years.

The Second Winter Edition



In This Issue:

- CFA matters continue, in late July
 - Floating wind farms
 - Public servants to leave town, sort of.
 - Go Bush for a Break
 - Horse manure
 - Dog Corner
 - Euthanasia
-

LETTER FROM MELBOURNE

ABOUT US

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Letter From Melbourne is a monthly public affairs bulletin, a simple précis, distilling and interpreting public policy and government decisions, which affect business opportunities in Victoria and Australia.

Written for the regular traveller, or people with meeting-filled days, it's more about business opportunities than politics.

Letter from Melbourne is independent. It's not party political or any other political. It does not have the imprimatur of government at any level. Letter from Melbourne developed a federal and national coverage. This spawned Letter from Canberra (www.letterfromcanberra.com.au) nine years ago.

The only communication tool of its type, Letter from Melbourne keeps subscribers abreast of recent developments in the policy arena on a local, state and federal level.

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Disclaimer: Material in this publication is general comment and not intended as advice on any particular matter. Professional advice should be sought before action is taken.

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Since 1994. A monthly public affairs newsletter distilling public policy and government decisions which effect business opportunities in Victoria, Australia and beyond. 2,500,000 words available to search digitally.

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ABOUT THE EDITOR—ALISTAIR URQUHART, BA LLB

Alistair Urquhart graduated from the Australian National University in Canberra, in Law, History and Politics. He may even hold the record for miles rowed on Lake Burley Griffin.

He was admitted as a barrister and solicitor to the Supreme Court of Victoria, and remains a (non-practicing) member of the Law Institute of Victoria. Previously, he graduated from high school in Bethesda, Maryland, and had many opportunities to become aware of the workings of Washington D.C.

For 30 years, he listened every Sunday evening to the late Alistair Cooke and his Letter from America. Alistair's early career was mostly in the coal industry, where he became involved with energy, environmental and water issues, and later in the SME finance sector.

He found time to be involved in a range of community activities where he came to understand some of the practical aspects of dealing with government and meeting people across the political spectrum. He now chairs a large disability employment service, including its British operations.



EDITOR IN THE COFFEE SHOP DISCUSSING THE WORLD WITH EGGS BENEDICT.



EDITORIAL: THE SECOND WINTER EDITION. MELBOURNE HAS GOOD PARTS AND LESS GOOD PARTS.

The feature this month of Melbourne, and our Victorian Bush, has been the cold weather. And the wonderful Shows in and around town. The Book of Mormon continues. Aladdin. My Fair Lady. And if you do not want to leave the house, there is a new version of Utopia.

Back to the Bush. How many of us watch LandLine, which is on Sunday, also at other times. Nothing should be mandatory, but 'everyone' should be reminded from time to time just where our next meal and milk come from. And it could be a good place to go and live.

Five years of disruption by the new MetroLink, with minimal light on what's behind some of the disruption. Little community consultation, probably the various communities being made (less) aware of what's next. St Kilda Road. Grattan Street alongside Melbourne University, which will eventually be one of the big benefactors. That is not meant to be an emotionally pointed point. The Link might be viewed by the political folk either as an icon of the great infrastructure that Melbourne needs, and has. Let's all get on with the next forty years, whilst the Editor is still here. Especially, how we could possibly grow into a city not quite as big as Mumbai.

The memorial to those who have died due to drugs (heroin) overdoses in the Victoria/Lennox Street precinct...only...34...such deaths in 2016. A narrow margin by City of Yarra councillors approved this project. They are dreaming in a world of their fantasy, turning our hard-earned dollars into monumental clap trap. This is among the more dangerous and stupid ideas and activities to come out of the Yarra. Public consultation evidently continues. Probably unsuccessfully. Editor guesses this monument will not be built.

A monument to to a pathetic quality police force; the education level of its people in uniform,

including lack of community connections and complicity behind the scenes with unions whose ethics and culture require imagination.

The CDB inquiry into the six deaths in Bourke Street last year has been postponed, perhaps until legal proceedings against the offender might be completed. Snore. Perhaps an inquiry into the deaths of the dead people (noted!?) on the Momument. Makes the reasons for the Pell inquiry and legal proceedings trivial in comparison. Just what have the Senior police team been doing in recent years..

Cover. The Block Arcade on Elizabeth Street and also on Little Collins Street is well worth a visit, with Family or on your own, since 120 or so years ago. Next door almost, to its friend the Royal Arcade.

Inside

- CFA matters continue, in late July
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FEATURE

Defending free speech

The level of public debate in Australia hit a new low in June when Leftist activists stalked and physically assaulted conservative columnist **Andrew Bolt** as he entered a Lygon Street Carlton restaurant to launch a book by an RMIT professor on **President Trump** and sprayed him with liquid. Bolt is auctioning his suit that the attackers ruined, with proceeds going to Very Special Kids. The top bid stood at \$5,500. Mary Aldred, **HERALD SUN**.

The police were elsewhere, otherwise planning some plan for some activity, somewhere sometime. Perhaps over in Lennox Street Richmond. Just joking, sadly.

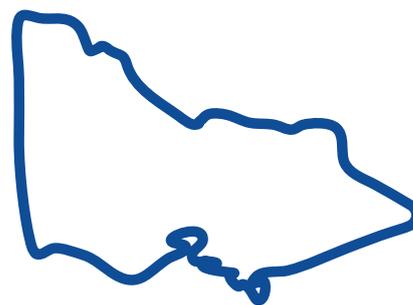
Fireys cancer compensation at risk in CFA tussle

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers MP **Daniel Young** said it was 'disgraceful' to combine the fire services overhaul and cancer compensation scheme in one bill. The planned cancer compensation scheme for all firefighters has bipartisan backing, but the reforms are included in legislation needed to split the CFA as a volunteer-only service and create a new Fire Rescue Victoria for paid firefighters. If Labor had

introduced a stand alone presumptive cancer bill it would pass the Parliament this week.

'Everyone appears to support it'. Labor does not control the numbers in the upper house (the Legislative Council) and requires the Greens and other cross-benchers to pass legislation opposed by the Coalition. The compensation scheme is for firefighters who develop any one of 12 types of cancer in the line of duty. The government is also setting up a \$5 million scheme for firefighters who fall outside the time and medical criteria. **Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino** also revealed a new workplace agreement merging the proposed CFA agreement and existing MFB agreement, **THE AGE**.

WATCH THIS SPACE. The CFA battle continues, a couple more editions of this publication at least. Probably a few local parliamentarians are watching it with very great interest.



GOVERNANCE

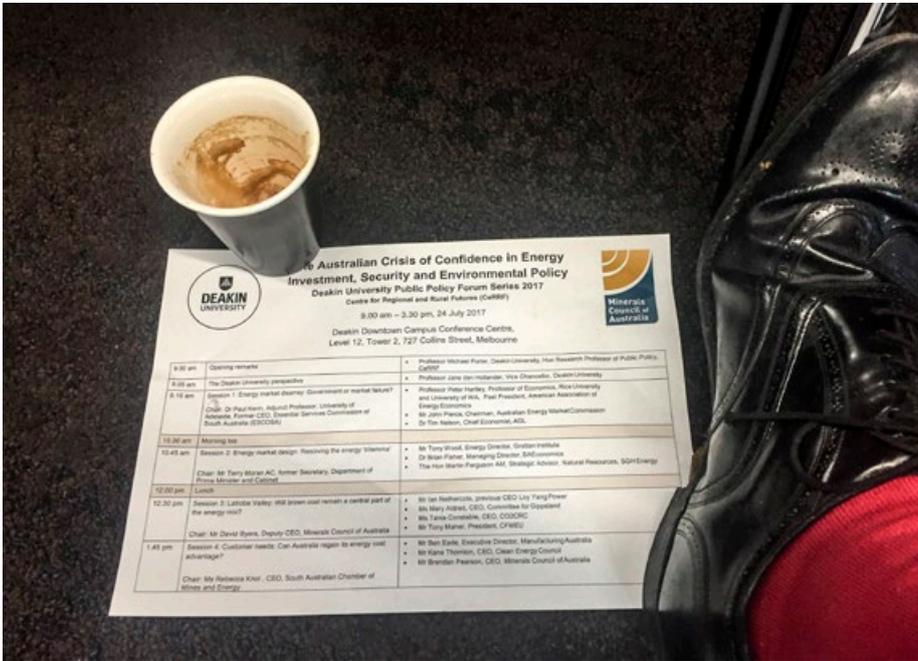
Cory Bernardi is poised to announce a Victorian MP is joining his Australian Conservatives party just days after applying to register the party in Victoria ahead of next years state election. Victorian upper-house MP **Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins** will defect to the Australian Conservatives. The Victorian division of the Liberal Party, the country's largest, is understood to have about 13,000 members. There were rumours that membership of the NSW division had slipped below 10,000 since the 2015 leadership change from **Tony Abbott** to **Malcolm Turnbull**, but senior sources have scorched those claims. **Dr Carling-Jenkins** represents the Democratic Labour Party 'DLP' and her defection will spell the end of the troubled party's representation across the country. It also follows the federal Coalitions successful passage of a schools funding formula, which did not well please the Catholic community.

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THIS FLIER ATTRACTED 150 CLEVERER PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA, NOT ALL WITH THE SAME VIEWS!

Victorian Nationals MP for the Ovens Valley, Tim McCurdy, formerly a dairy farmer and a real estate agent, is being investigated about possible forging of a document before he became a parliamentarian.

Branch-stack probe

More than 600 prospective Australian Labor Party members have been blocked from joining the ALP after it was revealed they had been signed up as part of an industrial-scale branch stacking push. As revealed by Fairfax Media last year, hundreds of new memberships were scrutinised after an influx of members in three safe Labor federal seats – Holt, Lalor and Scullin. Opposition Leader **Bill Shorten** urged the party to look into the allegations, and former MPs **Carlo Carli** and **Mike Symon** were commissioned by the party to investigate. Senior sources said most of the applications were linked to a group within the Right associated with former senator **Steven Conroy**, but there were some left-wing recruits as well, centred around the state seat of Cranbourne, expected to be vacated at the next election, **THE AGE**.

