



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

IN THIS ISSUE

The Rural Community and Mining by Betty Luks	1
The New Dark Age of Political Correctness by Peter West	1
What to Expect as We Go Down This Path by Terri M. Kelleher	2
Here is an Internationalist Talking	3
On Facing the Truth by Geoffrey Dobbs 1987	4
The Essentials of Democratic Control by James Guthrie 1948	5
Greek Elections Called for September by Arnis Luks	6
Economic Collapse by James Reed	7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “The battle for Australia’s future will be fought primarily in Australia’s rural areas. The centralisers not only want the primary producers’ land, they seek to deprive Australia of the backbone of the nation – its decentralised, independently-minded rural communities.”

- - from "They Want Your Land" by E.D. Butler

THE RURAL COMMUNITY – AND MINING by Betty Luks

Do take the time to look at the DVD featuring the folk who live in and around Maree South Australia – a small town located in the north of the State. David Pascoe fills us in on Maree on his Facebook Page.

Freedom, Living and Working in the Great Australian Outback:

5733 is the small town of Marree's Post code. This short film is about the freedom of living/working in the Beautiful Outback Australia. Features (include) camel racing, stock mustering, bronco branding, drone work, motokana and all the families around the district.

David continues: “This is the work of a local, Pandy Morphett, who gives a wild ride with the occasional drone and a few zoom lens. There's an entire nation of young men and women out there who just want to have a go - and that's why this country is worth fighting for. We want to see them innovate, inspire and flourish. We believe that young Australians have the right to own their own country - and not simply be forced to become the serfs for somebody else through a lack of political imagination and courage. So are there any politicians left that might have a different vision than simply flogging us off to the highest bidder? You'd better step up and start talking - Fast.

Thanks to Shannon Bell, a talented lady horse-breaker who calls this extraordinary country her ancestral home. Way to go, Kid.”

Watch video here... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVrowMBfS2c>

Thank you David for bringing readers’ attention to the young (and older) people and their ‘free spirits’ - it did my heart good. But what I also observed was all the equipment and machinery these outback folk depend on – and it is the miners and mining companies and the manufacturing industries that produce what they depend upon. Seems to me all Australians want to see some better deals for all the Australian people.

Some of the following points are important:

- The encroachment on Australia’s agricultural lands
- The massive scale of the mining operations and the destruction of the environment
- The importance of Australians owning their own land and not working as serfs to some absentee Landlord, Company or Bank

THE NEW DARK AGE OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS...Who is to Blame? by Peter West

Brendan O'Neill, "The New Dark Ages, Where the Perfectly Normal are Branded Bigots", *The Australian*, August 19, 2015, p.14, points out that over the past five years "a belief that was held by virtually all human beings for centuries has been rebranded as bigotry, something that may no longer be expressed in polite society". That belief is that marriage is something which occurs only between a man and a

woman. But "in the historical blink of an eye, it has been de-normalised, and with such ferocity and speed that anyone still brave enough to express it runs the risk of being ejected from public life". This is an indication of what all Australians are now up against. The ruling elite are marching, not running, on their agenda to destroy the traditional world and remake it according to their plan.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS WE GO DOWN THIS PATH...

Canada: basic freedoms lost since same-sex marriage came to town, by Terri M. Kelleher

Newsweekly reports...Canadians have faced disciplinary action, termination of employment or prosecution by government tribunals since same-sex marriage was legalised in 2005 and protected attribute status was granted to sexual orientation and gender identity in anti-discrimination laws.

Since being made legal, same-sex marriage has been treated identically to traditional marriage in law and public life. **A corollary is that anyone who rejects the new orthodoxy must be acting on the basis of bigotry and hostility toward gays and lesbians.**

Any reasoned explanation – for example, that conjugal marriage is best for children because it preserves their biological relationships with their mother, father, siblings, grandparents – is dismissed as a straightforward manifestation of hatred toward a minority sexual group.

Such dissent is now deemed intolerable. Many of those who have persisted in voicing their dissent have been subjected to investigations by human-rights commissions and (in some cases) proceedings before human rights tribunals.

