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Building shutdown a show of force

IF the state of Victoria isn't living under a dictatorship right now, would someone kindly please explain what a dictatorship is then.

Let's look at the dictionary first shall we: "Dictator – a ruler with total power, typically one who has obtained control by force."

Now force doesn't have to be with guns. Force is as simple as enacting emergency powers and shutting down parliament. It's easy to do what you want when there is no one to scrutinise you.

And we aren't just talking about the more than \$1bn in government contracts awarded without scrutiny in the past year, or the billions spent on the Covid response, as reported last week.

Matthew Guy just spilled the state opposition leadership so he's now back in the hot seat, with nothing to do but cool his heels until Chairman Dan actually reopens parliament.

Meantime, we woke up on Tuesday to learn that because a bunch of tradies protested the mandating of vaccinations for construction workers the previous day, the entire industry has been shut down for two weeks.

Of course, the official rhetoric is that the industry continues to report an increase in infections.

EVE FISHER

“VIOLENCE IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE. NEITHER IS A UNION BENDING TO THE WILL OF THE GOVERNMENT. UNIONS ARE THERE TO PROTECT WORKERS, YET THE CFMEU HAPPILY SHOWED ITS HAND BY GOING ALONG WITH GOVERNMENT VACCINATION MANDATES WITHOUT ACTUALLY CHECKING IN WITH THE WORKERS THEMSELVES.

Anyone with half a brain in their head knows it's punishment for the violence that broke out during the protests.

This has nothing to do with infections. This has everything to do with forcing an industry to its knees.

Violence is never acceptable. Neither is a union bending to the will of the government.

Unions are there to protect workers, yet the CFMEU happily showed its hand by going along

with government vaccination mandates without actually checking in with the workers themselves.

The Building Industry Group of Unions, which represents 70,000 workers, couldn't have backtracked quickly enough, releasing a statement saying it never supported mandatory jabbing. Not only was that an utter load of bollocks, it was too little too late.

The industry is closed, ostensibly until lockdowns lift in some areas, but in reality, it could be far longer. And let's be honest.

Most fear-driven, cash-strapped Victorians will just happily sit there, nodding sagely and responding with "but the virus, but the virus". It's sickening.

When will you see the writing on the wall?

When will you see that Dan and his cronies plan to crush this state, one industry at a time?

Interesting that it takes so much pressure to drive up tax rates. Even more interesting when you look at the Australian Immunisation Handbook that expressly states consent to vaccinations must be given "in the absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation".

Mandating and industry shutdowns smack of coercion to me.

Let's not forget that this week Melbourne took the title as most locked-down city in the world.

Such an impressive accolade. Everyone should be proud.

Another exciting thing to note is the modelling coming out of the University of Melbourne this week that suggests even with 80 per cent job rates we will still need to endure lockdowns for at least the first half of next year.

Is there anyone out there wondering why the whole of Europe can open up, yet Australia continues to live in the dark ages?

Is there a danger of those journalists at the daily pressers asking a single question of worth?

You've only got to look at what happened to Channel 7 journalist Denham Hitchcock. Reports suggest he was asked to re-edit his video detailing his experience with pericarditis from the Pfizer jab.

He was advised to remove his editorialising and "to make the video more balanced and in line with public responsibility".

Right, so let's put public responsibility before the truth.

Sounds like good journalism to me.

Geelong Advertiser JUST OBEY THE RULES

FOR too long, many working on local construction sites have seemed oblivious to the public health regulations that have governed the rest of us.

Masks – if being worn at all – hanging around chins, little regard for social distancing, and groups of tradies crammed into one vehicle have been commonplace on building sites across the region for more than a year.

As a consequence, Covid cases directly related to construction workers have continued to climb – particularly locally where transmission from within the building industry has been a key contributing factor in our region's first Covid wave since the last of Geelong's 2020 cases were eradicated a year ago.

Yesterday the entitlement that has seemingly allowed construction sites to adopt a laissez faire attitude to public health concerns went even further, with hordes of people purporting to represent the building industry taking over the streets of Melbourne, assaulting reporters and throwing flares in an attempt to protest mandatory vaccination. While there seems little doubt the issue has been adopted by violent fringe groups, it was an embarrassing display of adults seemingly throwing a tantrum because they couldn't have their own way.

