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LONG HALF-LIFE
The Nuclear Industry in Australia
By Ian Lowe

‘This book is a clarion call for sanity at a time when we can finally get the nuclear monkey off our back – highly recommended.’
Peter Garrett

‘Ian Lowe brings both scientific rigour and personal depth to an issue that has generated heartache and headlines for decades. This cautionary tale is timely and important.’
Dave Sweeney, Australian Conservation Foundation

Australia has been directly involved in the nuclear industry for more than a century, but our involvement has never been comprehensively documented. Long Half-life tells the social and political history of Australia’s role, from the first discovery of radioactive ores in 1906 to contemporary contentious questions. Should the next generation of submarines be nuclear powered? Can nuclear energy help to slow global climate change? Do we need nuclear weapons for defence? Should we store radioactive waste from nuclear power stations in our region?

Long Half-life is a timely and riveting account of the political, social and scientific complexities of the nuclear industry, revealing the power of vested interests, the subjectivities of scientists and the transformative force of community passion.

Professor Ian Lowe AO is uniquely qualified to tell this story, following a long career in universities, research councils and advisory groups. Lowe is the author of several books, including Living in the Hothouse (Scribe, 2005), A Big Fix (Black Inc., 2005), A Voice of Reason (UQP, 2010), Bigger or Better? (UQP, 2012) and The
**FREAK OUT**

*How a Musical Revolution Rocked the World in the Sixties*

By Tony Wellington

*Freak Out* is Australia’s coming-of-age story, of how we as a nation were dragged into global culture by the unstoppable momentum of rock and pop music. The sixties was an era of extraordinary change and earth-shattering events. The music scene responded with popular anthems that reverberated across the planet. What’s more, the gun was fired on a period of unprecedented musical innovation and creativity, the likes of which have never been repeated.

Music spoke to young people in their own bespoke language, urging them to view themselves as decidedly separate from mainstream society – even suggesting they might ‘drop-out’ altogether. For a brief time, millions of young people across western culture actually believed they could successfully reinvent society. Liberation for pacifists, women, people of colour, homosexuals, students and the oppressed seemed to be just a short revolution away.

There was no room for complacency or apathy in the face of the Cold War, Vietnam War, and the constant threat of nuclear annihilation. Australians may have been spared the fear of bomb blasts, assassinations and kidnappings; however, the ructions abroad invaded our national psyche, and the music that was generated in that milieu infiltrated Australian culture and transformed society forever.

Take the trip.

**Tony Wellington** has worked as a film-maker, artist, photographer, lecturer and writer. He was also the Mayor of Noosa Shire.

Tony graduated from Sydney’s Macquarie University in 1976 with a BA majoring in Mass Media and Communications. He received the University Prize for his media studies.

He has worked on a freelance basis in the film and television industry, written books and articles, lectured in media, had exhibitions of his paintings around Australia, run folk clubs, recorded a CD of original songs, worked as a photographer, and published a regular political newsletter.

He is a father of three and keen surfer. Living in the hinterland of Queensland’s premier holiday destination, Noosa, he gets to surf world-class point breaks and indulge his fascination with the natural environment.
LABOR PEOPLE
The Stories of Six True Believers
By Chris Bowen

‘Chris Bowen has shone a long-overdue light on six of Labor’s finest from the past. They deserve his generous and insightful reflections.’
Former Senator John Faulkner

How much do you know about the history of Australia’s oldest political party, the Australian Labor Party? You know the big names: Curtin, Chifley, Whitlam, Hawke and Keating. But what about the names behind the big names? The unsung and overlooked True Believers who have been the backbone of the Labor Party for 130 years?

In Labor People, Chris Bowen investigates the stories of six great Australians, passionate servants of their party. Spanning the 1890s to the 1970s, in paying tribute to these Labor warriors he also tells an important part of the history of Labor and Australia.

Who was the first loyal deputy and lynchpin of the earliest Labor governments? Which leading advocate of votes for women went on to play an important but unrecognised role in Australia’s literary history? Who did Labor turn to in its darkest First World War hours when its very existence was under threat? Who did Curtin and Chifley turn to for their hardest jobs? Which Labor loyalist called her own party out on police brutality when it wasn’t fashionable? Which minister was Whitlam’s steadiest performer? The answers to all these questions and more lie in the pages of Labor People.