Civil marriage celebrants were the first to feel the hard edge of the new legal system. Several Canadian provinces refused to allow celebrants a right of conscience not to preside over same-sex weddings, and demanded their resignations.

The Catholic Church's Knights of Columbus were fined for refusing to rent their facilities for post-wedding celebrations.

Those who are poor, poorly educated, and without institutional affiliation have been particularly easy targets – anti-discrimination laws are not always applied evenly. Some have been ordered to pay fines, make apologies, and undertake never to speak publicly on such matters again.

Targets have included: Individuals writing letters to the editors of local newspapers; Ministers of small congregations of Christians; A Catholic bishop who faced two complaints – both eventually withdrawn – prompted by comments he made in a pastoral letter about marriage. To engage in public discussion about same-sex marriage is to court ruin, costing money and time.

Although the Parliament of Canada did revoke the Canadian Human Rights Commission's statutory jurisdiction to pursue "hate speech", in reality similar legislation remains in place in several Canadian provinces.

Professional governing bodies – such as bar associations, teachers' colleges, and the like – have used statutory powers to discipline members for conduct unbecoming of the profession.

Expressions of disagreement with the reasonableness of institutionalising same-sex marriage are understood by these bodies to be acts of illegal discrimination, which are matters for professional censure.

Teachers are particularly at risk for disciplinary action. Even if they only make public statements criticising same-sex marriage outside the classroom, they are still deemed to create a hostile environment for gay and lesbian students.

Other workplaces and voluntary associations have adopted similar policies as a result of their having internalised this new orthodoxy that disagreement with same-sex marriage is illegal discrimination that must not be tolerated.

Parental rights gone

Parental rights in public education since the legalisation of same-sex marriage have subtly but pervasively changed. Same-sex relationships must be treated like natural marriage. Same-sex marriage and parenting must be treated in the classroom the same as heterosexual marriage; and this permeates all areas of the curriculum. Curriculum reforms in jurisdictions such as British Columbia now prevent parents from exercising their long-held veto power over contentious educational practices.

Courts have been unsympathetic to parental objections and parental attempts to remove their children from the public school system. Parents are forced to accept conflicting views from home and school over same-sex marriage, and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

Same-sex marriage/SOGI ideology has been put into the curriculum under the guise of anti-bullying programs.

This has proved to be a gross violation of the rights of the family. It is nothing less than the deliberate indoctrination of children (over the objections of their parents) into a concept of marriage that is fundamentally hostile to what many parents understand to be in their children's best interests.

It teaches children that the underlying rationale of marriage is nothing other than the satisfaction of changeable adult desires for companionship..."

Ref: <http://newsweekly.com.au/article.php?id=57042>

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HERE IS AN INTERNATIONALIST TALKING

Former deputy prime minister John Anderson is lamenting what he says is the hypocrisy and blatant disregard of evidence-based decision making in public and political debate on issues like energy resources and agricultural biotechnology. "It's hard to know where to start and it's hard to not become cynical and even depressed about it," he told Fairfax Media.

"I say that because the debate has become so stymied, it's so irrational and it's so hard to get people's focus away from themselves and their perceived needs and onto the really big issues of a fair go for everyone on the planet. Frankly, you only see indefensibly selfish debates around a range of topics which have to be explored and dealt with much more honestly, if we're to meet the challenge in front of us."

Speaking at the Crawford Fund annual conference in Canberra recently, he continued: "Whether it's land availability, whether it's water availability, whether it's energy, everyone forgets the only reason that we've got to a population of 7.3 billion from the one billion or so before we started using fossil fuels, is because of cheap and accessible fossil fuels and that age is not over. And we will not lift countless hundreds of millions of people out of poverty into a decent life standard without fossil fuels being used, for the foreseeable future. The shocking thing to me is the western world, which prides itself on being more rational than ever, is now in fact becoming less rational and even superstitious."

Frankly Mr. Anderson, I didn't think 24 million Australians were responsible for 7.3 billion other people. In fact that would be an impossible task for us to take on. Methinks the gentleman revealed what really concerns him in the following:

"Mr Anderson - a co-patron of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia - said opposition to genetically modified (GM) crops could be "lumped" together with the emotive, dumbed-down public debate around resource projects." He sees those people protesting as "anti-capitalists" and in fact "It's a western disease..."
Ref: <http://www.theland.com.au/news/agriculture/general/politics/age-of-reason-threatened-anderson/2741139.aspx>

FACT CHECK *from ABC:*

Is the proposed Shenhua Watermark coal mine located in the middle of Australia's best agricultural land?

