

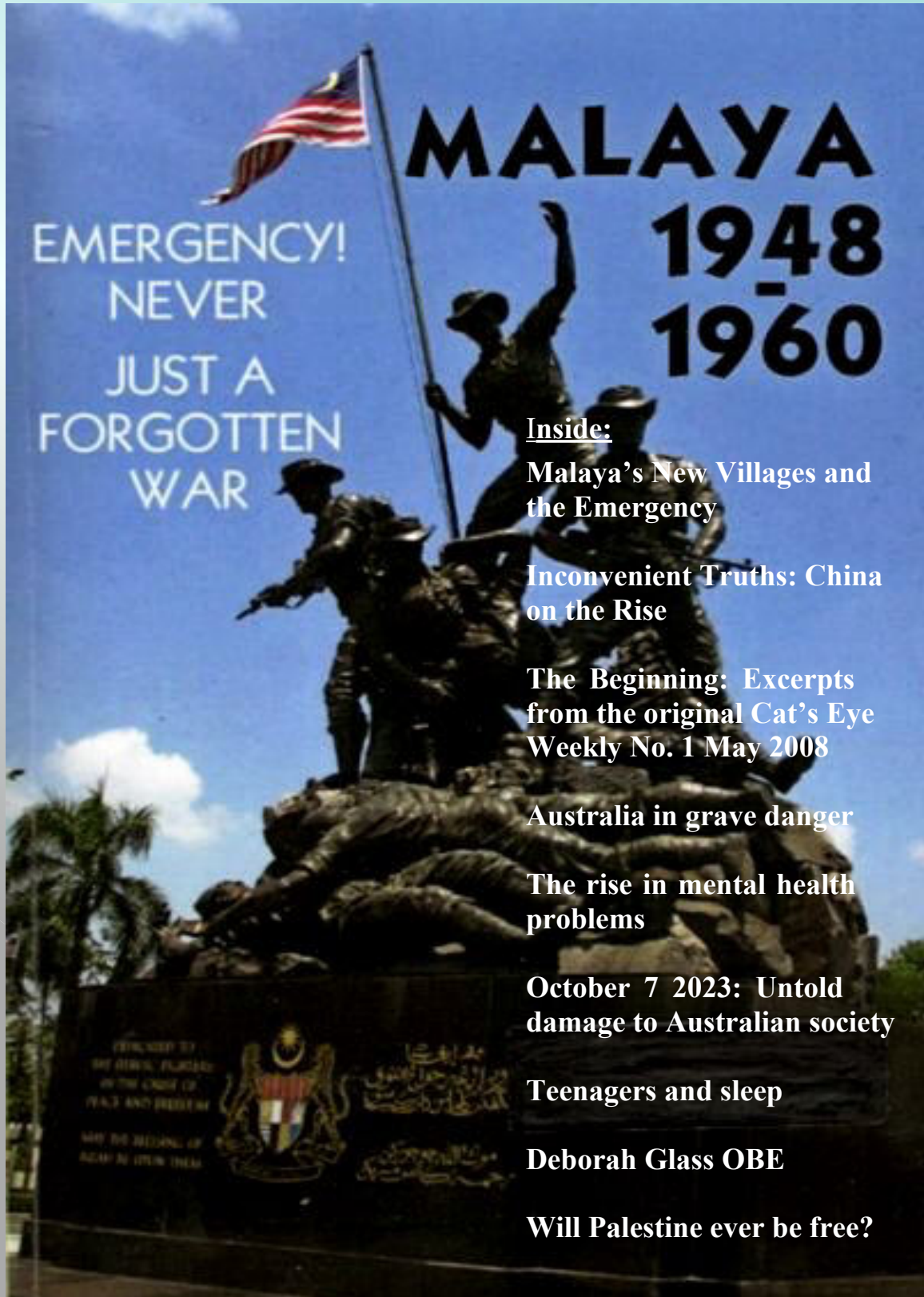
Cat's Eye Watch

Previously **Cat's Eye Weekly** No's 1-147

No. 10

7th Nov 2025

Edited by Graham A. Price



Web: <https://www.catsevewatch.com>

Email: graham@genetree1.com



Any excuse for stirring up the universe

Edited by
Graham A. Price

Once was weekly now highly irregular in more ways than one

HIGHLIGHTS

Malaya
simply a
war. p3



The land
of Oz in
danger



In the light
of Oct 7
p23



Teens and
sleep p27



Will Pales-
tine ever
be free?
p30



The editor's desk



Life doesn't always bring you a bed of roses. Back in September and during October, almost five weeks without writing seemed a lifetime sentence. Due to certain circumstances out of my control it wasn't just my mind that was affected, it was also my body. Psychologists have long allied this with the age old flight or fight syndrome. The body freezes due to exterior happenings or certain trauma, together with the feeling of being isolated. There is inaction, because the body wishes to fight against this intrusion, but at the same time the mind is desperately seeking an escape route. Stalemate! Which generally leads to illness because the sympathetic nervous system is churning out cortisol, adrenaline, and other hormones. This cannot be sustained for very long and physical pain brought on by the stress is real and not imagined. Your first port of call is your doctor. If that is going to be delayed, then it is wise to reach out to organisations such as Beyond Blue. <https://www.beyondblue.org.au>. In an emergency pick up the phone and dial Lifeline Crisis Support Centre at 13 11 14, or seek direct help from <https://www.lifeline.org.au>

The situation as above is now mostly resolved thanks to some caring people including my GP. That's what we need in times of stress, when friends suddenly reveal themselves as true friends and do not hide from one.

You know there's something wildly out of control when Victorian security guards are being issued with firearms, particularly those on night patrols. Victoria now has the highest crime rate of all the states in Australia and the finger points only one way—the previous administration under Daniel Andrews and now under the current premier Jacinta Allan. See page 18 for further details.

Henry Maine, the British jurist, anthropologist and historian said "War appears to be as old as mankind, but peace is a modern invention." Seems so, when you look at the wars eroding lifestyle in this world of ours. In spite of technological and scientific progress humankind hasn't yet learnt how to manage emotions, for it is often emotions that is the precursor to ideology. It is also emotions that stir the crowd or mob, baying for change, whether good or ill. Until humankind learns to control those emotions, sadly, nothing much will change. What we need in schools and universities are courses for self-control which particularly focus on adolescence — often the most worrying period of development, at the same time gearing up our educational systems to raise the intelligence of teenagers. Of course, the governments are going to say, 'Where's the money, honey?' They'd rather spend it on cramped high rise infrastructure and ugly malls, some of which we don't need.

Will Palestine ever be free? *Cat's Eye Watch* is repeating this article which was featured in the March 2025 edition. This shows the full extent of terror and military groups which are active in Palestine during 2025. Go to page 30.

*In Remembrance of the
two Victorian police
officers who died in the
line of duty.*



Stay calm, Cheers,
Graham

Feedback to Cat's Eye Weekly & Cat's Eye Watch
is always welcome.

Click onto my purrfect nose!





Malaya's New Villages and the Emergency

A time capsule

By Graham A. Price

Prior to Malaya becoming the Federation of Malaysia in 1963, the country was involved in a war of attrition with communist terrorists attempting to take control of the country. When the British overlords re-entered Malaya and Singapore after the defeat of the Japanese Empire in 1945, they found to their amazement that the Chinese regiments they had trained and armed against Japanese forces during the conflict of 1939-1945, would not lay down their arms. These Chinese regiments were still located in hidden Jungle camps but came out to claim Malaya as an independent nation to be ruled by a Chinese communist majority.

In revenge, whether real or imagined, they then proceeded to kill at least 2,542 Chinese, Malays, Indians and others whom they thought had been collaborators with the Japanese, until the British Military Administration regained control in September 1945. Law had broken down during the absence of the BMA and civil administration was utterly chaotic. In December the then Chinese jungle fighters — soon to be known as the Malayan Communist Party — were disbanded, where each man — 7000 odd — was given a cash gratuity and awarded with The Burma Star and the 1939-1945 Star. The problem was that at least 4000 did not give up their arms and returned to their hideouts in the jungle when several thousand members joined them later. From inside the jungle they would fight again, not against the Japanese but against the predominately white British administration.

During the second world war period the Imperial Japanese Army was bent on removing all traces of white colonial power throughout Asia with infiltration as far as Australia — a Japanese mini submarine had penetrated Sydney Harbour where it loosed its torpedoes toward an unsuspecting docked naval cruiser, the USS Chicago. Unfortunately for the captain of the submarine the torpedoes went wild, striking instead a Sydney Harbour converted ferry, HMAS Kuttabul, killing 21 sailors. A Japanese reconnaissance float plane from the submarine I-25 was seen flying over Melbourne in 1942, hovering over the docks, but the Royal Australian Air Force took no action at the time. Air armadas from the Japanese fleets sitting off the coast of Papua-New Guinea bombed the city of Darwin 64 times between February 1942 and November 1943, fatalities from those bombings have never been accurate — separate authors concluding anywhere between 300 to 1000.

At first, the Chinese regiments in Malaya came out of the jungle peacefully, but with one intent: to remove the British colonial power from Malaya and to take control of the country to impose a dictatorial rule of their own making, similar to what Mao Zedong was forcing upon the people of mainland China. The British tutt-tutted somewhat but agreed to hold elections. Perhaps it was time for the local people to rule themselves — with conditions, naturally! The 1947 census showed that of all the 52 constituencies only Penang and Menglembu were dominated by Chinese, the other 50 were ethnic Malay people. It was their country until the influx of hundreds of thousands Chinese immigrated from the early 1800's to become manual labourers and entrepreneurs. But the Chinese wanted to rule the country regardless. By 1947 it was time to strike.



Japanese reconnaissance float plane on submarine deck.



● The heavy infiltration of the communist guerrilla forces (CTs), deceitfully named as the Malayan People's Liberation Army, or The Malayan National Liberation Army.



British citizens who had been interned by the Japanese during the war, mostly in Changi prison, returned to their tin mines, rubber plantations and other commercial enterprises. They were an easy mark for the guerillas. The first incident was on the 21st of September at the Wessington Rubber Estate where 10 guerillas ransacked the house. This was followed by the 6th October attack near the Gunning Pulau Estate with the murder of the manager. There were further acts of insurrections during 1947, but the gathering storm was coming during 1948. Further attacks were organised on outlying tin mines and rubber estates, which in reality were sitting ducks. Near the town of Sungei Siput three plantation managers were killed. More planters and other British citizens were attacked and killed, while some luckily escaped with their lives. Meanwhile, the communists, armed with rifles and sten sub-machine guns, were casing hundreds of outlying Kampongs (villages), requesting donations to their cause . . . or else!



Members of the Malayan anti-Japanese Army marching prior to demobilising in December 1945. Later to become the Malayan Communist Party. Pix: Imperial War Museum

The problem was that there were over 600,000 illegal Chinese squatters living on the edge of the jungle, who could be blackmailed with fear of their lives into giving money, food, and implements to the communists, now referred to as CTs (Communist terrorists). As Noel Barber writes in his epic book *The War of the Running Dogs* (Cassell/William Collins 1971) "The CTs stepped up their campaign of intimidation. Government registration teams visiting remote kampongs were attacked. The villages were raided, buses halted and every card was collected and ceremoniously burned. Eleven photographers were murdered, for it was for these men, mostly Chinese, who had been hastily enrolled into temporary government service, that the CTs reserved their harshest tortures. In Johore one man was pegged on to the ground and left to the sun and the ants — and when he croakingly begged for water, rice was stuffed into his mouth . . . On an estate near Kota Tinggi a hundred tappers and their children were watching the free Saturday evening cinema show when the CTs attacked demanding their new registration cards. Four children were shot dead and the fourteen-year-old daughter of the manager, Mr. H. M. Rice, only escaped after seeing her father murdered. In Johore Bahru an eight-year-old girl was burned to death with her family after her father refused to surrender his registration card."

The country was being overrun by CT guerillas and the British administration was slow to understand what was going on; workers strikes in Singapore and some of the Malay states had confused the issue. Eventually they saw no way out except to declare an EMERGENCY in 1948, better late than never.

Some bright spark back in London had decided that it was not to be called a war, but an emergency, so that the tin and iron mines, plantations, and other commercial enterprises mainly owned by British sources, could receive insurance if and when they were attacked. That person probably got a medal! It was a full on bloody war in which



Running the curfew, make no mistake, you will be shot. No exceptions. Pix: G.A. Price collection.

Lieutenant Colonel Neil C. Smith of Melbourne wrote in his book *Mostly Unsung* (privately published 1989), Terrorists killed 6710, Police and Security personnel killed 4425 — Military forces included killed 519 and wounded 959, civilians killed, wounded and missing 4668. During 1950 the CTs were attacking more than 200 times per month with a murder rate of at least 100 incidents per month.

When Malaya gained Commonwealth recognition in 1950, Australia and New Zealand joined in the fight under the umbrella of SEATO, the South East Asia Treaty Organisation; initially sending a squadron of RAAF Dakota transport planes for dropping supplies to allied military regiments in the jungle, followed by No. 1 Squadron

Lincoln bombers which joined Royal Air Force aircraft in strikes on the CT's jungle camps. By 1955 HMAS's Quadrant, Arunta, and Anzac joined in bombardments of the east coast of Jahore. 4,420 Australian regular army men and women served in the Emergency. 27 Australian soldiers were killed in Malaya on active service and a further 57 wounded. Nine Royal Australian Air Force members died of injuries.

Eventually, the Royal Australian Air Force took control over the old wartime Royal Air Force airfield at Butterworth within the Kedah province, close to the exotic island of Penang, laying down a new airstrip by the RAAF's No. 2 Airfield Construction Squadron — many members of which had experience in laying airfields at Borneo, Japan,



Cocos Islands and Woomera. This experience served them well at Butterworth as construction problems soon became obvious. There were major problems building over swampy rice fields. Soon the Canberra bomber jets arrived from Australia to be followed by two squadrons of Sabre fighters. The new airstrip showed its perfect colours when the British Vickers Valiant and Avro Vulcan nuclear V bombers arrived like giant eagles from the sky, landing safely at the strongly built Australian airstrip which also gave work for the local Chinese and Malay population.

Back to the 600,000 Chinese squatters living on the edges of the jungle and supplying the CTs who mostly came out at night to plunder, steal and murder. The CTs were well stocked up with food and essential items taken from the squatters. The Brits were puzzled how to counter this with the High Commissioner Sir Henry Gurney's plan, known as the Briggs plan for resettling the squatters, in disarray. Much had been done by forming over two hundred police squads — the police force eventually becoming an army by itself and equipped with much the same weapons as the military, in fact the police, made up with Malay, Indian and Chinese, with squads mainly led by British and other Commonwealth Lieutenants, apart from civilians, were the most killed and injured during that war. Millions of surrender leaflets had been dropped over the jungle, mainly by Royal Australian Air Force DC3 aircraft. Rewards of cold hard cash with no charges against them if CTs surrendered, with an increase in payment if they brought their weapons with them. Many did, but so far it was only a trickle of the thousands still hiding out in the jungle. Things were going badly for the British administration. Some of those in charge were tainted with racism, including some of the older white police who had previously been interned at Changi prison by the Japanese.



