### Science the benchmark of an educated society

SMH Editorial

19 October 2014



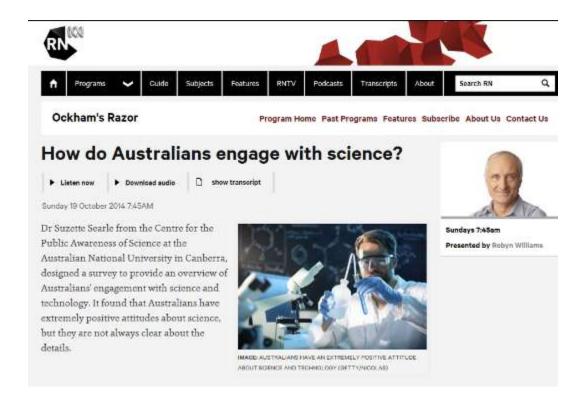
A CSIRO study found up to 40 per cent of Australians don't engage with science. Photo: Louie Douvis

Last week Treasurer Joe Hockey denied Australia is the highest greenhouse gas emitting country in the OECD per capita, despite evidence to the contrary.

In August, Liberal politician Eric Abetz repeated an unfounded link between women who have had an abortion and breast cancer while being interviewed on prime time TV.

Meanwhile, highly influential Tony Abbott supporter Maurice Newman continues to deny the globe is warming.

Read more: <a href="http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/science-the-benchmark-of-an-educated-society-20141019-118cwl.html#ixzz3GqcHt5cm">http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/science-the-benchmark-of-an-educated-society-20141019-118cwl.html#ixzz3GqcHt5cm</a>



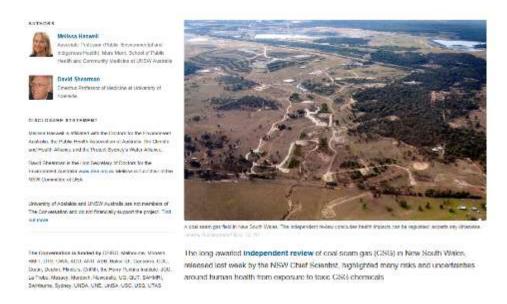
 $\frac{http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/how-do-australians-engage-with-science 3f/5815968}{$ 



 $\frac{http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/australian-unsure-on-how-to-engage-with-science-and-technology/5826562$ 

6 October 2014; 7 32 sec ACCIT

#### Chief Scientist CSG report leaves health concerns unanswered



http://theconversation.com/chief-scientist-csg-report-leaves-health-concerns-unanswered-32422

## Coal seam gas, or clean drinking water. It can't be both

Michael Moore

It's vital the community's long-term need for drinking water is placed before the short-term profits of the mining companies

Tuesday 21 October 2014 09.43 AEST



The need for drinking water should be placed before the short-term profits. Photograph: Lucy Lambriex/Getty Images/Flickr RF

There are few things more fundamental to our health and wellbeing than access to clean air and water.

**Michael Moore** is CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia and is the president elect of the World Federation of Public Health Associations

 $\underline{http://www.theguardian.com/comment is free/2014/oct/21/coal-seam-gas-or-clean-drinking-water-it-cant-be-both$ 

### Take it from us in India: the world needs renewables, not more Australian exported coal

Carmichael's coal will be exported to India from Queensland. But India's clean energy industry is already booming – we don't need your coal



Debi Goenka
theguardian.com, Wednesday 22 October 2014 10.47 AEST
Jump to comments (106)



A labourer takes a break from shovelling coal at a coal yard on the outskirts of Jammu. Photograph: Mukesh Gupta/Reuters

Here are little known facts about coal: its use is responsible for 400,000 premature deaths per year globally, and many more illnesses. In India, coal contributes to between 80,000 to 115,000 premature deaths and 20m new asthma cases annually. It is also responsible for around 40% of the greenhouse gas emissions that are dramatically changing the world's climate and impoverishing millions of people.

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/22/take-it-from-us-in-india-the-world-needs-renewables-not-more-australian-exported-coal

### Fossil fuel divestments are putting the Abbott government on notice

ANU's decision to end investment in fossil fuels is democracy up against crony capitalism



Christine Milne theguardian.com, Saturday 18 October 2014 09.00 AEST Jump to comments (246)



Students support ANU's move to divest from some fossil fuel companies. Photograph: Fossil Free ANU/Facebook

The decision by the Australian National University to end its investment in fossil fuels is a bellwether moment for Australia. It's democracy up against crony capitalism, science up against ideology and renewable energy against the old polluting industries.