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce, whose New England electorate includes the Liverpool Plains, opposed the Shenhua mine and has labelled it "ridiculous". In an interview he said: "I don't think it's appropriate that we have what will be a super mine in the middle of Australia's best agricultural land. There might be other land that is as good, but there's none better."

Are the Liverpool Plains Australia's best agricultural land, and is the mine in the middle of it? **ABC Fact Check investigates.**

Professor Snow Barlow from Melbourne University's Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences told Fact Check the Liverpool Plains is "generally considered to be the plains between the Great Dividing Range, the Liverpool Range and the Warrumbungle Ranges".

The soils of the Liverpool Plains

Professor Barlow told Fact Check the Liverpool Plains area includes two broad types of soils: upland soils, and alluvial and colluvial soils. The upland soils on the ridges derive from the older sandstone and lateritic landscape, which contains coal.

The upland soils are much lighter and less fertile than the black soils found on the younger plains between the ridges.

Professor Barlow said the soils on the plains were "deep, fertile, self-mulching clay soils" and were "the prized cropping soils because of their fertility and ability to store moisture from the variable rainfall".

The Liverpool Plains... would be one of the most productive cropping regions in Australia... but then there are others like the Goulburn Valley, Gippsland, and north western Tasmania for specific purposes, such as dairy and horticulture.

Water at the Liverpool Plains

Experts contacted by Fact Check said the mine could still affect the high quality agricultural land, even though it is not located on the floodplain, because it could disturb the groundwater.

Professor Barlow said: "Note from the gateway panel report that it is the groundwater systems that potentially could be significantly impacted upon by the mine. The adjacent agricultural land utilises this groundwater to irrigate their highly productive crops."

Mr Banks had a similar view: "There is excellent and high quality and high volume groundwater in the Liverpool Plains which is replenished from the mountains and hills which surround the plains, hence the need to manage these hills as much as the plains for agricultural security."

Mr Joyce is correct to say the mine will be located in the middle of the plains. Whilst experts say comparing different types of agricultural land is like comparing apples and oranges, they said that the land in the Liverpool Plains is among the best in Australia for broadacre agriculture. **Mr Joyce's claim is close to the mark.**

Ref: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-26/shenhua-watermark-coal-mine-barnaby-joyce-fact-check/6660140>

Why is it that the 'truth' we are constantly being asked to 'face' is always evil, the 'facts' are always unpleasant facts, the 'reality' we are told to 'face' always the most sordid and depressing reality? Is reality really sordid and depressing, and the truth really evil?

Is the truth we must face about our society one of the breakdown of marriage and morality, of increasing crime, murder, violence, vandalism, hooliganism, pornography, rape, promiscuity, sodomy, AIDS, child-abuse, abortion, embryo-tampering, drug-addiction, dishonesty, theft, treason, oppression, poverty, depravity and misery? Do not millions of us 'face' these things daily, even hourly, in the press and the broadcast media, and the more we dwell upon them, the more they seem to grow?

And what about the World Scene? Must we not face the truth of the ever-growing centralisation of power in fewer hands, through the control of money and debt, politics and bureaucracy and the all-pervading media invading every home, the corruption of religion and education and the language itself, and the indiscriminate collective treatment of men, women and children as equal, faceless, characterless units? Is it not true that power corrupts, and that we are passing under the control of remote and power-corrupted men, planning to increase their power over our lives to the point of World Government?

If these are facts must we not face them? Must we not fight these evil men, study their wicked plans, and contend continually with the innumerable evils which threaten and beset us? Would it not be cowardly 'escapism' to turn our backs on them and look only on the bright side of things?