Australia's RAAF No.1 Squadron Lincoln bombers assisting the RAF, based at Tengah airfield, Singapore from 1950. Pix: Australian War Memorial

Even the High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, was old school — showing his true form by driving around the country in a luxury Rolls Royce with his wife by his side, naturally enough with armed carriers in front and behind the Rolls, just in case. It was his undoing because when driving up to the cooler resort at Frasers Hill on the 6th of October 1951 his convoy was attacked by 38 heavily armed CTs using Bren and Sten sub-machine guns. The Rolls had dozens of bullet holes in it and Gurney was dead. For some reason he had stepped out of the car, possibly to draw attention away from his wife. 10 political marks for the CTs under the leadership of Chin Peng, and zero marks for the British administration. Whitehall was in a state of shock; in spite of Malaya being heavily armed with police, air-force, army and naval on the scene, things were going backward fast. The CTs looked like winning the war. Panic!

Fifteen days after the assassination of the High Commissioner, the British Atlee Labour government was wiped out in a general election landslide and that old stubborn bulldog, Winston Churchill, became prime minister again. Finding that the country was nearly bankrupt, 'Winnie' set about making much needed change. Without wasting time, Churchill called for a full and detailed report of the situation in Malaya, and finding it totally unsatisfactory began to remove certain personnel from office, including the Colonial Secretary for Malaya. In replacement, he sent administrators whom he could trust, overhauling the Briggs plan for re-settling the Chinese squatters into numerous protected New Villages throughout the land. Everyone had to go, including livestock. Stories are told where the young British national service soldiers helped almost ancient Chinese men and women into covered trucks with their pigs, chickens and other livestock. As long as they were not large animals, they were accepted. It was a traumatic and harrowing experience for the Chinese families, from which some would find recovery exceedingly difficult. But the young and fairly green British soldiers — many with their lily white skin still recovering from extreme tropical sunburn — sensing the delicacy of the situation were, at the most, kind and helpful.



One of the hundreds of New Villages scattered around the countryside. Pix: War History Network.

It was a massive operation, removing the thousands of Chinese Squatters from the edges of the jungle, but Churchill and his advisors knew it had to be done. Soon, the squatters found themselves locked up at night surrounded by double barbed-wire fences, floodlights at night, roving heavily armed patrols within and minimum huts for accommodation. A night curfew was placed upon them but they could go out during the day to tend to plots of vegetables. There were at least five hundred of these New Villages scattered about the country, in all States; the squatters now had running water, electricity and safe accommodation. They had movies at night, but naturally enough, many of the films

were instruction films about the war. The British administration could now breathe a small sigh of relief because the CTs



could no longer apply their murderous extortion techniques from squatters who were no longer there. The flimsy huts and humpies they previously lived in were burnt to the ground by the authorities. The dismantling of the lucrative supply system for the CTs was a heavy blow. Nothing was left for them to take.



Warning: You are now entering a black area controlled by terrorists.

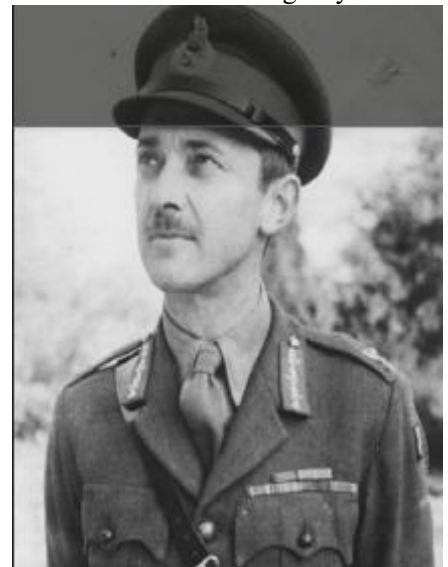
passenger seat, and usually an armed Sikh with rifle or carbine and a bandolier of bullets across his shoulder in the back. Home schooling became imperative for children and barbed-wire fences shot up, with either private guards or special police constables in situ. Guard dogs were introduced.

High commissioner Gurney, even with his faults, had done all he could under the circumstances, but it was never enough. Now came Churchill's master stroke — the plan that would change Malaya forever — near the end of 1952 when the CT's were not winning but the administration also was not winning — a stalemate of the most infuriating kind with horrendous killings still going on — 'Winnie' had a light bulb moment. There was a man he knew of who could be the answer to his alcohol-fuelled prayers — who had seen action with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in World War I, and as Noel Barber describes him "A keen sportsman, he was a member of the British Olympic hurdles team in 1924 and also bayonet-fighting champion of the army. In 1936 he won a DSO and bar in Palestine, and in World War Two became, at forty-four, the youngest Lieutenant-General in the British Army." At the time of the emergency he was 54-year-old General Sir Gerald Templer, a soldier by career, a soldier by nature, and a man who stood no nonsense from anyone below him or even higher than him.

When Churchill, over drinks, had mentioned the word 'Malaya' to Templer, he never hesitated. He would go as the new High Commissioner and he would stamp his own particular authority on, not only the administration, but on every person he met. In himself he was a kind and generous man, but when it came to discipline and things that displeased him, he could be ruthless. When he arrived in Malaya he saw numerous things that had to go — his tour of the estates revealed to him that certain managers were not looking after their labourers. That would stop. He looked at the private clubs — including military — for Europeans only. He told them that if they didn't open their doors to the local Malay, Chinese and other races, he would close them down. He toured the kampongs (villages) and put his hand of friendship out to the village elders; his wife set up nursing and teaching facilities in the villages. They toured the country, not in a Rolls Royce, but in a plain military vehicle. He started municipal elections in Kuala Lumpur. He changed most of the Home Guards to Chinese — a master stroke of ingenuity, he poured more Chinese into the police force and the military. And although he and his wife were billeted at the sumptuous mansion at King's House in Kuala Lumpur, he looked upon it only as a war office and not a place simply to be enjoyed. He brought in leaders of all ethnic groups and consulted with them, consolidating their information and using it for the benefit of the country.

Templer was a slim, wiry man who in civilian clothes could be overlooked by some, but in uniform he was a tiger, a man determined and at times fierce in his effort to remove from Malaya much of the colonial oversee. He sent numerous British administrators back to the UK because he considered they were not doing the job required of them, or they were indolent, lazy, and in some instances, simply racist.

It was dramatic. Now the CTs had to come out during daylight to procure supplies where they became targets for the heavily armed police and military. Churchill must have taken an extra swill of his top drawer whisky at hearing that news. But the roads, though well paved in earlier days by the British administration, were a death trap for anyone travelling — who knew what was around the next winding corner, with jungle on either side? Apart from curfew notices, large signs were posted everywhere warning either that you were now entering a black area (terrorist activity) or driving into a white area, which had been cleared of CTs. The country was still in a heavy state of siege and planters, mine owners and others, made adjustments to their lifestyles, travelling in armour-plated vehicles, armed up with rifles, carbines, sub-machine guns and grenades. Many a plantation manager would drive out with a handful of grenades sitting on the



General Sir Gerald Templer, in earlier days. Later, Field Marshall. Nicknamed the Smiling Tiger of Malaya. Pix by Historica.



The War of the Running Dogs, p184: “By now more than 40,000 regular troops were engaged in Malaya — 25,000 from Britain (including navy and RAF personnel), 10,000 Gurkhas, five battalions of the Malay Regiment, two battalions of the King’s African Rifles and one battalion of the Fiji Infantry Regiment; in addition there were some 60,000 full-time police and nearly 200,000 Home Guards, including Commonwealth forces. Yet nothing could prevent the hit-and-run tactics of a mobile guerrilla force.”

CT activities had been fairly strong in the region of Tanjong Malim, which was a rubber-tapping town of 20,000 people near Kuala Lumpur. *The War of the Running Dogs* p 184: “Seven men of the Gordon Highlanders had been killed in an ambush and since the start of 1952 seven civilians and eight policemen had been murdered. As an added insult, CTs had cut the water pipeline between the town and its reservoir, in the jungle five times. On the night of March 24, CTs cut the line again, and for the sixth time a repair party went out to mend the pipe. It was 7.00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25. The repair party was accompanied by a police jungle squad of fifteen . . . After two miles they walked into an ambush.”

To summarise, 40 CTs killed eleven of the repair crew and seven of the police, with the other eight seriously wounded, then stealing the party’s weapons and retreating into the jungle.

Templer was furious. Through translators he addressed the town’s leaders, stating that many of them were not innocent, that they had information they kept to themselves. He then imposed a 22-hour-a-day curfew on the town so that people could only leave between noon and 2.00 p.m. Schools were to be closed, buses ceased to run, and the rice ration would be halved. Naturally enough, there was an uproar in Whitehall ‘You can’t do that!’ But Templer ignored the pen pushers. Then, with a brilliant stroke he introduced sealed collection boxes to the town, at which residents could anonymously put notes giving information concerning the CTs and their civilian spys living in the town — the Min Yuen.

The results were outstanding. When the boxes were opened at the High Commissioner’s residence, King’s House, with six of the community leaders watching, the information initially led to thirty-eight arrests in the town. Templer immediately lifted the curfew and destroyed the letters. Shortly afterward “some 3,500 men in a district with one of the worst records in the war volunteered for the Home Guard.” *The War of the Running Dogs* pp 186-187.



Women in Pahang taking up rifle training to fight terrorists. Pix: Pryl.

were allowed to manage their own affairs through village councils. (though by all accounts these were not a great success) and to share in their own defence by raising home guard detachments . . . In the long term the New Villages help to turn the Chinese squatter into a Malayan citizen. In addition to the resettlement of squatters a variety of measures, some liberal and some repressive, were devised to build up the pressure of blockade on the terrorists and to isolate them psychologically . . . there was an elaborate administrative apparatus of food rationing, restriction on movement of food and other essential supplies. The population were all issued with identity cards . . . Villagers with a bad record of support for the terrorists were subjected to collective fines, long daily curfews etc., as a punishment. Captured terrorists, if deemed likely material for reformation, were sent to a special centre for rehabilitation and instruction in a trade. The success rate was fairly high. More hardened characters, if no specific crime could be brought home to them, were shipped off to China.”

J. B. Robinson in his *Transformation in Malaya*, Martin Secker & Warburg 1956, writes p109: “The most striking feature of the New Villages, however, to any newcomer to Malaya is their children. Malaya is a country of children — 30 per cent of the population are of school age; 50 per cent are under twenty-one, and all three of the main races have very attractive children and take an exceptional amount of care of them. It is in the New Villages that the visitor sees them best . . . very active and seldom quarrelling. In these New Villages, half a million people are living a



You are now entering a black area controlled by terrorists. Pix: Australian War Museum.



life infinitely to be preferred to that which they have lived before. What they have lost is a species of freedom—to die untended, freedom to live like animals, freedom to be forced into slavery by the bandits.”

It seems, in the light of modern history, to use the word ‘animals’ is somewhat horrific, but those were unusual bloody times and language used was different to today’s usage. There is no doubt that in their own way, the Chinese squatters lived a somewhat contented life on the edge of the jungle, totally unconcerned, and largely ignored by the Malayan administration which simply left them alone to live as they wished. There would have been a certain poverty, lack of medical, dental, and pharmaceutical means, no electricity — always living in the fear of accidentally burning down their attap humpies with candles or kerosene lamps, and the monsoons would often wreak havoc on their huts. But they somehow survived in peace, until the arrival of the Communist terrorists. The CTs took bloody revenge on those who would not cooperate and give them what they wanted — killing and torturing headmen and others with not much more than a blink of an eyelid; pegging people to the ground in the fierce sun with no food or water. To the CTs it was, the means justifies the end: the hijacking of buses, the derauling of trains, the blowing up of essential services, the slaughter of civilians who would not cooperate, even their children — the envisioned end would be complete domination of the people of Malaya by a communist dictatorship.

Recently interviewed on Malaysian TV, Lim Peng Chow, now 84 years old, who was a former resident of the New Village at Sungei Way in Petaling Jaya, said he had fond memories of life in the village, even though at times life was restricted. He said that numerous people who had moved out of the villages decades ago had returned for the more convenient lifestyle there.



Sagil New Village in Johore. Pix by Karl Hack

Templer was optimistic about the future of Malaya. He had a wide vision not shared by any previous administrator. He gently pushed the ruling Malay Sultans into agreeing to give the Chinese and Indian population citizenship. So, on 14 September 1952 1,200,000 Chinese — which was sixty per cent of the Chinese in the nation — and 180,000 Indians became Malayan citizens. Then, as Noel Barber notes, he turned his attention to the Temiar and Senoi Aboriginies who lived in the almost impenetrable jungle, and were at risk from the CTs. Templer provided a string of forts, usually manned by about 20 specially trained police. Not only were they to serve as protection for Aboriginies, but they were also useful for gaining intelligence of CT movements from the gentle indigenous people who used highly effective poisoned blow-pipes to bring down game, and if necessary, humans.

Noel Barber picks up some curious tales about Templer. *The War of the Running Dogs* p217: “When he was short of cash and there was none forthcoming from London, he borrowed it locally for himself. After a request of \$4 million for American carbines had been turned down by Churchill, Templer arranged a dinner with the Sultan of Brunei and asked him bluntly, ‘Will you lend it to me?’ He added shrewdly, ‘I can only offer you four per cent, but you have my word the loan will be repaid.’ He got his money . . . On one of his secret visits to Desmond Palmer’s Special Branch hideout, Templer suggested that every dentist in Malaya should be contacted ‘Every CT we catch seems to have *some* gold teeth,’ he said. ‘There must be records of their dental history.’ It proved invaluable advice.”



Sungei Way New Village Historical Museum

Today, the villages have changed into modern towns with everything close to hand. It has been a long road from insurrection, difficult times, harsh administrative decisions placed upon people, but the fruit of Templer’s and other admin personnel’s determination to bring peace to the country, now known as Malaysia, has ripened magnificently.

The British and Commonwealth military personnel proved to be up to it while engaging in friendship with the local Malaysian people. The Australians, in particular, made long-lasting friendships and a number of inter-marriages were made, mostly successful, though a small minority fell apart upon returning to Australia. I was in Malaya serving with the Royal

Australian Air Force from April 1958 to December 1960 — almost three years, and during that time witnessed the special relationships our young lads had with the local Chinese, Indian, Malay and Eurasian people. Unknown to most young serving RAAF personnel in Malaya, the White Australia Policy was still in situ back in Australia, so that when a lad wanted to marry a local girl, he was fronted up to a superior officer to explain what he was doing. Fortunately, the brass at Butterworth were sympathetic to the couple’s wishes and signed off on approval without much bother. It wasn’t until 1975 when that racial discriminatory act was finally dissolved.

Airmen and Airwomen, (now titled Aviators) from the RAAF Butterworth Air Base made it their mission to visit not only the local kampongs close to the base, but also visited some of the New Villages where they gave donations, and sometimes sat down for a Chinese meal with the female Anglican missionaries who were located in many New



Villages. These missionaries ran a medical clinic for the now 'imprisoned' Chinese.

