

Cat's Eye Watch

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Any excuse for stirring up the universe

Edited by
Graham Price

Once was weekly now highly irregular in more ways than one

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The editor's desk



In his book *The Happiest Man on Earth*, published when he was 100 years of age, he wrote: "I am still the happiest man on Earth, even more so than I was this time last year. I have seen my story plant seeds that will grow into whole gardens of kindness. I hope that, in time, your story becomes one which will inspire people to kindness, to their own happiness, and to happy, peaceful lives for everyone on this planet . . . we survivors of the Holocaust have a saying 'Never Forget.' . . . It means never forget the horror, because to forget the horror opens the door to it happening again. But it also means never forget that there is hope. Never forget that there is kindness. Never forget that kindness begins with you." **Eddie Jaku. Survivor of Auschwitz.**

The sad fact about the human race is that it doesn't seem to understand that this is an imperfect world; that problems come every day; that problems are there to be solved day by day. No use groaning about something that has happened, or that someone is late, or that this doesn't work, or that doesn't work. Those are negative thoughts and feelings that lead to a blind alley. Eddie Jaku had the inner glow of seeing bad things for what they were — obstacles to be overcome. Obstacles won't change if we don't change. Obstacles are a part of life and we better get used to them

I have changed the name of CEW to suit, because it hasn't been a Weekly for a very long time. An opportunity came up to collar the Web name *catseyewatch.com* which fitted perfectly into our venue. So, Weekly no more but a further salient addition called Watch.

ACT Director of Prosecutions, Shane Drumgold, was no Rumpole of the Bailey. What a mess he made of the Higgins/Lehrmann 'rape' case! A judicial enquiry into his actions has led to him being scorched with "He breached his duty of conduct and at times . . . lost objectivity and did not act with fairness and detachment" and "deliberately advanced a false claim of legal professional privilege" and "misled the court". There are no winners out of all this, none whatsoever — the only good that may come out of it is to warn litigants, lawyers and prosecutors throughout the country, to stick to facts and not fiction. It seems almost everything about the case was embroidered, and the worst possible action was to bring the media in long before a trial was even promoted. Big lesson — media madness!

The addiction to mobile smart phones is real. Psychiatric and psychology research has proven that extended usage of smart phones, leads to anxiety and/or depression. Checking phones continuously leads to stress response which releases a small amount of cortisol into the body. Dennis Buttimer, M.Ed, a life and wellness coach at Thomas F. Chapman Family Cancer Wellness at Piedmont states: "Too much cortisol can lead to anxiety and eventually, chronic disease." He continues: "Why are smartphones so addictive? When we check our phones, our brains release a small amount of dopamine,"

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Feedback to Cat's Eye Watch
is always welcome.
Click onto my purrfect nose!





Mining: an inconvenient truth

We've never been comfortable about people digging great holes in the planet, particularly in recent times when Russian scientists sunk a whopping hole deep into the earth. As Mark Peising of the BBC writes: "The lakes, forests, mists and snow of the Kola Peninsula, deep in the Arctic Circle, can make this corner of Russia seem like a scene from a fairy tale. Yet amidst the natural beauty stand the ruins of an abandoned Soviet scientific research station. In the middle of the crumbling building is a heavy, rusty metal cap embedded in the concrete floor, secured by a ring of thick and equally rusty metal bolts.



Mining: Credit Undergroundexpert portal

"According to some, this is the entrance to hell. It is the Kola Superdeep Borehole, the deepest manmade hole on Earth and deepest artificial point on Earth. The 40,230ft-deep (12.2km) construction is so deep that locals swear you can hear the screams of souls tortured in hell. It took the Soviets almost 20 years to drill this far, but the drill bit was still only about one-third of the way through the crust to the Earth's mantle when the project came grinding to a halt in the chaos of post-Soviet Russia."

So, how far were they willing to go? Tunneling kilometres down through the earth's surface requires explosives, then even more explosives. If explosives above ground can cause damage to sensitive ecosystems, what then may they be doing to the interior of the earth, where chemicals are released and shock waves travel on through the strata rock?



Mponeng Gold Mine, South Africa
Credit Youtube

All images on our front cover of CEW 144 except for the toddler, rely upon mining to exist. Emergency vehicles such as fire, ambulance, police, etc., would not be on this planet if it were not for mining. Solar panels and solar batteries, wind farms, electric vehicles, electric bikes, would not exist. Also, due to modern life's necessary or perhaps sometimes unnecessary, items such as mobile phones, laptops, gaming machines—these would not exist. Neither would electronic gigs or festivals such as those performed by Taylor Swift or Adele. Mining touches almost everything about our daily life. Without mining,

community life as we now know it, would cease. This keyboard that CEW is typed on, for instance, and the screen that lights up with pictures and words; the digital clock that tells the editor that he needs a break, relies upon mining.

But is some mining totally unnecessary? The Mponeng gold mine in South Africa is not a necessity, but simply a convenience to make rich persons richer. That gold mine is the largest in the world. Is such mining due to one simple word—greed? Hyury Potter, writing for *The Intercept* concerning one of Brazil's illegal gold mines, states that a blind eye has been turned by authorities and that deforestation and pollution is the result.

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/greed-gold>

Another side effect from gold mining — legal and illegal — is mercury poisoning the environment, which not only washes into rivers, but if the mercury is burnt off in an open fire it will contaminate the surrounding fields, poisoning flora and decimating bird life. It's stale news now, but in 1992 Australia's own BHP was caught with its pants down, failing — in partnership with its Papua New Guinea friends and Amoco of the United States — to build a tailings dam at its copper mine, thus dumping millions of tons of waste into the Fly river. Blame shared.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/bhp-under-fire-over-ok-tedi-19920515-kaq9n>

There are numerous instances of gold and copper mines damaging the environment, and not only these, but also tin, iron and other metals. Tin mining in Indonesia has presented the country with several dangers, where cash-strapped locals dive for tin ingrained with sand on coastal water beds, diving up to 70 metres and subjecting some to decompression or nitrogen poisoning. Ecosystems of the coastal waters are being polluted by these practices, reducing the efficiency of coral and sea grasses. Large areas of land are also denuded. Taufik Wijaya, writing in *Mongabay*, states: "Bangka is the source of about 90% of all the tin mined in Indonesia, the world's second-largest producer of the metal, mainly used as solder in electronic devices. It has long become the leading industry here and boosted the domestic economy.

"But decades of mining have left their mark. Environmental degradation and water and air pollution have been devouring Bangka since the tin mining rush started in the early 2000s, when mobile phones became widespread and demand for solder multiplied." Solder! Simple solder! Used to make smart phones carried by ecologists (and much of the world's population) who warn of environmental dangers. Solder, used by environmental rangers with their equipment to photograph native bush animals in Australia. Solder, without which there would be no communications, no transport, no electricity connections. Incongruous, is it not? Also see Australian government paper:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/90a12181d877a6a6ca2568b5007b861c/ce28d7f5faa308ca256cae0015da32!OpenDocument>

Australian mining does not use high water levels, no matter what 'unbelievers' think. Possibly more water is lost



during broken pipes and broken hydrants in various cities when authorities fail to shut things down in time. Some activist groups wish to shut down all mining, which no doubt, would send this world back to pre-historic days. Like it or hate it, mining is here to stay. We can only hope that it is carried out sensibly with regular government approved checks by an independent body. •

Fascism: Coming to a country near you

CEW for June 2023 emphasised the rising of far-right fascism in Australia, which is certainly not alone in the world — numerous democratic countries are struggling with this return to bad days. One can only wonder how things have got to this stage, considering the lessons that were learnt during WWII.

Some of it is due to misplaced immigration policies, or the ineffective security thereof. Recently, there has been condemnation of the newly formed Home Affairs department of our Canberra based government, allowing criminals to slip unnoticed into Australia. It has taken government some considerable time to own up to the fact that Albanian criminals are now rife within this country and are affiliated with motorcycle gangs.

The fact is that this country went softly softly after Italian mafia bosses were brought to trial (or not) during the 1960s. It is now reported by Federal Police that as late as 2022 there were at least 5,000 mafia persons operating in Australia and collaborating with their Calabrian mafia in Italy. Their modus operandi being violence, extortion, importing drugs and concealed money laundering. Immigration departments have a lot to answer for. On one hand allowing extortionists into the country and on the other, refusing to allow law abiding refugees to stay. Admittedly, it can be complicated with numerous lies and false documents presented. However, departments such as Home Affairs have the knowledge and the tools to sort out the chaff from the wheat. But are to the full extent of their capacity? It

doesn't appear to be that way. Of recent times an Albanian type mafia organisation has set itself up in Australia, nicely slipping through immigration. This organisation is present in most of the major cities and is carrying out drug running and money laundering. While police have busted one group, it is certain that others are lying low within the country.

Australian people with links to pre-war and post-war Germany and Italy are perhaps underneath the radar of the Federal Police, as was Eric Butler — extreme right wing agitator of the 1930s-50s, portrayed in the June issue of CEW. That is, until the glare of journalistic spotlight comes upon them, followed by an investigation by Federal Police.

According to an article by David Estcourt, in *The Age*, Saturday August 5, 2023, the Altona R.S.L in Melbourne allowed a far-right group, named as the National Socialist Network, the use of their hall for a meeting. Estcourt writes that the men booked the hall under the name of Western Suburbs Mens Strength Club. R.S.L. spokesperson said they were not aware of the link to NSN until the Federal Police brought their attention to it. It seems there is no such club such as WSMSC.



Thomas Sewell

The leader of NSN, Thomas Sewell, frequently uses the word 'Heil' in his speeches. To put it bluntly, Sewell is a nasty piece of human flesh. See [https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Sewell_\(Australian_neo-Nazi\)](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Sewell_(Australian_neo-Nazi)) The blog *WAtoday* reveals 'Police told a court hearing in 2021 that Sewell publicly described himself as a "political soldier for the white race and Adolf Hitler is my leader", and that he adheres to neo-Nazi ideology and believes he is in a "race war".'

The White Rose Society is an anti-fascist party, often reporting on fascist movements in Australia. Estcourt states that members have found that the National Socialist Network has repeatedly attempted to ally itself with 'Anzac mythology and has regularly attended Anzac Day services' which couldn't be more incongruous and abhorrent.

Fascist or racist parties are extremely creative, coming up with titles that appear harmless, such as Australian Liberty Alliance, Creative movement, Lads Society, The Australian Citizens Party, and more of the same. Most are anti-semitic, and anti-semitism is rising throughout the world. Jewish folk are leaving certain European countries because they are being subject to tirades of abuse and in many instances, physical harm, mainly because of poor immigration policies by certain European countries. Most migrants come from Muslim-majority countries, many of whom have an anti-semitic viewpoint. Germany and it's numerous neighbours now have ghetto-like no-go areas where even the police are reluctant to enter.

The Atlantic 28 Feb 2018: "A month after Merkel decided to open her country's borders to over 1 million mostly Muslim migrants in 2015, Germany's four main intelligence agencies contributed to a little-noticed report warning, 'We are importing Islamic extremism, Arab anti-Semitism, national and ethnic conflicts of other peoples as well as a different societal



Nathan Bull, son of a police officer, which shows you can't help who your relatives are! Showing his tattoo, the Icelandic symbol which has been adopted by many Australian neo-Nazi's.

Pic news.com.au



and legal understanding.' The intelligence services were pessimistic as to Germany's ability to assimilate so many newcomers, whose presence, they feared, would only exacerbate pre-existing social tensions." A similar situation exists in the United Kingdom with — in particular — Muslim immigrants taking over large swabs of town territory.

In 2021 at Strasbourg, the European Union published a communication which reads in part: "Due to the increasing number of anti-semitic attacks, fear among Jewish communities has also increased and further security measures for Jewish premises have been necessary. In recent years, the Jewish population in the EU has been declining, due in large part to migration to outside of the EU. This is linked to several factors, in particular to security concerns, as well as to the perceived lack of determination of some governments to address anti-semitism and the politicisation of public debates around Jewish customs and traditions."

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights also published a paper, which reads: "44% of young Jewish Europeans have experienced harassment." In Melbourne on the 3rd of August, 10 Jewish students were threatened with a knife, together with anti-semitic comments from a man who called himself a Nazi, while they were travelling in a bus.

