

24 HOURS

THE NATION

4 DPP claim

The controversy surrounding a West Australian 1994 murder conviction yesterday moved to the Supreme Court bench with allegations that key forensic evidence presented to the then-Director of Public Prosecutions, John McKechnie QC, was not provided to the defence.

THE WORLD

5 Terror bounty

Pakistan has issued a "most wanted" list of 10 suspected Islamic militants, offering big rewards for their capture in connection with the killing of US reporter Daniel Pearl and bombing of Western targets.

SPORT

19 Sailor stay

Wallaby coach Eddie Jones must continue to play Wendell Sailor to maximise the league convert's potential for the 2003 World Cup. But Sailor's position is under threat following Australia's 31-25 win against France.

BUSINESS

27 Hard times

These are times of suspension and scarcity for investors looking for new floats in which to put their money but there is light at the end of the tunnel and those which survive the drought may be stronger for it.

The Australian

THE price of The Australian today rises 10c to \$1.20. In Tasmania, with freight costs, the price rises to \$1.40.

Wage increase

'deters investors'

THE peak employer group yesterday said the Industrial Relations Commission's decision to raise the minimum wage already was deterring investment.

Releasing its quarterly survey of investor confidence, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that near record business optimism in the March quarter had started to tail-off.

While investors continued to believe the economy would improve, they cited wage costs as the second-greatest deterrent to investment.

| Party | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | NT | ACT | Total |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-------|
| Labour | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 28 |
| Liberal | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 31 |
| National | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Democrat | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| Green | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| One Nation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Independent | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Total | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 76 |

Do the sums: double dissolution threat is hollow

COMMENTARIES so far on the Senate, possible double dissolution and so-called "border protection" (an Orwellian phrase that I insist must always be placed in inverted commas) seem to me largely to have missed the point.

Once the arithmetic of the Senate is explained, and properly understood, it can easily be seen that there will not be double dissolution. The next federal election will be for the House of Representatives and half the Senate. It could take place as early as October 2004 or as late as March 2005.

For that reason, the combination of senators from Labor, Democrats, Greens and Independents now holding a "humanitarian minority" that 36 consists of 31 Liberals,

four Nationals and the sole Hansonite, Len Harris.

Now look at Table 2. Notice that the Coalition has 18 long-term senators while the combination of Labor, Democrats and Greens is also 18.

In November 2001, the Coalition won 50 per cent of long-term Senate places with 42 per cent of the Senate vote cast in the six states.

In other words, the Senate electoral system is not one of proportional representation. People call me a pedant when I say this, but I insist on calling the system "semi-proportional". Why, therefore, is the Coalition now so heavily outnumbered in the Senate and why will it continue to be until June 30, 2005?

The answer is that the Coalition performed

appallingly badly at the October 1998 Senate election.

In the 35 Senate elections contested by "Non-Labor" since 1910, the lowest ever vote was the 37.7 per cent for the Coalition while the Democrats and Greens is also 18.

Consider this piece of calculation which comes from Table 3. The Coalition has 17 per cent of the Senate vote, which is 42.5 per cent. That comes from 37.7 per cent of the votes cast at the 1998 Senate election.

Suppose the Coalition goes to a half-Senate election in March 2005 and gets 42 per cent of the vote. It would win 20 of the 40 seats, bringing it up to 38 of the 76 places in all.

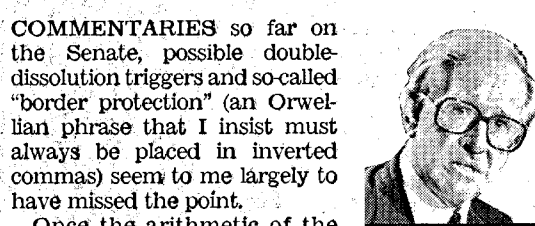
It would then be very easy for it to win the other 38 seats in the next election. We have been expecting this for months.

What, then, are we to say about this latest piece of "border protection" legislation? Simple. This is merely the latest in a long line of populist stunts on that subject, stage-managed by the Liberal Party for its own electoral benefit.

