

AUSTRALIA

THE END OF FREEDOM

Traditionally, bells have tolled as a warning of danger. On January 1st this year, millions of Australians participated in the “ringing of the bells”, marking the beginning of Centenary of Federation celebrations. Bells in halls, churches, towns and suburbs chimed in unison. Few realised the ironic significance of this event. The bells that chimed in celebration might just have easily been ringing out a chilling warning – that freedom in Australia is coming to an end.

Rights and freedoms that were once the cornerstone of Australian nationhood have been stripped away by creeping and insidious bureaucratic laws that pervade almost every aspect of our lives. Most of us believe that we are ‘free’ and will quickly parrot rhetoric about living in a democracy and a society that offers ‘a fair go’ for all. However, the reality is that Australia is evolving into a big brother totalitarian style state.

The burgeoning power of government to interfere in and determine people’s lives is of major concern to civil libertarians. Political activists are increasingly raising concerns about the subtle psychological conditioning of the population which occurs as more and more citizens immerse themselves in a spurious culture of consumerism. The majority appear apathetic and indifferent, happy to let the nanny state take care of things. Academics cautiously refer to this listlessness as the dumbing down of the nation. Mired in the illusion of freedom, we seem to have turned into complacent participants in our own slavery.

TRACKING YOUR EVERY MOVEMENT

From dawn to dusk, the routine events of life are being tracked, recorded and analysed. Cheaper computing power and a vastly expanding Internet – Australia now has the second highest Internet use in the world – have enabled businesses, government agencies and many others to watch what was once unwatchable and glean meaning and profit from everyday activities. Data giants such as Kerry Packer’s Axiom have created dossiers containing names, addresses, incomes, purchases and other details about millions of Australians. Profile specialists make models of what consumers are likely to do or buy. All the while, data miners look for data to sell.

On the highways and by-ways the surveillance cameras are rolling. Safe-T-Cam, a network of big brother cameras installed on the highways in New South Wales, monitors entry to the state and keeps speeding trucks in check. In Melbourne Transurban, the owner of the CityLink tollway, plans to photograph cars that use the tollway illegally, without an e-tag or a day pass. The information will be passed to police for further action.

Just 15 years ago Australians took the streets to protest against the introduction of an identity card. Now we can’t wait for our nightly instalment of Big Brother on TV. In France, civil libertarians dumped manure at the production studios where Big Brother was being made. In the land down under, Big Brother does not even disturb or challenge consciousness, as viewers switch on to be routinely chloroformed by a minutiae of celebrities’ lives. Big Brother has become an entertaining spectacle, not a concept to be treated with suspicion.

NEW PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

Australians are becoming more and more willing to give up their privacy for whatever degree of convenience they can get. The revolution in information technology has resulted in mass acceptance of computer technology, applied in all aspects of life. Things which even a decade ago would have revolted most Australians – microchipping domestic pets, smart cards, biometric identification, surveillance cameras – are now embraced as the triumphs of the information revolution and an imperative element of the ‘safety’ society. Soft sister has replaced big brother.

Continuing privacy invasive proposals by the federal government are omnipresent. Proposals for the use of political control technologies frequently used in tin pot dictatorships are a high priority on the agenda. There have been numerous proposals for Medicare databases, to be operated by the Health Insurance Commission.

Turn overpage....

In 1996, the Australian Electoral Commission, drawing on advice from ASIO, proposed the introduction of a biometric voter identification card "for democracy". In the wake of the country's first DNA testing of an entire male population at Wee Waa, there were renewed calls for a national DNA database for criminals. Most recently, a new ID card proposed by the federal Justice department would force every Australian citizen to provide DNA samples and undergo eyeball retina scans which would form part of the card.

The unleashing of Australia's New Tax System, supported by both political parties, has consigned millions of small and micro businesses to relative insignificance when compared to the powerful institutions which spy on their incomes. Masses of people feel deeply insecure in this world of dislocation and rapid change. The New Tax System, the cause of economic strangulation for many, has forced taxpayers to become unpaid tax collectors, drowning in a mountain of paperwork imposed by trivial record keeping and documentation requirements. Under the new system, payments in cash are becoming suspicious, the implication being that 'legitimate' businesses will conduct transactions electronically.

MORE POWERS FOR SPOOKS

Surveillance of citizens financial affairs is not just the exclusive domain of the Australian Tax Office. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) had its powers greatly expanded in the lead up to the 2000 Olympic Games. Under the ASIO Legislation Amendment Act, Australia's internal spy agency now has access to banking and tax records and can obtain financial transactions data from the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC). AUSTRAC itself routinely reports 'suspicious' transactions of \$10,000 or more to law enforcement authorities for further investigation.

