

Senior Federal MP's at the IPA

The IPA is a regular host to key figures in the policy and political debate. In March, the Federal Shadow Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, **Martin Ferguson**, spoke at the IPA's Energy Forum, while in April, the Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, **Ian Macfarlane**, also addressed the Energy Forum.

Under the leadership of the Director of the IPA's Deregulation Unit, **Dr Alan Moran**, the IPA's Energy Forum provides a vigorous schedule of events and roundtable discussions. The Energy Forum is made up of firms in the electricity and gas supply industry, which share a common view that privatisation and minimal levels of regulation will best serve the community.

For more information about the IPA's energy project visit:
<http://www.ipa.org.au/units/energy.html>



Federal Minister Ian Macfarlane addresses the Energy Forum

Latest IPA Review: Planning Costs! How to Kill the Australian Dream



From the latest edition of the *IPA Review*:

- Planning Restraints: A plague on wealth & the democratic process. *'Economic planning is a term as archaic as phrases such as 'peoples' democracy' or 'proletarian justice'. Yet urban planning—and land planning generally—is flourishing and dominates the evolving structure of cities.'* **Alan Moran**
- Media needs major reform, not minor tweaking. *'Proposals for media reforms are same old. What is needed is massive radical deregulation.'* **Chris Berg**
- Kim and Capitalism: Looking for signs of hope in North Korea. **Ari Sharp**
- Liberalism, individualism and heavy metal. *'Heavy metal, often reviled, is surprisingly a hotbed of classical liberals.'* **Andrew Kemp**

The *IPA Review* is available for purchase via our Website www.ipa.org.au.

Mark Steyn to give 2006 CD Kemp Lecture Thursday, 17 August, Park Hyatt, Melbourne



Internationally renowned author and columnist **Mark Steyn** will deliver the 2006 CD Kemp Lecture. His writings on politics, arts and culture can be read throughout much of the English-speaking world: www.marksteyn.com

Tickets for this event, which includes the lecture, dinner and drinks, are \$160 per person, and \$140 for IPA Premier Members and students. Places for this not-to-be-missed event can be secured by contacting **Georgina Hamilton** on 03 9600 4744 or online at

http://www.ipa.org.au/events/event_detail.asp?eventid=111



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From the Executive Director

This latest edition of *InTouch* reveals how active the IPA has been since the beginning of 2006.

This year's HV McKay Lecture was delivered in March by **Phil Burgess**. He delivered a resounding defence of free enterprise and he spoke passionately about the benefits to the community which flow from new technologies.

In March and April, IPA members and guests were privileged to hear from two international experts. **Daniel Pipes** discussed the political future of the Middle East, while **Professor Ross Terrill** from Harvard University spoke about the future of the ANZUS Alliance in the context of the economic development of China. Foreign affairs and international trade are policy areas to which the IPA will be devoting further resources in the future.

The IPA has also hosted a number of important roundtable discussions as part of our Energy Forum. Guests have included the Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, **Ian Macfarlane**, and the Federal Shadow Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, **Martin Ferguson**.

As always, IPA staff have been vigorous participants in national policy debates. The IPA made a submission to the Federal Government's Taskforce on Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business, with many of the IPA's recommendations being adopted.

We have welcomed several new staff to the IPA—**Chris Berg**, **Jason Briant**, **Louise Staley**, and **Georgina Hamilton**. **Bill Hetherington**, the former Chairman of Murray Irrigation Limited, and a long-time supporter of the IPA has joined the Board of Directors.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the 2006 CD Kemp Lecture will be delivered on 17 August in Melbourne by internationally renowned commentator **Mark Steyn**. Bookings can be made by telephone or online at www.ipa.org.au.



John Roskam
Executive Director



New Research Fellow—Jason Briant

Jason Briant will be responsible for the IPA's climate change project. Before joining the IPA, Jason spent three-and-a-half years as Executive Director of The Menzies Research Centre. He has also worked as a research economist in the Commonwealth public service, and as an associate lecturer in the Department of Economics at the Australian National University. He is also undertaking a PhD in Political Science at ANU, and serves as a director of the H.R. Nicholls Society.

