

A N A R C H I S T W E E K L Y A G E R E V I E W



An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth.

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....."COMMUNALISATION - The Transfer of Power & Wealth"

from the Hands of the Private Sector & the State, Into the Hands of the Community".....

Number 792

16th June - 22nd June 2008

**"WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS TO STAND TRULY BY EACH OTHER
& FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS & LIBERTIES"- EUREKA REBELLION OATH 1854**

APOLOGY APOLOGY APOLOGY

Last weeks edition of the Anarchist Age Weekly Review No.791 was incorrectly dated 3rd - 9th March 2008. The correct date should have been 9th - 15th June 2008. The good news is that if you've got a copy with the wrong date it will become a collectors item in the next few years. You should be able to get 20cents for it in 2020 - lucky you!

"DOES NOT COMPUTE"

Reading about what the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Glenn Stevens, told The American Chamber of Commerce in Australia about the Australian economy, I couldn't help thinking that what he was saying did not compute. When you washed away the rhetoric with a dose of common sense all that was left was the old saying "they profit, you pay". There is something terribly wrong with an economic system in the midst of the biggest expansion in the last fifty years that relies on the economically marginalised and those that are suffering economic stress to carry the cost of that expansion. Not that I'm stupid enough to think that an economic system dominated by unaccountable corporations that need to create every increasing profits irrespective of the human, social and environmental cost gives a tinkers cuss about the economic "collateral damage" it creates.

What I do expect is that the government of the day, state institutions and the Reserve Bank at least go through the motions of protecting the community from the inflationary pressures, associated increasing interest rates and the damage caused to wage earners and small business by unbridled capitalism. Instead of the Reserve Bank using the economic cudgel it wields to bludgeon wage earners, small business, the unemployed and social security recipients, it should turn its attention to the unaccountable corporations that have benefited from the biggest expansion of the Australian economy in the last fifty years.

Instead of Mr. Rudd and his government asking the corporate world how high they should jump, they should look at the legislative power they are able to exercise to ensure the massive profits made by these corporations are shared between the indigenous Australians whose land these mineral resources are being extracted from and the rest of the Australian community. Its time the institutions that have been created to protect the people, prevented these profits from being pocketed by billionaires, sold for

a pittance to overseas governments and corporations or salted away overseas by locally or foreign owned companies.

The Reserve Bank's Governor's performance and the Australian government's apparent indifference to what is happening reinforces my impressions that real power in Australia doesn't lie in parliament, it lies in the boardrooms of unaccountable national and transnational corporations who use their power to enrich themselves at the expense of the Australian people.

HI HO HI HO OFF TO SPECULATE WE GO

If you still believe in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny you'll have no trouble believing the current spike in oil and food prices is due to supply and demand. We're told the world isn't producing enough to satisfy demand so prices have to go up. We all accept the sun rises in the East and sets in the West and that prices go up and down according to the supply demand cycle. Santa and the Easter Bunny are figments of our imagination they don't exist except in our minds. The supply and demand cycle is also a myth, the price of oil and food is as much set by speculation in the futures market as it is by the supply and demand cycle. The beauty about speculation is that it feeds on itself, everybody is keen to get into the action. Money makes money until the bubble bursts.

In light of the significant role speculation plays in driving up food and petrol prices, the call for reform from the fourth estate, the media and Australian's is non-existent. The current debate about removing five cents per litre from the price of petrol by reducing government excise on petrol is a cheap diversionary stunt that will ultimately make no difference to family budgets.

If we want the price of commodities to reflect their true value in a market place based on supply and demand, urgent reform to the way business is conducted on the futures market needs to be introduced by the Commonwealth government to clip the wings of speculators. A 10% transaction tax on every transaction carried out on the futures market, forcing futures traders to cough up a 50% deposit on deals not a miserable 3%, are two ways the role of speculators can be significantly reduced in the futures exchange.

