



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

IN THIS ISSUE

Credit is Not a Material Thing by Betty Luks	1
To Australia's Shame from David Pascoe's FaceBook	2
Paul Keating's Ideas for Australia by Nigel Jackson	4
Nasty Aspects of the Finance Industry by Louis Cook	5
Vaccination Warfare by Mrs. Vera West	6
Monopolies Versus Nature	6
Letters to The Editor	8

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** One of our modern standpoints that enable us to see more clearly is the recognition that many age-old problems are wrongly put. One of these is the problem of the meaning of life on earth. I do not believe there is an answer to this general question. The true problem is: "What meaning is *given* to each particular life by the person living that life?"

To be born, to be indoctrinated, to be 'fully employed,' to die - is a senseless routine. But to be born, to become conscious, and to put a meaning into one's life is the highest creative activity, to which the routine of life should be entirely subordinated. By this I mean that it is not what one does that matters, but why one does it. It is not the technique of the artist which matters, but what he creates. Of course, the highest creative achievements require perfected techniques for their adequate embodiment; but perfected techniques become unconscious, and are only the means to the expression of creative activity.

*Why I am a Social Crediter* by Bryan W. Monahan

<http://alor.org/Library/Monohan%20BW%20-%20Why%20I%20Am%20A%20Social%20Crediter.pdf>

**CREDIT IS NOT A MATERIAL THING:  
It Belongs to the World of the Mind and Spirit by Betty Luks**

I am angry. It is a white-hot anger. I read on David Pascoe's Facebook page of the death of Chinchilla cotton farmer Mr. George Bender. Mr. Bender died by taking his own life. And guess what? I did read the minister for Goldman Sachs (Malcolm Turnbull) has heard that Mr. Bender took his own life.

Isn't it odd? Malcolm is now interested in a dead Queensland cotton farmer. Why did it take the suicide of the man before Malcolm – or any of the other party-political-parasites in Canberra – take an interest in the human drama being played out in the Queensland outback? It is all so unnecessary. You will find the background to Mr. Bender's battle with Coal Seam Gas companies on "Lock the Gate" Facebook:

"He fought long and hard to defend his property and neighbours at Hopeland on the Western Downs from the impacts of coal seam gas."

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mr. Bender's family at this tragic time.

But it has come to the point as Geoffrey Dobbs wrote in C. H. Douglas' 1979 edition of "*The Monopoly of Credit*": "No just appreciation of this situation is possible which does not take into consideration the peculiar and perhaps unique, position occupied by finance in the organisation of modern society in every country. Finance, (i.e. money), is the starting-point of every action that requires either the co-operation of the community or the use of its assets.

If it be realised that control of its mechanism gives, to a major extent, control of both personal and organised activity, it is easy to see that education, publicity, and organised Intelligence (in the sense in which the word "Intelligence" is used in military circles) can be controlled, first to minimise the likelihood of criticism arising, and should it arise, depriving it of all the normal facilities for effective action. Finance can and does control policy, and as has been well said by an American writer, Charles Ferguson\*, "control of credit and control of the news are concentric." ..."

"The carefully fostered idea of an intrinsic, material poverty of the planet is the reverse of the truth. The issue is one of policy, between centralised and decentralised control of the energy and resources of the earth, and it is quite clear that if the control of financial credit is ignored, the confrontations of contemporary politics are quite irrelevant to it."

*(continued on next page)*

*(continued from previous page)*

*Please read the following very carefully because until you understand the situation and join in spreading the word, the people will continue to be deceived:*

“Credit is not a material thing; it belongs to the world of the mind and spirit, of the faith even more than the intellect. Money, a form of power, has always been associated with some corruption in so far as it has been centralised, though while it had a physical form it was somewhat limited by the laws of nature.

When it became wholly abstract - a numerical artifact originating in a particular category of men - this limitation was removed. A return to a link with a single easily monopolised commodity such as gold would not decentralise the power of credit monopoly. This would require what Douglas proposes, that financial credit should be based upon real credit, and not upon an arbitrary currency, and should be correctly distributed to the public.

