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An about-face from left to right

EVE FISHER

I'M going to advocate doing something a former Greens politician is unlikely to have ever done before.

I'd choose to vote for Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party.

Yes, I'd be swinging harder than Mike Tyson on a domestic flight and shunning the coddling Left that has ensured during the pandemic the individual has no place in this collective nonsense some deign to call a civilised society.

So how does a former Surf Coast Shire Green do such an about-face and decide the hard right is more tasteful to the palate?

You erode civil liberties, of course. You put the collective before the individual.

And once the Leftie overcomes social conditioning and determines the paramount importance of the individual, then it's time to traipse to the Right.

Don't get me wrong, the Right is a cesspit of immoral and power-grabbing sociopaths and no more deserving of my vote than the woke, free-speech hating, vax-mandating Left, which thinks it's OK people lose their livelihoods and homes as long as

THIS IS NOT A DEMOCRACY. THIS IS SIMPLY CHOOSING A PUPPET TO ACT AS A PUPPET AND PORK-BARREL, BACKSLAP AND SIDLE ITS WAY THROUGH TO THE NEXT ELECTION ON THE BACK OF OPPOSITION SHAMING AND EXCUSE-MAKING.

the health of the greatest number is supposedly protected.

The Left, touting its social justice views, assures us it's doing the right thing by taking away people's autonomy over their bodies.

Then there was the sacking of 2500 teachers last week in Victoria for failing to reveal their private vax status.

In all good conscience, I cannot support mandating vaccination, so I can never vote Left again.

The Left, for all its "we care"

attitude is a fascist, group-think danger to our freedom and has crushed so many people these past two years.

Hanson's platform is vehemently pro-choice and with 150-odd candidates around the country, it's a very real possibility she will form the majority on a large crossbench in a hung parliament.

She's also been tricky in Tasmania, where she is preferencing Labor ahead of the Libs because of the Liberal preferencing deal with Jacqui Lambie.

Although the polls are saying ALP by a landslide, I'm going to put my money on a hung parliament with ScoMo and Hanson at the helm.

Minor parties almost always break Right, so aside from Hanson's move in Tasmania, it's likely all minor votes are going to help ScoMo limp over the line.

I believe the voters will flock to the minors because it doesn't take a genius to know the major parties are on the nose. The Libs even have an ad campaign urging people to steer clear of independents and minor parties.

This is not a democracy.

This is simply choosing a puppet to act as a puppet and pork-barrel, backslap and sidle its way through to the next election on the back of opposition shaming and excuse-making.

And then you get politicians in power, like Premier Daniel Andrews, whose mandates have ruined Victoria while under constant investigations for alleged corruption within his party.

The whole of Australia is next if Anthony Albanese wins the election.

The glorious cartoonist Leung (who no longer works at the Left Age newspaper after contributing a cartoon comparing mandates to the Tiananmen Square massacre) posted on Tuesday a few words on how he views democracy.

"You can fool some of the people all of the time ...

"And you can fool all of the people some of the time.

"But you only need to fool a majority of the people for one day every few years..."

"And you've got democracy."

Such truth is rarely heard, but it sure hits home when we choose to listen.

LETTERS & TEXTS

COALITION'S POOR TRACK RECORD ON VETERANS

THE federal Coalition likes to claim it will "deliver".

Corangamite Liberal candidate Stephanie Asher promotes her ability to "deliver" if elected, but what can they deliver for veterans? The track record is not so good.

I am a veteran who served his country in the Vietnam War in 1971. During the federal Coalition's recent tenure, it has dropped the ball on veteran welfare.

For example, during its time in office, the backlog of discharged veteran claims to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has ballooned to over 60,000.

It takes months and years to see claims processed. It took Scott Morrison's own minister to threaten to resign over this appalling situation before the PM took any notice.

The federal Coalition was prodded to ask the Productivity Commission to investigate the delays. After wide consultation with ex-service organisations, the commission concluded the DVA processes were "not fit for purpose".

The commission has made many recommendations, of which very few, if any, have been addressed by the government.

The federal government also has conducted countless inquiries into veteran suicide, but sat on its hands and did nothing.

Now reluctantly, it has agreed on a royal commission into veteran suicide. The interim report of the commission paints a very gloomy picture and shows again that the federal government cares little about veteran suicide and suicide prevention among serving and ex-serving veterans.

The commission found a strong correlation between the rates of suicide and the delays in processing DVA claims.

One must question the rhetoric – "we will deliver!"

