

LETTER FROM CANBERRA

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One Coffee Edition



Tribute to war correspondents unveiled at Australian War Memorial in Canberra by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

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New Broom starting out ♦ Hockey to DC

Beijing diplomat to Canberra ♦ Aboriginals see better chances.

New PM likes Science, transport and Cities. ♦ Truck tribunal remuneration.

Climate Changing ♦ China FTA Done ♦ Bushmaster full speed ahead ♦ Sub pitches

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Letter From Canberra is a monthly public affairs bulletin, a simple précis, distilling and interpreting public policy and government decisions, which affect business opportunities in Victoria and Australia.

Written for the regular traveller, or people with meeting-filled days, it's more about business opportunities than politics.

Letter from Canberra is independent. It's not party political or any other political. It does not have the imprimatur of government at any level.

The only communication tool of its type, Letter from Canberra keeps subscribers abreast of recent developments in the policy arena on a local, state and federal level.

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Letter from Canberra

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About the editor

Alistair Urquhart, BA LLB

Alistair Urquhart graduated from the Australian National University in Canberra, in Law, History and Politics. He may even hold the record for miles rowed on Lake Burley Griffin.

He was admitted as a barrister and solicitor to the Supreme Court of Victoria, and remains a (non-practicing) member of the Law Institute of Victoria. Previously, he graduated from high school in Bethesda, Maryland, and had many opportunities to become aware of the workings of Washington D.C.

For 30 years, he listened every Sunday evening to the late Alistair Cooke and his *Letter from America*. Alistair's early career was mostly in the coal industry, where he became involved with energy, environmental and water issues, and later in the SME finance sector.

He found time to be involved in a range of community activities where he came

to understand some of the practical aspects of dealing with government and meeting people across the political spectrum. He now chairs a large disability employment service, including its British operations.

About the publisher

Affairs of State

Established in 1993, is an independent Australian public affairs firm with contemporary international connections. Affairs of State provides a matrix of professional tools to multinational businesses, professional and industry associations, government agencies, pressure groups, NGOs and community causes in Australia and abroad.

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A Port Fairy Weekend:

The Editor learning the piano at one of the Best Coffee shops in town, during the Port Fairy Music Festival in mid-October

The photographer is John Hulskamp
(B.Sc. Australian National University: the first person to so graduate, in 1962)

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EDITORIAL

Where does Parliament start and finish??

We have all hopefully been following the Royal Commission into Union Governance and Corruption, not necessarily all of the detail but enough to understand the main points and stories. In another paddock of the same general theme, there are some very interesting games being played, even though it is not Election time. The Capacity of union folk to unite, either with and without social media, to hold events which approximately relate to nothing except to physically capture and politically motivate the attention of the local community and then the wider media.

This not about noisy demonstrations as unions block off CBD and other streets, perhaps as they move to Parliament House. Rather, we have some of the unions holding small, medium and larger events with speakers, in a (smaller) community. With the purpose of embarrassing (!) the local Liberal member. Perhaps asking the latter to attend the meeting at very short notice, in the local community hall or in the street, where a crowd supportive of the union had been gathered.

Recently, Labor/the Australian Labor Party has supported the China Free trade agreement after negotiations. Some Union leaders are stopping at nothing. Parliament is the place in Australia where these particular types of decisions are made. These unions want a second and a third Bite. Absolutely unfettered, with the best legal and police and media support in the land.

The Editor tries to run an objective shop, but recent union activities are going just a bit too far for most Australians. Perhaps its' mainly in Melbourne, and Victoria.

GOVERNANCE

Cut Spending and Let Loose

The Government's top economic adviser has recommended urgent spending cuts to pare back debt and stressed the need for government to get out of the way to boost productivity and growth.

Pointing to a \$57 trillion global debt binge since the financial crisis, **John Fraser**, the Treasury secretary, said Australia's economy was performing well despite sluggish conditions overseas and held out hopes for comprehensive tax and competition reform.

'Since 2007 global government debt has grown by \$25 trillion. These high levels of global debt are an important reminder of why it is an immediate priority for Australia to repair our fiscal position,' emphasising the need for 'greater expenditure restraint' according to *The Age*.

Turnbull's Turn to Shine

Malcolm Turnbull is considering an overhaul of giant federal-state spending programs, targeting waste in health, poor outcomes in education and training, and in efficient taxes as a key plank of his reform and innovation agenda. **Turnbull** said a tax reform green paper would be released 'shortly' and Innovation Minister **Christopher Pyne** told the meeting an innovation statement would be handed down before Christmas.

The Australian understands, according to **Simon Birmingham**, that the government will not shy away from 'difficult decisions' in higher education, and has flagged taking limited fee deregulation to the next election, as he delayed a planned university shake-up until 2017. Facing a hostile senate that has twice voted down the government's higher education reforms, the Education Minister said the impasse over deregulation had caused an 'air of uncertainty for our higher education sector.'

Maybe Yes, Maybe No

Bruce Billson has opened up about his disappointment on losing the small business portfolio and warned the government it cannot afford to walk away from the introduction of a highly contentious 'effects test' to reform competition law according to *The Age*. After 19 years in federal parliament, the member for the Frankston-based seat of Dunkley has revealed that he may leave the political arena at the next election and will be having a 'long chat' with his family at Christmas.

No Surplus In Sight

Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** left open the door to further delays returning the budget to surplus, one of the biggest challenges facing his government after the independent **Budget Office** warned that slow economic growth would mean less money for government services.

With the Coalition swinging its focus towards preparations for the mid-year budget update, which is due within eight weeks, the *Financial Review* says **Turnbull** cautioned that delivering a budget surplus would be a 'very difficult ... and long-term challenge.'

Fresh Curb of Union Power

The Federal Government will restart talks to legislate tougher sanctions against aggressive industrial tactics as it responds to a surprise merge deal to merge the nation's most militant unions and reshape a political fight over the economic damage from workplace disruption.

Malcolm Turnbull is redoubling the effort to impose the new curbs on workplace power after a decision to launch the mammoth union merger, as his government appears within reach of a Senate deal to pass stronger laws. Industry groups called for a swift response to the agreement to combine the **Maritime Union of Australia** with the **Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union** to create a united force with more than 100,000 members.

According to *The Australian*, the government believes the merger will heighten the need for the restoration of the **Australian Building and Construction Commission** and separate controls on registered organisations, helping to sway the Senate to pass laws that were narrowly rejected two months ago.

Easing the Grip on Power

Malcolm Turnbull has dismantled **Tony Abbott's** much-criticised 'command and control' structure as he empowers ministers to make decisions and sets up a new style Prime Minister's Office with authority shared among senior staff rather than one all powerful chief. Ministers will be the direct advisers to the Prime Minister on

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their portfolio, with **Turnbull** telling his frontbenchers he will discontinue the practice of having a 'shadow cabinet' of staff as direct advisers.

Ministers will have responsibility for running their portfolios, choosing staff, deciding travel arrangements and being the Prime Minister's chief source of advice on their areas of responsibility. Senior government figures who have experience of both offices described the difference between the **Abbott** and **Turnbull** administrations as 'drastic' and 'chalk and cheese.'

Turnbull's new office and the wider government is taking shape under the supervision of **Tony Nutt**, a former principal private secretary and chief of staff to **Howard**. **Nutt** is set to soon become the new Liberal Party federal director after a battle for his services between federal and NSW Liberals as reported in *The Australian*. **Turnbull** has also lured back former staff including **Tony Parkinson**, a former journalist and **Howard** government adviser who will be a senior political and communications adviser.

Kerry Pinkstone, a director of the **Generation One** movement to end indigenous disadvantage, will advise on social policy. **Sally Cray**, a former ABC head of corporate affairs who worked for **Turnbull** when he was communications minister will be principal private secretary. **Drew Clarke**, the secretary of the Department of Communications, is acting chief of staff where there have been talks with former Treasury Secretary **Martin Parkinson** about a senior role for him although it is yet to come to anything.

Senator **Sinodinos**, reinstated to the front bench, was chief of staff to **Howard** for 10 years and now attends cabinet meetings and some of **Turnbull's** meetings, such as the mini reform summit with business, community and union leaders, as a contributor and facilitator. **Turnbull** also has more direct contact with senior public servants than **Abbott** did, and recently surprised some departmental secretaries by calling them directly to discuss some reform ideas.

Still Trees to Chop

The Federal Government has appointed former **National Farmers Federation** head **Wendy Craik** and four others to the board of the **Climate Change Authority** for five-year terms, indicating the agency may yet be spared the axe as reported in *The Age*.

Fat Cats

Top government workers could see their wages jump from \$195,000 to \$234,000 in the next four years if the State Government caves into a controversial new pay claim. At the lower end of the scale, mid-range public-sector workers would lift from about \$74,000 to \$88,800 according to the *Herald Sun*.

PM's Revolving Door

When **Tony Abbott** talked about the 'revolving door' of prime ministers in Australia, he raised an important question: has this become the new normal? The elevation of Malcolm Turnbull has given the country its fifth Prime Minister in five years, something that has sent shockwaves around the world. Through the 1980s and 90s Australia became used to political longevity. Three consecutive prime ministers, **Bob Hawke**, **Paul**

Keating and **John Howard** served 24 consecutive years, according to John Lyons in *The Australian*.

Most of Australia's most significant economic reforms were introduced during this time. **Howard's** re-election in 2004 was the last time a prime minister served a full term, and he was defeated at the end of that. Former foreign minister **Bob Carr** fears disaffected party rooms will now see negative opinion polls as the justification for a 'surgical strike' against a leader. Former Treasurer **Peter Costello** says short-term governments make reforms difficult.

A Tale of two Leaders

Turnbull and **Abbott** are very different men, at first glance, **Turnbull** is at ease in the spotlight. He is an impressive advocate charming and articulate on his feet. **Abbott** has suffered because of his reputation for gaffes and slogans, even if he is engaging and likable in personal conversation.

Turnbull is rich and has vast experience outside politics in business, banking and the law; the bulk of **Abbott's** career has been spent as a political operative or elected politician, and he is not wealthy according to **Brad Norington** in *The Australian*.

Turnbull is liberal and progressive; **Abbott** is an unabashed social conservative whose values owe much to his Catholic faith. **Abbott** is the avid cyclist and surf lifesaver in speedos; it is rare to see **Turnbull** the non-athlete without his shirt.

Yet there are similarities. Both were wooed by the Labor party but concluded their futures laid with the Liberals. Both are **Rhodes** scholars with undergraduate degrees from **Sydney University**. Both were journalists with **The Bulletin**; **Abbott** also worked for **The Australian**. Both are widely regarded as brash and confident, driven by an enormous self-belief bordering at times on arrogance.

In Transition

Senior Liberal enforcer **Tony Nutt** has been called in to guide **Malcolm Turnbull's** transition to the Prime Ministership as the new Liberal leader promises to emulate the 'consultative style' of the **Howard** government. **Turnbull** also tapped Communications Department Secretary **Drew Clarke** to be acting chief of staff as he establishes office according to *The Australian*.

Nutt was **John Howard's** private secretary and political fixer. More recently as NSW State Liberal Director, he played a key role in the re-election of the **Baird** Government. He helped **Tony Abbott** in his transition to government in 2013 and his return to the Prime Minister's office has been mooted in recent months in a bid to repair relations with the backbench, although the appointment never eventuated.

Turnbull Turns Up

New Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** has vowed to help fix Melbourne's road and rail logjams and opened the door to unlocking \$3 billion in federal funds tied to the defunct **East West** project.

Turnbull took a tram ride through the city with the *Herald Sun* as he made his first visit to Melbourne in late September since becoming Prime Minister.

The renowned public transport enthusiast said Premier **Daniel Andrews'** decision to scrap the **East West Link** toll road and tunnel was 'a big mistake' but Canberra would look at what other projects it could support in Victoria.

Don't Shoot me in the Foot

According to **Nicholas Reece** in *The Age*, British Labour has just shot itself in the foot. People are fed up with the political establishment and have deep concerns about the state of democracy. These anti-establishment populist figures are able to energise a cross-section of supporters who fret about inequality and globalisation.

They cut through with disengaged voters in a way that bland and all-too-similar centrist candidates do not. In party systems they tend to electrify party members and create a sense of difference from their opposition rivals, they give volunteers a reason to knock on doors.

The extraordinary rise of **Jeremy Corbyn** makes it more important than ever that our political leaders and those who are interested in good public policy think of new ways to engage the public and build trust and integrity in the political process. **Nicholas Reece** is a principal fellow at **Melbourne University**, a former Victorian secretary of the Labor Party and policy adviser to **Julia Gillard**, **Steve Bracks** and **John Brumby**.