The humanitarian senators know that as well as I do — which is why this latest piece of policy pretence will be treated with the contempt it deserves.

The Government will, however, be using propaganda to use against the Senate. And may well be quite helpful towards it having those 38 senators three years from now.

Associate professor Malcolm Mackerras teaches in the school of politics at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra.



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Malcolm Mackerras is a political commentator and author.

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The Nation

Abbott's power push to tackle unions

Steve Lewis
• Chief political reporter

IN a provocative move to rein in militant trade unions, the Howard Government is considering dramatically expanding its industrial relations powers to act as a "public prosecutor" in defence of small business.

Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott yesterday confirmed the Government

was considering a new polling role, which he said was necessary to counter the "inequality of power" between large unions and smaller enterprises.

The Government's hard-line approach follows a damaging national dispute in the automotive sector involving the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union.

Intensifying his anti-union pitch, Mr Abbott said: "What we have seen over the past few years is that the law works very well most of the time, but in some instances there is an inequality of power between large unions and smaller enterprises."

"That's where I think there is a potential role for the Government," he told the Seven Network's Sunday Sunrise.

Mr Abbott has been frustrated by the failure of employer groups to prosecute the AMWU in response to the industrial action that severely

disrupted production in the automotive sector.

But he dismissed suggestions he was obsessed by the union movement. "I just want unions to operate under the law, the way everyone else should operate," he said.

As relations between the labour movement and the Government soured, AMWU national secretary Doug Cameron accused Mr Abbott of a "McCarthyite" campaign to smear the unions.

Mr Abbott's push was about the "vilification of organisations and individuals," Mr Cameron said.

The manufacturing employers' organisation, the Australian Industry Group, endorsed Mr Abbott's call for a new umpire who could prosecute rogue unions.

"What he's raising is quite proper. But whether it's the Government or a tribunal needs to be studied," AIG chief executive Bob Herbert said.

But ACTU president

Sharan Burrow accused Mr Abbott of attempting to weaken the position of all workers.

"Tony Abbott's recipe is for total power to the employers, particularly the big multi-nationals," Ms Burrow said.

Criticising Mr Abbott's push to give the Government a policing role, she said it was similar to the Attorney-General Daryl Williams' efforts to bring in new laws allowing him to outlaw groups or individuals.

"It is a total disregard for the separation of powers," Ms Burrow said.

"Tony Abbott has a much greater will to judge and jury than to be a minister responsible for industrial relations."

Opposition workplace relations spokesman Robert McClelland said Mr Abbott would do better to restore the powers of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to "direct parties to bargain in good faith."

Howard kicks off European tour

Dennis Shanahan
• Political editor

SOCCEER fan John Howard left for a two-week European tour yesterday and missed the World Cup final.

As well as being a strong supporter of the St George's rugby league club and a regular at Wallaby rugby union matches, the Prime Minister is a keen soccer fan.

But after departing yesterday with a tip that Brazil would win the cup, Mr Howard's schedule has ruled out a relaxed night in front of the television.

PM's itinerary

Monday: Arrives Frankfurt, Germany.
Tuesday: Arrives Berlin, meets Chancellor Schröder.
Wednesday: Breakfast meeting with former Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Arrives Athens.
Thursday: Meetings with Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and Athens Olympic Committee.
Friday: Meets President Konstantinos Stephanopoulos. Arrives in Rome.
Saturday: Audience with the Pope.
Sunday: Arrives Crete. Weather-laying ceremony at Commonwealth War Graves. Returns to Rome.
Monday: Meets President Carlo Ciampi.
Tuesday: Lunch with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Arrives in Brussels.
Wednesday: Meets EC president Romano Prodi.
Thursday: Arrives in Paris.
Friday: Arrives in Sydney.
*All dates based on local European time.

Simon Crean is visiting Europe at the same time as the Prime Minister. Although the Opposition Leader will travel from Europe to Washington for the second half of his two-week trip.

