

# HERITAGE

LINKING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT— FOR THE FUTURE

The Quarterly  
Journal of the  
Australian Heritage  
Society

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## THE SHAME OF EUREKA

### METRICS!

Talk of a Senate Committee review.



# The Australian Heritage Society

## Brief History

The Australian Heritage Society was launched in Melbourne on September 18th 1971 at an Australian League of Rights Seminar. It was clear that Australia's heritage is under increasing attack from all sides; spiritual, cultural, political and constitutional. A permanent body was required to ensure that young Australians were not cut off from their true heritage and the Heritage Society assumed that role in a number of ways.

The Society has promoted a wide range of educational activities including lectures to schools. Over one million copies of three brochures have been distributed. They are "Keep Our Flag Flying" in support of retaining Australia's present flag; "Crown or Republic", the case against an Australian republic; "The Federal Constitution and Individual Freedom" discussing the essential basic freedoms enjoyed under our Constitution.

When Her Majesty the Queen visited Australia in 1973, The Heritage Society inserted a full-page loyal welcome in the Canberra and Sydney press. This move resulted in a flood of new support which paved way for further activities.

In order to provide Australians with an opportunity to have a direct say concerning their heritage, the Society inserted "voting" forms in the press throughout Australia. Over 35,000 forms were returned with 90% voting to retain the Monarchy, the present flag and National Anthem.

When the Australian political crisis developed late in 1975, the Heritage Society gave another lead by inserting press advertisements inviting Australians to use their constitutional right to petition the Queen's representative, Sir John Kerr, for a double-dissolution of the Commonwealth Parliament so that people could vote to resolve the crisis. This campaign had just started to gather momentum when the Governor-General made his historical decision on November 11th 1975.

The Heritage Society immediately lead a nation-wide campaign in defence of Sir John Kerr. Once again, press advertisements brought instant response from people of all political persuasions resulting in the distribution of well over one million "Defend Sir John Kerr" brochures.

It was about this time that the Heritage Society, due to expanding activity embarked upon a major publishing venture. The quarterly Journal "Heritage" was first published in June 1976. In its short life this journal has been increased in size and content on two occasions. Subscriptions continue to increase with each issue. Distinguished Australians contribute material on important heritage issues as well as historical features. This journal continues to be a vital link between the Heritage Society and its supporters.

The Queen's Australian visit early in 1977 saw even greater activity by the Heritage Society. Firstly, a special jubilee edition of "Heritage" was printed and it contained many avenues for Australians to express their loyalty, including car stickers and flags. Three editions of this popular issue had to be printed to meet the demand.

The most successful idea was the printing and distribution of thousands of "Loyalty Pledges" which loyal Australians were asked to sign. This idea was so popular that over 50,000 signatures poured into Heritage Society offices over a short period. The signed pledges were then despatched to the Governor-General for submission to the Queen.

Late in 1977 another publishing venture took place. A complete record of the Queen's Christmas messages and silver jubilee speech was produced in book form by the Heritage Society. Titled "A Queen Speaks to Her People" this publication was so well received throughout Australia that a second edition was required within less than three months. A permanent demand is expected for this historical publication.

The Australian Heritage Society welcomes people of all ages to join in its programme for the regeneration of the spirit of Australia. To value the great spiritual realities that we have come to know and respect through our heritage, the virtues of patriotism, of integrity and love of truth, the pursuit of goodness and beauty, an unselfish concern for other people — to maintain a love and loyalty for those values.

Young Australians have a very real challenge before them. The Australian Heritage Society, with your support can give them the necessary lead in building a better Australia.

"Our heritage today is the fragments gleaned from past ages; the heritage of tomorrow — good or bad — will be determined by our actions today."

SIR RAPHAEL CILENTO  
First Patron of The Australian Heritage Society

### PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

BOX 16, INGLEWOOD, W.A. 6052

### STATE ADDRESSES

BOX 10521, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3001

BOX 179, PLYMPTON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5038

BOX 2957, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES 2001

BOX 172, CHERMSIDE, QUEENSLAND 4032

## Politics Behind Eureka

Left-wing and socialist advocates of an Australian republic must be wildly rejoicing at the increasing prominence being given to the Eureka riot of 1854.

Even the Liberal Fraser government is allowing taxpayers' funds to perpetuate Eureka Stockade as a type of national "Independence Day". Most shameful of the government's support was the production of a specially printed Eureka anniversary envelope. The Eureka flag is displayed in full on the envelope, which, in itself, is probably quite harmless. However, the Eureka flag was blotting out half of Britain's Union Jack. In other words, the Eureka flag was given prominence over the Jack.

Many would argue that it doesn't really matter and the use of the flags in the aforesaid manner was not intentional. Such an argument doesn't absolve Australia. Post from sub-jagating the Union Jack in favour of the rebellious Eureka flag. Was the intention of the designer to convey the message of a Eureka victory of government forces serving under the British flag?

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Eureka Stockade is one thing, but turning the event into a blatantly political and ideological exercise to serve the interests of a political school of thought should be resisted by all loyal Australians.

## Not Measuring Up

As pointed out in following pages, the Australian Heritage Society makes no apologies for its opposition to a compulsory metric change-over in Australia.

Dozens of letters have poured into this office and we are heartened by the support and encouragement for our work on the metric question.

Typical of the many letters received is the following from a reader in Queensland.

*May I congratulate you on your suggested Metrics letter on page 2 of the last issue. I agree wholeheartedly. I generally do the family shopping and I can honestly say that I have NEVER asked for kilograms or grams of anything but ALWAYS pounds or ounces. When my wife and I are on a long run in the car we discuss the dis-*

*tances in miles NOT kilometres. There is absolutely NO reason for the metric nonsense. Ninety percent of people hate it. It's introduction cost the country hundreds of thousands of dollars, thus increasing inflation.*

Finally, we are proud to announce that subscriptions to "Heritage" are mounting in record numbers. From correspondence to hand we know that our readers are encouraging others to subscribe. A high proportion of new readers are school students, a most encouraging fact in these times.

### YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO "HERITAGE" WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

*The Editor invites readers to submit their views on any topic related to Australia's heritage. Letters to the editor are an ideal form of expression but in particular we seek longer, researched articles which explore any one of Australia's short and relatively unknown history.*

*We also invite writers to contribute material on any of the following subjects:*

**BUILDING THE FAMILY HOME** - from past to present.

**AUSTRALIA AT WAR** - personal glimpses.

**HUMOROUS CHARACTERS I'VE MET.**

**GREAT AUSTRALIANS** - Another side of their story

**UNEMPLOYMENT** - Is this modern phenomena a curse or blessing in disguise?

*A nation which forgets or ignores its past has a doubtful future. The Australian Heritage Society is pledged to preserving all aspects of our nation's history. Without your participation, many of the human, emotional and humorous aspects of Australia's early life may be lost forever.*

*Please direct contributions or enquiries to:*

The Editor,

"HERITAGE",

Box 16,

INGLEWOOD, W.A. 6052.

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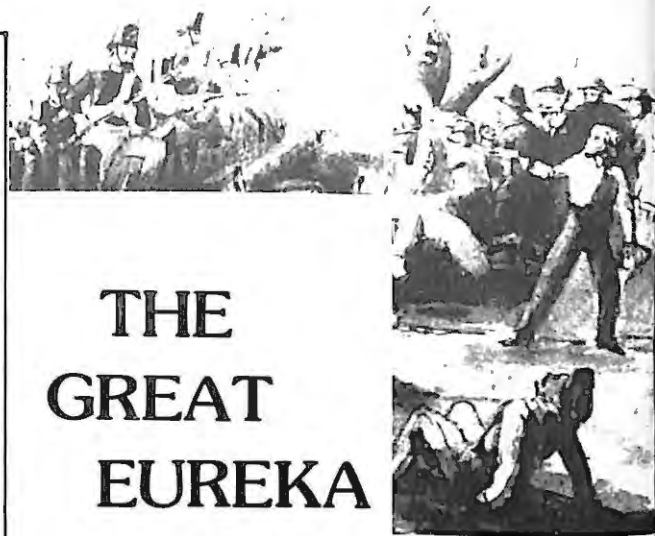
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American writer Mark Twain called it the finest thing in Australian history.

The late Dr. H.V. Evatt claimed Eureka was of crucial importance in the making of Australian democracy.

Former Labor politician Mr. Al Grassby has called for the Eureka Stockade incident to be commemorated by a national public holiday.

Eureka Stockade has been brought back to life by both leftist and Labor groups. Was Eureka a fight for freedom and democracy or just an overstated miners' riot?



## THE GREAT EUREKA RIOT

If ever an event in Australia's history has been exploited and corrupted it must surely be the tragic miners' uprising at Ballarat on December 3rd, 1854. This alleged strike for liberty was over in a few short minutes but the name of Eureka Stockade has been eulogised ever since as some type of turning point in Australia's "struggle for democracy".

The reason for this is clear when you examine who is shouting "Eureka" and waving the blue and white flag about. The Communist Party of Australia has latched on to Eureka as a symbol of its struggle. In fact they issued a car sticker featuring the flag and the wording "Fight for Australian Independence." and "fight" is what they mean. Communists don't believe in our parliamentary system, especially the Monarchy. They make no secret of their intentions to smash "the system" and place Australia in the hands of a Communist government. An Australian Socialist Republic. All this sounds like pretty scary stuff, but after all, what do the initials U.S.S.R. stand for?

Who else sees Eureka Stockade as a means to an end? Although he would detest being mentioned alongside communism, another advocate of an Australian republic is former Labor member Mr. Al Grassby. Hiding safely behind his Community Relations desk, Mr. Grassby has never missed an opportunity to praise Eureka Stockade. A couple of years ago he referred to this scuffle as "the cradle of Australian democracy". So it's no surprise that on the anniversary of Eureka in 1979 our socialist/republic spokesman called for the Eureka Stockade to be commemorated by a national holiday. Mr. Grassby said that the inspiration for community relations lay in the famous battle because it was the first time all Aus-

tralian of all backgrounds had come together in a common cause under an Australian flag. He continued "Australia's finest national symbol was the struggle at Eureka and all it meant for subsequent generations."

### INSULT

What a slap in the face for Australia! 88,000 Australians, consisting of more nationalities than Eureka, died in two world wars. What more fitting common cause could they have died for? It is shameful to think that Mr. Grassby places the Eureka incident ahead of Australia's role in two world wars. The spirit of Anzac means far more to young Australians than a miners' revolt which contributed nothing to democracy and is certainly no example for attaining democracy.