The tragedy about increasing food prices in the third world and increasing food and petrol prices in Australia today is that the speculation that has driven up the prices of

food and petrol is not just due to unaccountable hedge funds manipulating the market but it's also due to Australian workers superannuation funds using workers superannuation contributions to speculate on the futures exchange.

ITS NOT ONLY ABOUT CARS

Forget about petrol and cars. Petrol driven cars are a thing of the past. The problem with rising petrol prices is the effect these prices are having on manufacturing in Australia. When you combine this with the high Australian dollar and the rapid reduction of tariffs, you can start writing the eulogy for the Australian manufacturing sector.

As more and more manufacturers go off shore, unemployment rates increase among some of the most poorly paid workers in the country. Increased unemployment rates will hit that section of the community that is least able to cope with unemployment. Mortgage stress will increase, more people will be turfed out of their homes and rents will increase. The lack of public housing (currently public housing provides less than 4% of total accommodation) will result in an increase in homelessness. The effects of increased petrol prices are far reaching and will have a devastating effect on that section of the community that is least able to deal with it.

Forget about the price at the bowser, think of the long term environmental and personal costs of relying on fossil fuels. The problem with Australians and the rest of the world is that what we produce and how we produce it is dictated by the needs of both national and transnational corporations to make ever increasing profits irrespective of the human, social and environmental costs. While we continue to rely on an economic system based on the satisfaction of manufactured, not real, human needs we will continue to be plagued by the problems that the current oil crisis has brought to a head.

SURPRISED

I was a little surprised to read that a man with the financial expertise of James Kirby, *Market Intelligence Sunday Age (15/6)* still believes in the tooth fairy "the truth is the stockmarket does not lie - If Australia's second biggest investment bank has sellers at \$5 then that's what it's worth". Mr. Kirby seems to have forgotten that the value of a particular share on any day is governed by factors that have nothing to do with the profitability of a company. The stock market is driven by sentiment that, to a large degree, is based on faith in a particular stock or capitalism that's why Mr. Kirby is right

when he says the banks can't afford to let Babcock and Brown, Australia's second largest investment bank, fail.

The gyrations of the stock market do not reflect reality, they reflect an investor's belief they can make money from a particular share. Once panic steps in, the flight of capital from publicly listed companies can destroy a successful business. Babcock and Brown's stellar rise in its stock price never reflected its true value. It reflected the value investors were willing to place on it. The dive in the stocks value has little to do with its position in the real world and everything to do with rumour innuendo, scuttlebutt, gossip and fear.

The problem is compounded by speculative hedge funds and day traders who know how to take advantage of a deregulated financial sector. If Mr. Rudd's government was up to the task and I doubt it is, they could ensure that the stockmarket reflected the true value of shares by introducing a 1% turnover tax on every transaction carried out in the stock exchange. If such legislation was passed it wouldn't take long for day traders and hedge fund managers to look for alternative employment.

SPECTACULAR

The spectacular Kandahar prison outbreak engineered by the Taliban will have the same effect on the morale of foreign troops in Afghanistan as the Tet offensive had on the Americans in Vietnam. Fed a regular diet about the good job foreign forces are doing in Afghanistan, the escape of 1200 prisoners 400 of whom were hardcore Taliban fighters will be ringing alarm bells in the occupation forces ears. The window of opportunity that appeared when the Taliban were driven out in 2001 has all but disappeared.

The Taliban was viewed as an occupation force by many people in Afghanistan and their removal was initially welcomed by an overwhelming majority of the population. Unfortunately that good will has evaporated in an orgy of corruption, incompetence, and a never ending cycle of violence and death which has increasingly involved civilians. The Taliban has to a large degree avoided civilian deaths preferring to pit themselves against both government and foreign troops. Six years after the invasion, the battle to win the hearts and minds of the people by NATO seems to have failed.

Their failure has, to a large degree, been linked to the very close association the new government has with the warlords who ruled Afghanistan before the Taliban overran over ninety per cent of the country in a campaign that was directed at ending the cycle of violence which had engulfed the country. The people of Afghanistan were willing to tolerate the medieval political demands of the Taliban in order to achieve personal security.