Such a reversal of policy is a challenge to the unconscious objectives, rather than the technical knowledge, of professional economists, who are unable to admit in plain words what is implicit in their technical language. Keynes and his followers, for instance, who created the mental background for continuous economic "growth" and inflation, never acknowledged that these had become the built-in requirements of our credit-and-employment system. And the currently fashionable Monetarists, whose very name implies their advocacy of the manipulation of the economy by the central control of the money supply, **will never admit that there is a Monopoly of Credit** \*\*.

Proposals which were ridiculed when first put forward by Douglas, such as "social incomes", consumer credits, and sales below cost at credit-compensated prices, are now being massively applied in inverted fashion, so as to postpone and aggravate, rather than to cancel, the deficiency to which he drew attention, and to centralise further, rather than to decentralise, the control of credit.”

God only knows what disasters the world will have to endure before our rulers, or some of them, will open their minds to the truth contained in this book, which, it seems, presents too penetrating a perspective to be seen by preoccupied and clever men.

But whatever happens, the more people can escape from the hypnotic Left/Right dialectical two-step on the Marxist one-way street to look at something more fundamental, the more hope there must be for an eventual triumph of sanity.

\* *Revolution Absolute* by Charles Ferguson  
[https://archive.org/stream/revolutionabsol00ferggoog/revolutionabsol00ferggoog\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/revolutionabsol00ferggoog/revolutionabsol00ferggoog_djvu.txt)

\*\* Geoffrey wrote that observation in 1979. But in 2015 the Bank of England publicly admitted ‘banks create credit out of thin air’. Go to Working Paper No. 529, Banks are not intermediaries of loanable funds - and why this matters. Zoltan Jakab and Michael Kumhof May 2015

#### **Further reading:**

<http://alor.org/Library/Joseph%20AW%20-%20The%20A%20B%20Theorem.pdf>

<http://alor.org/Library/Douglas%20CH%20-%20Monopoly%20of%20Credit.pdf>

<http://alor.org/Library/Joseph%20AW%20-%20Banking%20and%20Industry.pdf>

#### **TO AUSTRALIA'S SHAME:**

##### **A Public Statement To Honour George Bender**

Dr. David Pascoe appeals to fellow Australians to make sure they read the full letter found here ...

<http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/3434983/bender-family-statement/?cs=4698>

**Betty Luks asks:** Are you a property owner? Could the same happen to you should the international mining companies decide to search for oil or gas or any other mineral on your land? Are you sure your title deeds ensure your rights to the property? Just what is in the secret TPP agreement? Read on...

#### **Dr. David Pascoe wrote:**

"Australia, please make sure you read this, and please make sure you share this with every single person you know. We assure you will be outraged, you will be inspired, and you will weep. How in God's name did we ever allow Governments to do this to our people?

If we cannot find the will to stand up now, then there is no hope for us.

Our love, support and prayers are with the Bender family, who are showing exactly the same truth, the same spine, the same intelligence and the same courage as their father. He would be so proud of you all. We stand beside you."

Just to make sure you understand what has happened, the following comes from the Open Letter by George Bender's family:

"....here were many politicians, both at a state and federal level, who heard from George. He demanded from our politicians a higher standard.

*(continued on next page)*

**"ON TARGET"** is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights,  
Level 9, Suite 8, 118-120 Queens Street, Melbourne, 3000

Postal Address: GPO Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9600 0677

Subscription \$45.00 p.a.

*(continued from previous page)*

The litany of letters that were left unanswered and telephone calls not returned reflects the political inaction and unwillingness to look at the impacts of this industry by all except the likes of Glenn Lazarus and Larrisa Waters.

In a submission to the 'Senate Inquiry to Investigate Certain Aspects of Queensland Government Administration related to Government Affairs' in November last year, George stated:

"The government has provided the CSG Companies with all the power, leaving an individual farmer to protect himself against multinational companies. The decision whether or not to have CSG on our property should be a commercial decision; it should be the right of the farmer to choose what effects his business on a commercial basis. This situation the government has created leaves the process open for bullying, and intimidation and potential corruption."