No-one could deny that the Ballarat miners had plenty to grumble about. In 1851 the diggers, as they were known, had to pay to the government a monthly licence fee of thirty shillings. That was more than a fair share of a digger's income and if he was unlucky enough to have a bad month of digging, he still had to pay up! The miners' licence was nothing more than a direct tax, much the same as a driver's licence fee is a means of extracting more money from you to boost



the government's income. In other words, the Ballarat miners were involved in a protest against what they saw as an unjust tax. Not only the tax itself but the often cold-blooded manner in which it was collected. The "bloodhounds" as the police were called did often employ coarse and brutal means to enforce the tax laws. If a digger had left his licence in his tent a fine of up to five Pounds was immediately imposed. Those bullyish tax collectors worked both day and night, stalking their victims until they caught them by surprise.

The diggers soon came to regard the government and its taxing agents (the police) as an entrenched tyranny. All this sounds so familiar when you think about our present taxation system and the methods used to extract the taxes from us.

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### WAS EUREKA REALLY THE CRADLE OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY?

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So Mr. Grassby's claim that Eureka was the "cradle of Australian democracy" must be examined very closely. Democracy can be defined thus; "A form of government in which sovereign power resides in the people as a whole and is exercised either directly by them or by their elected representatives." Such was not the case at Eureka. A group of diggers decided that they should oppose the tax laws with a literal fight. Not a democratic "fight" using the parliamentary process but an armed struggle.

Once again it must be emphasised that the miners had some genuine grievances as did a great many people in those early pioneering days. Government was sometimes harsh to the extreme and there can be no justification for the many twisted interpretations of the law. And exactly the same things are happening today although governments avoid the "head-on" clashes of yesteryear and prefer to govern by secrecy and stealth.

It was clear during the lead-up to the Eureka incident that the diggers knew an armed clash was to take place. Men were arming themselves and undergoing military training within a specially erected stockade. Peter Lalor, the miners' leader described the stockade as a piece of ground where the men could muster together and be drilled. Guns and military training hardly go hand in hand with true democracy. Whether the police who attacked the stockade were right or wrong, there is a lesson for all. True progress is not the result of one faction taking up arms against another. If it was, then socialist republics all over the

world should be shining examples of democracy in action. Of course, the opposite is the case because everyone of those socialist "democracies" was conceived by the gun, born of the gun and demands its allegiance through the gun.

The Eureka field at Ballarat contained a high proportion of Irishmen who had come from a land which suffers social and political upheavals to this very day. It may well be that the seeds of discontent from Ireland were transported to Australia in those early days. In fact at last year's Eureka anniversary march in Ballarat the "Australian Irish Republican Movement" was featured. In northern Ireland today a minority group calling themselves the Irish Republican Army have chosen to use bloody violence in their "struggle for independence" against the government of the day. It comes as no surprise to learn that the I.R.A. receives generous assistance from a fellow socialist republic in the U.S.S.R.

So now it is clear why communist/socialist and republican groups are quick to exploit the clash at Eureka. They see it as a symbol of struggle against government in favour of an "independent" Australian republic.

You will never hear any of these groups involved in a campaign against the high taxation of today. Individual taxes now are probably higher than the diggers were paying in the gold rush days. But in each of their own ways they look upon the violence of Eureka as a starting point for their own objectives. The communists glory in the "armed revolution to smash the system" aspect of Eureka. Socialists applaud the fact that the miners' confrontation of 1854 led to a fierce political struggle in which sweeping changes were made. They apologise for the death and bloodshed by pointing out "But look at all the good that came out of Eureka!"

And finally there are those who wave the Eureka flag as a symbol of republicanism. They usually come from both the communist and socialist camp. Many Australians who want to see a republic in Australia are oblivious to the fact that their support for a republic is also support for these anti-democratic groups.

Far from being the birth place of Australian democracy the Eureka incident is a warning to all Australians. Real democracy cannot be achieved through armed violence and those who praise the death of 22 miners in a bloody confrontation are doing the word democracy an insulting dis-service.

Eureka is not a vital part of Australia's essential Heritage. It is only a part of our history; and not a proud part at that.

It came as no surprise last November that socialist leader Mr. Bob Hawke used the ABC's Boyer Lectures to spell out his deepest philosophical beliefs. Before attempting to enter the centre stage of showbiz politics, Mr. Hawke has kindly displayed his socialist spots, The Monarchy is sure to come under some type of attack from Mr. Hawke, but, being a cunning politician, he will wait for the right moment when he is firmly entrenched in Canberra. He is wise enough to know that the Crown has many strong supporters in the Labor camp and throughout the working class he claims to represent.



# A HAWK HOVERS OVER THE STATES



In Mr. Hawke's first lecture he claimed that Australia would be better served if State Governments were abolished and more power given to the Commonwealth. That type of thinking only confirms Mr. Hawke's ambitions in relation to the states. His greatest opponents to abolishing the states are no doubt Western Australian's Sir Charles Court and Queensland's Joh Bjelke-Petersen. But Mr. Hawke is in no great hurry. He can afford to sit back and wait until his political opponents drift from the political stage. Unfortunately, the new brand of "conservative" leaders will not be strong advocates of state independence. In fact, we will probably see a complete about-turn on this subject with a liberal leading the battle against the states. Stranger things have happened in politics!

Mr. Hawke hopes that Australia will eventually be run by one single government headed by a president. (Mr. Hawke perhaps?) In typical socialist strategy he wants it all to come about as the result of some type of national crisis. To deal with this alleged crisis, Mr. Hawke wants the all-powerful government to have "unquestioned powers to match the dimension of these elements if it was to have any chance of dealing with them." Here Mr. Hawke is referring to what he called the elements of crisis which were unemployment, high inflation, depressed economic activity and technological changes.

## BARRIER TO ONE GOVERNMENT

Like all aspiring socialists, Mr. Hawke views our Constitution as a major stumbling block in his programme to socialise

Australia. We can therefore reasonably expect an endless barrage of criticism when Mr. Hawke steps into politics once and for all. It may well be that our present Governor-General will feature more prominently as attacks on the Constitution increase. Regrettably however, Sir Zelman will not be taking sides with the Constitution for he believes it has little to do with the running of modern-day government. In 1969 when Sir Zelman was Vice Chancellor of the New England University he spelt out his views; "Because of its repeated failures at referenda, the days when governments tried to change the Constitution were gone. Formal amendment of the Constitution is a dead duck."

"In other words, no one is really interested in Constitutional amendments, in

the formal sense. Nobody really believes any longer that it's a goer. You have to accept the document and seek to rely on all sorts of manipulations within its framework. . ."

"Australia would have to rely on the High Court for its Constitutional changes.

Perhaps the Governor-General's views explain why such an enthusiastic socialist politician as the then Lionel Murphy was eager to accept an appointment to the High Court of Australia from which he can exert tremendous influence.

#### APPOINTING FEDERAL MEMBERS

In Mr. Hawke's second Boyer lecture on ABC radio he showed complete lack of faith in the parliamentary system when he suggested that one in four Federal Ministers be appointed from outside Parliament as a way of improving parliament. Mr. Hawke said that government could also be improved by expanding the Senate system of parliamentary standing committees to the House of Representatives.

Once again the socialist viewpoint shows through. More power to Canberra is the goal. Aren't things in Canberra bad en-

ough now when we have government by a handful of ministers and their permanently entrenched bureaucracy? With Mr. Hawke's proposal the government-appointed ministers, making up 25% of the total, would have unbridled power to implement all sorts of weird and devious legislation without having to answer directly to the electorate. The catch cry for the supporters of Mr. Hawke's proposals could almost be, "Big Brother Government knows that YOU want, what is best for you and best for Australia. Leave government to us. We will appoint the right people to the right places. And if you aren't happy with our performance then you can democratically vote us out with the new voting system which we will devise!"

Australians everywhere should be constantly alert for these sugar coated ideas which are, in effect, only the tip of the iceberg. As he climbs the political ladder in future years Mr. Hawke will be "selling" many more of these package deals which promise better government without voter participation and without direct taxpayer control.

#### COMMITTEES

Government-by-Committee has few critics among those who detest the present

parliamentary system with all of its checks and balances on the accumulation of power. Reviewing legislation by committee, rather than debate is a highly undemocratic practice. Success or failure of a particular piece of legislation is at the mercy of the person or group who controls the committee. Generally, the findings and advice of committees are being adopted almost without question.

It was refreshing to hear a senior Government Minister early in November lashing out at the committee system. Defence Minister, Mr. Killen warned that the committee system would destroy parliament. There was, according to the Minister, a low attendance of members during a censure motion the previous week because backbenchers had to attend committee hearings. He said it was time to reassert the authority of the House. People did not realise the high degree of danger of mixing the Westminster system with the American congressional system which the use of committees promoted.

The Heritage Society is in complete agreement with Mr. Killen and suggests that readers who are concerned with the foregoing information should send a letter to their Member of Parliament immediately.

## Call for revival of Legislative Council in Queensland

Newsmakers were very quick to ignore a call for the revival of Queensland's Legislative Council by Mr. Harry Gordon last December. Mr. Gordon is the Editor-in-Chief of Queensland Newspapers.

He said it was not in the interests of the democratic process that legislation could be passed and become law without any parliamentary pause after the introduction of a Bill. Power has passed in to the hands of a few people.

Mr. Gordon was critical of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's leadership and said that the Premier is not noted for his willingness to compromise. "The traditions and conventions of Westminster are often ignored in Queensland, the standard of debate is poor, Bills are sometimes debated without proper preparation and question time doesn't really contribute much."

Mr. Gordon was addressing the annual conference of the Australian Association for Tertiary Education in Journalism at Queensland University. He told the conference that in the Queensland situation "the press had a special responsibility to be watchful, to scrutinise, to challenge."

We must agree with Mr. Gordon about reviving the Legislative Council. Power is always safest when it is divided into many hands. In 1922 the then Labour government of Queensland abolished the Council because it had frequently disagreed with the decisions of the Legislative Assembly.

It seems the Labor Party hasn't changed its spots! The scrapping of all State governments and the dismantling of our system of a Constitutional Monarchy is high on their list of priorities.

As for the poor performance of proceedings in Parliament, things aren't much better in the states with both an Upper and Lower House, nor in Canberra.

If an informed electorate demanded better representation and kept a watchful eye on their representatives, then the situation would improve. Relying on the Press to do the scrutinising, as Mr. Gordon suggested, is only "passing the buck". The big media of today are totally unreliable when it comes to reporting on political matters. There is just as much corruption in newspaper circles as there is in politics.

No, the ordinary citizen must accept the responsibility for the performance of his or her member. Queenslanders should press for the re-instatement of the Legislative Council as a step toward a more democratic and responsible government.