New PM Brings Hope

Before **Turnbull** had been PM for little more than 24 hours, he personally rang each cross bench senator and told them the door was open to discussions. With **Scott Morrison** as Treasurer, he also has a close working relationship with the cross bench senators. This is required to stop the betrayal of the small business community that was attempted by Small Business Minister **Bruce Billson**.

Billson and **Abbott** were swamped by lobbying from **7-Eleven**, franchisors and other large groups that dictate unfair contracts to many small enterprises. To please them, **Billson** introduced useless fair contracts legislation, which the independent senators amended to actually allow an impact to occur. Rather than having a dysfunctional senate, Australia now has a senate that is emerging as a real house of review that can, as we saw with the fair contracts legislation, can be of great assistance to the government and the nation.

The real test of **Turnbull's** leadership will be seen in how he runs the Cabinet. **Tony Abbott**, **Kevin Rudd** and **Julia Gillard** all had a difficult time running the Cabinet, which will hamstring any leader longer-term according to **Robert Gottlieb** in *The Australian*.

Transport on the Agenda

Turnbull has flagged a significant shift in the Governments policy and economic priorities, saying productivity, housing affordability, science, education and engineering were the keys to Australia's future. 'There is no 'roads are no better than mass transit' or vice versa, each has their place' in regards to infrastructure spending which should be 'assessed objectively and rationally on its merits'.

The **Turnbull** administration has not considered any proposal for Victoria, but comments appear to indicate some of the \$3 billion federal funding

allocated to the East West Link could be reallocated to rail projects. Childcare is also undergoing a multibillion dollar overhaul, and will be moved out of the social service portfolio and into education according to the *Herald Sun*.

The National Interest

The Nationals extracted a huge price for supporting **Malcolm Turnbull**, winning a pledge there will be no change in carbon pricing for the term of his prime ministership. The deal also includes social measures said to be worth between \$2 billion and \$4 billion, and a massive won for small business on competition policy as reported in *The Australian*.

Sources said central to the agreement is a commitment to 'no carbon tax, and no emissions trading scheme' for his prime ministership, and a promise **Turnbull** will take the already announced climate targets to the Paris talks. **Barnaby Joyce**, the Agriculture Minister, will gain responsibility for water after what Nationals sources said has been 'too much focus on the environment.'

Water is now part of environment parliamentary secretary **Bob Baldwin's** portfolio. The deal also includes major funding for social measures including stay at home mums and extending the youth allowance. There will also be ongoing funding for mobile phone black spot programs in the bush, and maintaining assistance for infrastructure and inland rail.

No Points for Government

Travelers under the whole-of-Australian government contract do not receive frequent flyer points but they do receive status credits that allow them to receive benefits such as lounge access and extra baggage allowances. But in a discussion paper released in July ahead of a fresh tender for air services, the government raised the prospect of receiving the pool of frequent flyer points to be used by its travelers to be used at a department or agency level for redemptions on future flights to cut travel costs. As reported in *The Australian*, airline sources say this could lead to an increase in fares.

Just Doing His Bloody Job

According to **Amanda Vanstone** in *The Australian*, the **Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption** was labelled a 'with-hunt'. Shorten wants us all to see the commission as nothing more than a Liberal-

Labor battle. It's pathetic as the commissioner is there to root out evil in the unions and, in so doing, protect workers. It is a common view in the community that many, far too many, Labor members of Parliament are sponsored beneficiaries of corrupt union officials.

Links Cost Her Job

One of Australia's most powerful female corporate figures, **Diane Smith-Gander**, has been prevented by the Federal Government from taking the top job in **Tourism Australia** amid concerns that the company she chairs, **Transfield Services**, would draw attention to immigration policies. **Transfield Series** is responsible for providing facilities management to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's offshore processing centres on Nauru and Manus as reported in *The Australian*.

PARTY HAPPENINGS

Hockey Out, Malcolm's Killing It

Former Treasurer **Joe Hockey** formally quit parliament ahead of an expected diplomatic posting to Washington and a by-election in the blue-ribbon Liberal seat of North Sydney. Although he couldn't explain his budget, he is off to be appointed to a/the senior diplomatic mission post! The by-election is likely to be held before the end of the year and would be conducted on the existing North Sydney boundaries despite a significant redistribution under way in NSW by the **Australian Electoral Commission**.

In another key diplomatic shift, Australia's ambassador to Beijing, **Frances Adamson**, will return to Australia as early as next month to take up a position as **Turnbull's** foreign affairs adviser. Her appointment is a sign of the Prime Minister's determination to become deeply engaged in China, and to avail himself of the most up to date advice. She is expected to be replaced by trade negotiator **Jan Adams**.

In the polls, Victorians have welcomed **Malcolm Turnbull's** rise to Prime Minister with enthusiasm, with the new PM prompting a seven point turnaround in Coalition fortunes in the state as per *The Age*. Support for Labor has plunged to just 30 per cent.

Godless Left Mocks

Liberal Senator **Eric Abetz** unleashed an attack on the **Canberra Press Gallery**, arguing it is hostile to conservative, Christian politicians while giving favourable treatment to left-leaning

Muslim MP's. Senator **Abetz** said the media had treated him and his conservative colleagues, in particular Prime Minister **Tony Abbott**, 'unfairly'. He said the media felt comfortable vilifying politicians like Abbott because of their Christian faith, but would never dare speak out the same way about people of other religions as reported in *The Australian*.

He Will Be Saved

A federal redistribution will abolish the Labor-held electorate of Hunter and will cost NSW one seat in the **House of Representatives**. The **Australian Electoral Commission** revealed its proposed redraw of boundaries, siding with proposals from the Nationals and the Liberal Party, which dominated **Hunter**. **Hunter** is based around the coal mining country of the Hunter Valley and is held by Labor's **Joel Fitzgibbon**, a key powerbroker of the NSW Right. A senior Labor source insisted **Fitzgibbon** would not be left without a seat. The loss of **Hunter** will be a factional flashpoint between the Left and the Right of the ALP.

New Justice League

Controversial broadcaster **Derryn Hinch** is heading into politics. The 71 year old is forming his own party, the Justice Party, which will stand Senate candidates, including himself, in every state at next year's federal election. The party has employed a four-word slogan: 'It's just common sense.' **Hinch** has long rallied for the public to be informed of the identity of sex offenders reports the *Herald Sun*.

'We will fight for a national public register of convicted sex offenders ... but we're not just a one issue party' he said. 'The **Justice Party** will stand for equality and justice for all. We believe our courts should show the same compassion and understanding for victims that they seem to show for criminals... We'll campaign for parole reform and bail reform. The Lindt cafe siege should never have happened. **Jill Meagher's** killer should not have been walking the streets.'

PMs Offshore Accounts

Malcolm Turnbull has accused Labor of 'playing the politics of envy' as he came under fire for putting some of his private fortune into global funds based in tax havens, forcing him to assure parliament that he pays his Australian tax in full. The Prime Minister rejected the Labor accusations by insisting that 'no Australian tax is avoided' in his use of the funds based in the Cayman Islands

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as reported in *The Australian*.

1000 Crimes and Counting

Labor leader **Bill Shorten** has consistently denied any part in any 'side deal' with **Thiess John Holland** over Melbourne's **EastLink** tollway when he was running the **Australian Workers Union**. The Federal Government used evidence of rising 'lawlessness' and union militancy on building sites revealed in the industry watchdog's latest annual report to launch a fresh attack over the **CFMEU's** influence on **Bill Shorten** and the Australian Labor Party.

The **Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate** investigated almost 1000 breaches of commonwealth workplace laws in the year to June, overwhelmingly by **Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union** officials, and its report cites 'alarming rates' of lawlessness and an 'increasing battle' against the militant union. Employment Minister **Michaelia Cash** told *The Australian* 'the independent regulator, the courts and the police have all expressed their serious concerns about the **CFMEU's** culture of contempt for the law... This is the same union that **Bill Shorten** relies on for his leadership and who the Labor Party relies on for their policy direction.'

Unlawful behaviour resulted in higher infrastructure costs, delayed projects, lost jobs, lost opportunities and stalled growth, where 'we must end the ingrained culture of fear and intimidation.' Mr **Rzesniowiecki**, whose detailed diary entry of events at the time have been tendered to the royal commission into unions, flatly rejected claims from **Shorten's** lawyers that the Opposition Leader had not been involved in negotiating the side-deal. 'I disagree with you and now you have lead me through my diary entries it supports my position.'

About Six Blokes

Outgoing Liberal Party chief **Brian Loughnane** formed one-third of a ruling triumvirate, along with former prime minister **Tony Abbott** and his chief of staff **Peta Credlin**, that ruled the Liberal Party since December 2009 as reported in *The Age*. His decision to quit as chief of the Liberal Party marks the end of a 12 year stint at Liberal Party headquarters running the organisational wing of the party.

The Band Back Together

New Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull's** unfolding approach to getting the band back together stretches beyond key political staff from the **Howard** era, most notably **Arthur Sinodinos**, **Tony Nutt**, and, if only temporarily, spinmeister **Tony O'Leary**. It also reaches into the public service where the secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, **Michael Thawley**, also worked in **Howard's** office from 1996 to 1999 as his international policy adviser, before becoming ambassador to the United States from 2000 to 2005.

Many other still serving public servants were around then too. Finance secretary **Jane Halton** and Education secretary **Lisa Paul** were both appointed secretaries under **Howard** and are the only remaining two from that era. Defence secretary **Dennis Richardson** was a key player as the formidable director-general of the **Australian Security Intelligence Organisation**, and, in 2005, he took over from **Thawley** as ambassador to the US according to the *Financial Review*.

Hockey's US Export

Labor says it will give its blessing to **Joe Hockey**, if the former Treasurer is rewarded with the country's top diplomatic post and made the Australian Ambassador to Washington. Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** and Foreign affairs Minister **Julie Bishop** are expected to announce Hockey's consolation prize, after he was dumped as Treasurer for **Scott Morrison** in the Cabinet reshuffle.

Hockey said he will be retiring from politics. He is all but confirmed as Australia's next Ambassador to the United States when former Labor Leader **Kim Beazley's** term, which the Coalition extended, expires as reported in *The Age*.

Dawn of a New Age

The new dawn in the troubled relationship between the Senate and the Coalition Government has already been jeopardised by Mal Brough's attack on micro parties, cross benchers warned in *The Age*. The prospect of reversing some of the **Abbott** Government's legislative failures in the Senate was dangled in front of Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** during his talks with cross benchers.

They include the return of the building industry watchdog, the **Australian Building and Construction Commission** and the creation of a **Registered Organisations Commission** to monitor and regulate unions. Both were defeated narrowly in the Senate, with key cross bench votes against the government. One cross bencher even believes Education Minister **Simon Birmingham** could deliver higher education reforms that **Christopher Pyne** failed to progress if the PM can forge a better personal rapport with cross bench senators than that achieved by **Abbott** and dumped Senate leader **Eric Abetz**.

But the relationship was unexpectedly undermined by Brough in his first public comments as Special Minister of State. He insisted the government would push ahead with reforms to prevent 'preference harvesting' micro party candidates from getting elected on 'miniscule percentages' of the primary votes.

Wyatt History Made

Ken Wyatt was sworn in as the first indigenous member of the Australian Government executive as he joined **Turnbull's** front bench. **Wyatt** has been named Assistant Minister for Health, reporting to Health Minister **Sussan Ley**. It is the first time an Aborigine or Torres Strait Islander has held a place on a federal front bench as reported in *The Australian*.

Official Events Only

Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** will not live in the official **Kirribilli House**, preferring instead to stay in his own harbourside mansion, opting instead only to use **Kirribilli House** for official functions. According to the *Herald Sun*, the **Turnbulls** will move into **The Lodge** in Canberra when renovations have been completed.

Spurned Man Gives Warning

Maurice Newman, the former chairman of the Prime Minister's **Business Advisory Council**, has warned the new PM to keep the conservative right wing of the Liberal Party on side or risk a party split. In a valedictory interview after serving 21 months as head of the main body for facilitating

dialogue between business and government, **Newman** said **Turnbull** had every right to dump him following **Abbott's** removal.

'There was a little chance I would have survived under **Turnbull** because I am not his type of businessman... I am not in favour of renewable energy subsidies, I am not a believer in man-made global warming and I believe in smaller government. To be fair about it, he is the Prime Minister and he's entitled to choose who he wants and I accept that... I don't appeal to those on the left because I am a rational economist. I believe in markets and they believe in government and political power' he said in the *Financial Review*.

