Alistair Urquhart
Alistair Urquhart is a respected and independent public affairs professional with over 20 years experience both in Australia and overseas.

Doug Connell
Doug Connell is a project management and logistics expert who has held senior positions in Industry, the Port of Melbourne, The Department of Transport and Australia Post.

David Wilson
David Wilson has held executive positions in government in Victoria (Director of the Ministry of Transport) and a Logistics Manager for WillowWare Australia. He is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne.

Robert Maclellan
The Honourable Robert Maclellan AM has had a distinguished career in State Government as a cabinet minister with portfolios in transport, industrial relations and planning.

The change of government in Victoria may bring new opportunities. Perhaps the chance for a new approach by your team to a new team.

A training course in public affairs and communication
A one-day, interactive workshop educating workshop educating and training you so that you can more easily clarify perspectives and achieve your objectives with government and stakeholders.

Timeframes
Campaign Management
The Law and Ethics
Advocacy Toolkit

OUR TEAM
presents a unique combination of experience and talent from multiple perspectives. They share their combined knowledge and skill with participants on how to successfully influence government department policy and understand the importance of research and strategy in marketing and selling to government. They enable participants to understand both the strategic and tactical elements that must fit together in order to bring a desired result.

These are very special events; they are an unlikely constellation of political, government and industry expertise that will focus on the challenge of how to influence government. How often does one hear a former government Minister, a former Permanent Head of department and an experienced ex-bureaucrat interact with a professional lobbyist to discuss how to influence 'affairs of state?'

Stakeholder Relations
Planning Your Strategy
The Message
The Targets

Government Relations

“there is nothing more difficult to carry out nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things”
– Machiavelli in THE PRINCE (1513)

Positioning for Success
Next Event: Thursday 25 August 2011
The Windsor Hotel
EDITORIAL


As the editor looked through the 18,000 words of this edition, a few more words than in recent editions and following our normal method of summarising the massive amount of print media, not many items stood out as being 'big' or controversial. Perhaps, this is because the Victorian parliament has not been sitting since the last edition. Signals of more important planning changes are on the horizon.

The feature items in the Melbourne papers have been the launch of the nationally-oriented carbon tax details/legislation, and the international media/privacy/Murdoch coverage.

The slow Victorian newfront probably explains why Christine Nixon has had such extensive coverage, with massive print/other media and photo coverage in metropolitan and national papers.

Melbourne remains bloody cold. The editor had a few days in Darwin. Not a bad place to do business, certainly at this time of the year. Last chances for you to join the editor in Manchester in early October, to find out how the other side of the world debates public policy and government.


STOP PRESS: Victorian Human Rights Commision off to Canberra.

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

| STATE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS | 1 |
| ARTS | 2 |
| ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION | 2 |
| ENERGY | 6 |
| WATER | 6 |
| HEALTH | 6 |
| EDUCATION | 6 |
| INVESTMENT, BUSINESS | 8 |
| ICT | 10 |
| AGRICULTURE | 10 |
| JUSTICE | 11 |
| MELBOURNE | 18 |
| DOCKLANDS | 19 |
| PLANNING & BUILDING | 19 |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT | 20 |
| GAMING | 21 |
| TOURISM | 22 |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | 22 |
| TRANSPORT, RAIL | 23 |
| ROAD | 23 |
| AIR | 25 |
| THE WORKPLACE, IR | 25 |
| TALES OF BUREAUCRACY | 25 |
| COMMUNITY | 26 |
Human rights charter
The Age reported that the Victorian Human Rights Commissioner Helen Szoke called for the state’s human rights charter to be expanded, despite the Coalition strongly criticising it while in opposition. The review committee is led by upper house Liberal MP Edward O’Donohue. He previously labeled the charter ‘undemocratic’ in 2007 while future Premier Ted Baillieu and future Attorney-General Robert Clark strongly criticised it when it was introduced the previous year. The Age later reported that leaked government documents have given the strongest indication yet that the human rights charter will be retained - possibly with only minor reforms - when the Coalition makes a decision on its fate later this year. That news came despite some Liberal MPs maintaining that it is ill-conceived, undemocratic, or a waste of money. The Liberal MP heading the parliamentary inquiry, Ed O’Donohue, had also been a vocal critic, once describing it as ‘nebulous, ill-defined and undemocratic’. O’Donohue rejected suggestions that the committee - which is made up of four Coalition MPs and three Labor MPs - had a predetermined outcome on the charter’s future.

No fair
The Financial Review reported that Queensland Premier Anna Bligh demanded the Gillard government give her state a better deal on the carbon tax, saying Queenslanders won’t ‘sit by’ while Victorian power generators win all the compensation. As Bligh stepped up the pressure, Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu was on the attack, claiming the carbon plan would cost the state’s hospitals about $13.5 million a year in extra energy bills, rising to more than $20 million by 2020.

Hindsight is tinted green
The Age reported that the Victorian Labor Party would rethink doing preference deals with the Greens in the future, after a review of the Brumby government election defeat questioned their value. Seven months after Ted Baillieu won government, an internal review cast fresh light on what went wrong in Labor’s campaign. Headed by federal MP Alan Griffin, the review looks at a range of issues, such as marginal suburban electorates Labor neglected, the party’s campaign strategies, and problems in electorates on the Frankston railway line where several seats were lost.

What’s in the box?
The Age state political editor Josh Gordon wrote that premier Ted Baillieu isn’t opposed to the idea of a carbon tax. ‘On the contrary, he just doesn’t agree with the model presented by the Gillard government. In opposition, he went to pains to differentiate himself from interstate Liberal colleagues, backing the science of climate change, and Kevin Rudd’s now-defunct emissions trading scheme, and signing up to legislation introduced by the Brumby government aspiring to cut Victoria’s greenhouse gas emissions 20 per cent by 2020.’

Watermelons
The Herald Sun reported that some Victorian politicians had branded the Greens a party of radical communists or ‘watermelons’. The term is used to describe something that is green on the outside and ‘red’ on the inside. As of July, the Greens hold the balance of power in the Senate, allowing them to make or break some reform laws if the main parties don’t agree. In federal parliament, Melbourne Ports Labor MP Michael Danby warned the ‘watermelon’ faction of the Greens that it must reject extremism. Victorian Liberal senator Helen Kroger, also speaking in Parliament, went a step further. ‘There’s a state smell wafting at the Senate doors - it’s called radical communism’.

Fundraising breach
The Age reported that a Liberal Party fund raising group breached federal electoral laws by failing to declare donations to candidates in the lead-up to last year’s state election. Business First, based in Melbourne’s southern suburbs, raised money for Liberal candidates in a group of bayside seats. The Age said the group involving former Liberal MP Geoff Leigh, operated beyond the reach of Australian electoral law, public scrutiny and, it seems, Liberal Party discipline. Related to this, The Age reported that planning minister Matthew Guy attended a $75-a-head function at Parliament House in May. Premier Baillieu said that a code of conduct was to be drafted and released by the end of the year to give ministers and staff clear rules around fund raising, gifts and hospitality. After days of inquiries by The Age, the Liberal Party lodged its first disclosures for Business First with the Australian Electoral Commission for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

Funds running dry
The Age reported that the Victorian branch of the Liberal Party has not received hundreds of thousands of dollars because Premier Baillieu has not delivered a long-awaited code of conduct for ministerial fund raising. The Age claimed that state ministers have raised virtually no money since the Coalition was elected in November, with the burden falling entirely on increasingly frustrated federal Liberal MPs from Victoria.

Brumby’s advertising bolt
The Age reported that the Brumby government spent more than $100 million on advertising in the financial year leading up to the 2010 election. Figures show Labor spent more taxpayer dollars selling its water plans and promoting public education than it did on bushfire awareness and the Quit smoking campaign in 2009-10. The report on the Brumby government’s advertising - obtained by The Age under freedom of information - found campaign advertising increased by almost 15 per cent to $100.8 million. Overall advertising on campaigns, government tenders and recruitment jumped from $114.6 million in 2008-09 to $124.3 million, sparking accusations from the Baillieu government that Labor had abused taxpayer
funds for self-promotion when in power.

An also ran

The Age reported that South Australian education minister Jay Weatherill, a lawyer, has been lined up by Labor power brokers to replace the deposed Mike Rann as premier. As of 1 August, it is unclear when the leadership transition will occur.

Old Melbourne on display

The Age noted the opening of an exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria at Federation Square. This Wondrous Land: Colonial Art on Paper, ‘Part Two’ is running concurrently with ‘Part One’ at NGV International in St Kilda Road, which shows art from early settlement in New South Wales and Tasmania. The National Gallery of Victoria prints and drawings curator Alisa Bunbury said that light sensitivity limits the gallery’s ability to display works on paper but these works are being shown to mark the NGV’s 150th anniversary.

Report hits a sad note

The Age reported that the future of Orchestra Victoria is in doubt, according to a study by the national funding body, the Australia Council. Melbourne’s major opera and ballet orchestra had an operating loss last year of $605,000. It struck a deal with the Australian Ballet and remove what it describes as restrictive work practices. This would involve the abolition of full-time musicians to shrink the number of players and allowances, with only a core ensemble of leading musicians. The study was prepared for the federal, Victorian and New South Wales governments after they ruled out increased grants to any of the major performing arts companies, including Orchestra Victoria and its Sydney counterpart, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. Opera Australia last year wrote off a $5.5 million debt from the AOBO, which continues to lose about $800,000 a year.

Ambitious target

The Australian reported that the Victorian government came under pressure to explain how it would deliver a 20 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions, after the state adopted Australia’s most ambitious climate change legislation without introducing new policies to meet it.

Under your feet

The Age reported that a south-western Victorian community objected to a mining company’s proposal to search for brown coal over 500 square kilometres that includes the town of Deans Marsh. In the latest bid to develop a Victorian brown coal export industry, Mantle Mining applied to the state government for an exploratory licence for the area and forced work to halt. If granted, the licence would allow the company to explore coal reserves beneath private land. Land owners could negotiate for compensation for any property damage. A separate commercial licence would be needed before a mine was developed. Stop the press. This proposal is evidently not going ahead.

Playing possum

The Age reported that logging began in native forest north-east of Melbourne. Environmentalists allege that this particular forest is home to the endangered Leadbeater’s possum. VicForests, the Victorian government’s commercial forestry arm, began logging 19 hectares of forest at Sylvia Creek Road in the Toolangi State Forest. The Department of Sustainability and Environment has been ‘rechecking’ the logging coupe, following protests by anti-logging groups, to see that it is not home to the Leadbeater’s possum.

The small marsupial is endemic to Victoria’s central highlands, and is believed to number fewer than 1,000. Surveys of the coupe by the department and VicForests found no Leadbeater’s possum habitat or old-growth mountain ash forest, but VicForests will leave alone an extra three hectares as a ‘habitat island’ in answer to ‘concerns raised by conservationists’. On 26 June, The Age reported that conservationists had entered the area and forced work to halt.

Sea change

The Herald Sun reported that a fire destroyed part of the Jirrahlinga Koala and Wildlife Sanctuary at Barwon Heads. Two baby koalas and four adults, rescued and in rehabilitation after road trauma or illness, died as a result. The shelter’s founder, Tehree Gordon, rescued her first koala 52 years ago.

Possum pill

The brushtail possum population in Carlton North’s Curtain Square is held responsible for damaging the area’s trees. The Herald Sun reported that Yarra Council plans a two-year hormone implant trial to stop possums breeding in the square. Greens Mayor Alison Clarke said the square’s trees were in poor condition because of possum numbers, but culling was not the answer. ‘We could potentially cull the possums, but that would mean a lot of people would be very upset. We don’t want to just kill all the possums. We want to have wildlife in the city and we have to learn to co-exist with it.’
VECCI appoints new Chief Executive

Earlier this year VECCI President Peter McMullin announced the appointment of Mark Stone as the new VECCI Chief Executive: “Mr Stone is an experienced and successful Chief Executive who has specialised in public sector management as well as collaborative private sector and business engagement – he will be a great asset to VECCI and will continue the development and transformation of the organisation achieved by our outgoing Chief Executive Wayne Kayler-Thomson. I congratulate Wayne on a first-class job as CEO – he has taken the organisation forward a long way. The organisation is on the right path and Mr Stone will continue this journey.”

Until this appointment Mr Stone was Chief Executive of Tourism Victoria and was previously Chief Executive of Parks Victoria. He is enthused by the opportunity to lead Victoria’s most influential business organisation and to contribute to Victoria’s future as a great state for business investment and development. “In succeeding Wayne, I am well aware and appreciative of the fact that I have the opportunity to lead an organisation which is in great shape, and I am excited by the challenge to further develop its strength and performance,” Mr Stone said.