**Arthur A. Chresby**

## **YOUR WILL!**

# **THE REAL POWER BEHIND A DEMOCRACY**

Arthur A. Chresby of Queensland is a research analyst in Constitutional Law and former Federal Member for Griffin in The House of Representatives. In 1977 Mr. Chresby was guest speaker at a Heritage Society Commemorative Breakfast for the Silver Jubilee of our gracious Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II. In that address Mr. Chresby presented a detailed explanation on the correct relationship of the Queen with her People. In one statement Mr. Chresby pointed out that "Her Majesty is responsible directly to the People, not to Houses of Parliament."

Last year, Mr. Chresby published a most informative booklet on the true functions of the Queen, Governor-General, State Governors, Parliament, Parliamentarians and the People. All this might sound like highly technical and heavy reading when in fact it is written for the beginner. This book is highly recommended as a basic introduction to the correct functioning of a democracy under a Constitutional Monarchy. A tremendous book for those readers who require "ammunition" against proponents of an Australian republic.

Mr. Chresby's booklet is aptly titled "YOUR WILL BE DONE". The introduction asks the reader to bear in mind the following legally arguable fact;

In the final analysis it is the Constitutions and Laws of the Commonwealth and States and the High Court interpretations of such, that determines what we can or cannot do in our daily lives. It is, therefore, to those Constitutions, Laws, and Court interpretations that we must continuously look for guidance and succour in our living, work and play AND NOT TO THE DISSEMBLING PARTY POLITICIANS.

Chapters 4 and 5 will be of particular interest to "HERITAGE" readers. Once they have absorbed the message contained in these chapters, no doubt the purchase of Arthur Chresby's excellent publication will surely follow.

(See next page)



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## BOOK REVIEW

# “YOUR WILL BE DONE”

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Most of us use our words loosely, sometimes particularly so. Thus, we drift into a habit of using words and phrases without stopping to think what they really mean and convey.

Take the word “Parliament”...We all say that “Parliament is meeting” or “sitting”, or that “So and so is going to Parliament”. At first sight it may seem a mere splitting of hairs to state that, except when both Houses of the parliament (Queensland has but one House) and the Queen, or Governor-General of State Governor, is present together, it is a physical and legal impossibility for a Parliament to meet.

This is because, in Constitutional law, Parliament both legally and physically consists of the Queen - or Her Representative, i.e. the Governor-General in the Commonwealth and State Governor in a State - and both Houses of the Parliament, in Queensland ONE House of Parliament.

Thus, Parliament, as such, does NOT debate anything. **Parliament is solely and simply a law-making machine, and nothing else.** The pivot of that machine is the institution of the Monarchy, or in Australia in the Monarch's absence the Governor-General in the Commonwealth and State Governors in the States. This will be explained further in the next Chapter.

It is common practice, when commenting on party political control over the operation of the parliamentary mechanism, to refer to the “Westminster System”. Indeed, in the inter-party confrontations and power struggles, the phrase “the

Westminster System” is hurled, with explosive expletives, that the other side is destroying that “democratic System”.

Critical analysis reveals that that phrase has no legal relationship whatever to strict Constitutional law, the law that actually binds each and every one of us in our daily lives. (Here the Reader is asked to refer back to the third last paragraph of the “Introduction” to this Book.)

It is extremely doubtful if the users of the phrase “the Westminster System”, themselves, have any clear understanding of its true meaning. Simply put it means the practices and usages of the various British political parties in controlling and using, the legal machinery of the British Parliament in the interests, and for the sole purposes, of party political ideologies and power struggles.

The phrase, “the Westminster System” has nothing to do with the legal law of the Constitutions of the Commonwealth and six States of Australia. It is only sacrosanct to Australian politicians, and parties where it can be publicly used to suit their propaganda purposes. Its use is completely hypocritical and must be exposed for the absolute legal falsehood that it is.

To operate Parliament we have four (4) distinct and separate areas of legal responsibility (in Queensland only three because it has only one House of Parliament):-

- (1) The electors, who have a duty and obligation as set out in Chapter 2.
- (2) The so-called, and mistaken-

ly-called, Lower House, i.e., the House of Representatives in the Commonwealth, the Legislative Assembly in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the House of Assembly in Tasmania.

- (3) The mistakenly-called Upper House, i.e., the Senate, and the Legislative Council in each State, excepting Queensland.
- (4) The Queen, or Her Representative, as above mentioned.

What is the function and duty of each of these four areas of Constitutional and legal responsibility?-

- (a) As pointed out in Chapter 2, the electors have a specified legal duty and a lawful obligation.

The legal duty is to vote at election time. The lawful obligation is to keep your State and Federal Members and your 10 State Senators **fully informed, at all times, about what is your WILL.**

It has always been a fundamental principle of British and Australian law that, within the limits of statute and -- where applicable -- common law, YOU, and YOU ALONE, are solely responsible for the preservation of what you believe to be your lawful inherent freedoms and privileges; that if you are too lazy and indifferent to

exercise the lawful avenues open to you to protect and retain those freedoms and privileges — provided always that you demonstrate your responsibilities with respect to those freedoms and privileges — then you have nobody but yourself to blame for your laziness and indifference.



of the Members of each House. Where it does happen, it does so only because no party is in control of both Houses and, as practical experience demonstrates, in the final analysis opposing parties are primarily concerned in trying to destroy each other.)

(b) **THE SO-CALLED "LOWER HOUSE"**

IF the Members of the, so-called, Lower House strictly carry out their judicially defined function and duty, then that House is a place where the WILL of the people is given effect to in the form of "A Bill For An Act" to do so and so, and in the formulation of that Bill the Members of that House are constantly before the "bar of public conviction", not mere opinion.

(c) **THE HOUSES OF SECOND THOUGHTS**

IF the Members of the, so-called, Upper House strictly carry out their judicially defined function and duty, then that House performed its legal responsibility of also being a House of second thoughts; of being a counter-check to ensure that the clearly expressed written WILL of the electors is correctly translated into legislation.

In strict constitutional law both Houses act, or would act, if it were not for party interference, as a constant check upon each other as a safe-guard against the misuse of the laid down Constitutional powers of each House.

(Of course, this rarely happens because of the constant party political control exerted over the voice and votes

(d) **THE QUEEN**

If the Australian People only knew it, the Queen is the final legal protector of the whole of the people, without regard to party, race, colour or creed; a final check against the peculiarities of the operation of party politics in the control over the machinery of Parliament, and of the voices and votes of politicians.

No Bill for an Act can become law without the Royal Assent being given; an assent that can be withdrawn within twelve months of its being given. This final Royal check enables the people, if they only knew it, to determine whether or not they wanted the Act and to ask the Queen to withdraw the Royal Assent if they did not, or to request that the legislation be amended, according to their WILL.

Even after 12 months, for there is no actual constitutional time limit, the electors have the legal power to ask Her Majesty to re-submit any Act of Parliament for amendment or repeal according to their WILL. It is also the legal privilege of the people to ask the Queen to have any legislation, that the People WILL, brought down and passed in both Houses of the Parliament.

**PUT SIMPLY:**

Whatever it is physically possible to do, and the people want, then the Queen has the final legal power to see that they get it, no matter how politicians may protest. The sole and only legal limit to the power and authority of the Queen is the unknowable extent of what Her people, at any time of their choosing, may directly request of Her.

This would also explain the reason for the campaign to replace the monarchy with an Australian republic. Forgetting their judicially defined function and duty, many politicians, as well as political parties and others, like to believe that their party shall have the final determination of political power and what the people shall have.

**TO SUM UP THIS CHAPTER**

Parliament is only a machine to make laws in accordance with the written WILL of the people on the subject matter of the law.

The Houses of Parliament are both complementary to, as well as being a check on, each other in their legal functioning.

The Queen is the final check and will, at all times, give assent to the clearly expressed written WILL of the people, irrespective of parties and politicians.

The function of the electors, apart from voting, is constantly and clearly to inform their Parliamentarians of their WILL on any subject or issue.

If the Houses of Parliament disagreed the written WILL of the people on any matter, then the people have the legal power, and responsibility, to directly inform the Queen that THAT legislation is NOT in accordance with their

written WILL, and request Her to have it annulled or amended accordingly.

With respect to the so-called Lower House of Parliament it is the legal privilege of the people to directly ask the Queen, through Her Vice Regal Representative concerned, to dissolve that House so that they, the people, may proceed to the election of a fresh set of Parliamentarians.

Over the last few years, as referred to in previous Chapters, there has surfaced the clear lines of what used to be a more subtle underground campaign to mislead the Australian People in accepting the concept that a republic is far superior in every way for Australia; that the monarchy is an out-dated medieval idea, having no logical place in modern thinking, whatever that may mean, no real relationship with this nation, and no real power or authority in our Parliamentary system.

**YET NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!** As stated in Chapter 4-

Whatever it is physically possible to do, and the people want, the Queen has the final legal power to see that they get it, no matter how politicians may protest.

The sole and only legal limit to the power and authority of the Queen is the **unknown extent of what Her people, at any time of their choosing, may directly request of Her.**

Put even more simply: the only true Constitutional and legal reason for the existence, and the only true legal purpose, of the Parliament, the institution of the Monarchy, and the offices of the Governor-General and State Governors:—

**Is to give the people what the people ask for. Not what others think the people ought to have.**

**If the Australian people are too lazy and indifferent to ask for what they want,** then they can blame only themselves if politicians and political parties impose their own ideologies on them.

It is legally unchallengeable that the party system, with its direct and indirect powers of manipulating politicians and people, has quite illegally striven to drive a wedge between the people and the final source of all their Constitutional and legal powers, i.e. the institution of the Monarchy, as a **prelude to transferring the unlimited power of that Monarchy into the hands of the controllers and manipulators of political parties,** including the final party political control over the Armed Forces of the nation; a control which, at present, is legally vested in the Queen to ensure that, **where directly expressed to Her,** the WILL of the people shall at all times prevail.

In Chapter 3 it was stressed that Ministers of the Crown are not, and never legally can be, the "Government" of the State or Commonwealth; that the Government was legally non-elective, and that an expansion of that statement would be given in this Chapter.

Both the written Constitution of the Commonwealth and the so-called unwritten Constitutions of the six Australian States vest the "government" exclusively in the institution of the Monarchy, to be legally exercisable — in almost every case — by the Governor-General in the Commonwealth and the State Governors in the States.

Thus, constitutionally and legally, the Government CANNOT BE ELECTED for it remains permanently embodied in the institution of the Monarchy. It can "govern" only according to the direct or indirect expressed WILL of the people, for that is its legal role as the protector of the people.