This dramatic "functional creep" in the role of ASIO has seen the organisation take on some of the activities usually in the domain of State and Federal police forces. ASIO has powers to open citizens mail, intercept communications, place listening devices in peoples' homes and offices, and tap phones.

Also in the lead up to the Olympic Games, Australians saw the passage of the Defence Legislation Aid to the Civil Power Act, which gave wide ranging new powers to the military operating in civilian situations. The military now have legal authority to seize buildings, places and means of transport; detain people; search premises; seize possessions and shoot to kill. Opponents of the bill argued for a sunset clause, but were overruled by the majority in Canberra.

POLICE STATE MEASURES

As social conditions and standards of living decay, the political establishment is increasingly turning to police state measures to maintain control. Long-standing legal and democratic rights are being clawed back while police are being handed far-reaching powers, designed specifically for use against ordinary citizens. The sweeping increases to police powers recently proposed by New South Wales Premier Bob Carr will repudiate one of the traditional principles of the English-based legal system – that an accused person is innocent until proven guilty.

Under the guise of cracking down on drug related crime, it will become an offence, punishable by up to five years' jail, to enter or leave a dwelling identified by police as a "drug house". No evidence has to be produced that illegal substances are on the premises, or that anyone sold, handled or used them. Instead, those arrested will be obliged to prove a negative – that neither they nor the building have any association with drugs. Officers will be able to subject anyone arrested under the legislation to a forced medical examination to detect traces of illicit drugs, and people can be convicted regardless of whether or not evidence of drugs is found. The penalties will be one year's jail for a first offence and five years for a second offence.

Australians are becoming a nation of tittle tats through policing 'initiatives' such as Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch and Business Watch. The nightly news urges bored sticky beaks to phone 'dobber' hotlines including Operation Noah for drugs and Operation Hot Wheels for car theft. Crime Stoppers, an international network headquartered in the United States asks citizens to "ring in if you have information about any crime or any suspicious activities or if you think you have useful information that may help prevent a crime."

At a local government level, the focus on 'crime' continues through Council by-laws enacted in the interests of the 'common good'. Most of these laws are designed to do little more than generate revenue via fines for petty offences. Some local government authorities, for example Lithgow City Council, have Council Rangers which patrol and issue on-the-spot fines for breaches of relevant legislation such as littering a public place; skateboards, scooters and bicycles in the main street areas; unregistered animals and pollution of waters, which includes washing cars in the street. In Queensland, Caloundra City Council has banned people from wearing political slogans on t-shirts eg. Vote 1, Joe Bloggs. Maroochy Shire banned recycling of grey-water onto gardens.

The proposed Victorian racial vilification bill, announced recently by Premier Steve Bracks, has been attacked by civil libertarians as another draconian form of state censorship. The Victorian legislation proposes criminal sanctions for racial and religious vilification and for inciting violence against minority groups. **[STOP PRESS: On June 14 the Victorian Parliament passed its Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill.]**

While criminal sanctions may be appropriate for such repugnant and obnoxious acts, the broad ranging nature of the legislation allows for prosecution of virtually anything, including name-calling, verbal or written statements, gestures, the wearing of symbols or uniforms, or anything else which a "reasonable observer" could interpret as an offense to a "racial or religious group."

STOP PRESS

In June the Criminal Assets Recovery Bill was introduced into Federal Parliament. The Bill's purpose is to empower law enforcement with the authority to seize the assets of an accused person, even if a conviction has not been obtained. The government and media are justifying the introduction of the law for the reason that it will be easier for the Crown to recover assets derived from criminal proceeds. Such a law will be an extra punishment for a criminal and a revenue raising exercise for the government. But in the real world, who will suffer as a consequence of the law? Big criminals will get around such laws because they have resources, networks and friends in high places. Authorities rarely catch the big fish. It's much easier and lucrative to go after ordinary citizens, seizing their houses, cars and money. Take the American example. "Asset forfeiture" abuses have been visited upon thousands of ordinary, innocent Americans during the last twenty years (see www.fear.org). Citizens are often targeted and set up by local police for the sole purpose of seizing their assets. A completely innocent person's life could be ruined or put on hold for years as the case is heard in the courts. Such laws could also be used to silence political dissidents.