Anthony Leading Nats

Former Howard Government minister **Larry Anthony** will be elected federal president of the Nationals in defiance of his Queensland party leaders, who tried to block him taking the job because he is a lobbyist. The Brisbane-based former NSW federal MP's unopposed election is likely to result in infighting between the Queensland state divisions and the federal sectariat of the Nationals according to *The Australian*.

The LNP is formally a division of the federal Liberal Party and an affiliate of the Nationals, with eight of its federal MPs and senators in the 21-strong Nationals party room. Despite Queensland MP and Deputy PM **Warren Truss** leading the Nationals parliamentary team in Canberra, there are suspicions about LNP officials heading the organisation of the rural-based party and pushing for a nation-wide merger of the parties.

Is Malcolm a Julia?

Turnbull is in his honeymoon days, with the media pack frantically pumping the tyres of this usurper Prime Minister to prove they were right to help destroy **Tony Abbott**. He must persuade the people he's no longer the global warming crusader who as Opposition Leader tried to force the Liberals to back Labor's plan for a form of carbon tax. To do all that, **Turnbull** must first change himself.

According to **Andrew Bolt** in the *Herald Sun*, **Turnbull** must ignore the media Left's self-serving explanation for **Abbott's** fall, that he had moved the government too far to the right. Looking at **Abbott's** record, he actually dropped free speech reforms, agreed to take in 12,000 Syrian refugees, barely touched the ABC, increased taxes on the rich and did not engage in workplace reform. He kept a high renewable energy target and publicly supported the warming scare, even pushing for race-based changes to the constitution.

Abbott Packs His Bags

Bags of shredded documents were lined up along the corridors as the 60-strong Prime Minister's Office staff began the handover of **Turnbull's** administration. **Abbott** stated to *Fairfax Media* that 'I now intend to spend some time with my family to think about the future, but my intention is to remain in the Parliament.'

Cory May Leave Liberals

Conservative senator **Cory Bernardi** is not ruling out quitting the Liberal Party and depriving the Coalition of a key vote in the Senate as a protest against **Malcolm Turnbull's** ascension to the

prime ministership. Senator **Bernardi** could form his own right-wing party modeled on the British anti-immigration party **UKIP**, defect to **Family First** or even sit as an independent.

Three New Mums

Under the standing orders, the set of rules which govern behaviour of MPs in the chamber, new mothers who are breastfeeding are given a proxy vote in the Parliament. This means that their vote is counted although they are not physically counted even though they are not physically present in the chamber. **Kelly O'Dwyer** returned to Parliament for the first time in August since giving birth and is now one of three mothers in the Parliament this year according to *The Age*.

Hockey's seat of North Sydney is one of the safest Liberal seats and stretches from Hunters Hill to Willoughby. The seat was held by independent **Ted Mack** between 1990 and 1996.

Consultative Approach Promised

With a leadership vote of 54 to **Malcolm Turnbull** and 44 to **Tony Abbott**, three prime ministers have now been toppled by colleagues in Australia in the past five years. According to *The Age*, **Turnbull** has vowed to deliver substance over slogans as he took over the nation's top job.

Turnbull called on Australia to become 'agile and innovative' in order to exploit technological change. The new Prime Minister put the economy at the centre of his pitch, as the slowdown in the mining sector continues to threaten growth. The new Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** secured Government by signing a secret deal with the Nationals worth at least \$2 billion.

Consultative Approach Denied

The deal, which included a promise to consider \$600 million for stay-at-home mums and millions more to fix mobile phone black spots, was signed despite **Turnbull** failing to take it to Cabinet or the Liberal party room. The Nationals were given control of water policy and an undertaking Cabinet would again consider an 'effects test' under consumer laws.

The effects test caused a Cabinet split for **Abbott**, and three Nationals senators, including Victoria's **Bridget McKenzie**, NSW's **John Williams** and Queensland's **Matt Canavan**, who crossed the floor to back a Greens motion calling for an effects test on market power to be included in competition policy.

Please Stand Down.

Treasurer **Joe Hockey** defied pressure to voluntarily stand down after **Malcolm Turnbull** replaced **Tony Abbott** as Prime Minister largely on the basis of the government's flawed economic presentation according to *The Age*. **Hockey** told the Parliament that Australia's economy was \$68 billion bigger than when it had been entrusted into his care.

Without **Hockey** this might not have happened. Had the Coalition slashed spending in order to quickly return the budget back to surplus as it had implied, or made cutting debts a main priority, the economy might not have grown at all.

Achievements of the Abbott

A few days short of two years, **Abbott's** Prime Ministership came to an end. Perhaps there are still negotiations as to whether he will get the full former prime ministerial pension which commences after exactly two years. His achievements included the finalisation of the South Korean and Chinese free trade agreements, consistent action on stopping the boats, repealed the carbon tax and repealed the mining tax. According to *The Age*, the question remains whether he will quit causing a by-election or retire to the backbench to see out his term.

Your Editor was musing as to what the former PM would next do. Hmm... Perhaps the international speaking circuit. Blow me down. London and now the Washington Speakers' Bureau. Lets' keep the Brains busy.

Shifting Gears

The former Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and the Communications Department, **Drew Clarke**, will serve as **Turnbull's** chief of staff, while **Mr Nutt**, who worked closely with **Turnbull** backer **Arthur Sinodinos** in the office of **John Howard**, will help manage the transition to the Prime Ministership as reported in *The Age*.

Kennett's Tweeted Status

Former Victorian Liberal Premier **Jeff Kennett** tweeted his spleen at **Turnbull's** 'profoundly disappointing' announcement to call for a leadership ballot, despite the Liberal Party's 'clear majority' in Parliament. '[Turnbull] is now putting self before public interest. Speculation is a sign of weakness, not of strength' according to *The Age*.

Liberals Pressing for Women

Looming by-elections in safe Liberal seats are the perfect opportunity for more women to enter the party's parliamentary ranks, senior party members have said in *The Age*. Some interesting statistics include: 27 out of 61 Labor MPs (44 per cent) are female; 11 out of 42 Liberal MPs (26 per cent) are female; 3 out of 10 Nationals MPs (30 per cent) are female; 5 out of 7 Greens MPs (71 per cent) are female which totals 49 out of 126 state MPs (42 per cent) are female.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & EMPLOYMENT

AWU Secret Payment

A secret deal to pay the **Australian Workers Union** \$25,000 a year from a cleaning company was kept out of a workplace agreement because it would look bad for the employer and the union, the trade union corruption inquiry has heard. **Julianne Page**, a general manager of the **Spotless** cleaning division, said the payment by **Cleanevent** to the AWU in 2010 for union memberships would have looked like a 'pay-off' to the union because the agreement traded off wages and penalty rates according to the *Financial Review*.

Lawler Admits Benefit

Fair Work Commission vice-president **Michael Lawler** has admitted he benefited from his partner **Kathy Jackson's Health Services Union** paying for airfares and accommodation. But the embattled **Lawler** is facing an independent investigation by former Federal Court judge **Peter Heerey**, says that if 'I was actually the recipient of stolen money, I'd be wanting to repay it myself, but I don't believe I am.'

Lawler has been under fire for taking more than nine month's sick leave while Jackson fought a civil case brought against her by her former union. **Jackson** was found guilty in a civil case that ended in August for misusing her position as head of the union to fraudulently gain financial advantage and was ordered to pay about \$1.4 million according to *The Age*.

Fires Being Kindled

In mid-October, firefighters were set to begin taking industrial action in a warning shot to fire agencies and the State Government as wage negotiations drag on. The **United Firefighters Union** can undertake a range of tasks under the **Fair Work Order**, including wearing union clothing and paraphernalia, refusing to file paperwork and writing emails in capital letters. According to the *Herald Sun*, firefighters will not



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walk off the job nor refuse to attend emergency incidents.

Don't Trust the Data

The former head of the **Australian Bureau of Statistics** has accused the organisation of badly bungling the way it collects and analyses its monthly employment survey and said parts of it should be dumped immediately for as long as five years. After working for the organisation for over 40 years, **Bill McLennan** said changes early last year to the way the data is gathered suggest the bureau has abandoned 'strict methodological and operational practices' established over half a century ago. **McLennan**, who retired as an **Australian Statistician** after five years in 2000, criticised the bureau for effectively papering over problems with its data.

MUA Urged Deal

The **Maritime Union of Australia** pressured stevedore company **DP World** to pay income insurance for its employees using a scheme that would have paid the union an \$800,000 commission over four years. But **DP World** refused to pay **Protect Income Protection**, which is owned by the **Electrical Trades Union** and chaired by former **ETU** Victorian state secretary **Dean Mighell**, and found that **QBE** would provide the insurance more cheaply.

The union backed down on the plan stating 'we're prepared to not do it for political reasons' according to **MUA** assistant national secretary **Warren Smith**. **DP World** chief executive **Paul Scurrah** said it was not acceptable to allow the union to earn commissions from income protection insurance. **Smith** denied the union backed down because of the royal commission into trade unions.

Penalty Rates Battle Looms

Unions have vowed to unleash a 'fierce' grassroots and social media campaign against any Federal Government attempt to cut penalty rates, saying the campaign would be bigger than the '**Your Rights at Work**' blitz that neutered the former **Howard** Government in 2007. According to *The Age*, Resources Minister **Josh Frydenberg** said that the Government needed to examine cutting Sunday penalty rates in order to spur on economic growth.

Turnbull's Many Agendas

Some of Australia's biggest companies are pushing the **Productivity Commission** to overhaul planks of its controversial workplace relations blueprint. Companies including **Qantas**, **Toll** and major meat processor **Teys Australia**, as well as peak business groups, have written to the **Productivity Commission** ahead of its final report to the Federal Government in November.

In its draft report the **Productivity Commission** found the system needed minor tweaks rather than replacement. The draft also found that industrial action was at 'low' levels, despite claims by employer groups that claims had spiraled upwards in recent years. But **Toll** says the figures 'mask' an undercurrent where the potential for industrial action is enough for a company to compromise its negotiating position 'beyond that which is otherwise reasonable' as reported in *The Australian*.

Fresh Pitch Made

New Resources Minister **Josh Frydenberg** has

given the biggest signal yet that the **Turnbull** government will attempt to reform the industrial relations system, saying Sunday penalty rates need to be 'looked at' according to the *Financial Review*.

While former prime minister **Tony Abbott's** government was seen as lacking in the political capital to proceed with changes, leaving discussions on wages to the **Fair Work Commission**, **Frydenberg** was more strident, saying the system was 'costing' business and jobs. Boosted by improved polls, **Frydenberg** said Sunday penalty rates, which can hit 175 to 200 per cent were an area ripe for review.

Make Or Break

Australia's toughest union is fighting for its life, declaring the Federal Coalition, if re-elected, will try to obliterate it through deregistration according to *The Age*. The cashed-up **Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union** has rolled the dice on a multimillion-dollar survival strategy: getting **Bill Shorten** elected as Prime Minister.

Unions and Labor concerned that the China deal allows Chinese companies to bring in their own workforce for a wide range of infrastructure projects over \$150 million.

Make a Difference to Australia's Digital Future

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Specifically, you will lead a team which analyses domestic and international digital market trends and provides advice to government on developments in digital technologies and services. A Canberra-based position advertised in *The Australian*, please email for further information at admin@execintell.com.au

Beer Off Tap

Carlton & United Breweries workers have voted to take industrial action, including strikes that threaten to disrupt the supply of beer to bars and bottle shops according to *The Age*.

More than 180 blue collar workers at **CUB's** brewery in Abbotsford have voted in favour of protected work stoppages and work bans after negotiations for a new pay deal broke down.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY, MANUFACTURING & FINANCE

No More Recycled Paper

The Federal Government has infuriated the Australian paper industry and unions by abandoning its commitment to 100 per cent recycled paper content in government offices. **Australian Paper**, the country's largest paper mill owner, says the decision will cost hundreds of jobs in the struggling Latrobe Valley and leave a \$90 million public-private co-investment in a new plant wasted.

According to *The Age*, the Federal Government contributed \$9.5 million to the project. This year the company unveiled the new state of the art

wastepaper recycling plant at Maryvale, near Morwell east of Melbourne, but is now concerned about the future of its manufacturing operations.

Convenience Turnovers

7-Eleven chairman and billionaire **Russ Withers** has resigned from the board of the convenience store chain, along with chief executive **Warren Wilmot** and another senior executive, in the wake of a worker exploitation scandal that rocked the company as reported in *The Age*.

What Consultation?

The early exit of **Medibank Private** chief executive **George Savvides** has raised the ire of some investors who have criticised the health insurer's board and its failure to consult shareholders, *The Age* reports.