George, like many farmers of his generation, left school early to support his family working on the land. However, despite the lack of formal education, this did not prevent George spending many hours, night after night, studying the relevant legislation and correspondence from the companies he was standing up to.

This led, in the view of many, to George having a better understanding of the relevant law than many others, including company executives and lawyers. He called many to account, in the companies, Government and the community, for their lack of due process and honesty in claims about the CSG operations.

What became clear as regards the Environmental Authority issued in respect of the Origin tenement affecting George's land, as well as others in the area, is that it was issued without the correct procedures being followed under the Environmental Protection

### **THE (LIBERAL) TREASON OF THE INTELLECTUALS by James Reed**

Professor Kevin MacDonald at Occidental Observer.net, has written about liberal bias in academia a number of times, his most recent post being on October 18, 2015. He rightly observes that academia is a rigidly controlled structure which sensors either explicitly or implicitly dissent on race, immigration and even economic issues (e.g. foreign investment). Academics have welcomed, in general, the transformation of these institutions into "minority" controlled organisations, "the coalition of the aggrieved".

MacDonald goes on to welcome published criticisms exposing the Liberal-left bias in academia.

While I agree that doing so is worthwhile the bigger questions of whether universities are worth having at all seldom gets discussed. As far as I am aware I am one of the few that consistently raises this question. If universities - the Arts and Humanities, primarily - radiate cosmopolitan values, this must surely be because in their essence these organisations are cosmopolitan. Hence, I propose dealing with the toxicity problem at the source: get rid of universities as we know them. We can still have a flourishing scientific and technical education sector. Instead of universities let education in a profession be associated with a "guild", such as an engineering Institute or a hospital. Make education more "hands-on" and practical. In the process, save money by eliminating the real source of trouble: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Act. Critical "environmental values" information required to enable environmental impact assessments prior to approvals was never submitted. This pattern has enabled the companies to respond to criticisms by pleading a lack of available data in order to measure impacts, such lack being a result of misfeasance by those who had the responsibility to make sure that legislative procedures were followed.

Since 2005, George confronted and stood up to QGC, Arrow and most recently Origin in them seeking to construct a number of wells on one of his properties. It is from this land that George had over the years grown and harvested a number of award winning crops. The impact of CSG on neighbouring properties had caused his bores to run dry and bubble with noxious methane, something that was not caused by anything other than the mining activities in the area.

The threats most recently from Origin can be simply stated as follows: you agree to our terms or we enter a process that, should you resist, inevitably ends up in Court. In 2011, George raised concerns about the impacts of the UCG (Underground Coal Gasification) arising from the operations of Linc Energy in the Hopeland area. The response from Peter Bond, CEO and Managing Director of Linc Energy, was to deny all such claims and a direct threat to have George Bender declared "a vexatious complainant and/or commence legal action for damages for injurious falsehood".

It is notable that the property on which George was raised and lived until his untimely death is now within an exclusion zone imposed by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection as a result of investigations into Linc activities. These investigations form the basis of a criminal prosecution against Linc, now before the Courts, for causing serious environmental harm."

#### **Read further:**

<http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/3434983/bender-family-statement/?cs=4698>

## PAUL KEATING'S IDEAS FOR AUSTRALIA: An advocate of dangerous repackaging by Nigel Jackson

Former prime minister Paul Keating is the subject of a new biography by Kerry O'Brien published by Allen & Unwin. In *Good Weekend*, the supplement to Melbourne newspaper *The Age*, a two-page edited extract was published on 17<sup>th</sup> October under the headline 'Independence Day'.

Keating was described as 'a lifelong advocate of Australian self-determination', by which he plainly means a republican Australia that has severed its ties with the British monarchy. At no stage did the article investigate his views on the question of independence from the United Nations Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and other international bodies. One could be forgiven for wondering whether his proposals would really involve a further loss of real independence and a greater subservience to those bodies and their agenda.