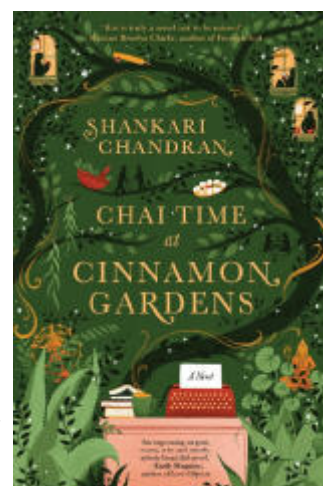
In January 2023 the Executive Council of Australian Jewry released its annual report, which found that anti-semitic incidents in Australia had increased by 41.9% over the past two years, Reports keep coming in about harassment of Jewish children at primary, high schools and colleges. It's not the Holocaust all over again, but governments and citizens should be on guard to prevent this racist hatred from being renewed. •

The Secrets of Cinnamon Gardens

Born and raised in Canberra, author Shankari Chandran was told that her writing wasn't good enough for Australia. But she pushed on regardless at that biased opinion and eventually won The Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Set within Sydney's multicultural community, *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* brings to readers a new interpretation of the war in Sri Lanka. The first characters we meet are Maya and Zakhir, Tamil refugees and academics who have fled the civil war. They have set up an elderly citizens home where things are not as they seem and where people spin their memories and stories intermingled with racial prejudices.

But there is another twist at the beautiful garden setting of *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*. A timeline allows the reader to be drawn back to Sri Lanka where the trauma of the civil war is exposed. *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* opens some bitter thoughts concerning colonialism, racism, and the dark secrets of those who live in the residential nursing home for Tamils who have escaped from the war. Yes, their secrets are many, and the exposure of same leads the reader into some conflicting affairs. And more than that is the interference of outside forces, such as the local council and local racists. A good read, challenging old stereotypes and misinformed opinions.



Cinnamon Gardens

Ultimo Press

Various prices \$AUD14.00-24.95

Amazon, Big W, Dymocks

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/>



Editorial continued from page 2.

explains Buttimer. “Dopamine motivates us to take action and each time we hear a notification, we check our device. The problem is this dopamine boost is temporary and leads to a letdown. Our brains want more dopamine, which triggers the habit of checking our phones constantly throughout the day.”

For help in managing your smart phone addiction, go to: <https://www.piedmont.org/living-better/does-your-smartphone-cause-anxiety>

Misinformation in the press eventually becomes somewhat irritating. One such that keeps rising from journalist’s and presenter’s mouths concerns nuclear powered submarines. These clever people keep reporting, week by week, day by day, about the submarines being ‘nuclear submarines,’ when it is so very clear that they are not. They are **nuclear-powered** submarines. Repeat: nuclear-powered. C’mon people, get it right.

The brightest and most calm person on our TV screens during the Covid pandemic lock-downs has died — Mary Louise McLaws, epidemiologist. She was a Spring breeze on our TV during a trying and upsetting time. Mary was a calm narrator and gave excellent guidance for those locked down — always smiling and hiding the fact that she was dying of brain cancer at the not so very old age of 70. A very brave person, she will be remembered for being one who helped people with open arms, who never shied away from speaking the plain truth in a manner that was not only authoritative, but honest and endearing. She will be remembered for her work as an epidemiologist — she was the stuff that heroes are made of. Professor Mary Louise McLaws recently became a Member of the Order of Australia and during August 2021, she had declared: “Can’t live in lockdown forever BUT DON’T SACRIFICE OUR YOUNG. Restrictions mustn’t lift until [the] young have vaccine access equity; they carry highest caseload yet lowest vaccination. Without vaccination, [the] young will have highest caseload & therefore highest numbers in hospital”.

The world is not without heroes such as Mary Louise, but much of the time they keep a low profile. Thank goodness Mary didn’t. RIP Mary Louise McLaws. Well done, good soul.

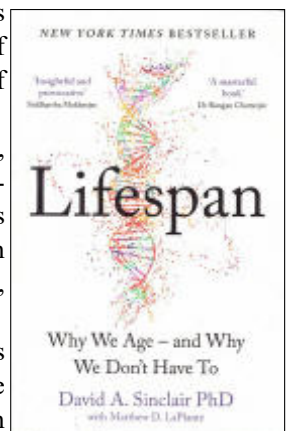
Until next time, stay safe, stay strong. *Graham*

A new perspective on ageing

Dr. David Sinclair believes that ageing is a disease that can be controlled somewhat. He is optimistic for the future benefits of scientific research. He considers that we are already on the cusp of developing ways to allow humans to live much longer than normal. Indeed, research into turning off bad genes is already known and practiced on mice and other small animals.

The catch with this — which he admits — is that it will divide the human race into two groups, the wealthy and the have-nots, for initially it will only be the wealthy who can afford these life-changing procedures. Eventually, he concedes, the time will come when the cost of these procedures will come down so that the average working person will benefit from this research, thus their children will be enabled to live longer with certain irresponsible genes removed from their DNA. That, however, is a long time coming.

Sinclair’s book has received mixed blessings from scientists and the public. Much of his explanations into his ageing research is lauded for it’s accuracy and common sense. He describes the ability of scientists to implant printed ovaries into mice. This procedure was discovered in 2000 when 3D printers were modified to lay down 3D layers of living cells. Other scientists are working to affix 3D printed skeletal tissue to broken bones. A scientific wonderland opens with full promise of fixing humans up to live longer and longer lives. This is not doubted.



One critic from the blog Lifespan takes Sinclair to task for some of his opinions. Note the American spelling version of ageing — aging. “David Sinclair - Harvard professor, celebrity biologist, and author of Lifespan - thinks solving aging will be easy. “Aging is going to be remarkably easy to tackle. Easier than cancer” are his exact words, which is maybe less encouraging than he thinks. Sinclair thinks aging is epigenetic damage. As time goes on, cells lose or garble the epigenetic markers telling them what cells to be. Kidney cells go from definitely-kidney-cells to mostly kidney cells but also a little lung cell and maybe some heart cell in there too. It’s hard to run a kidney off of cells that aren’t entirely sure whether they’re supposed to be kidney cells or something else, and so your kidneys (and all your other organs) break down as you age. He doesn’t come out and say this is literally 100% of aging. But everyone else thinks aging is probably a combination of many complicated processes, and I think Sinclair thinks it’s mostly epigenetic damage and then a few other odds and ends that matter much less.” Nevertheless, there are good points to this book which also contains worthwhile hints on consuming certain foods, exercise, and other methods to slow down the ageing process.

Lifespan
Paperback
Thorsons an imprint of Harper/Collins
SAUD 24.99 Dymocks



A loving feeling

These days, thankfully due to scientific breakthroughs with health and longevity, most children are aware of their grandparents, and even sometimes, great-grandparents. I never had that opportunity, for my grandparents were either long gone before I was born, or shortly to leave this earth..

Can one have a sense of connection to a grandmother long gone? I believe so because one such holds a special place in my heart — my father's mother Helena Louisa Price nee Rogers, affectionately known as Lena.



Lena died in what was a surprisingly normal operation in 1903 and in the centuries previous — a Caesarian section. She was 39 and had previously given birth to six children. Her husband, my grandfather Frederick Andrew Price, was so grieved that he never re-married. His letter to Lena's siblings in Tasmania — where they had gone for business ventures — caused me to weep when I first set eyes on it in 1979, given to me by my aunt Evelyn, the eldest daughter of my grandparents.

The letter sets out the details of the operation and subsequent matters. Frederick was writing as a husband and father aggrieved, a task that could not be put off and no matter how many tears fell around that piece of paper he continued to write. A doctor had visited the day previous and returned the next day with another, who apparently was a surgeon. The latter said to Frederick that an operation was required and he answered "Is that the one from which most die?" The surgeon said "Hardly."

The operation was performed under chloroform and was not successful — excessive haemorrhaging could not be stopped and Lena began to slip away. After a while, she awoke, and in her suffering she gave advice to the children who were now crowded with despair around the bed. For a fleeting moment in that darkened front bedroom at their home in Geelong West, Lena said to the two boys to be good at school and to the girls to help and obey the eldest Evelyn at 14 years, who was now the surrogate mother to five children, the youngest barely two years of age. She then closed her eyes and fell into a deep peaceful sleep, from which she would not awaken. My father who was eleven at the time said to me in later years that one doctor was drunk. Unfortunately, we do not have time travel to ascertain the exact evidence of that.

Lena was buried in the Wesleyan section of the Geelong Eastern Cemetery with a Wesleyan Methodist minister attending, as was her wish. She lies there these days with her second youngest daughter Connie, who died of brain cancer in 1948, and with the ashes of her youngest Nell in 1975, also a late victim of cancer, which could have been attributed to working as secretary with heavy smoking male employers.

I feel the closeness of Lena in my days and nights, the gentle grandmother I never knew in human form, but perhaps in spirit . . .? As Shakespeare once wrote: "O day and night, but this is wondrous strange." Hamlet replies: "There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

And so there we are. We are not bound to an existence of touch and feel. There is more to life than that, and poor is the person who does not consider or experience a vision of further senses apart from the five physical ones. My grandmother, Lena, lives, where I cannot say, but she is near. •

A time of distress

The aunt I never knew. Frederick Andrew Price had four sisters, the second youngest was Helena Constance Price, known as Connie. Connie was a kindergarten teacher, but while still in her forties she contracted cancer and spent some time at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. She returned to the hospital several times during the 1940s, while she was domiciled with her elder sister, Evelyn, in Wattle Tree Rd., Canterbury, Melbourne.

From the 16th of April 1948 until the 26th of August, Connie was admitted suffering brain carcinomas, which had spread throughout the body from previous cancers. On her last day the supervising doctor had written "The autopsy revealed carcinoma deposits of the peritoneum, lungs, thyroid and brain." Connie had willed her estate — which included her late father's home in Geelong and a small cottage in Belgrave to unmarried sisters Evelyn and Nell. The will had been written four years earlier, dated 2nd of August 1944, duly witnessed by a solicitor and his associate.

Bewilderment was expressed when the sisters, Evelyn and Nell, applied for probate — another will had been filed on behalf of a man named Freidrick Heinrick (Henry) Scheps. The sisters were in a state of shock. Who was this man and how was it that Connie had made a new but unknown will in favour of Scheps? A long drawn-out process began because the matter was to be heard by the Supreme Court of Victoria, and it wasn't until 1949 when all was finalised and the sisters were given probate of the first will. But there was a clause in the court's judgment that would grant Freiderick Scheps one hundred pounds from the estate.



Connie in happier times with her Kinder children.

So, how did it get to that stage, and who was this man Scheps? Investigations were made at the time by Evelyn's longtime friend A.R. Mills, a Melbourne barrister. Scheps had been married but was then divorced, though there had been a daughter from that marriage. Apparently, on the 12th of August 1948, he had arranged to have a solicitor at Connie's bedside in the Alfred Hospital to make out a new will in his favour.

Mills' enquires concerning Scheps were carried out as an investigation. His notes at the time reveal investigations at 'Surrey Lodge, Police Station Russell Street, his wife and daughter, his place of business, his divorce and places of abode and habits.' The investigations continued with an interview of several doctors at the Alfred Hospital, with certificates from the Ward Sister. Mills interviewed a solicitor that Scheps went to, a Mr. Kenny, who it is said did not wish to make that kind of will for Scheps, so Scheps went to another solicitor named James P. Ogge.

On the 2nd of September 1948, the Neurological Registrar at the Alfred wrote a statement that read in part 'In my opinion, on the 12th of August 1948, Miss Price was in an unfit mental state to comprehend the significance of any of her actions or statements.' But the law must take its course and there would be a heavy clash of two sides, each proclaiming they were correct in their claim. On the 21st of October 1949 Scheps agreed to modify his demand. For the acceptance of one hundred pounds, he signed a statement of release for Connie's two sisters to enable them to get on with tidying up Connie's affairs. No further claim by Scheps would be presented. No doubt the sisters' anger toward that man simmered and boiled over the long period of anxiety and uncertainty.

So, in this year of 2023, will the real Frederick Scheps stand up? Whatever his good points and perhaps not so good points were concerned, there is little doubt that he used his influence for his own satisfaction. Frederick Scheps was born in Germany 1883, baptised as Freiderick Heinrich Bernhard Scheps, father Johann Gottfried Scheps, mother Bertha Christina Brecklean. He arrived in Australia from Hamberg to South Australia with his parents, was naturalised as Australian in 1904, married Alice May Hopkins of *Langdon* in Windsor 1912, was a motor engineer with a garage at 665 St. Kilda Rd., Melbourne. The marriage at All Saints Church, St. Kilda, was written up in the Prahran Telegraph, Saturday Nov 2, with much flair concerning this celebrity wedding. It seems that Frederick was a good 'catch.' Or was it Alice who was the good 'catch'? Scheps' father, as locksmith and blacksmith, had become insolvent in Adelaide 1895 but appeared to have recovered financially and by 1896 was up and running in business again. Fast work Gottfried!

Frederick Scheps did well at the S.A.Gawler Branch School of Design, passing exams easily. He excelled in art/design and science. He graduated on to the Moonta School of Mines in 1900.