Chris Bowen is one of Labor’s most experienced parliamentarians. He entered Parliament in 2004 and has held a wide range of portfolios, including being Treasurer, Shadow Treasurer, Minister for Immigration and Minister for Tertiary Education.

He served as Interim Leader of the Labor Party in 2013, and is currently Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
FATAL CONTACT

How Epidemics Nearly Wiped Out Australia’s First Peoples

By Peter Dowling

Fatal Contact explores the devastating infectious diseases introduced into the Indigenous populations of Australia after the arrival of the British colonists in 1788. Epidemics of smallpox, tuberculosis, influenza, measles and sexually transmitted diseases swept through the Indigenous populations of the continent well into the twentieth century. The consequences still echo today in Aboriginal health and life expectancy.

Many historians have acknowledged that introduced diseases caused much sickness and mortality among the Aboriginal populations and were part of the huge population decline following colonisation. But few writers have elaborated further, and much of this history is still missing, even after more than 200 years. Our knowledge and understanding of the biological consequences surrounding the meeting and contact of these two cultures has not yet been fully investigated.

Fatal Contact examines the major epidemics and explains the complexities of disease infection and immunology: which diseases were responsible for the Aboriginal population decline across Australia in the colonial period, when and where did they occur, how severe were they, how long did they last, which diseases were more devastating, and why were they so devastating? The book also considers the individual medical history of Truganini, the Tasmanian Aboriginal woman erroneously known as ‘the last Tasmanian’. By focusing on the disease burden she faced during her life, the author creates a deeper and personal understanding of how First Nations Australians suffered and yet survived.

What this investigation reveals is nothing short of the greatest human tragedy in the long history of Australia. This is a vitally important story that all Australians should read.

Peter Dowling holds a PhD in archaeology and biological anthropology from the Australian National University. He has written and lectured on Australian history, archaeology, Indigenous and European biological contact history and Australian cultural heritage assessment. He dabbles in military history and has organised and led local, national and overseas tours in history, archaeology and heritage. In a previous life Dr Dowling spent twenty years in signals intelligence with the Royal Australian Navy. He now lives quietly butbusily in retirement with his wife and visiting bird families in the Tuggeranong Valley of Canberra.
Perhaps at the origin of all thinking about culture lies the question of the afterlife. The artist makes their work hoping that it will live on after their death. The critic reads or looks at the work wondering whether a future audience will engage with it. *Victory over Death: The Art of Colin McCahon* takes up this question of the afterlife of the work of art by looking at the work of the New Zealand painter Colin McCahon, who is often described as one of the most important Australasian artists of the twentieth century. Imagine for a moment being a great artist in faraway and culturally marginal New Zealand in the 1950s. The audience for your work does not yet exist. You are destined to die unknown. So, what does McCahon do? He makes work – as do all the artists we remember – for a future audience. It is they who will grant him eternal life. It is they who will allow him to live on. In this, as McCahon well knew, he was like Jesus, who similarly lives on through his Apostles. And this act of religious transmission increasingly becomes the real subject of McCahon’s work. Just as he becomes an Apostle of Christ, so we become Apostles of McCahon. And in so doing, McCahon tells us something profound about art, whose truth would lie not so much in what it tells us as in its act of telling.

McCahon’s *Victory over death 2* (1970), a huge black and white painting featuring the words ‘I AM’ and evocative of the cloudy mountains of New Zealand, is now in the National Gallery of Australia, where it and Jackson Pollock’s *Blue Poles* (1952) are regarded as the two most significant works in the collection. It is a painting about the resurrection of Christ, but every time someone stands before the painting and looks at it, it is also McCahon who is granted a certain ‘victory over death’. *Victory over Death: The Art of Colin McCahon* seeks to speak of this small miracle of art and the particular life or even afterlife it grants both the artist and their audience.
POST-DIGITAL BOOK CULTURES

Australian Perspectives

Edited by Alexandra Dane and Millicent Weber

The post-digital publishing paradigm offers authors, readers, publishers and scholars the opportunity to engage with the production and circulation of the book (in all its forms) beyond the conventional boundaries and binaries of the pre-digital and digital eras. 

