

John Ditchburn

Australia's Current Procedure for Processing Asylum Seekers

The Courier (Ballarat), 27 February 2007

After Tampa, the Coalition government, with support from the opposition, implemented the so-called 'Pacific Solution'. Under this policy, asylum seekers attempting to reach Australia by boat were to be detained in Nauru and Papua New Guinea while their claims were processed. The Rudd government briefly dismantled the system in 2008, but it was reintroduced by the Gillard government in 2012.

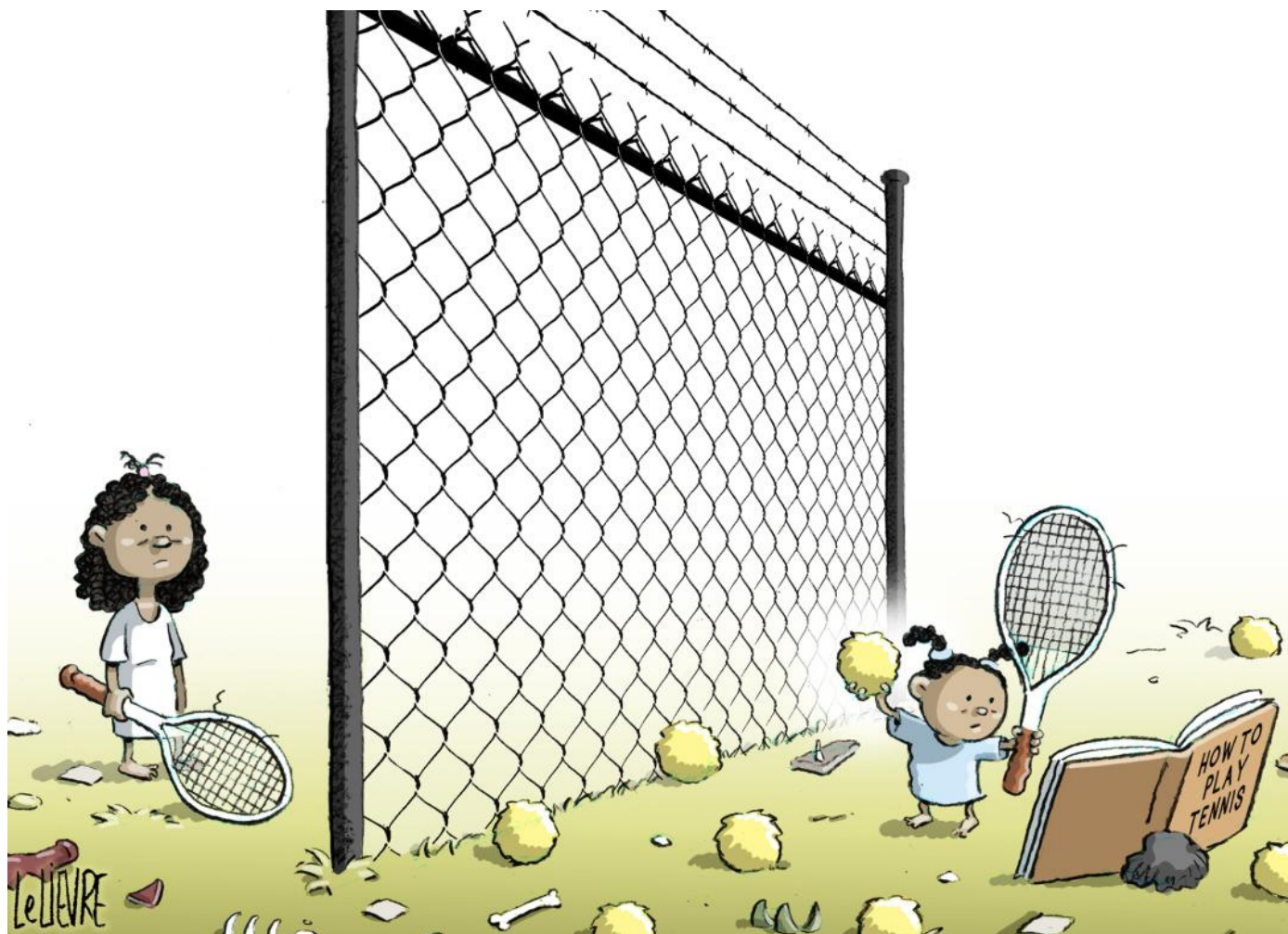
Behind the Lines 2022

Look Closely:

- Describe what is happening in this cartoon.
- What do you notice about how this cartoon has been created?
- What connections can you make with issues you already know about?

Dig Deeper: How might the techniques used in this piece be intended to support the cartoonist's message? What impact does this have on us as readers?

Take Action! Create your own piece of media to present your point of view on this topic.



