

# LETTER FROM MELBOURNE

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## **INSIDE**

<b>Labor's election platform. Class warfare</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Prout Review. New anti-corruption body..</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Population plan. Regional focus</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bicycle sharing with hats</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Bushfire debate concluding</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bracks AO</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Myki slowly arriving'ish</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>DLP in strife</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Windsor suite still in the news</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Overland phone conversations</b>	<b>15</b>

**Roy Morgan ranks Federal Electorates by Important Concerns –  
Law & Order, Education, Consumer Confidence & the Self-Employed.**

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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, you only have to miss reading the *The Age* or *The Herald Sun* twice a week to need Letter From Melbourne. It's more about business opportunities (or lack of them) than politics. It's not Crikey.com. We keep the words to a minimum.

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## EDITORIAL: COUNTING ON OUR GOOD GOVERNANCE

The federal political scene has captured the attention of the media over the past fortnight. But there is plenty of groundwork being laid for the Victorian election on 27 November. Transport, safety and police, regional Victoria and health services will have perfect/similar electoral offerings by the Brumby government and the Baillieu alternative.

**The front cover** this month illustrates the need to be aware that after the state election there will be ambulances absolutely everywhere. So be careful, of promises and reality.

For a rounded view on perceptions of the coming Victorian, and federal, elections, try reading both *The Age* and *The Australian* for quite distinct coverage and opinions. This includes Victorian issues of leadership, government, transport and the police.

Watch the Proust inquiry into the current anti-corruption regime, as a range of stakeholders and opinion-formers will be having their say in the months ahead. What will be the final model? Somewhat related to the purpose of this inquiry are several Victorian police matters, which as mentioned above, are being quite widely canvassed across the spectrum of media. The Melbourne Storm (rugby league team) directors will, via present legal proceedings, bring some transparency to an important off-field sports event.

The new prime minister, and a couple of (Victorian) ministers in particular key portfolios will no doubt bring additional opportunities to Victorian stakeholders.



### ABOUT THE EDITOR ALISTAIR URQUHART

Alistair Urquhart graduated from the Australian National University in Canberra, in Law, History and Politics, was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and remains a (non-practicing) member of the Law Institute of Victoria. Before that, he graduated from high school in Bethesda, Maryland, and had many opportunities to become aware of the workings of Washington DC.

For 30 years, he listened every Sunday evening to the late Alistair Cooke and his *Letter From America*. His 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.

His public affairs firm works with many engineering and information technology firms, other professional association and industry groups, on a wide range of issues, in Victoria, Canberra and overseas. Urquhart visits Canberra regularly. He may hold the record for miles rowed on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin.

### INDEX

<b>STATE GOVERNMENT &amp; POLITICS</b>	3	<b>JUSTICE</b>	10
<b>THE BUSHFIRES</b>	5	<b>MELBOURNE</b>	16
<b>ARTS</b>	6	<b>GEELONG</b>	19
<b>DOCKLANDS</b>	6	<b>PLANNING &amp; BUILDING</b>	19
<b>EDUCATION</b>	6	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	20
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	7	<b>SPORT</b>	21
CONSERVATION	7	<b>TOURISM</b>	21
ENERGY	8	<b>TRANSPORT</b>	22
WATER	8	RAIL	22
<b>GAMING</b>	9	ROAD. PEDESTRIANS	22
<b>HEALTH</b>	9	AIR	23
<b>INVESTMENT</b>	10	<b>PORTS</b>	23
BUSINESS	10	<b>THE WORKPLACE</b>	23
AGRICULTURE. REGIONAL	10	IR	23
		<b>COMMUNITY</b>	23

## STATE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### Who'll win

The polls show a close race in Victoria, unlike our neighbours over the Murray where the Liberal opposition with leader Barry O'Farrell is well in front. The Australian newspaper explains the policies, people and government administration very differently than *The Age*, saying Victorian voters are fed up with the same party, faces and people.

### Rewriting the Constitution

The *Age* reported that Labor's draft policy platform for the November election reveals a plan to paint Premier John Brumby as the best leader to tackle the challenges caused by climate change and the rapid growth and ageing of Victoria's population. Labor strategists also plan to step up their 'class war' against Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu by highlighting his privileged background and depicting him as out of touch with the needs of everyday Victorians. The 176-page platform, distributed to party activists and union leaders, says Labor will conduct a plebiscite to demonstrate support for an Australian head of state, and will initiate an appropriate referendum on a republic. Labour says it will seek cross-party support to rewrite the Constitution to make it a readable and accessible document for all Victorians. Signaling the prospect of a pre-election 'class war', ALP state secretary Nick Reece said in a note to party members being sent the draft platform: 'Our values are not the same as the Liberals and the Nationals – Labor is about a fair and egalitarian society. Only Labor understands that there is a gap between rich and poor in Australia, and government must play a role.'

### Rural proof

*The Australian* reported that the Victorian Labor has sought to rural-proof its party platform and re-election prospects with a proposed requirement that every Cabinet decision take into account the impact on people in the bush and rural centres. Rural-proofing is a phrase well known in New Zealand and British political circles but, according to ALP state secretary **Nick Reece**, new to Australian politics. As it is explained in the policy platform (see above), rural proofing compels a Labor government to identify implications of policies for rural communities, take into account any significant differences between how policies will work in town and country and to develop policies that target areas of special need outside Melbourne. A great concept!

### Blowing in the wind

The *Herald Sun* reported that the Labor Party has sanctioned a series of ads to undermine Opposition Leader **Ted Baillieu's** position six months out from the state election. The Opposition Leader is accused of policy 'about turns' on wind farms, desalination and bay dredging. This comes as Premier **John Brumby** accused the Opposition of destroying Victoria's wind farm industry. The Opposition plans to ban wind farms being built within 2 kilometres of houses in national parks, growth corridors and tourist zones if it wins government. Brumby says the policies have

put business operators off side and would send jobs interstate.

### Knocking and blocking

Labor's 2010 election promises include a \$50m-a-year pledge to boost wages for low-paid workers and a concerted attack on Liberal leader **Ted Baillieu**. Setting the scene for a class-war election, Brumby said the Liberals would govern only for the big end of town, whereas Labor would increase salaries for tens of thousands community service work groups such as Yooralla, Anglicare and the Salvation Army. Brumby told an ALP state conference that the choice for voters was between his positive vision of the future and the Coalition's chorus of negativity, knocking and blocking, *The Age* reported.

### Interesting...

More than three in four members of a western suburbs Labor Party branch at the centre of branch stacking allegations, Albion, have failed to renew their party memberships, *The Age* reported. Sources said that 81 of about 107 members of the Albion branch, where party whistleblower **Costas Socratous** used to be secretary, had not renewed this year. The Albion dropouts were among about 200 party members in the federal electorate of Gorton, out of a total of about 1000, who did not renew their memberships by the May 31 deadline.

### Pardon?

On the opinion pages of *The Age*, state political editor **Paul Austin** wrote that for the first time in 10 years, voters might have stopped listening to Brumby. That's why the 'So over this premier' message to the ABC's **Jon Faine**, after a long interview with Brumby, should send a shiver down the Labor spine.

### How do you like your grilling?

Ministers and public servants will face more frequent, inquisitorial style grilling, whoever wins the November state election, under proposed new scrutiny measures, *The Age* reported. Labour, the opposition and the Greens have given their backing to the new Parliamentary committee system, modelled on the federal Senate and widening the powers to quiz ministers, examine legislation and force public servants to give evidence before Parliament. The move came as Premier **John Brumby** received a review of Victoria's anticorruption integrity bodies (see Justice). The new structure would create committees in the areas of the economy and infrastructure, environment and planning, and legal and social issues, with each to probe legislation, reports and the performance of government departments as well as having the power to launch inquiries.

### Lobby hobby

The number of lobbyists on Victoria's official register has more than tripled in seven months, leading to calls for tighter rules and greater transparency covering their activities. The register now has 65 companies and individuals listed. When Premier **John Brumby** announced the creation of the register in December there were just 21 lobbyists listed. Opposition scrutiny of government spokesman **David Davis** said it was coalition policy to introduce a ban on success fees for

lobbyists working to win government contracts. Greens MP **Greg Barber** called for a ban on lobbyists meeting with the Planning Minister, *The Age* reported.

### Diffusing the population

The *Herald Sun* reported that improving infrastructure and boosting visitor numbers to Victoria's villages and towns will be some of the major initiatives in the Government's push to win votes in regional areas. Premier **John Brumby** unveiled a major five-year plan for regional areas aimed at spreading wealth across the whole state. In the first part of a major push for regional votes, Brumby set up a \$36m tourism promotion campaign to boost tourist hubs in Daylesford, Sorrento, Kyneton, Barwon Heads and Rutherglen. Residents of Barwon Heads might think this is an attempt to make up for the Barwon Heads' new bridges debacle!

### Furthermore

Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and the Latrobe Valley will be earmarked for population booms over the next 15 years in a bid to ease some of the growing pains evident on Melbourne's clogged roads and overcrowded trains, under a \$631m, five-year population plan unveiled by Premier **John Brumby**. The centrepiece is \$110m tertiary education package, for new student accommodation and TAFE and university facilities, in a bid to stem the brain drain and encourage more young people to study and stay in regional cities and rural towns. The heritage coastal towns of Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula and Port Fairy on the southwest coast, as well as 90 Mile Beach in Gippsland, will get millions of dollars in grants to help prevent them losing their charm as 'sea changers' move in. A multi-million-dollar advertising campaign funded by taxpayers will support the plan, with prime-time TV ads urging Melburnians to make a new life in provincial Victoria.

A new **Council of Victorian Governments**, chaired by the Premier and including regional city mayors and the state's 38 rural councils, will be set up to coordinate the scheme. The regional blueprint is designed to reduce the threats to Melbourne's liveability caused by the city's population boom, and to limit the prospects of a revolt against Labor in marginal regional seats at the state election. Brumby launched the policy in Ballarat before embarking on a selling tour of provincial centres. He said that regional Victoria's population was already growing at its highest rate since 1982, *The Age* reported. The plan includes the scrapping of 400 Melbourne-based jobs in state government departments and agencies and relocating them to Bendigo, Ballarat and Moe.

### Beauty pageant policy

*The Age* reported that advertisers would be barred from portraying women in an exploitative or discriminatory way, under a 'pro-women' policy Victorian Labor is expected to take to the election. Under the plan, discussion of positive presentation of women in the media would be incorporated into primary and secondary school curriculums in Victoria, and the ad industry would be encouraged to declare when an image had been digitally altered to enhance a woman's breast size or reduce her

waist or thighs. Advertisers will strongly resist plans to regulate against allegedly exploitative or discriminatory depictions of women in the media, according to industry experts who say that a national code already exists. Advertising is regulated by an industry code that prevents advertising that discriminates against women. It is alleged breaches of this Australian Association of National Advertisers' code forms the basis of consumer complaints.

**Like the West Wing, kind of**

The Labor state conference in June was broadcast on Foxtel's public affairs channel, or APAC, which televised the key speeches, the first time the conference has been televised. VCE politics students were invited to the conference and had the chance to meet Premier **John Brumby** and federal Finance Minister **Lindsay Tanner**, who delivered the keynote addresses. Likening the broadcast to the screening of US political conferences, Victorian ALP secretary **Nick Reece** welcomed the scrutiny and feedback of the students, *The Age* reported.

**Stamp remover**

The Opposition is considering removing stamp duty for first-home buyers in a move that would wipe more than \$23,000 off the average price of a Melbourne house. The Coalition is pondering axing the unpopular levy ahead of the November election. The *Financial Review* reported that the proposal to exempt first home buyers from paying stamp duty would deplete the state's coffers by more than \$500m a year, according to government analysis.

**Confusing or not?**

*The Age* reported the Attorney-General **Rob Hulls** said he would soon unveil a bill to Parliament that gave the Victorian Electoral Commission the power to automatically enrol 18-year-olds without their consent or the need to fill in a form. The move follows similar legislation in New South Wales and means both states are now out of kilter with the federal role. As a result, young voters in Victoria must still fill out a form to be enrolled to vote in this year's federal election.

**Missed it by that much**

*The Herald Sun* reported that each outgoing frontbencher at this year's state election is entitled to as much as \$120,000 a year in pension payments – and backbenchers \$70,000 a year – after serving a minimum of eight years in office. But for many current Victorian parliamentarians, the November 27 poll comes two days short of the eight year threshold.

**Cocktail shaker**

*The Age* reported that the Government is preparing for a shake-up of licence fees and regulations for bottle shops. The changes are expected to address anomalies such as small bottle shops paying twice the licence fees of bulk retailers such as Dan Murphy's. Consumer Affairs Minister **Tony Robinson** has told a parliamentary committee that packaged liquor outlets would be next in line under the Government's alcohol regulation reforms. 'Packaged liquor is the most problematic area in licensing, not just in Victoria but elsewhere,' he said. 'About 75 per cent of all the alcohol consumed comes from packaged liquor outlets.' *The Herald Sun* reported that there may be a large fee hike in a bid to cut operating hours, with the government considering plans to reduce the number of outlets staying open until 11 pm.

**Nearby**

*The Herald Sun* reported that new figures show thousands of breaches of liquor license conditions this year, and a worrying 55 criminal investigations continuing. New Liquor Licensing director **Mark Brennan**, who started the job after the spotlight was fixed on booze fuelled violence, said there were too many venue operators ignorant of their responsibilities. He wants a new compliance training course to be tested for first-time licensees.

**Meanwhile**

Pubs and clubs across Victoria were granted early-morning liquor licences to stay open for World Cup matches with extra police and public transport officers on duty to deal with unruly behaviour, *The Age* reported. It also reported that

several pubs and clubs claim a freeze, introduced by the Department of Justice and Director of Liquor Licensing midway through 2008 on granting licences after 1am or 3am, has made it difficult for them to stay open for Australia's early morning matches.

**A card on her birthday**

Former Premier **Steve Bracks** received the highest Queen's Birthday honour, the Companion of the Order of Australia. He said he regarded the establishment of marine national parks, giving more powers to the Upper House of the State Parliament and set-term elections as his three biggest achievements in power, the *Herald Sun* reported. *The Australian* reported that he was recognised for his eminent service to the Parliament and the community of Victoria through reform of the constitutional and electoral systems, the introduction of initiatives to education and training, leadership in the promotion of multiculturalism and through economic development.

**Mulholland drive**

**Peter Kavanagh** and **John Mulholland** emerged from the 2006 state election thinking that they were winners, with a seat each for the socially conservative Democratic Labor Party. Mulholland lost on a recount and has since gone on to almost destroy the party, *The Age* reported. The DLP in Victoria is on its knees, with less than \$10,000 in the bank, and police are investigating the disappearance of potentially tens of thousands of dollars, linked to Mulholland, who continues to maintain that he is the rightful party secretary. The party's true secretary is **Kevin Butler**. Meanwhile, most political pundits believe the DLP is unlikely to win any upper house seats in the next election without Labor preferences, which at this stage are more likely to go to the Greens. Many felt the party was dead until Kavanagh was elected to the western Victoria region in 2006 on the back of Labor preferences (he had only 2.6 per cent of the vote). The Victorian Electoral Commission and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal recognise Butler as the party's official state secretary. The Supreme

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Court has also granted an injunction stopping Mulholland from describing himself as secretary and signing cheques on behalf of the party. But Mulholland is continuing his fight by taking the VEC and Butler back to the Supreme Court.

#### Lucky they don't keep guns in the house

The *Herald Sun* reported that Upper House Liberal leader **David Davis** and Upper House president **Bob Smith** are on a collision course over claims that up to five Parliamentary drivers have refused to work with Davis.

#### A functioning democracy

It's a wonder how any democracy would function properly without an Auditor-General. In May and June alone, eleven Auditor-General's reports arrived on **Letter from Melbourne's** desk, including *Control of Invasive Plants and Animals in Victoria's Parks*; *Partnering with the Community Sector in Human Services and Health*; *Administration of the Victorian Certificate of Education*; *Personal Safety and Security on the Metropolitan Train System*; *Managing Teacher Performance in Government Schools*; *Tertiary Education and Other Entities: Results of the 2009 Audits*; *Access to Social Housing*; *Managing the Requirements for Disclosing Private Sector Contracts*; and *The Community Building Initiative*. These reports are quite independent and provide a feast for the Opposition, the media, interest groups and the community at large.