Outgoing Chief Executive Wayne Kayler-Thomson said that he was delighted with Mr Stone’s appointment and looked forward working with VECCI in the future. “The Chamber is providing excellent services to its members, customers and clients and is developing and advocating good public policy for Victoria. It has been immensely rewarding to have had the opportunity to contribute to its continued success,” Mr Kayler-Thomson said.

Mr Stone took up the role in mid-June. On 1 July, Mr Kayler-Thomson took up his new role as Chief Executive of the Australian Chamber Alliance Pty Ltd – a joint venture company owned by Australia’s State and Territory Chambers of Commerce and Industry - as well as pursuing other interests.

Small Businesses Neglected in Carbon Tax Announcement

While a minority of small businesses, particularly in the green technology sector, will benefit, the Federal Government’s carbon price announcement will leave a sour taste in the mouths of most Victorian small businesses.

While we now know the carbon price and the exemptions, Victoria’s 500,000 small businesses were effectively ignored in Prime Minister Gillard’s announcement. Most households and some large businesses will receive compensation but small business will not receive anything meaningful and will have to absorb flow-through power costs. Small business risks being left as ‘the forgotten sector’, while already operating on low margins in the wake of soft consumer sentiment, interest rate rises and a high Australian dollar.

The Government has also drip-fed announcements through the media without talking to the small business sector, leaving small businesses to work it out for themselves.

There has been little modelling of the impacts on small business – the sector that employs the bulk of Victorians. Victorian State Government modelling shows a cost to the State economy of around $2.5 billion and of up to $1,000 for the average small business such as the hairdresser, bakery and pizza shop via increased power costs. According to this modelling, the cost to the average dairy farm will be $1,500, impacting heavily on regional Victoria.

We are also disappointed that there is a lot of stick and little carrot for small business. One is struck by the lack of incentives to cut carbon intensity.

This package will mean small businesses, besides the impact already referred to, will need to take further energy efficiency measures in their day-to-day business operations just to keep costs within reason.

To follow reader reaction to the carbon tax debate go to: www.veCCI.org.au/news/Pages/Chief_Executive_Update_Small_business_neglected_in_carbon_tax_announcement.aspx
**Off the grid**

A special in *The Age* explored properties across central Victoria that are testing out life with no mains electricity in order to reduce the risk of bushfires sparked by power-line failure. Bushfire Safety Taskforce chairman Tim Orton said the group’s work is producing crucial information. ‘If we get this right, we can make a very substantial change to bushfire risk in a more proactive way than we’ve been able to do in the past’.

Outcomes of the Bushfire Royal Commission on the relationship between electricity and bushfires was also discussed. The commission found that the ‘failure of electricity assets was responsible for five fires, at Kilmore East, Beechworth-Mudgegonga, Horsham, Coleraine and Pomborneit-Weerite. Now is the time to start replacing the aging electricity infrastructure and to make major changes to its operation and management.’

The commission’s recommendations to reduce the risk of fires caused by electricity include the progressive replacement of all single-wire earth-return power lines in Victoria with aerial bundled cable, underground cabling or technology that greatly reduces bushfire risk.

**Station’s future is hazy**

*The Age* wrote, prior to the carbon price deal brokered by Canberra’s multi-party climate committee, that the deal would include a plan to pay for the closure or conversion to gas of at least one of the nation’s greenhouse gas-intensive coal plants over an extended transition period. The paper speculated that Australia’s ‘dirtiest’ large coal-fired power station, Hazelwood in the Latrobe Valley, could be bought out and shut down under a carbon price package. Federal Energy Minister Martin Ferguson reportedly flagged the possibility of the government paying to retire Hazelwood, or the smaller Playford plant in South Australia. The owners of another Victorian plant, Yallourn, indicated they would be open to a buyout for the right price.

**Heart of darkness**

*The Australian* reported on Julia Gillard’s visit to the heart of the nation’s coal sector in the Latrobe Valley to meet workers who are probably the most vulnerable to the carbon tax. Hazelwood, targeted by green groups as the nation’s dirtiest coal power station, produces 25 per cent of Victoria’s electricity. It is regarded as the most likely coal station to be closed or converted to gas by either side of politics. In an event closed to the media, Gillard met 120 workers at the Hazelwood power station. She took questions on her plan to shut down 2,000 megawatts of energy from coal-fired power stations and replace it with cleaner energy generation.

**Power shortages possible**

*The Age* reported that in the wake of the prime minister’s Carbon Tax announcement, the Victorian government warned the state to brace for more frequent power outages in summer in years ahead, because of the likely closure of the Hazelwood power plant. Acting Premier Peter Ryan warned the federal government’s carbon tax would drive a ‘stake through the heart’ of the power generation sector, threatening widespread job losses in the Latrobe Valley.

**Disconnected**

*The Age* reported that there has been a large increase in Victorians having utility services disconnected or restricted. Consumers are apparently struggling to cope with steep rises in electricity, gas and water prices. Complaints and inquiries to the state Energy and Water Ombudsman from people who have had essential services cut have risen to 916 in the first six months of the year - up 56 per cent on the same period in 2009. The figures provided to *The Age* show a 200 per cent increase in cases of people facing imminent cuts because of unpaid bills, up to 1419. Energy and Water Ombudsman Fiona McLeod said affordability was a growing concern. ‘I think the real need is for companies to recognise that.’

**Smart meter held back**

The *Herald Sun* reported that the Australian Energy Regulator has moved to block a bid by OliPower, Jemena, Powercor, SP AusNet and United Energy Distribution to charge $1.24 billion to build and run the smart meter system from 2012-15. The regulator said the cost should be $760 million. The decision has been hailed a major win for Victorians struggling with soaring electricity costs.

**Back from the brink**

*The Age* reported comments from Mark Bailey from Goulburn-Murray Water, where he is acting manager of water resources saying that Lake Eildon is 87.8 per cent full. The mass of water meant that vast areas were available for recreation, while towns and irrigators had improved water security. Recent inflows and long-term inflow records suggested the water would keep rising strongly over coming months. ‘We are 95 per cent confident we will fill the storage’. David Roff, chief executive of Mansfield Shire, said a full Lake Eildon generated a lot of economic activity. In May 2007 the lake fell as low as 7 per cent capacity.

**Catchment head**

Midura Councillor Sharyon Peart is the Mallee Catchment Authority board’s new chair.

**Do us a favour**

Senior columnist at *The Age*, Kenneth Davidson, wrote that the Baillieu government should do everyone a favour and cancel the Wonthaggi plant deal. ‘Premier Ted Baillieu describes the Wonthaggi water desalination plant as a white elephant. It would be more accurate to say it is halve an elephant, and a dangerous one to boot. The public-private partnership contract for the plant agreed to by the previous Labor government was so notoriously generous that the unions on site easily obtained a fabulous pay agreement. Who could blame them for getting in for their chop too? Former premier John Brumby said it didn’t matter - the government had a fixed-price contract with AquaSure. What Baillieu knows now, and what Brumby should have known, is that this has set the benchmark for site agreements for infrastructure throughout Victoria. The cost blowout will flow on to every major construction project in the state. Victoria is saddled with an onerous $24 billion contract that will impoverish every Victorian, either directly or indirectly, for 30 years. And it’s for water that the state doesn’t need.’

**Only the best**

The Royal Children’s Hospital chief executive Christine Kilpatrick told the *Herald Sun* that the world-leading facility would open on 30 November. The daylight-flooded hospital will be able to treat 35,000 more patients a year than the current facility, which opened in 1963, and has 353 beds, 46 more. And 85 per cent of the rooms in the new hospital are single rooms with ensuite bathrooms, allowing children and families extra space and privacy.

**Bar in the Children’s Hospital**

A blueprint seen by *The Age* showed a large 264-square-metre area for a ‘restaurant/bistro/bar’ in the retail zone of the new Royal Children’s Hospital paediatric centre on Flemington Road. A spokeswoman for Health Minister David Davis denied there was room for a public bar in the project, but said alcohol would be permitted in the hotel’s restaurant and lounge area, and through room service and mini-bars for guests. John Fitzgerald, the acting chief executive of VicHealth and founding member of the Alcohol Policy Coalition, said alcohol should not be served to people attending the hospital, including staff.

**Another tick for the PM**

*The Age* reported that the long-awaited agreement, worth an estimated $175 billion to the states in extra funding up to 2030, promises to provide millions of extra inpatient, emergency and outpatient services in public.
We want additional beds to be operational as The Victorian Department of Health is seeking The Herald Sun reported that Victorian Where are the beds? Victoria's share of the $175 billion in extra funding would probably be about $44 billion. The agreement is supposed to start on July 1, but has been delayed by battles with Victoria and Western Australia. These have been over the new structures for pricing services and monitoring results, and how funds will be paid. The states have wanted to retain as much control as possible, while getting more money, but there has been a series of compromises, with both levels of government giving ground. Where are the beds? The Herald Sun reported that Victorian opposition leader Daniel Andrews pressured Health Minister David Davis to explain when and how the Bailleu government intended to deliver an election commitment of 800 new hospital beds for sick Victorians. The government later responded, saying that 100 beds would be allocated ‘in the next 12 months’ according to ‘clinical need’. The new beds would include six intensive-care beds, three neo-natal intensive-care cots, 20 palliative-care beds, more than 45 sub-acute beds and 46 mental health beds. But they would not be allocated until the government came up with ‘funding guidelines’. The government will then start to negotiate with each of the 21 public health services across the state to achieve the best outcome for Victorians. A spokesperson said ‘We want additional beds to be operational as soon as possible, but new beds will be based on need and capacity of health services to deliver additional services’.

Council appointments
The Victorian Department of Health is seeking expressions of interest for positions to the newly established Health Innovation and Reform Council. HIRC was established under part 6A of the Health Services Act and will provide advice to, and report to, the Minister for Health and the Department of Health on the efficient delivery of quality health services.

Quick to quit
The Herald Sun reported that Victorians wanting to quit smoking are signing up ‘in droves’ for government-subsidised nicotine patches. The subsidies have been in place since February and more than 100,000 scripts have been filled across Australia. More than 26,000 of those were filled in Victoria. Quit Victoria applauded the news, saying that the initiative it campaigned for was helping more people give up a deadly habit. Quit executive director Fiona Sharkie said the subsidy was important and would lead to fewer smoking-related deaths. The government subsidies for patches have reduced costs for a 12-week course for pensioners from $480 to as low as $16.80. Other Australians pay about $100 for the 12-week course. Health Minister Nicola Roxon said that since nicotine replacements were put on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme, people had been trying to kick the habit ‘in droves’.

The unbridged gap
The Australian covered the results of a report into the plight of Victoria’s indigenous population, finding that the situation had barely improved in the past five years. The Indigenous Affairs Report - released in June with little public scrutiny or attention - showed indigenous Victorians can expect to live a decade less, are nine times as likely to want to quit smoking are signing up ‘in droves’ for government-subsidised nicotine patches. The subsidies have been in place since February and more than 100,000 scripts have been filled across Australia. More than 26,000 of those were filled in Victoria. Quit Victoria applauded the news, saying that the initiative it campaigned for was helping more people give up a deadly habit. Quit executive director Fiona Sharkie said the subsidy was important and would lead to fewer smoking-related deaths. The government subsidies for patches have reduced costs for a 12-week course for pensioners from $480 to as low as $16.80. Other Australians pay about $100 for the 12-week course. Health Minister Nicola Roxon said that since nicotine replacements were put on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme, people had been trying to kick the habit ‘in droves’.

The unbridged gap
The Australian covered the results of a report into the plight of Victoria’s indigenous population, finding that the situation had barely improved in the past five years. The Indigenous Affairs Report - released in June with little public scrutiny or attention - showed indigenous Victorians can expect to live a decade less, are nine times as likely to be in jail, almost three times more likely to be unemployed and are more than twice as likely to self-harm than non-indigenous Victorians. The story was printed as National Aborigines Week kicked off on 4 July and Prime Minister Julia Gillard considered the federal government’s next moves to improve the living standards of indigenous Australians in the north of the country.

Care imbalance
The Age used its Focus Section to highlight an alarming trend in community care. The paper noted a quickly growing number of disabled people in residential care in Victoria, at the same time as a shrinking pool a volunteers. Michelle Griffin wrote that it was a crisis where the most vulnerable have a lot to lose.

Victoria lights the way
The Age reported that Victoria was chosen to test a $6 billion national disability insurance scheme that its backers claim will be the biggest social reform since Medicare. The scheme, which is among recommendations from the Productivity Commission to the government, will provide high-quality long-term support to anyone who acquires a significant disability, regardless of whether it was related to work and regardless of the state in which it took place. The result of an 18-month investigation, the recommendations are expected to be stronger and more specific than those in an interim report delivered in February. Funded out of Commonwealth revenue at an estimated cost of $6.3 billion per year, the scheme would provide support services to about 360,000 Australians under strict guidelines.