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/18/fossil-fuel-divestments-are-putting-the-abbott-government-on-notice

### Global warming costs the economy

Published 14 October 2014

Moving to a non-carbon economy would be cheaper than burning carbon in the long run, explains Dr Karl.

By Karl S. Kruszelnicki



Up in smoke: limiting carbon emissions would have "hardly any effect on economic growth, and might actually lead to faster growth" say some economists (Source: rai36de/iStockphoto)

Welcome back to the final episode of my epic series on the so-called 'pause' in global warming.

Global warming poses some of the most complex risk management issues known to the human race.

http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/10/14/4106758.htm

22 October 2014, 5:15am /LUT

#### Bushfire season in New South Wales grows longer and stronger







Stretting earlier, leading longer the schallence of charaging the New South Wales has blindle season is cetting harder. In France Services

In New South Wales in 2013, bushines in January and October collectively burned 768,000 hectares of bushland and destroyed 279 homes. Tragically, two people lost their lives and the damage was estimated at more than A\$180 million.

http://theconversation.com/bushfire-season-in-new-south-wales-grows-longer-and-stronger-33245

13 October 2014, 6.08am AEDT

#### Outrage at ANU divestment shows the power of its idea



Provides funding as a Member of The Conversation.

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ANU's divestment decision is only worth AS16 million - but the outbry suggests it will be more influential than the numbers suggest. All

Is the Australian National University's decision to sell its shares in some resource companies merely tokenistic? Far from it. The **outrage** from the affected companies shows how much influence universities can wield when they put their money where their mouth is.

JORS

http://theconversation.com/outrage-at-anu-divestment-shows-the-power-of-its-idea-32736

### Feral cats: how we can solve this problem

Andrew Cox ABC Environment 17 Oct 2014

Solving the problem of feral cats in the Australian environment will require long-term, well-resourced steps. But with the right will, it can be done.

CONSERVATION MANAGERS learnt a long time ago that feral animal control is not simply a matter of blasting away at individual animals, and this is especially the case for cats.

With the much-needed emerging focus on feral cats, we can be certain there will be lots of strong opinions and a proliferation of unrealistic 'silver bullet' solutions.

# 1 female feral cat. 1 night ate: 1 webbed toed gecko 2 painted dragons 2 barred wedgesnout ctenotus skinks 3 mallee dragons 4 regal striped skinks 5 lined earless dragons 5 wedgesnout ctenotus skinks

5 crickets, 2 centipedes, 1 grasshopper and 1 scorpion

Andrew Cox is chief executive of the <u>Invasive Species Council</u> which campaigns for better laws and policies to protect the Australian environment from weeds, feral animals and exotic pathogens. <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/17/4107725.htm">http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/17/4107725.htm</a>

## Feral cats force the spotlight onto Australia's environmental future

Sara Phillips ABC Environment 21 Oct 2014



Hunting down all the feral cats in Australia would cost hundreds of billions. Credit: Supplied

The problem of feral cats seems insurmountable. Yet to do nothing seems shameful. It's a quandary Australians need to get used to.

http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/21/4109544.htm

#### Science vs tall tales in the feral battle

Posted By: **Andrew Miller** on 25/09/2014 4:00:00 AM | Comments (1)



1



You don't control cats just by funding the idea of doing so IT WAS a famous line, from an iconic television series – Seinfeld.

"Jerry, just remember. It's not a lie ... if you believe it."

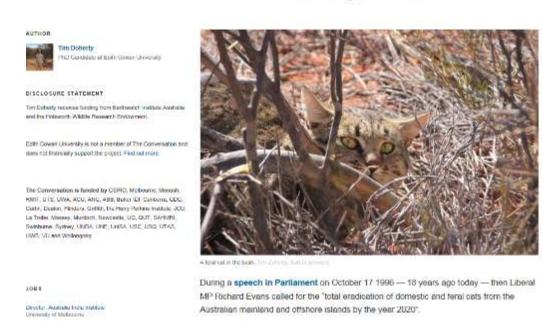
Wise advice to Jerry Seinfeld – and perhaps a lesson to be heeded when it comes to seeking the elusive Tasmanian fox.

While it might sound funny, it is sage advice which should be applied to any decision, by any government, which seeks to control invasive pests or animals.