It seems that the young Scheps was a cycle sporting marvel. Previously from South Australia, he won the 1902 Sydney Wheel Race and the Ellegaard Handicap. His successes at winning in Australia were numerous, so much so that in 1904 he appeared at cycling events in America, but was eventually beaten by *The Flying Dutchman*, Floyd Krebs. Upon his return to Australia in October 1904 he told reporters that he may open a business in Melbourne. But Scheps kept up his cycling career in Melbourne, beating all comers. He was a cycling whiz. And certainly the travelling man, competing in many states of Australia and in most instances, winning. To the sporting public he became a wonder. But in 1904 he was disqualified at the Easter Wheel Race in Adelaide for six months because of hanging back with a co-cyclist.

Scheps was petitioned for divorce by Alice, who made a statutory declaration that her husband had found another woman who 'was better than myself and if I didn't like it I could clear out and go back to my parents.' The petitioner also stated that he had been drinking heavily and would return home in the early hours of the morning, and again 'if I didn't like it I was to clear off.'

In June 1920 the petitioner stated that the respondent, Frederick Scheps, had a woman in his bedroom, while Alice was sleeping in a separate room. Marital troubles, with several times forgiveness being given according to the petitioner, continued until June 1922 when according to the statement, after hitting her on the head and twisting her arms behind her back, Scheps grabbed a revolver, but the child Christina Bertha stood between them and shouted 'Don't shoot my mother!' Petitioner stated that he had said 'You're not worth hanging for.' Alice's statement continues with the discovery in 1927, that Scheps was living with a woman in Upwey by the name of Patricia Johnson. On the grounds of adultery, Alice was granted a divorce.

In 1949 Frederick Scheps was living at 613 Canterbury Road., Surrey Hills, where believe it or not, the name Surrey Lodge (as investigated by A.R. Mills in 1948)) is still emblazoned on the side of the building. Originally a family hotel, it was closed in 1920 by a poll, possibly an anti-liquor one, then re-opened in 1939. So, Scheps was living there — alone or with a lady? And what of his garage business in St. Kilda? It seems Scheps was on hard times, but what of his association with Connie? How did that come about? Scheps wanted equal shares of Connie's will with the sisters and his appearance with a solicitor at the Alfred hospital when Connie was dying had considerable repercussions in the sisters' lives. As far as can be determined, neither Evelyn or Nell knew of this man until the probate was challenged in court. Scheps was much older than Connie by 15 years, been divorced, had moved numerous times since 1927, and apparently lived with other women.

Scheps motor garage and engineering works at 665 St. Kilda Rd., Melbourne — near the junction — is long gone. Frederick Scheps died in 1955 at Caulfield, Melbourne, and is buried at the Brighton Cemetery. The two sisters of Connie lived on until 1973 and 1975 respectively, but they never forgot the name Scheps. •



Frederick Scheps near Bairnsdale holding a 6 ft black snake he had killed. Pix The Herald 13 March 1937.



Agony and survival in Viet Nam

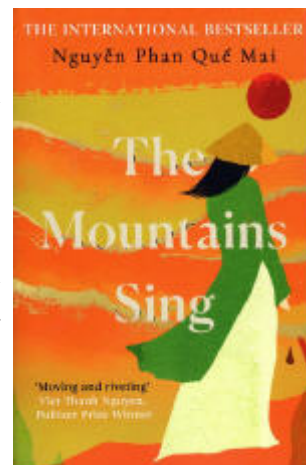
by Pulitzer prize-winning author Nguyen Phan Que Mai

Nguyen Phan Que Mai is the author of several poetry books and the winner of a number of literary awards. Born in Viet Nam, she was two years old when the war that divided North from South was ended. Nguyen has lived most of her life in Viet Nam, but counts numerous others as second or third homes, including Melbourne, Australia.

Her first novel, based on Viet Nam from the 1950s murderous land reform in the North, through to the war which ended in 1975 at Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh city), then on to recovery through the 1980s up to 2017 is an undeniable piece of magical prose. *The Mountains Sing* of 342 pages bleeds and weeps tears in front of you as you read.

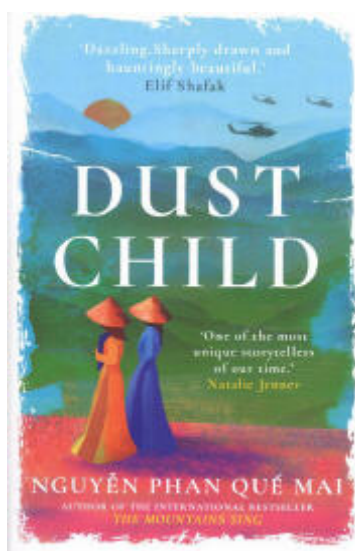
The story revolves around the Tran family that faced agonising decisions and were subject to the loss of habitat, not only by American bombers, but also by North Vietnamese rulers confiscating homes and applying severe punishment to innocent landholders — even death by decree. Nguyen emphasises that her novel tells much of her own grandmother's story; her dedication being:

*"For my grandmother, who perished in the Great Hunger;
for my grandfather, who died because of the Land Reform;
and for my uncle, whose youth the Viet Nam war consumed.
for the millions of people, Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese,
who lost their lives in the war. May our planet never see
another armed conflict."*



Alas! Nguyen's book was written prior to the calamity that has engrossed Ukraine. Aggression knows no limit. *The Mountains Sing* is a story of agony, hope and recovery; a candid telling of what life was like under several rulers of Viet Nam and the struggle for the average person to remain alive during one of the most hellish wars humanity has known.

The Mountains Sing
Oneworld publication
Paperback 344 pages.
About \$AUD18.00



This book will haunt you for a long time after reading. Nguyen's second novel tells of the American/Vietnamese children left behind after the US left Viet Nam in 1975. Military personnel were restricted to a tour of duty, then ordered back to the U.S., often leaving behind a young Vietnamese girl with child. Out of about three million servicemen sent to Viet Nam, it is said that close to 100,000 fathered children to a Vietnamese mother. These children were called 'bui doi' — the dust of life. Nguyen states that they were often considered unworthy by the Vietnamese population — they were children of the dust!

Trang is one such Vietnamese girl who falls in love with an American pilot. P139 *Dust Child*: 'The more Trang tried to understand the Americans, the more she realised each man was different. Some were kind and gentle, some abusive and violent. And those who had gone through battles were certainly unpredictable.' Thus, is exposed before her very eyes, the trauma of men having witnessed war so close and personal — trauma they would take with them back to the U.S. and live with for decades after. P217: 'He would come to her distracted, nervous, and his temper would explode at something she said or did. Later, he would apologize, act tenderly, become again the man with whom she had fallen in love.'

There are several inter-locking stories in *Dust Child*, all centred around the apparent impossible task of some ex-soldiers anxiously attempting to make good in locating their child of decades gone by, and even more poignant the story of grown up Amerasians, against all odds, feverishly wanting to know their parentage.

A captivating, haunting novel, chock full of compassion for past wrongs on both sides of an unnecessary war. •

Dust Child
Published by Oneword
Paperback 344 pages
Various prices, about \$AUD23.00
Also available for Kindle



A Babble of Voices Healing or Division?

When Wiradjuri presenter of the ABC's Q&A program, Stan Grant, decided in May of this year to take a long and perhaps permanent break from current affairs programs, he left behind three successive Q&A sessions that dealt with the Voice to Parliament.

This is the same Stan Grant who was vilified by barbs and racist messages when an ABC program at the Coronation of King Charles III went wild after the event, with much harsh criticism from public viewers. Later, the ABC apologised to Grant, but the personal hate he received did untold damage to him and his young family. It was time to take a new direction. At the time, Julian Leeser MP stated: "I disagree with Stan on a number of things, but I admire what he has achieved – I find that he writes rich, beautiful and thought provoking, even if often I form different conclusions."

Grant had hosted a Q&A session at Mildura, Victoria, April 17 this year, where the program raised more questions than answers. Was it poorly monitored by ABC management, and why are folk asking 'take the view away from the big cities and certain academics and you uncover lack of understanding and suspicion about the meaning of The Voice among the local indigenous folk?' The program on ABC is well worth watching because it is not the end of questioning The Voice to Parliament:

www.abc.net.au/qanda/2023-17-04/102193246

Again, in ABC's Q&A program of 24 April 2023, Taylah Gray, young Wiradjuri indigenous lawyer and campaigner for indigenous rights, told presenter Stan Grant that she was still undecided as to whether she would vote Yes or No. "People are wanting to know more about where they stand in the community, there's questions; there's opposing opinions and First Nations voices in the community that haven't been heard yet." Certain indigenous folk are saying "We need a Treaty first before we can consider a Voice to Parliament, and details of the Voice are not clear enough."

In the Q&A program a week later, 1st May 2023, indigenous commentator Dr. Anthony Dillon, a supporter for closing the gap, said that although he agreed in principle concerning The Voice, this practicing psychologist who is no stranger to controversy, stated that the details were not clear enough and for the time being he would vote No. Regarding closing the gap, he considered it was more than necessary to close the gap *between the poor indigenous and the very well-off indigenous*.

Meanwhile, the No campaign, pushed by some right-wing news outlets with strident opposition, appears not to be doing its cause any favours. There have been some unjustified comments such as *The Voice* would be a "new Indigenous-only bureaucracy that will have sweeping constitutional powers. That was once called apartheid and we set our face against it."

At present there are too many confusing voices — indigenous, pretenders to be, and others — and it needs to become clearer to the Australian public if the referendum is to be successful. The world is watching — in particular, our close neighbours the Pacific island nations.

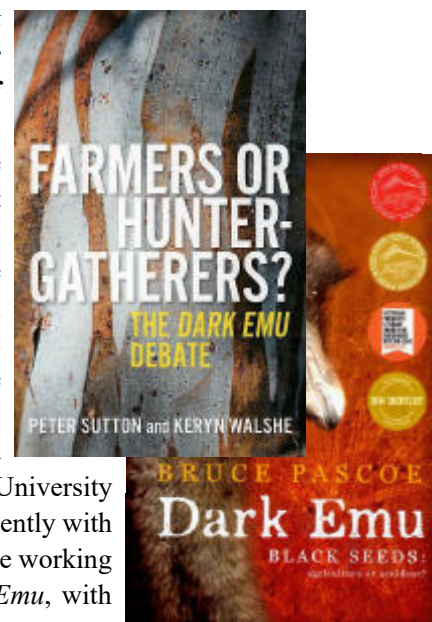
And there are other voices that are unclear concerning indigenous claims. In October 2021, CEW posted the following article concerning Bruce Pascoe's publication *Dark Emu* and a reply by Peter Sutton and Keryn Walshe — *Farmers or Hunter-Gatherers?*

Dark Emu or a light foxing?

Considerable controversy has arisen since the publishing of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* in 2014 — the account of how our Aboriginal society was not simply hunter gatherers, but was involved in some kind of light farming, even to the extent of building hayricks and dams.

The book took off with tremendous acceptance — mostly within the white and semi-white communities in the cities, and boosted by social media as proof that the early ancestors of this land were simply not only hunter gatherers but farmers. Bruce Pascoe relied much upon records of the 18th and 19th century written by white farmers and white historians. Within the more Northern and regional aboriginal communities, however, there was some doubt about this new direction. But this was easily dismissed. Here was ground breaking 'evidence' that our indigenous people were more than simply hunters and gatherers of berries and other vegetation.

A spanner in the works has arrived with the publishing of Peter Sutton and Keryn Walshe's *Farmers or Hunter-Gatherers? The Dark Emu debate* — Melbourne University Press. Professor Sutton is a social anthropologist and linguist who has worked consistently with outback Aborigines. Keryn Walshe is an archeologist with over 35 years of experience working at Australian Indigenous heritage sites. Their book is a forensic critique of *Dark Emu*, with





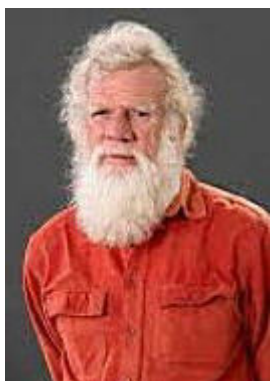
conclusions that Pascoe's thesis is very short on real evidence and that as Pascoe has relied mostly upon white settler evidence, there are major flaws in his book. Sutton and Walshe concentrate more upon indigenous activities, and in particular, the spiritual/dreaming aspects of native life, which influences the indigenous social and nomad lifestyle. Sutton and Walshe consider that once this lifestyle was settled, there was no further need for the indigenous people to look further.

Numerous Aboriginal leaders were not particularly thrilled with *Dark Emu*. It appeared to some that it was more a book slanted toward the white readers of Australia and did little for indigenous recognition. Aboriginal human rights advocate, Dr. Hannah McGlade, whose ancestors worked for white farmers, considered that Pascoe's book was "clearly . . . not very truthful or accurate."

Victoria Grieve-Williams, adjunct professor at RMIT University and Warraimaay historian, recently stated, concerning Sutton & Walshe's publication: "The book too is a defence of Aboriginal people as hunters and gatherers; as nomads; as a dignified and highly intelligent, spiritual people, who don't need to be and have no wish to be farmers or horticulturalists . . . There are many people scrambling for a semblance of cover, including high-level politicians, many journalists and sundry social media self-styled experts, many of whom, it is easy to suspect, have not read either book."