*Post-Digital Book Cultures: Australian Perspectives* is a collection of scholarly writing that examines these opportunities – from a range of disciplinary and methodological approaches – with the aim of engaging with the questions that define post-digital book cultures beyond the role of ebooks. Examinations of digital publishing in the literary field can often be characterised as either narratives of decline or narratives of revolution. As we move into the third decade of the twenty-first century, what has become clear is that neither of these approaches accurately encapsulates the impact of ‘the digital’ on contemporary publishing practice. Rather than upending book publishing culture, the emergence of digital technologies and platforms in the field has complicated and recontextualised the production, circulation and consumption of books.

This collection of essays brings together contributions from scholars and industry practitioners to consider the changing nature of the production of the book and the circulation of book culture within a post-digital context and platform enclosures.

**Alexandra Dane** is a Lecturer in Media and Communications at the University of Melbourne. She is the author of *Gender and Prestige: Contemporary Australian Book Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

In the National Interest is a new series in the Monash University Publishing list that focuses on the challenges confronting Australia. The series informs, influences and inspires public discourse. Showcasing experts both from within Monash and across Australia, these short, thought-provoking and accessible books address the major issues of our times.

Curated by Vice-Chancellor’s Professorial Fellow Louise Adler, the series offers eminent researchers, policy makers and political practitioners the opportunity to ‘make the case’. Authors include economic experts, current and former politicians, lawyers, technological experts, political reformers, sociologists and whistle-blowers.

In the National Interest books reflect on the issues of the day: leadership in modern politics, Australia’s role in our region, managing a pandemic, gender affairs, the role of the public service, and all the vital stories confronting Australians today.

The series adds evidence and nuance to debates all too often rendered simplistic. In the National Interest offers serious general readers evidence-based arguments that spark informed debate on the issues that matter.

Browse the full range of titles at bit.ly/NatInterest.
OUR NATIONAL SHAME

Violence against Women

By Kate Fitz-Gibbon

The exposés in early 2021 of sexism and sexual violence in Parliament House prompted women across the country (and some men) to take to stages, lecterns and social media to express their rage and demand action. However, while these events highlighted that violence against women is an ongoing issue in our community, in many ways the allegations and incidents should not shock us. They are part of women’s daily lives.

Violence against women has been called the ‘shadow pandemic’; it is certainly an international epidemic. Since family violence was declared a national emergency here in 2015, little has been done nationally to change the tragic reality that one woman is killed by a current or former male partner every week. The lack of federal leadership and action can no longer be ignored, excused or explained away. Canberra’s silence on violence against women has become deafening of late. The softly-softly response to allegations of abuse, harassment and sexual violence reflects a longstanding pattern of our political leaders not taking women’s safety seriously.

In *Our National Shame*, Kate Fitz-Gibbon reminds us that violence against women is not a private issue that needs bespoke, case-by-case solutions. It is a community-wide problem that, to be properly addressed, requires a dramatic shift in how we understand and respond to men’s violence, and most importantly, the tackling of gender inequality in this country. Transformative national leadership must drive this. But do our political masters have either the will or the integrity to meet this challenge?

Kate Fitz-Gibbon is Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre and Associate Professor of Criminology in the Faculty of Arts at Monash University. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool (UK) and the Research Center on Violence at West Virginia University (USA). Kate conducts research in the areas of family violence, femicide, criminal justice responses to violence, and the impact of criminal law reform in Australia and overseas. Her research findings have been published in high-impact criminology and law journals and presented at national and international criminology conferences. In 2015, Kate was awarded the prestigious Peter Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to examine innovative legal responses to the prevention of intimate homicide in the United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Kate has advised on homicide law reform and family violence reviews in several Australian and overseas jurisdictions.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH
By Kate Thwaites and Jenny Macklin

What is it about the culture and structure of Parliament House that has allowed sexual violence and harassment to flourish?