 $\underline{http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/science-vs-tall-tales-in-the-feral-battle/2713181.aspx$ 

17 October 2014, 0.33am AEDT

#### To eradicate feral cats, we need to know how many are out there



 $\underline{\text{http://theconversation.com/to-eradicate-feral-cats-we-need-to-know-how-many-are-out-there-}} \underline{33014}$ 

21 October 2014; 5.02pm / EDT

#### Dams are not the smart way to secure water for agriculture





The Cost Styler dans, completed in 1974, formed Australia is inspect artificial like in the fer north years. Source Cost control of the Cost Styler Co

Some 27 irrigation and dam projects are highlighted in the green paper for agricultural competitiveness released this week by agriculture minister flamaby Joyce.

 $\underline{\text{http://theconversation.com/dams-are-not-the-smart-way-to-secure-water-for-agriculture-}} \underline{33193}$ 

15 October 2914, 5:30am AEDT

## Why Australia's outback is globally important



DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

John Weinerski was employed as a consultant by Pew Charloble Trusts to report on the ecology, condition and future of the Australian Curtack



CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY JOBS

PhD Scholarship Applicants

There are places in Australia that are awe-inspiring, spectacular, mysterious; they touch our spirit and help define our nation.

http://theconversation.com/why-australias-outback-is-globally-important-32938

22 October 2014 6:15em AEDT

#### Trans-Pacific Partnership threatens a green trade deal



http://theconversation.com/trans-pacific-partnership-threatens-a-green-trade-deal-32957

### Abbott has been mugged by reality

By Mungo MacCallum

Posted Mon at 1:52pmMon 20 Oct 2014, 1:52pm



Photo: The main event at the G20 looks to be whether or not climate change gets

a guernsey and here again it appears Tony Abbott is on a loser. (AAP: Dan Peled)

The political realities of the G20 have meant Tony Abbott isn't likely to get his way - particularly when it comes to Putin and climate change. He's not going to like that, writes Mungo MacCallum.

There are times when our Prime Minister gets mugged by reality. But it doesn't mean that he has to like it.

It appears he has, reluctantly, accepted that there is nothing he can do to prevent Vladimir Putin from attending the G20 summit in Brisbane. The rest of the world (and in particular the heavies, Barack Obama and Angela Merkel) has spoken.

And this gave way to his petulant threat to shirtfront the Russian president - we bet he will, or perhaps he bets he will. Well, I can't speak for him, but I'll bet he won't.

*Mungo Wentworth MacCallum is a political journalist and commentator.* <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-20/mungo-abbott-has-been-mugged-by-reality/5826002">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-20/mungo-abbott-has-been-mugged-by-reality/5826002</a>



http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/alan-moir-20090907-fdxk.html



 $\underline{http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/australia 27 s-electricity-sector-is-old-and-inefficient/5830548}$ 

### The Case for a Legal Ivory Trade: It Could Help Stop the Slaughter

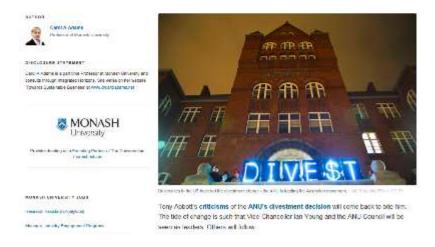
#### By John Frederick Walker

Although most conservationists oppose it, a proposal to allow a partial lifting of the ban on ivory trading would benefit Africa's elephants. With proper controls and enforcement, a legal trade would choke off demand for illicit ivory and discourage the poaching now decimating the continent's elephant populations.



As someone who cares deeply about elephants, I find it hard to read about the number of these magnificent creatures now slain in Africa for their tusks, and even harder to look at images of their crumpled corpses and chain-sawed faces. Like many, I believe that unless something can be done to stop the carnage, elephants may disappear from many of their traditional ranges. <a href="http://e360.yale.edu/feature/point">http://e360.yale.edu/feature/point</a> the case for a legal ivory trade it could help stop the slaughter/2814/

#### Divestment backlash shows companies need to improve sustainability reporting



 $\frac{http://the conversation.com/divestment-backlash-shows-companies-need-to-improve-sustainability-reporting-33079}{}$ 

## The enchanting wonder of learning science and maths

SMH Editorial



Research shows that those late years of primary and early years of high school are crucial for engaging students in science. *Photo: Nic Walker* 

If students think science and maths are difficult or a big turn-off in high school – and alarming research suggests they do – then spare a thought for the teachers.

Maths and science teachers are very good at their subjects. They love the content matter, too.