The legal WILL of the people can only be expressed in two ways: indi-

rectly through elected Parliamentarians by "MY WILL" letters or directly through the Queen's Vice Regal Representatives likewise. There is no other legal way that that WILL can be expressed. Electing a candidate to Parliament does NOT express it. All that an election does is to put a person into a House of Parliament whom the electors believe will faithfully carry-out the written WILL of the people as and when so expressed.

Over the years the party system has cleverly hidden the fact that the people have the legal freedom at all times to express their WILL direct to the Queen, no matter what politicians and others may try to claim.

**The Queen is the permanent "government" with a perpetual "mandate" to govern according to the clearly expressed WILL of the people.** It is obvious, then, that no political party can lawfully occupy the Constitutional seat reserved in perpetuity for the Monarchy, no matter what political scientists, text-book writers, academics, politicians, political parties and other theorists may claim.

This writer codified the powers of the Monarchy back in 1941 in the following sentence, and it still stands to be challenged before the High Court, if legal minds feel competent to do so:— **"THE POWER, PEROGATIVES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE MONARCHY, THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND STATE GOVERNORS, ARE THE BRAKES WHICH THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE CAN APPLY AT ANY HOUR (without having to wait for any general election) TO BRING MINISTERS AND POLITICIANS TO A COMPLETE AND SUDDEN STOP, SO AS TO RECEIVE FROM THEM, THE ELECTORS, EITHER FRESH INSTRUCTION, REPRIMAND, OR DISMISSAL FROM SERVICE."**

"Your Will Be Done" is obtainable from The Australian Heritage Society, Box 16, Inglewood W.A. 6052. Please use the enclosed order form. Price \$3.00 posted or 5 copies for \$7.75.



# OUR METRIC STAND NO APOLOGIES!

Since our last edition (No.15) correspondence has been running 2 to 1 on the controversial subject of Australia's metrication programme. Once again our view has been confirmed, that a vast majority of Australians are not in favour of the Commonwealth Government's "metric or else" stance.

Several "heritage" subscribers have expressed their disappointment at the Heritage Society's opposition to metrication. However, we make absolutely no apologies for maintaining this position. If democracy still means anything (and democracy is an integral part of our heritage) then democracy must prevail. PEOPLE MUST BE HEARD! The question of which system of measurement is better is relatively unimportant as explained in a special metric article on page 11.

The government has failed to bring the metric debate into the open. The first requirement is that Australians be given a proper say on what THEY want. Secondly, the advantages and disadvantages of BOTH systems must be brought to light.

The Australian Anti-Metric Association led by Mr. Robert Parry has compiled mountains of information on what is often described as the metric hoax. We recommend that readers write to the AAMA and obtain some of its literature. The address is 50 Cardigan Street, Carlton, Victoria 3073.

In August 1978 (No.9 "Heritage") The Australian Heritage Society also entered the metric battle with two popular articles, "Metrication and Cultural Sabotage" and "Computers Shun Decimals". Supplies of that edition sold out quickly as British Canadian and New Zealand readers sought copies to use in their own fight against metrication in their own countries.

In order to be fair and just to those readers who support metrication we reproduce in full what was judged the best letter in its favour.

We recommend Bob Boase's article on page 11 as a partial reply to the following:

Dear Sir,

I am greatly surprised that a publication such as the Heritage Journal which while linking the past with the present for the future should hold such bigotted views on the use of the metric system.

Surely one must acknowledge that everything done in the past was not the best or the most noble when compared with today's standards. However, it must be remembered that today's standards have been achieved through a series of evolutions whereby that which was adequate for the time has been improved by necessity and the less useful subsequently discarded. The latest in the series is the metric system using the base 10, who knows the future

systems may be based on the binary system of base 2 like the present calculators and computers.

Your editorial hits it on the head when it says "The imperial system of weights and measures has evolved over a long period of time". "Evolved" is the operative word, it was not designed as an entity and will not stand the scrutiny of logic — whereas the metric system has been designed and is logical.

My education was received in the days of the British Empire when the imperial standard was taught in schools. Then there were 4 farthings to a penny, 12 pennies to a shilling, and 20 shillings to a pound. The simple task of adding up each column and then dividing by the appropriate figure of 4, 12, or 20 to advance the sum into the next column. Only in the pounds column did it become pure addition. Similar difficulties were encountered in subtraction, whereas multiplication and division were supreme examples of great difficulty.

Fractions were another source of difficulty involving lowest common denominators and highest common multiples and there were other seemingly complicated devices of adult minds to make life difficult for young minds. The system of weights and measures, and areas and volumes was no easier. Consider the "Capacity" table of 4 gills = 1 pint, 2 pints = 1 quart, 4 quarts = 1 gallon, 2 gallons = 1 peck, 4 pecks = 1 bushel and 8 bushels = 1 quarter. Now thankfully all we have to deal with is one basic unit called the litre. Mind you the quarter already mentioned is not the same quarter as used in the avoirdupois weight system derived from 16 drams = 1 oz, 16 ozs = 1 lb, 14lbs = 1 stone, 2 stone = 1 quarter. How confusing it was to have two words having different values.

The tremendous advantages of the decimal metric system soon becomes apparent. To sum a column of figures means purely to add up each column in turn and proceed to the next with no intermediate divisions to get it into the right units — they are all in the same unit. The problems involved with subtraction, multiplication and division also melted away. The terrible problems of practice where one was asked the cost of 4lbs 13oz of potatoes at 3½d. per lb became quite easy under the decimal and metric system. For which I am sure my children are eternally grateful — they appear to have no problem with it.

With the benefit of hindsight I would suggest that the Imperial system was only a little advanced on the Roman system of numerals; and calculations in that system were far from easy and finally could not advance beyond a certain point because of its limitations. Mind you both systems worked but how laboriously.

It is a pity that the metrication system was not introduced when earlier suggested about the turn of the

century. The longer a less efficient system is left in being of course the greater the cost to change it and the more people who have to adapt to it. That I think is the crux of the problem — people, like myself, who have been taught in one system find it hard to adapt to another. However, for the good of the future I am prepared to put up with the mental calculations until it becomes second nature.

Your sample letter which you suggested should be sent to the Prime Minister I utterly reject as not being appropriate instead a carbon copy of this letter will be forwarded.

G.P. STOPFORD, South Australia

A New Zealand reader, Mr. S.W. Wood kindly sent us more interesting information which doesn't support the "Magic 10" which metricators so often refer to.

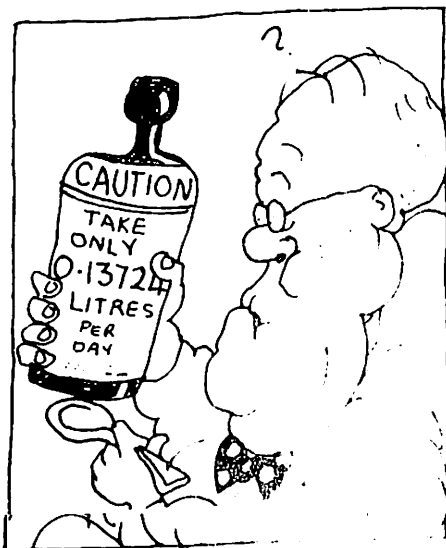
Our British heritage is of such a diverse nature that a very great deal of what we have and are today stems from the past which has been so rich in genius, in things material and in natural gifts.

One of the benefits coming to us, originally several thousands of years ago, some say from the Arabic world, is the gift of numbers for counting. Our own ancestors have used these ciphers and with them developed a system that especially suited their way of life and among these was the use of 12, a dozen.

Just to show how closely this factor is allied to the cosmic scene, we show the following details.

1 mile = 63,360"	12 x 12 x 440
1 yard = 36"	12 x 3
1 foot = 12"	12
Sun's diam	
864,000 miles	12 x 12 x 12 x 500
Moon's diam	
2160 miles	12 x 12 x 15
Signs in the Zodiac	12
Months in the Year	12
Speed of Light	
186,000 PS	12 x 15,500
Time	
1 day 24 hours	12 x 2
1 hour 60 mins	12 x 5
1 min 60 secs	12 x 5

No doubt there are many others.



## Metric Contest Extended

In our last issue we stated that the contest results would appear in this issue. However, due to the expressed popularity of the contest and from numerous requests we have decided to hold open the competition until April 30, 1980. This now means that results will be published in the No.17 issue of "Heritage".

The sticker suggestions so far have been both witty, hard-hitting and some just plain hilarious. If you haven't entered yet and feel strong enough about metrics then put pen to paper and send us an entry.

The secret of this type of advertising is to keep the wording to a minimum to provide maximum effect. The approximate size of these stickers will be:

3½ inches x 12 inches.

Whatever wording is used we intend printing an inches scale along the bottom of each sticker, similar to the markings on a foot ruler.

### THE CONTEST

So go to it and put your thinking caps on. We want a catchy slogan for our battle to bring back freedom-of-choice. All entries must be sketched to the finished sticker size (3½" x 12").

### TWO WINNERS – TWO STICKERS

Should we be lucky enough to get two entries of equal merit, then we shall print 2 stickers. There is no limit to the number of entries.

### PRIZES

The winning entrant(s) will receive a \$10 cash prize, 1 year's free subscription to "Heritage", a copy of Arthur Chesby's latest book "Your Will Be Done" and a supply of 20 of the winning sticker(s).

### CLOSING DATE

Entries will close on 30th April, 1980. This gives everyone plenty of extra time to sit back and give the metric sticker contest some thought.

Please address entries to:

Sticker Contest,  
Australian Heritage Society  
Box 16,  
Inglewood, W.A. 6052.

**'I think there are quite a few people who see it as desirable to have a fairly widespread review of where metrication is going.'**

**SENATOR RAE**



**SENATOR WEBSTER**

**'I think it should be accepted by any reasonable person that there must be compulsion at some particular point.'**

## Metrics not all plain sailing!

We are pleased to bring you the news that Tasmanian, Senator Peter Rae has begun to do some re-thinking on metrics.

Like many people, Senator Rae has discovered that metrics can affect even the most fundamental passtime of sailing. Being a keen yachtsman he has learned that some fanatic metricators even want to change the ship's compass! They feel that the right angle would be better with 100 degrees instead of the traditional 90 degrees. Can you imagine the resultant chaos?

All maps and navigation instruments would have to be thrown aside. But most alarming is that our "old sea dogs" would have to go back to school. Those navigation skills, tried and tested over the years, would be useless.

### METRIC REVIEW?

So if you are a keen sailor keep an eye on the metricators and make sure you are informed.

At this rate, 1984 looks more of a reality than ever before! But more light is being shed on the metric dark. Senator Rae has stated that he will be endeavouring to get a different response to the Metric Review from the government. If that fails he will press for the setting up of a Senate Committee review of the matter.