Six years down the track it's obvious there are no military solutions to the Afghanistan situation. Sixty thousand NATO troops, including over 1,000 Australians have not managed to contain the Taliban because of the significant shortcomings of the Hamid Karzai government. Faced with the prospect of a government composed of warlords

supported by the United States led NATO forces or the Taliban, many people in Afghanistan are quietly changing sides because they do not want to return to the days when they were living in holes in the wall, hostages to warlords who had no regard for the safety and security of the people they ruled.

ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q. Is the price of freedom in an anarchist society eternal vigilance?

A. I'm afraid not, all eternal vigilance does is give you a bad dose of insomnia. The price of freedom in an anarchist society is participation. While people take the time and have the energy to participate in the decision making processes, freedom is a tangible commodity. Once people leave it up to others to make decisions for them, it doesn't take much time for a minority to exercise authority over the majority.

The single most important duty and right an individual has in an anarchist society, is the ability to become involved in making decisions about their welfare and the welfare of the community as a whole. Once anarchists stop delegating decisions and rely on representatives to make decisions on their behalf, they lose the ability to control their destiny. Participation, participation, participation at all levels of life is the life force of an anarchist community.

Once the framework that has been created to allow people to participate in the decision making process is modified so experts, leading militants or representatives have a greater role in the process, the essence of an anarchist community is polluted by self interest. All the laws in the world cannot guarantee our freedom. Only by working with those around us to make decisions about what we produce, how we produce it and how we distribute it helps us to maintain the structures that provide both personal and community security and individual freedom.

Participation is the DNA double helix of an anarchist community, without active participation an anarchist community will slowly and inexorably disintegrate. New rulers will appear where none existed before, new rules will be introduced to justify the power exercised by the new rulers. All the effort, energy and sacrifices to create an anarchist community will come to nothing if people do not participate in the community when they had the chance to do so.

ACTION BOX

"SOCK IT TO 'EM"

My apologies to the late 1960's cult comedy hour Laugh In.

Anybody who's kept their eyes on South Korea over the past few weeks would have been impressed by the tens of thousands of people who have taken to the streets challenging the new government's legitimacy. The interesting thing about the current round of protests is the symbiosis which has developed between street protests and internet activism. The internet has come of age as a revolutionary tool when it can be used to mobilise people on the streets.

Like the invention of printing by Gutenberg in the late 15th century, the wholesale uptake of the internet by more and more people provides a relatively cheap and easy mechanism by which to foster debate, improve communication and most importantly of all, bypass corporate and state owned media sources that have a long history of massaging the message to suit their owners interests.

The import of United States beef into Korea may have been the lighting rod that sparked the protests, but the reason for the protests goes far far deeper than overseas beef imports. South Korea, a U.S. sponsored dictatorship until 21 years ago, when massive led student protests which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of students resulted in the over throw of the dictatorship and the introduction of parliamentary democracy. South Korean's

experience with parliamentary democracy has not led to the changes expected. Successive elected governments and the media have continued to promote globalisation despite South Korean's continued resistance to globalisation in their society.

Faced with a political system that has stopped listening to the people, the people have embraced new technology to bypass traditional media sources, formulating their own ideas and creating their own organisations. The pleasing aspect of South Korean E-activism is that the internet has become the jumping off point that has led to massive protests that have put the legitimacy of a government elected just six months ago with a record majority, in doubt. E-activism is a tool, a means to an end, when it is used to inform, educate and mobilise people to take action in the streets, it fulfils its potential as a tool for radical change.

AUSTRALIAN RADICAL HISTORY

WALTZING MATILDA

Waltzing Matilda is Australia's defacto national Anthem. When a referendum was held in the 1970's to choose Australia's national anthem, Waltzing Matilda was not placed on the list of songs that electors could choose from because the government did not want a song with radical roots to be Australia's national anthem. The words for the song were written by Banjo Patterson in the early 1890's, the music comes from an old Scottish ballad. Its possible Banjo Patterson wrote the song in collaboration with a number of other people. Waltzing Matilda was first sung in public in Winton, Queensland in 1895.