#### Up there

**Ian McDonald**, the New South Wales mineral resources minister, was forced to resign after misusing taxpayer funds on a trip to Dubai in 2008. His exit followed the resignation earlier in the day of juvenile justice minister **Graham West** who quit amid reports that he was angry about the government's neglect of his portfolio, the *Financial Review* reported.



**MARK BRENNAN**

As the Director of Liquor Licensing I am responsible for furthering the goals of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998, and harm minimisation will be a paramount consideration to help ensure Victoria has a vibrant, but responsible, drinking culture.

In accepting this position, it is my intention to improve the accountability, transparency and appropriateness of decision making in liquor regulation.

It is also my intention to emphasise the importance of education and information to participants in the liquor industry. It is my view that if licensees are appropriately educated and informed about their obligations, they will find it easier to comply with the requirements of their liquor licence.

The contribution of licensees makes Victoria one of the world's most liveable, attractive and prosperous areas for residents, businesses and visitors and I will strive to achieve a balance that minimises alcohol-related harm but supports the contribution of the liquor, hospitality and tourism industries.

## THE BUSHFIRES

#### A big class-action

Lawyers acting for Black Saturday fire victims lodged legal documents in Victoria's biggest class-action, alleging a private power company was responsible for a blaze that cost 119 lives. The statement of claim, lodged in the Supreme Court, alleges international electricity provider Singapore Power, which owns the power distributor SP AusNet, failed to monitor and maintain the power line that caused the East Kilmore blaze. One of the key planks to the case is the allegation that an ageing 1.1 kilometre line failed because the power company refused to fit a \$10 plastic anti-vibration protector to guard against metal fatigue, *The Age* reported. The company is expected to spread the blame to the Country Fire Authority and the state government, by joining government agencies as co-defendants, in an attempt to reduce its potentially massive legal liability.

#### Taking the cash in confusion

The *Herald Sun* reported that fewer than one in 20 homes destroyed in the Black Saturday fires has been rebuilt and ready for occupancy, as victims struggle with delayed construction projects and decisions about whether to rebuild. A high number of those who lost their homes (2,133 were destroyed) in the fires have chosen to take their insurance payouts in cash. Insurance Council of Australia figures show 93 per cent of the 10,280 claims arising from the fires are being paid out in cash, a total of just over \$1b. The insurance industry has concerns that many victims are unsure about their long-term plans.

#### Hindsight's 20/20

Criticisms of the performance of Country Fire Authority chief officer **Russell Rees** on Black Saturday were a classic example of apportioning blame with the benefit of hindsight, **Julian Burnside, QC**, told the Bushfires Royal Commission in a sustained defence of Rees during the commission's final hearing day, *The Age* reported. The truth of this, and many other claims, will be decided by Bushfire Royal Commissioner **Bernie Teague**, who will also adjudicate on far



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more important matters – such as how to improve readiness to deal with deadly bushfires in the future.

**Difficult anniversary**

The *Herald Sun* reported that **Christine Nixon** is unhappy with the leaking of damning commentary by counsel assisting the Bushfires Royal Commission. The Government is angry because it has lost control of the debate. And the commissioners are cross because the leaked submission creates the perception that they have taken their hands off the wheel. In fact, the end of the royal commission process was always going to be a difficult anniversary for anyone connected with the fires. Nixon strongly denied she had deliberately misled the commission, as her legal team warned the claims were without substance.

**Incompetent**

On the opinion pages of *The Age*, **Paul Austin**, the paper’s state political editor, wrote that the Government’s claims of competence over bushfires are being devastated. The Brumby government failed Victorians before, during and after the worst natural disaster in the state’s history. The *Herald Sun* reported that Victorians were abandoned during the state’s worst disaster by catastrophic failures in leadership on Black Saturday.

**Equip the men on the ground**

The *Herald Sun* reported that as debate continues over bushfire prevention policies and government reaction to Black Saturday, fire-fighters are still crying out for basic equipment like pagers and first-aid training. Kangaroo Ground CFA captain **Peter Grant** said he was still angry at the lack of attention given to properly equipping fire-fighters. His unit went out and spent a few hundred dollars buying their own pagers.

**ARTS**

**A cut lunch for the queue**

In *The Age*, **Marcus Westbury** wrote about *The Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition* – brought to us by

the Victorian Major Events Company, Museum Victoria, **Michael Gudinski’s** Frontier Events and Premier Exhibitions USA – that arrived at the Melbourne Museum in late May and is one of many new corporate for-profit museum shows that walk a very fine line between museum exhibition and theme park. While great for attendance figures, they often raise some complex ethical questions for our public institutions. The *Titanic* show in particular raises a deeper question about striking a balance between integrity and marketing, particularly when presented in public institutions. The commercialisation of the tragedy sits a little uncomfortably also. Blockbuster shows may bring huge numbers of tourists to Victoria through our big institutions, but it would sit much more comfortably if there was not a niggling concern that we are stretching our integrity to accommodate them.

**It’s a grand old flag**

*The Age* reported that the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra has turned to playing AFL club songs in a bid to put bums on seats. Purists might balk, but the MSO will play medleys of ditties more often sung by out of tune players and fans after a win. *Good Old Collingwood Forever, We’re a Happy Team at Hawthorn* and *We Are Geelong* feature in Sporting Scores! at Hamer Hall on June 19 and 20. The MSO will also play the instrumental themes from films *Chariots of Fire*, *Rocky* and *Phar Lap*. **David Kram**, a conductor and senior fellow at the University of Melbourne’s school of music, said he was surprised the MSO hadn’t thought of football songs before.

**Masterful**

The *Herald Sun* reported that *Masterchef* has transformed itself into a \$100m industry. Attracting almost 2,000,000 viewers a night, Ten’s smash hit has moved into a new realm of advertising clout, earning the tag of ‘the most powerful television show in Australia’. The six-nights-a-week ratings bonanza has built itself into a juggernaut on the back of advertising revenue, product placement and merchandising.

**More masters**

The Stadel Museum (Germany) *European Masters 19th-20th Century* is showing at the **NGV International**, 19 June to 10 October, as part of the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series, [www.ngv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au).

**Into the fire**

A Facebook campaign has convinced British actor, comedian, television star and avid tweeter **Stephen Fry** to perform in Melbourne in July. Fry, 52, the popular host of quiz show *QI (Quite Interesting)*, which screens on ABC on Tuesday nights, had planned to do just two (sold-out) shows at the Sydney Opera House on July 27 and 28. But the campaign ‘Dear Stephen Fry, please come to Melbourne in July, not just Sydney’, which attracted 1,306 members, helped change his mind, *The Age* reported.

**Crime our cultural export**

*The Age* reported that Channel 9’s *Underbelly* franchise is set to get an American makeover, with US cable channel Starz announcing it has bought the rights to produce its own version of the show.

**Jurgen performed**

Melbourne-based organ soloist **David Macfarlane**, Director of Music at All Saints’ Anglican Church, East St Kilda and Organist at Newman College, gave his debut concert performance on the Melbourne Town Hall Grand Organ, on June 16. The concert featured sonatas from **Mendelssohn** and **Rheinberger** and by current German composer **Jurgen Essl**. It was part of the City of Melbourne Grand Organ events, [www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/grandorgan](http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/grandorgan).

**Held to ransom**

The *Herald Sun* reported the chief executive of the Sydney Opera House, **Richard Evans**, confirmed that it may have to close permanently if state and federal governments do not come up with \$800m to replace stage machinery.

**Get there**

There was a great advert in *The Weekend Australian* for Melbourne’s Arts district, [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com).

**DOCKLANDS**

**The wheel turns, figuratively of course**

Melbourne City Council is poised to wipe out \$936,687 in rate bills charged to Harbour Town Shopping Centre because the anchor tenants of the Docklands precinct have been unable to attract an income since the Southern Star Observation Wheel broke and was shut down in January last year, only weeks after it opened, the *Herald Sun* reported.

**EDUCATION**

**Seven-up**

The Government has not shown whether the quality of teaching has improved in state schools despite a seven-year campaign, says the Auditor-General, **Des Pearson**. In an audit into whether teaching is improving, Pearson said the Education Department was not assessing how well schools evaluated teachers and thus could not be certain that it was achieving its aim of improving teaching. The audit comes after a report by the **Grattan Institute** found

that more than 90 per cent of Australian teachers felt they would not get recognition if they improved, *The Age* reported.

### Forward to the past

*The Age* reported that the government's delay in building new schools in inner suburbs could lead to sudden overcrowding, with more than 4,000 additional primary school-aged students expected to be jostling for desk space in 2016. Docklands, Southbank, Port Melbourne, Coburg, Northcote, Brunswick and Preston are expected to be placed under the greatest pressure from the rising numbers. Education Department spokesman **Nick Higgins** said a report looking at school facilities and education needs in central Melbourne was underway, and the department had not ruled out building additional schools in inner Melbourne suburbs.

### What bullies become

A \$27m merger of two schools is in crisis after Thomastown Secondary College withdrew its support, amid allegations of government bullying. Thomastown school council voted to walk away from the amalgamation with Peter Lalor Secondary College because of concerns over state funding. School council member **Shane Burke** also complained to the Ombudsman over the bullying and intimidation he says the school received – despite the government publicly vowing that, unlike the Kennett government, it would never force schools to merge, *The Age* reported. Education Minister **Bronwyn Pike** met with the two schools to discuss their differences.

### Nothing

The Government has again refused to detail the costs of implementing the Building the Education Revolution program in Victoria, rejecting a Freedom of Information request on individual school project costs, *The Australian* reported.

### You do the maths

The *Herald Sun* reported that since last July, 45 schools have merged to form 21, bringing the number of mergers since Labor took power in 1999 to 144, according to the latest Education Department figures. The Government says the mergers were voluntary but the opposition accuses it of a sham consultation process. Liberal education spokesman **Martin Dixon** said the Government was merging and closing schools with little or no public consultation.

### Nearby

A \$200,000 basketball stadium built at Black Rock Primary School under the federal stimulus program does not comply with building regulations and so cannot be used for anything but storage, *The Age* reported. School council member **Mandy Grogan** says the school is in breach of the law and has put the safety of children at risk by using the stadium for sports lessons. Black Rock Primary received \$200,000 from the federal government to extend the school hall and build a gymnasium. However, an inspector from The Bayside City Council said the stadium only had a building permit for a class 10a building – 'a non-habitable building being a private

garage, carport, shed or the like – under the Building Code of Australia.

### What's happening?

The **Education and Training Committee** is conducting an inquiry into the Administration of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution Program in Victoria and invites submissions, etc@parliament.vic.gov.au.

### Consequences

Tough new immigration rules for foreign students are impacting on Australia's economy, with more than 125,000 fewer international students expected to come in the next 12 months, costing more than 31,000 jobs nationwide. Immigration Department figures of new visa applications suggests Victoria, the state that is most reliant on foreign students, will be hardest hit, with 40,250 fewer students in the next year. Modelling by Access Economics suggests this will cost 10,100 jobs in Victoria and put a \$1.17b hole in the states' export income, more than a quarter of the total value of the state's biggest export industry, *The Age* reported.

### Virtual education

The Education Department has been forced to scrap part of its \$77m virtual classroom project after the Privacy Commissioner raised concerns about children chatting on Facebook-style pages. The ultranet – an online network that will give parents round-the-clock access to their children's lessons, homework, results and attendance – will be rolled out in every state school in Victoria by September. The department has ditched plans for every student to have a so-called 'eXpress landing page', which would have allowed them to chat using Facebook-style message walls, *The Age* reported.

### Pay them to stay in school

The *Herald Sun* reported that a Coalition government would fine parents who keep their children from school without a good excuse. Figures show absenteeism is rampant in many state schools. In the worst cases, students are missing for an average of one day in four. Whilst a truancy fine of \$116 a day exists, it is believed it has never been enforced. Opposition education spokesman **Martin Dixon** said the law was a toothless tiger because the government had watered down school disciplinary procedures.

### iPhone app

*The Age* reported that exam rules should be reviewed to prevent Victorian Certificate of Education students cheating by using mobile phones and other electronic devices, according to the acting Auditor-General.

### Who is Rasputin?

Victorian history teachers say the national curriculum downgrades Australian History and may lead to the elimination of Revolutions, the state's most popular year 12 history course. The History Teachers Association of Victoria has written to curriculum authorities to express concerns over the draft senior secondary curriculum, which was released in mid-May. It fears the subjects will be cut with the

introduction of the national year 12 subjects because of an overlap in content, *The Age* reported.

### Duster

Every Aboriginal secondary school student will have an individualised education and career plan under a strategy to close the employment gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Victorians by 2023. Deputy premier **Rob Hulls** will hail the commitment as a historic break from past policies and an end to the 'yes, minister' practice of releasing reports on indigenous policy and leaving them to gather dust!!!

### Punish them

A trial of paying teachers annual bonuses of up to \$6000 is underway in Victorian government schools to assess whether rewarding quality teachers improves their effectiveness and their students' performance, *The Australian* reported.

### Into the future

The *Herald Sun* reported that Brighton Grammar School has had an iPad for two months as part of a research project on e-learning. The school's community education director, **John Phillips**, said that the long-term goal was to phase out textbooks. 'With the one device we've replaced textbooks, we've replaced the student diary, we've replaced the need for a graphics calculator,' he said. Phillips said that a Melbourne IT firm and senior students were working on education applications to deliver course material through the iPad.

### A good job

The **Victorian Institute of Teaching** seeks a chief executive officer, [www.kathleentownsend.com.au](http://www.kathleentownsend.com.au).

## ENVIRONMENT

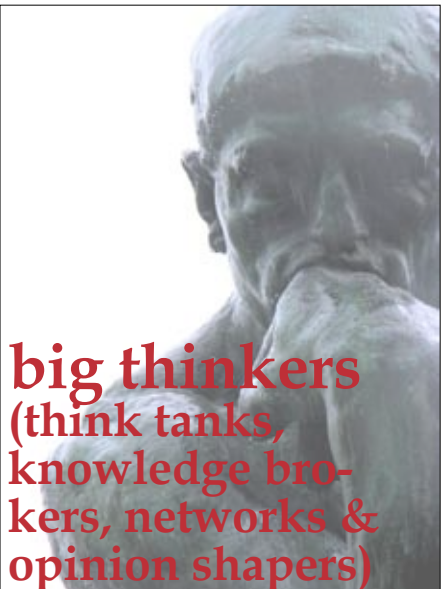
### CONSERVATION

### Disappointing

The state government has been criticised for proposing legislation to tackle climate change that does not include new steps to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and ignores a pre-2006 election pledge to force emissions cuts for coal-fired power stations. Despite a pledge to introduce a landmark climate change bill, a draft circulated at Spring Street includes only one new measure that could lead to emissions cuts – a requirement that some ministers must show they have considered the greenhouse impact when designing new policy, *The Age* reported.

### Nearby

The *Herald Sun* reported that former Australian of the Year **Tim Flannery** has attacked the government for failing on the environment, saying it is taking no meaningful steps to address climate change. In a comment he made before delivering his speech in the annual Alfred Deakin Lecture series in Melbourne, the scientist said Premier **John Brumby's** government was a fraud for claiming to be green.



## big thinkers (think tanks, knowledge brokers, networks & opinion shapers)

The 2009 edition of Affairs of State's latest publication Big Thinkers (thing tanks, knowledge brokers, networks & opinion shapers) has just been launched by historian Geoffrey Blainey.

Big Thinkers is the only comprehensive and accurate guide to think tanks, thinking/ideas organisations and opinion shapers in Australia.

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### Hmmm. Is BP involved?

The Government has approved seismic exploration for oil and gas in Victoria's Bay of Islands Coastal Park (which contains the Twelve Apostles). Environment Minister **Gavin Jennings** has granted approval for the gas company to begin exploration from October. Drilling for oil and gas is prohibited in marine national parks, but if the seismic testing finds reserves, Origin Energy could be able to access the site from outside the park, the *Herald Sun* reported.

### Carbon down, would you!

Sustainability Victoria and the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry have formed a climate change partnership called Carbon Down. They ran an advertisement suggesting people visit [www.whatcanidorightnow.com.au](http://www.whatcanidorightnow.com.au) as a way of assessing options to reduce your business' carbon footprint, improve sustainability performance and help the environment.