In 1957 Malaya won its independence from the colonial power that had ruled it since 1867; the cry of Merdeka (Freedom) rang out across the country and the 31st of August was promulgated as a holiday. *The Straits Times* newspaper blazed a headline: "MERDEKA! At a stroke of midnight, a great roar tells the world!" and went on: "A new nation was born on the stroke of Friday midnight—Persekutuan Tana Melayu . . . the independent and sovereign Federation of Malaya. The event was announced to the world in one word, exploded from thousands of throats—Merdeka. The new Prime-minister designate, Tenku Abdul Rahman, 'Father of Freedom', initiated the cry in a voice choked with emotion."



Pix: G.A. Price collection

The Malayan Postal Union issued several first day envelopes, which today have become quite valuable, some going for \$AUS150.00 on eBay. Part of the independence charter reads: "AND WHEREAS by an agreement styled the Federation of Malaya agreement, 1957, between her Majesty the Queen and their Highnesses and Rulers of the Malay States of Johore, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Selangor, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, and Perak, and the former settlements of Malacca and Penang, should as from the 31st. day of August 1957, be formed into a new Federation of States by the name of Persekutuan Tana Melayu. AND WHEREAS it was further agreed by the parties aforesaid that the Federation of Malaya agreement 1948, and all other agreements . . . should be revoked."



The Federation of Malaya Year Book 1957-1958 described the Federation Crest, or College of Arms, as "Tierce in Pale: the first division per fesse crenelle or and barry wavy of eight azure and argent in chief a plume of 'ostrich feathers surmounted by a riband azure with the word Ich Dien in letters gold thereon," and went on to further describe with several paragraphs. Quite complicated legal wordage!

Datuk Abdul Mutalib Razak, who wrote a coffee-table book about Merdeka, reflects upon that day: *The Straits Times* August 31, 2025: "It was 1957, and the air in Taiping was alive with pride and anticipation. To mark the nation's newfound independence, the Taiping Municipal Council organised a contest for the town's retailers — a competition for the best Merdeka-themed shopfront. "My father was deeply patriotic and he didn't hesitate," recalls Datuk Abdul Mutalib Razak. Back then, he was just 14, helping his father, the late Datuk Seri Mohamed Razak Akram, who ran a tailoring and general merchandise store along the busy Main Road — now known as Jalan Taming Sari."

The British, Australian, and New Zealand military personnel found Taiping to be a beneficial tourist spot, not only for the amazing Taiping Lake Gardens, designed and built over old tin mines in 1880, but for visiting the Taiping war graves of World War II. Busloads of various military personnel and dependents visited the sacred site and paid their respects.

Although there was always the spectre of the terrorist in the background during my tour, by the time Australians took the transfer of Butterworth Air Base from the RAF to the RAAF, the CTs were on the hop throughout the country, with numbers reducing drastically. It was a war almost without peer, because just five or six CTs could do enough damage in jungle warfare that a hundred or so might have been necessary in a land without the ever encroaching jungle.

Some tears were shed at Butterworth when the RAF Blue Ensign was lowered to be replaced by the RAAF Ensign. At the time the RAF base magazine *Scramble* placed a notice of farewell which read 'Kicked by a Kangaroo.' Within a short time *Scramble* was replaced by 114 MCRU (Mobile Control and Reporting Unit's) Roneo'd magazine *Reflector*, to which I contributed a number of articles. Numerous British (mostly national servicemen) remained under the authority of the Australian government until their time of service was finalised, often making lifetime friends with many of the Aussies.



Bukit Jalang New Village entrance 1959. Pix: G.A. Price collection



RAAF personnel from Butterworth invited to dine at the Guntong Clinic, New Village 1959. Centre Bob Oversby, on his right is Alex Godwin.

At the changeover, messing facilities in the 'airmens' mess perked up dramatically. The quality of food, much brought in by the Hercules transport planes from Australia, surprised the British lads. No more potatoes done in about four different ways, fresh milk from Australia brought in (they had been living on reconstituted powdered milk for a very long time) and one of the Australian cooks who looked in the freezer swore he saw 1945 stamped on a side of beef.

Those servicemen and women who managed a tour to Butterworth during the 1950s-60s returned to Australia with vivid memories of a land they had come to love and respect — some even managed two tours where

children were often born to married personnel, either living on the base or in housing accommodation on the island of Penang. Though born in Malaya, these children were given Australian birthright through the High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. Their schooling on Penang was adequate and some went on as adults to serve in the RAAF. In time many Australian service folk made their residence permanent in Malaysia, mostly encased in the island of Penang, maintaining long and lasting friendships with the Malaysian born people of various nationalities. Today the relationship of Australia and Malaysia remains strong and warm — a friendship not always found in other theatres of the world.

Apart from 2ACS and other earlier RAAF maintenance personnel, the 1958 forward vanguard of Australian RAAF personnel from Amberley and other bases in Australia, returned to Australia on the 5th of December 1960 by the Dutch liner Johan Van Oldenbannevelt, together with numerous Malayan civilians visiting Australia. 569 RAAF personnel were leaving a land they had come to know dearly, on board with heavy hearts, solid memories, and watched with pride at Mitchell Pier as the Sabre jets of No. 77 Squadron gave a fly past salute to their almost three-year service just as the sun was setting on that lovely Isle of Penang. To Brisbane and Sydney they docked and parted to other places, saying their farewells, but often keeping in touch with each other for decades. The camaraderie that they experienced in Malaya would stay with them for the rest of their lives. •



1959. The author, 24 years of age at a wedding in Penang, accompanied by the Bridesmaid, Tan Kooi Guat.

Footnote:

1968. The leader of the Malayan CTs, Chin Peng, hiding over the border in

Thailand with his 'banished' members, apparently with complicity from a local police chief, was not finished with the Malaysia that now included the States of Sabah and Sarawak. He began a serious guerrilla campaign from the Thai border area, which is now referred to as the Second Emergency and which lasted until 1989. At the Butterworth Air Base an Australian rifle company had been employed to protect the base as from 1970, which proved to be necessary. The district was plunged into a war zone again and the air base was attacked several times. Those of the Rifle Company at Butterworth are seeking recognition of being on active service, but so far the Australian government has refused to comply, stating that active service in Malaya/Malaysia ceased in 1960 when the CTs were exiled to Thailand. Retired air force member, Ken Marsh, (known as Swampy) has been fighting for several years to have those involved in the Butterworth Rifle Company and other related military personnel 1968-1989 to be recognised as being on active service. It's a long haul, but Ken simply won't give up. He reckons that those personnel deserve to be recognised. Perhaps in time, and with enough pressure from ex-servicemen and women, they will. •

Bibliography:

- Return To Malaya. R.H. Bruce Lockhart. Black & White Library, London 1938
- A Barbarian in Asia. Henri Michaux. New Directions 1945
- The Jungle is Neutral. F. Spencer Chapman. Chatto & Windus 1951
- Transformation in Malaya. J.B. Perry Robinson. Secker and Warburg 1956
- And the Rain my Drink. Han Suyin Johnathan Cape 1956.
- Malacca Boy. Katherine Sim. Hodder & Stoughton 1956
- Where Monsoons Meet. Donald Moore. George G. Harrap, London 1957
- Chinese Secret Societies in Malaya. Leon Comber. Donald Moore/Straits Times 1957
- Temiar Jungle: A Malayan Journey. John Slimming. John Murray London 1958,
- Noone of the Ulu. Dennis Holman. Heinemann 1958
- The Lost World of the East. Stewart Brooke-Wavell. Souvenir Press 1958
- With My Back to the East. Bernard Llewellyn. Allen & Unwin, London 1958
- Black Rice. Katherine Sim. Hodder & Stoughton 1959
- The Making of Modern Malaya. N.J. Ryan. Oxford University Press, Kuala Lumpur 1963
- Malaya. J. M. Gullick. Ernest Ben, London 1964
- Malaysia: A Study in Direct and Indirect Rule. Rupert Emerson. University of Malaya Press 1966.
- The War of the Running Dogs. Noel Barber. Cassell/William Collins 1971
- Malaya 1948-1960. Emergency Never: Just a Forgotten War. Joe E. Plant. Privately published 1988
- The Malayan Trilogy. Anthony Burgess. Vintage Press 1988-2000
- Mostly Unsung: Australia and the Commonwealth in the Malaya Emergency 1948-1960, Lieutenant Colonel Neil C. Smith, AM. Melbourne 1989
- Malaysian Journey. Rehman Rashid. Privately published Selangor Darul Esan, Malaysia 1993
- A Company of Planters: Confessions of a Colonial Rubber Planter in 1950s Malaya. John Dodd. Monsoon 2017
- Underground Asia: Global revolutionaries and the Assault on Empire. Tim Harper. Allen Lane Press. 2020



The Beginning

Some excerpts from Cat's Eye Weekly No. 1. 11th May 2008

You can get yourself into trouble by doing nothing. A few weeks ago I was walking down a certain street, which I often do as I used to live in that street and it is a short cut down to St. Kilda. I had paused opposite a fairly distinguished looking Victorian era home that had long attracted my attention. I must have walked past a hundred times. Suddenly this grey-haired man came running out accusing me of taking photos of his house. Aye? Wot photos? No camera, and a long time before mobile phones with inbuilt cameras.

This very agitated man accused me of spying on his home. After a time of explaining, arguing with him, I walked away. After I arrived at home I thought "Blow this, I have to find out why he acted so," and I returned to the house and knocked him up (mind your manners!) I told him he had serious problems and it certainly was not with me. Eventually he owned up to having some worries with the neighbours on the north side of his property, and that the girl who lived in there often came to the window naked! *I got out of there very fast!*

Tuesday's morning walk down Mitford Street, Elwood. Saw a posted sign on a property "LOST White Rabbit! Oh dear, perhaps the sign should now read "Lost, skinned rabbit covered in white sauce?"

How's your engineering skills? Work this one out. Light rail (tram) down through Albert Park winds a bit on the old railway tracks. Side movement on the new German made and or maybe French made super-doooper trams is often close to violence swinging sideways. Stiff luck if you are standing. Side movement on the old Australian made B class carriages is zero! Absolute Zero! That's progress for you. Are you reading this, Lynne Kosky, darling Minister for Transport? Don't ask about her being Minister for Arts as well!

The Mayor of Port Phillip, Janet Cribbes, committed a real booboo in a reply to my recent letter to the *Emerald Hill Weekly*— in that she was sorry my cat had to go through the trauma of being microchipped. Janet did not read my original letter properly which stated that Pippa (see photo) had not been microchipped but had suffered trauma at the hands of a vet clinic for other reasons, and that if anyone came near her trying to insert a chip, better watch out — she would probably sink her teeth in and I would not blame her if she did, and if she didn't, then I probably would. If Janet reads her local council legal papers like she read my letter to EHW then boy, there is sure going to be a problem for the Port Phillip rate-payers this year! Get a grip, Janet. (EHW binned my reply, which was probably too hot for them to handle!)



*Pippa, in a teeth-sinking mood with a cushion!
Gotcha!*

*You can never change the path of fate, only
choose which side to walk on.*

The Girl in the Eagle's Talons, Quercus



Stay away from these people

These personalities will crush you if you let them

1. The Monopolizer

This person knows everything. In discussion, if you let something slip that may not seem to be exactly correct — after all you can't travel with an Encyclopedia Britannica in your head — this person will home in on you like a blazing rocket and correct you. But truth is ephemeral and the edges of it are pliable according to the subject and the occasion. This person is rigid in politics; there can be no other way. This person will sit you down and explain to you, without any doubt whatsoever, that you need to change your way of thinking. This person is an ideologist. Steer very clear of this person, it's not worth the high drama.

2. The Fake Greenie

Similar to the monopolizer, this person comes into your life professing to care terribly for the planet, is interested in climate change, states loves animals, wants to impress upon you that you need to join the bandwagon; they surround themselves with items that are *objet d'art de rigueur*, while everything is tidy, neat. But this person is a fake. It's all show in an attempt to hide their real personality which the person secretly despises. (something rotten in the State of Denmark!). They want you to believe in their fakery and follow their special 'insight.'

These people are busy bees — always on the move, always have a project lined up. Just make sure that you're **not** the project.



3. The Fawner

This person drops compliments like melted honey falling onto a slice of toast. Nothing more needs to be said about them.

4. The Psychopath

The above three persons have a little of this in them, but the real psychopath can be spotted, if you're lucky, due to certain traits. The psychopath is a mixture of the above three personalities, but the psychopath has one element they don't have — the psychopath can be cruel while all the time expressing care and 'having your interests' at heart. The psychopath is so successful in life that they are perceived as a leader, someone you should give all of allegiance to. The psychopath tells lies, though many of these are heavily disguised so that they come out as plausible, that is, until you dig deep into their meaning and the results that come from them. The psychopath will always keep you wondering about your friendship with them — the psychopath runs hot and cold. It's all designed to keep you off balance and tied to their 'apron strings'. If you wish to distance yourself from the psychopath the immediate result is 'Don't do that, you're hurting me.' Just get yourself out of that relationship, otherwise that person will drag you down to their depths and possibly cause you a number of unwanted nightmares. •

Israeli attack on Qatar

There is a precedent for this

On May 2, 2011, President Obama of the United States of America sent six Seal-team members in two Black Hawk helicopters to Pakistan to kill Osama-bin-laden, the architect of the 7/11 attack on America. Collateral damage was the result. Speaking to the nation on May 7, he said: "Over the years, I've repeatedly made clear that we would take action within Pakistan if we knew where bin Laden was. That is what we've done."

Qatar has sheltered senior members of Hamas for decades, encouraging them to live within the bounds of Qatar's cities, while they raged war upon the Israelis and with the help of Qatar authorities, provided large cash payments to Hamas in Gaza. This is the country whose airline officials strip-searched and invasively examined five Australian women at Doha airport in October 2020. •



Inconvenient Truths

How China infiltrates democracies

Jennifer Zeng was born and brought up in Communist China. She has had a first-hand view of dictatorship. Her book *Witnessing History*, Allen & Unwin 2005, tells the story of her imprisonment and re-education under the watchful eye of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Because she had been practicing the exercise and spiritual movement Falung Gong, she was incarcerated together with drug addicts, pornographic traffickers and prostitutes, forced to squat for hours in the blistering sun and watch her fellow prisoners die from torture. Zeng was a graduate of science at Beijing University, a wife, a mother and a Communist Party member. But after she began to start practicing Falung Gong, they came for her. She was arrested four times but eventually spent a year within a forced labor camp, and subjected to brain-washing.



Image credit/twitter.com/Jenniferzeng97

In 2001 she managed to flee to Australia, but now currently lives in America. She is a fierce critic of the China she left behind, watching it gradually absorb itself into other countries like a creeping vine that sets out to strangle. Her mission has become a deeply saturated one, calling out the inconsistencies and rabid encroachment of the Chinese Communist Party in its forward planning of the Belt and Road initiative. Zeng's *Inconvenient Truth* blogs on YouTube and Facebook spell out clearly what the Belt and Road initiative means for the countries that take it on. It is simply a trap!