Jenny was a Labor MP for twenty-three years, a Cabinet minister for six years, and now gets to view the parliament through the reflective eyes of someone who is no longer there. I’m in my first term as a Labor MP. So we have a generation between the beginnings of our time in the parliament. When Jenny was first elected in 1996, I was in my final years of high school. In that time, the number of women in the Australian Parliament has increased, but unfortunately, they are still not being heard. And tragically, they are not always safe.

As women, we believe in the power of politics to do good, and as feminists we recognise that politics is about power: getting it, holding onto it, and using it to improve citizens’ lives. Women wielding power in Parliament House, women fighting for equality and an end to discrimination across our country, have made their mark and they have caused change. But the underlying problem of men’s attitudes towards women, of men believing it is their right to assault or harass women, remains. For this to change, men will have to give up some of the harmful ways in which they use power—in the parliament and in our community.

We are calling for actions to have consequences, and for an end to a culture of political impunity. We want to seize this moment to do the unfinished work—to make sure that women are not just in the room, but that they are safe there. We say enough is enough.

Kate Thwaites was elected the Member for Jagajaga at the 2019 federal election. Kate is a former ABC TV and Radio news reporter and has held senior roles at Oxfam and in the Victorian Public Service. She worked for Jenny Macklin to help deliver important Labor reforms, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Paid Parental Leave. Kate is also working to tackle the other serious challenges that face our country: rising social inequality, constitutional recognition of Australia’s First Peoples, and fixing the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Jenny Macklin served for twenty-three years as the federal Member for Jagajaga. She was the first female deputy leader of a major Australian political party (ALP, 2001–06) and served as Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Minister for Disability Reform in the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments. She oversaw the Apology to the Stolen Generations, development of the Closing the Gap framework, and the introduction of Australia’s first Paid Parental Leave scheme; was responsible for the design and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and helped establish the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
RESPECT
By Jill Hennessy

When Héritier Lumumba’s Collingwood teammates called him ‘Chimp’, it showed a lack of respect. When the Prime Minister referred to Brittany Higgins by her first name in parliament, it showed a lack of respect. When senator Bill Heffernan referred to then prime minister Julia Gillard as ‘deliberately barren’, it showed a lack of respect. When the federal government refused permission to fly the Indigenous flag in the Senate, it showed a lack of respect. When Bettina Arndt defended a 56-year-old man who had repeatedly raped fifteen-year-old Grace Tame, now the 2021 Australian of the Year, it showed a lack of respect.

So when did respect disappear? When did we agree to abandon our respect for expertise, for other people’s experience and history, for the boundaries between the personal and the public, for facts as well as feelings? In a civil society, respect is a fundamental principle. Should the government of the day legislate respect? Should it lead the community or follow it?

Victorian MP Jill Hennessy, in a passionate argument, exhorts us to reclaim the empathy that respect depends on.

Jill Hennessy has been a Labor Party Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly since February 2010, representing the seat of Altona. She was minister for health in the Daniel Andrews ministry from December 2014 to November 2018, and was attorney-general from November 2018 to December 2020—the second female attorney-general in Victoria’s history. On 16 December 2020, she announced she would step down from the role of attorney-general, effective immediately, to spend more time with her family, but would stay in parliament and recontest her seat at the next election. Hennessy graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. She also holds a Master of Laws degree from the University of Melbourne. In 2016, she was awarded the Thornett Award for Promotion of Reason by the Australian Skeptics, for ‘courageously facing down those who misrepresent and mislead the public in their promotion of dodgy medical claims and practices’.
BLOOD LUST, TRUST & BLAME
By Samantha Crompvoets