Put in this way the question clearly invites the answer Yes! The truth about evil must be faced. But what *is* the truth about untruth? Is it not the denial, or perversion, often the complete inversion, of truth, that is of reality? In fact, is not the genuine 'facing' of evil the facing of that reality from which it has departed? How can there be any wrong except in relation to right? If we are going the wrong way how can we know it unless we have the right way in our minds, or at least the right direction; and if our knowledge of that is vague, should we not concentrate our efforts on improving it; which means facing the truth and turning our backs on the untruth (re-pentance).

Certainly, when assaulted by evil we ought to defend the right - in so far as we know it - by exposing the precise way in which it is being misused, but then to go on filling our minds with wrongness, to concentrate on it, wallow in it, go on about its threat, and its power, and to think that in so doing we are fighting it, is to increase and to fall under that power, while diverting others also from the right way.

As G.K. Chesterton wrote somewhere, there are innumerable ways of falling off a bicycle, but only one way, at any instant, of staying balanced on it; and that right way needs practising until it is unconscious and

automatic, as can be seen in any exercise of skill. We have been told to occupy our minds with whatsoever things are true, honest and of good report, not with those which are untrue, dishonest and of bad report. To concentrate on the innumerable ways that things can be done wrongly has the result that the right way soon appears unreal and impracticable and is rejected, as are the plain solutions of many of the current 'social problems' which beset us today.

Indeed, how can we 'fight' a denial except with an assertion, or an absence except by restoring a presence? A hole in our sock is indeed a fact that must be faced, but what is it that a denial or absence of sock in that place, which can be put right only by sock-restoration, e.g. by darning? To go on about the dreadfulness of holes, about the Great National Hole, or even the World Hole Problem, to make a great business of studying 'holiness' (in the sense of un-wholeness) destroys its true sense; and this is not mere word-play!

We cannot and must not ignore in our paper the daily hammering we all receive with every sort of unwholesomeness, but, having 'faced' it we try to turn our backs on it and seek the right way, whether or not it is rejected by the established experts on contemporary wrongness. This also applies to the plans and conspiracies of those remote and, to us, inaccessible men corrupted by power, through the institutions they control, who seek always to extend their influence over our lives.

There wrongful power over us, mainly through money, politics and mass-psychology, is entirely in our minds, and from there only the right can drive out the wrong. It is indeed necessary to take account of their methods and intentions, but too much indignant preoccupation with them leads only to attempts to beat them at their own power-game, which is about as futile as attacking an advancing tank with a pea-shooter. This is not heroic. It is merely silly!

Yet peas, though useless as weapons, if rightly used possess a force greater than that of any machine, the force of life itself with its individual, decentralised initiative - the only answer to centralisation. It is the truth, not the untruth, working at the right, not the wrong, way which can set us free. If it is a matter of courage, have we the 'guts' to face the normality of goodness?

Life, we are told, is not all roses, but dare we grit our teeth and bravely face the fact that lovely, healthy roses exist, and billions of them, and give delight far exceeding any distress caused by the diseased and distorted ones? Happy marriages and families are the normality, not broken homes, single parents, battered wives and babies, and all the other abnormalities constantly thrust upon us.

The mechanised powers that oppress us look formidable indeed, yet if we will but credit it, the whole living Creation is on our side!

Principles of British Democracy

There has been a prolonged and powerful attack on local government everywhere; this has been carried out mainly by a centralised bureaucracy which has pursued a policy of intimidation and centralisation irrespective of which political party occupied the Government benches.

Just as the Federal bureaucracy has so undermined the power of local and state governments that they cannot carry out their duties properly, so the international bureaucracy is destroying the power of central governments to help their own people.... Also, international agreements can give the power to the Federal Government to brush aside any constitutional protection the people may have had.

Kings of old relied on wars to frighten their subjects into obedience, and to divert their attention from the kings' misrule. That still seems to be the primary object of wars. The chaos and destruction in Europe, which is bringing untold misery and shame to millions, will, no doubt, prove very convenient to the international gangsters who batten on wars and revolutions.

Only in war, or under threat of war will the British people submit to large-scale planning.

A strong, versatile race like the British people, with their superabundance of resources and of inventive genius, and with their historic inability to accept defeat, is definitely considered a stumbling block to the introduction of a universal totalitarian regime.