What A Rip Off

Homeowners on an average mortgage will have to shell out an extra \$500 a year after **Westpac** became the first bank in 3.5 years to raise interest rates out of step with the **Reserve Bank** as reported in the *Herald Sun*.

Economy Still Powering On

Reserve Bank deputy governor **Philip Lowe** says we shouldn't succumb to 'chronic pessimism' about this country, and he is right. Australia has been getting a lot of things right for a long time, and has a good chance of continuing to do so. **Lowe** began a speech in Sydney by noting that while real income per capita is much the same as it was in 2008 when the resources boom was raging, it is still 60 per cent higher than it was in the early nineties. That's a result of more adults being in work, more jobs being offered, and two special trends: above average productivity growth in the nineties, and the resources boom in the noughties, and the huge increase in Australia's terms of trade and income that it has served up as reported in *The Age*.

Wheat Exemption Planned

The **ACCC** has released a position paper confirming that it intends to grant exemptions to **GrainCorp** and **Quattro** from having to comply with Parts 3 to 6 of the **Wheat Code** at their respective Port Kembla terminal facilities.

VW Dubbed for Class Action

Volkswagen will 'almost certainly' be the subject of a class action law suit in Australia following a confirmation of the recall of more than 90,000 cars with dodgy diesel engines according to *The Age*. The news came as **Volkswagen** confirmed it would recall more than 90,000 cars in Australia across the **VW**, **Audi** and **Skoda** brands to fix software designed to cheat diesel emissions tests.

Law Firms Slow Down

The nation's largest law firms are in the grip of a tough market that saw demand for their services slump for the third consecutive year, triggered in part by a growing trend of companies taking more work in-house. The overall drop of about 2 per cent was underlined by more dramatic falls in core areas including banking and finance (11.7 per cent) and dispute resolution (6.4 per cent).

The data was revealed in a **Melbourne Law School** and **Thomas Reuters** report that warn's Australia's lawyers appear to be lagging behind their cohort in the northern hemisphere in recovering from the **Global Financial crisis**. 'Firms that choose complacency and mediocrity

will rapidly find themselves on the outer' according to **Melbourne Law School** dean **Carolyn Evans**.

Barolsky Advisers managing director **Joel Barolsky** said that the domestic firms seemed to be 'winning' in litigation, intellectual property and general corporate advice; whereas global firms were ahead in M&A and property. Firms are reacting by investing in technology, project management and offshoring routine work as reported in *The Australian*.

Big Guns Go Boom

The anti-effects test campaign is heating up in Canberra as lobbyists warn politicians of a voter backlash if the competition law is fortified with the test. The voice of big business, the **Business Council of Australia**, has linked the inclusion of an effects test with higher prices and consumer discontent, a claim dismissed by Small Business Minister and Competition policy reform advocate **Bruce Billson**, reports *The Age*.

Blitz on Boards

Institutional investors are putting more pressure than ever before on companies to comply with the increasingly stringent environmental, social and governance investment guidelines of major superannuation funds before October's annual general meeting season. The **Australian Council of Superannuation Investors** which counts 30 of the largest non-profit funds as members, will meet with at least 130 of Australia's top 200 listed companies in the lead-up to the AGM season.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns discussed in these meetings vary across sectors and specific companies. 'Key areas of engagement for **ACSI** this AGM season are carbon risks, bribery and corruption, human rights and executive pay,' **ACSI** chief executive **Louise Davidson** said in *The Age*.

Investment Supports 140,000 Jobs

Global firms poured \$140 billion into their Australian businesses last year, with research commissioned by the government showing every \$1 billion of foreign investment generates about \$1000 local jobs. Trade Minister **Andrew Robb** argues it provides capital to build national industries, whether in agriculture, resources or property development as reported in *The Australian*.

Driven Up the Wall

One of Australia's biggest logistics firms has warned it faces rising costs of up to 55 per cent after an industrial ruling imposing minimum pay rates for long distance contract truck drivers that has been condemned by the transport and retail industries.

The draft decision by the **Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal**, based on 'nonsensical' evidence, suggests drivers be paid for rest periods and some leave. Toll Holdings said the ruling which would be finalised by the end of the year, could force it to pay self-employed truck drivers up to 55 per cent more in regional areas, or up to 30 per cent across the business as reported in *The Australian*.

Franchisees at the troubled **7-Eleven** chain are charging staff up to \$70,000 to help secure Australian working visas as a sideline revenue stream to help plump up low income from their

stores. **Fairfax Media** uncovered evidence that some franchisees are running as a one-stop recruitment shop, providing a steady stream of heavily indebted students and other workers into **7-Eleven** stores.

Foreign students as well as working on **457** visas are understood to be part of the 'visa factory' scam operated by some **7-Eleven** stores. The model has franchisees charging workers \$25,000 to \$75,000 to sponsor them on a visa. The brutal reality, according to *The Age*, is that more than 1.3 million workers in Australia are on a visa, which makes worker exploitation potentially a very serious problem.

ACCC Aims at Woolies

Retailers **Woolworths**, **Coles** and **Aldi** all signed up to the code as part of a truce after the **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission** investigated alleged abuses of market power in 2013. But the **ACCC** announced it was investigating reports by suppliers about the approach supermarkets were taking in adhering to the three-month-old voluntary **Food and Grocery Code of Conduct** according to the *Herald Sun*.

Complacent Country

Treasurer head **John Fraser** says Australia is such a stable and peaceful society, especially the public service in Canberra, that Australians have become complacent about their declining wealth. The problems facing the nation are similar to the early 1980s, when Australia was falling out of the ranks of the world's richest countries, but the community doesn't recognise the need for tough economic changes that will restart growth according to the *Financial Review*.

Tougher Hurdles

Banks will have to improve their culture and remuneration rather than just deleverage to pass the looming test of being 'unquestionably strong', as the regulator broadens its focus beyond inevitable rising capital levels to safeguard the system. Providing an update on how one of the Murray inquiry's key recommendations will be imposed, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority chairman Wayne Bryes said banks must have more than 'just a strong capital ratio' to be considered unquestionably strong.

Regulations can 'bolster capital requirements and liquidity requirements etc, but the biggest protection you can have is from a repeat of these behaviours that led to the GFC is that institutions focus less on short term and more on long term sustainable business behaviour and products' according to *The Australian*.

Call to Act

Some of Australia's biggest companies have urged the government to do more to combat foreign bribery, with energy giant **Woodside Petroleum** calling for the scrapping of a defence for 'facilitation payments' under Australian law according to *The Australian*.

Transfield the First in Line

In late June, activists gathered in Australian capitals to protest against the Federal Government's asylum-seeker policies. However, a much higher-level battle was brewing through investment bankers, fund managers and market analysts. An increasingly sophisticated campaign against the diversified services group has begun to co-opt tactics used by environmental activists who

forced a number of high-profile institutions to sell out of resource stocks.

In the past six months, members of a new organisation known as **No Business in Abuse**, backed by a number of well-known charity groups, have begun to make regular calls with investors and analysts. Their intention is to persuade financial markets the risk for **Transfield** in operating the Manus Island and Nauru regional processing centres on behalf of the government outweighs any commercial gain.

The company has run the Nauru operations since 2012, and replaced **G4S** as the Manus Island operator last year according to *The Australian*.

Credit Surcharge Squeezed

Airlines, telecommunications companies, energy retailers and ticketing companies that charge fees well above the nominal amount it costs them to process a credit card transaction could face action from the nation's consumer watchdog. The *Herald Sun* understands this follows a recommendation from former Commonwealth Bank chief **David Murray**, who in his **Financial System Inquiry report** called for a ban on excessive surcharges on credit card and debit card transactions.

Murray said retailers should be able to pass on only the nominal cost of the transaction, which is 12 cents or .55 per cent of the value of the transaction, whichever was less. Former treasurer **Joe Hockey** had finalised the Government's response to the **Murray** recommendation. The decision to empower the **ACCC** to act was due to pass through Cabinet the night prime minister **Tony Abbott** was ousted by **Malcolm Turnbull**. New Treasurer **Scott Morrison** is yet to endorse the decision.

Scandal Could Hit 50,000

More than 50,000 **Volkswagens** are likely to be caught up in the global scandal involving 11 diesel cars with software designed to cheat fuel economy and emissions tests.

Experts told the *Herald Sun* that although local emissions standards are lower than those in the US and Europe, the fact that some toxins are 35 times higher than what is allowed will likely 'trip up' the affected **VW** cars sold in Australia from 2009 to 2015. **VW Australia** is still yet to confirm if any local cars are affected as it is waiting on advice from its German head office.

Medibank Strikes Peace

The public stoush between **Medibank Private** and national not-for-profit hospital group **Calvary** was resolved through an agreement that will introduce an independent umpire to judge fault.

As reported in *The Australian*, the list of **Medibank's** 165 'adverse events' for which it will not pay remains, but individual incidents included in the list can be challenged by **Calvary** to be examined by an independent clinical review panel to determine fault.

Asian Skills Fall Short

Some professions, tourism, the IT sector and educators are developing Asia-capable employees better than other industries, in an early indicator that the economy may be moving beyond a dependence on the resources boom according to the *Financial Review*.

The survey by the **Diversity Council of Australia**, conducted on Asian business capability has shown it is emerging faster in a range of services sectors just as free trade agreements with Japan, South Korea and China have focussed on opening up services business opportunities in Australia's largest Asian trading partners.

MINING

Coal Prices are Broken

Resources Minister **Josh Frydenberg** said there was a 'strong moral case' to proceed with **Adani's** \$16 billion coal mine because it would help pull millions of people in India and other countries out of 'energy poverty'. Two billion people were still burning wood and dung for cooking and 4.3 million people died early as a direct result. 'That's more people dying through those sort of inefficient forms of energy than from malaria, from tuberculosis and HIV AIDS all combined' according to *The Age*.

Coal Losing Face

BHP Billiton coal president **Mike Henry** says greater industry effort and alignment between miners and the power sector is needed to combat the growing anti-coal activism, with the industry losing the public relations battle. Voicing growing concern at the struggle that coalminers face convincing society their product is needed, **Henry** said the industry had to push the message that under all credible demand and climate action forecasts, coal was needed to supply cheap energy to the world according to *The Australian*.

TRADE

Banana Split

Unions have split with Labor over **Bill Shorten's** deal with **Malcolm Turnbull** that will finalise the China free-trade agreement before Christmas and allow millions of dollars in tariff cuts to flow to Australian exporters. Unions attacked the deal and the **Australian Council of Trade Unions** will dramatically step up its town hall meetings to condemn the agreement, with 20 to be held in the next fortnight according to *The Australian*.

Concessions All the Way

As part of concessions to achieve the **TPP** trade deal, the government cut 5 per cent tariffs on most manufacturing imports and increased from \$252 million to \$1.094 billion the threshold for **Foreign**

Investment Review Board scrutiny of purchases by overseas companies from the 12 **TPP** signature countries. However, tighter review thresholds for agricultural land of \$50 million for agribusiness and \$15 million for farmland will remain.

The Greens, the **ACTU** and independent senator **Nick Xenophon** attacked the secrecy of behind the negotiations and were sceptical about the benefits. As business leaders applauded the agreement, its approval through parliament rests with Labor, which said it wanted to see the fine detail. **Robb** said the 12-nation pact would eliminate 98 per cent of tariffs across beef, dairy, wine, sugar, rice and horticulture, and extend to manufactured goods, resources and energy.

It would open access to services and force state-owned businesses in other countries not to discriminate against Australian firms. According to **Adam Creighton** in *The Australian*, while economists bicker interminably over monetary and budget policy, few criticise **David Ricardo's** 19th-century insight that freer trade benefits all because it encourages specialisation and competition.

Call for Crackdown

The steel industry is facing an 'epidemic' of dumped exports from China, iron ore miner and steelmaker **Arrium** has declared as the beleaguered sector calls for an anti-dumping crackdown as reported in *The Australian*.

Call to End Chinese Impasse

Former trade Minister **Craig Emerson** has proposed a way out of the impasse between Labor and the Coalition over the **China-Australia Free Trade Agreement**. In a note circulated to both parties, **Emerson** suggested a simple change to regulations under the Migration Act that would allow the free-trade agreement to come into force without permitting the free import of Chinese workers.

He says it would meet both sides stated positions. 'Since the government claims labour market testing is already mandatory, this proposed amendment would simply give effect to stated government policy' according to the note. 'The change would cover all lower-skilled 457 visa categories associated with work agreements, not only those related to the China-Australia Free

Trade Agreement.'