The language in which Keating spoke about our monarchy was misleading and disparaging. He championed the 'cutting' of 'the formal ties to the British crown'. Well, formally, Australia is an independent nation ruled by the Queen of Australia, who takes advice from her ministers here and does not reject it. Moreover, the ties between Australia and Britain go far beyond the formal: they involve our continuing heritage of religion, political order, law and culture. That heritage is not going to be supplanted by an Asian one.

Keating spoke derisively of the 'Menzies torpor of the 1950s and 1960s' of which the essential idea was retaining 'formal links to Whitehall and the monarchy'. He objects, it seems, to having 'the Queen of Great Britain' as our 'head of state', forgetting that vis-à-vis our nation she is Queen of Australia. Finally Keating referred to what he called 'all these incantations around Prince William and the new wife.'

*This avid republican exhibited no sympathy whatever for the feelings of monarchists and virtually no understanding of the nature and significance to us of our Australian monarchy. One wonders what kind of political order Australia will end up with if persons of this prejudiced and authoritarian viewpoint triumph with their republican project.*

Keating also favoured a change to our profound and beautiful flag with its religious and celestial imagery and carriage visually of our essential history. He spoke scornfully of it as 'a remnant of all that history' – entirely failing to grasp that the history of Great Britain is part of our history. (He would no doubt have no difficulty in accepting the history of our Aboriginal tribes as part of our history.) He wants the Union Jack removed as a minimum and dislikes 'getting around with the flag of another country in the corner of our flag.'

Perhaps as a ploy to discourage Australian monarchists, Keating, offering the most tenuous evidence, claimed that the Royal Family would like to see Australia becoming a republic. Such is utterly unlikely. The monarchy of Great Britain itself is strengthened by Her Majesty's possession of her other kingdoms and territories. Chipping off Australia would significantly weaken the royal prestige in Britain and elsewhere.

Our Constitution has been designed to prevent the nation being rushed into folly by fads and fashions of the times; hence the need to have a majority of Australians supporting change as well as a majority of states.

Keating deviously hoped to circumvent this protection by asking Australians (if he was re-elected in 1996) the dangerously simplistic question: 'Do you believe Australia should become a republic?' Any yes response to such a question (he claims 70% of voters would have said yes) would have been utterly irresponsible.

We would have been buying a pig in a poke. The difficulty of formulating a credible republican alternative to our present system has since become very obvious and is no doubt one reason why republican stocks are low in the public esteem.

Not all Keating's views are unworthy. His admiration for Australian heroism on the Kokoda Trail which turned back the Japanese push on Port Moresby in World War Two is excellent. It is a pity that he is less enthusiastic about Anzac Day celebration of our soldiers' heroism at Gallipoli (because it was manifested in Britain's interests). Whether he is right to berate British policy towards Malaya and Singapore before they fell in 1942 is arguable; but he is surely correct that John Curtin did well to insist on Australian troops being withdrawn from the Middle East to defend us from the Japanese.

*The Age's* article is in general uncritically accepting of the Keating gospel. For example, it fails to point out that the 'republican advisory committee', which he established while prime minister, was not genuinely bipartisan and impartial. Keating knew perfectly well that Malcolm Turnbull and Nick Greiner were republicans. More importantly, no attempt at all is made to consider whether or not Keating's proposed repackaging of Australia is really in the national interest. He is given an easy run indeed! It is in line with what is apparently the policy of *The Age* at the present time: to publish regularly articles favouring a republic, while publishing virtually nothing supportive of our monarchy. Such unfairness suggests that secretly the paper fears that its case for a republic is weak and would be exposed in a fairly presented debate.

I think it was in 1954 when Victorian Premier Henry Bolte returned from a trip to Tasmania to announce Tattersalls Lottery would be moving to Victoria and money earned from the lotteries would be directed to financially struggling hospitals. Today the hospitals are crying out for more funding and we now have a gambling problem.

Do politicians ever get it right?