However, academic Professor Marcia Langton, recently said that *Dark Emu* was the most important book on Australia, which should be read by every Australian. Beyond that, Langton has refused to comment.

Which brings us to one of Australia's greatest historians — Professor Geoffrey Blainey. "Concerning Pascoe's *Dark Emu* and his most recent *Young Dark Emu for Children* . . . Both [books] omit the Torres Strait Islanders . . . The vivid map for children is the more inaccurate . . . As for the skilled hunter-gatherers themselves, Pascoe calls them 'primitives' haplessly wandering across the face of the Earth. He goes out of his way to omit the success stories of these nomadic people. Thus he tells us about Donald Thomson, a distinguished Australian anthropologist, but ignore's Thomson's famous account of nomadic life in Arnhem Land and the logic and ingenuity of the seasonal movements of its people. For young students Thomson's story would be fascinating."



Bruce Pascoe

Pascoe also omits telling his young readers how fire was a basic in their way of life: from warmth during winter, to cooking, to light during dark evenings. And, as Blainey comments: "For manufacturing many of their implements and weapons [for] hunting by day and fishing by night. Its smoke was used as a means of communication and an insect repellent at night." Blainey also berates Pascoe for no mention of Mungo Lady and Mungo Man — the oldest known people found in 1968 and 1974. "Schools are increasingly taught another version of history: A version which downgrades the Mungo people. Students are instructed to believe that Aboriginals were not nomadic but pioneers who lived permanently in the solid dwellings of townships that might hold up to 1000 people. They allegedly grew their own food and stored it in large granaries and little underground storehouses and were so masterly in coping with varied climates that their happy little townships flourished 'in every corner' of the continent. Indeed even in the deserts. Bruce Pascoe, originally a schoolteacher, is the populariser of this recent revolution in understanding Australian history. In mistakenly contending

that Aboriginals invented an early form of agriculture he extends praise to scholars in whom he relies. His popularity arises partly from the public's illusion that he is really an Aboriginal historian who knows almost instinctively how his ancestors thought."

Bruce Pascoe responded to some of the criticism by saying "We're looking at the same facts and having a difference of opinion. That's not a bad thing. I think Aboriginal people have been wanting to have this discussion for 250 years, so I think it can only be positive."

Nevertheless, as Warraimaay historian Victoria Grieve-Williams stated: "There are many people scrambling for a semblance of cover, including high-level politicians, many journalists and sundry social media self-styled experts, many of whom, it is easy to suspect, have not read either book." Both books should reside in all libraries and schools, side by side. •

Footnote: On 11th September 2021, Bruce Pascoe wrote a reply in *The Saturday Age*, which did not criticise *Farmers or Hunter Gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate*, but simply stated that there had been some criticism of his book *Dark Emu*. He wrote: "When I read the book *Farmers or Hunter Gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate* . . . which claims to repudiate [*Dark Emu*], I was amazed how frequently the writers agreed with me."

Along comes Michael Mansell, Aboriginal activist and chairman of the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, who does not believe that Pascoe has aboriginal blood in him and who considers that attempting to find the truth leads to people having the view that he, Mansell, is connected to right-wing groups — which is so far wrong and silly as to be not worth challenging. Pascoe's claim of being Aboriginal doesn't wash with Mansell, stating that Pascoe is very elusive about his claims, particularly those of his 'aboriginal' ancestry. Pascoe has claimed descent from the Burnurong people, but the Bunurong Land Council has rejected this. Again, Pascoe has claimed ancestry from Tasmanian indigenous community, but this also has been rejected by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council. Not to be dismissed so easily, Pascoe has also made claims about belonging to the Wiradjuri people. Rejection again! And there is more on this theme if anyone cares to do their



detailed research. Where else does Pascoe's fantasies lead us? Do they lead us into further interpretation of his claims in *Dark Emu* and in his later publication *Young Dark Emu*?

According to an opinion piece in *The Tasmanian Times* posted on January 23, 2020 titled 'Bruce Pascoe is Not Tasmanian Aboriginal,' the paper quotes Mansell: "It is understandable why people have leapt to defend Bruce Pascoe's in the face of attack by the likes of right-wingers Andrew Bolt and Peter Dutton. People are suspicious about the motivation behind this pair. However, instead of Pascoe's supporters dealing with facts they too have responded politically, muddying the waters around Pascoe's claiming to be Aboriginal."

And, re. Pascoe's 'aboriginal' family and friends in Tasmania "No mention there of his parents being Aboriginal, nor does Pascoe name who these Aboriginal friends were. This begins the pattern of Pascoe's elusiveness on challenges to his identity claims — no names, no direct statement about from whom he gets Aboriginal heritage, all general and vague — but powerfully suggestive, leaving the reader to conclude there must be something there."

In October 2022, Karla Grant, Walkley award winning author and presenter, and descended from the indigenous Arrernte people, hosted an SBS *Insight* program which focused on the rise of white folk within Australia claiming to have indigenous ancestry. Karla is the former wife of Stan Grant and a presenter for the SBS indigenous program *Living Black*. The conclusion from the mainly indigenous audience was that there were numerous fakers, even to the extent of some being in positions of bureaucracy, running Aboriginal affairs. Many of these people are called race-shifters, or box-tickers.

Wiradjuri woman, Suzanne Ingram, explained in *The Age* of 22nd Oct 2022, "As the numbers show in the last census results of the 25 per cent national increase, more than 92,000 cannot be explained as normal [indigenous] population growth." Numerous box-tickers at work? Ingram told *Insight* that "there has been data to suggest that [the population] should be about 300,000 less."

SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) reports that Dr. Ian Hagan, a Kullilli indigenous man from Queensland, states that non-indigenous people ticking boxes ". . . are protected. They can sign a statutory declaration [to confirm they self-identify] and they're in. They can take on a \$200,000 job anywhere they want. People are being remunerated very handsomely to hold a lot of senior positions and in our business and organisations. People are growing rich on our misery . . . this increase in fake Aborigines coming into the organisations. They are basically white people, they're controlling the narrative of black affairs and they're controlling the policy that will come out of these organisations." Would that include the Voice to Parliament?

Aboriginality and identification is a two-edged sword. Jedda Costa, First Nations indigenous reporter for Aboriginal affairs at the ABC, has asserted that a particular Victorian parliamentarian who claims Aboriginality, is not. Costa has also commented upon the ABC's entrenched racism towards people of colour. During her cadetship in 2019 she experienced numerous acts of racism. It seems the ABC is not without racist fault here, as other employees have stated. ABC News Channel presenter and 7.30 reporter, Jason Om, wrote "Over the years, I have felt quietly disappointed by what I have seen, heard and experienced in the ABC." Which brings up the case of Stan Grant when he was being vilified online and ABC management at the time did nothing about it. Grant felt totally betrayed.

SBS again reports that Pambalong woman Kumarah Kelly is the CEO of Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council and has witnessed situations that deeply concern her. "We're seeing people participating in cultural site surveys for the protection of artifacts and sacred sites. They're making \$1500 a day. Where did they get that cultural knowledge from? They do not represent our community and they are not endorsed or accepted as Aboriginal people within our community, it is quite easy to receive a confirmation of Aboriginality. It is easy to infiltrate our organisations and our communities. There are false Aboriginal people state-wide." This would appear to be an ongoing expansive problem that the Federal government has shied away from addressing, and perhaps will never address because there are very considerable doubts about certain current parliamentarians and CEO's of cultural programs, who identify as indigenous and are entrenched in bureaucratic positions. People identifying as Aboriginal do not have to present any paperwork to back up their claim, though it is required of them to be accepted by the Aboriginal community in which they live, or have previously lived. In the case of Pascoe, expert genealogists have found that his family ancestry is firmly grounded in England, of white genealogy.

The voices are confusing and governments do not appear to be very energetic in addressing them. The Voice to Parliament, YES, NO, or MAYBE? It's up to you.

In closing, a paragraph from Stan Grant's book *Talking to My Country* (Harper Collins Australia 2016): "I will always sit by a river, or stand on my land and hear the voices and see the faces of my people. My children and their children will be Wiradjuri people. My son will sit by Poison Waterholes Creek* one day and tell the story to his son." . . . The story of an uncertain Australia. •

* Near Leeton, NSW

~ ~ ~



When leaders never listen to their own conscience

It should be no surprise to learn that in 1961, President Charles de Gaulle of France gave sound advice to the new American president John F. Kennedy. De Gaulle had good reason to give advice, having lost over 75,000 troops at the battle of Dien Bien Phu to the Viet Minh in 1954, plus thousands wounded.

The French military left Vietnam in 1956 with their dream of remaining in French Indo-China shattered, their colonial authority in ruins. They finally marched a farewell through the streets of Saigon, uniforms spick and span, heads up, flags flying high, as if they were conquering heroes — their incredible arrogance on display.

The Battle of Long Tan, written by David Cameron PhD, commences with the communication by De Gaulle to Kennedy, under Part One, THE WAR:

For you, intervention in . . . [Vietnam] will be an entanglement without end . . . The ideology that you invoke will not change anything. This is why the more you commit yourself there against Communism, the more the Communists will appear will be champions of national independence, the more they will receive help and first of all, that which comes from desperation. We French have experienced this . . . I predict to you that you will, step by step, become sucked into a bottomless military and political quagmire despite the losses and expenditure that you may squander.

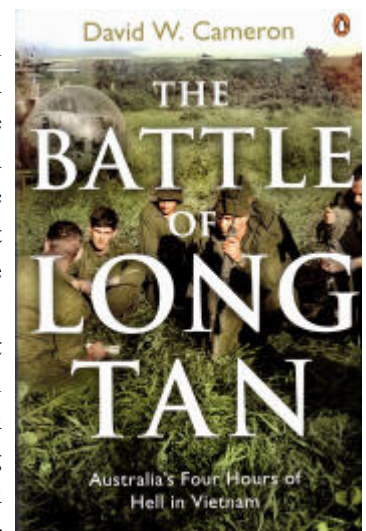
President Charles de Gaulle to President John F. Kennedy 1961

The advice fell upon deaf ears. And as de Gaulle predicted — without a crystal ball to see into the future — that is exactly what occurred. Quagmire, which led to an American total defeat. Kennedy was already heavily involved in supplying arms and other aid to the South, much as his administration had been doing for the French. No hard US troops were on the ground, but the Americans had supplied over 3,000 military advisers known as the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) and Kennedy was using the defoliate Agent Orange to clear great swathes of forest and jungle land. But the clever Viet Minh were digging long transport tunnels and could not be seen from the air.

Cameron's book, *The Battle of Long Tan*, begins with the surprise attack at night by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army upon Australian troops in 1966 at Nui Dat, 80 kilometres south-east of Saigon. The camp was suddenly startled awake as mortar and bomb shell explosions descended on the 17th of August. They could hear the mortars letting go with PUMPH, preceded with pop pop pop. Their slit trenches were half full of water and Cameron paints a lively record of men half asleep, leaving boots behind, and jumping for cover clutching their weapons as the barrage came in around them. As soon as possible the Australians commenced artillery and mortar fire in return and before dawn the attack was beaten off. Australian and New Zealand gunners had fired off 480 shells.

Cameron's book is a very personal one. He delineates the war from a first person's point of view as we move through the first 83 pages. He has the mind and thought of a novelist, depicting occurrences leading up to the battle of Long Tan — the atmosphere of Vietnam is there, raw and open before one. Cameron is an excellent narrator. Page 49 "At first 1 ATF (Australian Task Force) set up base at Vung Tau and most were pleased, as recalled by first-intake national serviceman, Private Harry Esler, D Company 6 RAR (Royal Australian Regiment). 'We landed on a beach and I thought, "This is it. This is going to be great. A nice little beach at Vung Tau", not all were pleased, however, as recalled by Private Robin 'Pom' Rencher D Company, 6 RAR, an Englishman who had enlisted in the Australian Army. He thought Vung Tau was hot and humid and a lousy place to be stationed. He clearly wasn't the only one, remembering that one of his mates in his company, Private Ian 'Tubby' Campbell, had enough and 'started swimming for home, clutching a bottle of gin. He was eventually shepherded back to shore by a passing helicopter.' "

THE BATTLE: Mateship and heroism came to the fore when 105 Australian troops with three New Zealanders were ambushed by approximately 2,500 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese army forces in a rubber plantation 18 August 1966. The





morning had been quiet and the Australian patrols had found nothing of interest, but during the afternoon when a storm broke, the Viet Cong began their charge. Fighting in the pouring rain was bloody and the Australians found themselves virtually surrounded. The end of the battle saw seventeen 6 RAR soldiers killed and one from the 1st Armoured Personal Carrier Squadron, with 24 wounded. Eleven of those killed were National Servicemen. Of the Vietnamese, sources state that there were 350 killed, 245 wounded in action, and three captured. The Viet's had withdrawn as silently as they had arrived, beaten by the small contingent of Australians.