Whereas Medicare is funded by a levy paid by all taxpayers, the Productivity Commission has made no such recommendation on the disability insurance scheme, saying that the government should fund the scheme out of general revenue. The paper said that the trial would begin in 2014 and the scheme would go national in 2015, gradually expanding in scope. The scheme would be managed by an independent National Disability Insurance Agency, whose board would be appointed by state, Commonwealth and territory governments. Federal Coalition disabilities spokesman Mitch Fifield backed the scheme on the release of the interim report, offering bipartisan support on the question of funding.

Top Dog Day
Member-Zone magazine announced that Top Dog Day, Guide Dogs Victoria’s annual major fundraising event, would take place on Friday
29 July. Guide Dogs Victoria CEO Dr Graeme White said that the aim of the event was to raise funds to support blind and vision impaired Victorians, as well as recognise the vital role guide dogs play in the community. Visit topdogday.com.au

Call for submissions
A government advertisement in The Age requested submissions to an inquiry into Access to and Interaction with the Justice System by People with an Intellectual Disability and Their Families and Carers. The Victorian Parliament’s Law Reform Committee will inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 March 2012 on access to and interaction with the justice system by people with an intellectual disability and their families and carers, including: key issues and themes, including but not limited to: participants’ knowledge of their rights; availability of appropriate services and supports; dealings with the police; and the operation of the courts. Submissions should be made by Friday 9 September 2011.

Schools in demand
A confidential report into the demand for new schools in Melbourne’s booming inner suburbs was published by The Age. The report found that Port Melbourne would need a second primary school within five to 10 years. However, the report also said that there was insufficient demand for another high school, despite projected growth in the number of secondary-school-aged students in the Port Phillip area.

Winning design
The Age reported that Woods Bagot won the Public Architecture Award in Alterations and Additions for Deakin University’s new lecture theatre at the annual Australian Institute of Architects Awards. Located at the university’s Burwood campus, the new building has a 256-seat lecture theatre, foyer, two tutorial rooms and student lounge and amenities.

Printing money
The Age reported that the Education Department has launched an investigation of three Victorian government school employees after an Ombudsman’s report on the corrupt purchase of print cartridges at massively inflated prices.

Quantity weakens quality
The Age reported that reform to vocational education in Victoria has caused a surge in enrolments across the sector, but that TAFE teachers say the new system is driving down the quality of education as students turn to cheaper courses at private providers. Certainly the data showed that the bulk of the increase has gone to private providers, and a survey by the Australian Education Union shows there is little support among TAFE teachers for the reforms, with the majority of respondents saying the changes have put more pressure on the system. Over 77 per cent of teachers surveyed thought the quality of education had dropped. Over half of the teachers surveyed also said they felt pressure to pass students who might not be competent.

Closing the book
The Age reported that the Christian group that teaches the controversial religious education program in Victorian government schools, announced a five-year ‘mission’ to extend its reach into independent schools. Access Ministries chief executive Evonne Paddison said more and more parents were choosing to send their children to independent schools. However, bodies representing independent schools and teachers said religious education was already taught in the schools, most of which were faith-based. ‘This shows a lack of understanding of what is already existing in individual independent schools,’ said Independent Schools Victoria chief executive Michelle Green.

Principles powerless
The Age reported that Victoria’s school principals are powerless to expel or suspend students who use social media websites or their mobile phones to bully classmates outside school hours. With cyber-bullying on the rise, government principals are concerned that when students use home-based social media tools to vilify or harass classmates, teachers lack the legal artillery to enforce serious disciplinary procedures. Lawyers warn the Education Department could be exposed to legal action if its schools do not act forcefully enough to protect victims from bullying classmates at home on sites such as Facebook.

National curriculum
The Australian reported that the Baillieu government has rebelled against the national curriculum, with state Education Minister Martin Dixon insisting ‘no ongoing jobs will be lost’ as part of the planned revamp, but some staff in fixed-term contracts would not have their positions renewed.

System overhaul
The Age reported that Victoria’s education department is to be overhauled and turned into a ‘super bureaucracy’, in a state government move that has prompted fears about job losses and cuts to school services. About 2,600 public servants will be affected by the restructure, some programs will go, and a number of divisions will be shut down or subsumed in one of the biggest shake-ups to the department in years. Education Minister Martin Dixon insisted ‘no ongoing jobs will be lost’ as part of the planned revamp, but some staff in fixed-term contracts would not have their positions renewed.

Closing the book
The Age reported that after nearly 20 years, the final chapter of the bookshop Reader’s Feast, is approaching. The iconic bookshop...
was located in the basement on the corner of Swanston and Bourke streets. Its demise represents another casualty of the collapse of the REDGroup, which also owned Angus & Robertson and Borders. All Borders and company-owned A&R shops are closing. Pearson Australia has bought REDGroup Retails’ online business, including the Borders and Angus & Robertson websites. Reader’s Feast Owner Mary Dalmau envisages her own sequel, and is determined to open another bookshop. ‘I have 22 booksellers here, three of whom have been with me for 30 years, and the average tenure is 17 years,’

**Paper offer too thin**

Victoria’s Small Business festival from August 1 to 31. A booklet in the *Herald Sun* summarised the festival in a 55 page official guide to 400 events around Melbourne and the state with an introductory messages from premier Ted Baillieu and minister for innovation, services and small business, Louise Asher.

**Paper offer too thin**

*The Australian* reported that a syndicate of wealthy Melbourne families, led by Ron Walker, approached Fairfax Media about buying its key Melbourne assets. *The Age* newspaper and the talk radio station 3AW. However, the informal discussions were cut short by the company’s board.

**Glass maker retrenches**

*The Herald Sun* reported that more than 100 workers at glass manufacturer Viridian’s Victorian plant in Clayton were facing redundancies within the year. In a letter to the union, Viridian blamed ‘declining house construction’, the high Australian dollar and increased manufacturing costs for a restructure that had prompted the redundancies.

**Estate agent regulations**

*The Age* reported that the Victorian government is proposing laws that would reduce regulation of real estate agents. However, the agents’ representative body is arguing for more regulation - specifically to stop agents’ family members from buying vendors’ houses. The laws, regulating when and how estate agents can buy a property which they are meant to be selling, changed at the start of this year. But other revisions now being considered by State Parliament would further whittle away at protection for vendors. Vendors selling a property to their agent are now required to get independent advice about the transaction from a lawyer or accountant. Before January, the laws were even tougher, requiring approval from Consumer Affairs Victoria for a sale to occur. Under the new law, agents will still be barred from gaining a beneficial interest in a property they are commissioned to sell. But there will be exemptions and those sales will not have third-party oversight, the policy director of the Consumer Action Law Centre, Gerard Brody, said.

**Holding back**

*The Age* reported that Melbourne real estate agents and vendors are increasingly withholding or manipulating data provided to the Real Estate Institute of Victoria, prompting calls for the mandatory reporting of all property sales to protect consumers. Nearly one in five properties sold at auction are now reported to the REIV with the price marked ‘undisclosed’ - a significant increase from last year’s property boom, up from 11 per cent then to 18 per cent now. The investigation also revealed that 43 per cent of properties scheduled for auction in June had no published quote range, further frustrating buyers’ attempts to obtain basic information.

**Real data control**

*The Age* reported that a powerful consortium of real estate agents backed by the Real Estate Institute of Victoria is planning to seize control of all private sale and auction results, which could reduce consumer access to important market information or force people to buy the data. The move follows a sharp decline in reporting of auction results by agents, who are concerned that the valuable consumer information is being intercepted by rival property websites. The REIV, which claims to collect 90 per cent of all Melbourne auction results, recently told *The Age* buyers must attend public auctions to be guaranteed of knowing the result. The industry faces a major upheaval, with Liberal Party powerbroker Michael Kroger and the agency-backed *The Weekly Review* magazine involved in separate bids to establish websites that would challenge the dominant advertising site realestate.com.au, which is owned by News Ltd’s REA Group. These moves come amid growing industry concerns about the market power of REA Group, which is currently being investigated by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission over allegations of price gouging. Melbourne’s largest agencies met at the REIV’s head office in May to devise a strategy to counter the power of REA, which was recently valued at $1.6 billion.

**The carbon cost in Victoria**

*The Australian* reported government figures that reveal that one in six of the nation’s 500 largest polluters that will pay the carbon tax operate solely in Victoria. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission possesses substantial powers to crack down on any attempts by companies to link falsely their price hikes to the carbon tax. A breakdown of the polluters in the $23-a-tonne tax’s firing line, shows 85 operate only in Victoria, 135 in NSW and the ACT, 110 in Queensland, 75 in Western Australia, 25 in South Australia, 20 in Tasmania and five in the Northern Territory. A further 45 operate in multiple states. Opposotion climate spokesman Greg Hunt called on the government to name the companies, but a spokesman for Climate Change Minister Greg Combet said the information was collected under Howard government legislation that required confidentiality. Most of the 500 companies have large facilities emitting more than 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year.

**Fine lines**

*The Age* reported that gentlemen’s clubs with scantily dressed waitresses are being investigated by Victoria’s liquor licensing authority. Some clubs are accused of flouting liquor licensing laws that impose a $30,000 fee on strip clubs. The fee, introduced by the Brumby government in 2010, is about 10 times more than a standard liquor licence. The Director of Liquor Licensing is expected to examine restaurants and gentlemen’s clubs that employ waitresses dressed in lingerie,
schoolgirl outfits, French maid uniforms or similar attire.

**Provincial or just parochial?**
The *Australian* revealed the contents of a leaked document from Westpac, relating to Westpac’s re-launch of the ‘Bank of Melbourne’ brand to replace St George’s Bank, describing Melbourne as a ‘provincial’ community. The internal document carried a warning to exercise caution, as ‘Melbourne is a provincial global community and many feel that they own the brand’. By way of clarification, the Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce, concedes that when it comes to sport, culture and entertainment Victorians are proudly parochial and differentiate themselves from Sydney. But, it insists, that doesn’t mean Melbourne is any less a global city than Sydney, and it cites the range of cultures it hosts, the famed cosmopolitan choice of restaurants and the major international events Melbourne stages every year. VECCI welcomes the undoubted economic boost the revival of the Bank of Melbourne brings with it: some 800 jobs, 100 branches, local management (including a Melbourne-based CEO, COO board), more small business lending opportunities and more customer services.

**Unbelievable**
The *Financial Review* reported that with the reopening of the Bank of Melbourne, Saturday banking could return to the city. Customers will have the chance to speak to staff in branches at weekends, with even Sunday banking being possibly on the table if there is significant demand in a local area. And after a decade of branch closures and staff cuts across the banking sector, the Bank of Melbourne will open an extra 85 branches, in a victory for customers demanding better service. The Bank of Melbourne’s flexible hours are expected to pressure the major banks to follow suit and offer more choice to customers.

**ICT**

**Internet pricing**
The *Financial Review* reported that consumers will face higher prices to use the National Broadband Network than initially promised, if the first retail prices released are an accurate guide. Mid-size internet provider Internode yesterday became the first company to set up by the government to replace St George’s Bank, describing the company as an accurate guide. As ‘Melbourne is a provincial global community and many feel that they own the brand’. By way of clarification, the Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce, concedes that when it comes to sport, culture and entertainment Victorians are proudly parochial and differentiate themselves from Sydney. But, it insists, that doesn’t mean Melbourne is any less a global city than Sydney, and it cites the range of cultures it hosts, the famed cosmopolitan choice of restaurants and the major international events Melbourne stages every year. VECCI welcomes the undoubted economic boost the revival of the Bank of Melbourne brings with it: some 800 jobs, 100 branches, local management (including a Melbourne-based CEO, COO board), more small business lending opportunities and more customer services.

**Unbelievable**
The *Financial Review* reported that with the reopening of the Bank of Melbourne, Saturday banking could return to the city. Customers will have the chance to speak to staff in branches at weekends, with even Sunday banking being possibly on the table if there is significant demand in a local area. And after a decade of branch closures and staff cuts across the banking sector, the Bank of Melbourne will open an extra 85 branches, in a victory for customers demanding better service. The Bank of Melbourne’s flexible hours are expected to pressure the major banks to follow suit and offer more choice to customers.

**eServices exclusive panel**
The *Financial Review* reported the dissatisfaction of omitted companies at the selection process for the Victorian eServices Panel. Only companies listed on the panel are permitted to bid for work related to technology management, strategy and analysis, architecture and design, systems and solutions, and support and training. A significant number of well-respected members of the Australian IT industry were reportedly stunned to receive brief letters saying they had been unsuccessful. Australian Information Industry association CEO Ian Birks said he was pleased by IT minister Gordon Rich-Phillips’ decision to discuss adverse industry reaction. The paper understands that the AIIA is lobbying to have the old list retained for an interim period while the new panel is re-evaluated.