As Australia comes to grips with accusations that some of its elite soldiers committed war crimes in Afghanistan, a catchcry for certain commentators is that the ‘fog of war’ explains, justifies and possibly excuses the alleged atrocities that have come to light. The term seeks to capture the uncertainty regarding one’s own capability, the adversary’s capability, and intent. However, the ‘fog of war’ is woefully inadequate in explaining actions that were deliberate, targeted and repeated. Abuses of power and the normalisation of deviance are at the heart of the ‘cultural issues’ that have long plagued the Australian Defence Force. In fact, this can be said of all institutions grappling with the same problems: histories of abuse and secrecy, sexual harassment, and problems of diversity and inclusion. It is always easiest to point a finger at a ‘what’ rather than a ‘who’, so ‘culture’ features prominently in analyses of what went wrong regarding the alleged war crimes committed by Australia’s Special Operations Command. But does a focus on culture provide clarity or obscurity? Does it lead to or is it a barrier to accountability? How do you know when you’ve achieved cultural change?

In Blood Lust, Trust & Blame, sociologist Samantha Crompvoets tells the story of what went wrong in the ADF. It is a chronicle of the consequences of pursuing the truth, the politics of accountability, and the cost of action.

Dr Samantha Crompvoets PhD is a sociologist with over twenty years’ experience in the design, implementation, analysis and reporting of strategic and applied academic research. She has conducted extensive empirical research on a number of military cohorts, for both the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the Department of Defence, including reservists, women, special forces, Indigenous soldiers and veterans. Dr Crompvoets has led numerous projects focused on improving workplace climate and organisational culture, across the defence and security sector and also the university sector, and for elite sporting clubs. Dr Crompvoets is a member of the NATO SAS-144 panel developing the Code of Best Practice for Conducting Survey Research in a Military Context. She is Chair of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Post-Traumatic Stress and sits on a number of advisory boards across the defence and security sector.

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EASY LIES & INFLUENCE
By Fiona McLeod

In Australia, corruption spends public funds in pursuit of power, rewards favour, and strips support from worthy programs. It silences journalists and those charged with upholding standards of integrity by depriving them of funding. Grift and stacking are commonplace as those chasing influence infiltrate the structures of power. Corruption rewards loyalty through appointments to office and by preferencing those within the favoured network ahead of others of equal or greater talent. It conceals itself through unfit-for-purpose access to information laws and processes, vague budget commitments, the assertion of unchecked executive discretion, a quick media cycle and overburdened parliamentary committees. It undermines trust in government at a time when trust is vital to keeping us safe. Corruption allows mistrust to fester, offers nourishment to conspiracy theories, and engenders civil unrest.

In Easy Lies & Influence, Fiona McLeod, a practising Senior Counsel and Chair of the Accountability Round Table, tells us what corruption can do, and why it’s imperative that we address it. After all, if citizens can’t see a way of bolstering the pillars of democracy—trust, truth, integrity and accountability—what chance is there of restoring decency and the prioritisation of community interests in public office?

Fiona McLeod practises as a Senior Counsel and is recognised as a leader of the profession for having helmed the peak national legal bodies, including the Law Council of Australia. She is the Chair of the Accountability Round Table, a body committed to improving integrity in public office, and is a former chair of Transparency International Australia. Fiona was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day Honours, for ‘distinguished service to the law, and to the legal profession, at the national and international level, and to women lawyers’. She was appointed to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2014 and is an Ambassador for the Honour Roll. She was an inaugural recipient of the Commonwealth Anti-Slavery Award and has received numerous other professional awards for her work supporting diversity and inclusion, human rights, and victims of trafficking and exploitation.
TIDES THAT BIND

Australia in the Pacific

By Richard Marles

As the many nations of the Pacific deal with the threat of climate change, including rising sea levels and lessening access to fresh water, they are also suffering from some of the slowest rates of development of any region on earth. Now more than ever, the Pacific needs a champion, and that champion needs to be Australia. The Pacific is where our foreign policy starts, yet for too long we have failed to take the lead. Our country has a long and significant history in the Pacific, but our attention has wandered over the last decade, both through lacklustre foreign policy and cuts to foreign aid, and this has left our role in the region poorly defined. We need to have a greater sense of purpose and a greater sense of intent when it comes to supporting our Pacific neighbours. This is the part of the world in which we have the clearest voice, and we simply cannot allow it to languish.