Cameron has given a virtual minute by minute description of the battle and the deadly aftermath that was witnessed by the troops. Page 291 “. . . probably going into a bit of delayed shock . . . Bugged. Drained, but not ready to sleep.’ Close by were privates Terry Burstall and Richard Brown, both from 12 platoon, hardly speaking to each other . . . I just sat there staring into the bush. Gun pickets were changed in silence and a numbness seemed to hang over the whole area. I couldn’t even cry, although I know I wanted to. I kept thinking of Paul Large wrapped in a groundsheet somewhere, seeing nothing with his blank eyes and cold skin.”

The effects of the battle reached back to Australia. Page 340: “Suzanne Jewry was the wife of Lance Corporal Jack Jewry, the 21-year-old apprentice electrician from St Marys in NSW. The couple had married three weeks before he left for Vietnam, and while serving there Jack was informed that he was going to be a dad. Jack was with 6 Section, 11 Platoon and now lay dead. On being informed of his death, Suzanne miscarried the next day. Jack’s family received letters from him just hours after they were told he had been killed in action.” •



Erecting the Long Tan Cross in the plantation 3rd anniversary of the battle 18 Aug 1969

Myths concerning Australia’s role in Vietnam

Some myths concerning Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam war have been perpetrated by American media, particularly in Hollywood films, but Australian media is also to blame, in particular misinformation from Australia’s own ABC radio and television. Misinformation, according to the audience it is broadcast to, can lead activists and other concerned persons in the wrong direction. .

Gerard Henderson of the Sydney Institute, writing in *The Australian* newspaper of the weekend August 19-20 2023, writes of misinformation by the ABC during the 50th Anniversary of the 1966 Battle of Long Tan. One such deals with the misinformation that the Labor prime minister, Gough Whitlam, was responsible for ending Australia’s involvement in Vietnam and withdrawing our forces in 1972. Henderson points out that the commitment was ended by the Coalition PM, William McMahon, in late 1972. Then ABC News Breakfast reported that ‘before the 1967 referendum aboriginal men were still counted as flora and fauna, therefore exempt from conscription’. Henderson points out that one didn’t have to look far to find the truth, and that’s the ABC’s own fact-check post where Susi Das wrote “Aboriginal people in Australia have never been covered by a flora and fauna, either under federal or state law.”

Henderson pulls out further myths: That the Menzies government committed forces to South Vietnam in June 1965 in order to do the bidding of the US . . . in fact, Australia’s viewpoint was that the commitment was for the US coming to aid Australia in the event of war with Indonesia, considering that the Confrontation with Indonesia under the rule of president Sukarno was full on but not made public, with — as a deterrent — our Australian troops already holding the Indonesians back in North Borneo. And that the commitment was made in Australia’s best interest at the time. 23 Aussie troops lost their lives during that confrontation.

The myth that Australia welcomed Vietnam refugees after the fall of Saigon in 1975, is busted. Henderson states “Nonsense. Throughout the remainder of Whitlam’s term as PM, he was hostile to anti-communist refugees since he did not want to upset the communist regime that now ruled Vietnam. According to his colleague, Clyde Cameron, Whitlam told the Labor cabinet ‘that he did not want what he termed “f.cking Vietnamese Balts” coming to Australia. Whitlam never denied this — as my correspondence with him in late 2002 and early 2003 attests.”

Another myth among the many, is that Vietnamese refugees who arrived in Australia in the second half of the 1970s, came as boat people. Wrong. “Very few did. Most — like the young Dai Le (Independent member for Fowler) — fled by boat to Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the like. They were [then] assessed by Australian officials before entering Australia on Qantas planes with valid passports.” There are other myths which require a much longer article. In the meantime, the Anzac Portal has some myths of its own for you to view at:

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/resources/vietnam-war-myths> •



A DANGEROUS LAW?

Who decides what is misinformation and what is not? The Australian Federal Government's draft bill on misinformation, apparently to help contain misinformation on the internet and elsewhere, has been attacked by leading lawyers and human rights officials, as dangerous. The bill, after consultation, will go before parliament as 'Combating Disinformation and Misinformation Bill.'

Chris Kenny, a Yes advocate for the Voice to Parliament, is nervous about the proposal. He states that giving power to any government concerning freedom of speech, will lead to handing over more control to the government. In an article *The Australian* July 22-23 2023, he recalls, during the time of Covid, the government secretly censored online posts for three years, as now revealed through Freedom of Information enquiries. If a government can do that without the public being aware, what then may it do with a new Bill that encompasses all free speech? Regarding the many posts that were censored and taken down, Kenny remarks: "Much of this censorship did not protect the public from misinformation. Rather, it protected the government from dissent and suppressed sensible discussion of the facts. It is frightening that this occurred and perhaps even more terrifying that there is so little reaction now that it has been exposed. Four decades on from 1984 we know that governments will control information and mislead populations with impunity. Even in liberal democracies . . . we need to say no to giving government more control over media information and public debate, while we still can."

Australia's Human Rights Commissioner, Lorraine Finlay, has given the Bill the thumbs down. She writes: "Concerns about whether the draft bill strikes the right balance have been expressed by a range of groups, including social media companies such as Meta, legal experts such as the Victorian Bar Council, and the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (which represents more than 15,000 workers in media and cultural sectors). The full extent of feedback about the draft bill is not yet known, with public submissions to the government's consultation process closing last week but publication of those submissions being delayed until next month [September]." Her concerns are wide, and may be read online at:

<https://humanrights.gov.au/about/news/opinions/why-misinformation-bill-risks-freedoms-it-aims-protect>

University of Queensland Lecturer at Law, Paul Taylor, finds the Bill in its present shape as being authoritarian and useful for gaining political power. He describes the initial considerations about the Bill as being a crossroads, and if one goes down the wrong road of power, then diversity of opinion is at risk. He quotes C.S. Lewis "Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive." Taylor goes on "The obvious danger with excessive regulation of information is that once it is entrenched, the abuse of power becomes less easy to detect and dislodge. The very mechanisms necessary to hold government to account must never be disabled. The bill risks doing just that."

Would such a bill have prevented civil rights leader, Martin Luther King jnr, from leading protest marches during the 1950s-1960s? This Bill will give the AMCA (Australian Communications and Media Authority) a wide range on what it considers is misinformation, so the heavy hand of censorship will come down upon individuals, education facilities, and companies alike. And, diabolically, **there is the proposal for government information to be exempt from the bill** — in other words we then have censorship run by a body of politicians, instead of professors of law and appointed judges. Anyone putting forward a political phrase that may be interpreted by the Bill as unlawful, will face censorship. That's a fact. The 'Ministry of Truth' as portrayed in George Orwell's book 1984 is just a step away from us. Wise up. •

Vaping

So, the research news has come out at long last — that you may be on the end of the wrong stick if you go to premises where people have been vaping. Why? 'Cos medical research has now affirmed that vape leaves very sticky chemical residues on surfaces that can last for several weeks.

So what, you say? Well, the what, why, and wherefore of this is that innocent people can inhale chemicals from that residue, which my darlings may damage your lungs. That's wot. There are some rules to go by. Don't enter a car where someone has been vaping; if you smell something excessively sweet when you enter a cafe or restaurant, it may be that someone has been vaping there. Leave. Slide your magnificent torso out of the door. Children are immensely susceptible here, sprawling and crawling along surfaces and then popping their hands into their mouths. You are the parent, so it's up to you. As for the vapers, they can look after themselves, or can they? Here at CEW we've personally know of several rels who never smoked, but who were working where second-hand cigarette smoke would be breathed in. They died of lung cancer. •



Pix courtesy of The Conversation.



Mercury O'Proud Political correspondent

This article was written in 2016, long before the current war by Russia with Ukraine. I was close, though concentrating on Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, which are still within Russia's sights.

The Day of the Triffids

The Day of the Triffids was a 1951 novel by John Wyndham which then became a film, with the central theme about a group of non-human entities, or plants, taking control of humanity by striking them blind. The symbolism appears to fit what the world is going through at present, with politicians and elite authoritarian groups seemingly blind to the coming chaos.

The rise of Donald Trump, who nine months ago was simply laughed at and considered not to be a credible contender for the presidency of the United States, has shown that a very large section of the population no longer trusts government.

The populism of Trump's bold statements reaches out to voters who are fed up with being told lies by a series of administrations; in fear of mass illegal immigration; scalded by terrorist attacks on home soil — in fact a collection of very angry people wanting to know what has gone wrong. As the presidency of Barack Obama draws to a close, this collection of populace is now wondering what it is that Obama ever did to help make America great again, and why is he so reluctant to call Islamism for what it is. [And the fact is that Obama went soft on Russia in 2014 when it invaded the Crimea — he imposed some sanctions and a certain criticism but left it at that, saying that there was some sympathy for Russia].

On the other side of the Atlantic there is similar turmoil, with British subjects voting to leave the European Union and with that Union showing much decay and distrust within its own members. Democracies are shown to be at risk with the rise of ultra Left and ultra Right parties, mainly due to overwhelming immigration from the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan [who mainly do not assimilate, but huddle into ghettos where in some cases, even the police will not venture.]

Again, there was fear of being ruled by the judges of the EU, regarding decisions that overrule the laws of the individual country. Large sectors of United Kingdom and European voters are angry at what they determine are civil rights taken away from them by a ruling body that simply cannot fully understand the needs of each individual country. Rules and regulations are made in the name of the greater good, but is that greater good, really good? Indeed, the constant attempt at economic leveling of all countries within the EU with enormous cash hand-outs, smacks to some of totalitarianism.

The average person in the street now sees their leaders as being blind — having no, or little, foresight for the future. Stop-gap methods appear to be implemented simply for the short-term, while the future becomes a dark unknown alleyway. Populism is now the so-called saviour of the masses — like what you see and then vote for that. Which explains the rise of Donald Trump in America and London's ex mayor, Boris Johnson.

The EU is a shadow of its former self and NATO is now treated as a joke in many quarters — seen to be a feeble bastion in any conflict with Russia. There are even similarities between Britain's prime minister Neville Chamberlain's lack of preparation and appeasement in 1939 against Hitler's ideas of expansive aggression. The EU and NATO seem ill prepared for a Russian infiltration into its close neighbours, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Russia's recent annexation of the Crimea passed without much strength of reply from either the EU or NATO.

Populism, appeasement, political correctness, are threats that need to be taken seriously in this tumultuous century. In Australia we see this with short-term promises being made by politicians who hope to attract votes by appearing to appeal to the common good. But again, is this common good actually good? That is the question voters need to seriously ask themselves.

Populism attracted voters to the cause of Clive Palmer, who promised the world but who since has fallen like a deflated hot air balloon. Populism has infiltrated the ranks of the Greens Party with unrealistic promises and under-researched ideals. The fact is that one cannot run a country on ideology. Both major parties have also been inflicted with the devil of populism and are seen by intelligent voters to be losing touch with the person in the street. Their media presentations are a sham, and simply do not get to the heart of the problems facing ordinary Australians.

The Day of the Triffids is upon us, with politicians and a large section of the population wearing blindfolds. •

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The curious world of phonetics and other. Journalists and presenters when talking about airlines here in Australia, are coming up with this: Qatar airlines with the emphasis on Q pronounced as Kattar airlines or even Kutter, and Qantas equals Quontas! Why not Kantas? So, why this division in phonetics? Who knows! Kuttar is from Arabian speaking countries, but the Australian Qantas (Qwontas) is from an English speaking country, which most folks know as ceded from Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services. Well now, we certainly are not going to pronounce or write Kewue instead of Queue, are we?

Anyway, it's still difficult to understand why Aussie baby boomers (1946-1964) and generation Y (1965-1979) cannot see the difference between the words 'their' and 'there'. There were good schools in those days, so should there be any



excuse? Quite simple, really: Their property, their money. There he goes, there is the madman. Hey you, over there.’ And it’s a big turn off when these generations are using the word ‘of’ as a middle junction during a sentence which reads ‘I should have gone along with it,’ so that it then reads ‘I should of gone along with it.’ Errrrrk!

The Victorian Liberal party is in such a shambles that we have not seen for many a decade. They are as stagnant as melted candles on a birthday cake, and are no threat to the quirky state Labor government. Labor has had so many scandals within its ranks of recent years concerning dubious activities by medium to high ranking members, so that a viable opposition should wipe them out at the next election. It won’t happen. There is no viable opposition, even though IBAC investigations have condemned some of Labor government’s practices and the Victorian Ombudsman found that 21 Labor ministers had breached Parliamentary guides for certifying payments to electoral officers for political campaigning.