**At last**
The *Australian* reported that the controversial relocation of Melbourne’s fruit and vegetable market to Epping had been confirmed. The multimillion-dollar project has been in doubt since January when the Baillieu government said it had concerns over its commercial viability and ordered a review. However, Major Events Minister Denis Napthine said the review had found the project should proceed and would start operating in the financial year 2014-15, at least four years behind schedule. The announcement means that hundreds of traders will move from their West Melbourne base to the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Market in the outer north, and was met with concern from the fresh produce industry. Epping’s surrounding network of freeways and its proximity to the airport were cited as reasons for the relocation when it was first announced in 2005. Napthine said the government had adjusted Labor’s funding model to avoid traders’ rent more than doubling when they moved to the new site. He could not say what the final cost of the relocation would be to taxpayers, but said that about $200 million had already been spent. He said the Department of Treasury and Finance had found the cost of Labor’s model would ultimately reach $670 million, almost $400 million more than first anticipated. He conceded that the building cost was not over budget. ‘it’s a blowout because [Labor] totally under-costed this project’.

**Highlander**
The *Australian* reported that Victorian premier Ted Baillieu attacked the federal plan to gain greater control of national parks to derail the state’s attempt to reintroduce cattle grazing to the Alpine National Park. He said the federal government had been unable to do anything ‘other than show their incompetence’. In a related development, the Victorian government has launched a covert plan to reintroduce cattle grazing to Victoria’s Alpine National Park in an attempt to bypass federal laws that derailed last summer’s controversial trial.
The Age said that the move is so shrouded in secrecy that the Department of Sustainability and Environment has hired auditing firm Deloitte to comb through the emails of Parks Victoria staff to trace any leaks. Department of Sustainability and Environment spokeswoman Cathy Heycock confirmed to The Age that a new trial was being planned. ‘We are working through the design of the longer-term research trial, informed by the outcomes of year one of the trial.’

To market, to market
The Age reported that new farmers’ markets are set to be established across country Victoria and on Melbourne’s fringe under a $2 million program. Victoria’s 48 rural councils and nine Melbourne fringe councils will share $1.4 million to establish new markets, expand existing ones and undertake feasibility studies on proposed markets. The $2 million Farmers’ Market Support Program announced by Agriculture and Food Security Minister Peter Walsh. A recent parliamentary report found that Victoria’s 90-odd farmers’ markets contributed an estimated $227 million to the state’s economy each year.

By the droves
The Herald Sun reported that the Sheepvention in Hamilton would open at the start of August. At this event one can learn about farming techniques and fashion trends in the industry. Last year, 25,000 people flocked to the two-day event, which includes a ram sale, wool fashion parade, workshops, farm dog and inventors competitions.

Core of the issue
The Age reported that Victorian apple and pear growers have gathered at a mass rally in Shepparton, warning that their industry will be crippled if apples from New Zealand are imported into Australia, because they would introduce fire blight disease. The federal government is due to lift long-held import restrictions on New Zealand apples on 17 August, with a number of conditions.

Look into it
The Education and Training Committee, a Joint Investigatory Committee of the Parliament of Victoria, requests submissions for an inquiry into agricultural education and training. Submissions by 30 September.

Justice

Arsonist theory up in smoke
The Age reported that the bushfire that razed Marysville on Black Saturday may have been sparked by electrical faults. Victoria police had for two and-a-half years pursued the theory of a lone arsonist, which they then dumped without explanation.

Justice is blind
The Age reported that the state government spent $90 million on the Bushfires Royal Commission, but now wants to prevent the judge who is hearing a class action over the most deadly of the fires from seeing the commissioners’ findings. Justice Terry Forrest told lawyers in a case conference in June that he felt he was ‘going down a mine without a light,’ because the government lawyers had not allowed him to read the findings and legal arguments from the royal commission. He is trying to prepare himself to hear a complex class action against power company SP AusNet, its contractor Utility Services Corporation, and the Country Fire Authority and others, for alleged negligence over the Kilmore-Kinglake fire on Black Saturday.

Parole politics
The Age reported that the Baillieu government was on a ‘collision course’ with the criminal justice system over its plan to introduce legislation to keep mass murderer Julian Knight in jail beyond his first parole date. Corrections Minister Andrew McIntosh told The Age ‘no Victorians want to see Knight released’.

Police behaviour
The Age reported that Victoria Police was accused of failing to properly investigate alleged assaults by officers on members of the public, in breach of its own rules for handling complaints. Principal solicitor at the Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre, Tamar Hopkins, said police were not being held to account. ‘We have a complaints system that is inherently biased and lacking in independence and effectiveness.’ Victoria Police had recently launched a program to educate officers on racial hate crimes, amid claims police are targeting young men of African descent in Melbourne’s inner west.

Oh dear
The Age reported that a protest on the steps of State Parliament against the Baillieu government’s controversial anti-swearing laws drew a maximum crowd of just 15. In June, Victoria Police were given powers to issue on-the-spot fines of up to $240 to punish people caught using language deemed to be indecent, disorderly, offensive or threatening. The move, part of the government’s extensive law-and-order agenda, outraged civil libertarians, who accuse the Coalition of eroding fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, and of granting police excessive powers to make value judgements about decency and morality.

Freedoom
The Herald Sun published the concerns of a prominent lawyer who described as alarming the number of Victorian prisoners who die from drug overdoses within weeks of release. Department of Justice figures obtained by the paper showed that 29 inmates died of drug overdoses within a month of being freed in the past decade.

Bikies access secrets
Victoria’s Office of Police Integrity and the Police Integrity Commission in New South Wales are conducting separate probes into allegations of serious security breaches involving bikie gangs. The Age reported that highly sensitive police intelligence was leaked to outlaw motorbike gangs in Victoria and New South Wales, undermining organised-crime probes and potentially endangering the lives of informers.

Delivering quality maintenance services with outstanding social benefits

Incito is a property maintenance service with a socially inclusive approach. We deliver high quality general carpentry, handyperson, cleaning and gardening services.

Ultimately Incito is a business. What sets us apart from our competitors is the meaningful work we provide for people with a mental illness, disability and disadvantage.

For more information contact Incito on 03 9486 8517 or visit www.incitomaintenance.com.au
“the BEST conference EVER!”

Micenet magazine

Experience over 35 world class Australian and international keynote speakers, leaders, artists and thinkers AND master classes, deep conversations, performances and a gala dinner.

Featuring:
- Raymond Kurzweil (USA leading entrepreneur “The Singularity”)
- Dr Edward de Bono (UK)
- Professor Daniel Dennett (USA leading cognitive scientist & philosopher)
- Paddy Miller (USA “The Innovation Architect”)
- Professor Stephen Heppell (UK education & technology guru)
- Brendan Boyle (Partner IDEO, Design Thinking Stanford)
- Dr Troy Flanagan (USA Ski & Snowboard Association)
- Alison Watkins (CEO Graincorp)
- Simon McKeon (Australian of the Year)
- Michael Rennie (Managing Partner McKinsey & Co.)
- Mike Smith (CEO ANZ Bank)
- Steve Vamos (President Society of Knowledge Economics)
- Mehrdad Baghai (Author “As One”)
- Pip Marlow (Managing Director Microsoft Australia)
- James Moody (CSIRO)
- Dr Rufus Black (Thought leader, ethicist)
- Hugh Mackay (Social researcher)
- Dr Amantha Imber (Inventium)
- Deborah Cheetham (Social researcher)
- Parker Finkel (2011 World Debating Champion)
- Tania de Jong AM (Founder Creative Universe)
- Stefan Cassomenos (Composer, Conductor, Pianist)
- Charles Koves (Australia’s Passion Provocateur)
- And more....

Chairs and Ambassadors: Hugh Morgan AC, Sir Gus Nossal AC, Allan Fels AO and others...

“Thank you for hosting the best conference I’ve ever attended. You pulled off an amazing, life changing event like it was routine. I feel inspired and re-energised to be a change agent at work.”

Delegate from CSC

“Create innovation 2011!”

“The challenges and opportunities of a super-connected world”

A rare opportunity to learn, think, connect and share ideas with some of the world’s most influential thinkers under one roof. Inspire your leadership and achieve business success. Don’t miss Creative Innovation 2011!

Check out our website: www.creativeinnovationglobal.com.au

Expressions of interest at www.creativeinnovationglobal.com.au (Registrations open in May)

Enquiries: Creative Universe (03) 8679 6000 or Baldwin Consulting Group (03) 9645 9858
Australian Employment drops by record number in July to 10,802,000 (down 418,000) as Australian workforce shrinks, and Unemployment rate is up 0.6% to 7.6%

- In July 2011 Australia’s total unemployment as measured by Roy Morgan was 885,000 (7.6%), up 40,000 (0.6%) from June 2011, and up 148,000 (up 1.3%) since July 2010.
- The Roy Morgan July 2011 ‘underemployed’* estimate was virtually unchanged at 859,000 (7.3%), down 3,000 (but up 0.2% as the workforce shrank) from June 2011 and down 81,000 (0.8%) since July 2010.
- In total in July 2011 an estimated 1,743,000 (14.9%) of Australians were unemployed or ‘underemployed,’ up 36,000 (up 0.8%) on June 2011 and up 66,000 (0.5%) since July 2010.
- As stated, there was a large drop in the Australian workforce in July, down 378,000 to 11,687,000 which is virtually unchanged from a year ago (up 42,000) and slightly higher than in March 2011 (up 23,000).
- Overall full-time employment in Australia for July is 7,421,000 (down 219,000 since June 2011 but up 30,000 since July 2010) and part-time employment is 3,381,000 (down 199,000 since June 2011 and down 136,000 since July 2010).
- There are now 495,000 Australians looking for full-time work (up 28,000 on June 2011 and up 128,000 since July 2010). An additional 390,000 Australians are looking for part-time work (up 12,000 on June 2011, and up 20,000 since July 2010).
- The latest Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 2.7% above the 4.9% currently quoted by the ABS for June 2011.

Roy Morgan Unemployed and ‘Underemployed’* Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Unemployed or ‘Underemployed’*</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Unemployed looking for Full-time</th>
<th>Unemployed looking for Part-time</th>
<th>‘Underemployed’*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>‘000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>‘000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Mar 2010</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr–June 2010</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July–Sep 2010</td>
<td>1,603</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct–Dec 2010</td>
<td>1,741</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Mar 2011</td>
<td>1,715</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr–June 2011</td>
<td>1,728</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# The Gillard Government’s ‘Fair Work Australia’ Act was implemented on January 1, 2010, replacing the Howard Government’s ‘Work Choices’ Legislation.

Finding No. 4692
July 2011 Figures
Available on Website: www.roymorgan.com
On August 3, 2011

Roy Morgan Research Ltd.
A.B.N. 91 007 092 944 – Quality System Certified to AS/NZS ISO 9001

Australian Employment drops by record number in July to 10,802,000 (down 418,000) as Australian workforce shrinks, and Unemployment rate is up 0.6% to 7.6%

- In July 2011 Australia’s total unemployment as measured by Roy Morgan was 885,000 (7.6%), up 40,000 (0.6%) from June 2011, and up 148,000 (up 1.3%) since July 2010.
- The Roy Morgan July 2011 ‘underemployed’* estimate was virtually unchanged at 859,000 (7.3%), down 3,000 (but up 0.2% as the workforce shrank) from June 2011 and down 81,000 (0.8%) since July 2010.
- In total in July 2011 an estimated 1,743,000 (14.9%) of Australians were unemployed or ‘underemployed,’ up 36,000 (up 0.8%) on June 2011 and up 66,000 (0.5%) since July 2010.
- As stated, there was a large drop in the Australian workforce in July, down 378,000 to 11,687,000 which is virtually unchanged from a year ago (up 42,000) and slightly higher than in March 2011 (up 23,000).
- Overall full-time employment in Australia for July is 7,421,000 (down 219,000 since June 2011 but up 30,000 since July 2010) and part-time employment is 3,381,000 (down 199,000 since June 2011 and down 136,000 since July 2010).
- There are now 495,000 Australians looking for full-time work (up 28,000 on June 2011 and up 128,000 since July 2010). An additional 390,000 Australians are looking for part-time work (up 12,000 on June 2011, and up 20,000 since July 2010).
- The latest Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 2.7% above the 4.9% currently quoted by the ABS for June 2011.

Roy Morgan Unemployed and ‘Underemployed’* Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Unemployed or ‘Underemployed’*</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Unemployed looking for Full-time</th>
<th>Unemployed looking for Part-time</th>
<th>‘Underemployed’*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>‘000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>‘000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Mar 2010</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr–June 2010</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July–Sep 2010</td>
<td>1,603</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct–Dec 2010</td>
<td>1,741</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Mar 2011</td>
<td>1,715</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr–June 2011</td>
<td>1,728</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# The Gillard Government’s ‘Fair Work Australia’ Act was implemented on January 1, 2010, replacing the Howard Government’s ‘Work Choices’ Legislation.