### Life's a national park

**Parks Victoria** seeks a chief executive officer, [www.sladegroup.com.au](http://www.sladegroup.com.au).

## ENERGY

### Power to the people

The *Financial Review* reported that electricity distribution companies in Victoria are seeking large price increases in the Australian Energy Regulator's draft decision, in a move that could ultimately push up power prices for businesses and consumers. According to calculations from the Energy Users Association of Australia, based on proposals from the companies to the regulator, the distribution network price before inflation could increase by as much as 81 per cent, compounded to 2015, in the example provided by SP AusNet. This could translate into a 32 per cent price increase, excluding inflation, over five years for its customers simply due to increased network costs, the Energy Users Association of Australia said. Distribution businesses Jemena, SP AusNet, United Energy, Citipower and Powercor Australia are covered by the review. The same paper later reported that the distribution companies were disappointed by the AER's draft determination which could see residential bills in the state drop next year. The regulator's proposal would see capital expenditure over the next five years cut by CitiPower (46 per cent), Powercor Australia (36 per cent) and SP AusNet (30.5 per cent). The AER rejected proposals for \$2b in capital and operating expenditure by Victoria's five privately owned distribution network service providers. Because approved network expenditure is linked directly to electricity prices, the regulator's rejection of the spending proposals will lower electricity prices for Victorian customers in 2011 – by an average of \$28 against a typical annual bill of \$1,200 – then let them drift up by an average of \$52.

### The most pollutinest

Federal Labor MP **Kelvin Thomson** has backed calls for the Federal Government to intervene to help close Australia's dirtiest power station, the Hazelwood power plant in the Latrobe Valley. The member for

Wills in Melbourne's north praised a report that suggests Hazelwood could be replaced by 2012 at a cost of about \$320m a year. Thomson told Parliament there was a case for the Commonwealth and Victorian governments to help negotiate an early close with the plant owners, International Power, *The Age* reported.

### Smart procedures

Energy retailers have started sending letters to houses telling consumers when the new smart meters will be installed and the old electricity meters removed from properties. When the smart meters are installed the companies will need to turn the power off at the consumer's property for about 30-60 minutes. In some instances power may be off for longer. They are also advertising in the newspapers, [www.citipower.com.au/smartmeters](http://www.citipower.com.au/smartmeters), [www.powercor.com.au/smartmeters](http://www.powercor.com.au/smartmeters). Ignore government statements that this process has been put on hold.

### Will they know when we're thinking up witty headlines?

Power companies will be able to track when we sleep, shower and are away from home with the use of electricity smart meters, Privacy Commissioner **Helen Versey** has warned. The meters, which measure electricity consumption every 30 minutes, have so far been installed at more than 150,000 homes and small businesses. They will be fitted across the whole of Victoria by the end of 2013. Versey called for strict security measures to prevent the misuse of customer details, the *Herald Sun* reported.

## WATER

### Don't tell the water

Victoria has laid out its defence of the landmark High Court challenge to its water policies from South Australia by claiming that the trade of water entitlements over state boundaries does not constitute commerce and so is not bound by the constitution's provisions on free trade between states, the *Financial Review* reported. Victoria claims its 4 per cent cap on water trade does not breach free trade provisions. South Australia can still purchase water for environmental reasons and obtain access to it in a crisis, it says. (The short clause in the Australian Constitution section 92 says trade and commerce between the states shall be absolutely free. It is also perhaps the most litigated clause in the constitution. Call if you would like a free copy of the Australian Constitution, 9654 1300 or fax 9654 1165.)

### Hold til the rivers run dry of they have too

The Rann government believes there is a water crisis in South Australia, but refuses to ease household restrictions because a minority don't do the right thing. South Australian Water Minister **Paul Caica**, began a three-day tour of the parched Murray River system in the state's Riverland, and in Victoria and New South Wales, by defending a decision to make the government's water security commissioner a part-time position, *The Australian* reported.



### The government rain dance

Melbourne has started winter with its water storages at a four-year high, raising the chances of a second cut to water restrictions before November's state election. Water storages at the start of June were 32.7 per cent full compared with 26.3 per cent at the same time last year. Premier **John Brumby** credited much of the extra water to government water projects, including the North-South pipeline, reconnecting the Tarago reservoir and the Target 155 water saving campaign, *The Age* reported.

### Money bowl

In *The Age*, **Melissa Fyfe** reported that the \$2b irrigation project is transforming northern Victoria. But is it worth the cash – or the pain? She gives particular examples and opinions from farmers, politicians and water bureaucrats from the government. The same paper reported that Premier **John Brumby** launched a passionate defence of the upgrade of northern Victoria's irrigation system. He was responding to reports that some food bowl farmers and irrigators believed hundreds of new water meters – many costing about \$50,000 each – were being installed unnecessarily. And some farmers were being told to 'move on' as their properties would no longer have water.

### Water into milk

*The Age* reported that Sustainable Soils and Farms, a little-known company chaired by former federal MP **Neil O'Keefe**, and backed by Parliamentary colleagues **Gavan O'Connor** and **Bob Sercombe**, is buying out farms that have been irrigation based. They are looking to transform groups of heavily irrigation dependent dairy properties into water efficient farms specialising in organic milk.

### Doing for doings sake

In a critique, in the *Irrigation Efficiency Programs* report, of the \$2b food bowl modernisation and the \$750m north-south pipeline, the Auditor-General found Labor had failed to demonstrate the need for the expenditure and to properly explore alternatives, *The Age* reported. The food bowl project, the largest irrigation upgrade ever undertaken in Australia, is intended to save 225 billion litres of water a year in its first stage, with up to 75 billion litres delivered to Melbourne and the rest shared between farmers and the environment. As the state waits for the Commonwealth to sign off on a \$1b contribution to stage two of the project, critics said the auditor's report could sway Canberra to invest the money on other water saving methods. The opposition claimed the auditor's report as vindication of its long-standing criticism of the projects and called for an independent judicial inquiry. Country water resources spokesman **Peter Walsh** described the food bowl modernisation and pipeline as ill-conceived projects planned by a panicked government which, for 10 years, failed to plan for Victoria's water needs. The *Financial Review* reported that according to the Auditor-General's report the government rushed to spend the money on the water projects without knowing if it was pursuing the best option and whether the spending would deliver results.

### Trout Cod

**Environment Victoria's** Water & Healthy Rivers Bulletin (June 2010) reported that **Trout Cod** is the only Victorian freshwater fish listed as an endangered species. They are threatened by overfishing, environmental factors and introduced trout species. It also reported that it was Groundhog Day on 1 June with Premier **John Brumby** suggesting that water restrictions might again be relaxed in Melbourne, despite dam inflows being 4 per cent below average. Water Minister **Tim Holding** announced an easing of water restrictions on April 1.

## GAMING

### A bath

An editorial in the *Herald Sun* asserted that after the Government's disastrous sale of poker machine licences for \$1b less than expected, it may lose another billion if **Intralot** pulls out of Victoria. The agreement between the Greek lottery company and the Brumby government, with its forecast of \$1b in taxes over 10 years, is now looking like a lost bet. The earlier decision to carve up Victoria's poker machine licences to end the Tatts-Tabcorp duopoly saw the government take what was described by an industry expert as the biggest bath in gambling history. Driven by a similar desire to end the tatts monopoly on scratchies and lotteries, the Government deal with Intralot is under pressure with the company falling \$226m behind budget in its first year and the government missing out on the taxes.

## HEALTH

### Not good enough

Children in the care of the state have suffered further abuse and harm at the hands of the people chosen by authorities to keep them safe, an investigation by the Ombudsman has found. **George Brouwer's** report reveals cases of children being physically assaulted by foster carers and relatives who were supposed to be caring for them. Other children had limbs broken

or were knocked unconscious by residential carers, and some were physically assaulted or raped by other minors, *The Age* reported. It is unacceptable that these children were harmed when there was information available to indicate that their carers posed a risk to them, Brouwer said. An editorial in the *Herald Sun* said Community Services Minister **Lisa Neville** must be removed from a difficult portfolio.

### Tough decisions

The number of foster carers in Victoria has dropped sharply in the past decade, prompting concerns about how children at risk of abuse and neglect will be cared for in the future. Government figures show there were 1,752 registered foster carers at June last year, compared to 3,250 in June 2001. This includes carers providing long-term respite care. The figures come before a report by the Ombudsman (see above) into the state of the home care system – which includes foster care, residential care and children placed in the care of relatives. It also comes as data obtained by the Opposition under freedom of information laws indicate a continuing trend of children moving from charity care because their placements are breaking down.

### Viable or value for money?

A series of documents from the networks that run hospitals across Victoria reveal a litany of problems and dissatisfaction with the HealthSmart system, which is running four years late and \$35m over budget. The health board minutes show hospitals being left to make up funding gaps for millions of dollars, with networks writing to Health Minister **Daniel Andrews** and his department to try to find money for hidden costs. The Opposition and the Australian Medical Association said patients and doctors were losing out. The new revelations follow a 2008 auditor-general's report into the system that found the original 2007 completion date was too ambitious and criticised the lack of analysis on whether the system is viable and value for money, *The Age* reported.

### The job of a politician

*The Age* reported that Premier **John Brumby's** office moved a media conference away from The Alfred to avoid embarrassment at revelations that senior

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doctors believe the hospital's computer system is putting patients lives at risk. The announcement by Brumby and Health Minister **Daniel Andrews** of measures to cope with winter illnesses was moved to the Monash Medical Centre in Clayton. It was reported earlier that medical staff regard The Alfred's electronic medical record system as a disaster, with surgeons forced to compete with nursing staff and anaesthetists for access to computer terminals.

**A positive out of a negative**

The *Herald Sun* reported that **Dr Mukesh Haikerwal**, a former state president of the Australian Medical Association, has put \$30,000 into setting up a secure messaging system which will allow GPs, medical specialists and allied health professionals in Melbourne's west to send patient information and referrals safely. Haikerwal, the victim of a brutal bashing some months ago, said the experience of his recovery had allowed him to view the health system through a patient's perspective and better understand the delays, frustrations and paperwork involved. The e-mail type secure messaging system will for the first time allow GPs to send electronic patient notes, referrals, x-rays and test results to specialists.

**Triple bypass**

At least three major Melbourne hospitals – Royal Melbourne, Frankston and Sunshine – went on bypass (meaning they were too busy to cater for ambulance arrivals) for a night at the beginning of June, forcing long waits at several emergency departments. Ambulance Victoria has warned that more delays will be likely as hospitals approached the busiest time of the year, with the winter influx of patients with cold and flu complications, the *Herald Sun* reported.

**Cigarette flavoured cigarettes still get them**

The *Herald Sun* reported that fruit and lolly-flavoured cigarettes allegedly used to trick young people into smoking will be banned by the end of July. As promising new research revealed the number of teenagers smoking has halved since 2002, Health Minister **Daniel Andrews** announced new laws banning flavoured cigarettes would shortly be enforced.

**Quotable quotes**

The **Department of Human Services** issued a Request for Quotation: Review of Victorian Youth Homelessness and Reconciliation Services, 03 9096 8127.

**Good job**

**beyondblue** seeks a chief executive officer, brigid.benvie@talentpartnersintl.com.

**INVESTMENT**

**BUSINESS**

**Adieu**

David Jones chief executive **Mark McInnes** has resigned after behaving in a manner unbecoming towards a female staff member, *The Age* reported. The *Herald Sun* revealed the woman at the centre of the case, **Kristy Fraser-Kirk**, 25, is a junior David Jones publicist. David Jones's new chief executive is **Paul Zahra**. Gunns' chairman **John Gay** resigned. Share prices rose significantly, closing up 12c, or nearly 44 per cent, *The Age* reported.

**Spendthrifts return**

At the beginning of June, the *Herald Sun* reported that retailers were cutting prices at mid-year sales in an effort to lure spending-shy shoppers into their stores.

**Congratulations**

The **2010 Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Award Winners** were Australian Turntable Company, BlueScope Steel Limited, Champion Compressors Pty Ltd, Ferguson Piarre Bakehouses Pty Ltd, Jindi Cheese Pty Ltd, Kraft Foods, Mett Pty Ltd, Murray Goulburn Co-Operative Co. Ltd, and Viridian Glass.

**Target Japan**

The **Department Innovation, Industry and Regional Development** seeks an Investment Manager Japan for Invest Victoria, [www.careers.vic.gov.au](http://www.careers.vic.gov.au).

**Worth a look**

The **Resources Victoria Conference**, 12 to 14 July, is at the Hilton on the Park, [www.resourcesvictoriainitiative.com](http://www.resourcesvictoriainitiative.com).

**AGRICULTURE. REGIONAL**

**Half-communities**

Figures from the Auditor-General show that of a \$10m fund set up by the Government four years ago to improve life in rural towns, only \$5.1m in grants has been given out so far, while a further \$2.6m has been funnelled into 'administrative and operating costs'. The fund – known as the Community Building Initiative – was designed to run between 2006 and 2010 in a bid to strengthen rural towns, particularly those experiencing growth, population decline or disadvantage. Under the scheme, the Department of Planning and Community Development provides grants to dozens of regional councils for small projects

that will benefit their communities, such as park upgrades, new bike tracks or tourism brochures, *The Age* reported.

**A plague on our house**

*The Age* reported the Victorian Plague Locust Commissioner **Gordon Berg** warned that locust outbreaks in spring were likely. 'The sad reality is the magnitude of the outbreak could be such that, with the best efforts of farmers, local councils for roadsides, DPI for public land and all the rest, there is still a pretty high likelihood we will get some major outbreaks that can't be controlled, and damage occurring,' he said. A mouse plague is damaging South Australian and south-east Australian farms.

**Prices of the lambs**

The *Herald Sun* reported government figures reveal more feral dogs than ever are being trapped, shot or poisoned by the Department of Primary Industries. Between 2004 and 2008, 5,009 wild dogs were killed by the Government – almost 3 a day. But farmers said wild dog numbers continue to expand and a rise of attacks is a major factor in the jump in lamb prices.

**On the udder**

The United Dairy Farmers of Victoria, the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Australian Dairy Farmers have agreed to work together, but there are serious doubts about whether they can, the *Weekly Times* reported. UDV members are frustrated that the VFF has control of their group's purse strings.

**Dreamland, again**

Proposed river red gum parks along the Murray are set to burden flood plain farmers with fencing costs and isolated farm infrastructure, the *Weekly Times* reported. Under the new legislation, farmers are to phase out grazing from river frontages by 2014 to make way for expanded river red gum parks. Farmers learned their water frontage licences would become parks when they received letters from the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The new parks are a result of a three-year investigation and community consultation by the Victorian Environment and Assessment Council on river red gum woodlands. Murray River Action Group chairman **Ian Lobban** said northern flood plain farmers had been left shocked and distressed by the decision to phase out grazing.

**JUSTICE**

**A softening of stance**

The Government shifted ground on whether Victoria needs an Independent Commission Against Corruption before the imminent collapse of the murder case against the former drug squad detective **Paul Dale** (see below). The Proust inquiry (being conducted by former Kennett government Department of Premier and Cabinet chief **Elizabeth Proust**, who last year was appointed by Brumby to review the effectiveness of Victoria's anticorruption regime) significantly softened **John Brumby's** policy stance against the establishment of an independent, broad-based anticorruption watchdog. Brumby said he would be

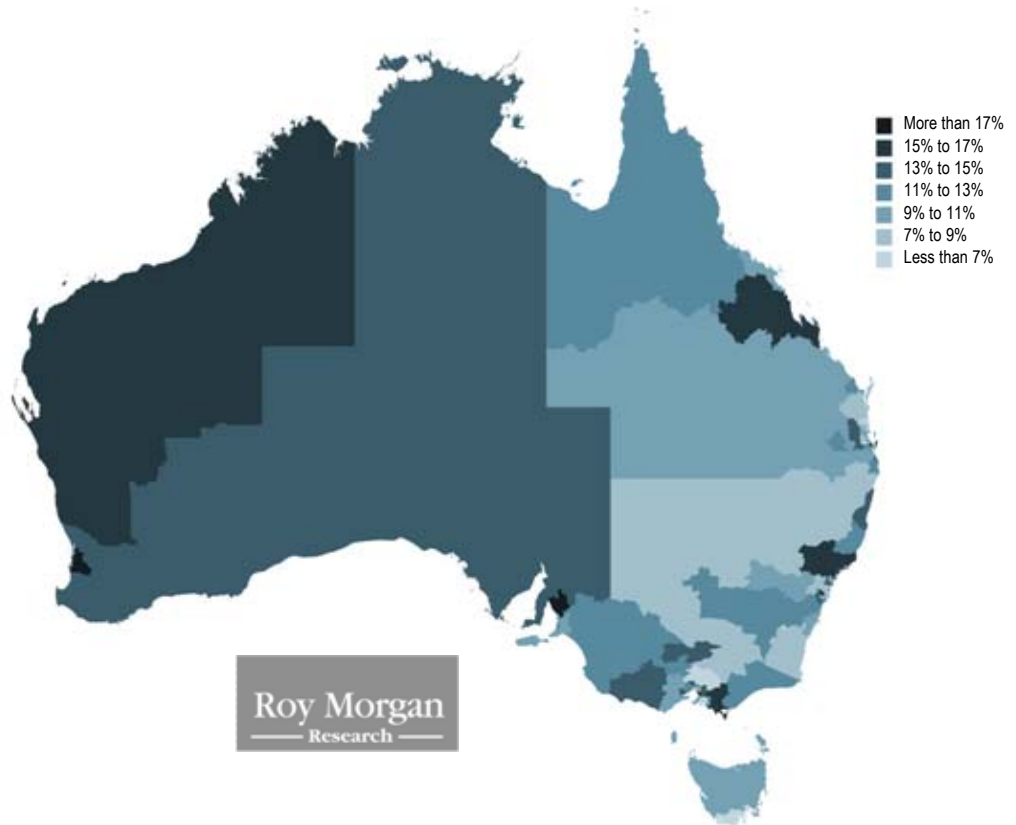
# REDUCING CRIME - LAW & ORDER A SLEEPER FOR THE NEXT ELECTION

As a national issue, 'Crime and Law & Order' has taken a 'back seat' to economic issues during the Global Financial Crisis and again with much public debate over the controversial Mining Tax. However, clearly 'Crime and Law & Order' is more important in certain areas than others.