In her September 2022 report to Parliament, the Ombudsman, Deborah Glass OBE, stated that the 3000 residents of nine inner-Melbourne housing towers were still waiting for an apology for the harm and distress caused by the 2020 lockdown, considering that the occupants were given no notice of the lockdown — that other criticisms of the government’s handling of affairs were given but luke-warm or no attention — that the advice given by the Ombudsman to government was “difficult for them to acknowledge, let alone apologise for, recent wrongs. And during two years of being stripped of individual liberties, my reports illustrated the importance of Victoria’s Human Rights Charter. Some things, sadly, have not changed for the better.” — that in relation to Victorian border closures “However, the discretion available to approve exemptions was exercised too narrowly and resulted in unjust outcomes. The Department of Health (‘DoH’) granted just 8 per cent of more than 33,000 exemption applications lodged between July and September 2021. Most applications were not specifically rejected but ‘closed for other reasons’. The senior and busy officials who granted exemptions had limited time to dedicate to individual applications. DoH did not provide reasons for refusals and there was no appeal process for denials.”



Deborah Glass OBE
Pix Monash
University

Since then the government has made no formal response, though “but DoH [Dept of Health] has since acknowledged the ‘distress and disruption the border restrictions generally created’. It stopped short, however, of acknowledging the unjust outcomes so many Victorians suffered as a result of the border permit decisions or making any effort to lessen the disadvantage caused.”

The Victorian Labor Government is like a runaway train with an imperfect robot in charge. The mighty Big Build projects, instead of being carefully spaced out, were lumped together in one bullish rush, developing into one hell of a roller coaster, which has helped to put the state into a never before debt of \$117 Billion as of June 2023, while approx \$30 Billion was certainly due to the Covid crisis, approx \$90 Billion reflects the cost of the Big Build at present with interest rates peaking at approx \$5 Billion in the 2023-24 financial year, and according to economists rising to \$8 Billion by 2026-27. To help fix this, the Andrews government has increased taxes on people and small businesses already struggling under the load of high prices, particularly in the power generation field. It’s no joke to realise that your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be the ones burdened with paying this huge debt off.



Victorian state premier, Dan Andrews, “Nothing to see here, move on!” pix by SBS.

While answering questions posed by journalists, Andrews has a powerful technique. He doesn’t answer the question, he moves it aside with clever words. Nothing to see here, move on. The man is a master at shovelling questions aside; a master at keeping his ministers under the thumb. The scandals that have wracked his party over recent years would have seen a lesser premier bite the dust, but not Andrews who keeps a firm reign on those under him. Stand against him and you become like sawdust — you are rapidly moved into a lesser position until as one of his former ministers stated, you have no option but to quit.

Robert Redlich, the former IBAC chief recently stated that Labor MP’s were trying to find dirt in IBAC as a payback for IBAC’s adverse comments about the Andrew’s government. Redlich’s concerns were about the decline of integrity among government ministers and that there had been branch stacking and much corruption. And of recent times, news has developed about two dead men whose signatures were forged for membership by an ALP branch in Victoria. A son and daughter of one of the men have apparently made a complaint to the Victorian government, but will that be where it ends?

It’s a long haul to the next Victorian state election in 2026, but Andrews — if he decides to remain as leader — is bullet proof. On the present state of the Liberal party, Andrews has absolutely no opposition — all the Liberals keep doing in the present atmosphere, is shooting themselves in the foot. They need a strong, wise, and seasoned strategy leader, but where will they find one? Their membership is the weakest it has been in decades and there are no signs of improvement. The present opposition leader, John Pesutto, who is being sued by several people, is unlikely to remain as leader — his errors of judgment have led to extreme disappointment within the party.

But Andrews’ shine is also tarnished and support from voters has fallen, and may fall even further, for the Andrews government has done little to avoid Ambulance crises, long hospital queues, lack of police resources, bad pothole roads, overcrowded schools, massive shortage of teachers, country railway lines neglected, and much more. Deaths of people waiting for ambulances reached 33 during 2022. If one of those had been your loved one, how would you have coped? The editor of CEW, suffering from a Covid infection in April 2023,





had to wait two hours for an ambulance to assist. If he had been suffering a heart attack, he may not have lived to edit this journal. The system is shatteringly broken and efforts to fix it are slow and cumbersome. The Big Build seems to be more of a priority to this government, while ambulances are on Code 2 (**Urgent**) much of the time, and hospital beds are full. While concentrating on his 'amazing' Big Build, the Victorian premier has neglected necessary and vital support mechanisms for the Victorian people. Figure it out!

A 2026 election win by a Coalition government is unlikely, but with support from the Greens and Teals (yes, and pigs might fly!), there is a slight possibility of crossing the line, but only if the Liberals accede to policies supported by the others. Again, a very unlikely outcome.

How does one explain this? At Point Clare near Gosford NSW, a thirteen-year-old boy takes a three-year-old child from a home, stabs the child to death, then returns to his home prior to 3.00 a.m, having sneaked out earlier. Eventually, the police find him, and under questioning he had said that 'next time would be easier.' The police stated that he — given the pseudonym SLD — seemed to be enjoying the situation. According to journalist Christine Middap, the boy had cut through the mesh on the security door. When questioned by police he gave various 'excuses' such as wanting to steal computer games, he was angry with his dad, was getting back at his older brothers and by taking revenge from the girl's parents for them telling him to keep off the grass. None of it made sense — the answers were inconsistent. Middap writes, according to Supreme Court Justice James Wood ". . . The utterly unexplainable and cruel way in which he behaved this night, and his history of exaggeration, fabrication, and repetitive anti-social conduct . . ."

Middap states that the boy had a history of "stealing female underwear from neighbours, and urinating on the bed of one of his victims and exposing his genitals. The week before the murder he was charged with abduction a young girl and sexually assaulting her." The authorities had let him leave custody to again roam the streets.

Now, aged 36, SLD remains in light custody, but here comes the punchline — during a recent court hearing, Justice Campbell stated that SLD had finished his 20 years of incarceration and that each of the court's appointed experts favoured [a] supervision order over continued detention, and that these experts concluded that further time behind bars would have little rehabilitation value on SLD, so that he could be managed within the community with [so-called] extreme restrictions.

That's where it lies for the moment. But releasing SLD into the community, even with restrictions, would be a travesty of justice. As has been shown in the past, ankle 'bracelets' can easily be cut off, with the offender out and about before authorities have noticed, and with a person such as SLD the fear is that he would most likely rape, and this time with a weapon. Murder is murder, and it is the opinion of CEW that murder should attract a life sentence, unless there are special mitigating circumstances. The law, in this modern era, appears to have been greatly watered down by bleeding heart politicians and soppy law makers. •

But, on a lighter note. Women's soccer has done something for Australia that no other sport, culture, political arrangements etc., has done — it has united the communities of this fair land. And what a marvellous uplift of spirit as the country slowly comes out of Covid crises! The Matildas have made Australia proud, coming from a struggling team in earlier years when they defeated Japan in the semi-finals of 2007, and when taking part in the first World Women's Invitational Tournament in Taipei, Taiwan 2010, they hit the spotlight by defeating North Korea.

Hard work enabled the Matildas to gain support from the community and in 2021 there were 20,029 cheering fans at the Bankwest stadium in Sydney to see the Matildas play against Chili. There were more ups and downs during ensuing years until the Matildas reached the semi-finals in 2023. At the FIFA Women's World Cup games held in Brisbane on the 12th of August, the Matildas overcame France with a penalty score of 7-6. They were in the semi-finals! It was a definitive time within Australia's history — the crowds around the nation became as won, excitedly cheering a bunch of very fit femmes playing against an exceedingly strong opposition. Giant TV screens around the country were crowded with Australians cheering their favourites on, until at the end, the Matildas won. Then it was onto a semi-final against the English team, but the Lionesses were very fit and very experienced. The Matildas lost by one goal. Even so, it was a joyous time, barracking for a team that was so clean, with nothing to do with the inconsistencies and border-line actions of Australian Football League teams around the country. Go Matildas! We love you. •



The Matildas. Pix by SBS (Special Broadcasting Service)

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



To forget is to deny the past

With two out of every three Jewish students in Australia facing anti-semitism on university campuses, the following recent publications have arrived at a crucial time.

These students have not faced what Jewish teenager Rudolf Vrba faced in 1944 when he lay within the gates of the death camp, Auschwitz, but they experience a kind of terror as well. The first book is *The Escape Artist*, by Jonathan Freedland, capturing the essence of a teenager's quest for freedom.

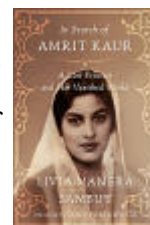
Throughout two long years, Vrba witnessed the horrors of Auschwitz, but remarkably he was able to escape to the free world to tell his story, and tell it he did, because Vrba had one passion — to tell the truth, because few people outside of Auschwitz knew what was happening within the barbed wire enforcements with smoking chimneys in the background. Vrba's report — through Jewish leadership — would eventually find its way to the leaders of the free world, such as Roosevelt, Churchill, and even the Pope.

Freedland's book has delighted and captured the imagination of thousands, and in recently screen-writer, Peter Moffat has obtained the book for a limited TV series. •



The Escape Artist
Hachette Australia
\$AUD24.99

Next up is Livia Manu Sambuy's tale of a young Sikh princess who risked her life to save Jews, but in doing so, came to the notice of French authorities. Amrit had gone to France in 1933 after an argument with her husband who had taken a second wife. She was born to aristocracy, the daughter of the Maharajah of Kapurtala in India. She was educated at a modern boarding school in England and came away with progressive ideas and a desire to help her fellow humans. In 1944, after some observation, she was arrested by the French authorities acting on behalf of the Nazis; their reason was that Amrit had been selling her jewels to save Jews. She died in prison. •



In Search of Amrit Kaur
MacMillan, also Penguin Books
Various prices

Third, is one very important book, for without the expertise and bravery of certain people called *The Forgers*, thousands of Jewish folk would never have made it to the free world. Roger Moorehouse has written a fascinating tale of Polish diplomats in absentia, led by Aleksander Lados — the Polish ambassador to Switzerland — together with Jewish activists in saving the lives of thousands of Jews living in fear of the Holocaust. The forgeries, which were smuggled into German occupied European countries, were so perfect that they enabled Jewish persons to escape to mainly South American countries.

A heart-stopping story, as Moorehouse allows the reader to follow Jewish escapees from the moment they receive their forged documents. The journey is full of uncertain risks, one of those being that American authorities wanted to shut down the journey, concerned about espionage. This Lados story has been kept from the public for decades, now unearthed by Professor Moorehouse, a specialist of Germany's war with Poland.



The Forgers
Penguin Random House
Hardback & paperback
Various prices up to \$AUD60.00 - Dymocks \$AUD36.99

Saigon Sunset

A saga in several episodes by Graham Price
Chapter 10

Earlier chapters are available on:

<http://catseyewatch.com>

Held over for CEW 145



So, just who is polluting the earth?

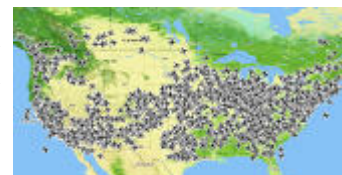
Many climate change enthusiasts promote coal-fired generators, petrol and diesel vehicles, as a main cause of pollution and earth damaging activities, but there are some that are rarely mentioned and for some politicians, government officials, and luxury travellers, just might be a little embarrassing to do so.



Take aircraft for example — a large polluter of the skies. It is said that if aviation was a country it would be among the top ten carbon polluters on the planet. So, next time you want to take your large jumbo jet for a spin — like ex-president Donald Trump — think again. And yes, a fair number of Australian politicians fly unnecessarily when they could travel by train.

And some have been caught travelling by plane at taxpayer's expense when they were not entitled to—Liberal, Labor, and even the Greens and Teals. Shock! Naturally, you are not surprised.

There are approximately 100,000 flights taking place daily across the planet, spitting burnt kerosene and benzene into the atmosphere, while affecting the ozone layer slightly, but around airports the effect is somewhat highlighted, in that turbo aircraft emit pollution that may cause thousands of premature deaths per year from cancer and other health issues.



*Proof. Every day for one country.
When image is updated every 5-10 seconds.
Pic supplied by Geodose*

Cruise touring and goods shipping. So, you're off for a cruise in one of those new luxury liners? No doubt you will have an enjoyable time, but at the same time contribute to greenhouse gases. Whopping big cruise liners cause massive pollution of the atmosphere and the oceans, let alone by sourcing the materials they are made from, for which most folk seem to have gigantic memory lapses. And not only greenhouse gases, but other wastes such as ballast water that is discharged into the ocean, together with microbes and micro-organisms. There are treatments that ship owners implement to help prevent this ballast pollution, but as of now they are not 100% effective. Then there's the burning of massive amounts of fuel oil. There are research studies that purport to show that pollution in the wake of big ships is as dangerous as the pollution in large cities. Having fun so far?