MP takes break

Russell North, the member for Morwell in the Latrobe Valley, stood down yesterday for an unspecified period on doctor's orders to recuperate. He stood down from shadow Cabinet late last year. Hundreds of workers in

his seat lost their jobs following March's closure of Hazelwood power station, **HERALD SUN**.

Who will win in October 2018?

Why Labor might win: The Budget has been well managed. Employment has grown strongly. Labor has a big infrastructure agenda. The federal **Turnbull** government is unpopular, broadly harming the Liberal brand. Why labour might not: The government has been dogged by scandal. Crime rates have risen sharply. Concerns remain about undue influence from unions and Labor factions. Population growth is undermining Melbourne's liveability. 'As *the Sunday Age puts it*', **SUNDAY AGE**.



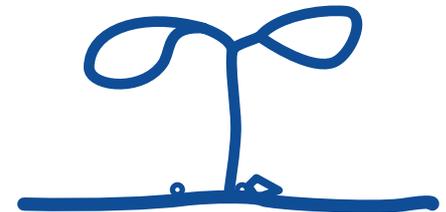
AGRICULTURE

Soil Diversity

Lyndhurst farmer **Reg Emms** could not be happier with his pastures and animal health since adopting

a biological approach to his fertility program. A long-time breeder of premium prime lambs, Greg attended the Lyndhurst Landcare talk given by **Rhonda Daly**, of YLAD Living Soils, in 2015 where he came to realise the importance of creating balanced living soils for healthier pastures and healthier animals. This became Greg's mantra. By identifying what was needed, in February 2016 Rhonda Daly and Living Soils made up a Compost Mineral Blend for Greg to apply to his paddocks. This blend was to ensure the pastures help all the nutrients to grow healthy animals.

Despite being a long term user of lime and single super, Emms said he felt 'normal' fertilisers were not growing the pastures like they used to. Tillage radish is a useful crop to add into a rotation and is known to reduce soil compaction, protect the soil from heat and any erosion from wind and water, and produce valuable grazing potential. Emms said that by adopting a more sustainable approach to his farming, not only was he more profitable, but had a new lease on life and was really enjoying it. **THE LAND**.



ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION

How Sad

Queenscliff (the Town has no 'e' at the end of the word). Probably the Borough of Queenscliff, has made the decision will chop down more than 100 cypress trees along its iconic Avenue of Honour, many of which have been infected by cypress canker, an incurable disease.. caused by a fungal pathogen, **ECHO NEWSPAPER**.

Profit or pest? Where does the buck stop?

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party MPs say they've made no deals with government to keep wild deer on the NSW game animal register, but insist there's a buck to be made for land-holders who see the animal as a resource and not a pest. Invasive species stake-holders, however, say it looks suspiciously like government has bowed to recreational hunting pressure to keep deer numbers plentiful. The Natural Resources Commission pest review delivered to the state government in August 2016 recommended, among other things,

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that wild deer be named a state-wide pest and have its hunting protections removed, **THE LAND.**

Landfill levy going to waste

Victoria's rural and regional councils will share in just \$2.7 million to control roadside weeds and pests in 2017-18, while the State Government diverts much of the \$200 million it collects from ratepayers in landfill levies to projects that fail to curb waste. The funds will be distributed across 56 councils, delivering an average of \$46,000 to each shire, **THE WEEKLY TIMES.**



ENERGY

From One to Another

Dear Editor,
The policies of Premier Daniel Andrews to stop burning coal and gas to generate electricity in Victoria while at the same time sending hundreds of millions of dollars to wind energy are adding to already high energy costs faced by the state's industries as well as households. While the state

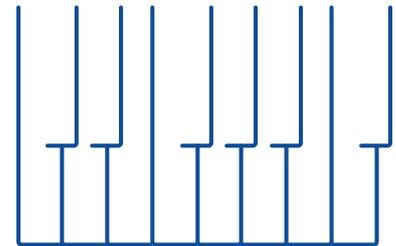
government has been buying up renewable energy certificates, food processing industries across Victoria are facing price increases of between 70 and 150 per cent (\$1 million a year in one enterprise) for new electricity and gas supply contracts. The just-released Australian Bureau of Statistics update of the Consumer Price Index shows household gas and electricity prices rose by eight per cent in the March quarter of this year. This represents a significant cost pressure on Victorian household budgets. His government's moratorium on land-based gas extraction and its manic commitment to renewable energy will force up food prices throughout the state, which will in effect fuel inflation and cause rises in interest rates. Food processing firms all over Victoria have already indicated that they are expecting huge increases in electricity and gas prices, which they will have to pass on to both producers and consumers. Producers will be real losers as processors scramble to pay less for livestock writes *Simon Ramsay MLC, Member for Western Victoria.*

Go Energetic Mary

Australia has lost the low-energy cost advantage we used to have over the rest of the world. Our manufacturing advantage was cheap energy, while our international competitors' edge remains as cheaper labour. Household electricity prices in Australia have risen by 113 per cent over the past decade, more than four times the rate of inflation. In March, I travelled to Germany, an early adaptor of renewable energy technology.

Germany is also the world's largest producer of brown coal. Plus it has an advantage that we don't – being able to import electricity from neighbouring countries when intermittent power from renewables wanes. Germany built a new low-emissions coal-fired power station in 2012 that is about 25 per cent more efficient with its carbon emissions than one of our Latrobe Valley stations. It has another even more efficient station in the planning stage. Mary Aldred, **HERALD SUN.**

