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# Irresistible race to the bottom

**EVE FISHER**

MARRIED at First Sight is so much more than watching a car crash.

I just can't look away. More importantly I can't tear myself from the fabulous James Weir recaps even though half the time I don't know which cake-faced woman or mouth-breather man he's talking about.

Between the partner swaps, arse-cheek partying, sexual harassment, forced intimacy, fake love and nastiness, it's hard to have the emotional fortitude to wonder what will come next.

Certainly we should all give the producers a long, slow clap for the effort they put in to creating this melting pot of human detritus waiting to prove just how trashy and disrespectful they can be in relationships.

While women march for justice and schoolboys are forced to stand in front of their classes and apologise for the behaviour of men, MAFS fans rush to get their latest fill of largely unattractive backstabbing, cheating strangers who are encouraged on national television to sleep with people they don't like, or help themselves to someone else's (admittedly) poorly matched partner.

It's all so terribly predictable. A bunch of people who are never going to get along, forced into

“WE SHOULD ALL GIVE THE PRODUCERS A LONG, SLOW CLAP FOR THE EFFORT THEY PUT IN TO CREATING THIS MELTING POT OF HUMAN DETRITUS WAITING TO PROVE JUST HOW TRASHY AND DISRESPECTFUL THEY CAN BE IN RELATIONSHIPS.”

an “experiment” that will surely bring out the best in their personalities.

As such, MAFS is a beautiful testament to where we are in society.

This hilarious prime-time farce shows up several times a week to remind us that we will happily watch men and women be disrespectful to each other on TV but then cry foul when the behaviour transcends reality TV land and lobs up on our doorstep.

When was the last time you wore a sheer G-string bodysuit to a dinner party so you could attract



Melissa Rawson and Bryce Ruthven from Married at First Sight

the attention of someone else's husband?

But let's not get distracted by the pilates-toned butts. It hasn't just been skin on display.

The aggression, vitriol and bullying is practically award-winning. I guess that's what happens when the sharpest tool in the MAFS shed is probably a long-decommissioned staple remover on some producer's desk.

The only time anyone calls out disrespectful behaviour is when it's to their advantage. Bryce was a super justice warrior early in the piece, ranting about unsavoury men and fighting with anyone who

wouldn't let him have the last word.

Then he forced a kiss on a woman who wasn't his wife and his crusade was over. Apparently his behaviour shut filming for the day and then we all forgot about it.

He does still try to get the last word but he doesn't seem to harp on about respect for women as much any more.

MAFS is a social experiment to test just how disrespectful people can be to each other. And we lap it up. We don't question the messages it gives to men and women trying to feel their way blindly in the world of relationships where the goalposts are constantly moving.

I can't believe the woke folk haven't called for it to be cancelled. Where are you people while civilised society slowly crumbles?

You're so busy trying to find some brand to rename that you're forgetting to notice that we are encouraged to watch a show that actively encourages people in relationships to be arseholes.

Yes it's funny. Because it's just so trashy and sad. We stand on our soapboxes and think they're beneath us (well, I do anyway) but in reality we are feverishly searching for Weir's latest recap to find out the latest offering from the mayhem.

## LETTERS & TEXTS

### DARK SIDE TO OUTDATED RELIGIOUS DOGMA

INTERESTING letter from B. Friends (GA 6/4) about Christian values.

I would like to know what he/she considers as Christian values?

Calling changes in language, “perversions of morality” is highhanded as the best of times. Perhaps a reading of The Canterbury Tales in the original English might show this person that language is a dynamic thing and changes rapidly over time.

Considering religious schools as better than public schools is just ignorance.

While religion can be a fine thing, a blinkered approach to it can produce its dark side. God would never condone some of the actions taken in his name by more fanatical members of the Abrahamic religions.

There is no hate in good religious philosophy, but some followers of outdated religious dogma should be ashamed of themselves.

Their tunnel vision and hubris have no place in an intelligent world.

Spencer Leighton, Torquay

### CELEBRATE EASTER BY USING PROPER NAME

I HAVE noticed a trend by all media groups, including many articles in the Geelong Advertiser, referring to Easter as “the long weekend”.

I sincerely hope that we don't go the way of the USA, where our majority Christian society and beliefs are overlooked for the sake of political correctness.