**SENATOR RAE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**

## LETTERS

### Not all Roses

Dear Sir,

Before picking up a copy of your magazine in my doctor's waiting room I must admit, almost shamefully, that I was totally in favour of Australia going metric.

I actually believed, due to intense propoganda, that nearly the whole world had gone metric, when in fact such was not the case.

So after reading about the problems metrication was causing, not to mention costs, my mind was slowly changed to the point where I can now see that Australia was quite happy without metrics.

But even if metrics were "miles" better than Imperial, I would still object to being told by a bureaucracy that I HAD to go metrics whether I liked it or not.

If your magazine continues to keep us informed then I am sure more Australians will see that metrication isn't all roses.

P. BARRET, Victoria.



# THE METRICATORS IGNORE OUR HERITAGE

## The mathematical advantage is not always important

by **BOB BOASE**, (L.L.B., F.A.S.A.)  
Secretary: Australian Anti-Metric Association

In New Zealand, where metric is disliked as cordially as in Australia (Or the United Kingdom. Or the United States. Or Canada), the Metric Advisory Board recently voted itself out of existence.

It had not, it conceded, created in New Zealand that ideal state of affairs, the pure metric environment. But it had done its best.

The incident of the Board's disappearance triggered a flood of comment in the New Zealand press. Most of the comment had no quarrel with the Board, but most of it was energetically critical of the attempted destruction of the traditional weights and measures.

Metric did however have SOME champions. Listen for instance to Ian, writing in the Christchurch "Press": "... a tropical-fish owner would find it easier to calculate the volume of his fish tank as 3 x 4 x 6 decimetres equals 72 litres equals 72 kilograms than to convert a similar tank 12 x 16 x 24 inches into gallons and pounds".

Ian is of course right. But before we:  
Change all our packaging laws,  
Change all the scales in all the shops in the community,  
Change all references to weights or measurements in all Acts of Parliament and regulations,  
Change all the signs on all the roads,  
Change all the land titles,  
Incur very substantial expense,  
Destroy everyone's sense of quantity and their mental calculating skills,  
Change every petrol pump in the community,  
Render all maps obsolete,  
Upset just about everyone in the community,  
etc. etc. etc.,

— ought we not to estimate the importance of this tropical-fish tank calculation?

Firstly, how often does the owner of a tropical-fish tank calculate (a) the number of gallons of water in the tank (b) the weight (in the pure metric environment, "mass") of that water?

Answer: probably never. Well, never as a tropical-fish tank owner. He may have done it as a schoolboy. But then he didn't do it because he needed to know how many gallons, or what it weighed. He did it for a different reason. He did it to exercise his mental muscles, in the same way that he played sport or engaged in gymnasium to develop his body muscles.

Now let US engage in a little mental exercise. This tropical-fish tank. It is 3 x 4 x 6 decimetres. That is 72 c. decimetres or 72 litres and that much water weighs 72 kilograms.

Ian invites us to compare this with a tank 12 x 16 x 24 inches. That is 1' x 1-1/3' x 2' and it contains 2-2/3 c. feet.

Nothing very difficult about that.

There are 6 1/4 gallons to a c. foot. So the tank contains  $\frac{8}{3} \times \frac{25}{4} = 17\text{-}1/3$  gallons.

A gallon of water weighs 10 lbs. So that much water weighs 173-1/3 lbs.

Ian was right. But the difference is trifling, even absurd, compared with the cost and trauma of achieving the pure metric environment. Or rather, of attempting to achieve it. The traditional weights and measures are so deeply entrenched in the environment that their total destruction is not possible.

Ian overlooked something else. We use statements of weight or measure a very great deal. We use them all the time. But in a great many cases — perhaps 70% of all — the statement of weight or measure is merely a description, and no calculation is involved: a pound of butter, a pint of milk, a gallon of paint, an 8' ceiling.

Thus, even if one system does have a mathematical advantage over another and even if that advantage were striking, it is unimportant in most cases.

In fact, what we achieve by using metric is clumsier descriptions: 1lb of butter becomes 500 gm, 1 pt. of milk becomes 600 ml, an 8' ceiling is now 2400mm, a 9 x 4 envelope is now 102mm x 229mm.

Ian's mind has been trapped by the idea of a measuring system where the units are related to each other by the quantity of ten, because that's how many fingers and toes he has. So completely trapped that he hasn't bothered to explore it properly. It never occurred to him to test its merits in detail.

So he really doesn't know what he is talking about.

When a person expresses total commitment to an idea - no reservations of any kind - look out!

The imperial system of weights and measures is versatile and flexible. It has been evolved over a long period of time to suit practical needs, and this it does very well indeed. The irregular relationships between its units CAN create work, but the work appears for the most part in problems set up by metric lovers to prove a point. Its importance in practice is slight.

There is no space here to develop the matter fully, but because of its reliance on the quantities 12 and 16, the mathematical advantage often lies with the imperial system. After any in-depth comparison of the two systems one emerges with the feeling that what people mistake for simplicity in the metric system is in fact crudity, and what is mistaken for unnecessary complexity in the imperial system is in fact sophistication - the kind of sophistication a system needs if it is to serve a complex modern community in the best possible way.

Nevertheless, I for one do not advocate a complete undoing of all that has been done. What I do press is an end to the current campaign aimed at forcing all of us to use metric and nothing else, for all purposes, at all times.

We deserve better than that.



# FREEDOM

There is no final battle in the fight for Freedom. The struggle continues as long as there are enemies who seek to subvert our minds and destroy our ideals.

Our enemies' strongest allies can be our indifference of spirit, weakness of will and compromise of principle. On Freedom's side stand the enduring strength of our forefathers; a steadfast faith in our way of life, and a firm resolve to defend it.

Let our conviction remain strong and our purpose firm, so we may pass on to our children both the fruits of Freedom and the will to preserve it.

Author unknown

## Metric Muddle!

My mother's like a rabbit,  
Father's walking in a daze,  
Cos metrics sent em balmy  
Towards the ending of their days.

The boys are talking hectares  
And father's going mad,  
The combine measures acres  
And he harvests by the bag.

Mum's figures are in ruins  
- they talk in kilojoules!  
She's cramming in the calories  
Whilst mumbling, "bunch of fools".

If they swap our time to metric  
Then we're really up the creek  
With the unions in a muddle  
"A five or ten-day week?"

"We work in feet, not metres!  
Convert it if you must"  
The family's in a turmoil -  
Not knowing what to trust.

The cook-book sends 'em crazy  
Trying to bake a loaf of bread,  
What with litres, grams and kilos  
Running round inside their heads.

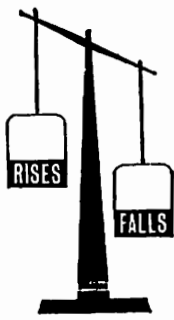
If it rains in millilitres,  
How much to fill the dam?  
And the mind will simply boggle  
Weighing haystacks by the gram!

The traffic blokes booked father  
'cause the truck was overweight,  
Then they nearly tore their hair out  
Cos the tare's still hundredweight!

My mother's like a rabbit,  
Father's walking in a daze  
Metrics really sent 'em balmy  
Towards the ending of their days.

If metrication has done nothing else for Australia  
it surely has produced a budding young Aussie poet!

Editor.



## “gold could reach \$130 by the end of the decade.”

How often have you made the claim that “money is the root of all evil”? Students of the Bible will be quick to correct you on that. For it's the LOVE of money that gets people into trouble. And once someone has fallen head over heels in love with money, then you don't know what is likely to happen next. Just about every human instinct (except greed) is pushed aside when this monetary love affair goes too far.

You may be asking yourself, “What's all this got to do with the price of gold?” Some people are so wrapped up in money that they are taking to selling their heritage for a few quick dollars. All over the highly advanced Western world people are getting ulcers about the price of gold. When word gets around that gold is fetching about \$600 an ounce a lot of dusty old cupboards are opened and some mantle piece displays of priceless objects are suddenly left with a gaping space.

It's strange how most lovers forget all about metric conversions when it comes to the price of gold. It's hard to find a gold price quoted in anything but good old ounces. A victory for Imperial!

What brings all these gold fever/money love affairs into sharp focus is the following newspaper report from London.

**LONDON:** Five sober-suited men sitting calmly in front of miniature Union Jacks in a London bank dominate the world's frenzied gold market at two key moments each day.

At the Hong Kong and New York gold markets, traders shout, shove and even kick each other as they try to set up deals. But in London there is an island of calm.

Beneath ancestral portraits in a panelled room, five representatives from Britain's main bullion dealers meet first in the morning and then in the afternoon to set the gold price fix – a vital reference point for trading all over the world.

By their side are direct telephones to their dealing rooms and in front are tiny red, white and blue British flags.

While any of the dealers keep this flag raised, the chairman of the meeting, from Rothschild's bank, cannot declare a price fixed.

But in the hurly-burly outside, treasured trinkets and family heirlooms are being poured into melting furnaces as people cash in on the soaring price of gold and silver.

Among the items melted down at Hatton Garden, the centre of Britain's bullion trade, there are also irreplaceable antiques.

“They can never be replaced in terms of craftsmanship,” one bullion dealer said. “You could weep as you see them disappear into the flames.

His company's furnaces normally burnt three afternoons

a week melting gold and silver, but in 1980 their capacity had been stretched, he said.

Another dealer said that people were bringing in anything from teeth with gold fillings to modern silver teapots.

“They don't seem to mind that they are throwing away part of our heritage,” he said.

He said he had seen silver teapots and coffee pots, candlesticks and Georgian and Victorian cutlery sold for scrap.

At the end of the week the scrap value in London for silver was \$39.22 an ounce, making a pair of Georgian spoons worth nearly \$80.

The silly thing about all this gold fever is that “experts” claim that gold prices will never again go this high. However, after glancing through some old newspapers I came across a gold report of 1972. In this report a London private banker's newsletter stated, “It seems at least possible that the official price of the metal will be raised to not less than \$70 – and perhaps to \$90 – an ounce during 1973. If an inflationary factor of only five per cent per year is applied, the price could be \$130 by the end of the decade.”

So now we are well and truly over the decade ended 1979 and it looks as if gold prices aren't going to stop. Those London bankers must be laughing all the way to their respective banks.

To put gold worship into perspective, consider the following explanation of gold through the eyes of a Martian space explorer looking down on earth.

“You'd see – among other things – thousands of busy little earthlings digging a dull-looking yellow metal out of one hole and burying it in another, thousands of miles away.