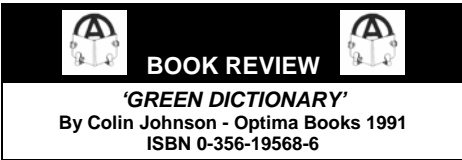
What most Australians don't realise is the radical history behind the song and the sentiments expressed in Waltzing Matilda. The inspiration for Waltzing Matilda came from the 1890 shearers strike in Queensland when heavily armed troops were sent in to quell the shearers strike. The shearers were armed and threatened to use their arms against the troops. A number of skirmishes took place in one of Australia's most bitter workplace disputes. The shearers eventually lost the strike, the leadership of the shearers union were jailed but not before the "red steer" (arson) was used to burn down the graziers fields and bombs were used to sink steamers that were used to shift "block" (scab) wool. The dispute left a bitter taste in the mouths of Australian workers and led to the eventual formation of the Labor Party.

Direct Action as a workplace weapon was rapidly replaced by the ballot box as a result of the failure of the shearers strike. The story in the song is a universal story about struggle. *"Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong under the shade of a coolabah tree"*, sets the scene for the song. Itinerant workers humped their swags (jolly swagman) around the countryside looking for work. They lived rough, camping out in the open, their swags were their only possession. Thousands of men went bush looking for work after the financial collapses of the 1880's. Our mate the jolly swagman was also a sheep thief, he stole *"a jolly jumbuck"* which he would slaughter and eat to sustain him on the road. *"Up came the troopers, one, two, three"*, mounted police were commonly used to move the swagmen on and arrest and jail them. Our swagman prided himself on the fact *"you'll never catch me alive said he"* that he'd prefer to commit suicide than be arrested *"up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong"* and drowned.

The title of the song *"Waltzing Matilda"* has it's own story. The life on the road was a very lonely life for the swaggie. Devoid of female company he made do with what he had. He called his swag Matilda; the name Matilda was a "polite" way of identifying a prostitute. Many poor women who had immigrated from Germany to Australia in the 1880's and 1890's were forced into prostitution to survive. They were given the name Matilda. The swagman's swag Matilda was the 19th century equivalent of the 21st century blow up doll. When the swaggie opened up his swag at night he slipped into his Matilda under the stars miles from nowhere.

In a nutshell Waltzing Matilda is a song about a homeless unemployed itinerant worker who, finding himself chased by the police for stealing a sheep, commits suicide to escape arrest by jumping into a billabong. To make matters worse the bloke was a little unhinged as he had the habit of dancing with his swag under the stars at night believing it had been transformed into a woman. Once he had finished dancing with "her" he went to bed with his swag, masturbating himself to sleep all the while believing he was making love to a beautiful woman.

It says something about the Australian character that we have adopted such an unusual song as the unofficial Australian National Anthem.



In 1991 Colin Johnson lived in a housing co-operative on an organically farmed small holding in Wales. I've no idea what he's doing now, but wonder whether he's still living in that co-operative. Green politics didn't appear yesterday, they've existed for decades. In an era when the rhetoric surrounding green politics has become the new black, it's refreshing to see that Colin Johnson had the foresight to publish a green dictionary in 1991.

Flicking through the dictionary, it doesn't take long to realise how much has changed in the last 17 years. The *Green Dictionary* may have been at the cutting edge of green terminology 17 years ago, unfortunately in 2008 it's both tired and dated. I don't know if Colin Johnson is still alive, let alone know whether he's published a new edition of the *Green Dictionary*, what I do know is that in 1991 the *Green Dictionary* set the trend for future publications. In 2008 it is positively out of date. Carbon, carbon trading, carbon sequestration don't rate a mention in Colin Johnson's 1991 *Green Dictionary*. That doesn't mean it's not a useful book, it's a very useful book, but in order to be relevant in 2008 it hopefully has been updated and republished.