But Trade Minister **Andrew Robb** appeared to rule out the compromise, saying he would not be willing to make any changes that contravened commitments he had already given. Labour market testing was a mandatory requirement under Department of Immigration guidelines. The China agreements had more-stringent safeguards than equivalent investment enterprise migration agreements proposed by the Gillard government.

Jakarta Back to Normal

A ship laden with 4000 Australian cattle bound for Jakarta left Darwin in early October, the first export shipment since Indonesia confirmed a normal resumption of the pivotal \$700 million live cattle trade, *The Australian* reports.

Don't Let it Slip

Ambassador **Ma Zhaoxu** told a meeting of business and political leaders in Melbourne that the free-trade agreement, which the Labour Party and unions oppose in its current form, represents a 'hard-won and historic opportunity' and a high-water mark in political trust and practical cooperation between their two countries.

His speech was timed to mark 100 days since the agreement was signed in Canberra. In the meantime, Australia and other commodity exporters face several years of lower growth that will eat into national incomes, says the **International Monetary Fund**.

Time for an Oil Change

The head of mining giant **BHP Billiton** has urged the US to lift its four-decade ban on crude oil exports, claiming it would slash pump prices and bolster economic growth.

Labelling the ban a 'legacy of the 1970s oil shock', **BHP** chief **Andrew Mackenzie** said America could show the world it was a supporter of open markets at a sensitive time for international trade negotiations. It comes ahead of a likely US Congress vote on the matter according to the *Herald Sun*.

The Final Countdown

Trade ministers from 12 countries including Australia are hopeful of sealing a major Pacific Rim trade and investment deal covering 40 per

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cent of the global economy in the United States. The **Trans-Pacific Partnership** meeting in Atlanta is being billed as the final stage of negotiations on difficult issues including sugar and dairy market access in North America, rules of origin for car manufacturers, intellectual property rights for prescription drugs and investment protection treaties.

After failing to conclude the **TPP** at Hawaii in July, ministers are acutely aware their meeting may be the final chance to sign a pact, ahead of a tight election in Canada during October and the ramp up of the US Presidential campaign as reported in the *Financial Review*.

Indonesia is Close

Federal Trade Minister **Andrew Robb** believes Indonesia is 'close' to agreeing to annual quotas for the live cattle trade. **Robb** visited Indonesia trying to resolve a fluctuating quota system that has frustrated the Australian beef industry over the past 18 months. Indonesia operates under quarterly quotas announced just days before being implemented as reported in the *Herald Sun*.

They Will Walk

Trade Minister **Andrew Robb** has warned *The Australian* that China will permanently 'walk away' from a landmark free-trade agreement if Labor votes it down, with the campaign against the deal threatening to dominate the Canning by election.

On the Down Low

The Australian dollar is poised for an extended run below US70c according to currency experts in the *Herald Sun*.

REFUGEES & IMMIGRATION

Free the Kids

Doctors are refusing to discharge asylum-seeker children sent to the **Royal Children's Hospital** for treatment, saying it would be unethical to return them to detention. The doctors have been engaged in a secret showdown with the **Immigration Department**, demanding the Federal Government cease locking up children. Matters escalated this year when a child with health issues was transferred from a detention centre, prompting a standoff of more than a month as doctors said they could not clinically discharge the patient.

More than 400 **RCH** staff gathered in a show of support outside the hospital, holding a sign saying 'detention harms children'. Immigration Minister **Peter Dutton** said there would be no change of policy. 'I understand the concern of the doctors, but staff on our patrol vessels who were pulling dead kids from the water don't want the boats to restart' as reported in the *Herald Sun*.

Seven Pregnant Women

Seven pregnant asylum-seekers on Nauru are refusing medical attention at upgraded health facilities, demanding instead to be transferred to Australia to have their babies. Sources close to the government have revealed to *The Australian* concern that the women, by refusing treatment, are prepared to put their unborn children at risk in a bid to come to Australia.

However, refugee advocates, who want to end offshore processing, have argued Nauru is unsafe. Once in Australia, the women and their newborn

babies can use the Australian legal system to delay their return to Nauru.

7-Eleven Amnesty Plea

Opposition Leader **Bill Shorten** has written to Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** urging him to grant an amnesty to thousands of exploited **7-Eleven** workers. A joint **Fairfax Media** and **Four Corners** investigation has found the **7-Eleven** chain systematically underpaid its workers in its 620 stores. **Shorten** write to **Turnbull** pleading for a reprieve for up to 4000 international students, some of whom were paid as little as \$5 an hour according to *The Age*.

Smugglers to Test New Team

A new wave of boats filled with asylum-seekers will test the resolve of **Malcolm Turnbull's** government team. Australia's intelligence community understands the highly developed people smuggling industry is readying to test the new Prime Minister and his new national security team, epitomised by a completely inexperienced new Defence Minister in **Marise Payne**.

The people smugglers have undoubtedly been following Australia's political changes closely. They know the new PM has a reputation for coming from a soft-hearted end of his party and will quickly be informed that the same is true for the new Defence Minister as stated by **Greg Sheridan** in *The Australian*.

UN Envoy Cancels Tickets

The **United Nations** has postponed a planned visit to Australia because the Federal Government cannot guarantee legal immunity to detention centre workers who discuss asylum seekers and migrants according to *The Age*. 'The act prevents me from fully and freely carrying out my duties during the visit, as required by the UN guidelines for independent experts carrying out their in country visits.'

Long Cost of Resettlement

A serious effort will be needed to resettle 12,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq, according to Government research that reveals the struggle of new residents to get off welfare and find work.

Amid estimates for a \$700 million bill for the decision to offer to help those fleeing persecution, the research finds that almost half the refugees who are given places in Australia's humanitarian intake have never had a paid job, while many have never attended school.

But 80 per cent of refugees told the researchers they felt welcome in Australia most or all of the time, and a majority enrolled in English language classes to help get work and join the community according to *The Australian*.

TAX

Getting Somewhere

The Federal Government has reached in-principle agreement with unions, employers and welfare organisations to reduce a raft of tax breaks, including negative gearing and superannuation concessions that primarily benefit the rich. All sides of the high powered group hailed the prospect of a new era of consensus and cooperation as reported in *The Age*. The meeting marked the first direct **ACTU**-Coalition discussions since the 2013 election.

Land Tax Joins Agenda

Treasury is modeling the effect of increasing or broadening existing state taxes as the Federal Government widens the net on options for tax reform, rather than just focusing on increasing the GST to 15 per cent or raising other Commonwealth taxes. Treasury secretary **John Fraser**, along with his state counterparts, will model the impact, for example, of broadening or introducing land taxes, ending payroll tax exemptions and adjusting stamp duties according to the *Financial Review*.

Big Boys Don't Pay

One in five privately-owned companies with revenue of more than \$100 million paid no tax last year, the **Australian Tax Office** has revealed. The figure emerged as the Federal Government pushes ahead with plans to exempt private companies from new regulations forcing them to publicly disclose their annual tax contribution.

A campaign by private business, supported by some Coalition MPs, convinced the government that disclosure would increase the risk of kidnappings of company owners. *Fairfax Media* revealed in June that the government had not asked for nor received any security advice to confirm such a kidnapping threat was real.

University of NSW financial disclosure expert, accounting lecturer **Jeffrey Knapp**, has called the decision the 'stupidest excuse for non-disclosure I've ever heard.'

Company Tax Rate Cuts

The **Australian Council of Trade Unions**, the **Australian Council of Social Services** and Labor have signalled a willingness to talk about tough tax reform options, such as lowering the corporate tax rate in exchange for cuts to tax breaks used by the rich. 'It's just not feasible to maintain a 30 per cent rate. It doesn't matter what your philosophical position is. It's just not practical' said **Rio Tinto** managing director, **Phil Edmands** in the *Financial Review*.

We Won't Back You

Labor has flatly ruled out working with the Coalition in boosting the goods and services tax, whatever the outcome of next year's tax white paper and negotiations with the states, *The Australian* reports.

Tax Blitz Coming

The **Turnbull** Government expects to raise 'hundreds of millions of dollars' from 1000 multinational companies through new rules designed to extract more tax from profits made in Australia but accounted for overseas according to *The Age*.

We Are Taxing Badly

A **Deloitte** study says the Federal Government could produce a tax reform package that lifts the GST to 15 per cent, fully compensates the lowest income earners and cuts the company tax rate to 25 per cent to stimulate the economy while leaving tens of billions of dollars over for income tax cuts, state tax reform or to finance more health spending as reported in the *Financial Review*.

TOURISM

Take a Closer Look

New Tourism Minister **Richard Colbeck** will consider the growing impact of sharing-economy businesses, such as **Uber** and **Airbnb**, on the

sustainability of the domestic tourism industry as one of his priorities. Senator **Colbeck**, who was promoted to **Minister for Tourism, International Education** and assisting Trade Minister **Andrew Robb**.

CLIMATE CHANGE. ENVIRONMENT. ENERGY

Noise Compliance Faked

All levels of government have been duped by sham compliance reports which allowed major wind farms to breach noise limits and collect millions of dollars in subsidies, says independent senator **John Madigan**. Senator **Madigan** used parliamentary privilege to blow the whistle on what he said was a corrupt system of wind farm noise assessments.

He singled out international noise consultants **Marshall Day** and its consultant **Christophe Delaire**, who has been involved in more than 50 wind farm projects. Senator **Madigan** told the Senate **MDA's** commercial arrangements with wind farm operators **Acciona** and **Pacific Hydro** had 'adversely affected the independence of its reports and the legitimacy of conclusions.'

He was speaking in support of a Labor recommendation, in its dissenting report to the Senate inquiry into wind farms and health, that wind companies use independent consultants to assess post-construction noise compliance as reported in *The Australian*.

Green Change Accelerating

The Federal Government is considering fast-tracking a scheme to allow big emitters of carbon to buy international permits to offset their emissions. The former Government left the door open for review of the purchase of international permits in 2017-18 as part of its **Direct Action** scheme to tackle climate change according to the *Financial Review*.

Hunt Offers Peace

Environment Minister **Greg Hunt** says the renewables sector should feel 'very supported' under Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** after they complained of investment instability fueled by **Tony Abbott's** hostility toward the sector as reported in the *Financial Review*.

Hunt has also said he would seek ways for Australia to do more on climate change with **Turnbull** after the **United Nations** conference in Paris, and said the appointment of five new members of the **Climate Change Authority** board was delayed by the leadership spill.

Ranks Thinning

Tony Abbott's pet project, the \$700 million **Green Army**, shed almost 17 per cent of its members last year, although the Government is confident it will reach its target of 15,000 participants in three years. The **Green Army** replaced the **Green Corps**, which was introduced by the **Howard** Government and dismantled under Labor. As reported in *The Australian*, participants in the new project are aged between 17 and 24 and receive training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation projects.

Good News for Coal

More than 1000 'high-efficiency' coal-fired electricity generation plants are planned or under construction in key Asian nations, according to new research that provides a fillip for Australia's

thermal coal exporters hit by the fossil fuel divestment push. The research, produced by the **UK's IEA Clean Coal Centre** and obtained by *The Australian*, is significant as the hi-tech plants typically emit 20 to 25 per cent less carbon-dioxide than existing power stations.

Commissioned by the **Minerals Council of Australia**, it finds that an extra 1066 'high-efficiency, low emission' units are planned or under construction in 10 Asian nations to provide 672 gigawatts of capacity, more than 24 times that of Australia's coal-fired fleet. Using these plants would mean that 1.1 billion fewer tonnes of carbon emissions were produced than if older, dirtier 'sub-critical' units were used, the research suggests as reported in *The Australian*.

Humanity's mismanagement of the ocean has led to the loss of almost half of the world's marine mammals, birds, reptiles and fish in a single generation, a **World Wide Fund for Nature** report says.

Climate Change Slow

Those hoping **Malcolm Turnbull's** rise to the prime ministership will usher in a n immediate and radical overhaul of Australia's climate change position should take a deep breath. Any instant effect is likely to be much more subtle according to *The Age*.

It's true **Turnbull** is better attuned to the problem than his predecessor, but he is also being careful not to spark a war to his political right by moving quickly to a stricter carbon regime.

All Gums, No Teeth

Big polluters will be fined up to \$1.8 million for breaching carbon limits but critics say the new rules are so soft that 80 per cent of the largest polluters will be able to increase their emissions without penalties. Critics said the baseline for penalties is not tough enough and should be lowered to force companies to change their behaviour and cut emissions.

Grattan Institute's energy program director **Tony Wood** said the new rules would do nothing to curb emissions according to the *Financial Review*. 'It is our clear expectation that no businesses will pay penalties' says Environment Minister **Greg Hunt**.