In Tides that Bind: Australia in the Pacific, ALP Deputy Leader Richard Marles implores us to step up our support for and commit to building better relationships with our friends in the Pacific, assisting their development and securing peace in the region. He argues we must do so not just for the sake of our global standing, but for the ten million people to whom the Pacific is home.

Richard Marles is the Deputy Leader of the federal Opposition. He was elected as the Member for Corio in November 2007. Richard was raised in Geelong and has an LLB (Hons) and BSc from Melbourne University. He began his career with legal firm Slater and Gordon before going on to become the federal assistant secretary of the Transport Workers’ Union. In 2000 he became assistant secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, where he led a program of cooperation between the Australian and PNG union movements, deepening his passion for advancement of the Pacific. Among his appointments, Richard has served as parliamentary secretary for Pacific island affairs, parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, and minister for trade. In 2013, he was awarded the Cross of Solomon Islands, the highest civilian Solomons award. Richard lives in Geelong with his wife Rachel and four children—Sam, Isabella, Harvey and Georgia—plus two dogs, Ablett and Alfie. He is a passionate Cats supporter.
WHO DARES LOSES

*Pariah Policies*

By Wayne Errington and Peter van Onselen

Why does Australia go through cycles of public policy boldness and timidity? The COVID-19 crisis has shown that the Australian political system has much more tolerance for policy innovation than appeared to be the case on the evidence of the previous twenty years. As another election approaches, though, the signs are that both major parties are keen for a return to policy caution. In *Who Dares Loses: Pariah Policies*, Wayne Errington and Peter van Onselen explain the political constraints on policymakers and the ways in which they are changing.

The obvious comparison to the policy urgency of COVID-19 is climate change, where successive governments have failed to rise to the challenge. Framing climate change as an emergency won’t make any difference to the web of interests that has prevented an effective response from Australian governments. However, climate change is one of a series of issues where the major parties are less than frank with voters. The need to raise revenue to deal with such policy problems, as well as social inequality, has to be front and centre. Labor took some modest tax proposals to the 2019 election but hasn’t dealt with the underlying problem: Australian’s tax system relies too much on personal and corporate income. This book suggests alternative sources of revenue and spending reforms. In addition, it examines the limited debates over welfare, Medicare and public broadcasting.

Some of these ideas have been around for decades. Others are the product of new technology. What they have in common is that they are good ideas that have become pariahs when it comes to government action.

Dr Wayne Errington is Adjunct Associate Professor in Politics and Public Policy at the University of Adelaide. He received his undergraduate degree and PhD from the University of Western Australia, and he is the author, with Peter van Onselen, of the bestselling *John Winston Howard: The Definitive Biography*. Wayne has also published feature articles and opinion pieces in all the major national newspapers. His current research and teaching interests are in Australian parties and elections, as well as leadership and communication.

Dr Peter van Onselen is Network 10’s Political Editor and writes a weekly column in the *Weekend Australian*. He co-hosts *The Sunday Project* with Lisa Wilkinson and appears regularly as a panellist on ABC’s *Insiders*. Peter is a professor of politics and public policy at the University of Western Australia and Griffith University. He has written six books on Australian politics, including the recently released *How Good Is Scott Morrison?* (with Wayne Errington).
DATELINE JERUSALEM
Journalism’s Toughest Assignment
By John Lyons

Rarely is the public taken deep into the inner sanctum of major news organisations. In this extraordinary book, award-winning journalist John Lyons goes to the heart of how the media reports—or does not report—one of the biggest stories of our time: the conflict in the Middle East. He looks at the power of lobby groups and shows how they determine much of what is written about Israel, and he turns the spotlight on his own profession and its failings.

For Lyons, the six years he spent in Jerusalem as Middle East correspondent for The Australian were the toughest of his forty-year career. He explains how lobby groups attempt to prevent the real story being told, revealing how he himself became a target, and the dirty tricks that are used. He describes how journalists who accurately report what they see can be hounded and vilified, part of a practice of intimidation, harassment and influence peddling that is designed to stop the truth from being told—a practice that must stop.