The research group Oceania states "Ships contribute a significant amount of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) calculated that ocean-going vessels released 1.12 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2007. This is equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from over 205 million cars, or more cars than were registered in the entire United States in 2006 (135 million) . . . IMO predicts that without introducing measures to reduce emissions from shipping, carbon dioxide emissions from the industry could rise to 1.48 billion metric tons by 2020, equivalent to putting 65 million new cars on the road." Just don't ask for the figures of 2022!

Sand dredging to make glass and concrete. You'd reckon that plastics are one of the greatest polluting materials that were ever devised, wouldn't you? But what about glass? Yes, its usage is generally stable and it can be recycled, but the enormous amounts of sand taken from the ocean floor to make glass would astound you, not to mention the gigantic mega tons taken to make concrete. Hence, the oceans are at grave risk from all of this mining from the sea floor. Let's face it, humans at their very best are stupid (and alternatively often incredibly smart) — the only upright animal that has an intense desire to wreck the planet they have inherited — all for their creature comforts and desirable expectations. Yes, it's a catch 22 situation. To maintain the way we live for research, for education, for health, for business, much of the materials we use day by day are — in a sense, essential — otherwise life as we know it would begin to falter. But we cannot go on dredging sand from the sea floor without irreversible results to the planet. We must find other alternatives before the oceans 'fight back'. Already, there are significant signs of that occurring.



Courtesy David Hunt AAP

Space exploration. Again a Catch 22 situation. If the West doesn't do it, the Chinese and the Russians will, and so will have a monopoly regarding space vehicles, space spying communications and in a short time the ability to load warheads from space — not science fiction anymore. War in space is now a viable option for the big powers.

Testing of ballistic missiles. You can immediately jump to North Korea for being the leader of this unwarranted effort, followed by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France, India, and a host of smaller countries with a not so surprisingly well armed missile defence/offence system in Iran. Iran's missile collection is vast. Israel has only three kinds of developed missiles, but Iran, when last reviewed by the Arms Control Association in August 2023, has a whopping collection of eleven operational and one in development stage. Unstable Pakistan also has eight operational missile systems and four in development stage. The world is ruled by selfish self-promoting leaders and until they are replaced by caring administrators, what hope has this planet got? •



Every child deserves the right to shine



Every 45 minutes an Australian child enters the care system. They're scared. They're confused. They're trying to cope with trauma. And they need a safe, nurturing place to go while it's temporarily unsafe to live with their birth parents. If you feel like now might be the right time to open your home and heart, you can be the support a child desperately needs during their hardest time. It may be for a night, a weekend, a couple of months or long-term. Whatever you can give, there is a need for it and we're here to help at every step.

Short-term care: 1 night – 6 months. When you offer short-term care, you give a child a secure, stable home as they go through the scary experience of being removed from their family.

Short-term care can vary from just one night to up to six months. In most cases children require a safe place to live for a few weeks or months but some children also need somewhere to stay overnight, on weekends, or during the school holidays. Ultimately, you have the flexibility to choose your preferred placement duration. You also have access to plenty of additional support, including babysitting, transport support for school drop-off and pick-ups, holiday camps and more.

Long-term care: 6+ months. As a long-term foster carer, you can give stability and permanency to children or young people who can no longer live in their family home. Every month, Child Protection asks us to find a safe, loving, long-term home for around 10 children. In these cases, the courts have decided it's not safe for the child to return home. This could be for 6 months or more.

It could be until they reach adulthood. When you offer long-term care, you give a child the security and care that every child needs and craves. So they can finally unpack their bag and just be a kid. Your wellbeing, and that of your household, is one of our top priorities at OzChild. You'll receive plenty of practical support from us and an extended community of carers, including babysitting, drop-offs and pick-ups and respite care.

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

A Day in the Life of the Australian Voter

Apologies to Punch





The Animal Rehoming Service

For further information, please log onto
<http://www.tars.org.au/>
 The Animal Rehoming Service Inc. is a registered charity.
 Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. (ABN: 51 275 837 567)



Steve is looking for a loving home. He's an almost 2 year old, desexed, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped 19.7kg male Terrier or Hound x possible American Staffy (according to his

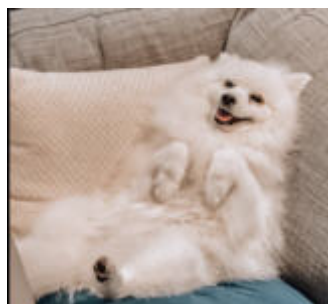


paperwork) but yes, he certainly looks like a large Cairn Terrier x! He would love to be an integral part of family life, in an experienced all adult home or one with dog savvy teenagers. He's a bundle of energy when out and about or when guests arrive, but he's also a relaxed, 'chilled' boy too, especially when he's snuggling up to you. Steve was always great with other dogs but has become a bit defensive of late following some bad experiences at the dog park. He's never bitten or attacked another dog, but he does growl and pull a bit on the lead, but that behaviour's steadily

improving. He's not been tested with cats.

He enjoys an indoor/ outdoor lifestyle, sleeping indoors. A home with a dog door would be great. Steve's adoption fee is \$350. Microchip Number: 953010005551788. Pet Exchange Register Source Number: RE100709. If interested, please call Michaela on 0409213131 (Doreen based, but we go to you.).

Khaleesi is a 9 year old, desexed, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped 7.3kg female Japanese Spitz, who's looking for a loving home.



She's a very sweet and affectionate girl who loves human company, especially a good snuggle with her favourite people. An experienced all adult home or one with older, dog friendly children would be great. Someone who's home during the day would be ideal. Otherwise a home with another friendly dog for company and indoor access via a dog door,

would also be fine.

Khaleesi's great with other dogs, preferring smaller ones initially but also warming up to bigger dogs as well. As mentioned, a home with another friendly dog for company would be great!

She loves her daily walks, lying at your feet as you work and enjoys 'guarding' the home. She's not a yappy dog and only barks as required, then stops when she's told to.

Health wise, Khaleesi has mild arthritis in a rear leg that's kept under control with 4Cyte supplements. She also has an elongated palate that has no impact on her health, but she sometimes sounds funny when breathing when she's excited. Khaleesi's also had some teeth removed.

She enjoys an indoor/ outdoor lifestyle, sleeping indoors. She'd require regular brushing and grooming. Khaleesi's adoption fee is \$450. Microchip Number: 97810210024679. Pet Exchange Register Source Number: RE100709. If interested, please call Michaela on 0409213131 (Canterbury based, but we go to you).

Readvertised: I'm still looking for a loving home!

Jasper is an almost 3 year old, desexed, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped 32kg male Staghound X who's looking for a loving home. He's a sweet, gentle and loving boy who would suit a calm but active household. With daily exercise and stimulation, he turns into a couch potato for the rest of the day.



Jasper walks beautifully on lead and will be endlessly entertained at home with a squeaky ball, teddy bear or tube of bubbles!

He would best suit someone with large breed dog experience in an all-adult home or one with dog savvy, gentle teenagers. He's currently taking medication for anxiety but in a calm, child-free home, this would no longer be necessary. He's a sensitive boy but very loyal to those he trusts.

He's lived with dogs and cats in the past but would need a gradual introduction.

Jasper is used to having someone working from home, but manages being left at home quite well too. He enjoys an indoor/ outdoor lifestyle, sleeping indoors. Jasper's adoption fee is \$350. Microchip Number: 956000010932754. Pet Exchange Register Source Number: RE100709. If interested, please call Michaela on 0409213131 (West Brunswick based, but we go to you).

Readvertised: I'm still looking for a loving home!

Vinnie is a 22 month old desexed, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped 35kg male Blue American Staffy, who's looking for a loving home. (The Maltese dog is a friend).

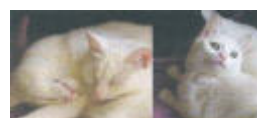


He's a very affectionate, cuddly and sweet natured boy who'd love to be a treasured member of the family. He's lived with two dogs and a cat and is great with other dogs.

He's being rehomed as the older female staffy in the family is starting to bully him.

Vinnie would suit an all-adult home or one with dog savvy teenagers. Despite his relaxed photos, he's an active boy who would suit an active family, happy to walk him daily. He's also got great recall (he responds to a whistle.) A home with a good sized garden would also be a bonus, as that's what he's used to. He enjoys an indoor/ outdoor lifestyle, sleeping indoors.

Vinnie's adoption fee is \$600. Microchip Number: 953010100067078. Pet Exchange Register Source Number: RE100709. If interested, please call Michaela on 0409213131 (Leongatha based, but we go to you).



We are now much loved in our new home and very grateful to TARS Inc. Such a new lease of life!



Pet medical crisis

from Jennifer Hunt

Ashley and Adam love their big dog named 'Rocky'. He is a friendly giant who is great fun and comfort to his family. Adam gave 'Rocky' to Ashley as a gift when she was 21 and she has adored him ever since -he is now eight years old. Ashley's daughter has grown up with 'Rocky' who loves her and keeps her safe and happy. 'Rocky' has helped Ashley through some very difficult times in her life and he is very necessary and important to her life and wellbeing.



Adam and Ashley noticed that the big fella was struggling to eat, which anyone who knows Rottweilers understands that is far from normal. Soon after noticing he had a lump in his cheek the pair started to worry. The young family knew they had to get 'Rocky' to the vets to see what was wrong with him, but being unemployed due to Covid-19 and unable to receive a loan it would be very expensive and difficult to afford. The Berwick veterinary hospital diagnosed 'Rocky' and found he had some very severe growths in his mouth and a secondary one in his throat. 'Rocky' would need immediate surgery so PMC received the application to help and help we did.

"Rocky is my very first pet. He is my baby, my world. He's family and means the absolute world to us! My daughter has grown to love him so much and just can't see a life without him or getting the care he needs. He's struggling to eat and that's not like him, we are struggling to pay rent, bills, and other expenses." Ashley told PMC.

Thanks to the help of the Berwick Veterinary hospital Pet Medical Crisis were able to step in and manage the case. PMC hopes that Ashley and Adam have many years with the big dog and he goes on to make old bone. •



Amelia has suffered many different traumas in her young life and they stem back many years. She has struggled to cope with some of the events and still to this day is triggered badly from the pain she has experienced. The one true thing that helps Amelia is her love for her beautiful dog named 'Minnie'. 'Minnie' has been by her side now for the last few years that have proven to be some of the hardest for her to face, however, the young dog has remained there for her no matter what. 'Minnie' is the lifeline for her mum and she

helps her cope in a way nothing else can.

Recently 'Minnie' was struck by a car and was very severely injured which included an extremely badly broken leg that left the dog in incredible pain. Amelia was able to get her pooch to the vets to find out what could be done to help the sad little dog. The first vet surgery Amelia visited was not as helpful as the young mother needed and after doing so contacted us at Pet Medical Crisis. PMC recommended for Amelia to contact the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, but without wheels or a way there the problem continued. Thanks to Claire a wonderful volunteer for PMC she was able to deliver the dog to the great team at the centre.

Needing immediate surgery that Amelia was unable to afford PMC kicked in the maximum amount we could and then reached out to the public for help. Again the amazing kindness from Mr Rob Curtain from peninsula properties donated the remaining very large bill so that 'Minnie' would be able to be saved. Sadly this event has sent Amelia back into hospital as she recovers at the same time as her lovely dog. PTSD is a cruel and torturous condition and this truly makes us appreciate the value our animals have in our lives.

We are so grateful for all the help and assistance we receive, from the vets to the donors to our volunteers and to our followers. An enormous thank you to Lort Smith for the great work. Claire for your kindness and time in taking 'Minnie' to the Vet and for waiting all day. And to Mr. Rob Curtain you are truly one of the most generous and beautiful people we have ever known you are helping change the world for the better. •

Pet Medical Crisis relies on public donations to assist pensioners and disadvantaged owners who cannot afford life-saving veterinary care.



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.



Power that changes everything

And still they continue to be published — research books concerning China's change into world domination — grow and multiply. The focus is now undeniably upon China's expansion under the firm rule of Xi Jinping.

Several decades ago much research was focused upon China's material and economic rise, but in recent years this has changed. The spotlight is now on China's trade and military rise with sticky fingers into all corners of the earth.

It can no longer be asserted by so-called peacemakers that China in the 21st Century is a benevolent nation. At the village level that may still be, but the nation has developed under the Communist Party (CCP) into one at the political/military level that has pulled out all resources into forging with determination to never be cowed again by any nation. Fair enough to a degree, but . . . !

Asian Waters by Humphrey Hawksley commences with a quote by Sir Walter Raleigh in *The History of the World*, published in London 1614. "Whoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself." And today, the waters are contested greatly, particularly in the East China and South China seas. Hawksley compares the two major powers as if they were engaging in table manners: *Asian Waters*, preface p13, "America—driven by speed, certainty, and determination—cuts through with sharpened steak knives, China approaches carefully, chopsticks raised, taking time to think about which dishes it prefers and how the tastes and delicacies are blended together."