“You'd see heavily-armed guards protecting it, and hear self-important men in bowler hats make long and boring speeches about it. You'd see people lying, cheating and even killing so they could stash the stuff away in little cardboard boxes under their beds.

“What would you tell viewers back home?

“Would you be impressed by the intelligence of this strange race – or would you write it off as primitive and rather mad?”





# THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 1979

## Are we passing on our experience?

Every two years the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth countries meet together to discuss matters of mutual interest. This year they met in Africa and once again the meeting demonstrated the great value of personal contact and the desire of all the leaders to settle their differences in the friendly spirit of a family gathering. All thirty-nine full members of the Commonwealth were represented there and, as always on these occasions, I greatly valued the opportunity of talks with them.

One of the main objectives of Heads of Government is to make the world a better place for the next generation. 1979 has been the International Year of the Child and the Commonwealth has always stressed the importance of our young people: but this year people all over the world have been asked to give particular thought to the special needs of sick and handicapped children, to the hungry and homeless and to those in trouble or distress wherever they may be found.

It is an unhappy coincidence that political and economic forces have made this an exceptionally difficult and tragic year for many families and children in several parts of the world – but particularly in South East Asia.

The situation has created a desperately serious challenge and I am glad to know that so many people of the Commonwealth have responded with wonderful generosity and kindness. It seems that the greater the needs of children, the more people everywhere rise to the occasion. My daughter, as President of the Save the Children Fund, saw some of these volunteers looking after refugee children in the Far East. Nowhere is the voluntary effort more active than in charities and organisations devoted to helping children to survive the hazards to which they have been subjected.

The Year of the Child has emphasised the value of this work, but we must not forget that every generation has to face the problems of childhood and the stresses of growing up, and, in due course, the responsibilities of parents and adults. If they are handicapped in themselves, or by their family or community, their problems are all the more difficult. Children are born with a mixed package of emotions, talents and handicaps, but without knowledge or experience. As they grow up they have to learn to live with their parents and families; and they have to adjust to school, including the discovery of leisure activities and learning to handle their relationships with their contemporaries and with strangers.

Schools, charities and voluntary organisations and institutions can do a great deal to help, and I have admired their work in many parts of the world; but in the end each one of us has a primary and personal responsibility for our own children, for children entrusted to our care and for all the children in our own communities.

At Christmas we give presents to each other. Let us also stop to think whether we are making enough effort to pass on our experience of life to children. Today we celebrate the birth of the child who transformed history and gave us a great faith. Jesus said:

“Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.”

I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

# LETTERS



## THE "ARTFUL LODGER"?

In a sudden election called in 1963 by the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, Bob Hawke then in his middle thirties, contested the Seat of Corio (same name as the whisky), challenging the Liberal sitting Member, Hubert Oppenheim who none the less retained the seat quite comfortably.

Much water under the A.C.T.U. bridge since then, and now years later, a sober 50, Bob Hawke, after a spot of preliminary dithering, uncharacteristic one would think (but great for headlines) seems now all set to press on regardless with his political ambitions and this with unprecedented fan-fare.

Reiterated both by himself and the so accommodating Press that he will never be satisfied with anything less than the prime position in the Federal sphere, the twice over present President of the A.C.T.U. has "set his cap" (s) on getting into the A.C.T.U. It is up to you!

In one of the "shock-a-piece" 5 Boyer Lectures, delivered at the invitation of the A.B.C., Mr. Hawke contends that the governing of Australia should be by a Continent Wide Canberra, to reign supreme over the thus created Dis-United States of Australia.

These newly subservient, or vassel states, their borders blurred, their State Rights compulsorily abdicated, and the most dramatic role assigned, concurrence with a vastly expanded Canberra of all purpose and power.

Meantime, should this "dream time" of Mr. Hawke's ever materialise, we might FIND ourselves, if indeed we do not LOSE ourselves, in a "Precedent for Life" democracy.

Indeed Robert J. Hawke's often foretold speedy elevation to the occupancy of "The Lodge" might have prompted (with hindsight) the English writer, Charles Dickens, were he living in this age, to dub the thin encumberment Mr. Hawke, "The Artful LODGER".

D. A. Airey, Tasmania.

# TAXING OUR HERITAGE

by ROBERT MURRAY

What would our forebears think about the current rates of personal income tax in Australia? And what about all the indirect taxes we are obliged to pay? The "good old days" seem even better if the rate of taxation has anything to do with our standard of living. For example, in 1930 the Federal Government squeezed \$27.99 out of every man, woman and child in Australia. That average in 1979 had sky-rocketed to a staggering \$2,100 per head!

If today's tax rates were in force during Australia's developing years of the early 1900's, where would we be today? Not a shovelfull of soil would have been turned, no crops planted, no industrial expansion, no confidence — in short, no incentive. Australia is the child of free-enterprise. Without it the future for young Australians would be very bleak indeed. The taxation system must reflect the underlying philosophy of society. High taxation is not conducive to incentive, economic free will and ultimately free-enterprise.

Free-enterprise is an integral part of Australia's heritage. The taxation system is wrecking the very base of society. The Commonwealth government is guilty of biting the hand that feeds it. It's a pity people don't feel as strongly about high taxes as they do about Australia's flag and National Anthem or even the Monarchy.

But perhaps I'm wrong. Maybe they do.

Way back in the First Century, B.C., celebrated Roman orator, statesman and philosopher, Marcus Tullius Cicero had a few words to say about tax. What this wise gentleman had to say just goes to show — "there's nothing new under the sun."

"We are taxed in our bread and our wine, in our income and our investments, on our land and on our property not only for base creatures who do not deserve the name of men, but for foreign nations, complaisant nations who will bow to us and accept our largesse and promise us to



## W.A. Governor to retire

One of Western Australia's most popular Governors will retire in September this year. Sir Wallace Kyle and Lady Kyle have been splendid in their role as the Queen's representatives and nobody could deny that they are responsible for maintaining the dignity and respect of the Monarchy in Western Australia.

Sir Wallace has sometimes been criticised for his reference to politics in the course of his duties, but this is something the Governor makes no apologies for. Born in the tough goldfield town of Kalgoorlie, the retiring Governor is not a man to be intimidated by petty critics. He is a man who says what has to be said and he does it very ably.

In March 1977 Sir Wallace sent a special message to the Australian Heritage Society on the eve of the Queen's Jubilee Tour of Australia. Speaking about the problems facing the world and the seemingly impotency of the individual, Sir Wallace said, "But I say to you, don't allow yourselves to be bullied into silence. You matter. Your actions count. One man on the side of right, decency and honesty is a real force."

The Monarchy has not suffered under Sir Wallace and Lady Kyle. They are fine examples of the tolerance, impartiality and complete dedication and loyalty that we have come to expect from the Royal Family and its representatives throughout the world.

assist in the keeping of the peace — these mendicant nations who will destroy us when we show a moment of weakness or our treasury is bare, and surely it is becoming bare!

"We are taxed to maintain legions on their soil, in the name of law and order and the Pax Romana, a document which will fall into dust when it pleases our allies and our vassals. We keep them in precarious balance only with our gold. Is the heartblood of our nation worth these? Shall one Italian be sacrificed for Britain, for Gaul, for Egypt, for India, even for Greece, and a score of other nations? Were they bound to us with ties of love, they would not ask our gold. They take our very flesh and they hate and despise us. And who shall say we are worthy of more?"

"But when a government becomes powerful it is destructive, extravagant and violent; it is an usurer which takes bread from innocent mouths and deprives honorable men of their substance, for votes with which to perpetuate itself."

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# TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN...

It may be the U.S. Army in this satirical letter but the humour was enjoyed and appreciated just as much by the Aussies. The letter first appeared in the Australian Army magazine "SALT" on 21st December, 1942.

I am one of the fellows who made the world safe for democracy. What a crazy thing that was. I fought and fought and I had to go anyway. I was called in Class A. The next time I want to be in Class B – "B" here when they go and "B" here when they come back.

I remember when I was registered. I went up to the desk and my milkman was in charge. He said, "What's your name?" So I said, "Young man you know my name." "What's your name?" he barked, so I told him August Childs. He asked "Are you an alien?" "No", I replied. "I feel fine."

Then he said. "When did you first see the light of day?" And I said. "When we moved to Philadelphia from Pittsburg." He asked me how old I was, so I told him 23 the first of September. He said, "The first of September you will be in Australia, and that will be the last of August."

A veterinarian started to examine me. He asked me if I had ever had measles, smallpox, St. Vitus dance, and if I took fits. I said, "No, only when I stay in a saloon too long." Then he said, "Can you see all right?" I said, "Sure, but I'll be cockeyed tonight if I pass." Then he listened around my chest and said, "I think you have a wart somewhere". I said, "Wart! my neck. That's a button in your ear." The doctor said he had examined 140,000 men and that I was the most perfect physical wreck he had examined. Then he handed me a card – Class A.

Then I went to camp. I guess they didn't think I'd live long. The first fellow wrote on my card. "Flying Corpse". I went a little farther and some guy said. "Look what the wind's blowing in." I said, "Wind nothing, the draft's doing it."

On the second morning they put these clothes on us. What an outfit – as soon as you are in it, you think you can lick anybody. They have two sizes – too large and too small. The pants are too tight; I can't sit down. The shoes are so big I turned around three times and they didn't move. And what a raincoat – it strains the rain.

I passed an officer all dressed up with a fancy belt and that stuff. He said, calling after me, "Didn't you notice what I have on?" I said. "Yes, what are you kicking about? Look, what they gave me!"

I landed in camp with \$75. In 10 minutes I was broke. I never saw so many 3's and 12's on a pair of

dice. No matter what I did, I went broke. Something went wrong even at cards. One time I got five aces, and I was afraid to bet. A good thing I didn't for the fellow next to me said, "We're playing Pinochle."

Everything is crazy. If you were a livery hand, you were put in the Medical Department. If you were a watchman, you were made officer of the day. I saw a guy with a wooden leg and asked him what he was doing in the Army. He said. "I am going to mash potatoes."

Oh it was nice – five below zero one morning, and they called us out for the underwear inspection. The union-suit I had on would fit Tony Galento. The Lieutenant lined us all up and told me to stand up. I said "I am standing up, this underwear makes you think I am sitting down." He got so mad he put me out to digging ditches.

A little while later he passed and said. "Don't throw that dirt up there." I said. "Where am I going to throw it?" He said, "Dig another hole and throw it in there."

By that time I was pretty mad, so another guy named Jones and I drank a quart of whisky. Finally Jones acted so funny I ran to the doctor and told him Jones was going blind. He asked me what we were doing and I told him. He asked me if Jones saw any pink elephants. "No, that's the trouble. They're there all right, but he doesn't see them."