Finding No. 4692
July 2011 Figures
Available on Website: www.roymorgan.com
On August 3, 2011

Roy Morgan Research Ltd.
A.B.N. 91 007 092 944 – Quality System Certified to AS/NZS ISO 9001
**Online Reactor Product Range**

The world’s most advanced research tool for measuring respondents’ continuous real-time responses.

Metrics provided include ‘R’ Score, Cut-through, Peak, Hot Zone, Cold Zone and End Score – by Ad and by Target Profile.

**SPOTCHECK - $2,950**

- Choose one ad to be tested among 6 other TV ads in non-competing categories plus a Control Video with 100 respondents
- Results: Synchronised, interactive video report with three selectable sets of graphs: All Respondents, Males/Females and three Age splits plus complete Metrics. (Available in two working days for orders before 2pm.)

**Subscription - 10x $25,075**

**SPOTCHECK PLUS - $4,990**

- Choose one ad to be tested among 6 other TV ads in non-competing categories plus a Control Video with 100 respondents plus a simple questionnaire including Unaided Recall and Ad Diagnostics
- Results: Synchronised, interactive video report with three selectable sets of graphs: All Respondents, Males/Females and three Age splits plus complete Metrics. (Available in two working days for orders before 2pm.)

Additional analysis from questionnaire available within one week

**Subscription - 5x $22,455  10x $42,415**

**COMPETITIVE SET - $7,950**

- Choose up to 7 of your and your competitors’ ads (or upload a TVC or animatic) to be tested against each other plus a Control Video with 100 respondents
- Results: Synchronised, interactive video report with three selectable sets of graphs: All Respondents, Male/Female and three Age splits plus complete Metrics. (Available in two working days for orders before 2pm.)

**Subscription - 5x $35,775  10x $67,575**

**COMPETITIVE SET PLUS - $12,500**

- Choose up to 7 of your and your competitors’ ads (or upload a TVC or animatic) to be tested against each other plus a Control Video with 100 respondents plus a simple questionnaire including Unaided Recall and Ad Diagnostics
- Results: Synchronised, interactive video report with three selectable sets of graphs: All Respondents, Male/Female and three Age splits plus complete Metrics. (Available in two working days for orders before 2pm.) Additional analysis from questionnaire available within one week

**Subscription - 5x $56,250  10x $106,250**

For further information contact us on 1800 633 813 or email: Reactor@roymorgan.com or visit www.RoyMorganOnlineStore.com/Reactor.aspx
Choose up to 7 ads (or upload a TVC or animatic) to be tested against each other plus a Control Video plus inclusion of a detailed before and after questionnaire and custom recruitment of 100 Australian respondents (e.g. Intending to travel overseas in the next 12 months)

Results: Synchronised, interactive video report with three selectable sets of graphs:

- All Respondents, Male/Female and three Age splits plus complete Metrics, Analysis and Diagnostic Report
- Delivery of results will be subject to recruitment and reporting requirements

**Subscription - By quotation**

**INCREASE SAMPLE AND ADD A QUESTION**

For any product type, add an extra $2,500 to include 100 extra respondents, along with a simple question for target group analysis.

Browse the millions of ads or search to find the ads you’d like Reactor tested at www.CommercialMonitors.com.au

---

**The Mobile Reactor graphs audience reactions in real time.**

For live television, the Mobile Reactor provides a new level of engagement and interactivity.

This world-leading application allows people to react via their mobile phones, in the TV studio, at home or anywhere, with the graphic results displayed on television in real time.

As audiences react to live events or live television, graphs of their instinctive second-by-second reactions can be displayed on the program - including the ability to compare audience segments as separate graphs, all in real-time.

Research proves that, given the choice of the same program with or without the Reactor, viewing audiences will choose the Reactor program every time.

---

For enquiries, a demonstration or an instant booking contact us on 1800 633 813 or email: Reactor@roymorgan.com or visit www.RoyMorganOnlineStore.com/Reactor.aspx
New media attracts growing importance for all yet traditional media still valuable for large businesses

Australian businesses expect new media (Internet, Mobile Phones and Social Media) to be more important in their media spend in the coming year, and traditional media to be less important, according to the latest Roy Morgan Business Single Source survey - a nation-wide survey of 13,381 businesses.

Analysis by business size shows important differences, notably that the biggest spenders, Large Businesses with annual turnover of $50 million or more, are much more buoyant in their belief in greater importance for traditional media like television, radio and newspapers than are Smaller Businesses.

### Media Channel Importance (MCI scores) - All businesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Channel</th>
<th>MCI score - ALL Business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Phone</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Mail</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay TV</td>
<td>-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogues, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Roy Morgan Business Single Source, 12 months to June 2011, n = 13,381.

**Contact us** (enquiries@roymorganonlinestore.com) to purchase more detail behind the Media Channel Importance (MCI scores) and view our extensive range of media profiles, across print, Internet, radio, television, and more. These profiles provide a broad understanding of the target audience, in terms of demographics, attitudes, activities and media usage in Australia at the

**Roy Morgan Online Store:** [www.roymorganonlinestore.com/Browse/Australia/Media.aspx](http://www.roymorganonlinestore.com/Browse/Australia/Media.aspx)

---

**1** How we calculate Media Channel Importance (MCI scores):
Respondents are asked to consider - in terms of their business’s marketing (advertising, sponsorship, direct marketing) - which channels they think will be more or less important in the next 12 months. Respondents are given 13 different media channels to evaluate as shown in the charts. The MCI score subtracts the ‘less important’ percentage from the ‘more important’ percentage and is expressed in percentage points of difference.
Our Derryn
The Age reported that magistrate Charlie Rozenwajg sentenced Derryn Hinch to five months of home detention for breaching a suppression order by revealing the names of sex offenders. The order was imposed with conditions preventing him from working, using social media including Twitter and Facebook, publishing material or being interviewed. He also must not cause others to contravene the conditions. The radio 3AW afternoon drive-time program host may have preferred prison, say some of his supporters. He has experienced life on the inside, serving 12 days in jail over a similar charge in 1986. Hinch, 67, shuffled into court, weakened by recent liver transplant surgery that saved his life.

Perpetrators protected
The Herald Sun reported that laws intended to protect victims are being used to shield dozens of Victoria’s worst sex offenders. Rapists’ and paedophiles’ identities and whereabouts are routinely being shredded in secrecy as courts decide if they should be freed. More than half of 62 offenders under post-sentence supervision orders are living anonymously among us rather than in a purpose-built compound outside Ararat Jail. The names of 28 of 30 put under supervision orders by the County Court in the past 18 months have been suppressed.

No justice like mob justice
The Age reported that a Victorian government law and order survey has been criticised by legal experts for allowing respondents to complete the online poll multiple times. The sentencing survey went live on 27 July, with Attorney-General Robert Clark saying it would shape decisions on changes to sentencing. But there are no restrictions on how many times the survey can be filled out. Law Institute of Victoria president Caroline Counsel said the online survey was an extraordinary move by the government made even more extraordinary if the survey can be completed more than once.

Judged inadequate
The Age reported that one of Victoria’s most senior judges attacked the state government’s controversial new sentencing survey as deficient and open to abuse, and says it is unlikely to accurately reflect public opinion on punishing offenders. Supreme Court Judge David Harper, president of the Judicial Conference of Australia, also accused tabloid media of peddling grossly inaccurate myths that courts are soft on crime. He warned that such misconceptions could discourage victims from reporting crimes and prompt politicians to make bad decisions on sentencing.

More detail 1
The Age reported at the end of June that deputy premier Peter Ryan was linked to the resignation of Director of Public Prosecutions Jeremy Rapke QC. Ryan told parliament that he attended secret meetings last year with the former Brumby government and a senior state solicitor to discuss the QC’s conduct.

More detail 2
Police Association boss Greg Davies became the latest high-profile Victorian to be caught up in the controversial Office of Police Integrity probe into departing deputy commissioner Sir Ken Jones. The Age confirmed that the OPI examined the extent of Davies’s discussions with Sir Ken and former state government adviser Tristan Weston, as part of its investigation into whether the trio were engaged in moves to undermine former chief commissioner Simon Overland and relay information about problems with force command to the media.

Electric parking
The Age reported that in a Victorian first, charging stations for electric cars are likely to be installed at 12 on-street parking spaces in Melbourne’s city centre, as part of a program being introduced by the Department of Transport. Melbourne City councillors voted for a plan to work with the department, to after a dozen metered parking spaces in the CBD to make way for electric car recharging devices. Each metered parking space earns the city $10,000 a year in parking fees. But the council will not lose money as a result of installation of the electric vehicle recharging spaces. A report presented to the council’s Future Melbourne committee said the loss of parking revenue ‘will be compensated by the conversion of other on-street spaces … to metered parking’. The 12 parking spaces will either be 30-minute ‘fast-charging’ spots, or two-hour standard recharging locations. The new on-street parking spaces are expected to be installed by January. The Department of Transport is running a five-year trial of electric cars. Earlier this year, 60 households were given electric cars from one of five manufacturers, to drive for three months and report back on their experiences.

No free parking
The Herald Sun reported that the daily median parking rate in Melbourne is more than many of the world’s biggest cities including London, Paris and New York. At $66, Only Copenhagen and Oslo were more expensive, while Sydney ranked a close fourth. Wilson Parking at 416 Flinders Lane is Melbourne’s most expensive for casual all-day parking, according to comparison website CarParking.info. It charges $80 for any weekday stay of more than five hours. The survey, conducted by real estate consulting firm Colliers International, found parking costs had increased globally in the past 12 months, with the US being the only exception.

The tallest tree
The Herald Sun reported that the City of Melbourne had defended the cost of a hi-tech Christmas tree that will be the centrepiece of more than $2 million worth of decorations across the CBD. In a departure from the traditional green tree that usually graces the City Square, the new tree has 10,000 LED lights and will have images beam on to it from 6am to midnight. Lord Mayor Robert Doyle announced the plan for the new tree. The 18 meter tree will cost $285,000, but a spokeswoman for the City of Melbourne said it would be cheaper to maintain than its predecessor.
**Conversations**
The city of Melbourne has a wonderful Melbourne Conversations series through out each year, often at 6pm to 7.30pm, free, usually at BMW edge at Federation Square or at the Melbourne Town Hall. Get on their list at 03 96589658.

**Melbourne News**
The bi-monthly *Melbourne News* July/August edition included the lord mayor Robert Doyle focusing on the city’s budget. Also that focus not just be on the 4-year term of mayor, but looking further ahead than that with planning projects etc. A new Southbank Library also mentioned, as well as new parking technology where one can pay by mobile phone, instead of small change or notes.

**Run, run, as fast as you can**
The Run Melbourne fun run was held on Sunday 17 July. More than 20,000 people took part in the event.

**Taxi rank and file**
The *Age* reported that a major part of Melbourne’s central business district could be closed to traffic and turned into a giant taxi rank on weekend nights, under a radical proposal from Lord Mayor Robert Doyle. Under the plan, the road between Collins and Bourke Street would shut down to all cars, except taxis, every Friday and Saturday night, in a bid to create a safe and central location to hail one.

**Split a cab**
The *Herald Sun* reported that late-night revellers could share taxi rides home in mini-van taxis operating from the city on Friday and Saturday nights. In a submission to the Allan Fels taxi inquiry, the Victorian Taxi Directorate said the service would operate from supervised taxi ranks in the city.

**Felt the earth move**
The *Age* reported that earthquakes began trembling through south-east Victoria on 5 July as the area released pressure generated by the squeezing of the Australian tectonic plate. The earthquakes which prompted hundreds of calls to Geoscience Australia were centred west of Korumburra, in the state’s mid-south. The biggest quake was the first, a 4.4 magnitude earthquake which struck just after 11.30am and was felt about 120 kilometres away in Melbourne.

**Victorian volcanos**
The *Age* reported that Victoria’s volcanoes are overdue for an eruption, according to research that has dated the age of the cones, craters and lava flows in the state’s west with increased precision. Using the latest dating techniques, scientists at the University of Melbourne established that, on average, the small volcanoes dotted from western Victoria to South Australia erupted every 2,000 years. The last eruption at Mount Gambier was more than 5,000 years ago and Bernie Joyce, of the university’s school of earth sciences, said that, statistically speaking, we were due for another. Presenting his findings at the International Congress of Geodesy and Geophysics in Melbourne yesterday, Professor Joyce said the most likely places for eruptions would be around Colac, Port Fairy, Portland and Mount Gambier. He said eruptions close to Melbourne or Geelong were not out of the question either, as the Australian tectonic plate continued to move north at five centimetres a year. The volcanoes that dot the landscape between Melbourne and Mount Gambier are monogenetic volcanoes — once-off volcanoes that deliver relatively small eruptions. There are 40 alone between Melbourne and Bacchus Marsh, with the last volcano to erupt in Victoria being Mount Napier, south of Hamilton.