It is natural, therefore, that we should be witnessing a continuous attempt to undermine the political strength and prestige of the British people. That political strength has rested on three fundamental principles of freedom:

Local Government

The first is local government, that is, the control of local affairs by local men living on the spot, and drawing their sustenance from the locality, and who are known to and are accessible to the people in the locality. The very opposite to local government is, of course, central government controlled by absentee managers living hundreds of miles away and quite independent of the praise, censure or disaster of the people they are supposed to represent.

Voluntary Basis

The second fundamental principle of democratic co-operation is that it should be on a voluntary basis. Where coercion has to be used, as it is used by modern governments, on decent citizens in a large variety of spheres of activities, it is a sure sign that a regime is being enforced on the people from the top, and not by consent.

Our educational institutions do nothing but harm when they hide the real nature of these coercive methods. Many of the laws and regulations are imposed on the people of so-called democracies by brute force, or the threat of brute force, by a minority on the majority. Yet in every Socialist country not only has brute force failed to obtain obedience to the flood of laws - and this in face of unbelievable cruelty and severity of punishment - but a vast army of spies, pimps and informers has had to be employed to maintain obedience to the laws.

Protection of the Individual

The third principle is that, in his dealings with private individuals, the power of the monarch (or ruling clique) should be clearly defined and strictly circumscribed.

Magna Charta, Habeas Corpus and the Bill of Rights are the monuments marking the struggles of the British people to establish this very essential protection of the individual. It should be obvious by now that rulers of a modern State find in their hands powers of coercion so tremendous that the individual cannot possibly protect himself because the State, in order to obtain those powers, must take them from the private individual.

When the people give the State great power in order that it may wage war, that power does not come out of the air; it comes from the people. If the State is given the sole power to make decisions the people obviously lose that power.

It seems, therefore, that we shall have to fight the old battles all over again, and force our rulers to sign a new Magna Charta.

Unless the private individual can secure for himself some protection for his family against the confiscation of their home, and can obtain an opportunity to acquire some culture and leisure, then I cannot see what advantage we are getting from our much proclaimed "advances" in science, invention and education. It appears too that the vast amount of mechanical skill and encyclopaedic knowledge we are acquiring has no connection with what was once known as wisdom.

Compulsion and the Right of Choice

Those things, which differentiate one man from another, are the things a man chooses to do of his own free will. What one man chooses to do of his own free will is impossible to make some other man do under the severest forms of compulsion, or, as the saying goes, what is one man's meat is another man's poison. The hallmark of a slave is not hard work, nor lack of food, nor brutal treatment; the hallmark of servitude is lack of freedom of choice.

GREEK ELECTIONS CALLED FOR SEPTEMBER

by Arnis Luks

Greece is again gearing up for an election. Greek president Prokopis Pavlopoulos, elected by the Greek parliament one month after Syriza came to power, signed a decree dissolving parliament and confirmed the widely expected date of September 20 for the country's fifth election in six years.

A caretaker government appointed by the president to organise the election took office earlier on Friday (21st August) with Greece's top judge as prime minister, replacing Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras who resigned last week.

Mr Tsipras, who rode to power in January on a wave of **popular anger over austerity**, is now seeking re-election to implement more reforms demanded under the 86 billion euro (\$136 billion) international banking debt package.

Greek banks had recently been closed for three weeks and when re-opened had strict withdrawal limits set by the international bankers, of 60 euros per day placed onto all Greek customers. Under these pressing circumstances of what is really **financial blackmail**, very few people actually believe in or approve of the Syriza Party for which they may vote. Their vote, in fact, will be a negative vote, a vote to **exclude from power** whichever Party is deemed to be **even more disastrous**. This election is being played out as a type of **quiz game to minimise the punishment each voter will receive as a result of their previous selection of the Syriza government**.

There is no 'Option Out' of the Euro and use their historical Drachma, issued by their own credit authority, as their own currency. In fact the recent plebiscite taken by the Syriza government to 'reject austerity measures' has been completely ignored. The electorate is being told "you have failed to answer correctly so you must try again"; a sort of multiple-choice quiz game, with no real choice at all.