**As the Demtel man said ... "but wait, there is more"!**

Last week ABC Free-to-air TV screened one of the best documentary films ever produced on gambling; 'Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation'.

It was very confronting and must be compulsive viewing to any person concerned about the degradation of the once great Australian Nation.

The program documented how the modern gambling machine is setup and programmed to prey on human weaknesses that eventually lead to destruction of lives and families.

*Discussion about the program has been a hot topic on the Internet which includes some of the following...*

They've been called "electronic morphine" and "the crack cocaine of gambling". Ever wonder what makes Pokies so addictive? Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation takes you inside the machine to find out. In this ground-breaking expose, industry insiders break the silence around this highly secretive industry to explain how Pokies are rigged to keep you hooked. Learn from world-leading neuroscientists how Pokies work on the deepest levels of our brains. And see how our governments have become the biggest addicts of all.

*Yes, politicians see it as a way to finance the way of life to which they have become accustomed at the expense of those they claim to represent, the poor and disadvantaged.*

... Poker machine addiction is a key public health crisis in Australia. In Australia, 100,000 people are addicted to pokie machines, with over 200,000 more at risk. Every person who becomes addicted to Pokies negatively affects the wellbeing of seven other people.

Pokie machine addiction is significantly correlated with higher rates of suicide, mental illness, homelessness and family violence. Poker machine addiction is also a key social justice issue for Australians, as poorer postcodes have the most machines and lose the most money. This means that pokie machines entrench and reinforce social disadvantage.

Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation presents a powerful case that Pokie machines are programmed to be addictive.

In doing so, it reframes the way we view "problem gambling", shifting the focus off the "problematic" individuals and onto the predatory machine design.

**The foregoing is just a small taste of what was on offer and should be enough to spark a glimmer of interest in a far wider problem in Australia.**

Why do people turn to gambling in the first place? One section of the documentary noted gambling addiction has now been grouped in medical textbooks with physical addictions such as alcohol and drugs.

There is little point saying the machines should be banned unless you solve the problem of unemployed thousands in the industry from pokie manufacturers to the workers in the pubs and clubs... a parallel to the arms and war industries; and these paths are directly opposed to the government's 'jobs creation' policy.

**Students of Social Credit know there is an alternative which will ease the financial problems in society to make the world a better place for our descendants; we must continue to spread the valuable Social Credit message.**

The words of Sir John Harrington come to mind, "Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason? Why if it prosper, none dare call it treason".

The Poker Machine Industry is a form of treason against the Australian people and should be treated as such with harsh penalties.

**Watch here...** <http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/ka-ching-pokie-nation/DO1406H001S00>

## **THE MFP WAS BORN IN SIN AND DIES IN SIN by Tom North**

Back in the early 1990s when Japan held the "top of the pops" spot on capitalism's greatest hits, now held by China, a scheme was formed to build a Japanese high-tech city in Australia. It was finally decided that the city, which would be home to 250,000 Japanese, would be placed on degraded land at Gillman, Adelaide. The project was strongly opposed in Australia, ultimately being defeated because the Japanese had other things on their mind once their financial bubble had burst.

The 400ha Gillman land then did not go out to public tender; instead the South Australian government struck a deal with consortium Adelaide Capital Partners to buy the land. Over half of the board of the State Government property developer Renew SA resigned over the deal, which unloaded the site for \$100 million, one quarter of its potential value.

*(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page)

On January 12, 2015, the Supreme Court of South Australia found the process “irrational” and “unlawful”. On January 16, 2015 the SA Auditor General handed down a report which found that the Cabinet submission which showed the deal was “good value” was misleading as key advice had been left out. Then in October the Independent Commission Against Corruption investigating the land deal found maladministration by two Renew SA executives, constituting a substantial mismanagement of public resources.

Nevertheless an article in *The Advertiser*, October 17, 2015, p.20 says that Adelaide Capital Partners is developing stage one of the Gillman industrial hub. No doubt such a development will be of much greater benefit to the state than the illusory MFP concept and will aid industrial development, so this is a good thing. It is not the fault of private enterprise to grab a good deal when they see it, but the conduct of the South Australian government on this issue has been sub-standard. But at least the MFP can now be buried forever in millions of tonnes of fill which will rehabilitate the site.