The reason there is a “holiday” is simple — to celebrate and recognise Easter.

Brian Sherwell, Belmont

### NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING A PATRIOT

ANDY Meddick, in his disdain for the Australia One party (GA 6/4),

is attempting to marginalise people for having a political opinion.

The right to lawful political protest is enshrined in the Crimes Act 1914, which states this: “Any person who, by violence or by threats or intimidation of any kind, hinders or interferes with the free exercise or performance, by any other person, of any political right or duty, shall be guilty of an offence.”

The penalty for such interference is three years' jail.

Unfortunately people like Andy, who is elected to represent every constituent in his electorate, seems to me to be using the same sort of hate speech he accuses others of using. This is typical of Leftists, who seem to abhor

everyone but themselves.

Whilst other Rightist patriot groups are a bit untidy and perhaps a bit too forward, it is their right to protest, lawfully and peacefully.

And I tend to agree with Riccardo Bosi (I am familiar with Australia One policy) and other wrongly marginalised groups that Australia is being sold out, especially because foreign ownership has risen to unseemly levels. And to sell, or even lease, our ports and other infrastructure to foreigners is especially obscene, when valid national security concerns exist.

In all, there is nothing wrong with being a fervent and passionate patriot.

Gary Oraniuk, Geelong West

### LOVE TO HEAR THE MIGHTY CATS PURRING

HURRAH! We've heard the Geelong Cats song twice more!

Neither of these final scores would have been possible without a good tally being built up in the early stages.

That's what turns the beloved music on at the end. Keep going Cats!

Melva Stott, Anglesea

## ADDY ONLINE POLL

Have you dropped any insurance policies over the past 12 months?

YES 21% | NO 79%

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## Geelong Advertiser SHORE UP VOLUNTEERS

NON-profit organisations are usually fuelled by two key things — the generosity of funding bodies and the selflessness of unpaid workers.

Dedicated volunteer workforces are key to supporting a wide range of community activities from feeding our vulnerable people to protecting our homes from fire and guarding our beaches. But who co-ordinates the volunteers?

Volunteering Geelong has supported almost 50,000 volunteers and 160 charities and not-for-profit organisations from across the local region over the past decade. It is the first step for many people looking for a volunteering opportunity, or organisations in need of a workforce of people willing to donate their time.

But the not-for-profit organisation is facing an uncertain future as the end of the financial year draws near, with its previous \$120,000 annual federal government grant diverted to a state-based body and no word as yet on how those funds are to be disseminated.

Uncertainty over just how much, if any, funds will be sent Geelong's way after July 1 places in jeopardy not only the four paid roles at Volunteering Geelong, but a raft of programs including volunteering accreditation, professional development and training, and referrals.

The loss of such programs would be felt across the entire region and the lack of any funding guarantee, fewer than three months from the end of the financial year, adds an unnecessary burden on organisations that are already facing the difficult task of supporting some of our most vulnerable locals.

## ON THIS DAY

1449 Felix V, the last antipope, abdicates, ending the Great Schism of the Catholic Church.

1795 French National Convention introduces metric system of weights and measures. A metre is at first defined as Earth's circumference divided by 40 million.

1826 Australia's first street lamp is erected in Macquarie Place, Sydney, burning whale oil and remaining the sole light for over a year.

1939 PM Joe Lyons, 59, dies of a heart attack two days after going to Sydney Hospital with a chill.

1998 Patrick Stevedore sacks its 1400 wharfies, using security guards with dogs to drive them off the docks, and replaces them with non-union labour.



2020 The High Court overturns Cardinal George Pell's conviction for sex offences. The decision says that the jury failed to entertain a “reasonable doubt”.

## WRITE TO US

Make sure to include your name, address and phone number if verification is required. Only your name and suburb will be printed. Please note we reserve the right to edit letters for reasons such as clarity and length. PRIVACY POLICY: Our privacy policy at <https://preferences.news.com.au/privacy> includes important information about our collection, use and disclosure of your personal information (including to provide you with targeted advertising based on your online activities). It explains that if you do not provide us with information we have requested from you, we may not be able to provide you with the goods and services you require. It also explains how you can access or seek correction of your personal information, how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how we will deal with a complaint of that nature.