Glen Le Lievre

Tennis Camp

Patreon, 12 January 2022

Tennis star Novak Djokovic drew international attention to Australia's immigration system when he was detained after his arrival for the Australian Open. His visa was cancelled because he failed to meet vaccination requirements for entry into Australia. Djokovic won an appeal, but Immigration Minister Alex Hawke cancelled the visa once more. Glen Le Lievre contrasted the attention this case received with the fate of the Nadesalingam family, from Biloela, Queensland, who continued to be held in community detention.

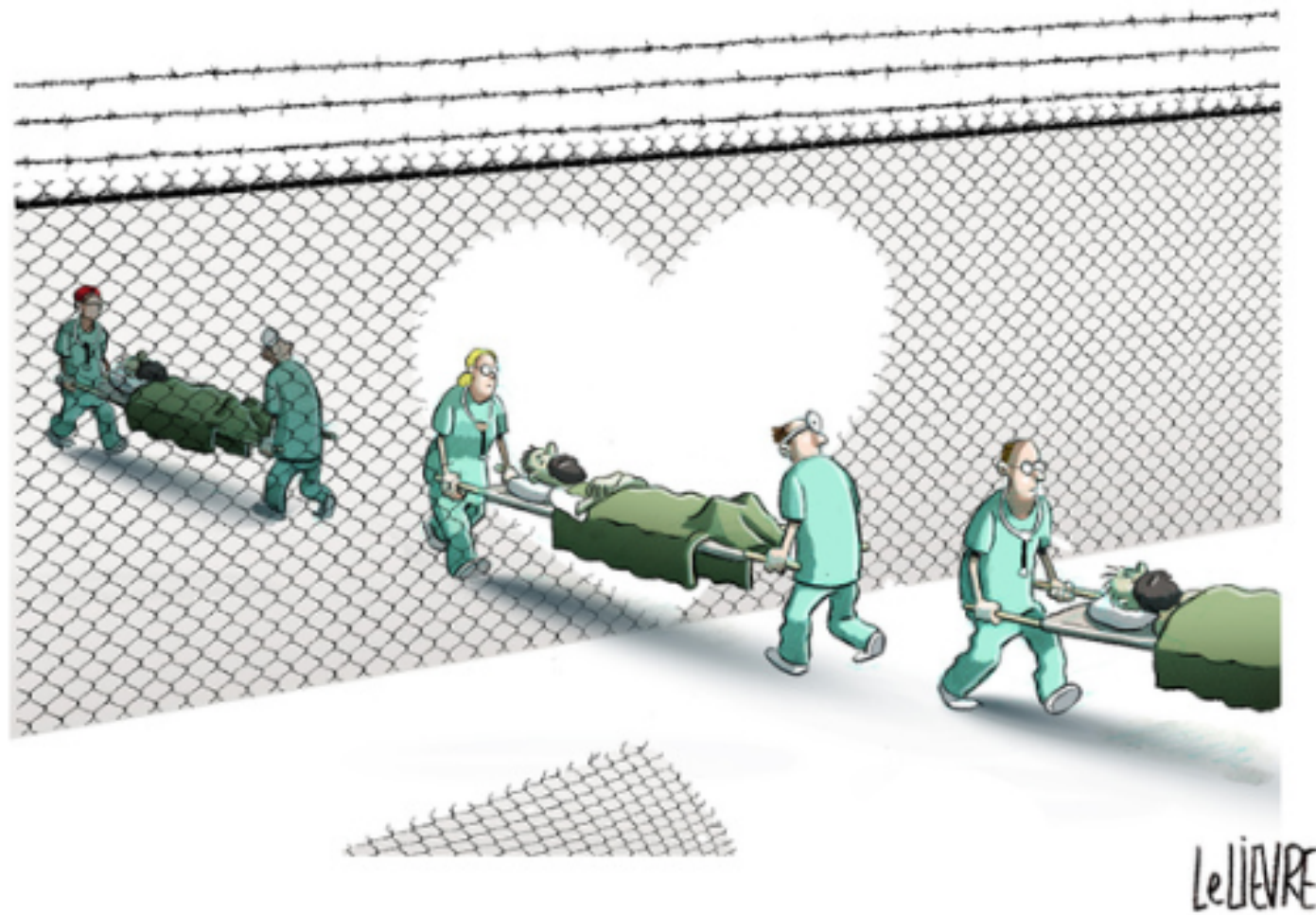
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Glen Le Lievre

Loophole

Patreon, 13 February 2019

In February 2019, the legislation known as the 'Medevac Bill' was passed, allowing the transfer of people seeking asylum held offshore on Manus Island and Nauru to receive urgent medical treatment in Australia. Under the bill, two independent doctors make a recommendation to the Minister for Home Affairs, who then has 72 hours to approve or reject the transfer to Australia for medical treatment.