Countries that fall into that trap usually end up with large debts that they are sometimes unable to pay back to China. China then uses leverage to either take control of part of that infrastructure e.g. ports, refineries, power stations, telecom industries, or uses the leverage for political purposes i.e. 'Your vote at the United Nations'. •

<https://www.instagram.com/jenniferzeng97>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz9lferjFWQ>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyATNyZR_RtWrSEfXlBG7aMo5GiQYNJfa

<https://www.facebook.com/jenniferzeng97>

Debt Trap for Countries

At least 75 poorest countries in debt to China

China's Belt and Road initiative is a heavy debt trap for unsuspecting countries. Numerous countries that have taken on the offer from China are probably wishing they didn't get involved. Weak economy countries now involved are on shaky ground. Thanks to the previous Australian government, the State of Victoria under the premiership of Daniel Andrews did not fall into that trap.



Data by Voronoi

Australia's close neighbours in debt to China

Cook Islands (2017)	Low
Fiji (2016)	Low
Nauru (2017)	Low
Palau (2016)	Low
PNG (2017)	Moderate
Solomon Islands (2017)	Moderate
Timor L'este (2017)	Moderate
Vanuatu (2018)	Moderate
Kiribati (2017)	High
Marshall Islands (2018)	High
Micronesia (2017)	High
Samoa (2018)	High
Tonga (2017)	High
Tuvalu (2018)	High

Development Policy Centre



Australia in grave danger

Television channel 7's Spotlight programme on Sunday 7th September highlighted the sad state of affairs our defence is in. Liam Bartlett led an investigation into that perilous state of our defences, hovering in particular on the Royal Australian Navy.

He interviewed Jennifer Parker, ex executive officer of HMAS Darwin, the Adelaide-class guided missile frigate, and now defence analyst with the Australian National University Security College. Parker was adamant that the Australian navy is now woefully under-manned with no more than 10 surface combatants, i.e. destroyers and frigates. She applied the rule of three: Out of every three armed surface vessels at any given time, we have one vessel operational, one vessel in training, and one in maintenance. A shocking state of affairs.

In the light of China's blatant encircling of Australia by three of its warships in March 2025, together with firing of live ammunition, causing flights to and from New Zealand to be diverted, Australia's navy is looking rather sick. As well, initially our defence security teams did not pick up the existence of the three warships until notified by a civilian entity, a Virgin Australia pilot. In September 2025 the British Broadcasting Corporation reported that China was speedily ramping up its navy to the extent of surpassing the United States — China has now more warships including submarines than America and is speedily ramping up more from its four major shipyards. It's navy has now reached approximately 370 as of October 2023 with expected growth of 430 battle force vessels by 2030, which enormously dwarfs Australia's apparent battle ready force of no more than 10.

In 2024 our federal government made some budget cuts that affected air defence and the Royal Australian Navy, and this together with the sometimes on sometimes off consideration by the United States to supply our country with nuclear-powered submarines — the first to be delivered by 2032 and two more to be built in an Australian shipyard circa 2040. But China has already warned that it will take over Taiwan in the very near future; it cannot wait to get its hold on the special chip manufacturing secrets held by Taiwan specialists. China is now dominating the South China Sea and parts of the Pacific with little or no interference from other sovereign states. Back in history it was Britannia rules the waves, now it is without any doubt, China rules the waves.



HMAS Adelaide in dock at Sydney. Pix by Spotlight.

Adelaide, an RAN amphibious assault ship. He then sent a drone to fly over the ship, expecting that it would be detected by those on board, and more potentially, to be shot down as a threat to the ship's security. Nothing happened. The drone was not detected. He then interviewed Peter Jennings, director of Strategic Analysis Australia, and an adjunct fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, who stated in no uncertain terms that it shouldn't have happened. Jennings stated that HMAS Adelaide had electronic equipment to disable any drone — to make it fall out of the sky. Nothing was activated by those on board, which indicates a glaring hole in the security of our naval bases. One small drone equipped with explosives is all it takes to disable an Australian naval vessel.

Jennings stated that "For the first time, really, since the Second World War our [Naval] bases are now vulnerable to attack." Australia's air bases are also vulnerable to attack. Although our Royal Australian Air Force jet fighters are up to date and capable of engaging any enemy, together with effective supply planes, it is ground defence that is lacking.



*China's warships conducting live firing off the coast of Australia.
Pix: Channel 7 Spotlight.*

Parker, who spent 20 years with the RAN, insists that China knows Australia defence capabilities and its weaknesses. We are sitting ducks. She mentioned that we only have two supply ships and that these two ships were not always functioning, so the situation now is that if we don't have operational supply ships for our destroyers and frigates, then we do not have a navy in any way, shape or form. It is a diabolical situation for any country to find itself in.

In September, Bartlett took his Spotlight team to the Garden Island naval base in Sydney and stood opposite HMAS



Google Earth Pro picture clearly showing RAAF Amberley air base fighter jets vulnerable to aircraft or drone attack.



Combat aircraft are left sitting in the open air, easily a target for anything flying across, whether that be a drone or a high flying bomber. Numerous countries keep their fighter aircraft under shade cover or under tin roofing, but that doesn't seem to apply in Australia. While there are some missile launchers at select airfields there are no anti-aircraft facilities together with poor ground armed security groups. Australia's largest operational air base at Amberley in Queensland is particularly vulnerable to attacks on aircraft standing in open air. The editor recently passed over his old RAAF East Sale air base with Google Earth, which clearly revealed sensitive security buildings and aircraft in open air. Puckapunyal army base in Victoria was easily zoomed in on, showing military transport trucks and tanks clearly visible.

On the 17th of September 2025 an unauthorised man was found within Amberley air base. At last known, police were questioning a 46-year-old man with follow up investigations to be carried out. A Facebook comment by Ryan Daz stated: "A local climbed through a hole in the fence. Walked up the flight line and had a look around for a few hours and went on a forklift ride. Even parked it up when finished. Private civil security guards don't cut the mustard on ADF Bases. Never have."

Incidents such as this may seem minor, but for anyone well trained in terrorist activities it would be a walkover. Remember, the 9/11 twin tower terrorist bombers were in the United States for nine months, totally undetected while they plotted their killings. One group even passed through a customs and immigration check without any challenge. Australia's defence system is wide open to sabotage and/or espionage and foreign interference.



Australia's top security agency ASIO has recently upgraded the threat level to this country, with Mike Burgess, Director-General of Security, stating "Australia has entered a period of strategic surprise and security fragility. Over the next five years, a complex, challenging and changing security environment will become more dynamic, more diverse and more degraded . . . Similar trends are playing out across the Western world . . . Terrorism became the priority in the 2000's, espionage and foreign interference overtook it in the 2020's, only for us to raise the national terrorism threat level again in 2024.

"The most confronting thing about the new security environment – the prevailing security environment and the future security environment – is there is no single security concern. Three of our heads of security are already flashing red: espionage, foreign interference and politically motivated violence. In the next five years we expect three more could join them . . . Espionage and foreign interference are already at extreme levels and we anticipate they will only intensify.



Pix: Future for Advanced Research & Studies, Abu Dabi. United Arab Emirates

. . . Espionage and foreign interference will be enabled by advances in technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence and deeper online pools of personal data vulnerable to collection, exploitation and analysis by foreign intelligence services . . . Artificial Intelligence will enable disinformation and deep fakes that can promote false narratives, undermine factual information and erode trust in institutions . . . Politically motivated violence is raising the temperature of the security environment and making acts of terrorism more likely.

"At the same time, traditional transnational terrorist groups such as Islamic State, al-Qa'ida and their affiliates are exploiting permissive spaces to revive and renew their capabilities, particularly in Afghanistan and parts of Africa. The groups have demonstrated their ability to conduct successful external attacks, although I stress that none of last year's terrorist incidents in Australia were directed by an offshore group, and our greatest threat remains a lone actor using an easily obtained weapon. We expect nationalist and racist violent extremists to continue their efforts to 'mainstream' and expand their movement. They will undertake provocative, offensive and increasingly high-profile acts to generate publicity and recruit. While these activities will test legal boundaries, the greatest threat of violence comes from individuals on the periphery of these organised groups. I remain concerned about young Australians being caught up in webs of hate, both religiously and ideologically motivated.

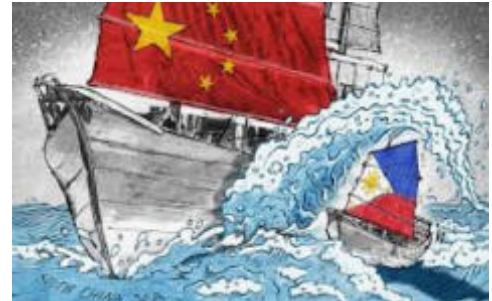
"While I am troubled by the breadth of security threats, I am more concerned about their depth. Or more specifically, the depths some regimes are willing to plumb in pursuit of their strategic interests. This is why we assess the security environment is becoming more degraded. If the spy game has a rule book, it is being rewritten. If there are red lines, they are being blurred – or deliberately rubbed out. A small number of authoritarian regimes are behaving more aggressively, more recklessly, more dangerously. More willing to engage in what we call 'high harm' activities."

Burgess reveals much, much more of the threats to Australia, which are considerably disturbing. In regard to young people he states: "Radicalised minors can pose the same credible terrorist threat as adults. Many of the recent



cases we have dealt with are as sad and sobering as they are shocking: Minors allegedly sharing beheading videos in the schoolyard; A 12 year old allegedly wanting to blow up a place of worship; A 17 year old allegedly watching Nazi propaganda and Ku Klux Klan videos and scrawling “Gas the Jews” on the walls of the classroom; A 12 year old allegedly planning a school shooting. That last example is not actually from Australia but does have an Australian connection.” He states that ASIO and other law enforcement agencies have thwarted dozens of major terrorism plots since 2015, including five from last year.

Meanwhile the threat from China looms large over the Australian scene. The Chinese Communist Party that rules China cannot be trusted — and every time one of our prime ministers voyages to China the CCP fawns all over that person while secretly planning spy games at the same time. Yes, China is our biggest trade partner, but that has to change dramatically, moving our trade more toward Europe and countries such as India, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, even though some of those countries are run by dictators. Military they are no threat to Australia, but China is, without any doubt. We cannot be reliant on a country that is quietly aggressive to us, and in some instances more loud through their CCP controlled editorials.



Pix: The South China Morning Post: Aggression against The Philippines

The fact is that when China finds something to disagree with Australian policy or otherwise, China will then make veiled threats. Under the heading of *China is still coercing Australia—with implicit threats*, The Australian Strategic Policy Institute warns: “We’ve stabilised just a part of our relations with an aggressor that shows no sign of backing down in its aggression. It’s a country that arbitrarily detains our citizens, pre-positions malware on critical infrastructure and has sent its navy to our nearby waters to intimidate us. If this is stability, it is thoroughly unsatisfactory, lopsided stability. **Yet Australia doesn’t say so.** The European Union is more honest in its dealings with China. It acknowledges trade as a sole common point of interest but, beyond that, sees diplomatic ties as managing security threats—for example, China’s sustainment of Russia in the war against Ukraine. The EU makes no bones about it: China is both an economic partner and a strategic rival. Australia should be similarly honest.

“Since taking office in 2022, the government of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has restored diplomatic dialogue with China. In doing so, it has aimed for the goal of ‘stabilisation’ and been guided by the principle of cooperating with China where possible and disagreeing where necessary. Communication between national leaders and their teams is indeed vital, so the repairing of ties has been a clear positive. In the first two decades or so after the Cold War, European countries mistakenly thought deeper economic ties with Russia would reduce its propensity towards tension and conflict. Globally, most countries made just the same miscalculation in regard to China, thinking that bringing it into the multilateral international system would promote its political liberalisation and stifle any latent aggression. Later they saw that China had begun changing the multilateral system to suit itself—and that its territorial ambitions had become ever more obvious. **Now Australia is obdurately making the same mistake again.**

“Because the government isn’t candid, there’s little public understanding of China’s coercive behaviour. Canberra gives the impression that punishment is coercion only when it’s in effect—so, now that Beijing has restored trade rights and ministerial communications, coercion has ended. **Wrong.** The threat of future punishment is a potent and ongoing form of coercion. Beijing relies on implicit threats to influence foreign decision-making, and it knows that the tactic works. It punished South Korea in 2017 for accepting deployment of a US THAAD missile-defence battery. Seoul stood its ground. But years later, South Korean law enforcement cited fears of renewal of the 2017 economic sanctions as one justification for punishing a South Korean company for helping Taiwan to build submarines.

“Australia is now in the same position as South Korea after the THAAD stand-off. Beijing lifted its coercive measures, but not before it made a generation of Australian leadership aware that certain actions would come with real



Pix: Courtesy Johannes Leak, The Australian

costs. This means Beijing continues in its use of carrots and sticks. The carrots worked on Australia for years until about 10 years ago, when various security threats that had been tolerated became a national-level threat of reduced sovereignty. When Australia finally decided in 2017 that it could not keep giving trade opportunities the same priority as security, Beijing raised its sticks.

“Beijing’s coercion of Australia has not ended; it has evolved. Pressure through trade measures has been replaced with implied threats, military intimidation and the systematic use of narratives that portray Australia, not China, as the party whose exercise of sovereign decisions puts the future of the relationship at risk. Australia cannot



afford to misread this moment. Strategic clarity, not diplomatic comfort, must guide the next phase of Australia's China policy.

"The era of seeing China through the narrow lens of economic opportunity ended long ago. We must not return to it. Where Beijing breaches international rules or is aggressive, it must be called out. Australia is only complying with China's desires when the government says nothing and leaves the public to trust that the threats posed by China are all being dealt with in the classified realm. This is not viable policy. Australia's sovereignty must not be contingent on Beijing's preferences.

"Australian politicians and officials need to show long-term resolve, make the necessary commitments to strengthen national resilience and prioritise the national interest. By doing so, Australia can weather Beijing's pressure. The short-term costs of occasionally upsetting Beijing and risking some economic pain are small compared with incrementally losing our strategic freedom in a region in which power and influence will be heavily contested for many years to come."



ASPI is an independent, non-partisan think tank that produces expert and timely advice for Australian and global leaders. ASPI generates new ideas for policy makers, allowing them to make better-informed decisions.

ASPI is one of the most authoritative and widely quoted contributors to public discussion of strategic policy issues in the Indo-Pacific region and a recognised and a leading Australian voice in international discussion on strategic, defence, national security, cyber, technology and foreign interference issues.



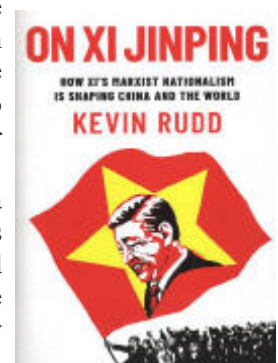
No matter what political party you follow, or what you may think about our ex-prime minister, Kevin Rudd — now Ambassador to the United States — he knows China exceedingly well. This Mandarin speaking politician has just released his book on China and it's relationships with the world. It is *On Xi Jinping: How Xi's Marxist Nationalism is shaping China and the World*, which we shall review in the next edition of *Cat's Eye Watch*.