The Roy Morgan electoral profile data shows clearly – electors' concerns about 'Crime and Law & Order' ranges from as low as 3.8% to as high as 21.9%.

Electorates with greatest concern about 'Crime and Law & Order' include the key ALP marginal seats of Swan (WA) 20.2%, Hasluck (WA) 17.7%, Greenway (NSW) 15.3%, Robertson (NSW) 14.6%, Macarthur (NSW) 14.0% and Leichhardt (Qld) 12.6%.

Is Reducing Crime and Maintaining Law and Order an Issue of Importance?



Wakefield SA	21.9%	Murray VIC	14.1%	Gippsland VIC	12.0%	Banks NSW	10.2%	Hughes NSW	8.2%
<b>Swan WA</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	Cowper NSW	14.1%	Lyne NSW	12.0%	<b>Stirling WA</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	Mitchell NSW	8.1%
Makin SA	19.0%	<b>Casey VIC</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	Oxley QLD	11.9%	Mackellar NSW	10.1%	Batman VIC	8.0%
Isaacs VIC	18.9%	<b>Macarthur NSW</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>Bonner QLD</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>Wright QLD</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>Dickson QLD</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>Hasluck WA</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>La Trobe VIC</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	Lindsay NSW	11.9%	<b>Boothby SA</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	Fowler NSW	7.7%
McMahon NSW	17.6%	<b>Grey SA</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	Gellibrand VIC	11.8%	<b>Flynn QLD</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>Eden-Monaro NSW</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>Canning WA</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	Blair QLD	13.7%	Richmond NSW	11.8%	<b>Wentworth NSW</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	Bradfield NSW	7.5%
Blaxland NSW	17.1%	Newcastle NSW	13.7%	Cunningham NSW	11.8%	<b>Solomon NT</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>Macquarie NSW</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
Chifley NSW	16.9%	Holt VIC	13.6%	<b>Forde QLD</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	Fremantle WA	9.9%	Canberra ACT	7.3%
Moore WA	16.9%	Wills VIC	13.4%	Werriwa NSW	11.6%	<b>Longman QLD</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	Berowra NSW	7.3%
Charlton NSW	16.4%	Scullin VIC	13.3%	Kingsford Smith NSW	11.6%	<b>Dawson QLD</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	Kooyong VIC	7.3%
Capricornia QLD	16.3%	McPherson QLD	13.3%	Bendigo VIC	11.5%	Denison TAS	9.8%	<b>Fisher QLD</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>McMillan VIC</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>Aston VIC</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	Groom QLD	11.5%	Ballarat VIC	9.7%	Griffith QLD	6.9%
Hunter NSW	15.8%	Cook NSW	13.2%	Hinkler QLD	11.5%	<b>Hindmarsh SA</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>McEwen VIC</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Durack WA	15.7%	Corio VIC	13.1%	<b>Kingston SA</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	Lyons TAS	9.6%	Fadden QLD	6.7%
Brand WA	15.6%	Curtin WA	12.9%	<b>Sturt SA</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>Dobell NSW</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>Deakin VIC</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
Hotham VIC	15.5%	Riverina NSW	12.8%	Port Adelaide SA	11.1%	<b>Corangamite VIC</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	Watson NSW	6.6%
Parramatta NSW	15.3%	Perth WA	12.7%	Barker SA	11.1%	<b>Gilmore NSW</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>Fairfax QLD</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>Greenway NSW</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	Lilley QLD	12.6%	Kennedy QLD	11.1%	<b>Herbert QLD</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	Sydney NSW	6.5%
<b>Bowman QLD</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>Leichhardt QLD</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	Calare NSW	10.9%	<b>Bass TAS</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	Higgins VIC	6.5%
<b>Paterson NSW</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	Lalor VIC	12.5%	Flinders VIC	10.8%	Bruce VIC	9.0%	<b>Franklin TAS</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
Tangney WA	15.1%	Moreton QLD	12.5%	Warringah NSW	10.7%	Maribyrnong VIC	8.9%	<b>Bennelong NSW</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
Calwell VIC	15.0%	Rankin QLD	12.5%	Reid NSW	10.7%	Adelaide SA	8.8%	Grayndler NSW	5.9%
<b>Robertson NSW</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>Petrie QLD</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>Braddon TAS</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>Page NSW</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>North Sydney NSW</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Wannon VIC	14.5%	Gorton VIC	12.3%	<b>Cowan WA</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	Parkes NSW	8.7%	<b>Ryan QLD</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
O'Connor WA	14.3%	Menzies VIC	12.3%	Melbourne Ports VIC	10.5%	New England NSW	8.6%	Fraser ACT	5.2%
Pearce WA	14.2%	Throsby NSW	12.3%	Mayo SA	10.4%	Indi VIC	8.5%	<b>Brisbane QLD</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
Lingiari NT	14.2%	Mallee VIC	12.2%	Moncrieff QLD	10.3%	Farrer NSW	8.4%	<b>Melbourne VIC</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
Shortland NSW	14.2%	<b>Hume NSW</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	Maranoa QLD	10.3%	Wide Bay QLD	8.4%	Goldstein VIC	4.0%
<b>Forrest WA</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	Jagajaga VIC	12.1%	<b>Dunkley VIC</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	Barton NSW	8.2%	Chisholm VIC	3.8%

Marginal ALP Federal Electorate Seats

Marginal LNP Federal Electorate Seats

Source: Roy Morgan Research January 2008 – December 2009  
Australian Electors n = 35,915

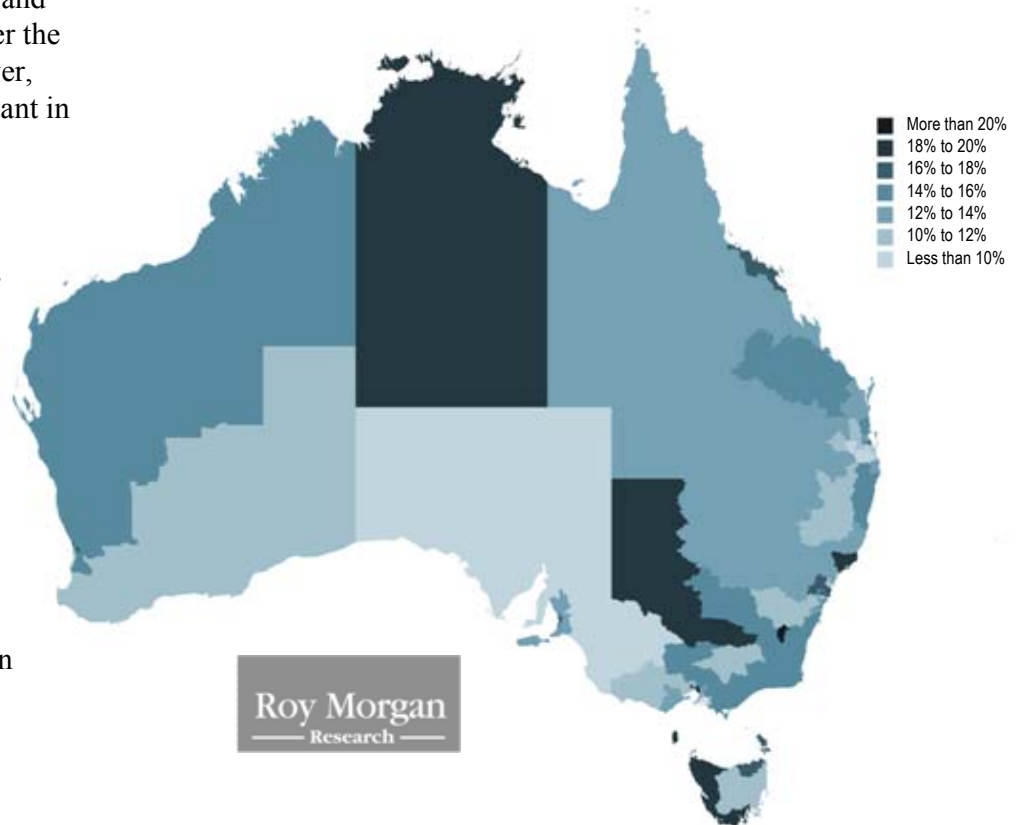
# EDUCATION - BACK ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ELECTION

As a national issue, 'Education' may have taken a 'back seat' to economic issues during the Global Financial Crisis and again with much public debate over the controversial Mining Tax. However, clearly 'Education' is more important in certain areas than others.

The Roy Morgan electoral profile data shows clearly – electors' concerns about 'Education' ranges from as low as 6.4% to as high as 24%.

Electorates with greatest concern about 'Education' include the key ALP marginal seats of Melbourne (Vic) – where one in five electors rate education as one of the three issues that are of most importance to them; Franklin (Tas) 19.6%; Bennelong (NSW) 19.2%; Braddon (Tas) 19.2%; Bass (Tas) 18%; Swan (WA) 18%; and Hasluck (WA) 17.8%.

Is Improving Education an Issue of Importance?



Fraser ACT	24.0%	Blaxland NSW	17.8%	Eden-Monaro NSW	15.4%	Dickson QLD	13.1%	Hughes NSW	11.4%
Newcastle NSW	23.0%	Greenway NSW	17.4%	Ryan QLD	15.3%	Lyne NSW	13.1%	Wannon VIC	11.3%
Sydney NSW	22.8%	Bradfield NSW	17.4%	Fairfax QLD	15.2%	Reid NSW	13.1%	Fadden QLD	11.3%
Goldstein VIC	21.6%	Watson NSW	17.3%	Solomon NT	15.0%	Fremantle WA	13.1%	Hume NSW	11.3%
Canberra ACT	20.9%	Adelaide SA	17.3%	McEwen VIC	14.9%	Calare NSW	13.0%	Lalor VIC	11.2%
North Sydney NSW	20.4%	Banks NSW	17.0%	Lilley QLD	14.8%	Maranoa QLD	13.0%	Corio VIC	11.1%
Kooyong VIC	20.4%	Boothby SA	16.9%	Durack WA	14.7%	Richmond NSW	12.9%	Groom QLD	11.1%
Wentworth NSW	20.3%	Port Adelaide SA	16.7%	Bendigo VIC	14.7%	Hinkler QLD	12.9%	Shortland NSW	11.1%
Melbourne VIC	20.0%	Parramatta NSW	16.6%	Longman QLD	14.7%	Gellibrand VIC	12.8%	Hindmarsh SA	11.0%
Moore WA	19.9%	Perth WA	16.5%	Stirling WA	14.7%	Scullin VIC	12.8%	Cook NSW	10.9%
Grayndler NSW	19.9%	Herbert QLD	16.5%	Lindsay NSW	14.7%	Macarthur NSW	12.7%	Lyons TAS	10.8%
Franklin TAS	19.6%	Dawson QLD	16.4%	Murray VIC	14.6%	Casey VIC	12.6%	Blair QLD	10.7%
Higgins VIC	19.6%	Berowra NSW	16.3%	Page NSW	14.5%	Tangney WA	12.6%	Robertson NSW	10.6%
Mackellar NSW	19.4%	Jagajaga VIC	16.3%	Riverina NSW	14.4%	Throsby NSW	12.4%	Werriwa NSW	10.6%
Bennelong NSW	19.2%	Sturt SA	16.1%	Gippsland VIC	14.4%	Wakefield SA	12.4%	Ballarat VIC	10.3%
Braddon TAS	19.2%	Macquarie NSW	16.1%	Deakin VIC	14.3%	Moreton QLD	12.4%	O'Connor WA	10.3%
Barton NSW	19.2%	Melbourne Ports VIC	16.1%	Brisbane QLD	14.3%	Hunter NSW	12.2%	Forde QLD	10.3%
Farrer NSW	19.1%	Bonner QLD	16.0%	La Trobe VIC	14.2%	Wide Bay QLD	12.2%	Holt VIC	10.3%
Denison TAS	18.7%	Pearce WA	16.0%	Cunningham NSW	14.2%	Corangamite VIC	12.2%	McPherson QLD	10.2%
Hotham VIC	18.6%	Kingsford Smith NSW	15.9%	Gilmore NSW	14.2%	Isaacs VIC	12.1%	Calwell VIC	10.2%
Lingiari NT	18.6%	Bruce VIC	15.9%	Capricornia QLD	13.9%	Dobell NSW	12.1%	Mallee VIC	9.9%
Batman VIC	18.6%	Curtin WA	15.8%	Leichhardt QLD	13.8%	Menzies VIC	12.1%	Fowler NSW	9.8%
Gorton VIC	18.5%	Fisher QLD	15.6%	Kennedy QLD	13.7%	Mayo SA	12.0%	Oxley QLD	9.7%
Griffith QLD	18.4%	Flynn QLD	15.5%	Parkes NSW	13.5%	Petrie QLD	12.0%	Barker SA	9.4%
Chisholm VIC	18.3%	Cowper NSW	15.5%	Wills VIC	13.5%	Maribyrnong VIC	11.9%	Brand WA	9.2%
McMahon NSW	18.1%	Chifley NSW	15.4%	Warringah NSW	13.4%	Indi VIC	11.9%	Rankin QLD	9.1%
Paterson NSW	18.0%	Cowan WA	15.4%	Mitchell NSW	13.4%	Forrest WA	11.7%	Bowman QLD	8.7%
Bass TAS	18.0%	Canning WA	15.4%	Charlton NSW	13.4%	Flinders VIC	11.7%	Grey SA	7.8%
Swan WA	18.0%	McMillan VIC	15.4%	Dunkley VIC	13.3%	New England NSW	11.6%	Wright QLD	7.0%
Hasluck WA	17.8%	Kingston SA	15.4%	Makin SA	13.2%	Aston VIC	11.5%	Moncrieff QLD	6.4%

Marginal ALP Federal Electorate Seats    Marginal LNP Federal Electorate Seats

Source: Roy Morgan Research January 2008 – December 2009  
Australian Electors n = 35,915

# BLACK HOLES IN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN SOME MARGINAL ALP SEATS

Around the world, Consumer Confidence below 100 is a 'danger signal' for the incumbent Federal Government approaching an election.