But even that's not enough.

Read more: <a href="http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/the-enchanting-wonder-of-learning-science-and-maths-20141007-10r70i.html#ixzz3Gqd4rFRK">http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/the-enchanting-wonder-of-learning-science-and-maths-20141007-10r70i.html#ixzz3Gqd4rFRK</a>

### Overhauling ag's image

Posted By: **Andrew Norris** on 18/10/2014 1:00:00 AM | Comments (0)



That's not exactly an attractive sector to sink your hard-earned dollars into AUSTRALIAN Rural Leadership Foundation chief executive officer Matt Linnegar's recent comment that Australians need to drop the city-country divide stereotype may be stating the obvious, but it's a necessary message all the same.

This country has one of the most urbanised populations in the world, which is also largely clueless to the potential sitting on its doorstep, simply due to a lack of understanding of how agriculture works. <a href="http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/overhauling-ags-image/2715283.aspx">http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/overhauling-ags-image/2715283.aspx</a>

## Victoria squanders the chance to help its rivers

Juliet Le Feuvre ABC Environment 20 Oct 2014



Victorian rivers had a chance to recover. Credit: Carolyn Swann (ABC Environment)

With stock grazing licences on river banks up for renewal, the Victorian government had a chance to help its ailing rivers...and blew it.

THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT has missed a golden opportunity to get a massive environmental gain for minimal financial pain. They have ignored a once-in-five-year chance to halt a threatening process listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*. At the same time they have squandered the chance to promote the public benefits of improved water quality, erosion control and river restoration, and provide private benefits to farmers through increased land values and healthier stock. Not to mention the increased amenity value of a revegetated and reconnected landscape.

Juliet Le Feuvre is <u>Environment Victoria's</u> Healthy Rivers Campaign Manager. http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/20/4108584.htm

## Ignore Abbott, we shouldn't feel bound to coal

By Greg Jericho

Posted about 6 hours ago Wed 22 Oct 2014, 9:42am



Photo: Who says coal is the only way to bring people out of energy poverty? (AAP: Dan Peled)

Tony Abbott may think coal is ''good for humanity'' but it's not particularly good for climate change. We shouldn't feel bound to keep singing coal's virtues now we know its impact, writes Greg Jericho.

It's been a big few weeks for coal and also for the climate. We've had the ANU divestment decision, Tony Abbott opening a mine and telling us all that "coal was good for humanity", Joe Hockey attempting to have us think it is "absolutely ridiculous" to believe Australia is one of the "dirtiest, most greenhouse emitting countries in the OECD group", and we also had the announcement that September was the hottest September on record.

Greg Jericho writes weekly for The Drum. His blog can be found here and he tweets at @grogsgamut. View his full profile here. <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-22/jericho-ignore-abbott-we-shouldnt-feel-bound-to-coal/5831720">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-22/jericho-ignore-abbott-we-shouldnt-feel-bound-to-coal/5831720</a>

### Seafood strangled by green-tape 'snakes'

Posted By: Barry O'Sullivan on 8/08/2014 4:00:00 AM | Comments (7)



Relentless pressure from green groups has created a spider's web of green tape WHAT'S the difference between an Aussie cow and an Aussie prawn?

For starters, you are much more likely to find a slab of Aussie sirloin on a plane or boat headed for the bright lights of Asia because Australia exports between 60 and 70 per cent of its beef output. <a href="http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/bush-matters/seafood-strangled-by-greentape-snakes/2707946.aspx">http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/bush-matters/seafood-strangled-by-greentape-snakes/2707946.aspx</a>

## Tony Abbott's chance to get real on climate solutions

**SMH Editorial** 

17 October 2014



Tony Abbott's insistence that "coal is good for humanity" represents a dangerously outdated world view. *Photo: AAP* 

"Coal is vital for the future energy needs of the world," Prime Minister Tony Abbott said this week. "So let's have no demonisation of coal."

The *Herald* agrees coal will continue to contribute to the global and Australian economies for decades. We also reject that championing the coal industry necessarily equates to an

economic "suicide strategy", as claimed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel's former adviser, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber.