It is no sort of democracy to be forced, or induced, to choose between alternatives which are unwanted, or even detested. In fact, it is this negative element in the ballot which alone has any value as an indication of the will of the electors, rather than their mere opinions or state of feeling at the time. While people, all being different, positively want different things, and so can never be satisfied by "all voting for the same things", when something is being done, or offered to them which they do not want, **they can all agree in rejecting it**. In this sense, the negative vote, or **veto, is a valid expression of democracy**; while it is no sort of democracy at all to be forced, or induced, to choose between alternatives which are unwanted, or even detested.

Ref: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-greek-elections-and-the-eu-bailout-from-hope-to-fear-and-despair-greeces-national-wealth-for-sale/5471926>

Read: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/20/greece-far-right-golden-dawn-nikos-michaloliakos-trial-start>

Recommended reading: Initiative and Referendum: The People's Law by Geoffrey de Q. Walker



In this book, Professor Walker recommends extending the procedure of referendum in two main ways; first by making it possible for binding referendums to be held on ordinary legislation as well as on constitutional changes, and second, by introducing the 'initiative', which would give ordinary citizens the power to submit proposals to referendum.

Ref: <http://alor.org/Library/Walker%20G%20de%20Q%20-%20The%20Peoples%20Law.pdf>

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FASCIST EUROPE RISING (R. Atkinson)

As the constitution of the Danish people rightly asserts "It is by law you build the land" and no regime in world history has achieved so much imperial conquest by merely generating the law to build their land as has the so-called "European Union".

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Stocks markets are crashing across the world, mainly in the "emerging nations" and especially those who got "cheap" loans denominated in US dollars, where the collapse in commodity prices is making it virtually impossible to service loans with local currencies. Those with a flair for predicting economic misery are predicting, well, economic misery. The UK Telegraph newspaper recently ran a story, "Doomsday Clock for Global Market Crash Strikes One Minute to Midnight as Central Banks Lose Control". The Bank for International Settlements has said that the world will be defenceless against the next market crisis, and they should know since they help create them.

Greece is up for sale with key infrastructure being sold off to pay international finance. People are reverting back to barter. One would hope that in the longer term people will come to question why a nation's finance is controlled by the Dark Lords of international finance, and seek answers in the reliance of the communities' real (social) credit.

SA APPEALS COURT HEARS PROSECUTION OF RAW MILK 'COW SHARE'

A dairy farming couple found guilty of selling unpasteurised milk have told an appeal hearing they should not have been convicted under South Australian food laws.

Mark and Helen Tyler from Willunga Hill, south of Adelaide, went to the Supreme Court to argue against a magistrate's decision, with their lawyer claiming the prosecution was flawed. It is illegal in South Australia to sell raw milk for human consumption but not to drink it from a cow you own, so the Tylers say their "cow share" scheme was a legal way to provide raw milk each week to about 700 shareholders because they "owned" the cows. The farming couple's lawyer Stephen McDonald told the court the prosecutor and magistrate had made errors during the trial and while the SA Government had agreed to a retrial, the Tylers should be acquitted of breaching the Food Act as they were not selling milk. "There's no doubt that the milk ... is commonly owned by the shareholders," he argued. "The trial was not a fair trial according to law [and] the magistrate gave insufficient reasons for certain findings.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...Is an Adler A110 "Rapid Fire" Lever Action Shotgun by John Steele

For a time it looked like the Adler A110 lever action shotgun wouldn't be imported into Australia. The gun banners were jumping for joy, using the Sydney Martin Place siege by an Islamist gunman, who had an illegal shotgun, as their point of argument. Fortunately a vote swap by libertarian David Leyonhjelm has ended the debate and saved the day for this gun. All I can say is: good work! About 7000 people have already pre-ordered the gun and I hope hundreds of thousands of people buy it!

WAS UNCLE LEN'S NAME ON THE ASHLEY MADISON CHEATERS' LIST? by Uncle Len the Sexless

My, oh my, there must have been some worried warts over the crashing and release of the "cheat sheet" of 37 million users worldwide of adultery website Ashley Madison. The entire Ashley Madison database was published online, with names, addresses, credit card details and sexual fantasies. Imagine the divorce proceedings that will be set in motion! The vampire lawyers must be sharpening their fangs in anticipation.