Behind the Lines 2019

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LeLIEVRE

Glen Le Lievre***Not Drowning***

Patreon, 4 December 2019

The outline of Parliament House is a recurring motif in Le Lievre's work. Here the building is rendered as a prison in response to the repeal of the controversial 'medevac' legislation. Passed after Dr Kerry Phelps won the Wentworth by-election in 2018, 'medevac' had allowed refugees held in offshore detention to be brought to Australia for necessary medical treatment. It was repealed with the support of Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie just over a year later.

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John Shakespeare

Aussie Aussie Aussie for Some

The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, 18 May 2021

As a new coronavirus variant raged across India, harsh border measures were imposed, backed up with large fines and possible imprisonment. John Shakespeare uses the sporting catchcry, 'Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!' to highlight the stark difference in treatment experienced by members of the touring Australian cricket team and other Australian citizens seeking to return home.

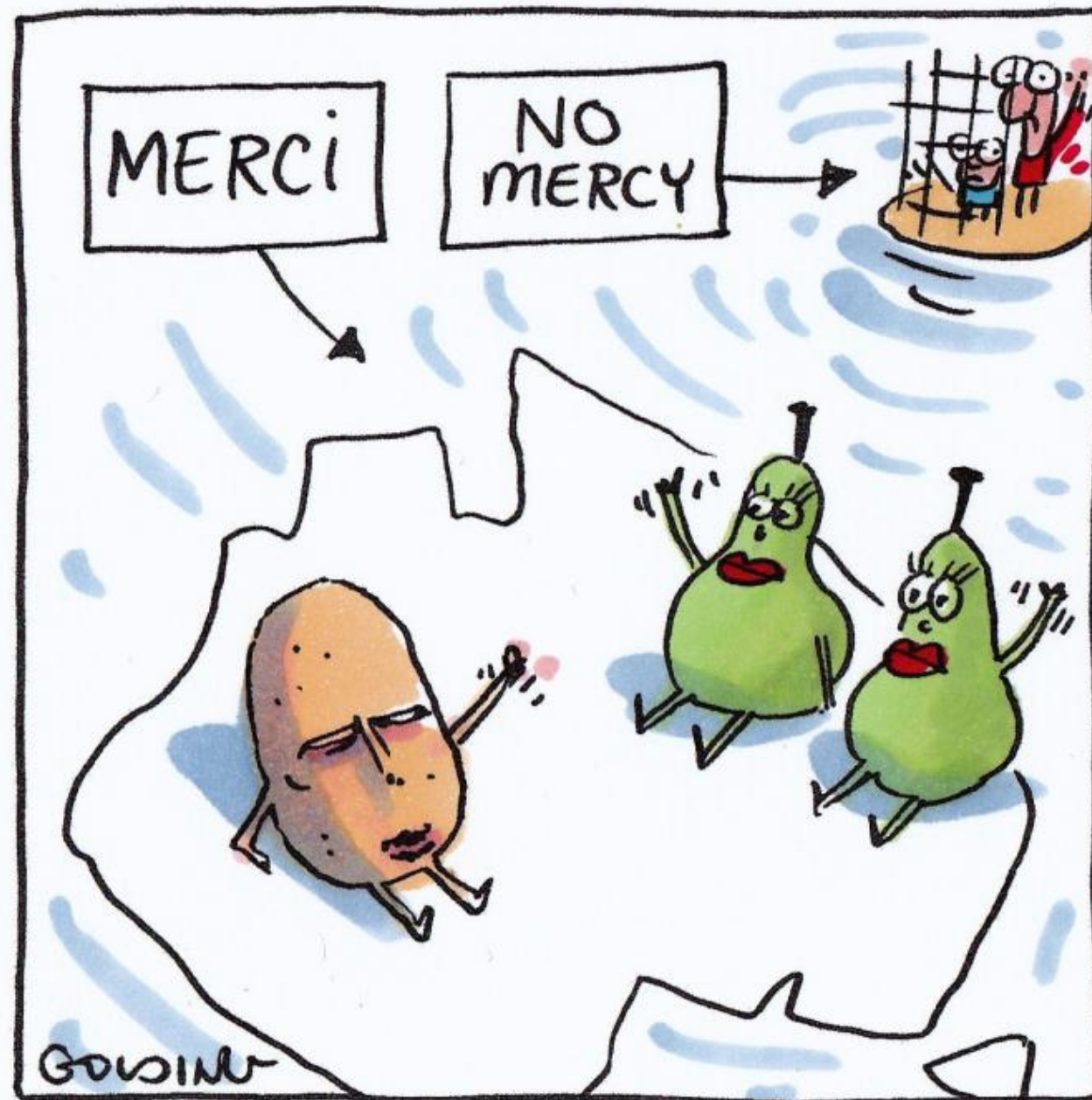
Behind the Lines 2021

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Matt Golding

Dutton's Merci

Fairfax Syndicated, 28 August 2018

After his unsuccessful tilt at the prime ministership in mid-August, the Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton, soon found himself in strife when news broke that, as Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, he had used his ministerial power to grant tourist visas to four foreign au pairs. His action prompted Matt Golding to contrast this treatment with Dutton's hardline position on asylum seekers.