Email: jbriant@ipa.org.au



New Research Fellow—Louise Staley

Louise Staley will be responsible for the IPA's research into regulation and its effects on the community. She is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Melbourne which analyses the impact of regulation on society and rural businesses. Louise lives on a farm in central Victoria. She was previously a senior funds manager, specialising in telecommunications and food companies. Louise has a Masters of Public Policy from Flinders University. Email: lstaley@ipa.org.au



New IPA Review Editor—Chris Berg

Chris Berg is the new Editor of the *IPA Review*. He has previously worked in the telecommunications industry and taught the history of political science at the University of Melbourne. Chris specialises in information technology, telecommunications and media policy, and recently visited the Hong Kong World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting as an observer. Email: cberg@ipa.org.au

New Client Services Manager

Georgina Hamilton is the new Client Services Manager at the IPA. Georgina can be contacted regarding subscriptions, memberships, events and other general inquiries on (03) 9600 4744 or gghamilton@ipa.org.au



New Board Member

Bill Hetherington has recently joined the IPA board. Bill has over 4 decades' experience with water issues and has been Chairman of Murray Irrigation Limited since 1995. Murray Irrigation is the largest private irrigation company in Australia and is situated in NSW. Bill is also a past director of the Australian Water Management Authority.



Bob Day, John Roskam, Ray Evans & Christopher Game

The IPA around Australia

Some of the events at which IPA staff have recently spoken include:

- **John Roskam** at the Productivity Commission's Roundtable on Federalism in Canberra, and the National Conference on Volunteering, the Forum on Leadership in the Disability Sector in Melbourne.
- **Alan Moran** spoke to The Australian Energy Market Conference in Brisbane.
- **Jennifer Marohasy** spoke to the Adam Smith Club on Global Warming, and to NSW farmers on the Future of Australian Agriculture.
- **Chris Berg** spoke to the Political Interest Society at the University of Melbourne.

The IPA's Australian Dream Project

The IPA's *Australian Dream Project* looks at the impact of regulatory policy on housing affordability, home ownership and housing production. The project aims to promote policies to increase the accessibility and reduce the costs of home ownership for Australians.

Building or buying a house and land is the most significant purchase most individuals ever make. Urban planning, housing restrictions and regulations on house building artificially raise this price. The effects of these factors have increased and in future many people may be forced to rent for the whole of their lives.

For more information visit: <http://www.ipa.org.au/units/housing.html>



2006 HV McKay Lecture with Phil Burgess

In March, over 250 people attended The HV McKay Lecture on technology for 2006, held in Melbourne. **Phil Burgess**, Group Managing Director of Public Policy and Communications at Telstra, spoke on the topic 'Can the Future be Made Future-Proof?' **Randall Straw**, Executive Director of Multimedia Victoria, spoke on advances in Internet and communication technology and how they impact on businesses and government.

For the full text of Phil Burgess's HV McKay Lecture visit:
http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=542



Phil Burgess delivers the HV McKay Lecture for 2006

The IPA reducing the regulatory burden on business

In April, the Taskforce on Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Business released its final report which included a number of IPA recommendations. The Taskforce, appointed in October last year, examined and reported on areas where regulatory reform can provide significant and immediate gains to business in order to alleviate the compliance burden.

A quote from a report, enclosed in a box with a decorative border. The text reads: "The chief feature of Australia's OH&S and workers' compensation schemes is their inconsistency. Within each state the schemes are predominantly complex and difficult to understand for both businesses and workers ... This situation works against the national objective of safe work environments and effective worker injury management schemes. Institute of Public Affairs, sub. 127, p. 14" Below the quote, it says "The mere fact that there are costs on business to comply with these schemes is a strong reason to reduce..."

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Page 32 of the report on Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Business

To see the full report, go to www.regulationtaskforce.gov.au

The IPA Melbourne Dialogues

Recent speakers at the IPA's popular Melbourne Dialogues series have included **Andrew Robb** who, prior to his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, spoke about the Federal Government's industrial relations reform agenda at the offices of Gadens Lawyers.

Lynton Crosby, former Federal Director of the Liberal Party, addressed IPA members and guests at the offices of Minter Ellison Lawyers on the role of the media in the 2005 British election as part of the IPA's series on 'Media and Politics'.



Andrew Robb at an IPA Melbourne Dialogue



Daniel Pipes talks at the IPA offices

Daniel Pipes speaks at the IPA

In March, **Daniel Pipes** spoke to a full house of 60 IPA members and selected guests at the IPA offices. He discussed Australia's role in, and the response to, the war on terror, the prospects for peace in the Middle East, and the future of Islam in Europe and the United States.