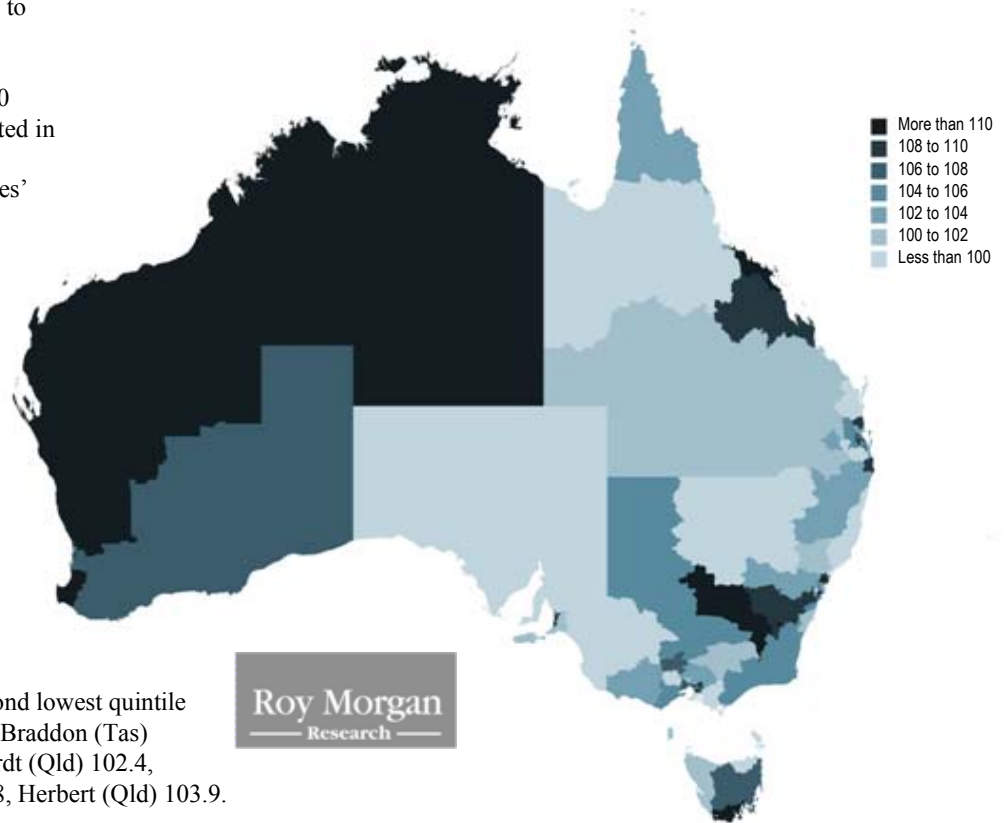
Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating across Australia

This analysis has never before been taken to the level of individual electorates. Roy Morgan Research measures Consumer Confidence continuously. (Almost 90,000 electors surveyed since the ALP was elected in 2007.) For the first time it is possible to identify Consumer Confidence 'black holes' **on an electorate by electorate basis.**

Ranking electorates from highest to lowest according to their Consumer Confidence shows the crucial ALP marginal seats are generally over-represented in the 'top band'. Overall, people in ALP marginal seats are more confident than the average.

However, the marginal ALP seat of Bass in Tasmania has the second lowest level of Consumer Confidence (93.4) of any seat. And Gilmore (NSW) 100.1, Flynn (Qld) 101.0, and Petrie (Qld) 101.0 are all in the bottom confidence quintile.

A further seven electorates are in the second lowest quintile for confidence: Greenway (NSW) 101.2, Braddon (Tas) 101.6, Macquarie (NSW) 102.3, Leichhardt (Qld) 102.4, Longman (Qld) 102.8, Page (NSW) 102.8, Herbert (Qld) 103.9.



<b>Stirling WA</b>	<b>118.8</b>	<b>Macarthur NSW</b>	<b>109.6</b>	Gellibrand VIC	106.5	McPherson QLD	104.0	<b>Petrie QLD</b>	<b>101.0</b>
Moore WA	118.2	Adelaide SA	109.5	Banks NSW	106.5	<b>Herbert QLD</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>Flynn QLD</b>	<b>101.0</b>
Durack WA	117.9	<b>Hindmarsh SA</b>	<b>109.5</b>	Parramatta NSW	106.5	Bradfield NSW	103.6	Moreton QLD	100.9
Lingiari NT	116.7	<b>Ryan QLD</b>	<b>109.5</b>	<b>Canning WA</b>	<b>106.5</b>	Batman VIC	103.4	Mackellar NSW	100.8
Perth WA	115.3	Canberra ACT	109.3	Tangney WA	106.4	<b>McEwen VIC</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>Dunkley VIC</b>	<b>100.3</b>
<b>Forrest WA</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>Fisher QLD</b>	<b>109.3</b>	Lindsay NSW	106.2	Wannon VIC	103.3	<b>Gilmore NSW</b>	<b>100.1</b>
Fraser ACT	113.7	<b>Dobell NSW</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>Forde QLD</b>	<b>106.2</b>	Fadden QLD	103.0	Indi VIC	100.1
<b>Boothby SA</b>	<b>112.9</b>	Grayndler NSW	108.7	Lalor VIC	106.0	<b>Page NSW</b>	<b>102.8</b>	Lyne NSW	99.9
<b>Brisbane QLD</b>	<b>112.8</b>	<b>Cowan WA</b>	<b>108.7</b>	Griffith QLD	106.0	<b>Longman QLD</b>	<b>102.8</b>	Kingsford Smith NSW	99.5
Curtin WA	112.8	<b>Deakin VIC</b>	<b>108.4</b>	Corio VIC	105.9	Goldstein VIC	102.8	Ballarat VIC	99.4
Pearce WA	112.1	<b>Solomon NT</b>	<b>108.4</b>	Berowra NSW	105.9	Maribyrnong VIC	102.7	<b>Grey SA</b>	<b>99.3</b>
<b>Franklin TAS</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>Kingston SA</b>	<b>108.3</b>	Fowler NSW	105.6	<b>Wentworth NSW</b>	<b>102.7</b>	Barker SA	99.2
<b>Robertson NSW</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>Fairfax QLD</b>	<b>108.3</b>	Blair QLD	105.6	Calare NSW	102.7	Mallee VIC	99.0
Higgins VIC	111.8	<b>Casey VIC</b>	<b>108.3</b>	Cunningham NSW	105.4	Groom QLD	102.7	<b>Paterson NSW</b>	<b>98.8</b>
Oxley QLD	111.6	Capricornia QLD	108.2	<b>Corangamite VIC</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>Bowman QLD</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>McMillan VIC</b>	<b>98.7</b>
Makin SA	111.3	Holt VIC	108.2	Kooyong VIC	105.4	New England NSW	102.5	Hinkler QLD	98.6
Chisholm VIC	111.2	<b>Melbourne VIC</b>	<b>108.2</b>	Fremantle WA	105.3	Barton NSW	102.4	Parkes NSW	98.5
<b>Hasluck WA</b>	<b>111.0</b>	Lilley QLD	107.9	Bruce VIC	105.2	<b>Leichhardt QLD</b>	<b>102.4</b>	Charlton NSW	98.4
Watson NSW	110.8	Lyons TAS	107.8	Moncrieff QLD	105.2	<b>Macquarie NSW</b>	<b>102.3</b>	McMahon NSW	98.0
<b>Hughes NSW</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>Swan WA</b>	<b>107.8</b>	Throsby NSW	105.1	Scullin VIC	102.0	Chifley NSW	97.9
Reid NSW	110.6	Wills VIC	107.5	<b>Aston VIC</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>North Sydney NSW</b>	<b>102.0</b>	Newcastle NSW	97.8
Denison TAS	110.3	<b>Bonner QLD</b>	<b>107.5</b>	Rankin QLD	104.9	Werriwa NSW	101.9	Wide Bay QLD	97.6
Blaxland NSW	110.2	<b>Sturt SA</b>	<b>107.5</b>	Mitchell NSW	104.9	Jagajaga VIC	101.6	Shortland NSW	97.4
<b>Dawson QLD</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>La Trobe VIC</b>	<b>107.2</b>	Murray VIC	104.8	<b>Braddon TAS</b>	<b>101.6</b>	Cook NSW	96.9
Riverina NSW	110.2	Bendigo VIC	107.0	<b>Eden-Monaro NSW</b>	<b>104.7</b>	Maranoa QLD	101.6	Flinders VIC	96.3
Sydney NSW	110.0	Port Adelaide SA	106.9	<b>Bennelong NSW</b>	<b>104.7</b>	Calwell VIC	101.5	Kennedy QLD	96.0
Brand WA	109.9	<b>Dickson QLD</b>	<b>106.9</b>	Farrer NSW	104.7	Mayo SA	101.4	Cowper NSW	95.9
<b>Hume NSW</b>	<b>109.8</b>	O'Connor WA	106.8	Menzies VIC	104.5	Hotham VIC	101.2	Wakefield SA	94.2
Isaacs VIC	109.7	Warringah NSW	106.7	Melbourne Ports VIC	104.4	<b>Greenway NSW</b>	<b>101.2</b>	<b>Bass TAS</b>	<b>93.4</b>
Richmond NSW	109.6	Gorton VIC	106.6	Gippsland VIC	104.3	Hunter NSW	101.0	<b>Wright QLD</b>	<b>90.9</b>

Marginal ALP Federal Electorate Seats

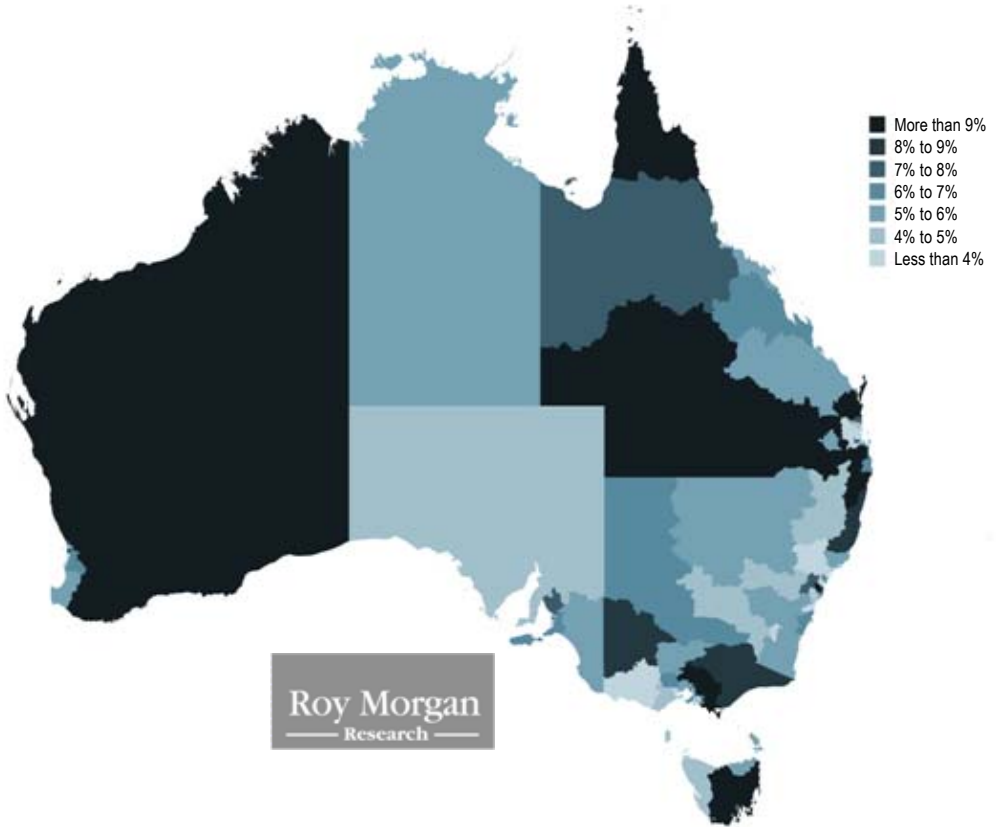
Marginal LNP Federal Electorate Seats

Source: Roy Morgan Research January 2008 – December 2009  
Australian Electors n = 88,852

# AUSTRALIA'S SELF-EMPLOYED HAVE SWUNG BEHIND L-NP

Approximately 5.6% of all Australians classify themselves as Self-Employed according to Roy Morgan Research. A close analysis of Roy Morgan voting intention figures for the past three months (April – June 2010) shows the Self-Employed now heavily in favour of the L-NP (58%) ahead of the ALP (42%) on a Two-Party Preferred basis – during the two years since the ALP was elected the 2PP vote was L-NP (53%) to ALP (47%).

Which Electorates have the highest proportion of Self-employed workers?



Electorates with a much higher proportion of Self-Employed than the national average include the ALP marginal seats of Franklin (Tas) 10.8%, Forde (Qld) 10.6%, Page (NSW) 10.4%, Leichhardt (Qld) 9.7%, Bennelong (NSW) 9.7% and Deakin (Vic) 7.6%.

<b>Wentworth NSW</b> 15.0%	Adelaide SA 8.3%	Ballarat VIC 6.5%	Higgins VIC 5.3%	Riverina NSW 4.0%
<b>McEwen VIC</b> 14.0%	Cowper NSW 8.3%	Mayo SA 6.5%	<b>Aston VIC</b> 5.2%	<b>Bonner QLD</b> 3.9%
O'Connor WA 13.8%	Mitchell NSW 8.3%	Farrer NSW 6.5%	Parke NSW 5.2%	<b>Dickson QLD</b> 3.9%
<b>North Sydney NSW</b> 12.4%	Fremantle WA 8.1%	Watson NSW 6.3%	<b>Sturt SA</b> 5.1%	Wannon VIC 3.9%
Durack WA 11.8%	Mallee VIC 8.1%	<b>Dobell NSW</b> 6.2%	<b>Hume NSW</b> 5.1%	Werriwa NSW 3.8%
Bradfield NSW 11.6%	Moore WA 7.8%	<b>Brisbane QLD</b> 6.2%	<b>Dawson QLD</b> 5.0%	Griffith QLD 3.8%
Berowra NSW 11.0%	Holt VIC 7.7%	<b>Canning WA</b> 6.2%	<b>Flynn QLD</b> 5.0%	Canberra ACT 3.8%
<b>Franklin TAS</b> 10.8%	<b>Deakin VIC</b> 7.6%	Flinders VIC 6.2%	Barker SA 5.0%	<b>Greenway NSW</b> 3.8%
Warringah NSW 10.7%	McPherson QLD 7.6%	Grayndler NSW 6.1%	Wills VIC 4.9%	<b>Robertson NSW</b> 3.8%
<b>Forde QLD</b> 10.6%	Kennedy QLD 7.6%	Maribyrnong VIC 6.1%	<b>Petrie QLD</b> 4.8%	<b>Dunkley VIC</b> 3.8%
<b>McMillan VIC</b> 10.5%	Rankin QLD 7.5%	<b>Hasluck WA</b> 6.1%	<b>Herbert QLD</b> 4.8%	Lilley QLD 3.7%
Pearce WA 10.5%	Wakefield SA 7.5%	<b>Gilmore NSW</b> 6.1%	<b>Hughes NSW</b> 4.8%	Blair QLD 3.7%
<b>Page NSW</b> 10.4%	<b>Macquarie NSW</b> 7.4%	Hotham VIC 6.0%	<b>Corangamite VIC</b> 4.7%	<b>Boothby SA</b> 3.7%
Lyons TAS 10.0%	Goldstein VIC 7.4%	Capricornia QLD 6.0%	<b>Solomon NT</b> 4.7%	Banks NSW 3.6%
Wide Bay QLD 10.0%	<b>Swan WA</b> 7.3%	<b>Hindmarsh SA</b> 5.9%	<b>Macarthur NSW</b> 4.7%	Cunningham NSW 3.5%
Maranoa QLD 9.9%	Melbourne Ports VIC 7.2%	Bendigo VIC 5.8%	<b>Grey SA</b> 4.7%	Chifley NSW 3.2%
<b>Leichhardt QLD</b> 9.7%	<b>Ryan QLD</b> 7.2%	<b>Bass TAS</b> 5.8%	New England NSW 4.7%	Throsby NSW 3.2%
<b>Bennelong NSW</b> 9.7%	<b>Fairfax QLD</b> 7.2%	Murray VIC 5.8%	Bruce VIC 4.6%	Perth WA 3.2%
<b>Casey VIC</b> 9.7%	Moncrieff QLD 7.2%	Scullin VIC 5.7%	Calare NSW 4.5%	Charlton NSW 3.1%
Cook NSW 9.4%	Denison TAS 7.1%	Lalor VIC 5.7%	Isaacs VIC 4.4%	Brand WA 3.1%
<b>La Trobe VIC</b> 9.2%	<b>Cowan WA</b> 7.1%	Gorton VIC 5.6%	<b>Fisher QLD</b> 4.4%	<b>Kingston SA</b> 3.1%
<b>Wright QLD</b> 9.0%	Batman VIC 6.9%	<b>Paterson NSW</b> 5.6%	Port Adelaide SA 4.3%	Gellibrand VIC 2.9%
Fadden QLD 9.0%	Barton NSW 6.9%	Lingiari NT 5.5%	Newcastle NSW 4.3%	Oxley QLD 2.9%
Gippsland VIC 8.8%	Moreton QLD 6.9%	<b>Bowman QLD</b> 5.5%	McMahon NSW 4.3%	Corio VIC 2.9%
Menzies VIC 8.7%	Kingsford Smith NSW 6.8%	<b>Forrest WA</b> 5.5%	Jagajaga VIC 4.2%	<b>Longman QLD</b> 2.9%
Lyne NSW 8.7%	Richmond NSW 6.8%	Groom QLD 5.5%	Makin SA 4.2%	Lindsay NSW 2.8%
Tangney WA 8.6%	<b>Melbourne VIC</b> 6.8%	Kooyong VIC 5.5%	Shortland NSW 4.1%	Hunter NSW 2.6%
Sydney NSW 8.5%	Curtin WA 6.8%	Calwell VIC 5.4%	Blaxland NSW 4.0%	<b>Stirling WA</b> 2.6%
Indi VIC 8.5%	Reid NSW 6.7%	<b>Eden-Monaro NSW</b> 5.3%	Chisholm VIC 4.0%	Fowler NSW 1.7%
Mackellar NSW 8.4%	Parramatta NSW 6.5%	Hinkler QLD 5.3%	<b>Braddon TAS</b> 4.0%	Fraser ACT 1.7%

Marginal ALP Federal Electorate Seats

Marginal LNP Federal Electorate Seats

Source: Roy Morgan Research January 2008 – December 2009  
Australian Workers 14+ n = 57,808

open to any suggestion and recommendation for all anticorruption bodies to be put together under a single roof. Since the Proust review was commissioned, the Office of Police Integrity has come under intense scrutiny for the failure of its high-profile investigations into former Police Assistant Commissioner **Noel Ashby** and former Police Association boss **Paul Mullett** to lead to criminal convictions. Dale was the subject of OPI public hearings in 2008 to determine whether police officers attempted to derail a taskforce investigation into the murders of police informer **Terence Hodson** and his wife **Christine** four years earlier, *The Australian* reported.