Rieny Nieuwenhof, Portarlington

UKRAINE WAR NO REASON TO DELAY OUR ELECTION

COLIN Werrett (GA, 25/4) argues the current war in Ukraine means our present government "should not even think of holding an election until there is stability in the world because of the threat of Putin".

First of all, the war in Ukraine should not be a distraction to us holding an election and returning a functioning government as we are not actively involved in this conflict.

But most importantly, it is possible for democratic countries, especially those with a strong democratic tradition as we have, to successfully hold an election during war times.

We did so during World War I (1914 and 1917), and then during

the even more exhausting World War II (1940 and 1943).

The current election campaign may be messy and muddled but throughout we will still continue to have a functioning government.

And on May 22, we may even have managed the peaceful and orderly transition to a new and functioning government.

We can manage to do this; we have a strong and respected democratic tradition.

Roger Napthine, Moolap

TOUGH TO OUT-SPEND CHINA IN SOLOMONS

ROSS Mueller seems to know everything, yet doesn't know what happened between China and the Solomon Islands (GA, 28/4).

You can be almost certain that China bought its way in.

Australia has been giving taxpayer money to the Solomon Islands as part of a pact to look after our Pacific neighbours.

However, there is a limit to how much money can be given, whereas China has vast amounts of money to influence the Solomon Islands with.

Mueller concentrates on everything the Liberals say or do, but never a bad word about Labor.

He has never commented on the Andrews government's shortcomings, not a word – ever.

As for one of the recent Geelong Advertiser letter writers comparing Mueller with Karen

Matthews, she is a credentialed journalist of long standing and nowhere near as biased as Mueller.

What are Ross Mueller's credentials as a journalist?

This federal government has brought us through a very turbulent time in good shape, yet people like Mueller want to criticise and use vitriol to bring them down.

Does he really think his beloved Labor Party could have done or can do any better?

This is not a time to find out.

Harold McKenzie, Armstrong Creek

LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

IN response to Matthew Kandelara's opinion piece (GA, 29/4) bemoaning the fact the Andrews government listened to the overwhelming views of the Surf Coast community and protected Spring Creek from development, I have to say – that is called democracy.

Dan Andrews and MP Darren Cheeseman listened to us, which is what politicians are supposed to do. Wanting to protect the character and feel of your community from greedy developers isn't being a "NIMBY", and I hope our state government continues to listen to us, the people, instead of the vested interests of wealthy developers.

Tristan Walde, Torquay

Geelong Advertiser

HEALTH FOCUS

LIKE any state budget handed down, there are winners and losers from the allocation of funds. This time around, the focus of the budget has been an attempt to give a helping hand to repair our ailing health system.

From one perspective, the massive \$12bn injection for crucial new hospital funding and an important boost for our understaffed ambos and problem-plagued triple-0 appears to be a win.

From another perspective, the fact the health system has required such an injection of funding and focus shows how serious the problems had become for the triple-0 and ambulance services under the government's watch.

The good news for the health sector is a hiring blitz of an additional 7000 healthcare workers and a determined drive to bring down surgery waitlists post-pandemic. There's also an additional 1500 much-needed mental health workers.

For Geelong, the budget will provide \$2.6bn in funding towards the overall regional hosting of the Commonwealth Games. The city will see a good slice for upgrading infrastructure ahead of the 2026 event.

There's also \$112m in the budget for the continued work on the Barwon Heads Rd duplication and \$149m for the Geelong City Deal projects.

Overall, there's a lot to like, including a plan to return the budget to surplus by 2025-26. On the flip side though, there's a mountain of debt hanging over the government's head.

ON THIS DAY

1814 French dictator Napoleon Bonaparte arrives in exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba, deposed after his failed invasion of Russia.

1826 The "Gentleman Bushranger", Matthew Brady, is hanged in Hobart for arson, horse stealing and murder. He was polite to women and thanked settlers for their hospitality as he robbed them.

1877 The Victorian Football Association is established as the central controlling body of Australian rules football, devised by Tom Wills.

1912 On Our Selection opens at the Palace Theatre in Sydney to rave reviews. It is a dramatic version of Steele Rudd's comic stories.

1919 Thousands of students in Beijing begin protests, known as the May 4 Movement, against Japan keeping its control of Shandong province, which it had seized from Japan in World War I.

1926 Britain's general strike begins, called by the Trades Union Congress. It ends in failure nine days later.

1942 US and Japanese forces begin the Battle of the Coral Sea off New Guinea. The sea and air fight would turn back a Japanese invasion force bound for Port Moresby.

1972 The rock musical Jesus Christ Superstar opens in Sydney, starring Jon English (right) and Michele Fawdon.



WRITE TO US

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