Three days later we sailed for Australia. Marching down to the pier I had some more bad luck. I had a sergeant who stuttered, and it took him so long to say "Halt!" that 27 of us marched overboard. They pulled us out, and the Captain came along and said, "Fall in." I said. "I have just been in."



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I was on the boat 12 days — seasick all the time. Nothing going down, everything coming up. I leaned over the railing all the time. In the middle of one of my best leans the Captain rushed up and said, "What company are you in?" I said, "I am all by myself". He asked me if the Brigadier was up yet. I said, "If I swallowed it, it's up."

Talk about dumb people. I said to one of the fellows, "I guess we dropped the anchor." He said, "I knew they'd lose it — it's been hanging out ever since we left New York."

We had a lifeboat drill and when the boat was being lowered over the side of the ship, it spilled some men into the water. Only the Second Lieutenant and I were left in the boat. The Lieutenant gave orders to pull the men out of the water by the hair of their heads. I was struggling with one man when another fellow with a bald head yelled. "Pull me out." I said, "Go down and come back up the right way."

Well, we landed in Australia and were immediately sent to the trenches. After three nights in the trenches all cannons started to roar and the shells started to fall. I started shaking with patriotism. I tried to hide behind a tree, but there weren't enough trees.

The Captain yelled, "Fire at will!" but I didn't know which one was Will. I guess the fellow behind me thought I was Will. He fired his gun and shot me in the excitement.

On my way to the hospital I asked a fellow where they were taking me, and he said. "You are going to the morgue." I said, "There's some mistake — I'm not dead," and he yelled, "Lie down. Do you want to make a fool out of the doctor?"

Love and Kisses. A LONELY SOLDIER.

## LETTERS

### Petrol and Postage - WHAT A SHOCK!

How many motorists ever thought they would be paying around \$1.50 per gallon for petrol by 1980? Some new year's present! I must admit that at first I saw the Arabs as the arch villains, closely followed by the oil companies. Then I imagined my service station was adding his huge profit which resulted in petrol at about \$1.25 per gallon. It never occurred to me that there was a fourth partner involved in the petrol selling game. That explains why no cries of horror were heard when the OPEC members announced their latest oil price increase, no cries that is from the Federal Government.

Our silent partner in the petrol business stands to rake in just under \$3,500 million dollars from motorists through the crude oil levy ("crude" is right) and petrol excise. But our honourable Treasurer, Mr. John Howard was quick to assure disgruntled Australians that the Government wasn't going to be greedy and keep all of our extra taxes. He claimed that the new tax gains would be used for the community's benefit.

Three week's later the Government, ever mindful of their windfall, announced that the cost of posting a letter would rise from 20 cents to 22 cents. So much for Mr. Howard's promises. However, I shouldn't be too unfair, because Mr. Howard has told us, through Senator Guilfoyle, that we can expect some kind of mini-budget early this year. Now doesn't that ease the pain of the petrol price rise?

J. PATTERSON, Perth

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Australian League of Rights recently started a campaign to inform members of the public how each dollar spent on petrol is divided up. Most people have been shocked to learn that the oil producers receive only about 11½ cents in the dollar. Your service station operator gets only 13½ cents per dollar and the oil companies 33 cents per dollar. The real eye-opener has been the fact that Mr. Howard's federal Treasury takes in a cool 42 cents in every dollar we spend on petrol. After taking into account other direct and indirect taxes on oil companies and outlets, the government actually takes about 85 cents of your petrol dollar. Readers wishing to learn more of this campaign should contact the League of Rights in their state.

“By the end of this century our creeks, rivers and other waterways will be well and truly brackish and salty and our limited areas of bushland will have diminished even further. By this time even the most complacent person will have realized all is not well – but too late.”



# Conservation and Reality

If asked to give my reasons for writing some hints on the care and management of our West Australian bush and forest I would say, without hesitation, the present shocking condition of our remaining uncleared areas. A second good reason is because most of the damage has been done during my life time and I know just what has caused a big percentage of it. The cause of our present unsatisfactory set up cannot be attributed to any one aspect of over all conservation – so, we ask ourselves, where have we gone wrong? Are we doing something we shouldn't, or is there something we are omitting to do?

I hope to be able to supply some of the answers. Someone once said history is the same thing happening over and over again only to different people. Anyway, let us look at a bit of past history.

There had been little damage to our bush and forest or general environment till the start of this century. By 1920 trouble was on the way mainly due to the introduction of the fox and rabbit. With vast acreages of bushland little damage was noticeable to the casual observer till about the 1940's. During the period between 1920 and 1940 the rabbit and fox reached plague proportions in many districts. About this time red tape and bulldozers put in an appearance. The red tape was mainly in connection with fire control. It was thought by many people – including some connected

with National Parks and Forestry that fire should be kept out of our bush and forest. This view was shared by many farmers and graziers. Fear of fire resulted in many regulations and restrictions in connection with the lighting of fires. The result was insufficient burning at the right time of the year in our bush country. The disastrous Dwellingup fire which virtually destroyed the town was the result of poor management of the bush in that area, probably mainly brought about by the war which meant a shortage of man power.

## BULLDOZERS

About the mid forties the bulldozers came into their own as a means of clearing vast areas in a short space of time. These large areas were pastured and subsequently stocked at a heavier rate than hitherto thought possible. The

*Frank Smith has experienced the rugged living of a farmer, with all of its joys and sorrows, for almost 70 years. As a keen student of conservation, Mr. Smith has spent a lifetime carefully watching and recording Man's battle with nature – the latter more often being the loser.*

*In his book on the care and management of West Australian bushland Frank Smith touches on many points of interest which will make absorbing reading for both rural and urban Australians.*

*Although set in W.A., Mr. Smith's story contains principles of Man's association with Nature which apply the world over.*

twenty year period between nineteen forty five and nineteen sixty five will, in my opinion, go down in history as the period when the greatest amount of devastation occurred in the shortest time in our bush and forest. Probably more than for the previous hundred years or so. Much more damage was done than most folk today realize. There is still big trouble ahead as it will be another fifty years before we feel the full impact of our folly during the twenty year period I have just mentioned.

By the end of this century our creeks, rivers and other waterways will be well and truly brackish and salty and our limited areas of bushland will have diminished even further. By this time even the most complacent person will have realized all is not well – but too late.

In these modern days people are reluctant to use old-fashioned ideas, and prefer to use present day technique, which they consider superior. There is, however, one aspect of our environment that still requires old-fashioned treatment – I refer to the care of our bush and forest country. It took thousands of years to bring our vast areas of bushland to the condition it was in when the white man arrived. We would be well advised to get back to using the same treatment – where possible – as nature used for thousands of years, particularly in regard to burning bush and forest. A few years ago I wrote and published at my own expense (\$500.00) a booklet titled "The Kiss of Life". In this booklet I advocated Autumn burning and the fencing of bush away from domestic stock along with several other suggestions. In my opinion these points are essential for the well-being of our bush and forest. There is, of course, damage to our wild life and environment from many causes. Domestic cats gone bush, foxes and rabbits, just to mention a few, and in our efforts to eradicate some of these pests we destroy the habitat of much of our wild life. 1080 rabbit poison and many of our present day insecticides used in the fields are responsible for damage to our insect, bird and animal life, just how much damage is very hard for the average person to ascertain.

## CONSERVATION

I, personally, do not specialize in any one aspect of conservation. I feel this is where we have fallen down in the past with our piecemeal approach to the problem. If I lean toward one particular aspect of conservation it would be keeping the bushland or habitat healthy. It's useless to be able to identify and name animals, birds or plant life if you are going to neglect to maintain bush country in a healthy state. I am quite convinced that healthy bush and forest with adequate fresh water at strategic points, will be teeming with wild life. Some species may even have to be thinned out to help nature keep a good balance. Twenty five or thirty years ago our weekly country paper "The Western Mail" ran a mutual help column ideas and hints were contributed by readers, usually with plenty of practical experience. The man who ran the section used the pen name "Martingale". In passing I would mention that much useful information was gained, especially by farmers and primary producers, from this column. The point I wish to make is this – Martingale once wrote an article on the eradication of rabbits and used an expression that I still remember, "Aim at the rabbit and you miss him – Aim at his cover and you hit him". I think this is the crux of our conservation problems – its the cover or habitat – or lack of it, where we continue to fall down.

Firstly I will touch on National Parks, reserves and bush land under the control of government departments and shire councils. There is in my opinion no happy medium regarding controlled burning. Many of our parks and reserves are only burned by accident, or, in the case of reserves, by fire brigades to eliminate a fire hazard. Forestry departments do a terrific job from a point of view of eliminating fire hazards but to my mind they miss out on the most vital point – the time of the year. Nature would have done her burning – or 90% of it – between the end of November and the end of April, whereas forestry do most of their controlled burning during spring which is against all laws of nature and could be one of the reasons why "die

back" in our jarrah forest is spreading at a rather alarming rate.

Another aspect of conservation that is in a shocking condition, and one overlooked by most conservationists and the public in general, is privately owned bush. Thousands of acres of this bush on grazing and farm lands is slowly deteriorating and on the way out. Even if immediate action were taken little improvement would be seen for fifteen to twenty years. Without this bush I have just mentioned national parks and reserves cannot play their full part in overall conservation. In my humble opinion this privately owned bush is going to be our downfall. The majority of folk think that these hundreds of areas one sees from our country highways and roads are healthy bush. This is not so – 50% is already ruined and the remainder deteriorates more each year due to damage by domestic stock. In most instances the carpet of small and medium sized shrub and vegetation has disappeared. This lower vegetation is vitally necessary for much of our smaller animal and bird life to survive – also to help against water and wind erosion and the pollution of creeks, water courses, rivers etc. The disappearance of this lower vegetation is the first sign of mismanagement. As time progresses the trees are ringbarked and killed by domestic stock, which also destroy seedling as they germinate, by either eating them, or trampling them underfoot.

## NATURE'S WORK RUINED

When pasture adjacent to bush is heavily stocked a thousand years of nature's work can be ruined in from three to five years. In most cases the destruction is slow and few people realize that it is happening. Conservationists all over Australia would do well to press for cheap fencing material to be made available, if farmers and graziers would cooperate and fence some of these areas. In a nutshell conservationists are jumping around and very upset by pollution from mining and heavy industry but have failed to see a much greater disaster happening right under their noses.

Many of our reserves and national parks need water points, such as dams, to compensate for those water holes now outside the perimeter of parks or others that have turned salty. The fact that our wild life has to move across cleared territory to procure water leaves them wide open to destruction, they become an easy target for predators, motor vehicles, shooters etc. Reserves and parks need to be self supporting. The usual excuse is lack of funds. The longer many of these much-needed necessities such as water, fencing and controlled burning are left unattended to, the greater our conservation problems become.