AGRICULTURE, CATTLE & WATER Farmers Win Big

Australian farmers, rural exports and local agribusinesses are the big winners from the **Trans-Pacific Partnership** trade deal. Beef, cotton, wool, wine, fruit and grain exports all stand to benefit significantly from the new **Pacific Rim** trade pact, with foreign investment in Australian agricultural companies and farms also expected to boom. But the sugar industry is deeply disappointed at its lack of access to new markets, particularly in the US, while dairy farmers described the **TPP's** gains as only 'modest'.

The **TPP** eliminates nearly 98 per cent of all tariffs imposed on Australian exports by the 11 other nations participating in the multilateral deal including the US, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia within ten years.

As reported in *The Australian*, two Queensland National MPs have threatened to cross the floor and vote against the landmark Pacific-wide free-trade pact after negotiations failed to deliver major gains for sugar producers.

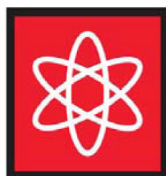
Wash Away the Fear

Malcolm Turnbull's infrastructure tsar is considering a national water reform agenda for the next decade, amid consumer fears across Australia about water shortages. *The Australian* revealed that Infrastructure Australia has been told of a growing view that 'we need to do more in the water reform space to prepare for the future.'

'In developing the 15 year **Australian Infrastructure Plan**, we are considering whether Australia needs a new national water reform agenda for the next decade,' **Infrastructure Australia** chairman **Mark Birrell** told *The Australian*. 'And if so, how should it be developed, and how can it be driven forward nationally.'

Off the Rails

The Federal Government's new vision for the nation's farmers promises several new projects to boost farm profits but has also bundled a raft of old announcements in the landmark policy. The long-delayed **White Paper** has been given a cautious thumbs-up by farmers but critics say it has fallen well short of expectations. Of new initiatives touted at being worth \$4 billion, the Opposition claims many were already included in the May budget in *The Weekly Times*.



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The policy's failure to include key infrastructure strategies on transport, particularly rail freight, was immediately attacked. It includes farmer tax breaks, an agriculture watchdog, \$500 million for water infrastructure, \$250 million a year in drought loan, \$200 million to boost biosecurity and \$30.8 million to improve market access. It also sets out major changes to **Farm Management Deposits**, allowing farmers to reduce **FMDs** to offset loans, reducing interest bills by up to \$150 million.

Grapes Turning Sour

Grape growers will be forced to abandon their vineyards before next season without urgent reform to the wine equalisation tax rebate, a Senate inquiry was told. According to *The Australian*, National, State and regional industry bodies, along with representatives from **Accolade Wines**, **Angove Family Winemakers** and **Yalumba Wine Company** paint a dire picture.

Giving evidence at a Senate hearing in Adelaide on the grape and wine industry, **Angove** executive director **Victoria Angove** said without swift reform growers would lose their vineyards. 'We have never known business to be so tough... If we don't see urgent WET rebate reform we have considered helping our brothers set up as producers to access the rebate, that is not the intention of what the WET rebate is all about.'

The WET rebate is worth up to \$500,000 for wine producers and was implemented after the GST in a bid to support the development of industry in rural Australia.

MEDIA

Civil War at News Corp

As reported in the **Saturday Paper**, **Malcolm Turnbull's** overthrow of Prime Minister **Tony Abbott** indeed 'set off a civil war within **NewsCorp**.' But there are different kinds of civil war, and we need to define more clearly what type this is. This one is not like the **American Civil War**, for example. It's not a conflict over any fundamental principle. The civil war is being fought over expediency.

On one side, we have the resistance, led by **Bolt** and the **Sydney Daily Telegraph** and others at the populist end of the right-wing commentariat, maintaining their rage against **Turnbull**, who they think is a dangerous left-wing usurper. On the other side we have the **News Corp** hierarchy and **The Australian**, who have also fought on the side of **Abbott** but who surrendered when they realised they could not prevent the **Turnbull** occupation of the Prime Minister's Office, and who now are offering contrite promises of collaboration. **The Saturday Paper** is a weekly news publication first printed on 1 March 2014.

Lock It In Eddie

Eddie McGuire's 12 year old son has been cast in soapie **Neighbours**.

Finger Waving Puritanism

Barry Humphries says the **ABC** has become an extreme left-wing broadcaster and the former prime minister **Tony Abbott** was correct to criticise it. 'We think we live in a liberated age but we don't really. I mean it's just the way these things are expressed publicly and how we wag our fingers at people, how we disapprove of them and how we're living in an age of new Puritanism' he said. 'Things were much more liberal 20 years

ago than they are today. I'm really the sworn enemy of all forms of political correctness. You can't call something what it really is.'

The State of the Nation

Half a dozen women. Twenty-one men. Eleven politicians, eight corporate leaders, six public servants, a host of institutions, groups and issues not people. Now in its fifteenth year, the *Financial Review* magazine's annual power issue always provides a good snapshot of where Australia is at as a nation, and who is setting the direction of its economy, culture and discourse.

Foxtel-Ten Concerns

The competition regulator is concerned that **Rupert Murdoch's** plan to buy 15 per cent of **Network Ten Holdings** could give **News Corp** too much power over the free-to-air network and reduce competition for sports rights and television advertising according to *The Age*.

Google Pirates

News Corp chief executive **Robert Thomson** has attacked **Google** for piracy, zealotry and kleptocracy for its disregard of copyright and distribution of journalism created by others. In a speech at the **Lowy Institute Media Awards**, **Thomson** warned that without proper remuneration, well-resourced reporting would be further challenged in the future with the digital age hostile to investment in journalism as reported in *The Australian*.

JUSTICE

Gold Digger Melhelm

Union boss **Cesar Melhem**, now a state Labor MP, went on a \$130,000 all-expenses paid international study tour without ever filling out a report on the trip, the **Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption** has heard. Glass manufacturer **ACI** footed the bill for the two week trip to the United States.

Europe and Lebanon for its then employee relations manager, **Michael Gilhome**, and **Melhelm** in the mid-2000s. At the time, **Melhelm** was an official with the AWU and reported to current federal Opposition leader **Bill Shorten**, then the national and state secretary of the AWU.

Son of an MP

The son of Nationals MP **Russell Northe** will appear in court on drug charges. **Tim Northe** has been charged with possession of ecstasy and methamphetamine according to the *Herald Sun*.

ASIO Targets Kids

Children as young as 14 have been monitored by **ASIO** under warrants signed by Attorney-General **George Brandis**, underscoring the dramatic drop in the age of suspects in terrorism-related cases reports *The Age*.

Bells Ringing

ASIC barrister **Norman O'Bryan** has told a Victorian Supreme Court civil trial of former **AWB** chairman **Trevor Flugge** and senior executive **Peter Greary** that in mid-2000 **Greary** received an email from another executive, **Tim Snowball**, discussing Iraq's refusal to accept two shipments of wheat it maintained were tainted with E.coli, despite **UN** tests indicating otherwise.

ASIC is accusing **Greary** of breaching his duties as an executive 13 times in the subsequent oil-for-food scandal that saw **AWB** pay Iraq more than



Professor Geoffrey Blainey presents at the Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Australian Institute of International Affairs at The Queen's Hall at Victoria's Parliament House.

\$300 million in kickbacks disguised as trucking and other after-sales service fees between 1999 and the US-led storming of Iraq in 2003. **Flugge** is accused of four breaches, each carrying a maximum \$200,000 fine.

O'Bryan told the court that in the 1999-2000 season, **AWB** sold a record 2.4 million tonnes of wheat to Iraq, more than double the pre-1990 annual average according to *The Australian*.

Herculean Raid

A multi-agency police taskforce raided the property of disgraced union official **Kathy Jackson**, trawling through her home, cars and a shipping container before seizing documents and property. Plain-clothed **Australian Federal Police** agents and Victorian state officers raided her home at Wombarra, north of Wollongong, as part of **Taskforce Heracles**, formed to investigate union corruption. In August, **Jackson** was ordered to pay back \$1.4 million she used from **Health Services Union** members to fund a globetrotting lifestyle.

Let Justice Prevail

Harriet Wran, the daughter of former NSW Premier **Neville Wran**, will stand trial for the murder of a drug dealer. Ms **Wran**, 27, appeared in **Sydney's Central Local Court** via video link where she waived her right to a committal hearing and will go straight to trial in the **NSW Supreme Court** as reported in *The Age*.

Government's Uber Crackdown

Uber drivers in Sydney are facing suspension of their vehicles as part of the **NSW Roads and Maritime Services** crackdown on illegal ride-sharing. The agency is issuing suspension notices against registered owners of vehicles found to be operating a privately registered vehicle for business purposes.

It has confirmed that 40 drivers have been issued with suspension notices and thousands of dollars worth of fines have also been issued. The

suspensions will take effect from midnight on September 30 2015 as reported in the *Financial Review*.

IVF Funding Scandal

The national president of the militant construction union, **Dave Hanna**, resigned after an investigation found he obtained thousands of dollars from employers to pay for the IVF treatment of a union organiser and his partner.

Hann, who has claimed he resigned for health reasons, quit last month as national and Queensland president of the **Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union** after a union investigation found he procured funds from two subcontractors to contribute to the cost of IVF treatment undergone by organiser **Mick Myles**.

Dob 'Em In

Then Prime Minister **Tony Abbott** ruled out financial rewards for people dobbing in ice dealers but hopes they will do so out of a sense of duty. The Federal Government has allocated \$1 million to **Crime Stoppers** to expand a Victorian 'dob in a dealer' campaign nationally. The campaign has led to a 400 per cent increase in drug tip-offs as reported in *The Age*.

BROADBAND & IT

Freed Cash for Tech Sector

The Russian technology entrepreneur who has joined former **Macquarie Group** chief **Allan Moss** and a host of corporate heavyweights in backing an Australian start-up in the management consultant sector says the mining downturn is 'freeing up' more private and institutional investors to deploy capital in the tech sector.

Dmitry Alimov, founder and managing partner of the investment fund Frontier Ventures, said he 'loved the entrepreneurial spirit of Australia' and that his fund was looking at more opportunities here as reported in *The Australian*.

Tunes are a Changing

The launch of the first of two \$500 million national broadband network satellites at a space centre about an hour from the capital of French Guiana, Cayenne. Assuming all goes to plan, the 6.4 ton satellite dubbed '**Sky Master**' will travel on the back of a rocket more than one-tenth of the way to the moon before orbiting the earth at speeds of up to 1,000km/h, about the same rate that the planet spins.

Its job is to provide up to 200,000 homes and businesses in remote areas with their first taste of fast broadband. **Turnbull's** change of heart has been described by current Labor communications spokesman, **Jason Clare**, as a backflip 'worthy of [Romanian gymnast] **Nadia Comaneci**'.

Labor had signed binding contracts with companies to build, launch and manage the satellites that meant any future Liberal government would have to live with what is known as the 'long-term satellite service' plan. As reported in the *Financial Review*, the cost of connecting about 3 per cent of the population to the **NBN** accounts for almost 10 per cent of the total budget.

Speed Monitoring Trial

The competition regulator hopes to implement a national program to monitor and report back to

consumers on the quality of their broadband speeds to ensure the billions paid by taxpayers to build the **National Broadband Network** are not going to waste. The monitoring service would also be used to crack down on misleading promises of download speeds by internet service providers, however, the program has been rejected by the telecoms industry until a full cost-benefit analysis has been conducted.

There are concerns that it would lumber the sector with extra costs and regulatory burdens. The **Australian Competition & Consumer Commission** completed a trial of the service with 90 Melbourne-based volunteers who agreed to have their fixed-line broadband connections monitored for the past three months according to *The Australian*.

NDIS Rolling Out

The \$22 billion **National Disability Insurance Scheme** has been given the first guarantee it will move to full rollout in NSW and Victoria by 2017 when agreements, for the transition are announced, providing a blueprint for a massive escalation in support. But there are hurdles, still, with Western Australia refusing to sign up to the Labor-era scheme, saying its own disability services program, **MyWay**, offers better value for taxpayers.

There has been a cloud hanging over the future of the **NDIS**, with *The Australian* revealing scores of design flaws involving inaccurate modeling. Issues have been identified with cost estimates, the provision of housing support and how many children with autism will be eligible for assistance.

From advertisements for support, there is no doubt that the **NDIS** seeks support from the business and NFP community.

WELFARE

Scant Support for Super

The Coalition is pushing ahead with plans to reduce union influence over the \$2 trillion superannuation sector despite research suggesting little community support and a lack of understanding for the proposed changes. A bill that will force industry superannuation funds to reconfigure their boards with at least one third independent directors and an independent chairperson is due to be debated in late October in the **House of Representatives** according to *The Age*.