**Speculative vacancies**
The *Financial Review* reported that according to the housing campaign group Earthsharing Australia, property speculators have locked up 46,220 empty homes in metropolitan Melbourne. The group released a document, *Real Estate 4 Ransom*, which claims 4.95 per cent of the city’s potential housing stock is unoccupied. That figure is double the rental vacancy rate of 2.4 per cent published last week by the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. The group’s *Speculative Vacancy Report* said that in Docklands, almost a quarter of residential properties there, 23.32 per cent, are vacant. The official vacancy rate for Docklands is 3.62 per cent.

**Victorian earthquakes**
The *Age* reported that earthquakes began trembling through south-east Victoria on 5 July as the area released pressure generated by the squeezing of the Australian tectonic plate. The scientists who prompted hundreds of calls to Geoscience Australia were centred west of Korumburra, in the state’s mid-south. The biggest quake was the first, a 4.4 magnitude earthquake which struck just after 11.30am and was felt about 120 kilometres away in Melbourne.

**Victorian volcanoes**
The *Age* reported that Victoria’s volcanoes are overdue for an eruption, according to research that has dated the age of the cones, craters and lava flows in the state’s west with increased precision. Using the latest dating techniques, scientists at the University of Melbourne established that, on average, the small volcanoes dotted from western Victoria to South Australia erupted every 2,000 years. The last eruption at Mount Gambier was more than 5,000 years ago and Bernie Joyce, of the university’s school of earth sciences, said that, statistically speaking, we were due for another. Presenting his findings at the International Congress of Geodesy and Geophysics in Melbourne yesterday, Professor Joyce said the most likely places for eruptions would be around Colac, Port Fairy, Portland and Mount Gambier. He said eruptions close to Melbourne or Geelong were not out of the question either, as the Australian tectonic plate continued to move north at five centimetres a year. The volcanoes that dot the landscape between Melbourne and Mount Gambier are monogenetic volcanoes — once-off volcanoes that deliver relatively small eruptions. There are 40 alone between Melbourne and Bacchus Marsh, with the last volcano to erupt in Victoria being Mount Napier, south of Hamilton.

**Speculative vacancies**
The *Financial Review* reported that according to the housing campaign group Earthsharing Australia, property speculators have locked up 46,220 empty homes in metropolitan Melbourne. The group released a document, *Real Estate 4 Ransom*, which claims 4.95 per cent of the city’s potential housing stock is unoccupied. That figure is double the rental vacancy rate of 2.4 per cent published last week by the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. The group’s *Speculative Vacancy Report* said that in Docklands, almost a quarter of residential properties there, 23.32 per cent, are vacant. The official vacancy rate for Docklands is 3.62 per cent.

**DOCKLANDS**

The eagle has landed
The *Age* reported that four developers will present proposals to the state government by October to develop the two-hectare site between Collins Street and Flinders Street, including the ‘air rights over Wurundjeri Way’. Planners have long considered Wurundjeri Way a planning disaster in Docklands, and a major obstacle blocking pedestrian flow between Southbank and Docklands. The development plans could see buildings and decking span the busy thoroughfare. The formidable 25-metre eagle, designed by renowned Melbourne sculptor Bruce Armstrong is presently located in the median strip of Wurundjeri Way and the centre of the proposed development site.

**GIANT COP SHOP**
The *Herald Sun* reported that a $220 million police super-complex housing more than 1,600 officers is to be built in the Docklands. The state-of-the-art centre will mean the closure and merging of the longstanding St Kilda Road station, intelligence department offices in Flinders Street, and the Melbourne West Police Station in the World Trade Centre.

**Wheel of fortune**
The *Herald Sun* reported that Melbourne’s Southern Star Observation Wheel was entering the final stage of its rebuild, almost three years after it stopped spinning. The wheel’s owner, InG Corporation, has not released a completion date. However, a Melbourne City Council source told the paper that the company had indicated it was on track to be turning by Christmas.

**Planning & Building**

**Watch this space**
The *Age* reported that Victorian planning minister Matthew Guy confirmed he intends to write to councils across the city, inviting them to submit wish lists of changes in their green wedge areas. He would not rule out more commercial and residential development in the corridors, dubbed ‘Melbourne’s lungs’ by his champion, former Liberal premier Sir Rupert Hamer. Hamer legislated to make green wedges integral to the city’s much-vaunted liveability.

**Coastal rezoning**
The *Age* reported that Victorian Planning Minister Matthew Guy was planning to rezone about 240 hectares of farmland west of Torquay for housing. The local council estimates the land near Spring Creek could provide 1,900 new homes, with an expected population of 4,500 people. Guy told the Surf Coast Shire Council that ‘ministerial amendment’ to planning controls for the land is warranted to ‘respond to the urgent need to address housing affordability, facilitate the establishment of new schools, and proactively manage growth for Torquay-Jan Juc’. He called for the council’s views by 4 August. He also asked his department to consult with landowners and developers on new planning controls for the land. Since assuming office in November, the minister has also taken over planning control for coastal land near Portland and approved an ecovillage development at Cape Paterson.

**Rezone rethink**
The *Age* reported that the Baillieu government will not proceed with controversial plans to rezone hundreds of hectares of farmland at Spring Creek in Torquay for new housing after a community backlash. Surf Coast Council mayor Dean Webster welcomed the Planning Minister’s decision. Torquay is in the key marginal seat of South Barwon.

**Newest suburb announced**
The *Age* covered Planning Minister Matthew Guy’s announcement that he was opening Truganina South for residential development. The suburb is 19km southwest of the CBD.
in an area bounded by Leakes and Palmers roads. The new suburb will have 2,500 dwellings and is expected to accommodate up to 7,000 people. Truganina is believed to be named after Truganini, the last full-blooded Tasmanian Aborigine thought to have lived in the area. The minister said the government planned to release 50,000 new housing lots this year. In January he announced two new suburbs - Greensdale North and Greensdale West - which will house about 7,000 people in 1,570 houses on 363ha about 20km from the CBD near Craigieburn and Roxburgh Park.

Race of the lap
The Age reported that in July the Moonee Valley Racing Club held a public consultation into its plans to build 2,000 apartments and townhouses - including high-rise towers of up to 25 storeys - that will house 6,000 people. But local residents, who have formed a Save Moonee Ponds group, say the club's master plan is a 'severe case of overdevelopment'. Former planning minister Justin Madden, who opposes the plan, said there were discussions about a 'far more modest' proposal of two or three storeys when he was planning minister, which did not come to fruition. All of Melbourne's major racecourses are planning residential developments as the value of inner-city land soars. Moonee Valley and Flemington racecourses are working on major residential plans, while a $1 billion development at Caulfield was recently approved by planning minister Matthew Guy.

Northern expansion
The Age reported that Melbourne City Council had released major draft plans for North Melbourne and the northern end of the CBD that propose a high-density residential hub at Arden Street, with buildings of between 30 and 60 metres high, and the upgrade of the degraded Moonee Ponds Creek into a recreational park. The paper said that according to local residents, plans to make part of North Melbourne an extension of the central city are 'destined to become a disaster'. The industrial landscape - home to the Weston Milling silos, the Allied Mills complex and the Younghusband Wool Stores - will make way for population growth of up to 30,000 to 25,000, while the northern city's population will soar from 5,000 to 19,000, the council said. The plans rely on the proposed metro train service as a 'catalyst' to development in the area, but locals reportedly say the train line will not be built for many years, if at all.

Supply and demand
The Australian warned that the apartment market in Melbourne is marching towards a period of oversupply at a time when the national one continues to weaken. 'There is a risk of oversupply, particularly rental oversupply, given that the majority of these apartments are owned by private investors,' said Angie Zigomani, senior manager of residential property at BIS Shrapnel.

Recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows Victoria is charging ahead with construction, despite clear signs of thinning demand. According to the ABS, commencements on private-sector units and apartments shot up from 3,000 at the start of the 2010 calendar year to more than 5,000 units in the September quarter.

On the up-and-up
The Herald Sun published opinions of prominent figures who believe Melbourne should build its first 100-storey skyscraper as soon as possible. The Melbourne City Council wants the CBD transformed, with a clean-up of the ‘ugly’ Flinders and Elizabeth Street corner to be tackled in its next budget. Planning minister Matthew Guy said ‘Melbourne should not be afraid to build taller in our CBD - I’d love to see our first 100-storey skyscraper sooner rather than later.’ Currently, the city’s biggest skyscraper is the 91-storey Eureka tower. According to the paper, the building is a favourite of Guy, who loves the way ‘its blue glass curtain complements the colours of the Rialto, and its distinctive design changes from every angle’. Proponents include Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and VECCI chief executive Mark Stone.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors in court
The Age reported that some councillors and council candidates across Victoria are being taken to court for not declaring conflicts of interest and not revealing who bankrolled election campaigns. In June, former Latrobe City councillor Lisa Price was barred from acting as a councillor for seven years, and fined $9,000, for failing to disclose a conflict of interest. The charges related to votes in which Price participated at council meetings, considering a municipal electoral hearing and a newsletter distributed by council in which she was found to have at minimum ‘an indirect interest’. Ararat Rural City council mayor Andrea Marian and Nilimbuk Shire councillor Belinda Clarkson faced charges in July regarding conflict of interest laws. A Shepparton City councillor escaped conviction, but received a $500 fine from a conflict of interest charge in the past year. Former Brimbank City councillor Tran Sia was accused of distributing unregistered election material and providing false and misleading information under oath. Five unsuccessful candidates for local council have also been charged with failing to disclose campaign donations - four cases have been proven and fines of up to $250 issued. The charges against councillors are outlined in a list of prosecution matters produced by the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate. Municipal Association of Victoria president Bill McArthur said new conflict of interest regulations which had been introduced during this term of local council administration were complex.

Councillor under scrutiny
The state government is probing whether Geelong councillor Jan Farrell broke the law when she defended a family friend who ‘glassed’ a bar patron in a pub fight. She reportedly used a council letterhead in a character reference in the County Court.

Green land sale
The Age reported that the City of Brimbank proposes to sell a large block of open space on Patterson Avenue in Keilor, and 13 other open spaces in the city, to developers. Money from the sale of the 14 spaces will go to a $40 million program to buy or improve ‘more appropriate’ open space elsewhere in the city. But locals say the parks are perfectly viable now and some are informal community meeting places. The city’s administrators came to power after the former Brumby

28 JUNE to 2 AUGUST 2011
Police and the Media make for a messy message

Tony McAdam

Christine Nixon’s spray of accusations against News Limited and the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission encapsulates in one story a number of issues that have haunted the Victorian political stage for a large part of the last decade, and reflects issues which have more recently flared up on the national stage in response to the News of the World hacking scandal in the UK. Christine Nixon’s appointment of Victoria’s Labor government and while in office she could do little wrong. During that time the police department was increasingly seen as dysfunctional even giving us the bizarre spectacle whereby the very office charged with guarding the service’s integrity had its own integrity challenged.

There can be little doubt that whatever damage has been done to Christine Nixon’s reputation is primarily a consequence of her own actions or lack of action. Similarly, the forced resignation of her chosen successor, Simon Overland, was a reflection of his performance and his perceived politicisation.

The elements that have constituted the Nixon saga, and its continuing relevance, are the very same that have made the News of the World hacking affair one of the most wrenching and dramatic crises to afflict modern British politics: the politics of the media and the Machiavellian ways of Rupert Murdoch, the alleged improper collusion of journalists and police, and the question of what can be done to protect a proper regard for the privacy of ordinary citizens while avoiding a move towards media regulation at the expense of open democratic debate.

The simplest part of this increasingly messy maze of mendacity and public policy is the need to reform the illegality of phone hacking and other acts of journalistic impropriety and attendant police involvement.

If there is one enduring lesson to be learnt from the Nixon/Overland controversies it is the urgent requirement that the appointment of the next Chief Commissioner of Police should be as free of a perceptible political/cultural bias as is humanly possible.

What is more difficult is the need to put the question of media ownership in a liberal democratic state into its proper perspective. Our system, the envy of the world, needs a vibrant press. It also has an obligation to protect the right to privacy of the ordinary citizen. And, above all, it is important that both politicians and the media accept that they need each other and, while their roles are different, they share many aspirations in common.