The dictionary is set out in alphabetical order. The end of the definition of a word is followed by:
Relationships
See also
References.

Eg: Ozone
Relationship - cycles, health, pollution.
See also - limits, balance.

References - 1. Dictionary of Ecology and the Environment, 1988 Peter Collins Publishing Teddington, Middlesex England.

2. The Independent 24th July 1990.

A list of entries is recorded in the back pages of the book. Anarchy 12-15 gets a four page guernsey while capitalism doesn't rate a mention, democracy gets a page while the greens also score a page. Somehow I think the author of the *Green Dictionary*, Colin Johnson, has shown by the lifestyle he is living and the extensive material on anarchy in the *Green Dictionary*, where his sympathies lie.

The book is printed on paper produced by the Neva group of companies in Norway. Colin chose this paper because "it has been the policy of the Norwegian government for more than fifty years to plant two new trees for every one used in pulp/paper making". The paper used "is processed using natural and non harmful methods; the mill is powered by hydro electricity and the bleaching systems are naturally based using non-chlorine methods". What else can you ask for?

If you want to find out if an updated version of this handy dictionary by the same author exists, try the publishers (if they're still in business).

MacDonald and Co Publishers Ltd.
Orbit House
1 New Fetter Lane
London EC1A 1AR
England

(Google their name to see if they still exist)

Thanks to Klaus from Melbourne for lending me his *Green Dictionary* to review.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION

I was going to write about a man shouting into a public phone in the middle of Swanston Street in Melbourne, then I was going to write about my love affair with a slab of concrete when faced with being squashed by a slow moving bus or throwing myself onto the footpath, I sensibly chose the latter. My grazed elbows and knee are a testimony to my passionate affair with the concrete. Then I was going to write about the meaning of life, but I think I've done that before. In case you've forgotten, the meaning of life is a seven letter word C.O.M.P.O.S.T.

Now I've forgotten what I'm going to write about, maybe I could comment on the roses that are still blooming or the pumpkin vine in my garden that refuses to acknowledge winter, growing buds and flowers that inevitably die. Or I could write about the passionfruit growing on the vine or the flowers on the lime tree which, if the past is any guide, will come to nothing. I could write about the rain and the wind. Thinking about the rain and the wind I'm reminded of the Burmese floods. Floods? What floods I hear you ask. Remember a few months ago stories about the effects of the floods and the Burmese military Junta were all the rage, seems they've fallen into the black hole all news stories seem to disappear into.

I've heard of children dying of starvation in Ethiopia, Aids in Sub-saharan Africa and closer to home the amazing profits made by the mining magnates. Nothing new when you think about it. When you think about Eureka at least in the early stages, the wealth was shared by all those who had a strong back, a pick and a license. A far cry from today when you need a cartel to fund exploration and an aboriginal group's land to exploit. So much to write about, so little time (sorry for the poor pun). The written text, the flame thrower of change, the harbinger of hope, the messenger of despair and the jumping off stone to the next generation. The written word the medium of exchange, the reservoir of the past and the path to eternal salvation. The internet the child of Guttenberg's press allows the written word to be embellished by speech and pictures as it drives its message into our ever expanding cerebral sulcus. Did I really write those sentences, full of pretentious words and ideas. I'm afraid I did. In my defence the written word seduces the synopsising neurones (I've done it again) and prepares us for the

inevitable tryst with death. I've done it again! I'll stop before you decide to stop reading this pretty prose.

STOP PRESS
BYE BYE BUSH

In terms of Presidents, George Bush junior will go down as the most insignificant president in United States history. His legacy will be one of hatred and distrust. No one president has done as much to tarnish the reputation of the United States as George Bush junior. Surrounded by reactionary neo-conservative political troglodytes he has done more to destroy the United States reputation than any other single president.

He will be remembered as the "mission accomplished" president, the man who claimed victory for the United States in Iraq before the real war began. At no time in the history of the United States, even when it was supporting some of the most reactionary regimes in the world during the 1950's and 1960's, has one man done so much to destroy the reputation of a country.

