

Letters

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Controlled burns still the best strategy

CHENEY, Packham and Malseed ("Only prescribed burnings can avert fire calamities, TWT Sep 23) are spot on as always. The royal commission superseded an inquiry into land management and bushfires, but failed to do the job.

They were also directed to have regard to previous relevant inquiries. However, they stopped short at the 2004 COAG Inquiry and ignored the 2003 House of Representatives Inquiry which was swept under the carpet by COAG.

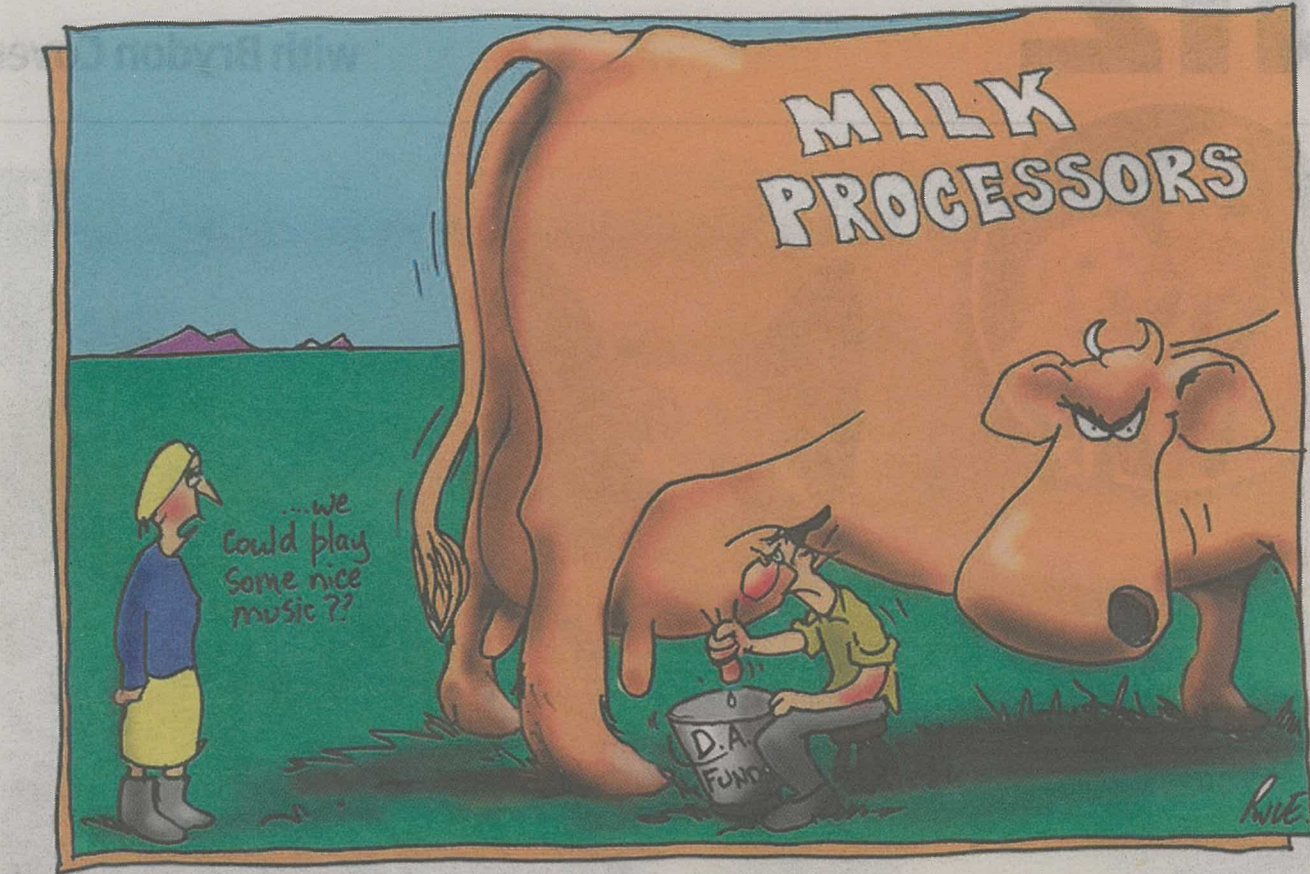
The royal commission is effectively endorsing a hugely expensive and ineffective emergency response at the expense of sustainable land management.

Even enthusiasts of dangerous warming should recognise 40,000 years' evidence that everyday on-ground management trumps a futile response and prevents massive emissions of both CO2 and dangerous substances into our atmosphere and waterways.