Glenn Milne — Page 11

Into a Berlin beer glass, darkly



Resignation: German fans in Berlin watch the World Cup soccer last night

Picture: Actionpress

• Berlin

GERMAN fans packed into a Berlin bar groaned at Ronald's first goal, sighed at his second then shrugged off defeat in a World Cup final they never expected to reach.

The calm reaction in the Bier Company was typical of the subdued response across Germany, a nation that is still uncomfortable with open displays of nationalism.

"I never dared to hope we would get this far and now I'm happy. I didn't hope too much," said Andy Schroeter, who'd painted his face in the national colours to watch the game at the Bier Company, a corner bar in Berlin-Mitte, a newly fashionable district of the former East Berlin.

"Four weeks ago everyone said this was Germany's worst-ever team, so you have to be happy with reaching the final."

This calm resignation was typical of the 160-odd workers and students packed into the bar and a world away from the anguish that would greet such a defeat in Brazil, England or any other exuberantly nationalist soccer nation.

It is also a remarkable contrast to the triumphal predictions that Germany would rule the soccer world after its reunification in 1990.

Tony Kevin, said the new details reinforced his fears.

"If one was serious about trying to find the boat, one wouldn't simply maintain one's regular search pattern involving just one pass over a huge area," Mr Kevin said.

ALP told: renew ties with workers

Steve Lewis
• Chief political reporter

LABOR'S flirtation with Tony Blair's "third way" policy agenda has come under renewed attack from senior figures on the Left, who have warned that the ALP faces six more years in opposition unless it re-connects with its working-class base.

Challenging Simon Crean to articulate a new reform agenda, Labor's manufacturing spokesman George Campbell said the ALP appeared "wedded to public opinion rather than our own principles."

In his submission to the ALP's internal review, Senator Campbell attacked the previous Labor leadership for failing to offer an alternative to the Coalition and "hoping to slip into office by astute use of marketing and polling."

"Instead of a vision, Labor as the leading Left party in Australia has been reduced to 'opportunism'," he said.

Echoing these views, the head of the Left-controlled Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, Doug Cameron, renewed his warning that Labor faced another two terms out of Government.

"Unless Labor start concentrating on the key issues for working families in this country and if they still continue to look at modernisation on the basis of a Blairite approach... there's an inevitability that Labor will not return to power quickly," he told the Ten.

The past year, the Press reported, the British Prime Minister's so-called third-way policies seeks a balance of economic dynamism and social equity.

Last week's report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare tells the story in numbers. About 85 per cent of men and 45 per cent of women weigh more than they should.

Those defined as obese — where serious health risks are present — rose from 9 per cent of men in 1980 to 19 per cent in 2000, and the level of obesity among women rose from 8 per cent to 22 per cent over those years.

No one is disputing the extent of the problem, and many experts rank it with tobacco as the nation's biggest health issue.

What is, however, fiercely debated is what to do about it. The division comes down to a classic philosophical question: are individuals responsible for their own health, should government act to change their behaviour, or should industry be held to account, if necessary through government regulation?

"The question is whether we begin to intervene in people's lives," says Mark Hargreaves, head of the school of health sciences at Deakin University.

"We might say yes, and look at the sort of incentives and disincentives that have been used to modify people's behaviour in tobacco usage."