A special report on energy over the page. →



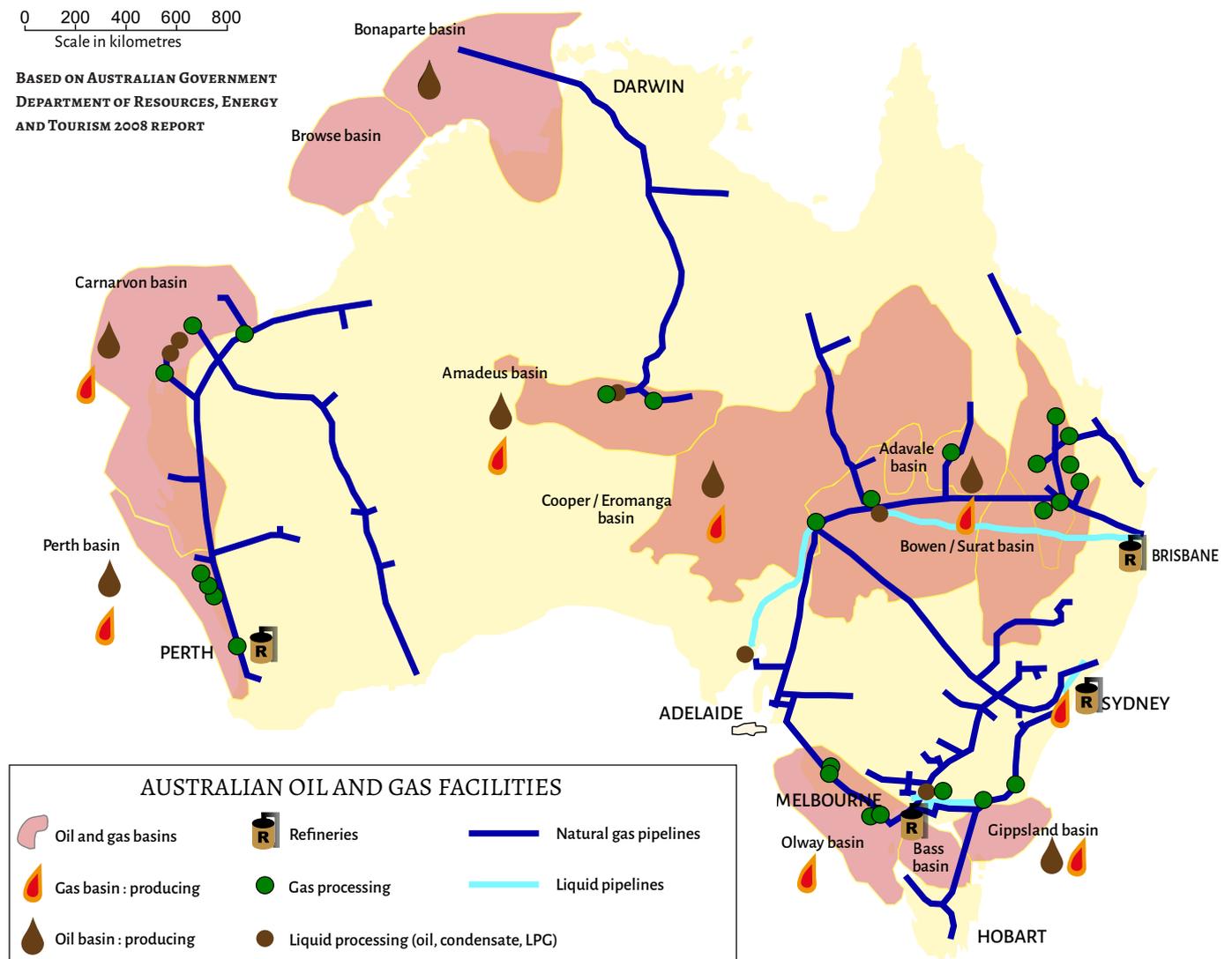
ARTS

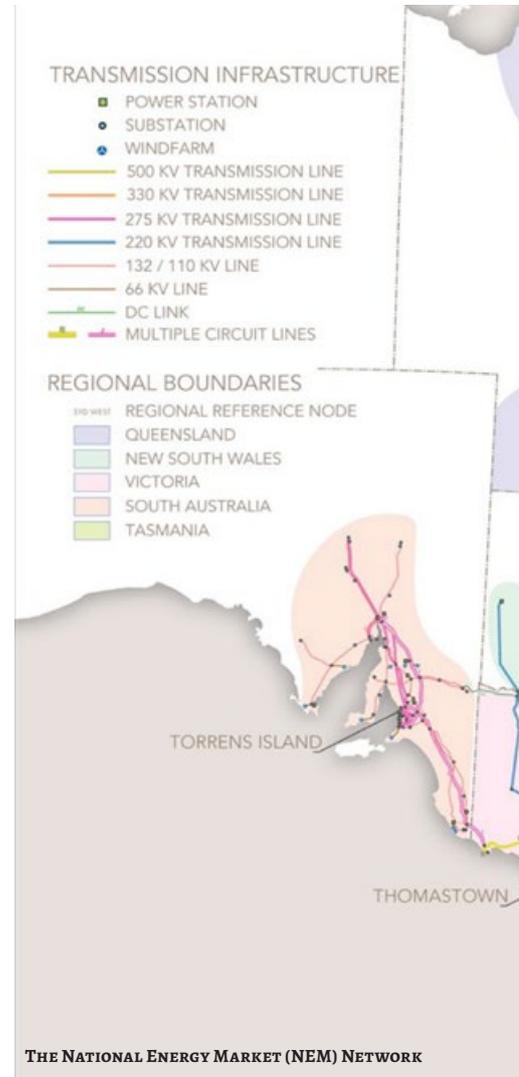
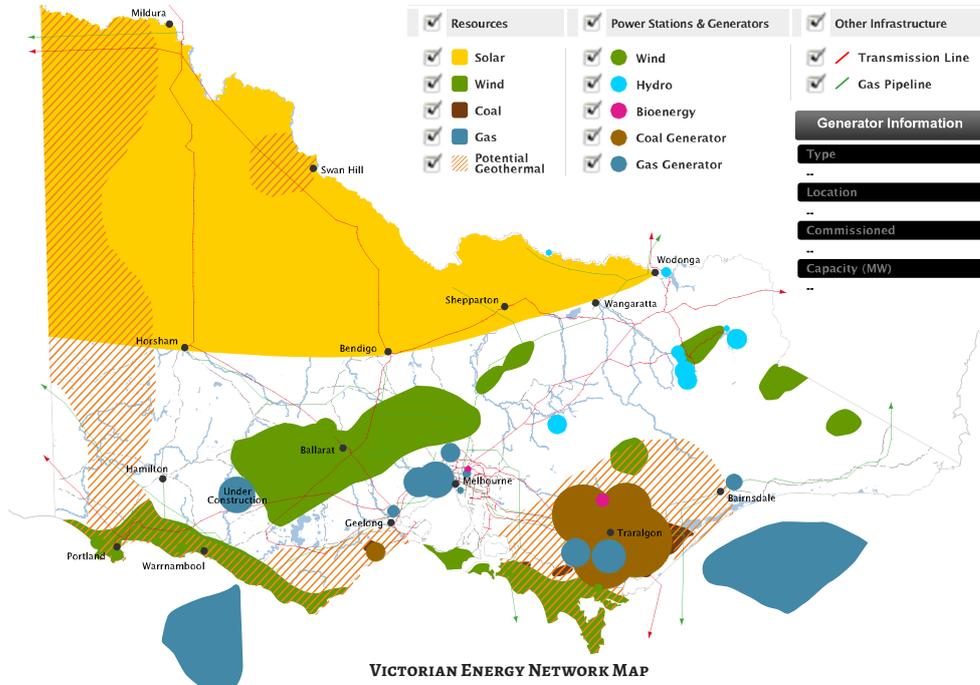
Queue for a brush with genius

More than 150,000 people passed through the doors of the National Gallery of Victoria's Winter Masterpieces Show *Van Gogh and the Seasons* in just over a month, making it one of the fastest-selling exhibitions in the institution's history. The show focused on prosaic scenes such as autumnal landscapes and workers toiling in fields rather

0 200 400 600 800
Scale in kilometres

BASED ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES, ENERGY
AND TOURISM 2008 REPORT





VICTORIAN ENERGY FACTS

Introduction

Your editors constantly look for objective and relevant points to pass on to our readers. This energy facts contributor is a PhD student at the unimelb engineering school, Haya Daghlas, who met the editor in a tutorial class in 2016 and plans to be a geography teacher when he graduates.

Background

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) works with Victorian industry and community to develop a secure and sustainable energy future for Victoria.

While the energy sector is now privately owned, the Victorian Government aims to ensure all consumers have access to essential energy services, invest in the development of innovative energy technologies, build and support the energy industry through policy development and regulation, and help Victorians manage their own energy use.

(SOURCE: DELWP website <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/energy#sthash.G1S5BJmB.dpuf>)

Where does your energy come from?

Victoria has an plenty of energy sources – both fossil and renewable energy. This diagram illustrates where Victoria’s energy resources are located.

(Source:<http://delwp.vic.gov.au/energy/about-energy/policy-and-strategy/energy-in-victoria/resources-in-victoria-map>)

Electricity and Gas Supply Chain

(Source: Review of electricity and gas retail markets in Victoria Discussion paper, The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2017)

Electricity is delivered through four levels of supply chain: Generation, Transmission, Distribution, and Retail. It is first generated from various sources, including brown coal and renewable sources. Then it is transported via high voltage power lines to cities and towns. After that it is transformed into lower voltage electricity and delivered

to customers’ premises. Retailers then acquire energy inputs, manage the risk and provide extra services to the customers.

Gas four levels of supply chain is similar to electricity, starting with production from the gas fields around Victoria, then Transmission along high pressure gas pipelines, the gas then distrusted via lower pressure network to customers, where retailers acquire gas inputs and provides additional services.

What do retailers do?

Retailers buy energy from the spot market or the producer, then sell it to customers, manage risk, particularly wholesale market risk; set energy tariffs and contracts terms with the customers, issue bills, provide customer service and dispute resolution, and additional services.

Renewable Energy

In June 2016, the Victorian Government committed to Victorian renewable energy generation targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025. These targets will be supported by a competitive reverse auction scheme.

(Source:<http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/energy/renewable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-targets#sthash.gtnVZYi.dpuf>)

However; Clean Energy Council chief executive Kane Thornton said the sector supported the renewable energy target and was excited by the potential to build renewable energy in Victoria. “But the reality is that many developers of solar and wind farms are waiting on the Victorian Renewable Energy Target to be finalised before committing to building projects,” Mr Thornton said.

(Source: The Weekly Times May 19, 2017 12:00am, by PETER HUNT, <http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/victorian-renewable-energy-investment-stalled/news-story/9b62728005790f2fc4cebd441571d95a>)

New two-turbine wind farm in Victoria

Construction of a small, two-turbine wind farm near Ararat western Victoria is due to begin soon after Future Energy secured equity and debt financing for the 6.9MW project.

The Maroona wind farm will feature just two Vestas V126 wind turbines, located on two separate properties, generating the equivalent power needs of 4,000 households.

Source: Renew Economy on 7 May 2017, By Giles Parkinson <http://reneweconomy.com.au/contract-signed-new-two-turbine-wind-farm-victoria-62657/>)

Gas and electricity retailers in Victoria.

(source: Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) <https://www.aemo.com.au/Datasource/Archives/Archive124>)

Victorian electricity retailers:

- AGL Sales – customer service: 131 245
- Australian Power & Gas – customer enquiries: 133 298
- Alinta Energy – customer enquiries: 133 702
- Aurora Energy – accounts, connections, general: 1300 132 003; emergencies and service difficulties: 132 004
- Blue NRG - customer service enquiries:1300 599 888
- Click Energy – customer service: 1800 775 929
- Country Energy – customer enquiries: 132 356; electricity supply interruptions: 13 20 80
- Dodo Power & Gas – customer service: 1300 374 757
- Diamond Energy – customer enquiries: 1300 838 009
- EnergyAustralia – residential enquiries: 133 466; business enquiries: 1800 146 749
- Ergon Energy – customer service: 131 046
- ERM Business Energy – General enquiries 134 376



- Integral Energy Australia – customer enquiries: 131 081
- Lumo Energy (formerly Victoria Electricity) – customer service enquiries: 1300 115 866
- Momentum Energy – customer enquiries: 1300 662 778
- Neighbourhood Energy – customer enquiries: 1300 764 860
- Origin Energy – customer enquiries: 132 461
- Powerdirect – customer enquiries: 1300 307 966
- Red Energy – customer enquiries: 131 806
- Simply Energy – customer enquiries: 138 808
- Sun Retail (formerly ENERGEX, acquired by Origin Energy) – customer enquiries: 131 253; electricity emergencies: 136 262

Victorian natural gas retailers:

- AGL Sales – customer service: 131 245
- Australian Power & Gas – customer enquiries: 133 298
- Dodo Power & Gas – customer service: 1300 374 757
- EnergyAustralia – residential enquiries: 133 466; business enquiries: 1800 146 749
- ERM Business Energy – General enquiries 134 376
- Lumo Energy (formerly Victoria Electricity) – customer service enquiries: 1300 115 866
- Origin Energy – customer enquiries: 132 461; supply faults: 132 973; emergencies: 1800 676 300
- Red Energy – customer enquiries: 131 806
- Simply Energy – customer enquiries: 138 808
- Sun Gas Retail (formerly ENERGEX) – customer enquiries: 131 253

than the depictions of sunflowers and starry night skies for which the Dutch painter is best known.

The Gallery attracted more than 2.6 million visitors in 2016, according to figures supplied to Britain's *The Art Newspaper*, which ranked the NGV 19th in its annual list of the world's most visited museums, **THE AGE**

Climate change

The remains of an Egyptian pyramid built around 3,700 years ago have been found near the well-known 'bent pyramid' of King Snefru, Egypt's Antiquities Ministry said on Monday. The pyramid from the 13th dynasty was found in Dahshur's royal necropolis, about 30km south of Cairo. 'An alabaster block engraved with 10 vertical hieroglyphic lines' was among the finds, the ministry said, citing **Adel Okasha**, the Necropolis director general. Excavation is still in its early stages and the size of the pyramid is not yet known, **THE AGE**.



EVENTS

Aye. Your Diary for next year

The Robert Burns Scottish Festival this past May at Camperdown was three intense days of music, food, intellect, history and fun. And a wee dram. Speakers with accents from around the world. Strongly supported by the Shire of Corangamite and local businesses. Not enough Scots from Melbourne. to come for the weekend. And see the very historic unique statue of the great Scottish poet Robbie Burns. Your Editor was instructed ! by a nice lady to stop busking in the street and come and play his bagpipes to a group of youngsters in the Camperdown Library. He quickly did some reconnaissance, as he had never played bagpipes in a Library before.