Welfare Card Deployed

A pilot program restricting welfare recipient's use of payments in remote communities is likely to be rubber-stamped by Parliament. The plan, which would trial a controversial cashless welfare-quarantining card in the South Australian community of Ceduna was debated as reported in the *Herald Sun*.

It would mean 80 per cent of all welfare payments for some who are at risk of drug and alcohol abuse would be made cashless. South Australian independent senator **Nick Xenophon** said, properly implemented, the healthy welfare card had a lot of potential 'to do a lot of good.'

Mission to Cut Spending

Social Services Minister **Christian Porter** is on the hunt for savings in his new portfolio, hinting spending cuts on carer and disability payments may be needed to get the budget back to surplus. In comments that echo his predecessor, **Scott**

Morrison, Porter said his portfolio 'has to be a contributor to slowing the growth of expenditure down' as reported in *The Age*.

Private Enterprise to Solve Public Housing

Over the past six years I have been involved in the delivery of two social/ private housing projects in Melbourne: the redevelopment of the Carlton housing estate and the Westmeadows project. The more I get involved with the unloved sector of the market, the more I am learning about how important it is to our economic and social wellbeing as a community. We can fix it, but we need to start now as reported in *The Age*.

We cannot wait for another set of reports or further investigations and feasibility studies. However, we can't rely solely on government money to solve this problem. We need to mobilise private capital by making it economically viable for developers to invest in this type of housing. This article contains extracts from **Robert Pradolin**, who is a general manager of business development for **Fraser's Property Australia**.

Drug Frustrations

Frustration among drug companies with Australia's **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme** has reached boiling point with more than 80 per cent revealing they are considering withdrawing lifesaving medications from the system during the next two years according to *The Australian*.

A new report reveals drug companies are fed up with the complex processes involved in getting their drugs listed on the scheme, with most complaining that the system has got worse during the past two years. Almost 90 per cent of those surveyed admitted they had considered withdrawing crucial medications from the scheme and complained Australia's regulatory system was the worst in the world.

Mums Losing Out

The Federal Government will push ahead with a plan to ban new mothers who receive employer-paid parental leave from accessing the taxpayer-funded parental leave scheme. Since being sworn in as Prime Minister, **Turnbull** has signalled a willingness to drop or modify some contentious government policies as reported in the *Herald Sun*.

Government Digs Deep

It will cost the Federal Government \$214 million in one year just to pay for people older than 65 in the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**, according to figures in the agreements for the full rollout in NSW and Victoria. In one of his first major acts as Prime Minister, **Malcolm Turnbull** signed the agreement with premiers **Mike Baird** and **Daniel Andrews**, laying out a blueprint for the escalation of support in those two states as reported in *The Australian*.

Slow Healthy Changes

The powerful **Australian Medical Association** has won an early concession out of much anticipated Medicare reforms, with the head of a review task force agreeing that recommended changes should be staggered to protect doctor and practice incomes.

The Australian revealed that **Bruce Robinson**, who is heading the review of the **Medical Benefits Schedule**, believed that a quarter of the services listed on the \$21 billion **MBS** were not

supported by evidence, while about 30 per cent of all healthcare treatments would be of little benefit to patients.

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Second Bigger than the First

A second airport in western Sydney could end up with more hourly aircraft movements than the city's main **Kingsford Smith Airport** as the number of passengers using it grows to 82 million a year by 2063 according to research in *The Australian*. Construction could start as soon as next year, said Deputy Prime Minister **Warren Truss**.

The draft airport plan and a provisional environmental impact statement for the project at **Badgery's Creek** says the airport could handle 103 aircraft movements an hour, 23 more than the 80 allowed at **Sydney Airport** under its cap, if it moved to the dual runway configuration in the 2060s.

Closing Another Chapter?

Letter posting by Australians is in 'terminal and structural decline', **Australia Post** chief executive **Ahmed Fahour** said after the postal group delivered its first annual loss in more than 30 years. 'We are a parcels company more than a letters company,' **Fahour** said, as a 10.3 per cent drop in the posting of ordinary stamped letters in 2014-15 pushed **Australia Post** into a \$222 million after-tax loss compared with a \$116 million profit a year earlier.

Fahour said it was 'alarming' to see rate of decline in ordinary letters rise 10.3 per cent from 5.7 per cent a year earlier, and that losses in its mail business were so big they had overwhelmed profits from the postal group's parcels and retail businesses.

Gang of Three

The **Turnbull** government is launching talks with the states on a new agenda to 'unclog' the nation's major cities, in the next step of a \$50 billion infrastructure plan that abandons **Tony Abbott's** veto of public transport.

The proposals include federal aid for major projects that can lure private investment to begin construction, including urban rail networks that have been in limbo for the past two years after losing funding from Canberra.

Malcolm Turnbull has assigned three ministers to lead the agenda, out of concern that the biggest cities that are choking as a result of poor planning, making it increasingly difficult for Australians to find affordable housing near where they work as reported in *The Australian*.

Increased Employment Prospects

Holden has unveiled the last of its **Commodore** models to be built in Australia as it announced it will keep more than 100 design jobs that were slated to go overseas according to *The Age*.

General Motors said it would keep a design, engineering and vehicle development workforce of more than 300 people in Australia, including 190 engineering staff as opposed to a predicted 40. It will leave almost 1000 people working in Australia once local plants close in 2017.

EDUCATION

Rethink Education Now

Universities are calling for a 'game-changing' overhaul in federal investment in research, innovation and commercialisation, arguing that it would boost economic growth and transformation.

Hitching their wagon to **Malcolm Turnbull's** vision for an agile, innovative and creative nation, peak group **Universities Australia** says a radical rethink and commitment is needed from the government to 'create the conditions for innovation and prosperity to flourish.'

Without additional government funding, 'other options' including some form of deregulated fees, needs to be debated in the coming months reports *The Australian*.

Push for US-style Schools

US-style privately-owned public schools should be rolled out in Australia to boost academic standards according to a new report referred to in *The Age* by libertarian think-tank the Centre for Independent studies argues.

Privately run public schools, known as charter schools in the US, are funded by the government and run by private entities, which have full autonomy over the schools' finances, staffing and curriculum. The schools, which do not charge fees, could boost innovation in the sector by giving schools more freedom and disadvantaged students more choice according to lead author, **Trisha Ja**.

Tech Fails Test

Investment in computers and iPads in schools does not improve numeracy and literacy skills, a new **OECD** report has warned in *The Age*. The report, considered the definitive authority on global academic performance, found the frequent use of computers in schools is often associated with lower results.

The first global study on students' digital skills shows Australia is one of the highest users of technology in schools. Yet the country's reading and maths performance declined from 2000 to 2012, based on data from 2012 **Programme for International Student Assessment**.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Koniciwah

Malcolm Turnbull is finalising plans to travel to Japan in December for his first visit as a Prime Minister to a global powerhouse nation. The decision to make the trip this year, before visiting Beijing, will soothe anxieties in Japan, which was caught unawares by the sudden leadership change and has fears over **Turnbull's** affinity with China according to *The Australian*.

Doing Diplomacy on the Cheap

Kim Beazley believes Australia does 'foreign affairs on the cheap', and has highlighted the need for more resources for the Washington embassy as Australia and the US seek to bolster their increasingly close defence and intelligence-sharing relationship. As **Beazley's** six-year tenure as Australia's ambassador to Washington draws to a close, the former Labor leader has told of the challenges the embassy faced during his time in the US capital according to *The Australian*.

The Angry Kiwis

Up to 240 New Zealanders are being held in Australian detention centres, including 40 on Christmas Island, which some in the media have dubbed the 'Kiwi Alcatraz'. Prime Minister **John Key** said there were about 1000 Kiwis 'in the pipeline for deportation from Australia.' The growing numbers come as a result of tough new immigration rules under which people can have their visa cancelled if they've been cumulatively sentenced to 12 months or more in prison according to *The Age*.

We Will Fly

In a clear warning to China, the head of the **US Pacific Fleet** has declared that American warships and aircraft will continue to travel through disputed areas of the Asia-Pacific to ensure freedom of navigation and flight. According to *The Australian*, Admiral **Scott Swift** used a major navy conference in Sydney to warn that if coercion worked at sea, those responsible were likely to become a great threat and 'seek us out in our supposed sanctuaries ashore.'

Strengthen Our Relationship

Japan sees its bid for Australia's \$50 billion submarine program as just one step in deepening defence ties that would also see the two nation's navies working closer together on joint operations such as enforcing freedom on the seas.

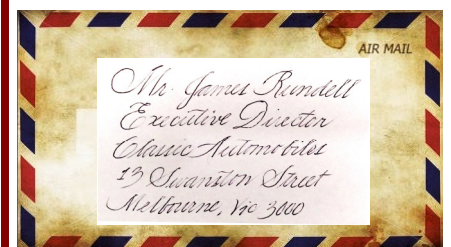
A visiting delegation from Japan, which is bidding for the hotly contested program to replace the **Collins Class** submarine, says choosing Japan over rivals Germany and France would help cement the natural bond between the two major democracies of the western pacific. But the desire for closer ties on both sides is likely to irk China, which fears such moves are aimed at containing the expansion of its power in Asia. That is particularly so when talk turns to three way cooperation with the US as reported in *The Age*.

The details of the Japanese bid have been eagerly awaited given that the other two contenders for the \$20 billion contract, Germany's **TKMS** and France's **DCNS**, have been actively marketing their detailed proposals for months.

Snouflage Reveals Scandal

Lord Ashcroft, a millionaire donor to the Conservative Party had written a book about the

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British PM. An excerpt from the *Mail* related this from **Cameron's** university days: 'He also got involved in the notorious Oxford dining society, the **Piers Gaveston**, named after the lover of **Edward II**, which specialises in bizarre rituals and sexual excess. A distinguished **Oxford** contemporary claims **Cameron** once took part in an outrageous initiation ceremony involving a dead pig. His extraordinary suggestion is that the future PM inserted his private part of his anatomy into the animal's mouth.'

Russia Beyond the Headlines is an international multimedia project about Russia launched by *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* in 2007. RBTH offers news, opinion, analysis and comment on far-ranging issues – politics, culture, business, science and public life in Russia. In its print supplements and Internet-based resources, RBTH covers current events in Russia and far beyond, and relies on professional, independent Russian and foreign journalists.

PM to Seek New Seats

Australia will launch a new bid for membership of the **UN Security Council** as the Federal Government looks to cast off the **Abbott-era's** scepticism of multilateralism diplomacy in favour of a new era of internationalism. The move is one of several initiatives aimed at giving Australia's foreign policy a more multilateral hue, with **Bishop** expected to announce Australia will seek a seat on the **UN Human Rights Council** as well according to *The Australian*.

Anti-China Sentiments

It was two weeks since **Nick Folkes** and a group of activists headed to Sydney's north shore disrupting a string of suburban auctions to protest what they say is the selling-out of Australia to foreigners. But **Folkes** and his comrades at the **Party of Freedom**, named in honour of Dutch Politician **Geert Wilders**, are already planning their next event: an all-day 'extravaganza' targeting Hurstville, in Sydney's south.

According to *The Australian*, 'The government is creating a society where the average person will never be able to buy a home, and they're facilitating a Chinese invasion' **Folkes** says 'I see this as genocide, it's cultural, it's economic and identity genocide'

Australian Condemned

The three-year jail sentences handed down by a Cairo court to Australian journalist **Peter Grete** and two Egyptian colleagues have sparked global outrage. **Grete**, who was deported in February, then tried in absentia, said he was devastated and sickened by the verdict and would appeal to Egyptian President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** to keep his promise to pardon him and his **Al Jazeera** colleagues.

Stand By Me

Foreign Minister **Julie Bishop** has called on more European nations to carry out airstrikes against the Islamic State terror group in Syria and Iraq to end the fighting that is driving the growing mass of refugees besieging their borders.

Bishop told *The Australian* European countries could help end a 'crisis of global proportions' by bombing the terrorists who were destroying entire nations and causing the mass exodus of their populations.

Split Pressure Mounts

Britain's opposition Labour party was in crisis after the left-wing radical **Jeremy Corbyn** stormed to a landslide victory in the party's leadership election. According to the *Financial Review*, leading **Blairites** warned the party is now 'fighting for its life' as eight shadow ministers resigned from Labour's frontbench within minutes of **Corbyn's** victory.

The party decision to create a rank and file 'selectorate' backed by the unions allowed a hard-left grassroots movement to flourish. The backing of **Corbyn** against his three centrist alternatives gathered so much momentum at packed public appearances and on social media that it became known as 'Corbynmania.'