### **VACCINATION WARFARE: Was Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Right? by Mrs Vera West**

Natural News.com, April to 26, 2015, reported that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at a screening of the documentary *Trace Amounts* said that vaccines threatened to cause a "holocaust" in the United States, and by implication, other countries across the world such as Australia. The screening was part of the campaign to stop Senate Bill 277 which would make vaccinations "mandatory".

Kennedy said: "They can put anything they want in that vaccine and they have no accountability for it". Consequently there has been a multitude of vaccine-damaged children: "They get the shot, that night they have a fever of 103, they go to sleep, and three months later their brain is gone", Kennedy said. "This is a Holocaust, what this is doing to our country".

Even a quick Internet examination of material supports Kennedy's claims. "Infant Dies After Receiving 13 Vaccines in One Day Without Mother's Informed Consent", September 27, 2015, at <http://www.australiannationalreview.com/infant-dies-receiving-13-vaccines-day-mothers-informed-consent/> or: "Schoolboy, 11, has been left Unable to Smile or Laugh without Suffering Narcolepsy Fits after He was given a Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine as Part of a Government Scheme", September 7, 2015 at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3224953/Schoolboy-11-left-unable-smile-laugh-without-suffering-narcolepsy-fits-given-nasal-spray-flu-vaccine-government-scheme.html>

Cataplexy is an illness where the sufferer has seizures from giggling, or laughing. Narcolepsy is the condition of falling asleep constantly. People cannot drive cars or operate machinery. The medical establishment claims that there is no link between vaccinations and autism but at Natural News.com has exposed in many articles in the last two years, there has been a massive cover-up of the evidence.

An article of September 8, 2014 for example reported:

"A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed in the UK has forced the Department of Health to release confidential documents outlining the details of MMRs (measles, mumps and rubella) initial approval back in the 1980s. These documents reveal that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the manufacturer of the MMR vaccine Pluserix, knew that there were problems with the vaccine causing a high rate of adverse events in children. Among these were encephalitis and other conditions associated with autism".

It is significant that across the West various Acts provide Big Pharma from immunity from all liability for injury. This is said to be needed because otherwise vaccines won't be developed. But that begs the question: if, unlike any other products, vaccine-production requires such protection, if Big Pharma is not willing to stand by their product, why should we trust it?

### **REVISITING SOME LEAGUE HISTORY: MONOPOLIES VERSUS NATURE**

The founder of the Gene-Ethics Network, Mr. Bob Phelps, presented a well-documented and chilling picture of the growing global monopoly of GMOs (Genetically-Modified Organisms). Genetically modified foods were now being marketed without adequate trials and so far without labelling. The transference of genes from anywhere in nature to any other part has made possible the creation of 'specie-mutations' totally impossible in the natural order. Many were designed to kill predators, eradicating friendly species in the process.

Evidence had already appeared that these could affect mammals; but such evidence was being suppressed and scientists involved intimidated. Plants 'mutated' by this process have the ability to 'Infect' Organic neighbours by pollen transfer through wind, insect or drift.

Mr. Phelps said it was a humanistic attempt to re-design nature into an artificially-chemical mould. Monsanto had spent up to \$5 billion in the last few years buying small seed companies.

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

In consequence there is a growing shortage of non-genetically-modified seeds. It was Monsanto that developed Agent Orange.

Since Mr. Phelps paper the news has broken that Mr. Howard personally intervened to postpone the labelling of genetically modified foods.

Under the heading: HOWARD SCOTCHES FOOD LABELLING PLANS, *The Australian Financial Review* (21.10.99) reported: "Plans for a controversial mandatory labelling scheme for genetically modified food products... will be placed on hold after intervention yesterday by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Howard.