### A changing of mind

*The Age* reported that Victoria will get an anticorruption commission whoever wins this year's state election, after a change of mind by Premier **John Brumby**. The new Victorian Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission will hold most of its hearings in private and the new integrity system will curtail the powers of the Ombudsman. The 68-page integrity report by former senior public servant **Elizabeth Proust** calling for a commission had changed Brumby's mind. Under the Government's changes: the new anticorruption commission will investigate serious misconduct and corruption in the public sector as well as uphold policy integrity; a parliamentary integrity commission will investigate complaints against members of Parliament and their staff; a judicial commission will investigate complaints against judges and magistrates; the Ombudsman will no longer be responsible for whistleblower complaints and will now report to a parliamentary committee.

For years, the Victorian Government has insisted that the systems it has in place – an Ombudsman to oversee the public sector, the Office of Police Integrity to investigate police corruption, the Auditor-General to check financial compliance in government departments – were good enough to weed out corruption and misconduct. Proust said during her six-month investigation she had heard credible allegations about serious misconduct and corruption currently occurring in Victoria. Her report found members of the judiciary, politicians and their staff do not come under the same scrutiny as public sector workers. Agencies are unable to share intelligence and crucial information. And in some of the worst cases, different watchdogs have investigated the same thing – with one finding misconduct while the other dismissed it.

### Nearby

*The Australian* reported that former New South Wales ICAC Commissioner **Barry O'Keefe** said the fact the new Victorian Integrity and Anticorruption Commission would investigate suspected dodgy politicians only after a referral from a new Parliamentary Integrity Commission, or a whistleblower complaint, was an issue. 'That is a bit narrower than the ICAC in New South Wales,' O'Keefe said. 'It doesn't require a reference from anybody for ICAC to inquire into members of parliament, including ministers.' On the opinion pages of the same paper, **Cameron Stewart** wrote that the report by **Elizabeth Proust** recommending the establishment of an independent anticorruption regime for Victoria was a bittersweet document for

Brumby. It was bitter because it contradicts the Labor government's 11-year-old mantra that corruption in Victoria can be managed by a hodgepodge of separate bodies that hold no powers to properly scrutinise local government, judges, politicians and their staffers. It was sweet because the Proust report gave Brumby a plausible political way out from his dogmatic refusal to take action in the face of mounting evidence of failures and gaps in the state's fight against corruption. But what is the next level of fighting corruption and what will it achieve? Proust's model for an anti-corruption regime has received a mixed response because there is uncertainty and confusion about Proust's chosen structure and its effectiveness.

### Brouwer troubled

*The Age* reported that Ombudsman **George Brouwer**, in forceful submissions to the Proust review of the anti-corruption system, made clear he believes the best and cheapest way to confront official corruption is to bolster the powers of existing agencies and allow his office to scrutinise Cabinet documents and investigate ministers, other MPs, ministerial advisers and local councillors, rather than accepting Proust's recommendation that the Ombudsman be downgraded and a complex new anticorruption system put in place.

### In search of lost time

On the opinion pages of *The Age*, **Greg Davies**, the secretary of the Police Association, wrote that the Proust plan for a Victorian anticorruption body is in the spirit of *Yes Minister*.

### Leaky faucet

*The Australian* reported that Chief Commissioner **Simon Overland** divulged secret intelligence from a phone tap, unwittingly triggering the collapse of a murder investigation because he wanted to avoid media scrutiny of his proposed attendance at a taxpayer funded management course in France. In the same paper, **Hedley Thomas** wrote that it is staggering that Overland's conduct, which was known to the Office of Police Integrity, did not raise an eyebrow in the anticorruption body. Overland's action in passing on the secret intelligence from the phone tap had been illegal, according to **Paul Mullett**, former secretary of the Police Association, Victoria's registered trade union for police.

*The Age* reported that the Office of Police Integrity cleared Overland of wrongdoing over the leak, as details emerged of alleged attempts by Rupert Murdoch's media empire to intimidate law-enforcement agencies. OPI director **Michael Strong** issued a statement saying he believed Overland acted lawfully when he told his then media director about intelligence that came from covertly taped phone calls. A series of articles in the Murdoch-owned Australian newspaper claimed Overland's conversation undermined an investigation into the 2003 murder of prostitute **Shane Chartres Abbott**. Overland says that he has been marked by a campaign to tarnish his reputation. Watch this space. If the topic interests you, you will read more in *The Australian* than in *The Age*.

*The Australian* reported that the Opposition will use Parliament to force the Government to release all documents relating to the Office of Police Integrity investigation of former Assistant Police Commissioner **Noel Ashby**. Documents requested by the Opposition under parliamentary privilege will include transcripts of interviews given by Simon Overland to OPI investigators after he passed on information gained from telephone intercepts to prevent the aforementioned gossip item airing on Melbourne radio.

### In amongst it all

The Office of Police Integrity suffered another setback when a judge dismissed the perjury convictions of former police media boss **Stephen Linnell**. Linnell had been the solitary conviction claimed by the police watchdog from its 2007 Operation Diana, a covert investigation into an alleged chain of high-level leaks that was said to have compromised a murder investigation, Operation Briars, *The Australian* reported.

### Down dale

*The Age* reported that the Office of Public Prosecutions formally applied to have charges against former police drug squad detective **Paul Noel Dale** withdrawn in the Melbourne Magistrates Court, before the disgraced policeman made a claim for legal costs against his former employer. Dale is accused of organising the murder of police informer **Terence Hodson** to prevent him testifying against Dale and former detective senior constable **David Miechel** over an attempt to steal \$1.3m of drugs during a botched robbery of a drug safe house being used in a covert drug squad sting. Miechel was subsequently jailed but the case against Dale collapsed. Victoria Police set up Task Force Petra in 2007 to investigate the Hodson murders. *The Herald Sun* reported that the decision to drop the case follows the death of a key witness. Another crucial witness, **Nicola Gobbo**, has refused to give evidence because of her medical condition and is suing the police force over the treatment she has received since agreeing to be a witness.

### Smile, you're on candid camera

Melbourne City Council plans to expand the monitoring capabilities of its 54 CCTV cameras, allowing them to be used to identify offenders for a much broader range of laws. Privacy Commissioner **Helen Versey** is concerned about cameras being used for minor infringements. Under preliminary recommendations by the council's Future Melbourne Committee, security footage would be scrutinised for laws and bylaws, such as dumping rubbish or drinking alcohol in prohibited areas. CCTV vision is monitored only for serious offences, such as assault. Only police, victims and lawyers have access to CCTV footage. Under the proposed changes to the Safe City Camera Program, council enforcement officers could be given access to CCTV footage for the first time, *The Herald Sun* reported.

### Aid backgrounds

*The Herald Sun* reported that three new magistrates with legal aid backgrounds have been appointed to the Magistrates' Court: **Michael White**, **Roslyn Porter** and **Peter Dotchin**. All three have worked at



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MELBOURNE CANBERRA SYDNEY

Victoria Legal Aid while Porter and Dotchin also have Children's Court experience.

#### Got the sniffles

Cocaine seizures in Victoria have almost doubled in a year as use of the drug grows among lower income groups, according to research at the Australian Crime Commission, *The Age* reported.

#### Hmmm

Four senior constables from Maryborough police station were suspended after allegations of serious assault, *The Age* reported.

#### The saints

Saints star **Steven Milne** wasn't charged with rape partly because a failed case would cost too much, the *Herald Sun* reported. Former detective **Mike Smith** said that money was one of the reasons he and fellow officer **Scott Gladman** were given for the decision not to proceed with the case against Milne. He said it was suggested that because Milne and teammate **Leigh Montagna** could afford top lawyers, it would have cost the department a lot of money if the prosecution failed. *The Age* reported that Chief Commissioner **Simon Overland** declared that the case against Milne may be revisited if it was believed that police officers had deliberately compromised the investigation.

#### Husks of justice

Key figures implicated in one of Australia's most notorious business scandals, the **Australian Wheat Board** kickbacks affair – are set to avoid criminal charges after another backdown by the nation's corporate regulator, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Its lawyers revealed that criminal aspects of the long-running AWB investigation had been abandoned, *The Age* reported.

#### Farrugia

Father **Victor Farrugia**, a Melbourne priest, the subject of a mishandled internal Catholic Church inquiry, has been charged with sexual assault, *The Age* reported. The Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, **Denis Hart**, has written a Pastoral Letter of Sexual Abuse, to people of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, all 273.

#### Death by contact

The **Office of Police Integrity** is calling for submissions into its investigation of deaths associated with police contact, [www.opi.vic.gov.au](http://www.opi.vic.gov.au).

#### Good jobs

**Victoria Police** seeks a Director Strategic Business Engagement, [www.jofisher.com.au](http://www.jofisher.com.au).

The **Supreme Court of Victoria** seeks a Prothonotary, [www.careers.vic.gov.au](http://www.careers.vic.gov.au).

## MELBOURNE

#### Out hippying the hippies

*The Age* reported that the mayors of Sydney and Melbourne are out-greening state and federal leaders with ambitious CO2 reduction targets, with huge implications for property owners in each CBD. Trigereneration – getting electricity, heating and cooling from local gas-fired power units – is a key tactic for each city but doubts are surfacing about how widely the technology should be used in Australia. Melbourne City Council plans deeper and faster cuts than Sydney, aiming to achieve zero net emissions by 2020, which means eliminating or offsetting 5.8 megatonnes of CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent). Of that, the largest single chunk of abatement will come from co- or trigeneration, hopefully saving 1.4 megatonnes of CO2e per annum by the end of the decade. Lord Mayor **Robert Doyle** says Melbourne is looking to New York, rather than London, and is focusing on retrofitting two thirds of the city's existing properties with its '1200 buildings' project. The aim is to cut CO2e emissions by 400,000 tonnes a year, attracting \$1.3b in private investment.

#### Off you go

Councillors in the City of Melbourne have accumulated \$77,000 in ratepayer funded travel expenses since they were elected to Town Hall, *The Age* reported.

#### Just up the road

Melbourne soccer fans are without a World Cup meeting place after Federation Square cancelled plans to run its 'live site' for fear of overcrowding. More than 10,000 people packed the square, and spilled into Birrarung Marr, during each of the Socceroos clashes in 2006. Australia's matches in South Africa – the first against three-time winner Germany at 4:30am Melbourne time on June 14 – will not be on the square's big screen. The Football Federation of Australia and City of Melbourne are now looking for an alternative live site venue, the *Herald Sun* reported. Now, Birrarung Marr will become the focus of thousands of fans, with World Cup matches to be screened there.

#### It was a Richmond versus Fremantle game

Victoria's biggest ever citizenship ceremony was held in mid June at the MCG. It was attended by about 2,600 people from 90 countries, *The Age* reported.

#### Dumped butts

*The Age* reported that the promised blitz on cigarette butts was little more than an education campaign, Melbourne's acting Lord Mayor **Susan Riley** conceded. Only 18 people were fined. Early in May, Lord Mayor **Robert Doyle** said he was sick of his council having to clean up the 10,500 cigarette butts dumped daily by smokers in city streets.

#### MTRugging

Fledging talkback station MTR 1377 must change its format to succeed, media observers warned after its poor performance in a recent ratings report. MTR attracted a market share of just 1.7 per cent or an average audience of 10,000, making it Melbourne's lowest rating station. More than 1.5 million people listened to 3AW or 774 ABC during the 10-week survey period, of which MTR was on air for seven weeks. 3AW (owned by Fairfax media, owner of *The Age*) remained the top rating station on 14.8 per cent, losing 0.2 points, and 774 ABC declined by the same amount to 12.7 per cent, *The Age* reported.

#### Attica way

Melbourne restaurant, Attica, has been rated in the top 100 by the highly regarded S. Pelgrino World's Best Restaurant list. Chef Ben Shewry's Ripponlea restaurant was ranked 73rd. Three Sydney restaurants were listed, including two – Quay and Tetsuya's – in the top 50, the *Herald Sun* reported. *The Age* reported that its Epicure section was named best food and/or drink section in a newspaper at the 2010 Le Cordon Bleu World Food Media awards held in Adelaide. The section's editor, **Veronica Ridge**, was named best food journalist.

#### Receptacles

*The Age* reported that CBD café owners are upset by new Melbourne City Council regulations forcing them to store rubbish bins inside cafes overnight or face \$1000 fines. The regulations take effect from July and state: no business can store waste and recycling bins permanently in public space other than in circumstances prescribed by the council. **Todd Blake**, chief executive of the Victoria Tourism Industry Council, said the new regulations did not fully consider very small sites.

#### Simply not the best

Melbourne Lord Mayor, **Robert Doyle**, is not the best in the business, the *Herald Sun* reported. That's the verdict of the more than 118,000 people voting on the annual World Mayor title. Doyle's predecessor, **John So**, won the international honour in 2006. This year just one Australian councillor has made the short list of 25 finalists – Brisbane's **Campbell Newman**.

#### Rock on

Famous Melbourne rock venue The Tote, on the corner of Johnston and Wellington streets, has reopened, the *Herald Sun* reported.





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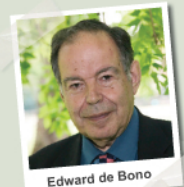
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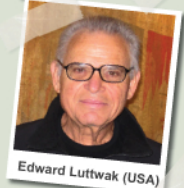
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**cre•a•tive** new and original • using or showing use of the imagination to create new ideas or things • able to create new things • making imaginative use of the limited resources available • a creator of new ideas and concepts **in•no•va•tion** the act or process of inventing or introducing something new • a new invention or way of doing something



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## Our lion

*The Age* reported that more than 70 volunteers are behind Lion FM – Australia's first Jewish radio station – which started test broadcasts in mid-June. Lion FM, or Melbourne Jewish Radio, is found at 96.1 MHz.

## It's power

The **Office of Knowledge Capital** e-newsletter advertised that the third Knowledge Cities World summit will be held in Melbourne, 16 to 19 November.

## Be quick

**Run Melbourne** is coming round again. July 18 will see thousands depart Federation Square to cover one of three different distances, to raise money for a charity of their choice.



## ANDREW HILTON

Andrew Hilton was appointed Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (Victoria) in December 2009. He was previously Executive Director of the Australian Red Cross in Victoria for ten years. He was awarded both the Meritorious and Distinguished Service medals for his work in supporting major fundraising campaigns including Bail, Tsunami and Bushfire Appeals and disaster relief in the many bushfires culminating in Black Saturday. He was also involved in first aid training for major events including Commonwealth Games in Manchester and Melbourne and the Olympic Games in Beijing.

Prior to the Red Cross, Andrew was Executive Director of Austhos a company running private training and medical services at the Austin Hospital and overseas. Prior experience included the Fashion Industry, the Victorian Government and the Shell Oil Company. Andrew is also the President of the Australia Britain Society in Victoria.