Daniel Pipes has been described as one of America's leading neoconservative intellectuals and is an expert on Middle East politics, Islam, and the Western response to radical Islam.

IPA Roundtable

Professor Ross Terrill

Professor Ross Terrill was a popular guest speaker at an IPA Roundtable held in April. He spoke on the topic *'Australia, the ANZUS Alliance, and China'*.

Professor Terrill from Harvard University is a world expert on Australia's relationships with both the United States and China. He is the author of *The Australians; Mao: A Biography; Madame Mao; China in our Time* and, most recently, *The New Chinese Empire*.



Ross Terrill talks at an IPA Roundtable



Dr Mike Nahan and Harold Clough at the Clough Lecture

Harold Clough Lecture 2005

Dr Mike Nahan on 'The Death of Federalism'

In October last year, **Dr Mike Nahan** delivered the Clough Memorial Lecture at the Western Australia Club in Perth. Mike, who is now a Senior Fellow of the IPA, is an expert on Australian Federalism and addressed issues including business regulation, public services and the potential for economic growth for Australia's States and the nation as a whole.

For the full text of Mike Nahan's Clough Lecture, visit:

http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=474

Recent Media Coverage

The IPA is an active participant through the media in the national policy debate. A full text of all media articles and opinion pieces by IPA staff is available at www.ipa.org.au/news/index.asp

Taxpayers cheated by bloated bureaucracy

The PM and premiers should bring choice and competition to our services, argues **Mike Nahan**

Mike Nahan, *The Australian*, 2 February 2006

Let the buyers decide

Competition law will dominate the business news headlines in 2006. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's prosecution of Visy Industries will continue to grab headlines, and the federal government

Consumer power, not government regulation, is the best weapon against cartels, writes **John Roskam**.

are allowed, there's no reason to object to litigation from individuals who have suffered loss because of government-enforced monopolies. In principle, the tourist paying more for an airline ticket between Sydney and Los Angeles

John Roskam, *Australian Financial Review*, 27 January 2006

BUSHFIRES

Red tape makes things tough for volunteers

THE announcement by the Premier of a task-force to look at the Government's response to the bushfires may bring some additional support to those who have suffered losses in the bushfires — but money alone is not the answer in helping communities rebuild. Anart from any

Louise Staley, *The Age*, 1 February 2006

OHS the new battle ground

NSW's unique health and safety laws will make it the next front line in the struggle over workplace changes, writes **Ken Phillips**.

Anyone who thought the battelines over workplace reform were clearly established around Work Choices needs to look again. The extent to



Ken Phillips, *Australian Financial Review*, 1 May 2006

Keep government out of power

Blackout Jeremiahs will probably be proved wrong this year, but energy misregulation is storing up trouble for the future, writes **Alan Moran**.



Alan Moran, *Australian Financial Review*, 7 December 2005

Chasing the great Australian pipedream

Alan Moran

HOUSE prices are constantly in the news. Melbourne housing remains unaffordable to a great many who don't own their own home.

house prices are caused by upsurges in demand. This was disproved by the Demographia study of 100 cities around the world. Demographia found the three fastest growing cities — Dallas, Houston and Atlanta — all had average house prices less than

pany tax and GST. However, they exclude some taxes, for instance the stamp duty on conveyancing from which the government collects nearly \$2 billion. They also leave out the recently introduced \$5000 per block development charge.

On top of this is the development to make the land suitable for housing. These costs should never amount to more than \$25,000 per block but regulations double this. The house structure itself also has regulatory imposts. Without these

the finished house, on conveyancing and on mortgages.

The Property Council work illustrates how government itself has a vested interest in boosting the cost of housing.

High house prices result from gov-

Alan Moran, *Herald Sun*, 8 April 2006



FACTS - Agriculture Isn't Bad:
A guide to food, its production and the environment

Agriculture gets bad publicity. We are told that genetically modified food is dangerous, and the Australian environment is being threatened by salinity, excessive water use and over-forestry. But the truth is that we already safely consume GM products every day, technology has made Australian farmers among the most efficient in the world and the predicted salinity doomsday has not arrived.

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=511



Reducing Red Tape in New South Wales
Submission by Alan Moran

Though NSW has not been the Australian jurisdiction with the fastest increase in regulatory burden, governments in the State have continued to add increasing numbers of new regulations over recent decades. There is no need for this continual growth in regulation - life is getting safer, sellers are becoming more accountable. Why then does regulation continue to increase?

