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# TALKIN' ABOUT MY GENERATION

**EVE FISHER**

**“IN SHORT, MY GENERATION HAS SPAWNED A NEW BREED OF PEOPLE WHO CANNOT THINK FOR THEMSELVES OR FEEL ANYTHING REAL.”**

IT'S easy to look at generations aside from one's own and heap judgment upon them.

Be it laughing at the boomers, mocking the millennials or questioning the resilience of the centennial kids, it's easy to be smug if we never look at the role we've played in generational influence.

I've certainly been smug about being a gen-Xer. We got to enjoy the spoils of technology without being wedded to it like those who came after us.

We finished school without the internet and there were jobs for us as we made our way into the world, despite "the recession we had to have".

The problems we were going to cause, however, would not be evident until we started breeding.

You see, it turns out my generation bred the snowflakes.

Our friends at Wikipedia describe that generation as the young adults of the 2010s, although I'd argue it's an enduring timeslot that continues to grow.

"Snowflake is a derogatory slang term for a person, implying that they have an inflated sense of uniqueness, an unwarranted sense of entitlement, or are overly emotional, easily offended, and unable to deal with opposing opinions."

This is the "I'm offended" generation in a nutshell.

Nothing smacks of victimhood and collectivism more than attempting to control what people say because of an inability to stomach things that could be hard to hear.

Snowflakes have such a minimised sense of self that their entire existence is shored up by how they are affected by others.

That's why it's easier to be offended than to have a coherent argument and defend a position.

The snowflakes lack resilience and always look for someone to blame.

Now they rightly can point the finger.

At their parents.  
At the gen X parents

specifically, who have coddled, overindulged and pampered their kids into moulded versions of themselves minus any semblance of a spine.

Gen X folk were born in the '60s and 70s to hedonistic, emotionally unavailable baby boomer parents whose own parents were austere war survivors trying to get past the shock of their experiences.

The baby boomers were selfish and self-serving, for all the wrong reasons.

They were at the forefront of the sexual revolution and the first generation to really have the freedom to do anything they wanted to do.

Which they did in the land of plenty.

Then they bred and gen X became the latchkey kids, usually with two working parents.

While there was more money to spare, it didn't bring families closer. The divide wasn't created by technology as this would come later when an iPad joined the dinner table.

The divide was created by indifference. Baby boomer parents were emotionally walled off and gen X kids grew up desperately seeking the validation and attention they never got from their parents.

We gravitated to the socialism of the '90s and found the warm bosom of statism comforting.

The world was getting to be a scary and isolating place and finding solace within the collective was important to us. As was Big Government. We lapped up the headlines and celebrated giving our freedoms away.

Cue the gen X breeding habits and what do you know?

They've done everything humanly possible to behave in the opposite way to their parents.

The helicopter parent was born and boy, is it an utter embarrassment.

If parents aren't mollycoddling their kids, they are controlling them. If they aren't watching their every move, they are the thought police.

In short, my generation has spawned a new breed of people who cannot think for themselves or feel anything real. They have no confidence. They have no imagination and no desire to seek selfhood away from the herd.

But neither did my generation. Or the one that preceded it. I suppose you could say it's on all of us. But we'll go on blaming each other as is our nature.

Because it's always somebody else's fault. We are never complicit. Are we?

## LETTERS & TEXTS

### GAS COMPANY PLAYING GAMES WITH THE TRUTH

WHILE more than 4000 Geelong residents get steamed up about a gas terminal not needed or wanted ("Bay gas terminal opposition gathers steam", GA 1/4), Viva spokesmen continue to play games with the truth.

While they note they've "set out emissions created by implementing this facility" this setting out failed to include the biggest single source of pollution – transporting the LNG in tankers to Geelong.

They also say "there are plans to offset emissions, so it's a genuine zero-emissions project", and yet just last week the former head of the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee went public about industry's current abuse of the carbon credit system, alleging "what is occurring is a fraud on the environment".

Finally, to claim the project "would play a critical role in meeting Victoria's gas shortage" assumes we can't swap out of gas with haste – as indeed those in Europe are doing as Russia threatens world security.

In a rapidly warming world, where all climate experts call for no new oil or gas, the obligation is not to invest in gas but to invest in renewable options to meet our environmental, security and energy needs.