This is an insider’s account of why the real story of the Israel–Palestine conflict goes largely unreported. It is also the story of why, in the wake of the international backlash against media coverage of the May 2021 Israel–Hamas violence, this could be about to change.

John Lyons is one of Australia’s most experienced journalists. He is currently Head of Investigative Journalism at the ABC, responsible for Four Corners, 7.30, Foreign Correspondent, Insiders, Australian Story, Q&A and the Investigative Reporting Team. Over the past forty years, he has held leadership positions in several major organisations, including editor of The Sydney Morning Herald and executive producer of Nine’s Sunday program. For six years, John was The Australian’s Middle East correspondent, based in Jerusalem, an experience that led him to write the bestselling Balcony over Jerusalem. He has interviewed everyone from former Israeli prime ministers Shimon Peres and Ehud Olmert to key figures from Hezbollah and Hamas. He has also worked as a New York and Washington correspondent. John has won many awards, including the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award, three Walkleys—one for a Four Corners report on Israel’s military court—and UN awards. He now lives in Sydney.
RAPE CULTURE
By Louise Newman

The recent revelations and allegations of sexual harassment and assault in the Australian Parliament have prompted furious responses. Political leaders have attempted to limit the damage by referring to the lack of criminal charges, resisting a discussion of entrenched misogyny. Advocates for survivors of abuse see this as a continuation of the long history of normalising the abuse of women, perpetuating it through legal mechanisms and the exercise of power. We are now hearing calls from young women survivors such as 2021 Australian of the Year Grace Tame to acknowledge the reality of abuse and reform our approach to social justice and support. Young women in schools are speaking out about the impact on their development and mental health. We might have expected our political leaders to respond to this outpouring, but no.

This impasse represents the workings of a ‘rape culture’ where the abuse of women is accepted as commonplace. Traditionally, women survivors have been deemed mentally unwell, hysterical, delusional, vindictive liars. Psychological theories of repression have been misused, contributing to the recycling of the so-called theory of ‘false memories’ whereby the recall of trauma is seen as invented, perhaps implanted by therapists. Yet again, women’s testimonies are discredited. It is concerning that this complex issue is being ventilated by journalists, politicians and lawyers without any clinical understanding of trauma, memory and the implications for support.

Women must not be represented as mentally unstable, untrustworthy or ruled by their hormones while their abusers take refuge in legalisms, obfuscations and the dark art of political calculus.

Louise Newman AM is a Professorial Fellow in Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne, and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Newcastle University and Monash University. She has held senior leadership positions in mental health training and research, including director of the NSW Institute of Psychiatry, and director of the Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology, and she is currently Director of the Melbourne University BEAR (Building Early Attachment and Resilience) research unit. She is recognised as Australia’s leading researcher in the areas of infant and early child development, disturbances of early parenting, and parent–infant interventions. Louise’s publications focus on developmental psychopathology and early risk factors for mental disorder, clinical intervention models, and the developmental impact of parental psychopathology. Her clinical work focuses on trauma-related conditions and the impact of child abuse on development. She is an advocate for the rights of women and asylum seekers and Convenor of the rights organisation Doctors for Justice.
GOVERNING IN THE INTERNET AGE

By Paul Fletcher

Over the past thirty years, the internet has transformed virtually every area of human activity, social and economic. The bulk of these changes have been positive, allowing people to work, imagine and connect with each other in new ways. The boost to economic activity has been enormous. But along with the benefits have come new risks. Our children can learn and play on the internet, but they can also be bullied there, or unwittingly stumble across extreme pornography. For ordinary citizens, the internet provides an unprecedented opportunity to comment and participate in public discourse; but the same digital platforms providing this opportunity can also be forums for the wide circulation of abusive, defamatory or grossly inaccurate material. And while the internet has created vast new opportunities for businesses and consumers, it has disrupted many traditional forms of economic activity.

The result is a rich set of policy challenges for governments. Paul Fletcher is Australia’s Minister for Communications and has worked on internet policy issues for twenty-five years. In Governing in the Internet Age, he outlines the key challenges the internet has posed for governments as they seek to preserve their sovereignty, protect their citizens from harm, and regulate neutrally between traditional and online business models. Yes, the internet has changed everything—and that goes for governing, too.

