

Simpson's Donkey

by the Lie Detector

They're calling him Simpson's donkey. Yes, **Brendan Nelson**, the Federal Minister of Education has used Simpson and his donkey, those brave Gallipoli heroes who ferried wounded soldiers from the front to the beach, as the iconic symbol representing Aussie values. But the Gallipoli and Simpson myths are shrouded in all sorts of half-truths and lies.



the furnace of war, that the Anzacs were the first Australians to defend the interests of this country against a foreign power. Garbage! They ignore the deeds of thousands of Aboriginal warriors who defended this land against the British — right here on Australian soil!

Mateship

Some say that the Australian character of mateship and larrikin humour in the face of adversity was defined in the diggers at Gallipoli. With all due respect, what a load of cobblers! All soldiers be they Anzac, British or Turkish rely upon mateship and humour to survive the horrors of war.

The reason why we attach some sort of religious significance to Gallipoli is the same reason why suicide bombers are promised a place in heaven by their masters. How else do you get rational human beings to make 'the supreme sacrifice'?

As for Simpson and his donkey, Simpson was not an Australian; he wasn't even a Simpson. His name was **Kirkpatrick**. He changed it to Simpson to disguise the fact that he snuck into Australia.

He signed up with the AIF in the hope that he could get back to England, but his ship was diverted to the Middle East and on to Gallipoli. His actions were undeniably brave, but no braver than anyone else dumped into the Gallipoli hellhole.

Sport

Herman Goering said it's easy to get the country behind a war. All you have to do is attack the pacifists as traitors. Here in Australia we treat war like it's a sport and cheer on the diggers like they're a football team, with politicians falling over themselves to be photographed with the troops.

And by the way, don't you think it's time that the Essendon Football Club found a new symbol. Bombers, whether they're blowing themselves up in public places, or dropping their bombs from an aeroplane, high above their target, are very much on the nose these days.

PS: (Q) Who started the RSL?
(A) The soldiers sent home for rioting in Egypt, before they even got to Gallipoli.

Churchill

During the First World War, **Winston Churchill**, the then First Lord of the Admiralty, referred to Turkey as 'Germany's soft underbelly'. Churchill's plan was for a fleet of British warships to steam through the Dardanelles, the narrow straits connecting the Mediterranean with the Sea of Marma and the Black Sea.

If successful, Constantinople would fall and a second front would be opened. The plan wasn't too bad if it could be executed quickly. It wasn't. One British Warship was destroyed by a mine in the narrow straits and the fleet was withdrawn.

In order to sweep for mines, the batteries of Turkish guns overlooking the straits had to be taken out. So, a new plan was devised for landing British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

For this plan to succeed, surprise was essential. But surprise had already been lost. The earlier naval engagement had telegraphed Churchill's intentions.

The invasion should have been abandoned. It went ahead with tragic consequences. Gallipoli was a meat grinder. It chewed up thousand and thousands of young men, most of them British, French and Turkish (and not Anzacs as the average person would assume).

They died, not for some noble ideal, not to save the world from evil tyrants, but for the competing interests of European nations. World War I was the natural evolution of thousands of years of European conflict.

Sacred Site

So why do we Australians treat Gallipoli as some sort of sacred site? Some people believe that Australia was forged into a nation through

An Unnatural Act

SORRY TO disappoint folks, this month's article isn't going to uncover clandestine sexual practices but a far more benign subject - A Day in the Office. A mundane topic for many but one which afflicts the majority of the workforce.

Definition

What's the definition of an unnatural act? Well how about spending a major part of ones conscience hours in an environment and with people who one wouldn't choose to be with given a choice?

If most employees were asked to "honestly" fill in a workplace survey as to whether they genuinely enjoyed their work environment and the company of their work colleagues, the honest responses would stagger management, but of course most workers would be too scared to tell the truth.

Fortunate are those who have a genuine and real passion for their work or chosen profession. By passion I mean a willing and enthusiastic desire to perform the tasks they are engaged and paid to perform. A pity this only applies to a very small percentage of the workforce.

Business and government departments can continue to engage the services of management consultants, staff trainers and moral motivators in their quest to improve efficiencies, productivity and the Holy Grail, the bottom line.

Psycho Babble

However what gets lost in the psycho babble of "business speak" and continues to be swept under the carpet is the fact that

most employees aren't true believers in the management cause.

Given the choice and more overly the financial resources most workers wouldn't be there in the first place.

They most certainly don't really give a toss about "productivity outcomes", "benchmark performance indicators" and the ever increasing nonsensical terms management and their omnipresent advisors inflict into the workplace vocabulary.

Insincerity and Fear

There is an insincerity to modern "business speak" which common sense in rational individuals knows to be bullshit. But very few speak their minds due to fear of ostracising, castigation and more significantly losing their jobs.

Swallowing the bullshit has become a normal workplace practice and an all pervasive mediocrity is euphemistically labelled as "Excellence".

Delivering "World's Best Practice Services and Outcomes To Our Valued Clients". Swallowing such tired platitudes and more significantly believing them, is in my reckoning the definition of "An Unnatural Act".

I may tackle the topic of esoteric sexual peccadilloes next month, if I'm not censored.



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