In a last-ditch effort to halt the expected endorsement of the comprehensive labelling regime by State health ministers at a meeting on Friday, Mr. Howard wrote to his New Zealand counterpart and State premiers yesterday seeking feedback on a 'whole of government approach' which would consider the plan's impact on exports, food prices and jobs..."

One State health minister said that Mr. Howard's move was a response to a false fear and scare campaign engineered by American food companies".

**Source:** The New Times, Vol. 63, No. 11 November 1999

## ISIS Report 14/10/15

(Institute of Science in Society)

### CONTINUING DEMISE OF GMOS

*More than two-thirds of EU nations opted for bans on growing GM crops; Monsanto stocks fell 25 %, losses deepen, and 12 % of workforce slashed.*

*Dr Eva Sirinathsinghji <<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/contact.php>> and*

*Dr Mae-Wan Ho <<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/contact.php>>*

### GM crop bans swept across the EU

The majority of EU member states (two-thirds) have decided to "opt-out" of genetically modified (GM) food cultivation after new legislation brought into force this spring gives individual member state the power to restrict GM cultivation in their own territories.

Following the deadline of the 3 October 2015, European Commission spokesperson Enrico Brivio confirmed that 19 of the 28 members that belong to the EU block have requested 'opt-outs' [1]: Austria, Belgium for the Wallonia region (constituting over half of Belgium's territory), Britain (for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia. Germany has a partial opt-out that will still allow research into GM crops without commercial cultivation. Altogether these nations represent ~70 % of the EU population and over two-thirds of its arable land. Serbia and Russia, not members of the EU, have also

made a point of rejecting the technology, with Serbia now marketing itself as an exclusively non-GM soy producer [2-4]. Switzerland, not a member of the EU, has a moratorium against GM crops already in place. Similar opt-out proposals are under consideration for imports of GM food and animal feed but are yet to be finalised.

### Concerns over safety, conflict of interest, corrupt regulation, and lack of demand

Scotland was the first to announce its opt-out, with environment secretary Richard Lochhead saying they intend to uphold the precautionary principle – which states that when there is reasonable suspicion of harm, lack of scientific certainty or consensus must not be used to postpone preventative action, adding [5]:

"There is no evidence of significant demand for GM products by Scottish consumers and I am concerned that allowing GM crops to be grown in Scotland would damage our clean and green brand, thereby gambling with the future of our £14bn food and drink sector.

The Scottish government has long-standing concerns about GM crops – concerns that are shared by other European countries and consumers, and which should not be dismissed lightly." And, "I firmly believe that GM policy in Scotland should be guided by what's best for our economy and our own agricultural sector rather than the priorities of others."

UK-based pro-GM lobbyist Sense about Science orchestrated a letter signed by a number of organisations including certain universities claiming that Scotland will be missing out on future innovations such as enriched GM fishmeal or GM potatoes [6], despite Scotland having some of the world's most renowned wild salmon and fish stocks. They have completely ignored the lack of scientific consensus on the safety of GM crops. The risks were summarised in ISIS' response to Sense about Science's letter [7] (Open Letter in Support of Scotland's Ban on GMOs <[http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Open\\_Letter\\_in\\_Support\\_of\\_Scotlands\\_Ban\\_on\\_GMOs.php](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Open_Letter_in_Support_of_Scotlands_Ban_on_GMOs.php)>, *SiS* 68), together with another open letter published in support of Scotland's decision, signed by dozens of independent scientists, referring to the widespread conflict of interest by many who endorse GM crops, and highlighting GM crop-associated rising pesticide use, lack of increased yields, as well as safety concerns to health and environment [8].

Regulation is permissive, to say the least; GM crops are never tested with their associated pesticides, as in the case of glyphosate-tolerant GM crops [9]. At worst, it is corrupt, as risk assessment is essentially left to the chemical industry. (see Scandal of Glyphosate Re-assessment in Europe) <[http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Scandal\\_of\\_Glyphosate\\_Reassessment\\_in\\_Europe.php](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Scandal_of_Glyphosate_Reassessment_in_Europe.php)>, *SiS*63).