Nearby

The **Port Fairy Music Festival** in October is another extraordinary event, with a clear focus on Music. Each year it follows the March or so Music or Folk Festival which is more for the younger folk, perhaps. The October series of events gives you a range of choices with bands and players from around Australia and beyond. Oops, even using the word intellectual again, but then this writer is only a bagpiper. Then you can go on down to the Shipwreck Coast for a few days.

Saving the historic Shipwreck Coast

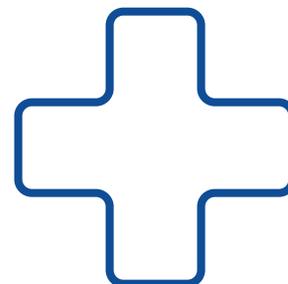
They don't call it Shipwreck Coast for nothing. More than 50 doomed sailing ships are commemorated along the treacherous 130-kilometer coastline from Cape Otway to Port Fairy, representing hundreds of lost lives. More than 2.6 million visitors a year flock there to see famous landmarks like the Twelve Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge and The Blowhole. So many visitors in fact that tourist areas have deteriorated and are unsafe in some cases. A current call for expressions of interest, EOLs from Parks Victoria is seeking submissions from highly experienced landscape architects to provide design services for its Shipwreck Coast Master Plan, **THE AGE**.

Stunning

Melbourne International Film Festival 3 to 20 August.

In Town

Former Premier **Steven Bracks** is the new chairman of the MCG Trust, taking over from former Australian Industry Group chief **Bob Herbert**. **Bracks** will also continue as the inaugural chair of the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust, Geelong, where he has overseen the \$90 million redevelopment of Simonds Stadium, **HERALD SUN**.



HEALTH

Euthanasia

The Victorian government will put laws to Parliament before the end of the Year, which would allow Victorians in pain to request lethal medication they were of sound mind and had less than a year to live. A few details attached, such as needing three separate requests.. Colleague and Deputy Premier James Merlino believes such a law could lead to vulnerable people being put at risk.

Poorer golf clubs under threat as developers eye land

The **Andrews** government on Friday released a report to help decide the fate of land currently used for golf. The sport is still popular, played by more than 300,000 Victorians and making an \$849 million contribution to the state economy. But almost half of Victoria's 374 golf courses are in financial stress, **THE AGE**.

Shorten backs Medicare pain, but not for low earners

Opposition leader **Bill Shorten** has given his support to the **Turnbull** government plan to increase the Medicare levy-but only for Australians earning more than \$87,000. In his budget reply speech last night, Labor's leader also backed the government's \$6.2 billion tax hit on the big banks. 'And let me make this clear, if the banks pass on a single dollar of this tax to the Australian families, then that should be the end of this Treasurer, this Prime Minister and this government' he told the parliament. He revealed a new policy to stop people claiming more than \$3000 in deductions for using accountants to handle their tax affairs, which he said would save more than \$1.3 billion over the medium term.

Treasurer **Scott Morrison** revealed on Tuesday night the government would fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme by lifting the Medicare levy from 2 to 2.5 per cent. Mr Shorten said keeping the Budget repair levy on high-income earners instead of raising the Medicare levy for all would gain \$4.45 billion more revenue than the government's plan in the medium term. Mr Shorten said a Labor government would allocate two-thirds of revenue raised by increasing fees on temporary work visas to supporting TAFE. He would restore \$600 million cut from the training sector and start a \$100 million infrastructure fund to improve kitchens and workshops at TAFE's, **HERALD SUN**.



BUSINESS & INVESTMENT

Wind plan floating

A \$8 billion plan to build 250 offshore wind turbines near the Gippsland coast has been submitted to the federal government. The **HERALD SUN** can reveal the proposal includes turbines built about 25kms from land, with undersea and underground transmission cables to connect to existing Latrobe Valley infrastructure near the decommissioned Hazelwood power station. The proponent, Offshore Energy, is seeking an offshore exploration licence and says the project could create 12,000 construction jobs and a 2000MW capacity, enough to power 12 million homes. If approved, the turbines would be built in a 574 square km area of Commonwealth waters, **HERALD SUN**

Commercial Real Estate

Barrister **Stuart Morris** QC is selling an Ivanhoe East holding to a Canberra based apartment builder. Morris, a former Justice of the Supreme Court and then president of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal between 2003 and 2007, is understood to have achieved a price of about \$30 million for the unusual Z-shaped development site of 14 homes that took 26 years to amalgamate, writes Mark Pallisco on 27/05/17, **THE AGE**.

APRA warns on commercial

Australia's powerful banking regulator has fired another warning shot at the commercial property sector, saying it will further investigate lending standards and consider 'additional guidance' if necessary. **Wayne Byres**, chair of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, flagged 'further tightening' from banks in the \$1.5 trillion residential mortgage market, a crackdown some experts believe is behind a gentle slowdown in residential real estate in the past month. But while there has been intense focus on residential property, commercial real estate cycles traditionally have caused more stress in the banking system, Byres said at a Committee for Economic Development of Australia event.

Given the heterogeneous (diverse/varied/miscellaneous) nature of commercial property lending,

APRA said it was more difficult to implement curbs similar to residential lending where caps on interest-only loans by banks have prompted lenders to raise interest rates for some borrowers, slowing the rate of borrowing. 'That should not be read to imply have any less interest in the quality of commercial property lending. Our work has further investigation of commercial property lending standards in 2017, and we will keep the need for additional guidance material under consideration'. Australia's commercial property sector is being underpinned by rising tenant demand for office space and the flow of money from offshore investors. The Commonwealth Bank's global head of real estate, **Graeme Ross**, said the lender remained positive towards the office and industrial segments of the NSW commercial property market, while retail was declining. In central Sydney there was a low amount of supply coming onto the market, and demand for office space was strong. **THE AGE**

Section 46. Down. Down. Down.

The ACCC, independent supermarkets, the government, the Greens and **Nick Xenophon** are pushing for a strengthening of section 46 of the Competition and Consumer Act. ACCC chairman **Rod Sims** said strengthening the Act would be 'unambiguously good news for the consumer' and one of the 'top few' changes the regulator wanted to see. It would also bring Australia in line with the view overseas that 'big companies are more likely to substantially lessen competition in a market than small companies'. Woolworths and Wesfarmers had argued against the charges on the grounds they would create uncertainty that would then 'chill' investment and put at risk billions of dollars of investments in new stores. **THE AGE**.

Hold the anchovies!

Domino's Pizza is more than \$800 million overvalued and will not meet its ambitious growth targets because it needs to share more profit with its store owners, investment bank Citi says, **THE AGE**.



INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Bushfires leave Sawmill short

The Latrobe Valley has been left devastated by news that as Morwell sawmill, which employs 160 people, is 'very likely' to close because of a timber shortage. Sawmill owner **Carter Holt Harvey** announced on Tuesday that it was consulting with staff about the possible closure

of its mill. It blames the loss of significant areas of plantation timber to bushfires in 2014 and in the Black Saturday fires of 2009. **Geoff Harris**, chief executive of Carter Holt Harvey Wood. Products Australia, said the mill faced a significantly reduced supply of quality sawlogs. 'Bushfires have left our supplier unable to supply the volume of sawlogs or the quality necessary to sustain the Morwell sawmill' Mr Harris said in a written statement writes Darren Gray, **THE AGE**.

IBAC to examine alleged serious corrupt conduct

The Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission is to undergo public examinations into allegations of serious corruption involving two Victorian vocational education and training providers, South West Institute of TAFE and Bendigo Kangan Institute, and regional transport operator V/Line will commence on Tuesday 27 June 2017. **THE AGE**

Better contact out in fence country.?

Ballarat and the Latrobe Valley will become home to a new batch of Victoria's public servants. The Victorian Government has committed \$47.8 million to establish GovHub, a building that will house up to 1000 government employees, including 600 new positions, in Ballarat. A separate hub, in the Latrobe Valley, is expected to house up to 150 Victorian staff, half of whom are likely to be new positions. The Latrobe Valley office is expected to include staff from the Earth Resources Regulator, Parks Victoria and the EPA. The Ballarat office will employ staff from VicRoads, State Revenue Office, Consumer Affairs and Education and Training; Environment, Land Water and Planning; Justice and Regulation; and Economic Development, Job, Transport and Resource departments. Both hubs are expected to be completed in 2020. **THE WEEKLY TIMES**.

School staff dodge checks

Hundreds of cleaners are potentially working in Victorian public schools without background checks, putting children at risk. The revelation is one of the findings in a five-month investigation uncovering a major wages scandal centred on the state's education department. Government school cleaners are being underpaid at least \$10 million, according to a United Voice union survey. More than 80 per cent are being paid under the award's minimum wage, **HERALD SUN**

Perfect colouring

Parents have accused the Victorian Education Department of 'whitewashing' sexual abuse and self-harm after it deleted crucial information from their submissions to proposed new rules. In one case, the department changed a parent's

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submission so it read that their child was bullied at school, instead of sexually assaulted, **THE AGE**.

Plan to pay customers to switch off

Victorian businesses and households will be able to volunteer to get paid to use less electricity at times of stress on the national grid under a program to be trialled next summer, **THE AGE**.



JUSTICE

Hmmm

Alleged perpetrators of domestic violence will be banned from cross-examining their victims in court under changed to be introduced by the **Turnbull** government. Former Australian of the year **Rosie Batty**, who campaigned in favour of the change, welcomed the commitment as a 'huge victory' for victims escaping violence. Protocols regarding cross examination of victims differ from state to state. In Victoria, a judge can already declare an alleged victim 'a protected witness' in sexual offence and family violence cases, which prevents an accused from being able to cross-examine them, even if the accused person does not have a lawyer.

Dinky-di justice

Australia's most notorious Islamic State terrorist is likely to face a Melbourne court within 12 months, as authorities work to extradite him from Turkey. **Neil Prakash** has been kept in a maximum-security prison near the Syrian border while the extradition process continues. The **HERALD SUN** can also reveal that a team of investigators from Melbourne's joint counter-terrorism team will travel to Turkey to expedite the extradition procedure. A huge dossier of evidence, much of it based on the 25-year old's vile social media chatter, has been compiled for what would be one of Australia's biggest terrorism cases.