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=508



The Empowerment Agenda: Civil Society & Markets in Disability & Mental Health
Backgrounder by Vern Hughes

The framework for social policy is basically unchanged since the 1950s. The social policy debate in Australia is dominated by experts, lobby groups and government officials. The users of the system, whether they are called clients, consumers, customers or individuals rarely get a say. Individual preferences, family choice and a reduced role for government should extend beyond the realms of economic management and into social policy in Australia.

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=505



Presuming Employer Guilt:
The damaging state of work safety & compensation laws in Australia by Ken Phillips

A culture of presumed employer guilt corrupts and distorts successful work safety and workers' compensation laws. The culture and the laws need to be changed to ensure that every individual involved in work is held responsible and liable for the things they control. Only through this process can Australia drive towards truly safe work environments. In this context, national consistency in workers' compensation and occupational health and safety laws is a priority requiring urgent attention.

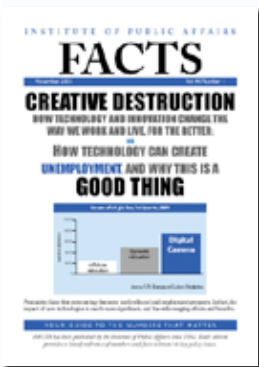
For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=501



Regulatory Subsidies to Renewable Energy in Victoria
Submission by Alan Moran

The Victorian Government is proposing a major expansion in wind power. It intends to boost renewable energy to 10 per cent of the total electricity supply by 2010. This is double the likely share of renewable energy under present trends at current subsidy levels. The Victorian Government’s proposal would require a tax on existing commercial energy supplies or new subsidies to selected projects which would unfairly penalise Victorian consumers and businesses.

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=506



FACTS - Creative Destruction:
How technology and innovation change the way we work and live for the better

Technological innovation enhances our lives, but can be a cause of unemployment—although usually only temporarily. As technology and innovation create new jobs, old ones are taken away. This is what economist Joseph Schumpeter termed ‘creative destruction’. Pessimists claim that outsourcing threatens our livelihood and employment prospects. In fact, the impact of new technologies is much more significant, and has wide-ranging effects and benefits.

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=510



Australia’s Environment Undergoing Renewal, Not Collapse
Occasional Paper by Jennifer Marohasy

In his book, *Collapse*, Jared Diamond contends that the Australian environment is generally unproductive and has been irreversibly damaged by European farming, forestry and fisheries practices. Diamond reflects a popular view that is continually reinforced by environmental campaigning in Australia. The reality is more complex. Many Australian farms are among the most productive and sustainable in the world and in some situations have successfully broken natural cycles of low fertility.

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=443



Meeting the Digital Challenge
Submission by Chris Berg

The Australian media is heavily regulated by a wide range of legislation and industry codes. Ownership, content, structure and reach are all subject to government interference. Relatively recent far-reaching technological changes in media content production and delivery have exacerbated the adverse efficiency effects of the regulation of the Australian media. The upshot has made it more urgent to implement a major adaptation of the sector’s regulatory framework.

For PDF version, go to: http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/publisting_detail.asp?pubid=543

INTOUCH

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THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



The first page of the IPA Review March 1947

A chance to make history

The *IPA Review* was first published in 1947.

For 60 years, the *IPA Review* has helped determine the policy debate in Australia.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the *Review*, the IPA will launch an appeal to help raise funds to allow the IPA to digitise every edition of the *Review* and make it available free-of-charge over the Internet.

If you would like to find out more about the IPA's *A Chance to Make History Appeal*, or would like to make a donation, please contact Georgina Hamilton on 03 9600 4744 or g.hamilton@ipa.org.au.



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IPA General Members receive the quarterly *IPA Review*, the regular newsletter *InTouch*, *FACTS* and notice of IPA events. To become an IPA-Henry Thornton Combined Member, call (03) 9600 4744 or visit www.ipa.org.au



Available June: Australia Since the 1980s

With economic reform being introduced to drive up Australia's productivity once again, it is important to remember previous reforms that have led to increased prosperity. The reforms of the 1980s were an attempt to undo the unintentional damage of earlier government policies. Hampered by protective trade barriers, wage controlling measures and other restrictions, Australia's productivity had failed to keep up with the growth experienced in other countries.

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