**Continue reading here:** [http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Continuing\\_Demise\\_of\\_GMOs.php](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Continuing_Demise_of_GMOs.php)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

of THE AGE

Australia is a lucky country for many reasons and one of these is that we live in a single-nation continent, which makes for political stability and the relatively easy provision of personal security in a peaceful ambience of law and order.

Paul Keating ('Saturday Age', 17/10) and now Michael Mansell (19/10) would have this changed with talk of a spurious treaty with our 'first peoples' and a 'federal Aboriginal territory'.

The great majority of Australians will never buy partition of our nation; and promotion of such foolish policies will only diminish popular sympathy for Aboriginals generally.

*Nigel Jackson, Belgrave*

of THE AUSTRALIAN

Frank Brennan's latest advocacy of constitutional recognition of indigenous Australians ('Modest change "could deliver substantive recognition" results', 16/10) shows clearly why Australians will be wise to reject any and all models for this proposed alteration of our founding document, which is unnecessary, ethnically unjust and nationally divisive.

Brennan states that 'modest constitutional changes' ultimately result in 'substantive change' to policy, and that the suggestion of adding a constitutional ban on

racial discrimination is 'not a possibility at this time.' In short, so-called 'minimal change' is just a strategy to get greater change at a later date. There's more than a sniff of Fabian wiliness and Trojan horses here.

*Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic*

of THE AUSTRALIAN

Norm Neill is wrong to argue (22/10) that his proposed minimalist republican model can be implemented without 'meaningful change.' This is because a republic, by its nature, is fundamentally different from a monarchy, so that any change to a republic carries grave consequences. Alas, there appears to be a gathering movement among some Australians holding that our nation can do without God, and this is ominous.

Our monarchy, our right to secure our borders, our traditional understanding of marriage, our acceptance that educational syllabi can include religion, and our legal heritage upholding freedom and individual responsibility - all these rest on a sacred foundation and protect us from anarchy or tyranny; but they are under threat from a kind of collective madness. The position is weakened further by church leaders' adherence to flawed theology and distraction with secular 'social justice' campaigns of very dubious validity.

*Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic*

### AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE OF RIGHTS NATIONAL WEEKEND

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2015  
IN ADELAIDE  
Public Schools Club  
207 East Terrace,  
Adelaide, SA 5000  
Phone: 08 8223 3213

**ACCOMMODATION :** The following accommodation addresses are within reasonable motoring distance.

Chifley, 226 South Tce. Ph. 8223 4355

Country Comfort, 215 South Tce. Ph. 8223 2800

Rydges, 1, South Tce. Ph. 8212 1277

### 800 YEARS OF MAGNA CARTA

#### SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Mr. Philip Benwell MBE  
Mr. Robert Balzola  
Mr Bernard Gaynor

#### BOOKINGS FOR THE SEMINAR DIRECT TO DOUG & JEAN HOLMES

Hancock Mews  
10/308 Hancock Rd.,  
Surrey Downs, SA 5126  
Phone 08 8289 0049  
M0421 925 557

#### THE LEAGUE'S BOOK SERVICES: — <http://alor.org/>

When ordering journals, 'On Target' and 'New Times Survey' – Please make Cheques/Money Orders payable to --  
'ALOR Journals'

For educational books, videos and DVDs, etc. please make Cheques/Money Orders payable to --  
Heritage Bookshop Services'

For donations to the League please make payments to--  
'Australian League of Rights' or 'ALOR'

Books are available at meetings, at our Melbourne bookshop or by mail order from the following addresses:

Victoria, Tasmania:  
Heritage Bookshop,  
Level 9, Suite 8, 118-120 Queens Street,  
Melbourne, 3000  
(G.P.O. Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001).  
Phone: (03) 9600 0677

South Australia  
Heritage Book Mailing Service,  
P.O. Box 27, Happy Valley, 5159.  
Phone: (08) 71237131;

All Other States:  
To either Victorian or South Australian addresses.

VERITASBOOKS ONLINE:  
<http://veritasbooks.com.au/>