My obligation is to be sure Viva and government get the memo – a renewable-led recovery please.

**Karen Campbell, Geelong**

### EXCISE RELIEF ANOTHER JOKE IN FUEL POLICY

THE government has lowered the fuel tax by 22.1c a litre for six months.

Looking around at pump prices the government has failed to have any method to measure or enforce retail prices to be reduced by that 22.1 cents per litre.

The result is another "furfury" political promise that is not possible to be delivered by the politicians.

Our whole fuel pricing policies, fuel production, fuel stores and ideas by those opposing fossil fuels is a shambling joke.

The passionate anti-fossil fuel proponents still drive cars, use

plastics and shop at supermarkets that totally depend on fossil fuels for logistics.

Few are prepared to put up with the price rises we are already having in supermarkets with the current situation, let alone having no fossil fuels.

**Ross Kroger, Barwon Heads.**

### SOVEREIGN DRIVE TREES WILL CAUSE ACCIDENTS

THE City of Great Geelong's thoughtless placement of trees along Sovereign Drive has created a highly dangerous hazard.

Bushy trees planted immediately on either side of the exit from the new Mount Duneed Community Shed onto Sovereign Drive completely block visibility of oncoming traffic in either direction.

This is a serious collision waiting to happen and almost happened on Tuesday.

The person responsible for the positioning of these trees will hopefully be held accountable when the inevitable occurs, particularly now with the potential increase of traffic exiting from the Shed.

Council please take note, this is an urgent situation.

**James, Grovedale.**

### WE NEED OPEN SPACE, NOT JUST MORE HOUSING

BELMONT needs open space, not high-density living.

As kids 55 years ago, we walked to youth clubs in the scout halls and we knew all the families in the neighbourhood.

Later in life, Mum would walk around the streets just to get out of the house, she couldn't go far as there was nowhere to stop and rest.

When my parents became frail, we pushed their wheelchairs around the Dean St area and it would have been lovely to be able to stop and sit in a park to watch the activities of others and enjoy the fresh air.

Now I push my grandchildren in a pram around the area but there is nowhere to stop and see to their needs.

Please leave this last piece of available space for the whole community, don't give it up for bricks and mortar.

**Kim Ferguson, Belmont**

## Geelong Advertiser GLIMPSE INTO WAR HORROR

**B**ODIES lying in mass graves and along the street, some tortured, some dismembered, some having been tied up and beaten to death.

These are not the scenes of a World War II documentary or horror movie; rather, they are the remnants of Russia's invasion of the Ukrainian city of Bucha – with the full toll of the carnage still to be revealed.

During his visit to the region on Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described what happened in Bucha as genocide. Russia, whose troops have retreated from the city, is still denying the widespread deaths even took place.

The distressing scenes provide a glimpse into the unthinkable violence that has befallen countless peaceful civilians since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in late February. Russia's continued denials of any war crimes and manipulation of facts through state-controlled media show there is little remorse or plans to scale back.

The shameless propaganda, threat of Ukrainian labour camps and now evidence of widespread war crimes echo dark periods in history that most would have assumed would not have been revisited in our lifetime. And, while world leaders are uniting in their horror at what is happening in Ukraine, it is distressingly evident that the world's condemnation and sanctions are not going to be enough to halt Vladimir Putin's reign of terror.

## ON THIS DAY

**1199** King Richard I of England, "the Lionheart", dies from an arrow wound while besieging the Castle of Chalus in France.

**1652** Jan van Riebeeck founds a Dutch East India Co station at Cape Town, starting white settlement in what will become South Africa.

**1830** The Mormon movement, also called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, is founded in New York by Joseph Smith.

**1874** The first recorded women's cricket match in Australia is held at Bendigo, Victoria.

**1895** Waltzing Matilda, with the words of Banjo Paterson, is first performed in public, at the North Gregory Hotel in Winton, western Queensland.

**1896** King George I of Greece declares the first Modern Olympic Games open in Athens (pictured).

**1909** US navy commander Robert Peary, with associate Matthew Henson and four Inuit, becomes the first man to reach the North Pole.

**1917** US president Woodrow Wilson signs a declaration of war on Germany, after German attacks on American shipping.

**1970** Australian actor Errol Flynn's son Sean, a photojournalist, disappears in Cambodia. He is believed to have been killed by the Khmer Rouge.



## WRITE TO US

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