Vic Jurskis, Eden

A clash of faith and science

WITH the bushfires inquiry, Prime Minister Morrison's royal commission appears to be reflecting his faith in cli-



mate change. Most of us have seen photos of the PM worshipping at his local Hillsong Church. As much as I admire the apparent joy faith brings, the management of killer bushfires requires a different approach.

Controlling bushfires requires an empathy for its victims and rigorous study of successes, failures, methodology and peer reviewed science. Crossing the boundary between science and faith into climate change is an extraordinarily dangerous thing to do, when so many deaths and such trauma are at stake.

Belinda Clarkson, Secretary
www.firestickestate.com

Unity brings water victory

THE support of Independent MP Justin Field's motion to disallow the floodplain harvesting exemption regulation is a major step in highlighting the awful job the NSW govern-

ment has done in managing our most precious resource.

Congratulations must go to dogged determination of Southern Riverina Irrigators and the team of professionals who they have surrounded themselves with to achieve the unthinkable; Labor, Greens, Independents, Animal Justice, One Nation and SFF all voting in a block to defeat the National Party push to protect northern irrigators' water take which has been significantly impacting on southern irrigators' long term water security for way to long.

This achievement would not have been possible without the grit and persistence of our state Member for Murray Helen Dalton, who spent many days with the SRI executive team ensuring other state representatives were briefed on the water amendment Bill lodged by the NSW Water Minister earlier this year which would have devastated our water security.

It is a shame our federal member of parliament did not

do the same many years ago.

James Sides, Deniliquin, NSW

Common sense on kangaroos

AS a hobby farmer's wife, close to suburbia, and with a son who owns a large property at Strzelecki, I am constantly dismayed when reading letters such as "The problem is us, not kangaroos," (TWT Sep 23).

I have had young fruit trees decimated by deer after ruining fencing, an almond tree that cockatoos strip of almonds overnight, fruit trees that birds and possums eat before the fruit is even ripe, vegies eaten by snails and slugs, and rabbits that ringbark fruit and ornamental trees. It is a constant job, and expensive, to keep all these pests at bay.

Kangaroos are lovely to look at, but are very destructive, and the numbers are exorbitant in many areas.

There has to be some common sense here and we must

learn to understand how to be in control of a productive and sustainable environment. Unfortunately, in this day and age, the problem is us.

Ira Turner, Officer

Verdict is in on park damage

I'M not sure where Kevine Guinane found his two Facebook pictures of non-horse damage in Victoria's Alpine National Park ("So much for the brumby 'damage'" TWT, Sep 23), but the Victorian National Parks Association website has around 80 impact photographs. And yes, some horse damage sites are also impacted by pigs and deer. Scientists, and now the law courts, have unequivocally recognised the unacceptable impact of horses and other hard-hooved animals in alpine parks. It's time for recovery.

Philip Ingamells, Victorian National Parks Association

PIECE OF MIND

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I THINK Jenny was a political scapegoat ("Mikakos takes swipe at Premier as she resigns" TWT, Sep 26). Her integrity was questioned because she wouldn't lie to save face for the party she worked so hard for. Now she is free from the shackles perhaps we will hear the true story.

Denise

WHY spend more on campaigns when they could simply offer tax incentives for Aussies currently on Jobseeker payments or other forms of welfare? ("State government scheme fills only 127 ag jobs" TWT Sep 24). There are people out there prepared to do agriculture and horticultural jobs, so why do farmers keep saying they won't work?

Glenda

RUBBING salt into the wounds of volunteers ("CFA staff to wear Fire Rescue Victoria uniforms" TWT Sep 24).

Max

IT'S not all smooth sailing for the new Fire Rescue Victoria. Some ex-MFB firefighters are bitterly opposed to having ex-CFA paid staff put into their organisation. Some MFB employees always thought very poorly of CFA paid firefighters and looked down on them. I can't imagine MFB staff accepting CFA staff so obligingly.

Michael

SORRY, fast food need to say what it is they are selling. If I buy a burger I expect it to be made of meat, not some GM-modified burger. Fast food will be leaving themselves open to a big consumer backlash ("No labels for GM fake meat" TWT Sep 23).

Helen

POLL RESULTS

FARM WORKERS

Should there be an amnesty on illegal farm workers?

65 votes to noon yesterday

Yes **78%**
No **22%**

THIS WEEK

Should Australia seek a trade deal with Taiwan?

theweeklytimes.com.au

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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