LACK OF POLITICAL DEBATE

A complete lack of political debate on issues of substance has engulfed Australia. Discussions on censorship, big brother and expanding police powers, once would – at the very least – have been hotly debated on current affairs television programs. Today, these issues remain the domain of a dwindling number of civil libertarians, privacy experts and a handful of academics and political activists. Laws are enacted with virtually no opposition. Those who do voice concern are marginalised and ridiculed as 'extremists' – of the left or right wing. The voices of dissent are virtually beaten into submission by the thesis that creeping totalitarianism provides a 'fair go' for all and that opposition to the 'government's mandate' is narrow minded, rebellious and reactionary.

The real threat to freedom in Australia is now arising from incremental erosions of civil liberties. The rate of such erosion is speeding up and is rapidly being fuelled by the pace of technological innovation. For the large part, people seem to be mesmerised by the bread and circuses dished up by the nanny state. Appealing to false memories of a virtuous rural past, the Federal Government funds silly, pandering, childish celebrations to keep the masses entertained. Millions of dollars are doled out for schemes to 'develop' youth, the arts, sports and 'the rural revival'.

For citizens concerned about their future freedom and survival, the only answer is to psychologically disconnect from the system. As Hakim Bey succinctly puts it in his book **Millennium**, we must either become totally absorbed or realise that we are in total opposition. The system cannot be reformed, or saved from itself with independent political representatives, a new government in Canberra or letters to politicians.

At all levels of government, a plethora of legislation has been passed and now merely lies waiting on the horizon for a suitable opportunity to be activated in the fullest degree. As fireworks and gas filled balloons are released for the Centenary of Federation, it's time to realise that a modern police state is being unleashed.

The complete text of this article (6 pages) by Susan Bryce can be found in the July-August edition of New Dawn magazine, now available in newsagencies, or by filling out the form below. Play your part in the defence of freedom in Australia. Spread the word by ordering copies of this leaflet for distribution.



Yes, I want to order New Dawn No. 67 and/or copies of this Leaflet.

- 1 copy of New Dawn No. 67 \$5.95
- 5 copies New Dawn No. 67 \$20.00
- 10 copies New Dawn No. 67 \$35.00

(Prices include GST & postage)

- 20 copies of this leaflet \$10.00
- 50 copies of this leaflet \$20.00
- 100 copies of this leaflet \$40.00

**Send to: New Dawn Magazine,
GPO Box 3126FF, Melbourne, VIC 3001, Australia**

- I enclose cheque/M.O. payable to New Dawn Magazine, or
- Please debit my Master/Visa/Bank Card #

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature: _____ Exp: _____

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

WE QUESTION CONSENSUS REALITY

Alternative News ● Conspiracies ● UFOs
Mind Control ● New World Order ● CIA ● Drugs
Secret Societies ● AIDS ● Islam ● Terrorism
Metaphysics ● Gnostics ● Biowarfare
Prophecy ● Big Brother ● Cover-ups

If these subjects intrigue you, subscribe to *New Dawn* and become part of the growing audience that is seeking genuine alternative news and information. *New Dawn* is an Australia based journal devoted to publishing ideas and information that are dangerous, unusual and challenging.

We are dedicated to breaking through the wall of delusion and disinformation. Moving beyond the prevailing popular view of 'consensus reality' and the charade of left/right ideological dogmatism.



In recent issues we have covered: Manufacturing Armageddon; Your Money or Your Life; Blueprint for a Prison Planet; AIDS: Who is to Blame?; Secret Power of Music Revealed; Who is George W. Bush?; Psychedelic Shamanism; Big Brother's Plan for You; BioApocalypse; Russia vs NWO; Sex Worship, Idols and Witchcraft in the Bible; Are Vaccines Causing More Disease Than They are Curing?; The Secret of Rennes Le Chateau; Manufacturing the Olympics; Paranormal ESPionage; The Jesus Mysteries; Escaping the Matrix.

Check out our web site: <http://www.newdawnmagazine.com>

Yes, I want to subscribe to New Dawn Magazine.

1 year (6 issues)\$30 (Australia)

2 years (12 issues)\$55 (Australia)

(Prices include GST)

Begin with latest issue or next issue

Overseas: (all issues airmailed)

USA: 6 issues US\$32 12 issues US\$59

NZ: 6 issues NZ\$45 12 issues NZ\$85

UK: 6 issues £20 12 issues £35

Europe: 6 issues €35 12 issues €65

Asia: 6 issues AUD\$49 12 issues AUD\$90

Other: 6 issues US\$32 12 issues US\$59

Send to: New Dawn Magazine,
GPO Box 3126FF, Melbourne, VIC 3001, Australia

I enclose cheque/M.O. payable to New Dawn Magazine, or

Please debit my Master/Visa/Bank Card #

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature: _____ Exp: _____

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____