But a short synopsis here: the bibliography and notes are enormous, more so than any other book on China I have read recently. It is a thorough and well-researched exposition of the state China sees itself in the modern age, and one that is largely militaristic. The threat to democratic countries, concludes Rudd, is real, and numerous governments are too slow to erect barriers against the encroaching psychological and physical harm that China may well do in the near future.

Rudd doesn't mess about — his main target is the leader, Xi Jinping. He describes how the Marxist-Leninist nationalism has taken the Chinese Communist Party further to the left in comparison with Xi Jinping's predecessors.

On Xi Jinping: How Xi's Marxist Nationalism is shaping China and the World pp382-383, "In the South China Sea China will continue to intensify its military and paramilitary build-up . . . in order to make the region's of Chinese maritime and territorial claims a foregone conclusion. China will remain alert to the Philippines claim in particular, given that it is the only US treaty ally among the five ASEAN claimant states and it has been the most forward leaning. China's strategy will be to isolate Vietnam and the Philippines by engineering separate bi-lateral agreements with the other three—Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei."

Naturally enough, it's all about ideology — it's all about Marxist/Leninist left with a nationalist right. It's all about absolute power deriving from ideology; it's about Xi Jinping's admiration for Mao Zedong's earlier ideology campaigns, whereby Xi Jinping has implemented tactics that Mao had used, based on violence, incarceration, and in some cases execution. The Kevin Rudd book is an enormous eye-opener and a must have dissertation for those who follow Sino-Western relationships. Oxford University Press 2024. •



Please read *The Week That Was* on page 31 If this doesn't shock you, then you are immune to shocks and don't care much where this country is heading. But you will need to go online to access.



Political Capers

How did the State of Victoria get like this!

The managing director of Richies IGA supermarket stores has threatened to close some of his 85 stores, 52 of which are located in Victoria — due to continuous abuse to staff and long term knife attacks, robberies, in and around stores.

He states that he is seriously contemplating whether "we want to remain" in certain areas. "Is it all round more profitable, safer, if we just close and walk away?" he said, during an interview with a recent ABC's 7.30 program. Coles, Woolworths and Bunnings are having the same problem, and what was almost unknown in this country previously, shopping centre malls are now targets for gang violence. Then there are continuous ram-raids into department stores during the night, even multiple times at the prestige Collins Street in Melbourne, with long-term fire-bombing of tobacconist stores, house breaking and fire-bombing in places such as Brighton at night, where vigilante committees have had to be set up. The hi-jacking of cars is an out of control epidemic.

It is no longer safe for people to walk about streets at night, but even during the day there are risks in certain suburbs. Some say it is due to faulty immigration, others say that's unfair, look at the success rate with overwhelming law-abiding immigrants bringing their skills into the country, but the fact is — at least in one respect — the lads from war-torn Sudan and several other African countries, and to a lesser degree, Middle Eastern, have brought their violence with them, totally unafraid of police. They weren't afraid of authorities in their previous homelands, so why would they be afraid of Victoria Police or any other Australian authority? The recent stabbing to death of two young and innocent Sudanese boys has shocked the State. There is absolute terror here!

What this Victorian state government should have been doing, was to divert some of the massive amount of money from certain Big Build projects — which have also had their problems through corruption with bribes, stand-over tactics etc — to police, health, and community resources. It's not rocket science.

What the Victorian government was doing — and sadly still does — was like a Victorian gold rush of the 1800s where common sense had taken flight and some seeking their fortune ended up in heavy debt. The Labor government under the previous premier Daniel Andrews and now under Jacinta Allan has lost sight of direction. The priorities are all wrong and have been for some considerable time. The government has to take the blame for these terror events. Not in the future, but NOW. The police force is under-funded, as is also the ambulance service and the fire services, and certain health facilities as well. Priorities up the spout! 'Look what we are doing for the people of Victoria with our Big Build,' they enthuse gleefully, much like a rattle-snake ready to spit poison into someone's face. It is just so mind-boggling that a government can carry on like that! •



Crime suburbs of Melbourne 2025

The Council to Homeless Persons

Established in 1972, the Council to Homeless Persons is the peak Victorian body representing individuals and organisations with a stake or interest in homelessness. Our mission is to work towards ending homelessness through leadership in policy, advocacy and sector development.

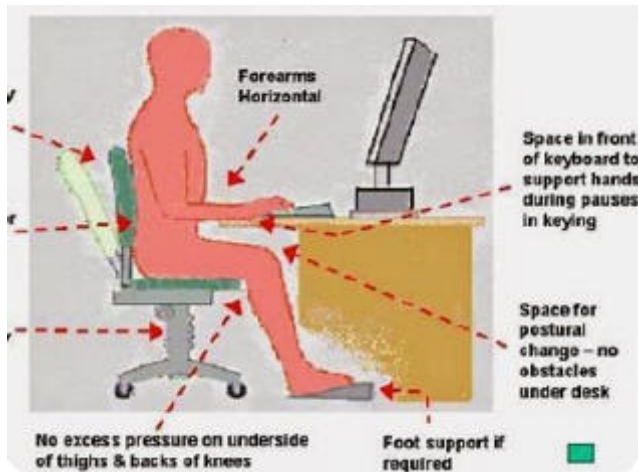
<http://www.chp.org.au/>

See our Consumer Participation Resource Kit at:

http://www.chp.org.au/public_library/cpkit/index.shtml



Positioning your Laptop and chair



Your body's skeletal/muscular physiology will scream blue murder if you position yourself looking down at the screen, or not sitting on an upright chair. Are all chairs upright? 🤖

Looking down at a keyboard, instead of looking straight ahead may result in neck pain and tight shoulders, even eye-strain from a poor position.

Laptop users should also do more stretching exercises than one would do using a desktop.

If the laptop is too close to you there is the danger of getting wrist pain, so push it away as far as can be comfortable.

Lastly, if you are a male and a regular user of placing the laptop on your lap while travelling on public transport, watch out. If the base becomes hot, you could be dramatically lowering your sperm count! •

Enigma: Are electric vehicles polluting?

Initially they are because they are more than 90% made from mining, however their predicted life-span so far possibly reveals that they will be less polluting than non-electric cars. Electric vehicles are much heavier than the rival petrol/diesel vehicle due to battery weight, therefore will make a greater impact on the road, also shedding more tyre micro-particles, which these days are laced with a mix of chemicals in production. Vehicle tyres are not so much the rubber they used to be, being made up of a great mix — being part synthetic and part rubber. This is partly offset by not having a heavy engine in front or rear or even mid-body as some sports cars are.

Other ingredients in modern tyres are nylon, carbon black, polyester, and steel mainly for a better grip onto the road. There is also silica, which is usually dredged up from the ocean floor and depending upon the area, may well be a negative for the environment. The tiny particles that electric and petrol/diesel vehicles shed onto the roads soon washes off into rivers and creeks, therefore adding to environmental problems. Some manufacturers are attempting to find ways to reduce this tyre problem, but have yet to come up with a solution, and it's a solution that is very badly needed. The big catch is that manufacturers are mostly concerned with making tyres that are long lasting, possibly safer than the old almost pure rubber tyres, and for better handling on the road. The negative side is that usually there are toxic substances such as zinc, lead and cadmium, and also a highly toxic substance named as 6PPD-quinone, which can harm farmland, and which if released into oceans through rivers can poison fish and other wild-life.

Fires in electric vehicles are no more than what is occurring in petrol/diesel vehicles, however, they are extremely difficult to extinguish. To put it bluntly, fire crews look at them as exceedingly dangerous — letting them simply burn out where they can, instead of 'wasting' precious fire retardants. Another negative is that the battery may only last 10 years and has to be replaced at considerable cost. An engine in a petrol/diesel vehicle may go on almost forever — many reaching over 500,000 kilometres in a lifetime.

All the components of electric vehicles come from mining, just as petrol/diesel powered are and there will be no practicable reduction in this over time — electric vehicles are still powered indirectly via coal and gas, with solar charging still in its infancy, except for some buses and haulage vehicles. In Australia, the large and weighty lithium and cobalt batteries are still not fully recycled compared to other countries. This, no doubt will change, as governments weigh the consequences of all those used batteries lying about. So, electric vehicles will become lighter, thus lessening their impact on the environment. Technology will continue to improve the safety and road handling of these vehicles.

The Australian EVS website reveals: "The largest surprise has been the world's rapid change to electric, seeing a 35% year-on-year growth in EV sales with 40 million registered globally and 200,000 in Australia. These EV trends have driven a rapid change in other segments of the Automotive Industry too, such as ready-to-swap crate motors, EV conversions for classic cars and commercial vehicles, plus charging solutions for the home and work." Which is long-term good news for the environment.

But, if you are still somewhat confused by all the pros and cons re. electric vehicles and wish to replace your old petrol/diesel one, perhaps it might be wise to go for a hybrid, which having both electric and liquid fuel, such as those manufactured by Toyota, Honda, Mitsubishi or even Volkswagen. Hybrid batteries, which are lighter, have been known to last up to 350,000 kilometres. •



The Big Issue Calendar is now for sale through your street vendor. Getting the party started from 1 January, the 2026 calendar showcases festive photos of vendors all around Australia, including Dom from Brisbane, Rhys from Adelaide, Michelle from Perth, Bec from Sydney, Daniel from Canberra and MBK from Melbourne.

https://the-big-issue-australia.myshopify.com/products/the-big-issue-2026-calendar?utm_campaign=calendar26&utm_source%3Dtiwebsite



Pet Medical Crisis

A not for profit fund to save pets whose owners cannot afford their emergency care.

www.petmedicalcrisis.com.au

Email: petmedicalcrisis@gmail.com

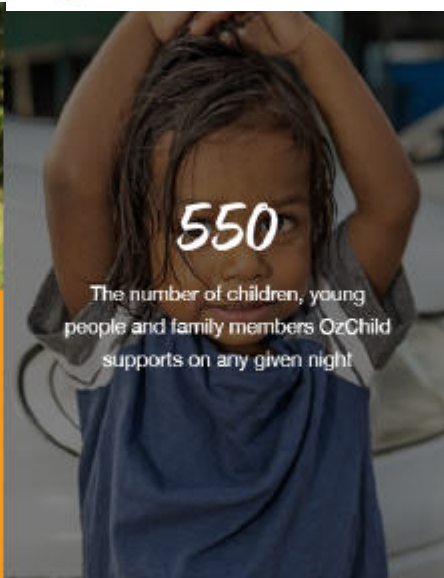
PMC is now on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PetMedicalCrisis/>

Also, a walking harness — 'Dog-A-Long' — is available to assist your dog to become more mobile — supports dogs with hind leg problems associated with ageing, arthritis, hip & spinal problems. For suitability check with your Vet.



45,000

Children and young people are in need of care each year



The number of children, young people and family members OzChild supports on any given night

Every 45 minutes

A child enters the care system in Australia



Contact Us
OzChild National Support Office
PO Box 1312
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Phone: +613 9695 2200
Email: hello@ozchild.org.au
Foster Care Enquiries: 1800 954 550

Tribunals: A Holocaust Bergen-Belsen camp survivor explained, "For us, it wasn't simply revenge, it was the restoration of moral order. Those who had perverted all human values had to answer, not to some distant tribunal, but to us." Those who had witnessed their crimes, and somehow survived.



Love Never Dies

Chapter 2

Due to unforeseen circumstances our serial story *Love Never Dies* is held over until further notice. The first chapter can be read by going to the home page at <https://www.catseyewatch.com> and clicking into the August 2025 edition.

Escape from Amsterdam

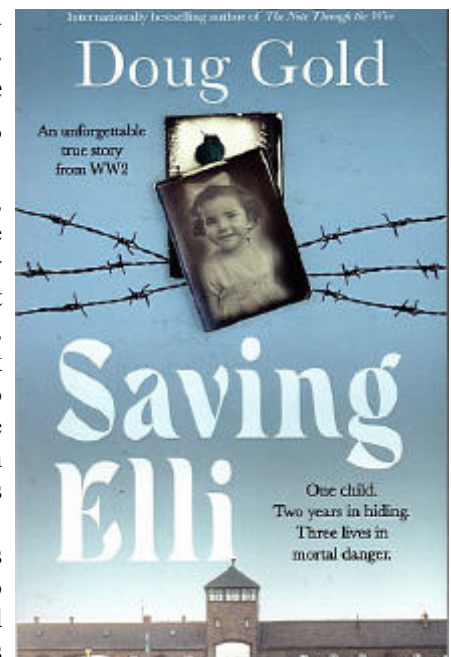
A remarkable story of how an active resistance couple, Frits and Jo Hakkens, deceived the Gestapo through the years 1941-1944. After numerous false starts with placing their lives on the line taking chances, they survived helping to smuggle a friend's child, Elli, out of harms way.

One day the Jewish tailor Abraham Szanowski who is Elli's father, goes to Isaac the jeweller to buy a ring for his wife. He "had had his eye on the ring for some time. It was a beautiful piece, yellow gold with a cluster of tiny sparkling diamonds and a large round, brilliant-cut centre stone — the very best cut, colour and clarity, according to his jeweller friend Isaac Kaplan. Gita, Abraham's wife, had celebrated her twenty-seventh birthday exactly a week before, but Abraham had been confined to bed, too ill to leave the apartment, so had not been able to get her birthday present until now. He wasn't quite sure he could afford the ring, but Gita deserved it. And business had been good, even under the tightening grip of the Nazi occupation of Holland and the relentless persecution of Jews."

But Abraham never got the chance to present the ring to his wife. He was caught up by SS troopers in the street after purchasing the ring and sent at first to the Kamp Schoorl 60 kilometres from Amsterdam, then to Buchenwald and finally to Mauthausen labor camp where inmates were made to work in torturous conditions in a granite quarry. Many died through falling down the steep cliffs while clutching heavy granite stones on their shoulders.

Doug Gold weaves a very tender and emotional story based on the actual events concerning several families who suffered under the Nazi regime in Holland. It is certain that the research for this book would have taken Gold many months to accomplish. Some notes by the author may be found at:

<https://www.allenandunwinblog.com/post/behind-the-story-the-research-behind-saving-elli>



Allen & Unwin large paperback

\$AUD 34.99

335 pages

Our copy from The Avenue Bookstore

FVPLS is now Djirra



Preventing and addressing family violence is at the core of Djirra's work. All our programs support Aboriginal women's journey to safety and wellbeing. Our programs are trusted, rich in culture, trauma informed, and promote the important work of Djirra, including by offering safe, alternative ways for women to learn about and access family violence and legal supports. <https://djirra.org.au> info@djirra.org.au Free call: 1800 105 303



Re-published with permission under Creative Commons

Two years ago, who would have imagined the police and the Palestine Action Group (PAG) would be fighting in court over whether demonstrators should be allowed to rally outside the Sydney Opera House? Indeed, 24 months ago, who would have thought we'd have (or need) designated "envoys" to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia in Australia? On Tuesday's second anniversary of the Hamas atrocities in Israel, it is sobering to reflect how much damage this horrific Middle East conflict, which has cost tens of thousands of lives, most of them Palestinian, has done to Australia's own society.