## GEELONG

### New stand

Geelong Football Club is planning to name a new grandstand at Skilled Stadium after the club's legendary but controversial former star **Gary Ablett Snr**. Geelong chief executive **Brian Cook** said the new northern stand, part of a proposed \$75m upgrade, was likely to be named in honour of Ablett, *The Age* reported. The editor of *Letter from Melbourne* heard from one local that \$20m of government money is going towards the project, while local clubs Corio, North Shore and North Geelong get nothing.

## PLANNING & BUILDING

### The Windsor suite of problems

*The Age* reported that the Ombudsman has been called in to investigate the Hotel Windsor planning scandal, including any involvement by Premier **John Brumby** and Planning Minister **Justin Madden** in a bid to corrupt Victoria's planning laws. The Opposition, Greens and Democratic Labor Party used their numbers in the Legislative Council (upper house) to role the ALP and order an Ombudsman's inquiry into the affair. Ombudsman **George Brouwer** appears to have the power to question anyone he likes about the planning process for the \$260m redevelopment of the Windsor, including the senior government advisers who have so far refused to speak about their role. Attorney-General **Rob Hulls** lashed out at the Liberals and the Greens for trying to politicise the Ombudsman.

### Tell it to the judge

The *Financial Review* reported the Planning Minister **Justin Madden** has declared he always brings departmental officials to meetings with developers and lobbyists – except when he attends Labor Party fund-raisers or is approached in public. At a Parliamentary Accounts and Estimates Committee

hearing, Madden struggled to maintain a consistent line when explaining how he dealt with proponents and lobbyists. He claims that approaches have no impact on his decisions.

### In search of lost advice

Premier **John Brumby** is refusing to allow government staff to appear before a parliamentary inquiry into the Windsor Hotel planning scandal, despite his chief anticorruption adviser, **Elizabeth Proust**, saying they should be investigated and held accountable, *The Age* reported. Proust has called for ministerial advisers to be exposed to anticorruption investigators like others on the public payroll.

### The ideal platform

*The Age* reported that developers have given Labor \$1.2m over a decade, bankrolling the party in Victoria for that time period. One large donor from the development industry has called for the introduction of public funding of political parties to end the cash grab in the lead up to elections. Many developers will again be wooed for a Labor Party fundraising dinner in August that will include most of the Brumby Cabinet and federal Labor Cabinet ministers. Invitations to the \$1000-a-head say it is the ideal platform for business and government leaders to interact and build dialogue. Large donations by developers have occurred at the same time the Government has moved to make more land in Melbourne's fringe available to developers and has moved to speed up the planning process for suburban developments (see below).

### How high?

The developer with plans to renovate the Windsor Hotel is appealing against heritage restrictions aimed at protecting the local precinct. Halim Group is challenging height restrictions imposed by Heritage Victoria on a building to be constructed on the corner of Bourke and Spring streets, where the Hard Rock Café used to operate. Heritage Victoria's permit conditions for the \$260m Windsor project call for the reduction of the corner building to the level of the main cornice line of the Windsor Hotel. The condition would mean a reduction of 5.4 metres on the new building, bringing it into line with the height of the one it is to replace. Halim argues the reduction would mean the loss of one or two floors and 30 hotel rooms. It says this would harm the economic case of the project, which aims to increase the number of guest rooms from 180 to 332, *The Age* reported.

### Questionable protection

*The Age* reported that the chief executive of the National Trust, **Martin Purslow**, has attacked Heritage Victoria's decision to grant the Halim Group a heritage permit for the 91-metre hotel tower to be built at the back of the Windsor Hotel. He said Heritage Victoria registration now offered questionable protection for buildings given the Windsor permit is in an area with a 23-metre height limit. Some Melburnians are now considering forming a new community group to champion the heritage protection of significant CBD buildings. In August, the Melbourne City Council will begin its first review in two decades of its heritage overlays and protection of significant buildings in the city.

### No surprises here

*The Age* reported that Victoria is the only bright light in an otherwise ailing residential construction industry, accounting for more than twice the private housing starts of any other state. Nearby, the boom in Melbourne house prices has driven a rise in planning applications for big apartment developments as builders respond to strong demand for affordable housing in the overheated property market. With many suburban homes in Melbourne now costing more than \$1m, developers are rushing to bring multi-unit projects to the market in inner and outer suburbs at prices competitive with the traditional detached house and land.

### New advice

The Central City Advisory Committee, a new government and City of Melbourne joint advisory panel, will advise the Planning Minister on all developments over 25,000 square metres in the city centre. It comprises two councillors, **Peter Clarke** and **Jennifer Kanis**, and the council's chief urban planner, **Rob Adams**. **David Buckingham**, Victoria's former agent-general in London, will be committee chairman, while the Government representatives will be management consultant **Ms Chris Gallagher** and planners **Gaye McKenzie** and **Roger Eade**. Planning Minister **Justin Madden** announced the committee at the height of the controversy over the Hotel Windsor, *The Age* reported.

### Nearby

*The Age* reported councils could lose some of their planning powers to a citywide planning authority, under one of several proposals from the **Committee of Melbourne**, of which *The Age* is a member. The committee has released the first in a series of reports on planning Melbourne's future that argues a long-term vision must address the ultimate land size and physical shape of our city. The report calls for community debate on a new governance structure for planning, and questions the role of councils in planning. An editorial in the same paper said the report calls for the establishment of a citywide planning authority that would be responsible for some of the decisions now made by individual councils. The proposal has predictably annoyed the Municipal Association of Victoria, which argues – not too persuasively – the councils already have sufficient cooperation across municipal boundaries. More importantly, however, the report leaves open the crucial question of what form

the new authority would take. A bureaucratic body, such as the former Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works? A Minister for Melbourne? Or a Greater Melbourne Council?

### The young man from Stonnington

On the opinion pages of *The Age*, the mayor of the City of Stonnington, **Tim Smith**, wrote that the Committee from Melbourne's report (see above) gets down to business by calling for a single citywide planning agency in questioning the role of government in the current planning process. When I hear the phrase 'greater good for metropolitan Melbourne' or 'metropolitan imperatives' banded around by the development lobby, planners, bureaucrats, staffers or ministers, he wrote, I am forced to ask what is this greater good? Surely it should be the very people who live here now and that have legitimate concerns about the amenity of their suburbs. There is a disturbing tendency for these abstract notions of progress to morph into what my constituents describe as 'inappropriate development', too often decided centrally between bureaucrats at the Department of Planning and Community Development, the minister and the developer. In my experience, almost every month controversial planning applications are removed from local decision-making.

### Barber-shop of opinions

*The Age* reported that Greens MP **Greg Barber** said Melbourne needs a federation of local councils to consider planning issues and ensure development occurs with the full input of the community.

### Letting the water in

*Hamer Hall* will close at the beginning of July for a \$128m facelift linking the venue to the Yarra River. Slabs of concrete between the concert hall and the river will be knocked down and replaced with big windows, creating views towards Flinders Street Station and Federation Square. The heritage listed drum shaped hall will remain, but the 30-year-old venue will be virtually gutted on the inside to allow for new equipment and staging, better acoustics and new auditorium seating. While the renovations are taking place, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will return to where it first performed in 1906, the Melbourne Town Hall, *The Age* reported.

### Boom towns

The *Population and Residential Building Hotspots* report by the Housing Industry Association showed Whittlesea North topped the list with \$484m worth of new building approvals in 2008-09. There was 18 per cent population growth in Whittlesea North in the same period. Wyndham South took second place with 13 per cent growth, with Cardinia-Pakenham and Melton east fourth and fifth. The HIA says Victoria has the fastest growing population, and building works must keep accelerating in areas of demand. The leading urban planner said the push to the fringes meant the gap between the haves and have-nots was rapidly increasing. HIA Victorian executive director **Gil King** said there was no sign of boom suburb growth slowing, the *Herald Sun* reported.

### New York (and Hong Kong) comes to

### Melbourne

A development, dubbed Upper West Side by Hong Kong-based Far East Consortium, the size of a mini-suburb and housed on a prime city block is being considered by Planning Minister **Justin Madden** – and work has already begun on building a display unit at the site. The development would see 2,500 apartments being built on the site of the old Lonsdale Street Power Station – across the road from *The Age's* former head office – if approved, *The Age* reported.

### Equity chamber

The 1930-31 Equity Chambers building at 472 Bourke Street is the latest test case for planning and heritage processes in Victoria following the controversy over the Hotel Windsor redevelopment. Heritage Victoria recommended that Equity Chambers – which at times housed political and legal giants – be added to the heritage register. The recommendation comes almost 2 years after Melbourne City Council granted developer Williamson Properties planning approval to build 215 apartments on the site. The redevelopment includes retention of the façade on the ground floor, mezzanine level and level one with remaining floors transformed into apartments and a 16-storey apartment tower built behind the building, *The Age* reported.

### It's a valley?

Planning Minister **Justin Madden** announced new guidelines by the Maribyrnong River Valley aimed at ensuring planning consistency across the area. The Maribyrnong River Valley Guidelines identify priority developments, such as bicycle trail links and park facilities, some of which will be funded out of \$80,000 allocated to the plan, *The Age* reported.

### On the coast

Friends of Mallacoota have taken Planning Minister **Justin Madden** to the Supreme Court over plans to build a two lane boating facility at Bastion Point, which includes a 130 metre long breakwater that goes through a reef and threatens one of the best surf breaks in eastern Victoria, *The Age* reported.

### Legitimate democratic expression of interest

Parliament's **Law Reform Committee** is conducting an Inquiry into Arrangements for Security and Security Information Gathering at State Government Construction Projects like the desalination plant under construction at Wonthaggi/Kilcunda and whether the rights of Victorians, including those engaged in peaceful and legitimate democratic expression, have been respected by this new arrangement, [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lawreform](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lawreform).

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Green light to new lights

According to the Municipal Association of Victoria's *Bulletin*, the MAV and the Maribyrnong City Council, in partnership with 40 other Victorian councils launched the Give Our Streets the Green Light campaign, encouraging the federal and state governments to partner with local councils to replace old 1980s lighting technology with new energy-efficient

streetlights. Councillor **Bill McArthur**, MAV president said Victoria had an estimated 330,000 local road streetlights using old lamps that were typically the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions for local government. 'If the state and commonwealth fund a quarter to a third of the total upgrade costs, we will achieve a 78,000 tonne greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and a \$7m cost saving each year.'

### Creative forms

There is a dispute at the City of Casey over pay and career progression of staff, and a ballot of workers has endorsed some creative forms on industrial action including allowing people to park for free in the municipality. Australian Services Union assistant branch secretary **Igor Grattan** said Casey workers faced rising workloads in the fast-growing municipality and wanted to be paid as well as those at other nearby councils, *The Age* reported.

### Our paperwork!!

The **Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission** released a 42-page publication *Local Government for a Better Victoria: Inquiry into Streamlining Local Government Regulation; Draft Overview of Recommendations April 2010*.

### Mitchell seeking, and the Grampians too

**Mitchell Shire Council** seeks a chief executive officer, [www.mav.asn.au](http://www.mav.asn.au).

The **Northern Grampians Shire Council** seeks a chief executive officer, [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au)

## SPORT

### Over before it began

On the eve of the 2010 FIFA World Cup curtain raiser in South Africa, the powers behind Australia's bid to host the world's biggest sporting event confirmed they had dropped their tilt at hosting the 2018 tournament. The Asian Football Federation threw its weight behind returning the contest to Europe in 2018. Australia will continue to contest the right to host the 2022 World Cup, going up against the US, Qatar and unsuccessful European bidders for the 2018 tournament. The news came as FIFA wrapped up its 60th Congress ahead of the tournament beginning, the *Financial Review* reported. Recent news notes behind-the-scenes lobbying by Australia.

### Dippa

The AFL has stood down its children's ambassador, **Robert DiPierdomenico**, after the former Brownlow medallist made allegedly racist remarks, the second such controversy to engulf the league in a few days

in the middle of June. The AFL Hall of Fame member has been stood down indefinitely without pay from his role as AusKick ambassador after telling a function in Adelaide that former Essendon Brownlow medallist **Gavin Wanganeen** was 'not too bad for an Abo', *The Age* reported.

### Sky clearing

*The Age* reported that News Limited chief executive **John Hartigan** has held talks with four independent directors of the Melbourne Storm in a bid to persuade them to drop their legal action against the National Rugby League. He raised the possibility of News Limited handing over the club to the directors if they withdrew their High Court challenge to penalties for salary cap breaches. The directors' action effectively pits one of Rupert Murdoch's companies against another – News Limited owns Storm out right and controls half of the NRL. The writ was lodged by the independent directors in mid-May in the Victorian Supreme Court in which they claimed the game's governing body had acted out on its own rules and the Storm had been denied procedural fairness.

Melbourne Storm's independent directors believed that the club would have collapsed unless action was taken against the NRL and the penalties imposed for salary cap cheating. The Storm's four independent directors, chairman **Rob Moodie**, **Peter Maher**, **Gerry Ryan** and **Petra Fawcett**, are seeking a Victorian Supreme Court injunction to restrain the NRL from imposing the penalties, which included stripping the club of its 2007 and 2009 premierships and preventing it playing for competition points this season, *The Age* reported.

The *Herald Sun* reported that as the investigation into the salary cap scandal rolls towards completion, Storm players have vowed they are as tight as ever and will maintain a focus on winning games this season. The players have been the focus of considerable speculation after they ignored requests for interviews with auditors Deloitte. Investigators looking at the Storm rorts scandal are now looking at a chain of emails that specifically referred to a range of ways in which players could be paid outside the salary cap.

*The Age* reported that Victorian Supreme Court Justice **Tony Pagon** said he would be staggered if the National Rugby League could not quickly produce documents relating to the salary cut penalties imposed on Melbourne Storm, rebuffing NRL barrister **Michael Colbran's** request for more time to gather the documents requested by the Storm's independent directors.

### Best performed team ever

The Australian women's soccer team, the Matildas, won a penalty shootout against North Korea in Chengdu, China, to secure a cup victory. The team's performance qualified it for next year's World Cup in Germany, *The Age* reported.

### Disintegrating heart

The Museum of New Zealand has confirmed it will send **Phar Lap's** skeleton to Australia, to be reunited with the hide in Melbourne, provided agreement over loan details can be reached with the National Museum of Victoria. But the National Museum in Canberra said that it would not send Phar Lap's heart to the 150th anniversary of the Melbourne Cup because it was too delicate to move. After consulting scholars in four countries, the museum said the risk of the 3.2 kilogram heart disintegrating was too high to move, *The Age* reported.

### Not in that way

The *Herald Sun* reported that **Tiger Woods** has agreed to defend his Australian Masters title at Victoria Golf Club in November. His appearance fee of \$3m has once again ruffled some feathers, with **Rebecca Wilson** writing in the same paper that not all Victorians support the Government's assertion that Tiger Woods is worth the money. The state is evenly split on whether it is right to pay a serial adulterer to entertain us.

### Aker

Gay and community leaders, as well as the AFL, heavily criticised Western Bulldogs footballer Jason Akermanis for his opinion that gay AFL players should stay in the closet. Rugby league's first openly gay player, **Ian Roberts**, says Akermanis is living in another century, the *Herald Sun* reported.

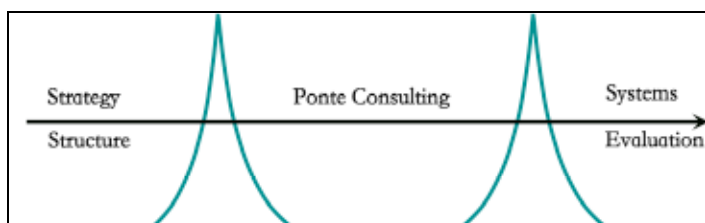
### Lost its way

*The Age* reported: Click on the team list on the AFL's website and betting odds will pop up before the list of players. According to anti-gambling campaigner **Tim Costello**, the AFL has lost its way. He said 'in taking the easy money', the AFL have lost their cultural role of protecting kids and keeping it a family sport.

## TOURISM

### Nothing like an ad campaign

Marketing experts have given the thumbs up to Tourism Australia's new \$150m global ad campaign, 'There's Nothing like Australia', launched at the end of May. In the flagship 90 second TV commercial with its bouncy *There's Nothing like Australia* song,



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viewers can tick off the clichés – camels at sunset on Broome's Cable Beach, a flight over the Great Barrier Reef, Aboriginal kids in billabong. Switch to a couple driving through the countryside, a barbecue on a Queensland beach... and what's this? A bit of Victoria. A rowing team sing along as they scull down the Yarra with black clouds menacing the Melbourne skyline, *The Age* reported.