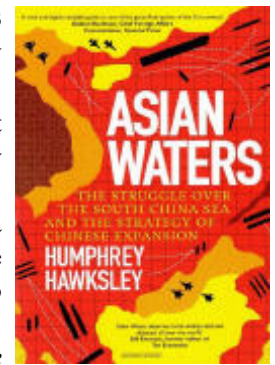
The analogy is correct. China has been quietly encroaching upon territorial waters for decades, which are claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia — scaring off legitimate fishing boats and using its own mass of fishing trawlers to intimidate others. And again, using China Coast Guard vessels equipped with vicious water cannons. What used to be a softly softly approach in attempting to persuade close nations to quit aligning themselves with America, has stepped up a few hot degrees. Of recent years, China has taken possession of several Spratley islands and reefs and built airstrips that can accommodate bombers, naval warships, and missile launchers — in particular, at Mischief Reef which is situated half-way between Vietnam and the Philippines.

Asian Waters is comprehensive in its scope, taking in the situations with India, Japan, Taiwan and North Korea. The writer has extensive bibliography. He includes the Sri Lankan civil war with the Tiger Tamils and states that the TT's invented the suicide vest "used child soldiers, ran a near totalitarian state in the north of the country, carried out civilian massacres of women and children and made a godlike figure of their leader Velupillei Prabhakaran . . . In 1987 [India] sent in peacekeeping troops, but they were no match for the Tigers' kill-and-run attacks. India withdrew two years later, defeated . . . The war continued until 2009 when China moved in and enabled Sri Lanka to defeat the Tigers . . . Beijing provided military equipment needed to launch a decided campaign that cut off the Tigers, along with many civilians being held as hostages or human shields."

So, with the war over, China could now initiate further domestic inroads and like numerous countries around the world, Sri Lanka was firmly in China's debt. Sri Lanka's strategic location was vastly important to China, just as its heavy infiltration into African and South American countries is.

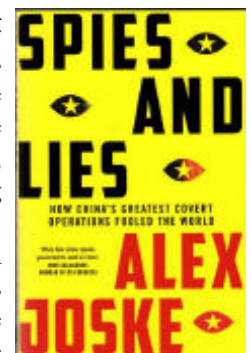
Hawksley comments on the naivety of Western leaders in dealing with China, such as Obama and Trump. He draws attention to criticisms of the Obama administration in not standing up to China's expansion of seven artificial islands in the South China Sea, which are now 'militarized.' But he singles out Trump for lack of wisdom in dealing personally with Xi Jinping. Trump called the communist leader 'A very special man,' to which president Trump had an incredibly 'warm feeling'. Naivety at its finest! So, as the publishers of *Asian Waters* query "Can overlapping territory claims persist indefinitely or will they trigger a new world war!"

Asian Waters, large paperback
Published by Duckworth Overlook, RRP: \$AUD29.99
Also available as an eBook



Despite it's lurid cover, *Spies and Lies* by Alex Joske is a well researched book that shows how Western leaders and other politicians got it wrong on China. Joske considers that China excels in covert operations around the world, probably more so than any other country. He points out that after the 1989 massacre of Tiananmen Square, the West gained an impression that the Party was regretful. He points to the little known organisation named the Ministry of State Security, which handles double agents and spies and has well over 100,000 employees within China, feeding information back to the Ministry, which is overseen by the CCP, the Chinese Communist Party.

The Ministry of State Security, or MSS, as early as the 1980s had been spying on foreign countries — America in particular, while most American citizens were going about their daily business totally unaware of the infiltration. Things began to accelerate in 2010 when a US Army intelligence officer made available 251,257 confidential US diplomatic cables, which came to be known as the WikiLeaks affair. The American Embassy in Beijing [among others] had been sending information back "to the State Department, National Security Council and CIA."





Among politicians who were drawn into China's welcoming net was the Australian prime minister 1983-1991 Bob Hawke, who said 'We were on the same wavelength.' Since Gough Whitlam had made the first visit by an Australian prime minister in 1973, Australia had looked upon China cordially, with enterprising trade relations taking place. But Joske writes — referring to other world leaders — *Spies and Lies* p143, "Whether they meant it or not, these global luminaries were lending their reputations to a misguided hope that the Chinese Communist Party would follow the path that Zheng [organiser of the China Reform Forum] described. . . . Certainly almost none were aware that the theory of China's 'peaceful rise' wasn't just a propaganda narrative but a deliberate influence campaign by the Party's covert agents, some of whom were sitting right beside them."

After the Tiananmen Square massacre, together with other leaders of the free world, Australia's prime minister Bob Hawke was enveloped with tears. In Canberra's Parliament House he spoke "Thousands have been killed and injured, victims of a leadership that seems determined to hang onto the reins of power at any cost — an awful human cost." But several years later he re-visited China and met with numerous leaders. His successor, Paul Keating did the same after coming into office, and this became, as Joske writes, a "special bromance between Chinese and Australian leaders." Back on track!

But the China in the Australian leaders' eyes *Lies and Spies* p145 "were two very different things. There's no more striking demonstration of this than the untold details of how Hawke's return to Beijing was arranged. Though the invitation came down through the consulate-general, it was an 'unusual' research society called the China Institute of Strategy and Management (CISM) that officially hosted Hawke. . . . Hawke almost certainly didn't recognise that his well-connected friends at CISM were in fact deeply involved with the intelligence community . . . China's post Tiananmen embrace of world leaders such as Hawke was a professional influence operation."

Of recent years, China has stepped up its spying processes into almost every Western country and numerous Eastern countries, using visiting academics — particularly in Australia post 2000 — university and college students who report back to Beijing, and civil cultural organisations that are infiltrated with — no other name for it — spies; clever people who aptly disguise their true allegiance. An allegiance that is not in Australia's interests.

Alex Joske spent his teenage years in China, and is now an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. He has helped governments to become aware of China's secret policies. His bibliography as shown below, is intensive in both English and Mandarin.



The seal of The Ministry of State Security

208 NOTES TO PAGES 173-178

www.justice.gov/opa/press-releases/1068176/download, Office of Public Affairs, Farmer State Department employee sentenced for conspiring with Chinese agents, US Department of Justice, 9 July 2019, www.justice.gov/opa/press-releases/state-department-employee-sentenced-conspiring-chinese-agents, Nate Thayer, How the Chinese recruit American journalists as spies, Nate Thayer (blog), 1 July 2017, web.archive.org/web/20170701131210/http://www.nate-thayer.com/how-the-chinese-recruit-american-journalists-as-spies/, interview with an American scholar.

7 Ji Su (季素楠) worked in what is now known as the Shanghai Aerospace Control Technology Research Institute (上海航天控制技术研究所) or the 802d Research Institute of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation's 8th Academy. See Shanghai Space Park Group Limited, HIKEN, 1 August 2018, web.archive.org/web/20210824112735/http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:3u5OY6GnTJlJ:www.hikensnews.com/linkedto/802dresearch/2018/0802/17N20180802038_C.pdf&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clkg&gl=su; 季素楠:专访上海航天控制技术研究所所长, 兵器知识, vol. 2, 2016, archive.ph/QJpW.

8 CCP espionage cases exposed by Taiwan often reveal some of these administrative cover organisations. Mark Stokes & Russell Hsiao, *The People's Liberation Army General Political Department: Political warfare with Chinese characteristics*, Project 2049 Institute, Arlington, VA, 14 October 2013, p. 60, fn. 125, project2049.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/P2049_Stokes_Hsiao_PLA_General_Political_Department_Liaison_101413.pdf.

9 '刘国栋:李金章余范版', 温州新闻网, 9 July 2019, web.archive.org/web/20210824123533/http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:3A_L7uM7XO5Yk:63Achivis.6fwa.com/2Fayse/a/62F261992F07962F07962F105176630.shtml&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clkg&gl=su.

10 The official study specifically refers to 'do-to-be-used companies' (两化企业) of the Fourth Office. As this terminology is normally reserved for covert state security or public security companies, I have translated it as 'cover companies'. 周时前 (ed.), 《上海发展研究: 国有资产理论》, 上海远东出版社, December 1995, p. 80.

11 An online biography of Peng Shujun (冯淑君) states that he worked in the Fourth Office from 1990 to 2006 and also served as deputy secretary-general of the Shanghai International Culture Association (上海市对外文化交流协会), CICC's Shanghai Chinese counterpart organisation. '冯淑君', 上海市社会科学界联合会, no date, archive.ph/mGrPH.

12 Shanghai Guangjian, a deregistered company owned by the Fourth Office, was registered to the Aoting Villa (20 or 46 Aoting Road). '上海广建(集团)控股有限公司', 爱企查, no date, archive.ph/4946L. The villa was owned by General Jiang Baoli (蒋百里), father-in-law of Chinese missile scientist Qian Xuesen (钱学森). '安亭路上历史建筑, 高参88的博客', 6 January 2017, archive.ph/cKc7Q; '国民政府委员蒋市长', 上海市地方志办公室, 10 July 2003, archive.ph/F0m.

13 上海民政局, '准予上海新世纪社会发属基金会基金会变更登记决定书', 上海市社会团体管理局, 26 November 2012, archive.today/hjKZ.

14 See records on 上海社会组织信息公开平台.

15 上海新世纪社会发属基金会, '上海市基金会年度工作报告书 2017', 上海社会组织信息公开平台, 26 March 2018.

16 Thank you to Nathan Ruser for helping estimate the building's floor space.

17 '上海浦东1号', 百度知识, archive.ph/D59le.

18 The bureau has several major office facilities across the city, but Baining Road appears to be the largest.

19 上海新世纪社会发属基金会, '上海市基金会年度检查报告书 2016', 上海社会组织信息公开平台, 3 March 2017.

20 The SSSB's Shanghai International Culture Association (上海对外文化交流协会) is also an organiser of the event. 曹素秀, '第二届国际文化青年创新创业训练营', 中国青年报, 23 July 2018, archive.ph/NgZFK; '上海新世纪社会发属基金会成功协办第四届国际文化青年创新创业训练营', 上海青年报, 24 January 2019, archive.vn/ag52.

21 While the charity's current head is retired officer Jiang Youmin (蒋佑民), the rest of its staff appear to be active SSSB employees, several of whom are relatively senior division-level (处级) officers.

22 Curiously, an unidentified Mr/Ms Li (李) was one of the largest donors to the Shanghai New Century Social Development Foundation in recent years, giving RMB8 million at once.

23 '海南108米南山海上观音工程建筑纪实', 海南日报 via Juxa, 24 April 2005, archive.ph/vrpbGD.

24 Yuan Wanchen (袁婉贞), a financial manager from the Shanghai Fourth Office, was concurrently the Nanshan project's chief financial officer. '上海交大: 创新与金融DBA课程 | 管理者的财务视野: 发现企业资本及其价值的管理——袁婉贞 导师, 活动行, 2016, www.haoxuegong.com/event/1330419630400.

25 上海新世纪社会发属基金会, '上海市基金会年度工作报告书 2017', 上海社会组织信息公开平台, 26 March 2018. On Xu Yuesheng (徐越胜) being the company's Party secretary, see '上海宁国山寺隆重举行"现代宗教寺院与传统文化技艺"专题研讨会', 上海宁国山寺, 19 April 2021, archive.mdu/CJGK6.

26 上海新世纪社会发属基金会, '上海市基金会年度检查报告书 2016', 上海社会组织信息公开平台, 3 March 2017. On Shanghai Tianhua's address, see www.mapbox.com, archive.mdu/318C3a. Shanghai Tianhua (上海天华信息发展公司) is owned by two other SSSB companies (also donors to the bureau's charity), Shanghai Kaizang Investment Management Co Ltd (上海开泽投资管理有限公司) and Shanghai Haosang International Shipping Co (上海华兴国际航运公司).

27 Peng Fumin (冯馥敏) was appointed to the SSSB Political Department role in 2002 and first headed its charity in 2012. '大事记 2002年8月', 《上海党史与党建》, October 2002, www.doc88.com/p-284435831556.html;

Spies and Lies
Large paperback by Alex Joske
Published by Hardie Grant Books 2022
Various \$AUD29.95-36.99



Motoring Memoirs

1896 Benz Velo (B1-01)



Produced from 1894, the Velo was capable of 20 kph. This vehicle was purchased by its current Australian owner, George Hetrel, at a London auction house, followed by a three-year total restoration from ground up. Much of the car is hand-painted.

More than 1,200 were sold between 1894 and 1901 — which probably makes the Velo the world's first production car. The engine is a single cylinder, open crank, put to a test in a reliability race from Paris to Rouen, claiming 5th place.

The race was organised by a Paris Newspaper, and the leading cars sported a Benz engine. It is believed that other world manufacturers followed the Benz design. •