In Fitzroy in Melbourne, pro-Palestinian graffiti appeared to mark the anniversary: "Glory to Hamas", "Oct 7, do it again", "Glory to the martyrs". Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described this as "terrorist propaganda" that was "abhorrent," saying those responsible "must face the full force of the law". On Wednesday, the issue of Sunday's proposed protest outside the Opera House will be back in court. The police don't want the protesters' march to be allowed to end in the tight space at the Opera House, citing dangers to safety.

The lawyer for the PAG said on Tuesday: "If the police application is conceded to, the ramifications for the right to protest in Australia will not be confined to the Opera House, but for a wide variety of protest activities". The group argues the issue is a constitutional one.



Executive Council of Australian Jewry co-CEO Alec Rychin (centre) joins protestors as they hold placards of Israeli hostages following a press conference marking the two-year anniversary of the Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel. Bianca De Marchi/AAP

In the past two years, this faraway conflict has done substantial harm to Australia's social cohesion, raised questions about the future of multiculturalism, and produced serious divisions about where lines should be drawn on limiting free speech and the right to protest. The response of institutions, universities in particular, has been tested and in some cases found wanting. NSW Labor Premier Chris Minns gave a flavour of the cross pressures when speaking on Sydney radio on Tuesday. "We've moved significant changes to hate speech laws in New South Wales and we've done it because we recognise we live in a multicultural community and yes, you've got a right to freedom of speech but



someone else has a right not to be vilified or hated on the basis of their race or religion. All of those laws are currently being challenged in the High Court because of the implied freedom of political communication.”

As hope, however tentative, is glimmering that the peace plan advanced by United States President Donald Trump just might bring a real breakthrough in this terrible war, the fissures it has produced in Australia seem as sharp as ever. In two years, the Australian Jewish community has been embattled, with attacks on synagogues and other Jewish places, and many individuals deeply frightened for their own and their families' safety. Iran's intervention, behind at least two attacks, sought to stoke division. In that time, the determination of Palestinian supporters has been steadfast, with regular weekend demonstrations maintained throughout.

The conflict has fractured the Australia-Israel relationship, with the Albanese government increasingly critical of Israel's unrelenting prosecution of the war, and the Netanyahu government turning on Australia. This culminated with Australia's recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations during the prime minister's recent trip. The recognition was the end of Labor's internal journey, which commenced many years before this war began.



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese makes a statement on the October 7 attacks before Question Time in the House of Representatives. Mick Tsikas/AAP

The Greens Party has been at the left edge of the political spectrum. The Australian community was divided about Palestinian recognition: an Essential poll published in late September showed 34% in favour, and 30% against. The conflict has shattered what used to be a bipartisan Middle East policy, when both main parties strongly supported Israel and also backed a two-state solution for a long-term Middle East settlement. Over the past two years, the Coalition has been strongly pro-Israel, accusing the Labor government of deserting an ally and failing to deal robustly with antisemitism in this country. Opposition leader Sussan Ley used her parliamentary speech on Tuesday's anniversary to home in on the government's policy towards Israel. “To our great shame, under the leadership of the Albanese Labor government, Australia has not stood with the people of Israel, nor with the United States, as they have sought to dismantle Hamas and establish the conditions for peace”.

The local rifts that have come to the surface in Australia were there well before October 7 2023. The war caused them to widen dramatically and explode. Even if, and when, this conflict subsides, it will leave fractures, anger, bitterness and fear within sections of the Australian community. Whatever healing takes place almost certainly won't be complete. For governments, federal and state, intractable policy challenges will remain. •



Michelle Grattan
Professorial Fellow, University of Canberra

Michelle Grattan is one of Australia's most respected political journalists. She has been a member of the Canberra parliamentary press gallery for more than 40 years, during which time she has covered all the most significant stories in Australian politics.

Help expert voices rise above the noise.

In a year marked by uncertainty, reliable information has never been more important. When the news is driven by clicks and algorithms, it's easy to lose sight of what truly matters. The Conversation offers a better way, bringing you insights from experts who help inform and not inflame. But we need your help. This year, we appointed a new Public Policy Editor. Their work will focus on key areas that are ripe for reform, such as the NDIS, tax, housing, climate, productivity and Indigenous affairs. We're also looking to develop ways to grow our audience of switched-on younger readers who understand the limitations of artificial intelligence and are hungry for information they can trust. We believe positive change becomes achievable when media outlets play a constructive role, and that is something we're determined to do. Can you help us? Become a supporter: <https://donate.theconversation.com/au>



The Rise in Mental Health Problems

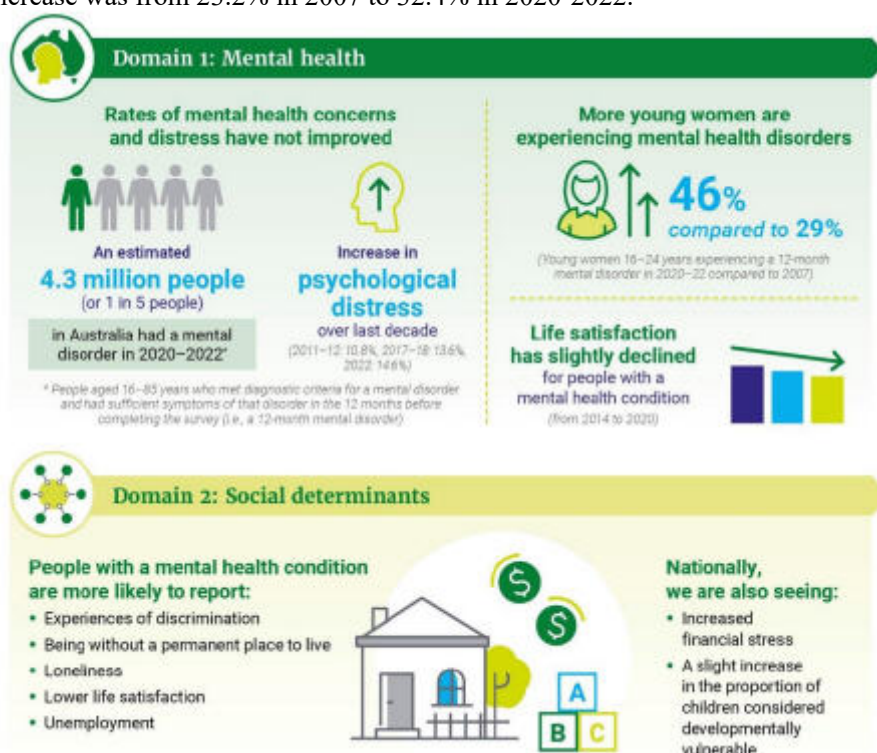
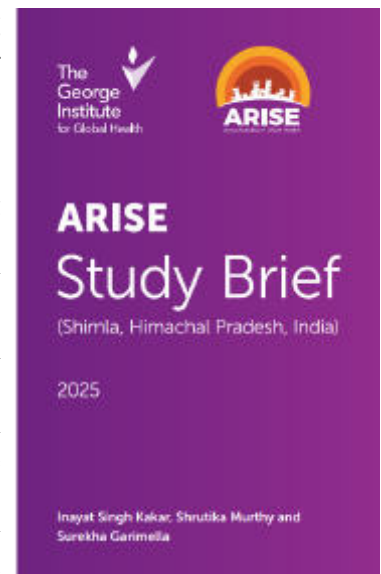
The George Institute for Mental Health is a global enterprise, focusing on all countries and working with partners and communities. Their research strategy reads: “Our Strategy 2030 focuses on equity, resilience, and impact. Guided by this vision, our research tackles critical health issues with practical solutions to improve treatments, care delivery, and promote healthier lives.”

In particular, “Our research areas reflect our commitment to addressing diverse global health challenges with targeted solutions. From advancing women’s health to tackling chronic conditions like cardiovascular, renal, and respiratory diseases, our work spans critical areas of need.”

George’s Arise team, which was launched in 2019, operates mainly in low and middle-income countries, mainly for city dwellers and has taken research programmes into countries such as Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, in cooperation with an international federation of slum dweller organizations. One research project for India found that there were significant increases in workers reporting physical conditions such as skin infections, chronic headaches, chronic body aches, respiratory issues, high blood pressure, heart attacks, some of which may have been exacerbated by mental distress. Women workers stated that their concerns in relation to health were often sidelined, undoubtedly by employers who were male.

It’s two years now, but in 2023 the Australian government published the National Report Card on mental health. The results of the research carried out by Professor Ngiare Brown, Chair of the National Mental Health Commission Advisory Board and Paul McCormack Interim Chief Executive Officer of the National Mental Health Commission were concerning.

Viz: “Rates of mental health concerns have not improved when looking at the whole population, and some cohorts are experiencing increased rates of mental health concerns. In the period between 2020 and 2022 when the latest National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing was carried out, just over 1 in 5 people (21.5%) in Australia aged 16-85 years experienced a mental disorder in the previous 12 months. This represents a slight increase from the previous National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing in 2007 (19.5%). Young people have higher rates of mental disorders relative to older adults. The size of this gap was larger in 2020-2022 compared to 2007. The proportion of people aged 16-24 years with a mental disorder in the last 12 months has increased from 25.8% in 2007 to 38.8% in 2020-2022. When looking at young females specifically, this increase was even larger: from **28.5% in 2007 to 45.5% in 2020-2022**. For young males, the increase was from 23.2% in 2007 to 32.4% in 2020-2022.”





The George Institute for Global Health is proud to work in partnership with the University of NSW Sydney, Imperial College London, and the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India.



Caring for Minds: Nurses at the Heart of Mental Health

In conjunction with the 2023 report from the National Mental Health Commission, Monash University, Melbourne, revealed a 32 percent workforce shortage, with just 97 mental health nurses per 100,000 people.

Despite this, Monash University states that mental health nurses continue to make a difference in the community, working with schools, prisons, hospitals and aged care.

Senior lecturer Dr. Brent Hayward states: “Don’t listen to people who say mental health is not real nursing. We’re skilled at managing situations that evolve quickly, not just medical situations, but situations where you don’t know what the person is going to say or do next. Mental health nurses aim to keep things calm, find solutions and empower people to take action themselves. It is important to remember that humans have emotions; they’re normal and can sometimes overwhelm people.”

Monash reveals “This year nearly 50 Monash Nursing and Midwifery graduates obtained jobs in mental health services.”

Anyone seeking to advance their career in mental health nursing may find the following website useful.

<https://www.monash.edu/study/courses/find-a-course/advanced-clinical-nursing-m6031>

Credits pix and text: Monash University, Clayton.

When the truth becomes blurred

When they lie to your face and you know they are lying, that’s a problem — but not for you. It’s their problem. It’s what they have to live with, juggling what to say when the pressure mounts. For some it flows out of their mouth like dewy softness, or the best nectar that honey bees can produce, almost sounding like sincerity; for others you can detect the shrillness hidden away in the larynx. Because they’ve been doing it almost all of their life, they are usually well practiced in this dubious art which often turns pathological, sometimes associated with borderline personality disorder, narcissism, or obsessive compulsive disorder.

But when a Walkley Award journalist and a former Middle East bureau chief says of Hamas that they are not a terrorist organisation, is he lying or merely befuddled? Thomas Henry, journalist at *The Australian*, has investigated the former New York Times war correspondent, Chris Hedges, and found some very strange occurrences.

Hedges was due to address the Canberra based National Press Club, but when the organisers discovered the real purpose of the lecture, the invitation was withdrawn. Henry writes: *The Australian* 22 October, page 7 “Chris Hedges was forced to address the NSW Teachers Federation on Monday after his press club appearance was dumped when more details of the address were made available.

“Attendees of the union-run event were told that the October 7 attacks were analogous to the Jewish uprising at the Sobibor extermination camp in Poland during WWII. They (Hamas) reacted the way Jewish inmates did when they carried out an uprising in Sobibor . . . I’ve covered war, this is just part of human reality, it’s not good or bad. But Hamas is not a terrorist organisation. I knew quite well one of the co-founders of Hamas. Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi . . . It’s a national liberation movement, that’s what it was founded as.”

There is more, and it is understandable why the National Press Club abandoned the address, but to have this kind of misinformation then addressed to a teachers’ union, boggles the mind. Do they, in turn, pass this scrambled message on to students? Does Hedges not understand that Hamas is the offshoot of the proscribed terrorist organisation, the Muslim Brotherhood? Does Hedges not understand the original charter of Hamas, to which they still adhere to?

In its founding charter, Hamas cites a hadith (holy scripture) as proof that Muslims need to fight and kill Jews:

“The hour of judgment shall not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, so that the Jews hide behind trees and stones, and each tree and stone will say: ‘Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him,’ except for the Gharqad tree, for it is the tree of the Jews. (Hamas Charter, Article 7). This is also agreed to by the nominated Palestinian Authority’s Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi. It’s very clear that for Hamas, terror is the only solution: “There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad.” (Hamas Charter, Article 13). •



Giving parents the tools (without the guilt) to support a teenager's sleep



Pursuit: University of
Melbourne. 15 Oct 2025
Picture: Getty Images

Reproduced with permission under Creative Commons

It's nearly midnight on a school night. Your teenager's light is still on. Maybe they're finishing homework, scrolling through social media, or texting friends.

You know they need rest, but getting them to put the phone down and go to sleep feels like an impossible task. Sound familiar?



For many families, sleep becomes one of the first battlegrounds of adolescence.

Parents feel caught between enforcing rules and respecting their teen's growing independence.

Meanwhile, teenagers are navigating a perfect storm of biological changes, social pressures and academic demands while trying to figure out healthy habits on their own.

As researchers and parents ourselves, we wanted to understand: How does the family environment shape teens' sleep? And what can parents do to help, without the guilt or power struggles?

How can we best support teen sleep?

We've known for years that sleep is crucial during adolescence. Poor sleep affects everything from academic performance to emotional wellbeing, with up to 70 per cent of teenagers experiencing some form of sleep difficulty.



SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY

Banning kids from social media? There's a
better way →

[https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/
banning-kids-from-social-media-theres-a-
better-way?in_c=in_article_cta](https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/banning-kids-from-social-media-theres-a-better-way?in_c=in_article_cta)

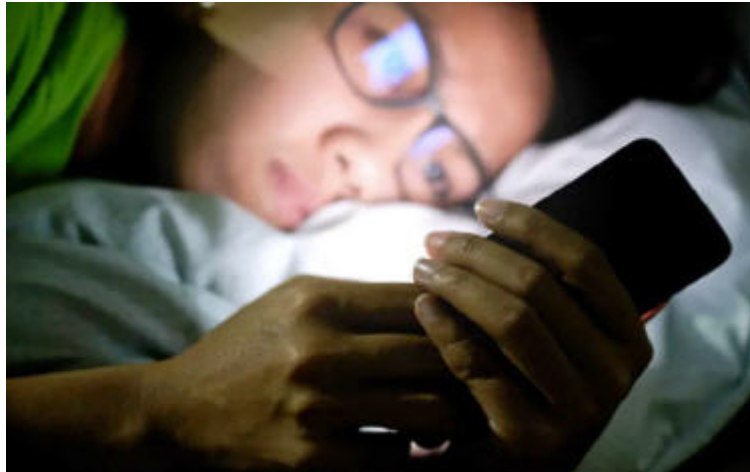


The stage of early adolescence is a particularly vulnerable time, which ranges from 10 to 13. It's a time of enormous physical and neurological change, when bodies and brains are rapidly developing and hormones are shifting.