The Australian Federal Police issued an arrest warrant through Interpol based on an evidence brief. It says he will be charged with foreign incursion offences for fighting with the terror group in Syria and Iraq, membership of a proscribed terrorist organisation and recruitment for a terrorist organisation. The charges carry a maximum of life in prison. The **HERALD SUN** also found that a devout Christian who smashed a pie into Qantas CEO Alan Joyce's face to protest gay marriage has been charged with assault, trespassing and damage. He was 67 years old, **HERALD SUN**.

Sad. Twice

A senior Metropolitan Fire Brigade official employed her two sons in a case of 'calculated deception', **THE AGE**

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade's chief executive has left the organisation as a major overhaul of Victoria's fire services looms. **Jim Higgins** is stepping down after three years in the top job while controversy ranges about the future of the MFB and Country Fire Authority, **THE AGE**.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bin your trash tax, minister tells Yarra

The City of Yarra council has been told to review its controversial bin tax amid concerns it is using the new levy to dodge state government rate caps. The Greens-dominated council proposed a new annual levy of \$247 for a household to have an average sized bin emptied every week. The charge, to start in the next financial year, would be on top of the regular rates bill. Councils watchdog the Essential Services Commission, would continue to monitor the charges, Ms Hutchins said, writes Ian Royall in the **HERALD SUN**.

Radical plan to split fireys

Victoria's fire services will be dramatically overhauled with Premier **Daniel Andrews** splitting volunteer and paid firefighters into two separate authorities. Under the plan, passed by Cabinet on Thursday, the MFB will be replaced with Fire Rescue Victoria, which will cover all paid firefighters, including those 35 integrated CFA stations across suburban Melbourne and regional centres. The CFA will continue to exist and will become a volunteer-only service, with its role strengthened under law. The Andrews government is also injecting \$100 million into the service.

Volunteers and the New Fire Rescue Victoria will share some stations and continue to work together at some incidents. Insiders on both sides of the debate say the transition 'will be bloody'. Some say the changes are long overdue, with huge growth in the number of call outs over the past decade. The overhaul allows the government to bypass federal legislation that has stymied efforts to pass the controversial workplace agreement for the paid CFA staff. The transition, which will require legislative change, is expected to take two years, **THE AGE**.



MELBOURNE

Doyle says hoof it, but buggy operators say nay to that

A horse-drawn buggy driver in Melbourne's CBD denies operators are 'cowboys' and has vowed to fight a decision by lord mayor **Robert Doyle** to stop issuing carriage permits next month. Lord mayor Doyle has described some horse-drawn carriage operators as cowboys. Cr Doyle stressed he didn't have the power to ban or stop operators, but said it was dangerous for horse-drawn carriages to run in the city, **THE AGE**

Chow v cow

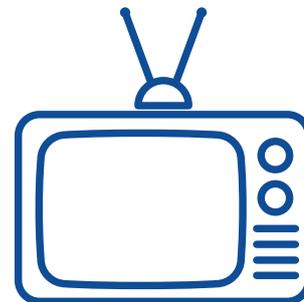
The problem for its creator is that *Cow Up a Tree*, which once stood in splendid isolation on the foreshore at Docklands, has hunkered for three years behind a 'temporary pop-up' café and is surrounded by concrete planter boxes, wooden seating, a tree in a pot and even an outdoor ping-pong table. 'It's incredibly disappointing' said Melbourne-born sculptor and painter **John Kelly** during a visit this week from his home in West Cork, Ireland, where he's lived since 2003. 'What sort of attitude towards art leads a public authority to think 'oh, good, everyone is coming here to see this sculpture, so let's put a café there?'' Mr Kelly pondered. He doesn't get much sympathy from Development Victoria, a new authority that has evolved from the old Docklands Authority through Places Victoria. Development Victoria's chief executive officer, **Gregory Anderson**, turned Mr Kelly's argument on its head, declaring that, in fact, the café had attracted more visitors to the sculpture, **THE AGE**

Batman defeated

A suburban council will strip the name of Melbourne's founder from a park in the name of reconciliation. Darebin city council has renamed Batman Park in Northcote, named after controversial explorer **John Batman**, Gumbri Park. Gumbri was also known as **Jessie Hunter**, the great niece of **William Barak** and the last Aboriginal girl to be born on the Coranderk mission. Hundreds of Darebin residents weighed in on the proposed Batman Park name change with 'overwhelming support', according to council. But 75 per cent of people in a 2200-strong poll by Leader Newspapers wanted Batman's name retained. Batman is known as one of Melbourne's pioneers, but his name is synonymous with indigenous land dispossession after the explorer convinced indigenous elders to sign a treaty trading more than 200,000ha of ancestral land for blankets, flour and other goods in 1835. **HERALD SUN**.

5 stars shine on gardens

A twin tower hotel complex would dominate the northern CBD under a \$640 million project by a Malaysian developer. SP Setia Australia wants an international chain to run the five-star hotel in the 64-storey development, built above a green podium on the former Telstra site, on the corner of Exhibition and La Trobe streets writes **John Masanauskas** of **HERALD SUN**.



MEDIA

Reader numbers growing

The *Herald Sun's* readership continues to grow, up 9.6 per cent across its platforms in the past year. Roy Morgan Research results released yesterday show the *Herald Sun's* overall audience at 3.11 million readers for the 12 months to March, **HERALD SUN**.

EXCHANGING PRINTED PAPER FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATION SERVICES – A WISE CHOICE?

FEATURE BY CHERYL LACEY — WWW.CHERYLACEY.COM

‘Backwards by default’ is the most appropriate way to describe the Senate’s decision, on 23rd June 2017, to pass the Gonski 2.0 \$23.5 billion funding model for Australian schools. It’s the extreme height of political pragmatism with regard to the most important public policy in the nation — The lure of money wins again. And, as expected, there’s already activity buzzing around what many believe is the next most important question: how shall we spend it?

No surprises here. Any amount of much-needed profound and honest reflection might be too much. Can we handle the truth? Especially if it forces many of us – parents, teachers, principals, lawyers, politicians, and bureaucrats – to admit that we might have failed so many children, including our own, by accepting the state of education in Australia – and for far too long.

Is this a choice we have willingly made, or is lack of choice at the centre of increasingly poor school performance?

Result = Response NOT Response + Ability

It is true that, commencing in 2019, primary schools can look forward to a minimum of \$10,576 per student and \$13,290 for secondary schools; the schools, however, not schooling itself, will take the winner’s seat. Parents and children stand to receive nothing more than what they already have. For the sake of a quick result, Australians have been dealt a reactive blow – another ‘piggy bank and tuck shop’ solution.

Surely common sense would have included asking the difficult questions, accepting the reality of the findings and, more importantly, creating a nationally inclusive, differentiated model for education, with compassion firmly at the heart of every responsible action. It’s no longer acceptable to aspire to world leading opportunities, without facing the challenges associated with achieving them. We all have to toughen up and take responsibility.

If there were wider choices, would we be encouraged to take greater responsibility?

Faith vs Funding

The Commonwealth, States and Territories’ main stumbling block over funding for schooling is based on faith, but religion, or life view, lies at the heart of education – it is about responsible citizenship. The naïve notion that public schools are secular suggests – or accepts – that culture and citizenship do not exist. Regardless of the faith or life view that informs it, every school has a culture. The question is this: if the culture is *not* based on a specific faith, or life view, then what is its base? What is the difference between a school culture and the culture of schooling? It would seem that printed paper offers the answer. Money not choice!

Could it be said that parents, forced to find the necessary funds to enrol their children in faith-based schools, are being penalised for choosing faith as the foundation for their

children’s education? Could it also be said that these parents are being penalised because the State provides public schooling, and that anything resembling a faith-based school is seen as an entitlement rather than a personal investment in their children’s education?

If faith were replaced with ‘Australian Culture’, how would funding look? What would parental contributions and not-for-profit support look like?

Vague Intention vs Reality

Behind every policy is a person. Gonski 2.0 was constructed using a sampling of NAPLAN data, postcodes, and loadings for disability, languages other than English, socio-economic status, and location. It demonstrates a plan of action that aims to achieve a business objective; it shows little or no compassion for the individuals in question – the ‘persons’ behind this policy.

Consider these points:

- The formula’s target labelling – for instance ‘disabled student’. Behind the formula is a parent in need of assistance to educate a child, who is managing a disability.
- Low-income families in commission and rental housing share postcodes with affluent families. Postcode does not equate to taxable income; taxable income, however, more accurately reflects educational affordability.
- Adults of low socio-economic standing do not necessarily demonstrate ineptitude or illiteracy, just as affluent families are not necessarily free of disability, language barriers or academic challenges.
- The highest NAPLAN results for schools are not necessarily equivalent to the students’ best performances.

Schools are unique, as a family demographic is. The Gonski 2.0 inclusion of a ‘capacity to pay’ formula assumes that fee paying parents exist only in the private and denominational sectors. Capacity to pay does not include families of children attending public schools – leaving the use of demographics and postcodes across the board questionable.

If the funding model is based on inaccuracies, what then is the expected return on investment?

Registration vs Provision

With regard to funding, the emphasis has been placed on public, private and denominational schools. Little has been said about home schooling. Approximately 30,000 Australian families choose to home-school their children or to access distance education. Families that choose to home-school must register with the State or Territory in which they reside, but according to legislation – the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 of Victoria, for instance – schools are considered to be places in which education takes place during normal school hours, with the exception of home schooling. This shows the distinction between an investment in schools and an investment in schooling or education. However, section 1.2.1(d)

of that same Act states: ‘Parents have the right to choose an appropriate education for their child’.

Is the home schooling issue the only evidence that investment in schools is not an investment in schooling or education?

Systemic Contradictions – Funding vs Managing

The Commonwealth Government will provide 20% of its funding for public schools, and 80% will go toward private schools. State and Territory Governments are expected to pay the larger portion of 80% for public schools and the remaining 20% for private schools. However equitable, government funding – regardless of its origin – does not equate to equitable provision or management of schooling.

To reference the State Government of Victorian Education once more, its website states, ‘Victorian legislation clearly states that instruction in the standard curriculum program must be provided free of charge to all students in Victorian government schools.’ However, free instruction refers to teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with instruction of the standard curriculum program. In other words, government funding is essentially paying for wages, buildings and grounds. The website also states that, ‘schools decide on the learning program they offer, based on the needs and aspirations of the school community’. Parents are asked to meet costs that are beyond the ‘standard curriculum’, and no two school communities or public schools are necessarily the same.