The net result of all this is violence on the streets and \$60m a week worth of local projects relegated to the backburner, affecting almost 20,000 workers locally, let alone the many others employed across Melbourne and elsewhere in the state.

All in the protest of a vaccination that will ensure the public health of our community?

Enough of this nonsense – it's time to abide by the rules.

LETTERS & TEXTS

GET PENSIONERS, GREY NOMADS HOME NOW

KATRINA, I and Angus our dog (GA 18/9) have been lucky through the support of Sarah Henderson, 3AW, the ombudsman and other media outlets to get home from the border after 34 days.

We request however that a humane decision be made to let the elderly and travellers who are stuck/restrained on the border and in NSW come home. These are the people who have worked and paid taxes all their life to make Victoria what it was – not what it has become under the current inhumane government.

Locally elected Labor members have been silent as they appease their superiors.

This surely isn't what the majority of Victorians want.

Get our pensioners and grey nomads home now.

Denis Leahy, Highton

THIS CATS OUTFIT DID VERY WELL IN MY BOOK

THANKS Cats. I would like to thank all the players coaches and staff at GFC for another amazing year.

Once again we made the top four and were only one kick after the siren away from being the best

team in the comp. All the negative talk about 11 players aged 30 and over being the reason for our poor prelim is a load of rubbish.

These are the same players that played all year and almost got us to the top of the ladder.

The finals gods were certainly against us this year, not only flying all over the country and being locked up in quarantine for extended periods, but worse still we lost our best backman on the eve of the finals in Stewart, then one of our best onballers in Parfitt and our main tagger O'Connor.

Then on top of that, we had seven players laid up sick all week with shocking symptoms of a virus. Honestly, what hope did we have?

No need to panic for the Cats. Sure a couple of 30-plus players need moving on and a couple of

young blokes brought in, but we will be there again, of that I'm sure.

To all those doubting supporters, think about this – where did Richmond, West Coast, Hawthorn and Collingwood finish? Not even in the eight. All grand final teams recently, yet the Cats just keep on making it.

Bloody awesome club, probably all-time best.

Graham Rutherford, Corio

NEW HOME FOR MCATEER BLUESTONE COTTAGE

THE much-needed Barwon Heads Rd upgrade will improve traffic flow and deliver a safer and more reliable journey.

Congratulations are extended to all collaborating levels of government and construction partners in designing and

developing this vital project. The heritage building McAteer bluestone cottage has now been taken down and the slates, bricks and bluestones have been carefully stored on pallets.

The Marshall Bluestone Cottage Community Group is looking forward to the promised works by Major Road Projects Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong to promptly find a new home where this significant building can be rebuilt and become a public asset.

The improved roads and connection to shared use paths and cycle lanes will place Marshall Town History House in a highly visible position at J.F. Field Reserve, a wonderful result for the community.

Virginia Johnson, MBCCG President

TELSTRA DECISION TO SHUT UP SHOP IS A BAD CALL

TELSTRA, in its wisdom, is closing the Corio Telstra store on October 26.

This leaves no outlet in the northern suburbs and Lara.

It means a trip to Waurin Ponds Hoppers Crossing, Geelong city or Leopold.

Sandra Whitson, Norlane

ADDY ONLINE POLL

Should the Point Lonsdale community be unified under the same coronavirus rules instead of being split in two?

YES 69% | NO 31%

Register your vote at geelongadvertiser.com.au

ON THIS DAY

1776 American revolutionary officer Nathan Hale, 21, is hanged as a spy by the British. His last words are: "My only regret is that I have but one life to lose for my country".

1828 Shaka, founder of the Zulu empire who built a vicious army, is murdered by his half-brothers. He had gone insane after his mother died.

1933 The Australian Cricket Board of Control cables the MCC, asking for bodyline bowling to be stopped.

1964 The musical, *Fiddler On The Roof*, starring Zero Mostel (right), opens on Broadway, beginning a run of 3242 performances.



1966 All 24 on board die when an Ansett-ANA Viscount crashes near Winton, Queensland. Metal fatigue caused a fire that engulfed an engine.

1996 Darwin resident Bob Dent, assisted by pro-euthanasia doctor Philip Nitschke, becomes the first person in the world to die using euthanasia legislation.

WRITE TO US

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