To the extent that Rupert Murdoch has become an all purpose target for abuse, it should be remembered that this single Australian, probably the most globally influential in history, is also responsible for saving at great expense to himself some of the most reputable, readable and interesting newspapers of the English speaking world.

government sacked the Brimbank council in 2009. They posted about 700 letters in June to residents, telling them of their intention to sell the parks and seeking community feedback. People have until 8 August to make written submissions about the mooted sales. ‘We’re going to the local community and saying, ‘Can you tell us how you use the land?’, then we’ll be in a position to decide if it’s to be sold or not,’ said Brimbank’s general manager for infrastructure and environment, Paul Younis.

States loses big on pokies

The Age said that a report by Auditor-General Des Pearson found that the Victorian government’s auctioning of pokies licences was bungled, costing the taxpayer $3 billion. The sale of 10-year entitlements for the bulk of the state’s 27,500 pokies yielded $981 million at an average price of about $37,000 a machine. That price is well below what industry analysts believed was the market value. Some clubs paid just $5,500 each on machines that on average generate about $100,000 a year. The Age reported that Pearson’s 12-month study found the sale process failed to realise the government’s aim of increasing its take of the industry’s super profits, with the real total market value of the machines closer to $4 billion. Gaming businessman Bruce Mathieson, in partnership with Woolworths, was the big winner from the auction, sweeping up one third of the pokies available to pubs at an average price of about $39,000. The auction of machine licences to pubs and clubs followed the Brumby government decision to end the Tattersalls and Tabcorp duopoly on machines from 2012. The auditor’s report stated that the sale process was undermined by:
-Weak demand and lack of competitive tension at the auction of machine entitlements.
-Excessively low reserve prices.

Tabcorp plays on

The Age reported that gaming giant Tabcorp retained its monopoly over the Victorian tote, paying $410 million for a 12-year exclusive wagering licence. As part of a complex arrangement with the Baillieu government, Tabcorp will also benefit from a cut in gambling tax designed to shore up racing industry revenue. The Financial Review reported that Tabcorp shares surged more than five per cent on the news.

GAMING

Tabcorp plays on

The Age reported that gaming giant Tabcorp retained its monopoly over the Victorian tote, paying $410 million for a 12-year exclusive wagering licence. As part of a complex arrangement with the Baillieu government, Tabcorp will also benefit from a cut in gambling tax designed to shore up racing industry revenue. The Financial Review reported that Tabcorp shares surged more than five per cent on the news.

UP AGAINST IT?

Need a paper, proposal or speech prepared, proofread or fine-tuned at short notice?

We provide a full prompt service - we are professionals in public affairs, with international experience. Call anytime and we are at your service.

WriteRight
Contact Anthony on 0412 281 388 or email: tmshanghai5@gmail.com

-Insufficient information and training for potential bidders.
-Poor handling of the auction.
-Timelines that were too tight.

Revenue exaggeration

The Age published Ian Dunn’s opinion that ‘having read the Auditor-General’s report on the auction of electronic gaming machines, I think the suggestion that the state lost $3 billion is way over the top. Prospective applicants for gaming machines were aware
that Victorians’ interest in poker machines was waning.' Dunn was chairman of the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation from 2004 to 2009. He is adjunct professor of law at La Trobe University. He had no involvement in the auction process.

**Gaming discussions**

*The Age* reported that the Baillieu government held confidential discussions with gambling king James Packer about plans for gamblers to limit their potential losses before beginning to play poker machines in Victoria. A spokesman for gaming minister Michael O’Brien said: ‘The minister has met with many parties interested in gambling regulation in the seven months since the election and will continue to do so. Discussions regarding the Victorian government’s pre-commitment policies have occurred with various groups including Clubs Victoria, the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce and Crown Ltd, including its chairman, James Packer.’ The Reverend Tim Costello, national campaigner for action to reduce problem gambling, said he had been waiting six months for a meeting with Baillieu.

**Generation One**

*The Age* reported that Crown Casino is set to become one of the largest employers of indigenous people in Victoria, under a plan partly created by mining magnate Andrew Forrest. Crown Limited executive chairman James Packer told a discussion at Melbourne University that the casino and its Perth stablemate Burswood plan to employ 2,000 indigenous Australians by 2021. The discussion, organised by Forrest’s charity Generation One, centred on career training for indigenous Australians.

**Casino death**

*The Age* reported that Crown Casino security guards involved in a gaming-room incident with a man who later died in hospital have been interviewed by homicide detectives. Anthony Dunning, aged 40, was in the casino’s Velvet Room on 3 July when he was pushed to the ground and pinned to the floor by up to six casino bouncers for six minutes. Dunning fell unconscious while he was pinned to the ground and is believed to have suffered a cardiac arrest. He died at the Alfred hospital several days later.

**Betting scandal**

The *Herald Sun* reported that Collingwood player Heath Shaw has been suspended for eight matches and fined $20,000 after being embroiled in a betting scandal also involving captain Nick Maxwell. Shaw and a friend bet $10 each on Maxwell kicking the first goal of the Round 10 game against Adelaide, knowing his teammate was to start in the forward line, giving odds at over 100 to one. It was also revealed that three of his family members placed bets.

**Online debt cleared**

*The Age* reported that a prominent online betting agency agreed to cancel more than $80,000 in debts run up by a Melbourne man who claimed he was lured into trouble by the agency’s offer of $5,000 in free bets. In a case that has prompted calls for a crackdown on betting agencies offering credit, the man, who has a mental illness, faced losing his house after a betting binge he said began with an approach from Sportsbet.com.au to open an account.

**Ride the wave**

*The Age* said Victorian Tourism Minister Louise Asher unveiled the state’s four-year plan to snare a bigger share of Australia’s burgeoning international cycling tourism market, and named Melbourne the nation’s first ‘bike city’. The *Union Cycliste Internationale* - the world governing body for sports cycling - had named Melbourne as only the second nominated ‘bike city’ in the world, after Copenhagen in 2007. The Switzerland-based union’s criteria for the designation include the city’s international reputation, and its plan to develop cycling.

**Oprah’s Victorian vacation**

The *Herald Sun* said that Tourism Victoria paid $650,000 for *Oprah Winfrey* and 92 of her ‘mates’ from the US to sample three days of the state’s finest dining, wining and touring during her ‘*Oprah’s Ultimate Australian Adventure*’ event in 2010.

**Asleep at the wheel**

State political editor of *The Age*, Josh Gordon, wrote an opinion piece accusing Victoria of being ‘asleep at the wheel on infrastructure projects.’ He pointed out that the relevant federal authority had received 59 submissions from all states and territories except Victoria. He continues ‘Fair or not, the news, buried in an appendix of Infrastructure Australia’s annual report to state and federal governments, seemed to reinforce claims that the Baillieu government has been asleep at the wheel for the past seven months.’ Defending his government against...
The commission found that the ‘failure of 28 JUNE to 2 AUGUST 2011 to meet workers who are to the heart of the nation’s coal sector in to pay for the closure or conversion to gas electricity assets was responsible for five fires, Horsham, Coleraine and Pomboneit-Weerite. The Age reported that there has been a large bushfire risk in a more proactive way than be open to a buyout for the right price. Of at least one of the nation’s greenhouse technologies to be closed or converted to gas by either side produces 25 per cent of Victoria’s electricity. It is the that Metro organised 230 buses to ferry 18,000 commuters a day to Flemington Racecourse and Footscray stations. About 8,000 Ballarat and Bendigo V/Line commuters had to take replacement coaches.

**WANTED**

A young dreamer to join a luncheon discussion on High Speed Rail in Melbourne

Email alistair@affairs.com.au or phone 03 9654 1300.
Transport Minister **Terry Mulder** has approved Since 1 July, Metro has been running advertisements on the outside of three trains, for superannuation fund VicSuper.

**Arriving on time**
The *Herald Sun* reported that Melbourne’s train operator Metro posted its best performance results since it took over the service in 2009. The latest performance targets show marked improvements across metropolitan rail lines with the Sandringham line achieving the best result - 98.62 per cent of services maintaining punctuality and delivery. The least successful train line is Belgrave, which has only managed a score of 82.3 per cent. Overall Metro claimed a 91.69 per cent success rate for punctuality and delivery across the 16 main rail lines that make up the metropolitan system.

**Get the memo**
The *Age* reported that Metro’s 300 station staff have been warned in a memo that it was unprofessional to have a radio or reading material on public view at any of the city’s 90 booking offices.

**Council on hold**
The *Age* reported that Hobsons Bay City Council wrote to Transport Minister **Terry Mulder** in May asking that he investigate rebuilding Paisley and Galvin stations on the Werribee line. However the Baillieu government has now told the council that while it understood the demand for more railway stations on that line, it had no plans to reopen those stations. Hobsons Bay deputy mayor **Tony Briffa** said soaring patronage on Melbourne’s rail network had created chronic car park shortages around major western suburbs stations such as Newport and Laverton.

**One at a time**
The *Age* reported that concerns over the soundness of a 127-year-old bridge spanning the Yarra River between Kew and Richmond have led VicRoads to warn that only one tram can cross it at any time. The heritage-listed Victoria Bridge links Victoria Street in Richmond to Barkers Road in Kew. Built in 1884, the steel bridge carries 21,000 cars and hundreds of trams daily on the busy route from Port Melbourne to Box Hill.

**Out of steam**
The *Herald Sun* reported that rail operator V/Line would investigate how a diesel locomotive was allowed to run out of fuel, delaying thousands of commuters in Melbourne’s west. The passenger train was on its way to the city from Marshall, on the Geelong line, when it came to a halt at Footscray about 5.45am on 27 July. Evidently the locomotive does not have a fuel gauge for the driver to check.

**Across the tracks**
The Victorian shadow minister for transport, **Fiona Richardson**, and her team have been handing out pamphlets at Parliament station criticising the Baillieu governments approach to public transport. It reads: ‘Over the next 12 months Melbourne’s tains, trams and busses will carry an additional 30.5 million commuters. Despite this, the Baillieu Liberal government has failed to provide any extra train services, new trams, or new buses. Instead, the Baillieu government has introduced a new timetable that has cut city loop services and increased travel times. It’s no wonder public transport is getting worse.’

**The road figures**
The *Herald Sun* reported that more than 70 deaths were excluded from Victoria’s road toll last year before declaring it a record low. Victoria Police did not tell the State Government it had not included 72 other deaths, amounting to 25 per cent of its claimed record low toll of 287 fatalities. Road safety strategies - including saturation use of speed cameras - were credited with helping to achieve the milestone. Analysis by the *Herald Sun* showed a change in how decisions are made about which deaths are included in the toll meant that substantially more deaths were written off last year than in previous years. The paper discovered the review panel excluded 30 deaths after deciding the crashes had resulted from natural causes - mainly heart attacks. Police wiped off another 17 fatalities on the grounds they were intentional deaths, such as suicides. And 25 more were excluded after being declared off-road crashes. Police Association secretary **Greg Davies** expressed concern about the big number of exclusions.

**Tyranny of motorcyclists**
The *Age* reported accusations that Victoria’s motorcycle licensing system is inadequate. **Mark Collins**, national manager for Honda Australia Rider Training, which trains 20,000 riders annually, said ‘the learner test only tests three skills: the ability to ride slowly, the ability to corner at 10km/h and the ability to stop.’ VicRoads director of road user safety **James Holgate** said novice riders made up almost one in three of all rider fatalities and serious injuries. Pre-learner training is not compulsory for motorcyclists in Victoria, but Holgate said evidence from providers was that most riders had some training before taking the test. He said one option under consideration was mandatory pre-learner training. **Mark Davidson**, a rider trainer and tester with 12 years’ experience, said: ‘We are sending people out underprepared. I sometimes feel like I am signing someone’s death warrant.’ He said he didn’t believe any trainer in the state agreed with the current system.

**Last bus to Kinglake**
The *Age* reported that a bus service linking bushfire-devastated Kinglake with Whittlesea has been cancelled. The free service was established after the devastating Black Saturday fires to give transport to families that had lost cars in the blaze. Kinglake is now connected to other towns by just two bus services a day. The Labor government’s service, which travelled via Kinglake West, included at least nine shuttle bus services on weekdays and Saturday and eight on Sundays, with the same number of return services. The Department of Transport said that the service was shut down on 10 July as each service was averaging about one passenger per trip.
**LETTER FROM MELBOURNE**

**Low flying tiger**
The head of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau told *The Age* that a low-flying Tiger Airways aircraft at Avalon Airport did not represent a serious threat to the plane or passengers. The Bureau found that Tiger flight 6207 aborted a landing, due to higher than expected tailwind. The ground controller then advised the pilots to climb to 3,000 feet, which they did, and then the pilots advised controllers they would make a U-turn for the second landing approach, which the controller approved. Afterwards, the plane descended to 1,600 feet, which was below the minimum safe altitude for that area, the investigators found. The incident triggered the airline’s grounding. However, the Bureau board’s chief commissioner, Martin Dolan, said that ‘there’s a substantial safety buffer built into the minimum safe altitude arrangements, which means there was no serious threat to the safety of the aircraft.’