Everything considered then, Victorian schools are no different from denominational or private schools. The same is true in other States and Territories that offer select entry schools, gender exclusive schools, and schools that offer the International Baccalaureate.

If the community can choose the learning program, and if funding is linked to students, why is the funding given to schools?

Resourcing vs Review

Gonski 2.0 promises the establishment of a National School Resourcing Board to review the distribution of funds to schools. Providing checks and balances with regard to funding is clearly an incentive in this model. Money is a resource. A more intelligent way to use this money would be investing it in schooling. A review of ways to reduce acceptable waste in schools, as well as ways to replicate wise investment must also include a review of the standard curriculum, and the individuals that deliver it.

Can teachers be up-skilled, transferred or transitioned out of schools in the same way as a school’s buildings and grounds can be remodeled, renovated or closed?

Fundamentals vs Foundations

If schools are to have any fundamental impact on responsible citizenship, those planning to

enter the teaching profession must themselves be the products of quality teacher training.

A 2015 ACER review of *The Teacher Workforce in Australia: Supply, Demand and Data*, has identified 'out-of-field' teachers – those who teach beyond their qualification. It is a grave concern.

Statistics from this report reveal the percentage of teachers teaching out-of-field in the following subjects:

- Mathematics and physics – about 20%
- History – 25%
- Computing/IT – 30%
- Geography – 40%
- English – % unknown

Major factors that lead to out-of-field teaching include:

- 35% (3,300) schools having fewer than 400 students; and the related impact on class size
- the expectation that schools offer a diverse curriculum, regardless of school size or location
- teachers having to cover a range of subjects
- competent teachers being placed with senior students (to boost Year 12 results)
- out-of-field teachers being placed with lower year levels

In addition, primary school teachers – qualified as generalist teachers – are expected to teach any of eight different year levels, across every area of the curriculum – all of which demand increased complexity of knowledge, understanding and skills. Furthermore, teachers aspiring to leadership and principal roles, who would then determine staffing, are expected to apply for, and perform in, such positions without any additional formal qualifications.

In 1964 the Martin Report or *The Report of Tertiary Training in Australia* recommended that an *autonomous* Board of Teacher Education be established in each State, and charged with the authority to advise government in relation to future developments in teaching training. Its view was that the educational experience of any child, gained from kindergarten to university, depends largely on the extent to which teachers are prepared to perform their tasks. A further recommendation was that the Board 'should also become the channel through which Commonwealth funds would be made available for the development of the preparation of teachers'.

Succumbing to the 'I Give a Gonski' philosophy places schools in a lucrative financial position. It places teachers and students, however, in an increasingly vulnerable one – the implications of which include teacher stress and burnout, student disengagement, and increased rates of truancy and suspension.

Gonski 2.0 is a \$23.5 billion funding model for Australian schools. It might well become known, however, as one of Australia's most radical investments in welfare, unless there is a parallel investment in quality teaching.

What are the real reasons for the encouragement of unskilled teachers? And who's behind it?

Choice vs Control

In 2016, the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed that in Australian schools there were more than 3.5 million full time students, and almost 0.5 million teachers. Funding for schools

includes the provision of wages for teachers. As employees, teachers are free to apply for positions in a range of schools, and to find an environment that suits their professional needs. As in all other professions, they have the opportunity to apply for promotions and positions of leadership outside the classroom, and to apply for leave or changes to working hours, including part-time options. Regardless of their choices, they will be paid.

Students, on the other hand, are subjected to compulsory school attendance. For them there is nothing that equates to the flexible school hours, promotion, or flexible leave arrangements that teachers have. Furthermore, any schooling that takes place in schools before 8.45am or after 3.45pm – known as 'before and after school care' – comes at a cost to parents. It would seem that Gonski 2.0 is a funding source based on a cookie cutter philosophy that views a school as a business that operates from 8.45am to 3.45pm, rather than as one possible source of schooling?

Are schools designed to employ rather than to educate?

Contribution vs Consumption

At the Commonwealth level, schools are funded predominantly from the acquisition of income tax, GST and capital gains tax. At the State level, schools funding comes predominantly from stamp duty and land tax.

Parental contributions are expected in every school, regardless of location, denomination or sector. Just as the Catholic sector distributes funds between dioceses to support lower income families and communities, higher income earners, property investors, independently wealthy taxpayers, and businesses contribute to Australian schools at large – regardless of the number of children they have.

Families that choose to send their children to denominational or private schools, not only pay private school fees, after tax, they also contribute to schools across the nation through their payment of taxes.

If tax payers know the cost of Medicare, private health insurance, rates and land tax, and can choose to invest accordingly, should they also be able to choose whether or not they invest in schools or schooling, and to what value?

Area vs Academia

Increased opportunity for students to further their education to Year 12 and beyond has brought resounding success for many. For others, however, it has come at a grave cost.

During the 1930s, Tasmania, like other Australian States and Territories, struggled with the cost of maintaining rural schools, and with the limited opportunities they provided for students. To counter the problem, the State introduced 'area schools'. They offered a curriculum rich in citizenship, and specialised in practical subjects directly related to the character of the local districts. To ensure students weren't limited to a life on a farm, these schools eventually became obsolete. They were, however, attempting to provide schooling for the much-needed workforce beyond the 'white collar' middle class. There is much to be learned from them:

First, an overemphasis on technology now tends to limit the use and development of different skill sets and interests. Agriculture,

culinary skills, sport, the arts, music and manufacturing remain essential elements of a diverse and balanced society. Narrowing opportunity increases the risk of disengagement, abuse, suicide, depression, welfare and unemployment, to name a few.

Second, the current funding model provides loadings for students in rural areas. Let's use a simple equation to consider the waste. Assume every child in Australia is provided a base rate of \$1. The loading of \$1 applies to rural locations. A rural school has 5 children and a regional school has 100. The regional school receives \$100 and the rural school receives \$10. Both schools offer the standard curriculum; the regional school, however, has greater financial flexibility. The same can be said for the loadings for disability, non-english speaking students, and indigenous students. Spreading the funds across more than 9000 schools limits schools to standard academia, as opposed to giving them the opportunity to specialize in a given area.

What is the cost to the Australian budget and on Australian society, when Gonski 2.0 invests in schools rather than in schooling that would prepare everyone for citizenship and employment, regardless of capacity?

Need vs Want

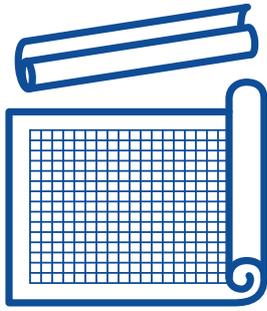
Imagine you were given \$10,576 or \$13,290 to invest in your child's education. How would you use it? Would you choose a school? What type of school? Might you invest in one that was a better fit for your faith, your child's ability and interests, or in a convenient location? Would you 'top up' the funds you were given, to give you greater choice?

Whatever your final decision, you'd certainly think more carefully about where and how any investment were spent. If a school couldn't provide the education necessary to meet your child's needs, chances are you would want the flexibility to invest with another, more appropriate, service provider – perhaps a sporting club, a leadership camp, a farm or a factory.

Above all else, you would actively advocate for an education for your child, not just for bricks and mortar, wouldn't you? And wouldn't every other Australian parent?

Has Gonski 2.0 delivered a currency that shows little regard for Australia or its future? I suspect so.

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PLANNING

'Hound's demise is sealed

Work has begun on demolishing the Greyhound Hotel a week after the state government ruled against saving it. Demolition of the 163-year-old building emerged last November after a planning application for an eight-storey building was lodged. Port Phillip council rejected the plans this year after it received 45 objections and a petition of more than 2500 signatures, **HERALD SUN**

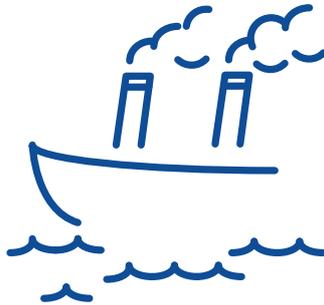
Unit owners may be forced to sell

'Decaying' old apartment buildings in Melbourne could be demolished and sold to developers under proposed reforms that could see people's homes forcibly acquired. The **Andrews** government is considering reforms that could result in the voting requirement for sales and redevelopments reduced to as little as 75 per cent. While these laws would likely see the replacement of many old 'six pack' blocks built in the 1950's to 1970's in desirable suburbs such as Toorak and South Yarra, there is concern it would force people to relinquish perfectly liveable homes at the bidding of their neighbours. Similar laws have been introduced in NSW, but not without controversy, due to fears it could drive vulnerable owner-occupiers, including the elderly, out, **SUNDAY AGE**.

Federal land in Victoria

Mr Morrison his Budget speech last month described the site as 'land for a new suburb that could cater for 6,000 new homes'. Canberra last month announced it had scuttled a decade-long plan with the Victorian government to redevelop the land for 3,000 homes, angering the state government and Opposition **Leader Bill Shorten**. Australia Zhongren Enrichment Holding Pty Ltd is the Australian company representing the Chinese interests involved in the bid. The company's Melbourne front-man is **Les Tarczon**, a Labor Party member who ran in the safe Liberal seat of Malvern at the 2014 state election.

A spokesperson for **Morrison** said Maribyrnong would be an opportunity for private developers and the government 'to work together to ensure Victorians right across the housing spectrum will be catered for. 'There will be housing for private buyers, private renters, affordable housing, social housing and opportunities for first home buyers- all of that can be realised in an integrated development on site like this' he said, **THE AGE**.