DEFENCE

\$1.3 Billion Army Deal

Bendigo-based **Thales** secured a \$1.3 billion contract from the Federal Government. The **Hawkei** vehicles will replace the aging **Bushmasters**, also built by **Thales**, with 1100 of them to roll off the production line starting in late 2017. The contract will create 170 jobs in Bendigo, and a further 60 jobs along the Victorian supply chain.

Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** inspected the hi-tech vehicles at the **Australian Defence Force** proving ground at Monegeetta, northwest of Melbourne. According to the *Herald Sun*, the contract will fund the delivery of the 1100 vehicles along with 1000 trailers, and ongoing maintenance.

Hold Your Horses

Australia risks making a \$40 billion blunder that will 'haunt' the nation for generations to unless it delays a decision on future submarines for another year, according to a former head of Defence procurement. The strongly worded statement by **Warren King**, who was head of the **Defence Materiel Organisation** until February, will cause ripples inside the government, which has struggled to find a credible process to choose the design of the future submarines.

He stated that the three contenders have not been given enough time to present considered and detailed proposals which presents enormous risks for the project in the years ahead. 'It seems improbable to me that nine months is sufficient to fully analyse all the issues such as capability, cost, sustainment' **King** said on the sidelines of the **Royal Australian Navy's Seapower Conference** in Sydney as reported in *The Australian*.

Build Ships in Adelaide

Liberals believe they could lose four seats over the submarine question, which is why the appointment of **Payne** and or a strong commitment to their construction in the state is seen as so crucial to the fortunes of the government as reported in *The Age*.

Kevin Andrews was speaking about this after meeting with French shipbuilder **DCNS**, who said that by building the first boat and part of the second in France before shifting construction to Adelaide would create the same number of Australian jobs as building everything locally. This so called 'hybrid' option would be cheaper and faster than building the whole fleet in Australia, said **DCNS Australia** chief executive **Sean Costello**.

Pressing the Defence Minister

One of **Turnbull's** most pressing jobs is keeping Japan on side, where **Abbott** formed an exceptionally close and productive relationship with **Abe**. What will this new Prime Minister of Australia, **Malcolm Turnbull**, mean for Australian defence policy, or its approach to foreign affairs and national security?

Abbott's critics such as the strategically eccentric **Hugh White**, argue that this relationship was dangerous for the region because it encouraged Japanese militarism and needlessly involved Australia in Japan's strategic disagreements with Beijing. This is mistaken as there is no evidence of recrudescence Japanese militarism and the **Abbott** government was always careful to express neutrality on the territorial disputes between Tokyo and Beijing.

Abe recently talked to **Turnbull** in part about the **Competitive Evaluation Process** under way to determine who will build the replacement submarines. The defence white paper is all written and ready to go. It envisages at least eight new submarines with a decision on a further four to be made down the track. It would be 20 years or more before the eighth submarine would be built according to **Greg Sheridan** in *The Australian*.

The three competitors in the **CEP** are German, French and the Japanese. The Germans and the French have already said they can build virtually the whole project in Adelaide, or predominantly in Adelaide with perhaps more work to be undertaken in other states. There is no guarantee that the submarines can be 100 per cent Australian made as there are some instruments that are so high-tech and so classified that the Americans will only build them in America and supply them on a modular basis.

Here, the Defence Minister chosen by **Turnbull** is very important. If **Turnbull** dumped **Kevin Andrews**, Australia will have had four defence ministers in two years. This is a disastrous way to deal with the most complex portfolio in government. More importantly, **Andrews** does not deserve to be dumped. He has the respect of all the senior people in the defence organisation. Dumping a minister from the other side of the party who is doing a good job, is not how you achieve party unity.

Japan's Local Pitch

Japan has revealed it is willing and able to build the navy's new submarines in Australia, and believes winning the contract will strengthen the strategic relationship between the two allies. In an exclusive interview, Japanese ambassador **Sumio Kusaka** said Japan could work with Australia's government-owned submarine builder **ASC** in whatever arrangement best suited the **Turnbull** government. As reported in *The Australian*, France and Germany have already said they can build the submarines in Australia but this is the first time a senior representative of the Japanese government has publicly made the same pledge.

Returned Services Liabilities?

The number of Australian military personnel deployed overseas since 1999 now exceeds that sent to fight in Vietnam, with experts warning many may face physical or mental trauma on their return.

According to *The Australian*, more than 73,000 individuals have been deployed overseas since

1999, mainly to Afghanistan, East Timor and Iraq, compared with 60,000 sent to Vietnam as per figures released from the **Australian Defence Force** show.

Abbott Sinks with the Submarines

An increased proportion of the Federal Government's \$50 billion submarine building program is more likely to be allocated to Australian companies under a **Malcolm Turnbull** administration, according to Liberal MPs in *The Age*, reporting a major strategic and industrial shift.

South Australian Liberals who were facing electoral wipe out under **Tony Abbott** because of the broken promise to build 12 submarines in Adelaide, say they are confident **Turnbull** will be more inclined than his predecessor to build the next generation of boats locally.

INDIGENOUS

Call for Indigenous Treaty

Paul Keating has backed a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, describing it as the 'unfinished business of the nation' and suggesting it could precede Indigenous recognition in the constitution as reported in *The Age*. The former prime minister also says he would back any move by **Malcolm Turnbull** to revive the minimalist model for an Australian republic that both men crafted in the early 1990s, conceding this might be the 'last and best opportunity' to secure the model.

Give Me Another Chance

A senior Aboriginal leader has warned **Malcolm Turnbull** that he must 'get it right' with property rights and economic development if Aboriginal communities are to survive. **Wayne Bergmann**, the chairman of the **Expert Indigenous Working Group**, would not comment on specifics when he delivered his committee's report to Indigenous Affairs Minister **Nigel Scullion**, noting that the elevation of a new Prime Minister had given the Aboriginal people fresh hope.

'Malcolm Turnbull has to get it right because fundamentally no Aboriginal community is going to survive without being part of the economic activities of the region'. The Indigenous working group has examined ways to allow native title holders to create subleases on their land for their own developments, including building houses, attracting private investment and creating businesses such as tourism projects according to *The Australian*.

SPORTS. ARTS

Reform to be Reformed

Arts Minister Senator **Mitch Fifield** has held out an olive branch to the creative sector, promising there will be changes to the draft guidelines for his predecessor's controversial **National Program for Excellence in the Arts**. The previous arts minister, Senator **George Brandis**, took \$105 million from the Arts Council to found the **NPEA**, which is yet to begin operating.

Thousands Massacred

Greyhounds that are too slow are being slaughtered in alarming numbers. Australia's greyhound racing governing body has admitted that between 13,000 and 17,000 healthy greyhounds are killed every year, secret figures even its board determined were 'indefensible'.

In a letter penned by the **Greyhound Australasia** board this year, the governing body admitted that if the figures were made public, its industry would be shut down. The confidential document was tendered to the **Special Commission of Inquiry** into greyhound racing in NSW. The controversial sport is already battling a crisis because of its widespread practice of live baiting reports the *Herald Sun*.

Media Laws Shake-Up

The number of sporting events guaranteed for free-to-air television will be re-examined by the new Communications Minister, who will seek a 'broad consensus' rather than 'unanimity' from moguls about abolishing outdated media ownership laws as reported by the *Financial Review*.

Senator **Mitch Fifield**, who succeeded Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** in the portfolio, said it was a case of when, not if, media regulations would change and agreed with his predecessor that the **Keating**-era laws resemble 'horse and buggy legislation in the 21st century.'

SOCIETY

Believe It or Not

Polar explorer and environmental scientist **Tim Jarvis**, who in 2013 re-enacted the epic **Shackleton Expedition** to the Antarctic, has turned his focus to the disappearing glaciers across 25 peaks on the equator to raise awareness about climate change. Jarvis' new expedition, **25zero** will see teams climb 25 peaks on the equator that have glaciers during the two weeks of the **United Nation's** climate change talks in Paris which start on November 30. He said if global warming was not fixed, 'put simply, the 25 mountains at zero latitude will have zero ice in 25 years, in some cases sooner,' reports the *Financial Review*.

Tying Knots to Boost Economy

Advocates have welcomed an **ANZ** report showing marriage equality would inject over \$1 billion into the Australian economy in the first year, according to an email sent by **Australian Marriage Equality** director **Rodney Croome**. 'We call on the government to move quickly on same-sex marriage to stem the tide of same-sex



The Editor is preparing for his next Informal Government Relations Presentation at 14 Collins Street with an introduction on Ethics in Government on Friday 20 November at 4 pm

couples marrying overseas and ensure the wedding spend of Australian same-sex couples boosts business and jobs in Australia.' In addition, the **ANZ** report says the Australian economy will benefit from improved health outcomes for same-sex attracted people, the welfare safety net marriage will provide same-sex partners, a boost to consumer confidence, greater workplace equality and an improvement in Australia's international reputation.

Great Charter Only One Step

The **Magna Carta** was a failure when it was first signed, and did not recognise a lot of freedoms we now consider important, but it was the first step in a long march to individual liberty, according to **Jim Spigelman** in *The Australian*.

Akubra Gone North

Australia's iconic **Akubra** branch will ditch its Australian rabbit skin suppliers in favour of Russian rabbit skins. But **Akubra** will still be legally able to sell its hats as **Australian Made**, despite the skins being sourced from Russia. According to the **Australian Made Campaign**, products that have 50 per cent or more of the cost of making the product attributed to Australian materials or production processes and are manufactured in Australia are considered Australian made.

Chief financial officer **Roy Wilkinson** said **Akubra** had been using skins from overseas for the past 20 to 30 years. 'The reality is that these suppliers don't have the capacity to supply us. We are using a couple of million skins a year and selling 150-160,000 hats a year.' 'There is a big market for rabbits in Europe - it's part of their diet so they have more rabbit farms' according to *The Age*.

Anti-Discrimination Test Looms

A complaint that the **Catholic Church** has offended and humiliated gay, lesbian and transgender Australians by distributing a booklet supporting traditional marriage is looming as a test case for freedom of religion ahead of the national same-sex plebiscite. The **Archbishop of Hobart, Julian Porteus**, is preparing to fight the complaint to Tasmania's **Anti-Discrimination Commission** on the grounds of religious freedom. According to *The Australian*, the booklet was distributed to the parents of Catholic school students, entitled 'Don't Mess with Marriage.'

Blue Babies

A 30 per cent increase in the number of

drownings of children aged 0-4 last year has been blamed on supervision that was 'either intermittent or absent altogether'. The rise was revealed in the 2015 **Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report**, which showed 26 infants died in 2014-15, up from 20 the year before, with 54 per cent of those dying in swimming pool accidents as reported in *The Australian*.

Silent on the Real Issues

Today it's more about victimhood claims, misogyny games, pay gaps and quotas according to **Janet Albrechtsen** in *The Australian*. **Gillard's** misogyny speech was a crude speech from a prime minister on the ropes.

Modern feminism's focus on petty grievances and politically opportunistic outrage debases our public conversations and undermines the intellectual scaffolding around freedom. It is symptomatic of a wider and deeper malaise.

The corruption of feminism emerges from a decades-long corruption of human rights. Once the notion of human rights became untethered from classical notions of freedom, feminism was destined to do the same.

The notion of free speech, for example, doesn't seem to cut it anymore. It's about fair speech instead, about not offending or insulting people. The future of inextricably linked with the future of human rights. When the latter rediscover classic notions of liberty, so will feminism.

War Journalists Hailed

Hundreds gathered outside the **Australian War Memorial** in Canberra for the ceremony, which was held exactly 100 years after journalist **Sir Keith Murdoch** wrote his famous and historic letter detailing the horrors of the **Gallipoli** campaign. The **War Correspondents Memorial** is dedicated to more than 25 Australian journalists who have lost their lives while reporting in conflict zones.

At the ceremony, **Turnbull** said there was nothing more important to a democracy than a 'free and courageous media [as] our democracy depends on not just the politicians, not just the judges, nor our armed services defending our freedoms, but it depends vitally on a free press.'

Love Doesn't Discriminate

In a full page advertisement in *The Australian* in early September, **BeyondBlue** printed a letter entitled 'Love doesn't discriminate. The law

shouldn't either' signed by the chairman, the Hon **Jeff Kennett AC** and his fellow board members.

Earlier in August, sponsored by 'The Uluru Bark Petition' a half page advertisement entitled 'Marriage is Sacred' was published in *The Australian*. It called upon the PM to reject any attempts to redefine the institution of marriage and accordingly, to honour the sanctity of both the tradition of marriage and the spiritual implications of this sacred union.

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Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it;
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my Son!

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