**Avalon tiger endangered**
*The Age* reported that Airways was expected to pull out of the Lindsay Fox-owned Avalon Airport near Geelong after the airline resumes services on 6 August. Its main base in Australia is at Melbourne Airport.

**Still on track**
*The Age* reported that planning for the Baillieu government’s rail link to Avalon will continue despite reports troubled cut-price airline Tiger is to pull out of the airport. Premier Ted Baillieu said the reports had no long-term implications for the rail link.

**Building union fined**
*The Age* reported that Victoria’s construction union had $415,000 in fines levied against it as a result of a blockade and strikes that disrupted work at the new Royal Children’s Hospital and at six other building sites around Melbourne. The Victorian branch of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union has now been fined nearly $1 million in the past month and ordered to pay about $2.5 million in the 2010-11 financial year - record fines against a union under the controversial building laws. The latest fines, imposed by the Federal Court, are mostly for ‘unlawful’ industrial action by the union and its senior officials.

**Workers back pay deal**
*The Age* reported that a wages deal, which will cover more than 30,000 building workers across the state, was unanimously supported, with a labourer in 2012 to get an annual rate of $123,000 for a 36-hour week while a carpenter will get $130,000 for the same hours. That will affect big projects where the 56-hour week and overtime are most common and it is estimated about two-thirds of the industry work a 56-hour week at least some time during a year. For smaller builders on a 36-hour week the rates are more digestible with a labourer to get nearly $70,000 a year in 2012 and a carpenter slightly more than that. Premier Ted Baillieu expressed ‘significant concern’ about rising labour costs in the construction industry, and in particular the pay at the Wonthaggi desalination project. The government is now working on a building code, modelled on one introduced by the Howard government, that would require bidders for state projects to respect freedom of association and stamp out ‘unlawful or undesirable’ workplace practices.

**Graphic union protest**
*The Age* reported that the Baillieu government warned unions they will need to agree to dramatic workplace changes if they want better pay deals, as the police union ramps up its pay campaign by unveiling a graphic mobile billboard showing bloodied and beaten police assaulted on the job. In a departure from past practice, the Coalition has told government departments and agencies to develop detailed proposals to fund pay increases above the 2.5 per cent minimum.

**Public servants pay**
*The Age* reported that the Victoria’s public sector union was preparing to launch a tough pay campaign against the Baillieu government amid claims the state’s public servants are the worst-paid in the nation. Wage agreements covering 36,000 public servants expired on 30 June, with the state government insisting it will grant increases above 2.5 per cent only if unions accept major workplace changes and government departments offer proposals to fund them. Community and Public Sector Union Victorian secretary Karen Bätt said a report in *The Age*, revealing that the government was preparing to demand such changes, showed it was ‘walking away’ from promises to improve services.

**Workplace bullying**
*The Age* reported that the number of Victorians claiming to have been bullied at work has increased greatly, with complaints to WorkSafe Victoria more than doubling to 6,000 in the past year. However, no action was taken on the vast majority of complaints, as most fell well short of what constitutes workplace bullying under the law. People complained of bullying after being sacked for assaulting a manager, missing out on a pay rise or not being invited to a work party.

**Public pay a gender issue?**
*The Age* reported that the Baillieu government rejected claims that gender plays a big role in the low wages of Victorian community sector workers. The government also attacked a union equal pay push that would deliver the biggest gains to higher paid workers, claiming in a submission to a landmark equal pay case, that the Australian Services Union claim would result in a rise of up to 79 per cent for the best-paid workers and managers in the community sector. By contrast, those who do most of the ‘caring’, such as lower classification youth or social workers, would receive rises of as little as 16 per cent. The submission, from state Industrial Relations Minister Richard Dalla-Riva, said ‘significant non-gender’ factors explained much of the pay gap, such as the role governments play in funding services, and superior bargaining outcomes in the public sector. His submission dismissed the union’s argument that the gap in pay between workers in the community sector and those in the public sector was entirely due to gender. ‘How this proposition operates in light of the fact that the unions’ own submission is that workers in the public sector perform comparable caring work and are themselves predominantly women, is left unexplained.’ Australian Services Union assistant branch secretary Lisa Darmanin said that the union was disappointed by the government’s position and said it was ‘predictable’ if its main aim was to minimise costs.

**Big projects, little success**
*The Age* reported on a study’s findings that implicitly criticised the former Victorian government’s approach to decision-making. Economic consultant ACIL Tasman concluded in a report, *Victoria’s Productivity, Competitiveness and Participation*, that the headline-grabbing big road projects in Victoria have barely paid their way, returning benefits no bigger than the costs. ACIL Tasman prepared the report for the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, the state’s equivalent to the Productivity Commission, which has been asked by Treasurer Kim Wells to prepare a state-based reform agenda. By contrast, evaluations published by the industry’s research arm, Austroads, show that smaller road projects in Victoria typically deliver benefits worth two to four times the cost of the project. The report said the decision to build Australia’s biggest desalination plant in one hit, rather than adopt a staged approach, has been ‘quite costly’ for the state. It also finds that too much emphasis was put on water restrictions, when raising...
Without a trace
About 35,000 people go missing each year in Australia and in the past year 7280 Victorians have disappeared. That’s according to Victoria Police figures released for National Missing Persons week, beginning on 1 August.

Euthanasia
The Age reported that Ted Baillieu rejected a dying man’s plea for voluntary euthanasia to be put back on the agenda in Victoria, saying it should be dealt with at a national level. Melbourne lawyer Alan Rosendoff, 58, who is dying of cancer, wrote a letter to the Premier in the last week of June, and requested the premier refer the matter to the Victorian Law Reform Commission.

Behind the veil
The Age reported that the Victorian government would consider laws being adopted in other states that give police the power to force Muslim women wearing a full veil to reveal their faces. The Police Association has supported the need for more clarity for its members. However, the Herald Sun reported that Victorian Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Minister Nick Kotsiras stated that he was comfortable with Muslim women wearing the burqa and full-face veil niqab.

Child protection surge
The Age reported that more Victorian child protection workers will be moved to the front line, and will receive extra pay and training in a bid to improve conditions and stop one in four workers quitting each year. Under the changes, the percentage of workers who deal directly with children will increase from 63 per cent to 75 per cent. The government would aim for a less bureaucratic environment by giving front-line staff more decision-making power around families that they deal with.

Red dog run
The Age ran a story on Luke Hura, a showbiz animal trainer for 30 years. He said an expressive face landed Koko the kelpie the title role in the Australian movie Red Dog, the story of a beloved 1970s outback stray, which had its Melbourne premiere at the Jam Factory in South Yarra on 31 July. Hura said Koko’s work ethic got him through the nine-week shoot in Adelaide and the Pilbara in Western Australia, although after too many film takes in a day he would refuse to go on!

PM launches Nixon
The Australian reported that prime minister Julia Gillard would launch the biography of controversial former Victorian police chief commissioner Christine Nixon. Melbourne University Publishing approached Gillard to launch the biography A Fair Cop, co-written by The Age’s Jo Chandler. Gillard faced criticism over her decision to support Nixon’s memoirs, with a number of Labor MPs questioning the former chief commissioner’s criticism of the bushfire royal commission. Extracts from the book later appeared in The Age.

Nixon claims persecution
The Age reported that former Victorian chief police commissioner Christine Nixon accused Rupert Murdoch’s News Ltd newspapers of being instrumental in bringing down her successor in the job, Simon Overland. She also said she believed she had been subject to a relentless campaign by News Ltd papers, particularly the Herald Sun, to force her from public life since she retired following the Black Saturday bushfires on 7 February 2009. ‘In the 2½ years since retiring, they have run a vendetta against me. They have published articles and beat up stories saying I am not supposed to teach courses, shouldn’t be allowed to sit on boards, not allowed to do leadership lectures, should have quit my job as chair of the Bushfire Recovery Authority, should not mentor people, and the final one is I am not allowed to write a book.’

Choosing sides
The Australian reported that state Labor frontbencher James Merlino strongly backed the royal commission, rejecting Christine Nixon’s accusation that it was more a witch-hunt than a search for the truth. In her attack on the integrity of the Victorian bushfires royal commission, which condemned the quality of her evidence, Nixon likened it to the ‘worst kind of kangaroo court’. Merlino told The Australian that Labor continued to endorse the commission’s work, as it had in government, and rejected claims by Nixon of a News Limited-led media conspiracy. The Age reported that the royal commission was defended across the political spectrum, with premier Ted Baillieu flatly rejecting the comparison to a kangaroo court.

Nixon cops flack
A number of commentators have turned on former Victorian chief police commissioner Christine Nixon since the release of her book. The Herald Sun editorial read: ‘Nixon’s bizarre accusation that the media pursued a ‘fattist’ agenda is a slur. It also reveals the depths she is prepared to sink as she attempts to repair her tattered reputation.’ Former premier Jeff Kennett wrote: ‘the former top cop’s book was a final chance to apologies for her faults. But by pointing the finger elsewhere, she has taken the path of no return.’ Police Association Secretary, Greg Davies, lamented that she ‘could have been remembered as Australia’s first female police commissioner – lauded for her achievement in reaching the pinnacle of what was a traditionally male, conservative profession. Instead she will be remembered as a woman out of her depth.’

Even Melbourne University Press, which is publishing the book has come under pressure with former Liberal MP Fran Bailey whose electorate was devastated by the fires said the University should not be subsidising non academic books that benefit individuals.

Victory tour
The Age reported that state cabinet are discussing plans to recognise local cycling hero Cadel Evans’ victory in the Tour de France. Premier Ted Baillieu suggested people ‘wear a bit of yellow’ on Monday 25 July to celebrate.

Double take
Interestingly, and to be careful with the headlines, because occasionally the age has a different front page for a later edition on the same day, which for the scanner of the news can leave front page news item onto a subsequent page.

That’s using your head
In 1990 Victoria broke new ground by forcing cyclists to wear crash helmets. The Age reported that on 30 July at Federation Square, a small band of cyclists used Melbourne’s troubled shared bike scheme to rail against those laws. The bike scheme has been hampered by the inconvenience of carrying a helmet in order to use the bikes. Some argue that the laws have led to an exaggeration of the dangers of cycling, and deprived people of their right to choose. However, a University of New South Wales study released in June showed cyclist head injuries had fallen by almost a third since compulsory helmet laws began. VicRoads also cites several studies supporting the helmet law.

Burke and Wills
The Royal Society of Victoria conducted the Burke and Wills hearing as a mock inquiry into the tragic death of the famous colonial duo. The inquest was open to the public, held at the Legislative Assembly chamber of State Parliament in July on the 150th anniversary of their death in 1861 in remote western New South Wales.

Vale
Robert Molesworth Hobill Cole, accountant, farmer, friend to very many people, a wonderful man. George Rowan Nicks, AO.
 Faulty
Positioning for Success

OUR TEAM presents a unique combination of experience and talent from multiple perspectives. They share their combined knowledge and skill with participants on how to successfully influence government department policy and understand the importance of research and strategy in marketing and selling to government. They enable participants to understand both the strategic and tactical elements that must fit together in order to bring a desired result.

These are very special events; they are an unlikely constellation of political, government and industry expertise that will focus on the challenge of how to influence government. How often does one hear a former government Minister, a former Permanent Head of Department and an experienced ex-bureaucrat interact with a professional lobbyist to discuss how to influence ‘affairs of state’?

The change of government in Victoria may bring new opportunities. Perhaps the chance for a new approach by your team to a new team.

A training course in public affairs and communication

A one-day, interactive workshop educating workshop educating and training you so that you can more easily clarify perspectives and achieve your objectives with government and stakeholders.

- PRESENTATIONS
- ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS
- ROLE-PLAY WITHIN GROUPS
- CASE STUDIES

Stakeholder Relations

Planning Your Strategy

The Message

The Targets

Timeframes

Campaign Management

The Law and Ethics

Advocacy Toolkit

“There is nothing more difficult to carry out nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things”

– Machiavelli in THE PRINCE (1513)

THE LOBBYIST

Alistair Urquhart

Alistair Urquhart is a respected and independent public affairs professional with over 20 years experience both in Australia and overseas.

THE BUREAUCRAT

Doug Connell

Doug Connell is a project management and logistics expert who has held senior positions in Industry, the Port of Melbourne, The Department of Transport and Australia Post.

THE DEPARTMENTAL HEAD

David Wilson

David Wilson has held executive positions in government in Victoria (Director of the Ministry of Transport) and a Logistics Manager for WillowWare Australia. He is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne.

THE MINISTER

Robert Maclellan

The Honourable Robert Maclellan AM has had a distinguished career in State Government as a cabinet minister with portfolios in transport, industrial relations and planning.