TRANSPORT - PORTS

Ho Hum....Melbourne port to go west...but not yet

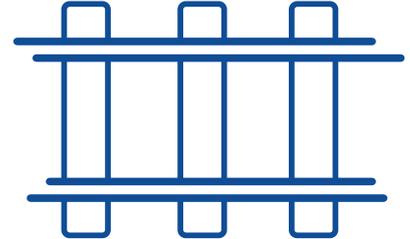
Melbourne's second major container port should be built near Werribee, the **Victorian** government's infrastructure advisor says, but not for another 40 years or so!! Infrastructure Victoria has advised the government that Bay West, somewhere between Werribee and Point Wilson, is the right choice for a future port, once container traffic outgrows capacity at the Port of Melbourne. The port's container terminal would be built offshore – a four kilometre long industrial island connected to the mainland via a 1.5 kilometre road and rail bridge that would radically reshape Port Phillip Bay. New road and rail links would also be built across Melbourne Water's vast Western Treatment Plant.

The other candidate, the Port of Hastings, South-East of Melbourne, has been rejected owing to the estimated \$5 billion cost of connecting it to Melbourne's rail network via the congested Pakenham-Cranbourne line and the environmental risk of ramping up shipping traffic in the ecologically sensitive Western Port. Infrastructure Victoria argues Hastings should retain a smaller role among Victoria's ports, in the shipping of non-containerised goods such as cars. Labor has indicated its preference for Bay West as the home for Melbourne's next major port for some years, including from opposition, arguing it would create jobs from Geelong and Melbourne's outer western suburbs.

This contrasts with the Coalition, which had already committed \$110 million for environmental planning to develop the Port of Hastings before Labor won the 2014 election and cancelled the work, **THE AGE**.

The BIG SECRET Issue.

As a result of the Panama Canal being recently enlarged: depth, width, length, and perhaps other things, the size of container ships being built around the world is growing very fast in these important dimensions for getting into Port Phillip Batman. So additional channel deepening will be required. Your Editor is chasing up the details of sand levels on PortSea beach over the last 100 years. More to come...



TRANSPORT - RAIL

Rail back on track

Inland rail will finally get the kick-start it needs with the Federal Government promising a whopping \$8.4 billion for the landmark project. The long sought-after 'Steel Mississippi' is the centrepiece of the Federal Government's regional spending in May's Budget, which also sees almost half a billion dollars extra for regional development projects.

Another \$500 million has been set aside for regional rail upgrades in Victoria out of a \$1 billion infrastructure fund for the state – short of the \$1.46 billion the Victorian Government has demanded. The ambitious Melbourne – Brisbane inland rail is now the closest it has been to becoming a reality, after first being touted in 1998 and pursued by governments for almost 20 years. Infrastructure and Transport Minister **Darren Chester** said it was a 'once-in-a-generation project' that would create thousands of jobs during construction. The funding is part of \$75 billion promised for infrastructure nationwide over the next decade, including another \$10 billion for a national rail program.

Other initiatives include: a \$4 billion Regional Investment Corporation, to administer concessional loans federally. The resumption of indexation of local council financial aid grants, providing an extra \$836.5 million over four years. The continuation of Roads to Recovery and the roads blackspot program until 2021. There is no extra funding for mobile blackspots out in the bush. **THE WEEKLY TIMES**.

But minister has a plan

South Yarra won't get a \$900 million underground station anytime soon, but the busy interchange has not been forgotten, the **Andrews** government said. The booming pocket of inner Melbourne has been left out of planning for the \$11 billion Metro Rail Tunnel project, despite calls from The Coalition, Greens and Stonnington Council to include it. The government says minimal passenger demand for an underground station does not justify the expense. Instead, it has committed \$2 million to plan for major upgrades of the station, **THE AGE**.

No fine for 25% of fare evaders

More than one in four people caught travelling on Victorian public transport without a valid Myki card have been let off with an official warning so far this year. Almost 9,000 travellers have been



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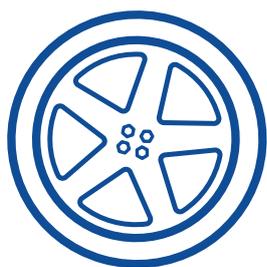
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warned rather than fined since the **Andrews** government introduced a less hardline approach to fare enforcement on January 1. This compares with almost 33,000 who have been fined \$229 for fare evasion, figures provided to Fairfax Media show. But having taken a softer line on occasional fare evaders and accidental non-payers, the government is set to crack down harder on habitual and deliberate non-payers. **THE AGE**.



TRANSPORT - ROAD

Real costs of 'missing link' freeway

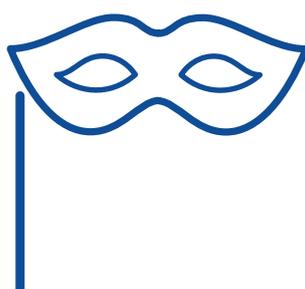
The Yarra Valley is Melbourne's communal treasure, along with the bay and our besieged City parklands. In a sense, the Yarra Valley begins in the CBD, up past the Royal Botanical Gardens. It continues upstream through leafy suburbs, up around the Yarra Bend (scarred for life by the Eastern Freeway), to Ivanhoe and Heidelberg, then Lower Plenty. The concrete landscape elements finally stop at busy Fitzsimmons Lane Bridge, built in the 1960's as an alternative entry point to Eltham.

It was supposed to ease traffic congestion, but created more. From the bridge upstream the unspoilt Yarra really begins. When eventually completed, on whatever route, the North East Link might temporarily ease traffic flow on some parts of the road network. It will immediately add to congestion elsewhere. 'Plans for the North

East Link must consider the Yarra Valley as a whole' writes Dr Andrew Lemon- a long term resident of Eltham and the author. **THE AGE**.

Backing for licence at age 17

Seventeen-year-olds should be permitted to drive in Victoria. That was the finding of a parliamentary inquiry into lowering the probationary driving age in the only Australian state that has a minimum driving age of 18. **THE WEEKLY TIMES**. *Not to happen soon.*



SOCIETY

Greyhound china park shame

At one stage in their lives, these Australian greyhounds were the toast of their owners and were earmarked as future kings and queens of the track. But after the curtain fell on their fleeting careers, they were on sold to China, where today their twilight years pass by in slow motion, trapped in an animal tourist park in Shanghai. Each day, the dogs languish alone in hot, dark concrete cells until it is their turn to briefly entertain day trippers in one of the zoo's latest demeaning attractions: A 'one hundred-metre race show' between 'African Cheetah and Australian Greyhound' for the title of 'fastest in animal kingdom'. **THE AGE**

Court's shot a service to marriage equality push

The backlash against Australian tennis champion and evangelical Christian pastor Margaret Court's opposition to same-sex marriage highlights community support for changing the law to recognise the right of people in love to get married. It is one of the most unfair, dangerous and wasteful policies in Australia history. The polls show a huge majority of people in this nation know it and want Parliament to do its job. The situation is absurd; the leaders of both main political groupings support marriage equality. Surely enough is enough. **THE AGE**. (editor adds that if it was that easy, it would have been done.

Andrews urged to focus on real issues

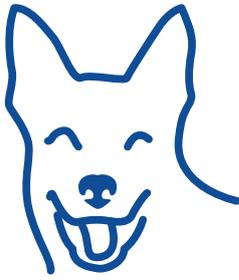
A program that shames fairytales for their gender bias also promotes a 'gender equality genie' who wishes for universal peace, same-sex marriage and a transgender governor general. The furore was sparked when the **HERALD SUN** yesterday revealed that the program's teaching guides wanted children to examine fairytales for gender stereotypes and preschools to consider auditing toys and books for gender bias. But last night Premier Andrews tried to defuse the issue by releasing a video on social media of his son and wife reading a book of bedtime fairytales. Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria boss **Emily Maguire**, who helped develop the Respectful Relationships pilot, said fairytales had no direct impact on family violence but 'stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity' were a key contributor, **HERALD SUN**.

Islamic Council so out of touch

The Islamic Council of Victoria's failure to understand the challenges posed by Islamism to freedom of religion. By calling for 'safe spaces' for young Muslims to make 'inflammatory' comments and criticising measures including the use of control orders against terror suspects, the ICV has not only shown itself to be out of touch with mainstream Australia but also has revealed a permissive attitude to Islamist attitudes. It is clear that ICV does not grasp the importance of counter-terrorism measure nor the role it must play in defeating the extremist scourge. Such wilful blindness to the reality of the terrorism threat can only aid radicalisation, not eliminate it. By seeking to wrap the Muslim community in the cloak of victimhood, the ICV does a disservice to the 200,000 Victorian Muslims it seeks to represent writes Mary Aldred, **HERALD SUN**

An open letter to Islam from this infidel

Problematically, the Koran contains exhortations to violence against outsiders and nonbelievers. Consider chapter 9 verse 5: 'fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them...but if they repent, and establish regular prayers...then open the way for them'. In short, convert to Islam or suffer the consequences. This probably made sense in primitive Middle Eastern societies 1400 years ago, but now it seems unnecessary. By contrast, countries such as Australia, Britain and France provide their citizens with a decent education, welfare, public housing, medical care and the right to vote. Yet hundreds of young Western Muslims choose the evil of IS over loyalty to the nations in which they were either born or accepted as refugees. Why? Because extremist Islam has them in its thrall writes Tom Elliott of **HERALD SUN**



DOG CORNER

The hero war dog and the man who cared

The first book about Horrie—*Horrie the Wog Dog*, it was called—was written in 1945 by the great **Ion Idriess**. **Private Moody** and a mate from an Australian machine gun battalion had found the puppy starving in the North African desert, frantically searching under stones for lizards, and they carried him by motorcycle back to camp. When Moody, a Melbourne boy, was to be shipped home to Australia, he couldn't bear to be separated from **Corporal Horrie**. Three years later, after Moody had fought in New Guinea while Horrie was kept in the care of Moody's father in Melbourne, Australia's quarantine authorities got wind of the unauthorised immigrant dog. Moody was ordered to present himself and Horrie to the authorities in Sydney. Horrie was to be destroyed. The Australian public was aghast. Furious letters to the editor appeared everywhere, demanding mercy. No mercy came. Australia's Director of Veterinary Hygiene, **R.N Wardle**, was unmoved when the publishers Angus and Robertson sent the proof of Idriess' book about Horrie's amazing career. The Idriess book, written in Moody's own words, ended with this: 'Well, Horrie, little fellow, your reward was death. You who deserved a nation's plaudits, sleep in peace. Among Australia's war heroes, we shall remember you. Under Quarantine Regulations, Horrie was destroyed on 12 March 1945'.