## TRANSPORT

### RAIL

#### Good return on investment

The *Financial Review* reported that a proposed \$38b transport plan for Victoria would generate broader benefits of more than \$180b, according to state-commissioned research the Brumby government hopes will boost its case for federal funding. The study of the costs and impact of the Victorian Transport Plan by Ernst & Young considers the cumulative benefits of improvements to the entire system from 2009 to 2061.

#### What's the point?

*The Age* reported that the \$4.3b Regional Rail Link from Werribee to Southern Cross Station will not speed up regional train services, according to a government submission. The state and federal governments are building the link, 47 kilometres of new track, to improve access for trains from Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo. The Brumby government argues that it will allow a boost in the number of regional services to Melbourne and create capacity for an extra 9,000 passengers an hour across the suburban and regional networks at peak times.

#### Consistent

*The Age* reported that for the sixth consecutive month since it was hired by the Brumby government to run Melbourne's railways, Metro failed punctuality targets. Metro is remaking timetables in a bid to fit in more services and increase reliability. While almost all lines will have tweaked timetables, the big changes are to the Frankston, Cranbourne and Pakenham lines in peak hour from early June. The *Herald Sun* reported that Metro was fined the maximum \$3m for poor management of the Melbourne rail network. Metro declined to comment about the fine, which comes after six straight months of failure to meet its performance targets. Public Transport Users Association president **Daniel Bowen** said it was not surprising that Metro are being fined the maximum possible amount.

#### Data-logged

*The Age* reported that leaked government data logs show that travellers with myki cards have used the system on trams 41,000 times over the first fortnight in June. However, myki is legally valid for use only on trains in Melbourne. To become valid on trams and buses, a new law must be gazetted. The troubled smartcard system has shown signs of improvement: the leaked data shows it worked 96 per cent of the time on trams in May. Public transport Minister

**Martin Pakula** still cannot say when the smartcard will be turned on. Nearby, in 2006, the former chief executive of the Transport Ticketing Authority, **Viv Miners**, warned that the existing smartcard system was close to collapse. Meanwhile, the *Herald Sun* reported that Government research confirms just one in 20 train travellers uses myki. In a bizarre twist, Metcard recorded its highest ever approval rating in the same research. It shows myki is rated 62 out of 100, while Metcard scored 78.

#### The promotional truck

The Transport Ticketing Authority has paid Chadstone and Highpoint \$3,000 for the right to park the promotional truck at the shopping centres. The \$721,000 truck has also called by Westfield centres at airport West, Doncaster, Southgate, Plenty Valley and Southland. The PTA has also spent \$14,412 on small displays inside shopping centres and at festivals. In the past year, more than 60,000 people have visited myki displays at 52 locations, the *Herald Sun* reported.

#### Like schools of fish dodging predators

Transport Minister **Martin Pakula** says Melbourne's trains are getting safer – even though the number of crimes has not fallen over the past four years. Last financial year there were 7055 offences, which includes vandalism. That is a small increase on 2005-06 and 2006-07. Pakula said that because more people were using trains, people were statistically less likely to be victims. The rail unions and the Opposition disagreed, saying this is at odds with the experience of passengers, *The Age* reported.

#### Off the rails

A Connex ticket inspector bashed a man in the toilets of Moorabbin train station. **Paul Saluni**, 32, punched **Michael Kemp** in the head three times while fellow inspectors **David Smith**, 42, and **Mark Pankhurst**, 25, watched, the Moorabbin Magistrate's Court was told. In the brief hearing, the court heard all three ticket inspectors walked away after Kemp came out of the toilets and collapsed. Magistrate **Paul Smith** adjourned the case to October 20 for a two-day hearing.

#### The maddening crowd

Melbourne's most crowded train line, the Sydenham line, is about to be extended to Sunbury, but the ageing infrastructure on the line cannot cope with any extra services in peak hour. The news is revealed in the Initial Strategic Operations Plan, the same document that said passengers were happy to stand whilst travelling for 45 minutes (and, also, that it was assumed passengers needed just 40 cm x 40 cm of space), the *Herald Sun* reported. Patronage on the line is soaring amid booming population growth in Melbourne's outer west. Public Transport Minister **Martin Pakula** said the document was prepared by bureaucrats and bidders vying to run Melbourne's train system and doesn't reflect his view or government policy.

#### Nearby

Overcrowding on Melbourne's trains is causing so many passengers to become ill that Metro is

stationing St John Ambulance paramedics at its five busiest stations during morning rush hours, *The Age* reported. A 2009 train operations report by the Transport Department, obtained by the opposition, found the number of ill passengers is increasing, largely as a result of overcrowding.

## ROAD. PEDESTRIANS

#### Operational effectiveness

The *Herald Sun* reported that Victoria Police has defended its policy of using unmarked mobile speed cameras and not telling motorists where they are each day. Budget papers reveal the Government expects traffic camera fines to earn \$476.8m in 2010-11. Victoria Police refused to release the notice of where speed cameras would be found each day, in time for locations to be published to deter motorists speeding, because it would diminish the operational effectiveness of mobile speed camera enforcement. In the letters to the editor of that paper, **Colin Andrews**, of Doncaster, wrote 'when I go to pick up my kids from school, a distance of 22 kilometres, I go through 18 speed zones. Roads I have driven on for 20 years now have speed limit changes up to four times in one kilometre. Under this government, if I miss one because I'm actually looking at the road and traffic instead of signs and my speedo, I am practically a criminal.'

#### Twos ever thus?

*The Age* reported that rules that came into effect last November mean that both cyclists and drivers behind trams must stop while tram doors remain open, or pedestrians are on the road at a tram stop. The fine for running a red light on a bike, for which 750 riders were fined last year, is now \$292, the same as in a car. The fine for not wearing a helmet has jumped \$246 – which is likely to bring in at least \$1m in revenue for the government this financial year.

#### Helmet focus

Melbourne has become the world's first city with compulsory helmet laws to also have a bicycle share scheme. Roads Minister **Tim Pallas** launched the scheme, which will allow users to pay a \$50 yearly subscription fee and then take one of the bicycles with no further charge for 30 minutes at a time. The first 10 docking stations were opened around the central business district, with 100 bicycles in them. By the end of July there will be 600 bikes, docked at 50 stations around the CBD. The scheme will cost taxpayers \$5.5m over four years. Members of the bicycle share scheme get a small key card, which is inserted into a docking station to release one of the bicycles. They then have the use of the bicycle for 30 minutes, and it can be returned to any other docking station. If it is not returned within 24 hours, the user will be charged \$500, *The Age* reported.

#### Slowing

One of the eastern suburbs main routes into the city, Albert Street, East Melbourne, will have its speed limit cut to 50 kilometres an hour as new bicycle paths become operational, *The Age* reported.

**Recipe for disaster**

The *Herald Sun* reported that MP3 players, mobile phones and noiseless electric cars are a recipe for pedestrian disaster, according to insurance company research. AAMI spokesman **Mike Sopinski** says research shows two in three pedestrians admit to jaywalking.

**Fantastic Dr Fox**

**Lindsay Fox** was awarded an honorary doctorate by Victoria University for his outstanding achievements in the transport industry and his contribution to the community through sustained efforts to reduce unemployment and his campaigning against youth suicide, *The Age* reported.

**On the move**

The office site of 60 Denmark Street is currently occupied by VicRoads, but they may be on the move.

## AIR

**Retrospectivity**

The *Herald Sun* reported that hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines issued at Melbourne Airport were validated after laws were rushed into Parliament. A bureaucratic mistake left a loophole that could have seen about 70,000 parking fines nationwide challenged in court, but the Federal Government headed off challenges by back-dating the laws to 2004. Parking is a major cash cow for Melbourne airport, which earned \$90m from motorists in 2008-09, or about one fifth of total revenue. Melbourne Airport is charging drivers more for short stays – \$20 for one to two hours, up \$2 – despite raking in record profits.

**Losing its virginity**

New Virgin Blue chief executive **John Borghetti** will take the airline from a low fare only business to one that offers all travel classes, according to airline sources in Brisbane, *The Age* reported. It will introduce business class, change its name and uniforms, and add larger planes to domestic routes in a bid to become a far more potent competitor to Qantas.

**iPad**

*The Australian* reported that Jet Star is offering passengers the opportunity to rent iPads on some of its flights.

**Supersonic**

The *Herald Sun* reported that the first step in getting Concorde back in the air – possibly for a fly past at the 2012 Olympic Games in London – are underway in France. It is hoped to get the supersonic passenger jet flying again in a heritage capacity.

## PORTS

**Back to front beach**

*The Age* reported that the front beach at Portsea facing Port Phillip Bay and the back beach, facing the ocean surf, are merging into one with the bay beach behind the Portsea hotel being washed away. For many Portsea locals, there is only one possible answer as to why – the unprecedented dredging of the bay during 2008 and 2009 to deepen shipping channels. **Don Hough**, director of the government's Office of Environmental Monitor, set up to oversee the dredging project, is not certain, but said there was no evidence to suggest dredging was to blame. Modelling before the channel deepening project suggested it would increase the range between the high and low tide mark around the bay by 20 millimetres. This has happened, but only for short periods. The average tide has stayed the same.

## THE WORKPLACE

## IR

**Never mind the children**

The *Herald Sun* reported that the construction of the new Royal Children's Hospital could fall behind schedule because of an industrial dispute. At the beginning of June, hundreds of Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union members downed tools and

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walked off the hospital site, part of a long-running battle between the CFMEU and Bovis Lend Lease.

## COMMUNITY

**The opposite of Seachange**

The tiny central Victorian settlement of **Kirwans Bridge** is fighting against plans to close a 110-year-old bridge that locals use to reach the outside world, the *Herald Sun* reported. Closure would also bring social isolation and economic decline to nearby Nagambie and cut Kirwans Bridge residents off from access to a new bypass. Strathbogie Shire Council is against closure, but has told residents the bridge is unsafe and no funds are available for its replacement or an upgrade...

**Heavenly job**

The **Bible Society**, an interdenominational Christian organisation, seeks a chief executive officer, [www.talent2.com](http://www.talent2.com).

**Desperately seeking someone**

Relationships Australia Victoria six chief executive officer, [www.waite.com.au](http://www.waite.com.au).

**Vale**

**Jim Braden**, distinguished Rotarian, aged 99. **Richard Elvins**, former president of the Institute of Public Administration. **Ian Gittus**, chairman of Kids Victoria and a former Chairman of the Board of the National SIDS Council of Australia. **Margaret Thornborrow**, past student of Firkbank Grammar School. **Jim Griffin**, schoolteacher at Xavier College, history professor in Papua New Guinea, lecturer in Townsville where he made many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends, and then at the Australian National University, analyst at the top-secret Office of National Assessments, aged 80. **Paul John McKeown AM**, pioneered Geelong Grammar's outdoor education program, early staff member at Timbertop, headmaster of Canberra Grammar School. **Bruce Sharp**, architect and member of The Buchan Group in 1971 until his retirement in 2000. **Julian Randolph Stow**, one of the forgotten greats of Australian writing, a poet, librettist and children's writer, aged 74. **Air Vice Marshal Ernest Michael Carol CBE**, aged 85. **Lieutenant Colonel Graham Maxwell Palmer ED**, former 2/6 Battalion AIF and



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Victorian Scottish Regiment, a past president and board member, welfare officer, and then executive officer for over 20 years at Carry On (Victoria), aged 89. **Phyllis Connor**, left school in 1927, past president of the Old Grammarians Society aged 99. **John Thomas Mahon**, former principal of Aquinas College. **Tove Helms OAM**, an international career with UNICEF, aged 88. **Peter Strickland**, member of the De La Salle College community, aged 85. **Michael Schildberger**, reporter at *The Sun News-Pictorial*, news director and newsreader, executive producer and host of *A Current Affair*, radio host on 3LO and Fox, and media trainer, aged 72. **Mary Funaki**, artist, gallery owner (the National Gallery of Victoria will open her solo exhibition at its Federation Square building on August 6), aged 59. **Nola Neuparth**, designer, bush walker, aged 83. **Dr Blair Widmer MBBS OAM**, dedicated medical practitioner up until his 91st year. **Mark Andrew Bence**, landscaper who, with his business partner, Martin Semken, took the first Australian garden to the Chelsea Flower Show in London in 2004, fifth-generation Warrandyte resident whose grandfather, Bill Hussey, ran the horse-drawn drag that connected Warrandyte with the railway at Ringwood and Heidelberg. **Friar William Edwards**, member of the Salesians of Don Bosco of the Australia-Pacific Province. **Ted Innes**, secretary of the Electrical Trades Union from 1964 until 1971, entered Parliament in 1972 as a member of the Whitlam government. **Darren Smith**, Australian sapper killed in Afghanistan, aged 25. **Jacob Moerland**, Australian sapper who died in Afghanistan, aged 21. Their sniffer dog, **Herbie**, also died. **Father John Drury SJ**, last rector of St Patrick's College East Melbourne, aged 90. **Thomas Henry Jones**, Captain of the Yarcok Rural Fire Brigade. **Tom Jones**, Old Scotch Collegian. **Susan Greenwood**,

senior Victorian public servant and ICT specialist. **Gloria Staley**, restaurateur who established Fanny's and Glo Glo's, with Fanny's closing in 1993 after 33 years, aged 89. **Adriana Xenides**, the glamorous Argentinian-born letter turner on the television show *Wheel of Fortune* for 15 years, aged 54. **Mr Prisco Di Stasio**, the father of Melbourne restaurateur Ronnie, aged 91. **Valentine Percy Cleary**, forester who gave Victoria an enviable an internationally recognised reputation in forest fire management, visiting lecturer in fire protection at the Victorian School of Forestry from 1960 until 1980, aged 87. **Norma Eileen Campbell-Smith**, teacher, preschool adviser with the Victorian Health Department, member of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club, aged 90. **Andrew Wilson**, Victorian pilot who died with his passenger in a crash landing attempt in Sydney's west soon after taking off from nearby by Bankstown airport; Wilson just managed to miss a group of children who were on the way to a nearby primary school, aged 27. **Rosemarie Gillespie**, also known as **Waratah Rose**, lawyer who was a political prisoner in Fiji in the first military coup in 1987 and acted as a human shield during the 2003 Iraq war, aged 69. **Andrew Wakely**, Royal Australian Navy sailor on shore leave from *HMAS Warramunga* who went missing off Kaleti Beach resort in Tonga. **Ian Stevenson**, 50-year member of the Royal Brighton Yacht Club. **Norma Hodge**, president of the Haileybury Mothers Association and member of The Haileybury Society. **Harold Ernst Adam Pfeffer A.M. FCPA**, retired wing commander RAAF. **Noel Dennis**, third generation Western Districts Polworth sheep farmer. **Leonard Anthony Boffa**. **Beverly Kemp (Bell - nee Taylor)**. **Thomas Aloysius Molomby**, lawyer. **Carlo Valmorbidia**. **Kenneth D'Esterre Atkins**. **Alexander Power OAM**. **Dr Colin Laing**. **Julian Leitch**

**Walmesley**, businessman. **Eric Martin**. **Norman Rothfield OAM**. **Dr Charles William Wilson**, medical practitioner, aged 90. **Barbara Helen Blanche (nee Balderstone)**. **Kevin McBeath**, music industry figure, ran Melbourne's leading classical record retailer Thomas' Music Warehouse, broadcaster with the ABC, aged 85. **Bruce Arthur Morgan**, architect, prefabricator, swimmer, aged 69. **Peter Bowers**, veteran Herald political journalist.

**Arthur Gordon Linkletter**, renowned American TV host, aged 97. **Dennis Hopper**, the maverick director and co-star of the landmark 1969 counterculture film classic *Easy Rider*, aged 74. **Dame Pat Evison**, New Zealand actress, aged 85. **Vladimir Arnold**, Russian, one of the most important mathematicians of the last century, the co-author of the KAM theorem of classical mechanics, which was developed in the 1950s and bore the initials of its creators, Kolmogorov, Arnold and Moser, aged nearly 73. **Jack Harrison**, believed to be the last survivor of the prisoner of war break out immortalised in the film *The Great Escape*, one of scores of Allied servicemen who tried to flee Stalag Luft III during World War II, former RAF pilot, aged 97.

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