The United States grew from the embers of revolution, it now wallows in its own waste, the victim of entrenched powerful interests who use the rhetoric of democracy, freedom and egalitarianism to feather their own nest.

It is in every definition of the word a failed state that finds it has more people living in fourth world conditions in a first world country than any other country on the planet. It runs last on every available social and health indicator in the developed world. Its strength in world affairs is directly related to the power it is able to exercise by flexing its military might. A technological expert at military mass murder, it has unexpectedly failed to win the last two main military engagements it has been involved in, in the last fifty years, Vietnam and Iraq because it has discovered might is not right. It has lost decisively in both countries because it cannot win the hearts and minds of the people it invaded while it has to feed a privately owned military industrial complex that diverts money earmarked for reconstruction into its own pockets.

Its pathetic response to Hurricane Katrina showed that the United States is rapidly becoming a failed state that can't even come to the aid of its own people in the midst of a natural disaster. George Bush and his ilk has managed to transform the United States into an economic, social and cultural backwater, despite the efforts of millions of Americans. Every day millions of Americans have unsuccessfully tried to reclaim their country by using direct action to loosen the grip of the political Frankensteins who have managed to undermine every revolutionary principle enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. The price of freedom is indeed eternal vigilance.

Joseph TOSCANO /
Libertarian Workers For A Self-Managed Society.

POEM – Stephen Roberts
3CR

3CR a hefty, lefty station
bereft of corporate exploitation
Communally keep it on the air
Its flair to wage its War
against bureaucracy, capitalism, corruption
That's what it is fittest for.



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**** SIGN THE SEDITION CHARTER - www.seditioncharter.org ****
**** JOIN DIRECT DEMOCRACY NOT PARLIAMENTARY RULE - www.rulebythepeople.org ****
**** JOIN US RECLAIM THE RADICAL SPIRIT OF THE EUREKA REBELLION 4am – 4pm WEDNESDAY 3RD DEC 2008. EUREKA PARK (Cnr STAWELL & EUREKA ST, BALLARAT) ****

****URGENT* *URGENT** DEBT ELIMINATION APPEAL **URGENT* *URGENT****

Our debt is currently over \$200.00. You can help to clear our debt by accessing the AAWR via email instead of receiving it by snail mail. This saves us \$50.00 per year for every person who decides to switch to the email list. Email us at anarchistmedia.org to get onto the email list for the AAWR. You can send us a book of 50cent stamps every month to cover subscription costs or if you decided to send a cheque or money order – make it out to 3CR and we will use that money to help clear our 3CR debt. If you send a cheque or money order made out to 3CR, we will send you out a 3CR receipt. Send cheques and money orders to P.O. BOX 20 PARKVILLE 3052, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA.

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4am – 4pm WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2008
154th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

AT EUREKA STOCKADE SITE

(Corner Stawell & Eureka Streets, Ballarat, VICTORIA)

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Email poster to your friends, print it off, distribute it around your community.

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& changing the future

CITIZEN INITIATED REFERENDUMS PEOPLE POWER NOW

VIGIL

- ◆ 11:30am – 12:30pm WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2008
SOUTHERN CROSS STATION
(Cnr Collins and Spencer St Melbourne)
- ◆ 11:30am – 12:30pm WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY 2008
STATE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE
121 Exhibition St Melbourne
- ◆ 11:30am – 12:30pm WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2008
CITY SQUARE
(Cnr Collins and Elizabeth St Melbourne)

Tel 0404 423 989

PO Box 5035 Alphington 3078 Melbourne

www.referendumpeoplepowernow.com info@referendumpeoplepowernow.com

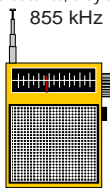
ALL WELCOME - We encourage you to come and join us on these vigils

ANARCHIST WORLD THIS WEEK

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WRITE TO AKIN SARI TODAY!