Research has consistently shown that the family environment plays a crucial role in shaping adolescent outcomes, from academic achievement and mental health to social relationships and overall wellbeing. This is also true for teen sleep.

Previous studies suggest that aspects of parenting – like warmth, monitoring, family conflict and parental mental health – are all linked to how well teens sleep. But this research is limited by examining teen sleep and parenting at the same moment in time, often relying on self-reported surveys.

We still don't know how these relationships play out over years, or which factors might actually be changeable.



Teenagers are navigating a perfect storm of biological changes, social pressures and academic demands. Picture: Getty Images

Even more importantly, we haven't understood how family dynamics translate into sleep problems.

Do other factors – like a teenager's ability to manage their emotions, or their time spent on electronic devices – act as bridges between family life and sleep? And do boys and girls respond differently to the same family environments?

How family environment impacts teen sleep

To answer these questions, our team at the University of Melbourne and Monash University took a different approach.

We analysed data from over 3,400 young adolescents participating in the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study in the United States – one of the largest long-term studies of adolescent brain development ever conducted. We followed them from ages 9-11 through to ages 13-14, tracking how the early family environment impacted teen sleep patterns four years later.

Rather than relying solely on self-reports, we used actigraphy via Fitbit devices to objectively measure sleep patterns, while also gathering detailed surveys from both parents and teenagers at multiple time points.

We also examined two other factors – teenagers' ability to regulate their emotions and their screen use (measured at ages 12-13).



https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/good-sleep-is-key-to-pre-teen-mental-health?in_c=in_article_cta

Parental influence on adolescent sleep

We found that the family environment matters even more than many parents realise.

Young people who experienced higher levels of family conflict (including arguing, tension and negative interactions at home) or whose parents struggled with their own mental health were more likely to develop sleep problems as they moved into adolescence. These difficulties showed up as poorer sleep quality, 'night owl' patterns, and delayed sleep timing. But there's an equally important flip side.



Parental warmth and monitoring – checking in regularly, setting clear boundaries, and maintaining open communication – were associated with better quality sleep or earlier sleep tendency, often described as a ‘morning bird’ pattern.

This wasn’t about surveillance or strict enforcement, but the kind of engaged, supportive parenting that helps teenagers feel secure while learning to manage their own schedules.



The emotional quality of family relationships may matter even more for girls navigating adolescence. Picture: Getty Images

The emotional quality of family relationships may matter even more for girls navigating adolescence. Picture: Getty Images Interestingly, girls seemed especially responsive to parental warmth.

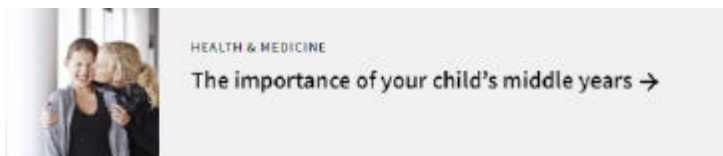
Having a warm, supportive relationship with parents was strongly linked to healthier sleep timing, which suggests that the emotional quality of family relationships may matter even more for girls navigating adolescence.

But the story doesn’t end there. Our findings suggest that emotion regulation and screen use act as pathways linking the family environment to sleep.

In supportive families, teens were better able to manage stress and less likely to use screens late at night to cope with difficult feelings. In more conflicted homes, teens turned to their devices more often, which made sleep even harder to come by.

This finding challenges the common narrative that screens are simply an enemy of sleep. Instead, excessive evening screen use often appears to be a symptom of deeper challenges.

So simply banning devices or enforcing strict screen time rules may miss the point entirely. If we don’t address the underlying emotional struggles or family dynamics, teenagers may simply find other ways to avoid sleep.



https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/the-importance-of-your-child-s-middle-years?in_c=in_article_cta

What these results mean for families

These findings carry an important message for parents: you have more influence than you might think, but not in the ways we’ve traditionally focused on. The family environment you create shapes not just your teenager’s immediate



Parental warmth and checking in regularly, setting clear boundaries and maintaining open communication were associated with better quality sleep. Picture: Getty

wellbeing, but their developing ability to sleep well. Creating warmth without smothering: Warm parenting means your teenager knows you’re available, interested in their life and on their side. Regular check-ins, genuine interest and physical affection all matter.



Addressing family stress: If your household is dealing with ongoing conflict or if you're struggling with your own mental health, addressing these challenges isn't just good for you – it's an investment in your teenager's wellbeing.

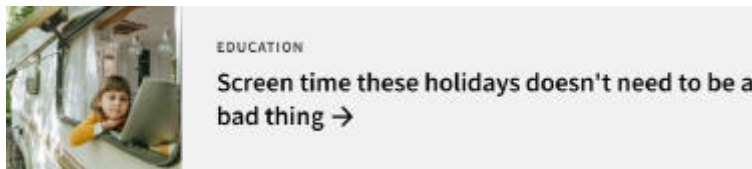
This might mean family counselling, parenting support, or treatment for your own stress or anxiety. Building emotion regulation together: Help your teenager develop a toolkit for managing stress beyond distraction.

This could include physical activity, creative expression, mindfulness or simply talking things through. And it's important to model these strategies yourself.

Reframing the screen conversation: Rather than seeing screens as the enemy, consider them as a window into your teen's emotional world.

If your teenager is glued to their device late at night, it's worth asking why.

Are they stressed about school? Struggling with difficult feelings? Addressing the underlying need may be more effective than simply removing the device.



https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/Screen-time-these-holidays-doesnt-need-to-be-a-bad-thing?in_c=in_article_cta

Looking forward

Our study joins growing evidence that adolescent sleep health is fundamentally about relationships and the overall family environment, not just behaviour modification.

For parents navigating these challenges: be kind to yourself.

Creating a warm, supportive home environment while managing your own stress isn't always easy. But every step you take toward building stronger relationships and helping your teenager manage their emotions is an investment in their sleep and their future wellbeing. •

First published in *Medicine, Dentistry and Health*, By Rosalind Ge, and Associate Professor Vanessa Cropley, Centre for Youth Mental Health (Orygen) and University of Melbourne



Rosalind Ge

PhD Student in Biopsychiatry, Psychosis Research, Clinical Project Manager, Clinical Researcher, Centre for Youth Mental Health (Orygen), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne



Associate Professor Vanessa Cropley

Principal Research Fellow, Centre for Youth Mental Health (Orygen), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne

Wire

Women's Information Referral Exchange

One in three calls WIRE receives from women are related to family violence. Wire: 372 Spencer Street, West Melbourne 3003. Telephone Support Service Line 1300 134 130 Mon-Fri 9.00-5.00. <http://www.wire.org.au/>

MS Australia

**Multiple Sclerosis
needs your help**

Log in for the latest news at:

<http://www.msaustralia.org.au/>

"What is lost is gone, my child, what is lost makes room for something else."

Maaza Mengiste 'The Shadow King.'



In the light of recent occurrences and the inability of the United Nations to act, we repeat this article from *Cat's Eye Watch* No. 6 March 2025.

WILL PALESTINE EVER BE FREE?

One may ask, free from what? The short answer to that question for the near future is no. There are too many armed factions fighting for supremacy within those borders, largest of all Hamas, and it has been that way for numerous decades.

Apart from eight political groups within the Palestine Liberation Organisation and seven non-Palestine groups such as Hamas, Islamic-Jihad, and Hizb ut-Tahrir (three proscribed terrorist groups) that are non-aligned or opposing the current Palestinian Authority and at least nine armed factions within Palestine, which include, apart from those already mentioned:

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (AMB) – Fatah
.Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades – PRC
Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades – PFLP
National Resistance Brigades – DFLP
Al-Quds Brigades
Lions' Den
Mujahideen Brigades
Salafi-jihadis

In addition there are Security Forces (Paramilitary):

General Intelligence Service (GIS) – PA (Palestine Authority)
Preventive Security Organisation (PSO)
National Security Forces (NSF) – PA/Hamas
Military Intelligence
Military Liaison
Presidential Guard (PG) – PA
Security and Protection Unit – Hamas
Internal Security Force (ISF) – Hamas
Internal Security Agency (ISA)
General Intelligence
Civil Police – PA/Hamas

The smaller groups, such as Salafi-jihadis, are mostly tolerated by Hamas, but all told there are more than 83,000 extra security personnel in the West Bank & Gaza. Some of the smaller armed groups participated in the onslaught and kidnapping of Israeli citizens and other non-Israeli foreign folk on 7 Oct 2023, which is one reason why Hamas states that not all those kidnapped are under their direct control. Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades specialise in suicide bombings and car bomb attacks against Israel, while the Al-Quds Brigades—which is the second largest armed group after Hamas—are active in the West Bank, in particular the town of Jenin in which Israeli forces are currently carrying out a special operation.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (AMB) is also engaged in the West Bank, having raided several Israeli villages and murdering occupants. The Mujahideen Brigades (the armed wing of the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement) is again active in Gaza and the West Bank and one of their favourite ploys is to continuously fire rockets into Israel. The Mujahideen Brigades were also engaged in the horrors of 7 Oct 2023.

Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades (NRC) being the third largest armed group after Hamas, was elected by the people of Palestine in 2006, as many of these groups were. The brigade was active in the killings and kidnapping of 7 Oct 2023 and one of their activities is firing rockets into Israel. The Lion's Den, which has ties to most of the armed groups, centres its onslaught onto towns of the West Bank. Its terrorist fighters are mainly under 25 and have lost leaders in recent times to Israeli forces. Salafi-jihadis are a break-away group from Hamas and operate mainly in Gaza. Their modus operandi is mostly suicide bombings and assassinations.

The not-for-profit group Transparency International, initiated in Germany in 1993 as a watch on world corruption, has Palestine in its sights. In a recent check TI wrote: "For their part, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in the West Bank, Hamas in Gaza, as well as affiliated and independent armed groups, have waged an asymmetrical conflict, involving protests, civil disobedience, and attacks against Israeli forces and civilians. As a result of this insecurity, Palestine has one of the highest ratios of security personnel to civilians in the world **and the security forces' budget accounts for nearly one third of the total resources of the Palestinian Authority.**" Yes, one third of total resources, which beggars the question where does much foreign aid go—certainly not all of it into the hands of the average Palestinian citizen. TI further



Middle East Image | Youssef Alzanoun



notes that there is no Palestinian government oversight on budget, no oversight on military expenditure, no defence strategy and no committee to check on all of this. No such committee exists.

As far as financial transparency is concerned, TI has this to report: “The paralysis and subsequent dissolution of the Legislative Council in 2018 has severely undermined government transparency, with Abbas [second president of Palestine] centralising decision-making power as a result and Hamas making only small efforts to further transparent governance . . .

A key obstacle to increased financial transparency is the absence of formal access to information frameworks. There is currently no legislation or guidelines that provide the public, journalists or civil society with rights and mechanisms through which to access government information on defence.” In addition TI notes that defence data does not exist, a commissioner of complaints or ombudsman does not exist and “Though most tenders are published on the Ministry of Finance’s website, any contracts are funneled to politically connected companies, in particular businesses linked to Fatah leaders in the West Bank.”

In October 2023, the United States president, Joe Biden, visited Israel and commented: “The vast majority of Palestinians are not Hamas,” he said. “Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people.” Wrong! In the 2006 elections the Palestinian people voted to place Hamas in power in Gaza. Hamas received more than half the votes—44 percent to the more moderately aligned Fatah’s 40 percent. Fighting then broke out between the two groups with Hamas becoming the victor, while members of the Fatah group fled to the West Bank. From then on Hamas carried out a massive ‘re-education’ of the Palestinian people concerning Israel.

As with many Westerners who do not understand the Middle East, the then U.S. president George W. Bush, who had insisted on the elections, failed to understand the implications. Fred Kaplan, writing in *Slate* 24 October 2023 under the heading of *How George W. Bush Helped Hamas Come to Power* stated “A former hardheaded adherent of realpolitik, Rice [Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor to the U.S. president] had recently adopted Bush’s view of the world: She thought, or at least acted as if, elections were a magic potion for curing political ills and that the U.S., having delivered or blessed them, should sit back and let the historical forces flow naturally. To her (and most American observers’) surprise, Hamas won. It proved to be only the first yank in the unraveling of the Bush-Rice dogma. Civil war broke out between Hamas and Fatah, leading eventually to Fatah’s expulsion from Gaza, Hamas’ total dictatorship there, and a resumption of rocket fire from the enclave into Israel—prompting the Israeli blockade on Gaza’s northern border (which Egypt, whose leaders hated and feared Hamas as well, reinforced with a blockade on the southern border). At the same time, Hezbollah rained missiles down on Israel from southern Lebanon, prompting a war—which could re-ignite soon.”

So, how can Palestine survive as a free nation when it contains so many different armed factions within its borders, and who is providing arms to Hamas and the other factions? The finger points directly at Iran, which helps to smuggle arms into the tunnels of Gaza, but it is not only Iran, it is also Russia. A senior Hamas official, living comparatively safely in Lebanon, told Russia Today’s Arabic-news channel RTArabic “We have local factories for everything, for rockets with ranges of 250 km, for 160 km, 80km, and 10 km. We have factories for mortars and their shells . . . We have factories for Kalashnikovs (rifles) and their bullets. We’re manufacturing the bullets with permission from the Russians. We’re building it in Gaza,” Ali Baraka, head of Hamas National Relations Abroad.