In his book *Animal Heroes*, **Anthony Hill** recounts being told by a Canberra journalist, **Norma Allen**, that Moody had told her in 1945 that Wardle hadn't got his way at all. Moody had searched the pounds of Sydney, found a little dog that looked similar to Horrie, paid five shillings and took the unfortunate ring-in to quarantine officers. The real Horrie was spirited to a property in Victoria's Upper Murray, there to happily sire a brood of pups. Parts of Moody's family are convinced this is what happened, although a group of Idriess supporters and researchers dispute it on their website (www.idriess.com.au), April 29, 2017, **THE AGE**.

Tails of Bureaucracy

A former Australian soldier who assaulted police and choked an RSPCA inspector after he busted



out his companion dog from an animal rescue shelter has avoided more time behind bars. **Shane Van Duren**, 43, was handed a suspended prison sentence of two years and six months' and ordered to serve 200 hours of community service after a desperate struggle to free his beloved Belgian shepherd, Kalu, turned violent in 2015. His sentencing judge described the close relationship between **Van Duren** and the therapy dog as 'a type of dependence' that treated his ongoing post-traumatic stress disorder and helped heal psychological wounds suffered in East Timor, **THE AGE**.



VALE

David Smith (1928-2017) went from rabbit to the position of Director-General of Agriculture in Victoria under the Hamer government and much else throughout his life, died on April 22, **THE AGE**. *Your Editor will miss picking him up from the tram stop and driving him into the City. A great Australian. He wrote several at least top books on agriculture and grain and other.*

David Biles (1932-2017) was a pioneer in criminology who shaped Australia's practice and policy, specifically in identifying the

need for radical changes in the treatment of Aboriginal offenders in custody, **THE AGE**.

Sir **Peter Lawler** (1921-2017) was a lead secretary of the Department of Special Minister of State under Whitlam, and much else. Lawler was appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland and to the Holy See, **THE AGE**.

The Reverend **Reynolds Waters** (1926-2017) was accepted as a candidate for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in 1944, completing an Arts Degree at the University of Melbourne and theological studies at Ormond College Theological Hall. He served as presbytery secretary and chairman and had a 15-month exchange with the minister of Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, all of which made up the 65 years of his faithful service as an ordained minister, **THE AGE**.

ALLEN Betty Mary 16.11.1923 – 22.5.2017, **THE AGE** **ANDRE Rosalie Anne** 17.12.1957 – 18.5.2017 Aged 59 years, **THE AGE** **ANSTEE Neil** 2.4.1934 – 3.6.2017, **THE AGE** **ANDREWS William (Bill) Henry** Aged 87, **THE AGE** **ATKINSON Marjorie Evelyn Dorey** 5.10.1926 – 20.6.2017 Passed away peacefully at Livingstone Gardens Aged Care. Dearly loved and loving wife of Victor (dec), **THE AGE** **ATTWOOD Gladys Lucille** 14.05.1925 – 01.06.2017, **THE AGE** **ATWELL Norma Ruth** Wednesday, 26.01.1927 – Friday 09.06.2017, **THE AGE**

ARCHER Francis BASILE (nee Stewart) Josephine Veronica 23.12.1919 – 14.05.2017, **THE AGE** **BELL Bruce Kelm** 16-11-1945 – 8.4.2017 Adored husband of May (deceased) & Helen. Big brother to Lawrence, **THE AGE** **BELLOMO Frank** 11.3.1973 - 20.6.2017 Aged 44. Our beloved Frank, Husband of Fiona and Father of Harrison and Eva, **THE AGE**. **BERKOVIC Eugene** The partners and staff of Deloitte Touch Tohmatsu mourn the passing of Eugene Berkovic, a partner in our Melbourne office, **THE AGE**.

BETHEL Ken aged 97 years **BETTS James (Jimmy)**. **BLACKWOOD Rev Ronald Alister** 23.8.1919 – 12.06.2017, **THE AGE** **BOND Michael** 18.05.1951 – 10.06.2017, **THE AGE**

BOURCHER William (Bill) 10.01.1927 – 14.05.2017 Died peacefully on May 14th at Estia Health Yarra Valley, Aged 90, **THE AGE** **BOURKE Daniel**

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Meskill 26.4.1916—5.6.2017 Aged 101 years, **THE AGE BOURKE Glenn Thomas** Farewell to our father. You will be missed, **THE AGE**

BROOKES George William (5/06/1926—7/05/2017), **THE AGE BOWDEN**

Darryle, THE AGE BRUHN Frederick Noel (Noel) 22.11.1931—15.5.2017, **THE AGE**

BUNTING Mary Patricia (Pat), THE AGE CAINE (nee Greensill) Marjorie Ann Aged 88 years, **THE AGE CASCAJO Victoria**

CASS Dr Noel, THE AGE CONOCHIE Jean Athola MBE. COLES Peter Wyndham

COLMAN Jadwiga 04.05.2017, **THE AGE CORDNER Janet, THE AGE**

COSGRAVE Judith Mary COULTER Suzanne, THE AGE CROMBIE Donald Alexander 19.03.1932—12.06.2017, **THE AGE**

DEACON Owen DONALD Daphne Pearl DYKE Joyce Lillian in loving memory of my dear mother, passed away June 22, 2017 aged 96 years. At rest now with her baby son John (dec. May 26, 1944) and husband Jack (dec. May 30, 1983), **THE AGE DUNCAN (nee Francome) Nancy** Aged 97 years **DUNLOP Mary. EDWARDS Daniel John Paul, THE AGE**

EVES Peter Alan FARRELL Mary Anne FINLEY Wendy Ann

FOSTER Anthony John 12.01.1953-25.05.2017. Husband to Chrissie, father of Emma, Katie and Aimee. Anthony was a tireless and positive campaigner for all those who sought justice, a kind and dignified man who remained committed to defending the rights of victims of (Church) abuse. He was a member of the Funds in Court Human Rights Advisory Committee 2014-16 and an Ambassador for Funds in Court. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace. Condolences to his family. Funds in Court, **THE AGE**

FLANNERY Sr Fances RSM, THE AGE GILLOT Andrew (Andy) GILMARTIN Yvonne Margaret GOODERHAM Jane Webb Roche. GOLDBLATT Dr Merwyn 13.05.1932—13.06.2017, **THE AGE**

GURR Michael, THE AGE HALL Kerri The Board and Staff of State Library Victoria acknowledge with much sadness the passing of Kerri Hall, **THE**

AGE. HAGERTY Brother Paschal F.S.C (Richard Michael) Born in Orange, NSW, 8 June 1933, aged 83 **HAJNCL Otokar (Otto). HAMMOND Rosalind Maida, HARDING Iris** 81 years.

HAWKER (nee MYERS) Noelle Isabelle, THE AGE

HEWISON Richard Ian, THE AGE HOLLONDS (need Hall) Grace Patricia (Pat)

HOLLINGSWORTH Margaret (Mothy). HUMFFRAY (nee Gannaway) Sylvia Veronica 12.10.1922—2.6.2017, **THE AGE JONES Philip, JUST Norman John KEEN-SALTMARSH Ariel Alder**

MACGILL Trevor Noal Brian Aged 92. **MACUMBER Trevor, 77. MADDEN Rita Frances MAIN Allan David, Dr. Thomas,**

MANNING (nee Gow) Jade Ebonee MATINGA Jilane Bernadette MATHER Arthur Richard MATTHEWS William James (Bill)

MACK Colin Passed away peacefully at Port Fairy Hospital on 4th June 2017, **McALLISTOR Andrew McMillian McCONVILLE David Douglas (Doug) THE AGE**

McDONALD SMITH John McDONELL Beatrice Alethea (Betty) Passed away peacefully on Friday 2nd June 2017, **THE AGE. McGUIRE John Marshall**

McKENZIE Stanley Bruce OAM. An inspirational and selfless leader and friend in our community, especially through Rotary & the Box Hill Chamber of Commerce. **McKINLEY Brian, McFARLANE William John** 06.10.1933—10.06.2017 **MENTHA Henry ('Harry') Percival, THE AGE MOUNTSTEPHEN Nicholas, THE AGE**

MORRIS Lesley, THE AGE MORRISON Dr. Estelle Rita. O'LEARY John Joseph Late of Yea. Formerly of Tocumwal. Passed away peacefully in Yea Hospital, **THE AGE. ORGILL Dr William (Bill) PATTERSON Edgar Graham (Bill). PERRY Patricia Beatrice (Pat)**

PETERS Lila. PITT June. RAWLINSON William Robert, THE AGE RAY Margaret Elizabeth Margaret, wonderful friend, always forthright and clear, **THE AGE RICHARDSON Michael O'Byrne** of Noosa Heads formerly of Melbourne.

ROBERTS Nan (Nancy) Passed away after a good innings of 95 years, **THE AGE**

ROSS (nee Friday) Freda Jean 05.10.1924—18.04.2017 in Surrey U.K, **THE AGE**

SEYBOLD Wal Fond memories, violets, and all that jazz au revoir Wal—Love Di, **THE AGE Dr Maxwell Shavitsky.**

SMITH Bryan Gilbert. ROSE Betty Cecile Dorothea. SHAW (nee Epps) Mary Winifred Jean. SHEEHAN Shayne Gerard 26.6.1952—26.5.2017, **THE AGE. STANDALOFT (nee Jordan) Janice (Jan) Anne, THE AGE**

STUBBS Colin President of the Essendon Football Club in the late 1970's, **STUBBINGS (nee Robson) Dawn Hazeldene. TASSICKER Owen** The President and members of the Rotary Club of Balwyn are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Owen Tassicker, **THE AGE. THOMPSON Kenneth (Ken) Francis, THE AGE**

TONKIN A.C (Allan) A tribute to our esteemed colleague Allan who dedicated his time to helping others, **THE AGE. TONKINSON Gordon Stanley. WADE James Peter** The world has lost a talented composer, musician and photographer, **THE AGE. WESTCOT Keith George**

WHITE AO Robert James (Bob). WILLIAMS (nee deGraaff) Lois Isabel, 92

A young Victorian soldier killed on a live-firing exercise. Private **Jason Challis, 25**, during exercises at Mt Bunday training area, 130km southeast of Darwin, **HERALD SUN.**



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