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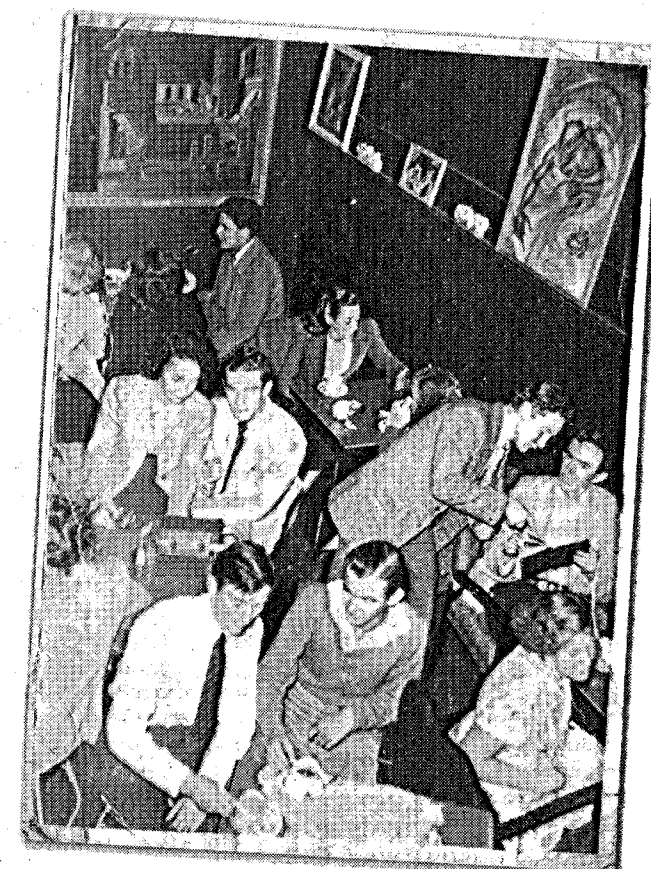
Features

Going off the scales

Australians are eating more, exercising less... and becoming dangerously fat. What we might need is a 'fat tax', writes Ean Higgins

Cuppa coffee, Bella please, Bella please, While watch those Women tease, Women tease Thin young men whose Baggy knees, baggy knees, Prove their owners devotees.

John Simons
Rowe Street Blues or Life at the Lincoln, 1950



From stick to thick: These cafe patrons are typical of people of their time. Slim but modern was hauled to a blow-out by the picture of The Lincoln in the late 1940s with the scene in your local cafe or beach.

Picture courtesy of Clifford Barry, son of the late John Barry, proprietor of The Lincoln

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Australian that if efforts to make the food industry accountable fail, we might impose a "fat tax" in the form of a punitive GST on items high in fat.

"I think it has to be an option worth considering if we do not get the required health results in the near future," he says.

In the meantime Barnett, a lawyer and diabetic, wants fast-food vendors to introduce better disclosure of what is in their products, and health warnings similar to those imposed on the tobacco trade.

These should be both "positive", in the form of encouraging a balanced diet, and "negative", by targeting excessive consumption of high-fat items "will make you sick and unhealthy."

Barnett says the whole issue is so serious that a national task force should be created involving industry, health officials, education groups and the federal, state and local governments.

Doctors also have corporate Australia in their

terribly receptive", adding that if the food makers don't come to the party voluntarily, the doctors will call on the federal Government to legislate.

According to the food and grocery courting scientific and technical director, David Roberts, there is no evidence that advertising makes children eat more fatty foods, or even that it's the junk food that is making them fat.

He cites two studies in Sweden, where a ban on advertising food in children's TV viewing area was introduced in 1991.

The studies chart the average weight of the 15-year-old age group between 1981 and 1997. In terms of the body mass index, a ratio of height to weight (see box), the results show a steady upward trend, going from 21.67 in 1981 to 22.04 in 1991, when the advertising ban was introduced, and continuing on to 22.8 in 1997.

"If you put those on a chart, it shows a curve that's rising, just the same as in the rest of the Western world," Roberts says. "It's probably related to the number of hours those people are sitting around watching the TV or playing computer games, rather than anything that's actually being advertised on TV."

Roberts also points out that the federal Government's own studies show that while children have



Are you a porker?

HEALTH experts and fat farms use a measure that provides a general guide to whether you are carrying too much weight, known as the body mass index.

It is a calculation of your weight in kilograms divided by your height in metres squared.

So, if you weigh 80kg and you are 1.8m tall, your BMI works out, after dividing 80 by 3.24 (1.8 squared), at 24.7.

That would place you just in the good range. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a BMI of less than 18.5 is considered underweight, 18.5 to 25 is healthy, 25 to 30 is overweight, and over 30 is obese.

To make this supremely easy, Weight Watchers has a BMI calculator on its website.

LINKS

www.weightwatchers.com.au

The nation shapes up

► Sixty-five per cent of Australian men are overweight and 19 per cent are obese, with serious serious health risks.