But the happy side of this story is that Uncle Len Hart's name isn't on the site. Yes, as incredible as it sounds, your beloved homeless hobo is not a swinger. Why, I have never had a wife, a girlfriend or even a pet goldfish. So, there will be no divorce proceedings for me, and no assets to lose, unless they want the silver from the silverfish who live with me in my sleeping bag.

A word of advice: life is short; don't have an affair.

TO THE EDITOR – *The Age* - Yes, yes, Mark Kenny, church people have made plenty of errors in the past ('Church: new underdog in marriage debate', 28/8), but society needs to avoid the mistake of throwing out the baby (the profound truth at the heart of sacred teaching) with the bathwater (inadequate theology and behaviours based on that).

It is no joke, this problem of 'the persecuted mainstream', if one grasps what is really in danger of being lost. No ordinary person knows what the universe really is, how it came to be or why it is in existence. That should alert thoughtful folk to the peculiar inadequacy of everyday thought to penetrate the mysteries of human life. A society that has forsaken the guidance of authentic religious teaching is in great danger of degradation and then disintegration, for the vital compass has gone. **It is reform and restoration of tradition that we need now.**

– Nigel Jackson, Belgrave

TO THE EDITOR of the *Shepparton News*

On the 26th August 2015, the head of the Australian Republican Movement, Peter Fitzsimons, speaking to a National Press Club Dinner, called for renewal of the Australian Republican putsch. I watched the Press Club address and in my opinion, for what it is worth, it was all humbug and more disturbing was the adulation of the gathering present. Notably absent from the speaker's appearance was the 'red headscarf'.

Will the Press Club afford Mr Phillip Benwell, Chairman of The Monarchist League the same courtesy on their platform or will it demonstrate 'press bias' on this very important and divisive issue. This was followed later in the day by Commonwealth Treasurer, Joe Hockey, uniting with Labor Senator Katy Gallagher, to revive the republic debate in the Halls of Parliament through a Parliamentary Friendship Group.

This demonstrates there is little difference between the philosophies of the Liberal and Labor Parties, both are socialist by intent. The Crown is part of the Australian 'system of government' and far more than 'a sentimental attraction' to members of the Royal Family. The Crown has served the Australian people well and as part of the *system of government served the people even better*; to build a country where migrants' risk their lives to get here and enjoy freedom not available in the republics' they have left.

Australians who support the putsch for a republic do so at their own peril, and demonstrate a shallow understanding of the Australian Constitution and the Institutions developed through blood shed over thousands of years.

Do not support ANY CHANGES to the Australian Constitution to retain your essential freedom.

In other words, leave The Constitution alone!

Louis Cook, Numurkah

TO THE EDITOR

The Australian - Gary Furnell underestimates the amount of affirmative art and literature produced in the last century ('Grim visions in a world of goodness', 22-23/8). Think for a moment of Boris Pasternak, T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats, J. R. R. Tolkien, Ursula Le Guin, Marilynne Robinson, Mikhail Bulgakov, Mary Webb, Ray Bradbury, Charles Morgan and visual artists such as Andrew Wyeth and Norman Lindsay.

The real problem has not been the over-production of the gloomy and cynical, but its over-promotion - partly for political advantage (depressed peoples are easier to conquer) and partly to satisfy the egoisms of alienated cultural elites. The most striking example is the peculiar failure to publish in English the last major works of Solzhenitsyn, a giant among the life-affirmers - and the pathetic silence about this in the world's major media.

Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic

The Age - Thank you for publishing the photograph of indigenous leaders meeting in Melbourne ('Recognition forums add to confusion, says expert', 24/8). These eight faces suggest an intense commitment to a political cause, but do not give confidence that a gentle, generous and wise approach to national unity is currently being pursued by the 'Aboriginal Industry'. Yes, their voices should be heard, but so should the voices of those opposed to constitutional change that would be unnecessary, of little real benefit, racially unjust and divisive of the Australian people. More space should be given in major public forums to the 'No' case, which should also be provided with an equitable share of government funding. Moreover, the report that the PM is making 'a pilgrimage' to Eddie Mabo's grave suggests that, inappropriately, religion is entering politics - or, putting it another way, intense prejudice is interfering with rational discussion. Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic

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