Paul Fletcher is is the federal MP for Bradfield, in northern Sydney, and the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts in the Morrison government. He entered parliament in December 2009, joined the ministry in 2015, and was appointed to his present role in December 2020. Before entering parliament, Paul was director, corporate and regulatory affairs, at Optus for eight years. Earlier in his career, he was chief of staff to the Minister for Communications in the Howard government, senator Richard Alston.

Paul has dual first-class honours degrees in law and economics from the University of Sydney and an MBA from Columbia University, New York, where he was a Fulbright scholar. He was active in student politics at Sydney University and was a champion university debater, twice reaching the finals of the World Universities Debating Championship.

Paul is married to jewellery designer Manuela Zappacosta and they have two sons. His previous book, Wired Brown Land? Telstra’s Battle for Broadband, was published by UNSW Press in 2009.
POPULATION SHOCK
By Abul Rizvi

Long-term population directions, in terms of both size and age composition, drive the destiny of all nations. While for decades we have worried about global overpopulation, it is far more likely that the period 1950–2050 will be an extraordinary population growth shock, culminating in severe population ageing and then decline. This shock will have four stages aligned with the stages of the life cycle of the baby boomers: childhood, adulthood, old age and death.

Around ten years ago, the developed world as a whole entered the third stage of the population shock – old age. Over the next ten to twenty years, most of continental Europe, China, Russia and South Korea will join Japan as nations with sharply declining populations. The world and modern capitalism have never before been in such a situation.

While Australia’s population will continue to grow over the next forty years, we will age significantly. Economic growth will slow, government and household debt will rise, and inequality will accelerate. Against that background, how will government chart our population and economic future?

Abul Rizvi is an economics and public policy graduate from the Australian National University and recently completed a PhD in population and immigration policy. From 1995 to 2007, he managed Australia’s migration program. He commissioned research on the demographic, economic and budgetary impact of immigration that was extensively used in policy development, including Australia’s first Intergenerational Report in 2002. This research led to major policy changes to boost Australia’s international education industry, skilled temporary migration and working holiday-makers as a pathway to an expanded permanent migration program. This slowed population ageing in Australia and made it a demographic outlier among developed nations – younger, more diverse and growing faster. Abul was awarded the Public Service Medal and the Centenary Medal for services to the development of Australian immigration policy. He is a frequent media commentator on population and immigration and their impact on Australia’s economic direction.
SYSTEM FAILURE

The Silencing of Rape Survivors

By Michael Bradley

One in five Australian women has been the victim of a sexual assault. For these women, there is less than a 1 per cent chance that their rapist has been arrested, prosecuted and convicted of the crime. These are the bare numerical facts of system failure.

We offer rape survivors a stark choice: go to the police, or remain silent. In recent times, the public pressure on survivors to report has increased, alongside a growing focus on two other options: civil action against the perpetrator, or going public. These evolving social responses are intended to offer an alternative to the tradition of silencing. However, each of these choices, for survivors, involves a further sacrifice of what they have already lost.

The legal system’s responses to rape were designed without survivors in mind, and they do not address, in any way, the questions that survivors ask or the needs they express. Simply put, on the systemic response to rape, we are having the wrong conversation.

Michael Bradley is a lawyer and writer. As managing partner of Marque Lawyers, a commercial firm with a strong human rights interest, Michael has become directly involved in work for sexual violence survivors and advocacy for reform in that area of the law. In his work with dozens of survivors as well as leading experts in the field, he has observed consistent patterns in the legal system’s response to these survivors and their experiences within that system—patterns that are at once deeply disturbing and clear pointers to why the system continues to fail.

Michael is the Chair of the Rape and Sexual Assault Research and Advocacy Initiative (RASARA), which leads policy reform in this area. He is also is a widely published essayist on legal and social justice issues, with a regular column in Crikey and previously The Drum, as well as other media including The Saturday Paper and Australian Financial Review. His book Coniston, on the last massacre of Aboriginal people, was released by UWA Publishing in 2019.
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