► Nearly half (45 per cent) of Australian women are overweight and nearly a quarter (22 per cent) are obese.

► Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

been increasing their energy intake (by 10 per cent between 1983 and 1995 among 10 to 15-year-olds, according to a study last year, it's not at all clear that fatty foods are responsible. While consumption of a range of foods including cereals rose, consumption of fat and cholesterol did not.

To the suggestion that there is no direct link between advertising a particular product and overall consumption, Doggett says, "If that's the case, it makes you wonder why they spend so much money on advertising."

While an advertising ban is not the be-all and end-all, says Doggett, "advertising makes it harder for parents to get the right message to their children."

Part of that message is, of course, more exercise. A number of observers suggest that the increased emphasis placed on academic performance — by schools, parents and students themselves — has been at the expense of sports.

In NSW, a 1997 study of state schools found that out-of-school physical activity had markedly declined over the years, leading the department's director-general, Ken Boston, to recommend a minimum of two hours a week of physical activity in the curriculum.

In the end, many health experts believe there is no quick fix and that the ultimate issue is attitudinal — we need to get back to the sort of values held by Clarke and his lean mates in the Lincoln, and that will involve a long, slow battle in public education.

"I honestly don't know if there is any one bad guy in here," says Australian Institute of Health and Welfare expert Paul Magnus.

"We have to change our own evolutionary instincts... human beings have always eaten when they have the opportunity, and they don't want to expend excess energy. In effect, we have been on a mission to stop moving, and it all adds up."

A favourite Auntie turns 70

Seventy years on, the ABC may be Balding, but, as Errol Simper reports, it's still live and kicking

WHEN your favourite auntie reaches humankind's rule-of-thumb lifespan of three score years and 10, you usually treat her gently. A 70-year-old Auntie, which is what the ABC becomes at 8pm this evening, can often tend toward frailty.

"To the contrary, we have a new sense of vigour and vibrancy," the broadcaster's managing director, Russell Balding, told The Australian last night. "Our television performance is much better than this last year. Radio is performing at record levels. Online is successful. We have every reason to believe we're going to remain extremely relevant."

Quite how the tax-funded, BBC-inspired national broadcaster has reached 70 must remain a mystery. It has been 70 years of highs and lows, punctuated by intense political, ideological and philosophical debate over whether the ABC is biased to the Left, whether it's really necessary and how much money it should get. It's a debate which has frequently drowned out at least part of what the commission corporation actually does.

From the polished tones of its first announcer — Conrad Charlton, as he introduced the then prime minister, Joseph Lyons, on Friday July 1, 1932 — the ABC has had a dual pressure. It's pressure with which other broadcasters don't have to contend. It must conform to a host of politically requiring it to do all things to all people, while — simultane-

ously — blocking its collective ear to a cacophony of ABC-related contention which can come close to hysteria.

Television exposed the broadcaster to myriad new political pressures. It also exposed politicians to new pressures. The ABC quickly moved to establish sharp-edged current affairs such as *Four Corners* (1961), *Monday Conference* and the tabloid *This Day Tonight* (1967), universally recognised as *TDT*. *TDT*, which was subsequently to metamorphose into *Natflow* and *The 7.30 Report*, was consciously set out to be disconcerting. Its iconoclastic, no-nonsense style was based loosely on the BBC's *Tonight* program and the groundwork for its existence was

too late for all but the final editions of the morning papers."