Read more: <a href="http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/tony-abbotts-chance-to-get-real-on-climate-solutions-20141016-116xby.html#ixzz3GqchFgnC">http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/tony-abbotts-chance-to-get-real-on-climate-solutions-20141016-116xby.html#ixzz3GqchFgnC</a>

## Should the world try to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius?

By Don Aitkin - posted Wednesday, 8 October 2014

I've argued before that there seems to be a shift in the wind, in that sceptical papers about aspects of global warming are being published, and that real debate is going on at least in the blogosphere, and quick debate, too. It's all much faster than was the case a few years ago, when the doctrine of 'if it's not peer-reviewed I won't read it' was alive and well. And here is a case in point.

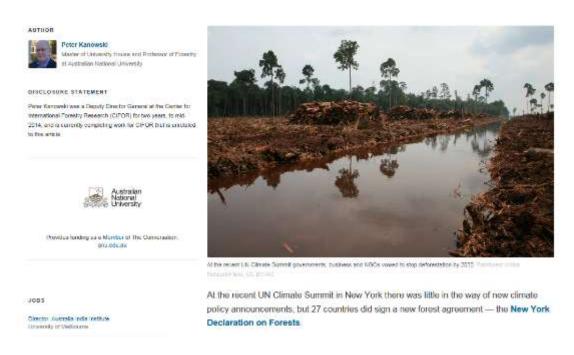
*Nature* published <u>a piece</u> on the first day of this month with the provocative title 'Ditch the 2C warming goal!' For *Nature* to do this is another straw in the breeze, because it has been a bastion of the orthodoxy, and the 2C target is part of the orthodoxy. The authors, Victor and Kennel, are serious and well-credentialled, and they are not sceptics in the ordinary sense: in fact they are all about limiting emissions, but think that the 2C target is not the away to go.

**Don Aitkin** has been an academic and vice-chancellor. His latest book, *What Was It All For? The Reshaping of Australia* was published by Allen & Unwin.

http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16753

1 October 2014, 6.46am AEST

### Stopping global deforestation will take more than more words



http://theconversation.com/stopping-global-deforestation-will-take-more-than-more-words-32265

25 September 2014, 6 26am AEST

#### A view from the 2014 UN Climate Summit in New York



http://theconversation.com/a-view-from-the-2014-un-climate-summit-in-new-york-32118

## What exactly do 98% of climate researchers believe?

By Barry York - posted Monday, 20 October 2014

"If 98% of doctors said you needed urgent surgery, wouldn't you have it?!" "If 98% of aeronautical engineers told you that your next flight is unsafe and likely to crash, would you listen to them or to the 2% who say otherwise?" John Kerry, US Secretary of State, claimed in May this year that the consequences of climate change could be "crippling" and that "97% of the world's scientists tell us this is urgent". Last year, a tweet in President Barack Obama's name asserted that "Ninety-seven percent of scientists agree: climate change is real, manmade and dangerous." Note: "dangerous". Obama cited a study of climate science consensus led by University of Queensland academic, John Cook. (About which, more later).

http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16779

### Iron ore miners, beware: China is not going to keep buying our resources

MICHAEL SAINSBURY | OCT 22, 2014 1:06PM | EMAIL | PRINT



China's economy is slowing, and its housing market is in the toilet. While Treasury forecasts suggest everything is fine, underneath the surface the cracks are beginning to show.

China's economic growth in the third quarter was 7.3% compared with the same time last year — its worst since 2009 — amid a continued downturn in the property sector. Iron ore miners, beware.

http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/10/22/iron-ore-miners-beware-china-is-not-going-to-keep-buying-our-resources/

23 September 2014, 1.01 pm AEST

### Leaders skip UN talks as China looks to go it alone on carbon



 $\underline{\text{http://theconversation.com/leaders-skip-un-talks-as-china-looks-to-go-it-alone-on-carbon-32023}$ 

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#### 15 years from now, our impact on regional sea level will be clear



 $\underline{\text{http://theconversation.com/15-years-from-now-our-impact-on-regional-sea-level-will-be-clear-31821}$ 

## Movin' to the country: Napthine's rural strategy

CHARLES RICHARDSON | OCT 22, 2014 1105PM | EMAIL | PRINT



Most pundits and pollies discount rural seats, but country Victoria could be the crucial difference Denis Napthine's Coalition government needs to retain power.

Most political professionals, whether campaigners or pundits, live in the cities, as of course do most voters, so election coverage tends to be concentrated there. But every now and then, something reminds us that country seats can have a decisive impact on election results.

One such case was the 1999 Victorian election, which surprisingly put Labor

http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/10/22/movin-to-the-country-napthines-rural-strategy/

"ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT isn't rocket science, it's a lot more complex." Nick Dexter natural resource manager at Booderee National Park