AKIN SARI, c/- Barwon Prison,
Locked Bag 7, Lara 3212, Victoria, AUSTRALIA

Akin Sari a 29 yr old Turkish refugee who was granted political asylum in Australia has been sentenced to 2 years & 4 months imprisonment for offences related to his involvement in the G20 protests in Melbourne in November 2006. Akin has already spent 7 months in prison awaiting trial & sentencing. He has been set a minimum 14 months sentence. Akin will have to serve the maximum sentence of 2 years & 4 months if he fails to obtain parole in October 2008.

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL NOMINATIONS 2008

Know someone you believe should receive the Eureka Australia Day Medal, then why not nominate them today. If you don't, chances are nobody else will. The criteria used to choose recipients is reflected in the spirit of the Eureka oath -

"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other & fight to defend our rights & liberties"

NOMINATION CLOSE – 31st OCTOBER 2008

Send in one nomination or as many as you like. Send us the following information:

* The name of the person nominated

* A few sentences outlining why they should receive the award

* A contact address for the nominee (We need to contact them if they wish to receive the award)

* The person you nominate can be a public figure or somebody only known to a few people.

SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS ASAP TO

EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL, P.O. BOX 20, PARKVILLE 3052, VIC, AUSTRALIA
or email your nomination to anarchistage@yahoo.com

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE OBSCENITY OF THE WEEK

Has been awarded to the Today Tonight - Adopt a pensioner crew for their transparent attempts to use the pensioner plight to increase their advertising revenue - SHAME!! SHAME!! SHAME!!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The state and the corporate sector take notice when the people take democracy seriously." - Joseph TOSCANO - JUNE 2008

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS – (ATNTE)

Wind power will be cheaper than coal by 2030, according to a new environmental report. The claim is contained in a blueprint for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, released by Greenpeace. The blueprint - Australia's Energy (R)evolution - says this would stabilise energy prices in the future, as long as it is combined with significant gains in energy efficiency. The report warns that electricity prices will nearly double by 2020 and almost triple by 2050 if Australia does not move away from fossil fuels, because of rising world prices and the increasing price of carbon permits under an emissions trading scheme. "Fossil fuels will continue to get more expensive, while the cost of wind will fall because of economies of scale," report co-author Julien Vincent said. (Source: The Age)

Homeless people want to be self-reliant but continue to need help long after official support programs come to an end, a Federal Government report shows. A survey of people using the state and Commonwealth-funded Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), the main instrument for homeless crisis support in the country, found that more than half predicted they would need further help once they left. More than two-thirds of service users said they were close to feeling self-reliant but the biggest barriers were a lack of money and accommodation. The report found that 79% of the people surveyed had been homeless for at least a year and almost half had been homeless for five years or more. A small amount, 8%, had spent up to 20 years homeless. The program, which provides about 13 weeks of support for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In 2005-06, 106,500 people used such services. Despite the time limitations for help, researchers from the University of NSW's Social Policy Research Centre found some people had been supported by agencies for a number of years. Short-term and crisis accommodation was only meant to be provided for three months, the report said, indicating "the pressure that some services are under not to move people on if there is no other secure accommodation available for them". Council to Homeless Persons' chief executive Deb Tsorbaris said the program in its current form was "not at all" equipped to provide the long-term support needed to help people out of homelessness. (Source: The Age)

Toyota had already decided to make a hybrid car in Australia, and did not need the \$70 million of public money promised by the federal and Victorian governments. The car may also be outdated by the time it is actually produced in 2010. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd pledged \$35 million to Toyota as an incentive to manufacture the more environmentally-friendly car at the company's Altona plant. Premier John Brumby promised the same figure. However Toyota spokesman Mike Breen said that "it would have happened regardless." Automotive NetWorks head John Mellor said that "plug-in" electric cars, which use less petrol than hybrid cards, could soon be sold in Australia. (Source: MX)

QUOTE OF THE MOMENT: "Less tax than a cleaning lady." - Nicholas Ferguson, chairman of British equity firm SVG Capital, on the amount of tax that many executives pay.

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