Palestinian man descending a Hamas built tunnel beneath the Egypt-Gaza border. Image: Mahmud Hams/AFP/Getty Images

As noted, it wasn’t only Hamas that raped, pillaged, murdered and kidnapped on 7 Oct 2023, it was numerous Palestinians joining in. Much of the world is painting Palestinians as blameless innocent bystanders. They are not. If an election was held today in Gaza, would the Palestinian people still vote for Hamas? It seems likely because there is an inbred hatred of Israel and they have had 18 years under the heel of Hamas’s masterful propaganda machine to help twist their minds toward the utter destruction of Israel. •

Bibliography:

- <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/11/middleeast/hamas-weaponry-gaza-israel-palestine-unrest-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/resurgence-armed-groups-west-bank-and-their-connections-gaza>
- https://ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/general_intelligence_service_gis/
- <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2023/10/was-hamas-elected-to-govern-gaza-george-w-bush-2006-palestinian-election.html>
- <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/allah-will-curse-them-palestine-civilians-in-gaza-ask-israel-to-kill-hamas-leaders-11705280209256.html>
- <https://www.sup.org/books/middle-east-studies/surrounded>
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/mg146-2dcr.9?seq=5>
- <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2396886>
- <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14623528.2024.2309709#d1e223>
- <https://www.972mag.com/a-curse-on-both-your-houses-israel-and-the-pa-are-both-sinful/>
- <https://www.hudson.org/node/44363>
- https://avalon.law.yale.edu/21st_century/hamas.asp
- <https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/what-australia-is-doing/terrorist-organisations/listed-terrorist-organisations/hamas>



A Cry in the Wilderness

Deborah Glass OBE - Victorian Ombudsman 2014-2024



Deborah Glass. Pix: Australian Women's Register

We first wrote about Deborah Glass in *Cat's Eye Watch* No.4 1st September 2024. At the time we wrote "There wasn't much love between them: the Victorian premier Daniel Andrews and the Ombudsman Deborah Glass OBE. In general an ombudsman discovers and reveals hidden agenda that is not available to the public. Glass, it seems, was an expert in that. But even an expert cannot do the impossible. While Andrews was still in office, Glass in her report to the Victorian parliament September 2022, blasted the Victorian Labor government for its unjust handling of 3000 residents of nine inner-Melbourne housing towers, which CEW wrote up in our September issue [*Cat's Eye Weekly*] No. 144, 2023."

Glass's ten year term as Ombudsman ended in March 2024. She is succeeded by Marlo Baragwanath, whose profile states "Marlo is committed to supporting the public sector to make fair and reasonable decisions, to uphold integrity, and to promote human rights." Which is what Deborah Glass adhered to during her time as

Ombudsman. An article in *The Age* Monday October 20 by Chip Le Grand, State Political Reporter, questions the current Victorian Labor government's integrity. Glass warned that within the Premier's Private Office was a publicly funded staff of nearly 90 people who "oversee the day to day running of the Victorian government." Can you imagine a separate body of 90 people — apart from all the government public servants — doing whatever, and no doubt pulling in high salaries?

Glass also stated that the government's secretive development plans for the Suburban Rail Loop, resulting in flawed decision-making, was now "coming home to roost" An interest bill blow-out of almost \$20 million a day "was soaking up funds otherwise needed for public health, housing, education, and child protection." Add to that list fire brigade problems with unsafe vehicles, ambulance shortages, police taken from solving crimes while otherwise engaged in maintaining law and order at huge protest meetings, and you find a government which simply doesn't know what it is doing.

Victoria now has what is generally referred to as the highest crime rate in Australia. The surge in crime — in particular teenage crime — has risen to its highest level since 2016. The year ending in June 2025 reveals criminal incidents as reported by police to be 483,583, 18.3% up from the same period last year. Personal victim reports are up by 18.0%; the number of offences recorded by Victoria Police in the year 30 June 2025 was 638,640. The National Retail Association reports that "Thefts from retail stores increased 26% from 7,435 to 36,254, alleged offender incidents, and criminal incidents were up 73% since 2022 — the highest recorded figures since CSA (Customer Service Advocate) reporting began in 2015-2016. Assault and related offences in retail settings also climbed 21% year-on-year. Australian Retailers Association CEO Chris Rodwell said the data confirms what retail teams see on a daily basis and renewed calls for urgent action from the Victorian Government. "Today's figures are grim and confirm Victoria's retail crime crisis is only getting worse. We're seeing a criminal offence at least once every five minutes in a retail setting, an assault every couple of hours and cases of aggravated robbery and weapon related offences daily or more."

All this in front of a government that is fixated on Big Build at the expense of more urgent matters, more personal matters, more life changing matters, more teenage crime figures. Wrong priorities! Totally wrong!

During her time in office, Deborah Glass received 161,744 jurisdictional complaints. She cites the State of Victoria as being well below form in human rights. Viz: "Unfortunately, Victoria is one of the laggard states yet to implement a UN instrument¹ (sic) ratified by Australia in 2017 to designate independent agencies to inspect prisons and other closed environments . . . Reports, articulating the benefits of OPCAT* and widely praised by the human rights community across Australia and overseas, seem to have mostly been ignored by the Government. Forty-five countries around the world have designated their Ombudsman institutions to carry out OPCAT inspections, and five Australian states and territories, including the Commonwealth. But not in Victoria."

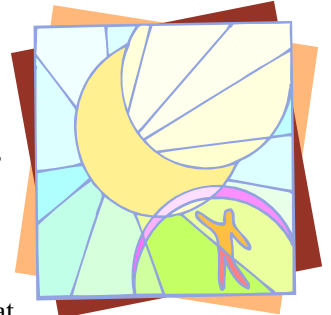
Deborah Glass, we are going to miss your rich integrity and unbiased reporting. Let's hope that your replacement will have the same courage that you have shown over the past ten years. •

*OPCAT is an international agreement aimed at preventing torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



The Quiet Corner

Feeling a bit low and vulnerable? Surround yourself with soothing music — nothing rock, hip-hop or punk, because those musical scenarios are for expressing physical activity. No, the mind needs and nurtures the soft gentle chords of semi-classical tunes, soft and soothing the better. Strident music, rock or even heavy opera, won't do the trick. It may lift you up for a moment but then will let you down like a bang. The soothing, gentle music, especially that from one of the most beautiful instruments ever invented—the cello, playing scores such as Benedictus, will help to soothe your errant soul, put the pieces back together again, and enable you to carry on.



Writing in the *Sunday Age* 19 October about her new book on Stoicism *The Seeker and the Sage*, Brigid Delaney reaches back to an age old philosophy and reckons that Stoicism is not only for blokes but for damsels as well. She writes about anger and how it is misspent, wasted, blown, out of proportion to the situation. She suggests a different approach for the cynical and jaded among us. We can't give all that information here, but some of her approaches to life's difficulties make sense using Stoicism. 1. Be realistic about your limits. 2. Focus on being a good person. 3. Take on voluntary discomfort — not so easy this one, but hints are don't use the vehicle, take a walk; do something extremely difficult. 4. Practise negativity visualisation. Not sure about this one? Picture in your mind a flight delayed, a kid throwing tantrums. Hmmm! 5. Foster gratitude, in other words be thankful for everything. 6. Participate and play. 7. Use your time well. We thought that would be obvious, but perhaps not. Brigid reckons that the noted Roman Stoic, Seneca, said that it's time we should guard, not money.

***The Seeker and the Sage*, Allen & Unwin \$AUD 32.99, publishing date 30 September 2025
Kindle version via Amazon**

Con Clusion



the week that was



Yes, I know, it's *Sky News*, but everyone concerned about truth and what Hamas is really up to (and it's not about creating a Palestine state alongside Israel. Never was, never is. There is good evidence that they don't want that) should watch Chris Kenny's video broadcast at:

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/other/you-are-misinformed-the-real-reasons-behind-hamas-actions-in-the-middle-east-analysed/ar-AA1O40WE?ocid=wintaskbarhover&cvid=68e6f08fcc0c4d898adc37d06cflfb77&ei=55>

If you are not already shocked by what certain Muslim Imans of Sydney are preaching against the Jews of Australia, this will certainly shock you. (You need to go online for this.)

And our Federal government does practically nothing to combat this! It's true, the government has been mealy-mouthed about all the anti-Semitic attacks and the expressed biased views by certain Muslim associated people in this country; yes mealy-mouthed but as far as taking action, well, they do not want to lose the Muslim votes of West Sydney and other heavily impregnated Islamic communities. Simple as that. Do go to Chris Kenny's website, because if you don't — if you, like numerous other Australia citizens — put your head in the sand — then the anti-Semitic behaviour in Australia can only worsen.

The new police commissioner to Victoria. Mike Bush, has upset the Victorian government by naming the current juvenile criminal offenders running around in gangs at night as 610 in number. Can you believe that, 610 young offenders! He states he knows who they are, where they live etc., so why hasn't this Labor government done something about it years ago when there were less than 50 running around? They simply let things slide until we now have terror on the streets; knifings, machete attacks, home invasions, high-jacking of cars every day of the week. And still, many of these teenage offenders get bail. Why? Because the government under premier Daniel Andrews racked back the previous bail laws in attempt to go softly softly, meekly meekly, treat them as if they might break if you speak to them firmly. Magistrates had no choice but to allow bail, and one teenager had been bailed 46 times — allowed out on the streets to do it all over again! So, the Jacinta Allan government will now re-open the youth detention facility at Malmsbury which was closed two years ago, but the re-opening date won't happen until April 2026! Dah!!! Obviously, still not high priority. The pressure is on from mums and dads fearful about their children, and with very good reason. Malmsbury should have been the answer, but no, they closed it. No one wishes to see young folk in prison, but training camps and boot camps should be re-introduced because history has shown that they work when you take all the 'toys' away from offenders and show that there is another and better way to live. •



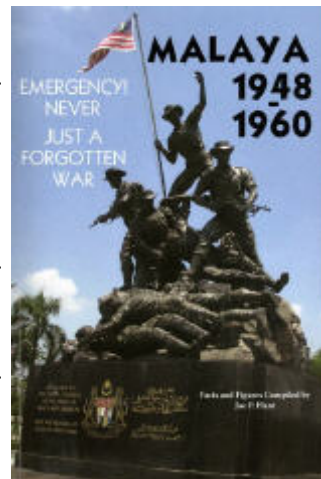
In relation to Malaya's New Villages and the Emergency: A time capsule By Graham A. Price. Pages 3-10

Just a Forgotten War

A list of occurrences

Joe E. Plant took on a difficult task — he set out to build an authoritative account of all occurrences: casualties, aircraft crashes, killings, and suffered from wounds of Commonwealth forces, police, terrorists and civilians, which when completed in 1988, totalled 395 pages in a fat paperback.

In his preview, he writes: "My introduction into Active Service, began within 10 hours of arriving [from the UK] on a troopship at Singapore. While I, and many other National Servicemen, were given a .303 Lee Enfield rifle with a magazine of 10 rounds of ammunition. Transported by lorry to Singapore Station, there to board a train enroute to Malaya. For me, 3Coy REME LAD (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. LAD stands for a Light Aid Detachment) Ipoh Perak North Malaya. Totally unaware of what the hell was going on with absolutely no news back home of a war in Malaya. It was a shock to one's system. Nevertheless, I soon found out that there were Regiments of British, Gurkha, Malay troops, including Squadrons of the Royal Air Force, also supported by the Federation Malay Police. All engaged in fighting the Communist Terrorist. The only news we had access to was a rented radio in the Basha (Waterproof tarpaulin for shelter)."



Commenting on the long Emergency (war) Plant remembers the young troops, always careful to regret loudly their National Service, but with a youthful enthusiasm "It must be remembered that according to estimates they marched 2,000 miles in three years (the term of their National Service) and wore out 15,000 pairs of jungle boots."

Some excerpts from Malaya 1948-1960:Emergency Never: Just a Forgotten War

February 1952

Sat. 9 th	9 Mr. M. Lesse British civilian Killed by CT's---
Sun. 10 th	10 HMT EMPIRE PRIDE arrived Singapore with replacement Service personnel.---
	+ 10 HMT ASTURIAS arrived Southampton with returning Service personnel---
Mon. 11 th	11 Mr. R.D. Harrison. Manager. of the Voules Estate Tenang Johore. Killed by CT's.---
	+ 11/02/1952 LG # 39467 p. 866 The following awarded the Military Cross
	LT. D.C TYSON MC THE WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT.
	The following awarded the Military Medal
	SGT. R.G. FOWLER MM THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT.
Tue. 12 th	12 Asst. Supt. R.H. Jesse. F.M. Aux. Police & 3 Police Constables (<u>unnamed</u>) were Killed by C.T's in a car ambush, in the Jerum Area Kuala Selangor <u>Kuala Lumpur # 374</u> .---
	+ 12 2 F. M. Police SC's Hashim B. Mohd. Ali. -Sulaiman B. Hj. Abdul Rahman Killed on CT Ops. Merbua Estate Selangor---
	+ Plt. 'D' Company Green Howards ambushed 3 CT's. Killed 2, hitting the 3 rd . who went into the jungle never to be found, assumed died of his wounds. 1 of the CT's was identified as <u>Ghani</u> with a price on his head of \$10,000.---
	+ 12 HMT DUNERA arrived Southampton with returning Service personnel---
Wed. 13 th	13 Capt. R. D. Duff. 1 st . Battn. Gordon Highlanders. Killed by accident. <u>Kuala Lumpur # 20 / 1105</u> ---]
	+ <u>Kuala Lumpur</u> :Air-Vice Marshal G. H. Mills. Became Air Officer Commanding Malaya ---]
Thur. 14 th	14 HMT LANCASHIRE arrived Singapore from Hong Kong / Sailed 14 th . bound for Liverpool with returning Service personnel---
Fri. 15 th	15 Pol/Lt. A.J. Brosnan. F. M. Police Killed on Ops. on the Sapuloh Estate Paloh near Kluang Selangor <u>Kranji Singapore # 8 / C-8</u> ---]
	+ 15 HMT EMPIRE PRIDE sailed Singapore bound for Liverpool with returning Service personnel---
Sat. 16 th	16 Spr. Zainal Bin Abd. Latif. Royal Engineers (MOR) Died *** <u>Claimed by next of Kin</u> ---
	+ 16 SC. Samion B. Zainal F. M. Police Killed on Ops. Kampas Estate Paloh Johore---
	+ 16 PC. Bahron B. Wan Teh. F. M. Police Killed on Ops. Kalumpang Village Selangor.---
	+ 16 HMT EMPIRE TROOPER sailed Southampton bound for Singapore with replacement Service personnel]
Sun. 17 th	17 An Ambush on a Rubber Estate 53 miles South of Ipoh 1 Officer & 7 Soldiers of the The Gordon Highlanders were Killed in Action Engaging CT's. 2/ Lt. K. S. Rose.-. Pte's. J. H. Fairgrieve.- J. S. MacKenzie.- K. W. Wrght. <u>Taipung # E / 21 - 22 - 24 - 26</u> ---] L/Cpl. Learmouth. - A. Newlands - J. Nutt. T. Wright [Ashes REP]---
	+ 17 Rfn. P. J. Foley. Royal Ulster Rifles. Killed on Ops. [<u>Grave unknown</u>] <u>Terandak Wall Memorial Malacca</u> -]
	+ 17 HMT EMPIRE WINDRUSH arrived Singapore with replacement Service personnel---
Mon. 18 th	18 SC. Mat Sap B Mhd, Jai F. M. Police Killed on CT Ops. Kelapa Bali Estate Tampin/Gemas Rd---],
Tue. 19 th	19 3 F. M. Police PC. Abdullah B. Kamad. - Kamarudin. B. Chee.- Mat.Desa B. Yeop. Killed in CT ambush on Ops. near Kuantan. ---]
Wed. 20 th	20 2 F. M. Police: PC's Manan B. Fakir.- Mohd. Noor B. Mohd. Killed in an ambush Ruab Pahang---