

EDITOR'S EXASPERATION

This is a year that has got me confused from the start. What about you ? With my tongue reposing in my cheek, I repeat the mantra "Please Explain" because things are topsy turvy.

Whoa! Stop the presses!

Topsy - Turvey indeed.

The original "Please Explain" lady, Pauline Hanson, is clearing off to the UK where there are many more asians than in "Astraya." Maybe she has an option on a Fish & Chip shop there.

What does Peter Garret know about roofing construction; he's the Environment Minister?

Predictions of "Long hot summer" become mild to average at best.

Great Drought has become the great deluge.

The carbon trading scheme is as clear as Hewson's famous GST on a birthday cake.

Port Adelaide Magpies on the skids.

it was the SA Premier who was assaulted.

The Aussie cricket team were supposed to be useless without Gilchrist, McGrath and Warne; and the SA Redbacks are winning.

My favourite (and lengthy) irony is:- that billions of Chinese peasants, saving their meagre Yen, become investors of \$billions in USA, where people borrow for an extravagant lifestyle which bankrupts the country. The Chinese keep USA afloat by not calling in their investments. So; chinese peasants are subsidising affluent Americans, who won't subsidise their own country's health care.

There is info-tainment, and cheap celebrity, interests of business are marketed as being in our interest

We are subjected to humbug like "brand X is "the official burger of the AFL"... What is that? and what does it do? OK! I'm flippant and derisive, and I declare my interest... I'm not a hamburger fan, no matter how official, I am a pie man. (An 'official pie' wouldn't make any more sense however).

There is a lot of spin (and it's not cricket!).

I have been playing a John Mellencamp song:

"You've got to stand for something..... or you're gonna fall for anything".

For me, our Clan Mottos come to the fore with some blow torch veneer stripping, and resolve:-

"We shall hold a light" (ACMS)

"I shine not burn" (Raasay)

"I Birn Quhil I se" is old Scot for **"I burn while I Shall"** (or see ...the need to). (Lewes)

and **"Hold Fast"** (MacLeod of MacLeod), especially when there is a lot of bull about.