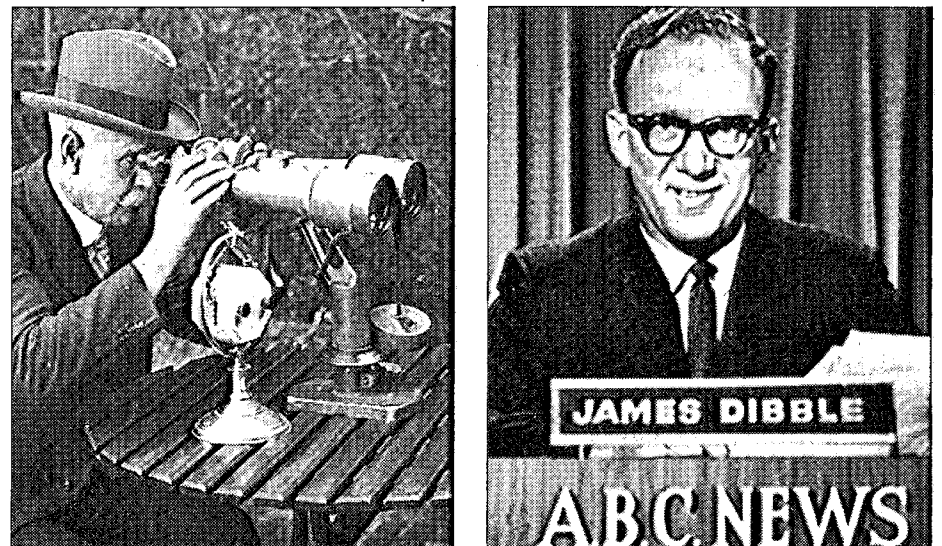
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Funny pieces were often funny and sometimes had bite. Public faces were interviewed with an unfamiliar lack of deference, even with cheek.

Actor Max Gillies was a guest at birthday eve celebrations at the ABC's Sydney headquarters last night and his appearance wars, *Balding's Journey*, introduced Australian television audiences to an abrasive brand of satire, pioneered in Britain during the mid-1960s. *Auntie Jack*, *Mother and Son* and *Australia's Top Talent* were also comedies. *Countdown* wasn't comedy, but it was a comedy. There have been some dramatic drama flops. Equally, the ABC has been a valued training forum for aspiring actors and technicians, and it was generously rewarded via the enormous success of the offbeat *SeaChange*.

Strangely, Balding will celebrate the broadcaster's 70th anniversary in the NSW rural setting of Wagga Wagga. Why Wagga? Balding says he wants to send a message that one of the broadcaster's great strengths is its "regional spread". The ABC isn't, he says, just about the capital cities.

Given staunch, solid, consistent, bipartisan National Party support for Auntie over many years, Balding's journey to Wagga stamps him as a pragmatic man. Not that anyone who has lived for any length of time in the bush would take seriously the notion of birthday priorities. See the Media section on Thursday



Station hands: Clockwise from above, Mick Ferry, first regular race caller in Australia, in 1925; James Dibble reading a news bulletin in 1956; Auntie Jack, aka Grahame Bond, in 1972; This Day Tonight in 1974 with, from left, Peach, June Heffernan and Tony Joyce



Eddie Allan Stanton's story

EDDIE ALLAN Stanton fell into the position of warrant officer for the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit and it happened to land him right in the middle of the war in the Pacific. He was based in Losuia in the Trobriand Islands, living in a small hut with a thatched roof. He was the only Australian in the area. He was the only Australian in the area. He was the only Australian in the area.

July 1, 1942
Our trip, outside rough weather, was uneventful. We kept a watch on any islands we passed for flares, which would signify that airmen had landed. Aeroplanes activity seems to be on the increase. Yesterday, we heard the hum of engines for nearly an hour. Today aeroplanes engines were heard at 10.15am & 11.15. The radio announced that Salamaua had been raided by a body of Allied troops, killing 60 Japanese, on Sunday night. We have been expecting this for months.

WAR ON OUR DOORSTEP

The diaries

Whilst at Waigani at the end of April, there had been 400 of our troops had marched overland to Wau for such a purpose. With them were Lieut. J. Marsh and Sgt. D. Neil. American coloured troops had landed in Port Moresby. For the same reason this, also, wasn't mentioned.

Timber from the Coral Sea Battle still arrives. Most of it is being washed up at Kitava and the large quantity shows that the Japanese had intended to build a township at Port Moresby. We are building houses for the natives with it. I've got a native carpenter, Kaitono, to make me two patrol boxes from it.

Send diary submissions to War Diaries, The Australian, GPO Box 4162, Sydney, NSW, 2001 or email sp@theaustralian.com.au. Do not send original material.