Can our forests and bushland be saved from ending up as human junk-heaps?

The main reason why we need to be more cautious in the future than in the past is because we have done enough damage in the last thirty years to last for several hundred years. Much of our larger plant life takes a hundred years or more to reach maturity, which means it takes a long time to catch up lost leeway. If combustion engines, or waste from a factory, or some insecticide is causing pollution and the need be urgent, pollution could be stopped almost immediately. Not so pollution caused by lack of vegetation. Where too much clearing has been done it could easily be fifty to one hundred years after corrective treatment before much improvement was noticeable. So far I have touched fairly briefly on many aspects of conservation. I will endeavour to elaborate a little more on the major points. Snap judgements can be very misleading when dealing with nature and the bush, people must realize that there are cycles from less than one year to at least one hundred years. A certain area of bush country might look to have changed entirely after a run of abnormally dry or wet years, or as a result of fire, yet it probably was at the same stage perhaps ten, fifteen or twenty years earlier, and will keep on changing as time goes on and may not look the same again for twenty or thirty years. This is why it is very necessary to live by, or at least keep returning to, an area for forty or fifty years to be able to get much idea of what is really happening.

#### MAN'S WORK

A few hundred years ago if an area of bush or forest was burned there were no conservationists rushing around passing judgement on something they knew very little about. Folk haven't much imagination when they consider that wattle, hakea, or some other similar plant is going to choke out everything else. The

same thing has happened down the ages for umpteen years. I doubt if the seed of these plants has been waiting since the days of the ark, ready to spring into life when an area is burned. Most areas that present day folk consider ruined by fire are already on the way out due to animal manures, superphosphates and domestic grasses. Once grasses get onto road verges and small reserves regular burning merely hastens their destruction, this applies mainly to the smaller vegetation. Finally even the trees and medium vegetation will disappear completely unless replanted by man.

This is where man is so destructive, most of his activities associated with stock and grazing result in no seedlings being able to survive. I personally consider this our major downfall. If insufficient young are being produced to replace those lost by natural causes then the management of the area is at fault. Conservation today has reached a stage where we can't maintain the existing animal and plant life, let alone produce more. If you burnt an area of virgin bush as often as you could for fifty years it would still recover and suffer no permanent damage. If you grazed domestic stock on bush that was never burnt for twenty or thirty years, this area would suffer little damage – but use fire and domestic stock together and the damage is greater. Use fire and domestic stock in conjunction with improved pasture and bush and it's dynamite. The carrying capacity of the pasture enables vast numbers of stock to be grazed on small areas with disastrous results. I have seen healthy bush ruined in three to five years when left in the same paddock as improved pastures.

#### NATURE'S JUSTICE

One must realize that nature is often cruel, fire and predators of various kinds kill trees, animals, birds and insects. If

every tree or plant that germinated lived, and every bird and insect that was born survived, one would scarcely be able to move. I have seen a pair of duck with twenty young ones – also fifty seedlings pop up where one tree had fallen – with nature it is the survival of the fittest. One should never shed tears for what is lost, it is what we have left that really matters. Lightning is, and has been for thousands of years, nature's way of lighting fires in our bush and forest. When man extinguishes these fires and fails to re-light at a less dangerous time, or burns bush at a time when nature intended that no burning should be done, then we have trouble. Down the years I have made a careful study of lightning strikes, and from my observations nature would have done 95% of her burning between the beginning of December and the end of April, in the lower portion of this state (W.A.). With our present day island type parks and reserves we leave ourselves wide open to a complete burn out unless we control burn. In the interests of safety and conservation this burning should be done mainly in the autumn. If a park or reserve is all burned at the one time cover and food for animals and birds etc. is reduced so much that much of the wild life is lost.

I have known people to burn bush in winter time so as not to hurt it. Actually more damage is done in winter than a much hotter fire would have done several months earlier. It is also possible to burn insufficient acreage. Small patches of burnt country can be eaten bare by the wild life moving in in great numbers from the unburnt areas. This is why an experienced person should be in charge of bush country. Experience has taught bushmen to know when and how, and what is probably more important – why. In days gone by if a million acres of bush was burnt at the one time some wild life



managed to escape and they moved back when the burned area had greened up. Also when a fire burns unchecked for weeks that portion that burns during the nights and cooler period has patches left unburnt, or barely touched. To put it briefly, in the early days there were always some safety zones – many of what used to be safety zones are now on adjacent farming property and have long since been cleared and ruined by domestic stock. A thousand years ago the bush managed itself – today we have much less acreage and it requires much more skillful management. Take for instance our Stirling National Park some 280,000 acres. Three years ago this park could have been completely burned out in two days, with possible loss of life, had a fire started during the hot summer months. I maintain that if an area of bush in excess of five hundred acres can be completely burned out by one fire there is something radically wrong with the management.

#### FIRE BREAKS

To a person with little or no experience with fire all sorts of what appear to be obstacles loom large and cloud the real issue. Folk afraid of fire, see every fire as a dangerous one and become so cautious that they often live with virtually a powder keg at their back door. There are dozens of these people living on the land, and some in various jobs associated with national parks and bush fire control. When a person with no practical experience of fire is in charge of large areas of bush or forest this lack of experience can be a major stumbling block to conservation. The modern trend to use and depend on ploughed and graded fire breaks is ridiculous. The bush doesn't have to be burnt in natty little squares or to any particular pattern. One selects the most suitable time of the year which is usually when the pasture in the paddocks won't burn, preferably after the opening rain, or when adjacent paddocks have been well eaten out you then select a suitable day, one with the wind about to move around to the south (in most cases) with showers developing. The main point is to only burn when surrounding farmland is quite safe, this could vary by three months in extreme cases. Another good idea is to do more burning when the conditions are suitable, rather than set a rigid yearly programme. For instance a year with plenty of thunderstorm activity, particularly if odd fires have been started by lightning, everything else being equal, that is the year to burn. If you haven't any safety zones in the area to be burnt, the sooner you get some the better. Rest assured the longer one puts off burning the greater the risk one runs of complete annihilation. One good man should be able to control an area the size of the Stirling Ranges without fire breaks or

fire fighting equipment, just using existing roads. The more fire breaks that are ploughed or graded the sooner the bush will be ruined. Its not fire that ruins bush – it is man.

My remarks regarding burning will be brushed aside by many as over simplifying a gigantic problem. There is no problem except red tape. The imaginary problems and obstacles appear to be there because the folk who see them don't know any better. Take farming and primary production today – lousy with farm advisers and experts and in the worst position it has ever been in. The same applies to flora and fauna conservation. Plenty of theory and talk but insufficient practical experience used.

The great need today is to get folk with years of practical experience into positions where they can implement ideas that are known to be sound. We must be very careful when employing overseas experts to manage our National Parks and bush country that we don't lose twenty five to fifty vital years while they experiment and find out what is already known by many Australian bushmen. The tendency today is to think that people who have lived a lifetime in the Australian bush know little or nothing – while the expert from overseas is a full bottle.

#### AUSTRALIA UNIQUE

Many of Australia's present day problems have been brought about by blindly following some overseas country. With Australian conservation this won't work. The vastness of our country with its wide variation of vegetation and climatic conditions make it impossible to lay down any set rule regarding management of bush and forest. An expert in any field should be a jump ahead of trouble and only practical experience tells one in what form and which direction that trouble may come from.

We have many folk who can identify plant, animal and insect species and people who can grow and breed these plants and animals in captivity. They do much to help educate the general public regarding many aspects of conservation but achieve little without the know how of bush or habitat management. I firmly believe healthy bush and forest is the first essential – most other aspects take care of themselves. Older folk who have moved through our bush country for thirty to sixty years and can remember what Australian bush should look like are the ones to take heed of.

#### PRESSURE GROUPS

It's useless for people to form conservation pressure groups unless they are quite sure of the end result of what they are advocating. The person with the experience knows from the word go just

what result to expect from some particular aspect of management that he is about to implement. If he is a true conservationist his judgement will not be swayed by politics or the mighty dollar – or even some short term personal gain. (Our emphasis).

It is not sufficient to slow down or stop the conservation rot that has set in. We must aim to vastly improve our present unsatisfactory set up. To do this, farming, mining and tourism – along with many other activities detrimental to healthy bush and forest must be moved down the priority ladder to make room for conservation at the top. Conservation isn't a dirty word. It has been contaminated by many of man's activities and the sooner every man, woman and child in Australia realizes this the better – because Australia cannot survive for any length of time if we continue to destroy our environment at the present rapid rate. In closing the author wishes to draw attention to the fact that one third (fourteen hundred acres) of the family farming property at Cranbrook has been left uncleared for shelter and conservation and there is over eight miles of fencing doing nothing else but protecting bush country from domestic stock. These areas are not considered waste but are part and parcel of sound farm management.

The main reason why we must tread warily in the future with our remaining areas of bush and forest is because we have done so much damage during the twenty year period between 1945-1965. We will not feel the full impact of this damage for fifty to one hundred years.

"Some Hints on the Care and Management of our West Australian Bush and Forest".  
F.W. SMITH, "Yarralena", Cranbrook.

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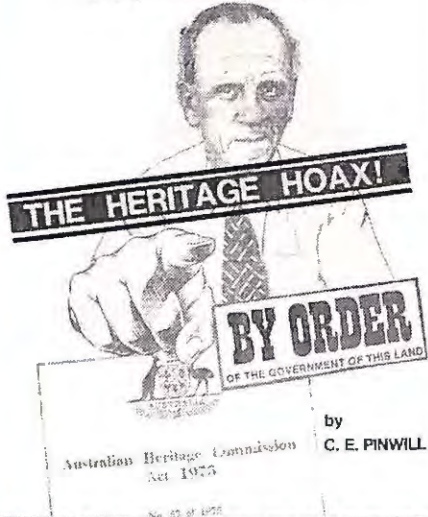
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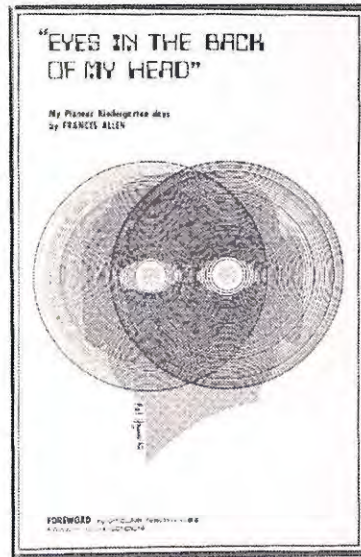
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