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Distribution

Every month 70,000 papers are printed. We distribute door-to-door in over 44 suburbs in selected retail and residential areas and to outlets such as Convenience Stores, Shopping Centres, Hotels, Venues, Cafes, Restaurants, Laundromats, Galleries etc - Editor.

Editorial Policy — Letters To The Editor

We want to give our readers a voice. However only letters that clearly identify their authors will be published in this newspaper. Please also include your address and phone number for identification purposes. These will not be published. Letters should be to the point, not exceed 250 words, be typed and are subject to editing - Editor.

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Rockspider Island

There are very few crimes against society that can't have redress after time. Paedophilia is one of these. Allowing the Mr. Baldys of this world to re enter open society at great expense only lifts the paranoia levels of the community as a whole and also creates an element of vigilantism. It appears that the Victorian Government is quite happy to accept convicted paedophiles in numbers.

As a parent of three children under the age of twelve, my skin crawls just thinking that any of these recently released paedophiles could be placed secretly in our community. I don't think electronic surveillance is good enough. Just the knowledge of them being allowed to live relatively freely is too painful and frightening for victims and their families.

We need an off shore facility to permanently accommodate this type of offender. A cross between Lost, Big Brother and 19th Century House reality TV shows. Make it as hard and uncomfortable life as possible with no communication with the outside world. You wouldn't need warders, just GPS transmitters on their ankles and a gunboat patrolling the shoreline.

To Hijab or not Hijab

Those of us who grew up in Australia during and before the 60s, would remember the swathes of scarves and mantillas that adorned the heads of every God fearing Catholic woman on Sunday mornings. It was a simple and dogmatic way of honouring one's God. None would walk on hallowed ground without at least a hanky covering their scone!

The more secular our society has become, the less value has been put on these outward shows of faith. In our free society no one should have to suffer indignity for following his or her faith in such a manner.

An interview of a young Muslim man on Today / Tonight showed him explaining that Muslims would never assimilate properly into Australian society. Some Jews have operated the same way. Religious Jews keep to themselves socially, but that does not mean that they don't contribute to our society in many wonderful ways.

The Hijab reminds me of a Catholic nun's habit, designed to provide modesty and an outward showing of commitment to faith.

It wasn't that long ago that Catholics were reviled in this country. As a kid in Sydney, growing up in the '60s, a couple of mates and I had to walk home every day past a public school. We anticipated abuse and being the target of rock throwing from gangs of Protestant kids. We stood strong and tall and replied in kind, because it had been ingrained into us that ours was the only real Christian church.

Mick Pacholli - son of a gun
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Does any of this ring any bells out there? A now somewhat illiterate population, due to the Kirner Government stuffing up the education system in the 80s, appears to be fearful of women in HIJAB. Sure Islam in Australia now is seen as insidious and threatening, but I reckon we need to give these people a chance.

The Islamic religion started with the Prophet in the crucible of all Western and Middle Eastern religions. Hey guys, three 'one and only' Gods could not have come from the same place? Philosophically originating in the same place, surely the problem we have is purely interpretation.

When you see a woman in an Hijab, think warmly of her commitment to honouring her idea of Godhead.

And Yes, We Are An Island

I think most out there in the big wide world recognise our wide, brown land as a last bastion of freedom. We Australians know we are tough, and in past world conflicts when Australians have been held to task, we were rarely defeated. If beaten fairly we acknowledge that also. The whole idea of conflict has changed, and a type of Orwellian swamp has developed. Even our worst conflicts and losses pale into insignificance at the scale and type of brutality seen in most of the Third World.

We are accepting refugees, as always, from areas of severe conflict. These people have seen and had horrors perpetrated on them of a type and scale that I don't think Australians generally can get their heads around. We would be very unwise to be anything but welcoming, while trying to understand the points of view of these people.

People come here to escape horror and to have a chance of bringing their children up in peace. Any paranoia on our part could only reflect the same back to us about our intentions and perceptions. Give these people a go, instead of casting a wary eye, and we will receive back the trust and commitment we desire.

Just A Reminder . . .

The ancient Mesopotamian (read Iraq) Code of Hammurabi is still the foundation of Western law.

Our numbers are known as Arabic numerals, as it was the Arabs who invented our numeric system. I wonder if this information is still taught in schools. It certainly indicates we owe a lot to those whom we would vilify.

Wind Power

Did any of you see the vision of the Danish pylon jetties, just like ours, with wind power generating fans attached to the sides of the jetties. Looked pretty cool to me and with a coastline like ours I wonder why not?

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