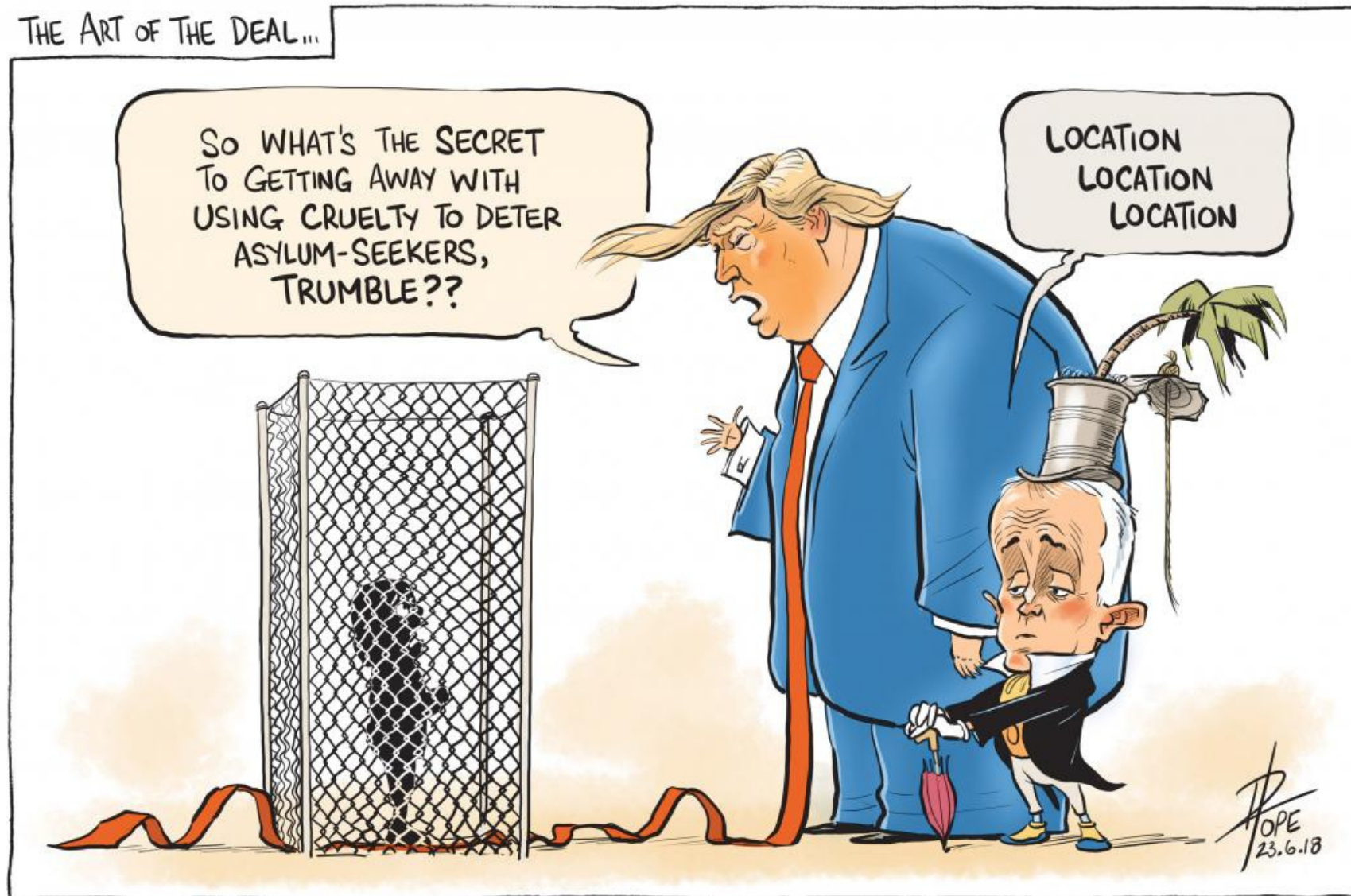
Behind the Lines 2018

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David Pope

The Art of the Deal

Fairfax Syndicated, 23 June 2018

In June *The Washington Post* published the transcript of the previous year's notorious phone call between Malcolm Turnbull and President Donald Trump. It revealed that Trump had sought advice from 'Prime Minister Trumble' (as he was referred to a couple of times by the White House Press Secretary) about the easiest way to deal with refugees. He expressed admiration for Australia's policy of offshore detention, saying to Turnbull, 'You are worse than I am'.

Behind the Lines 2018

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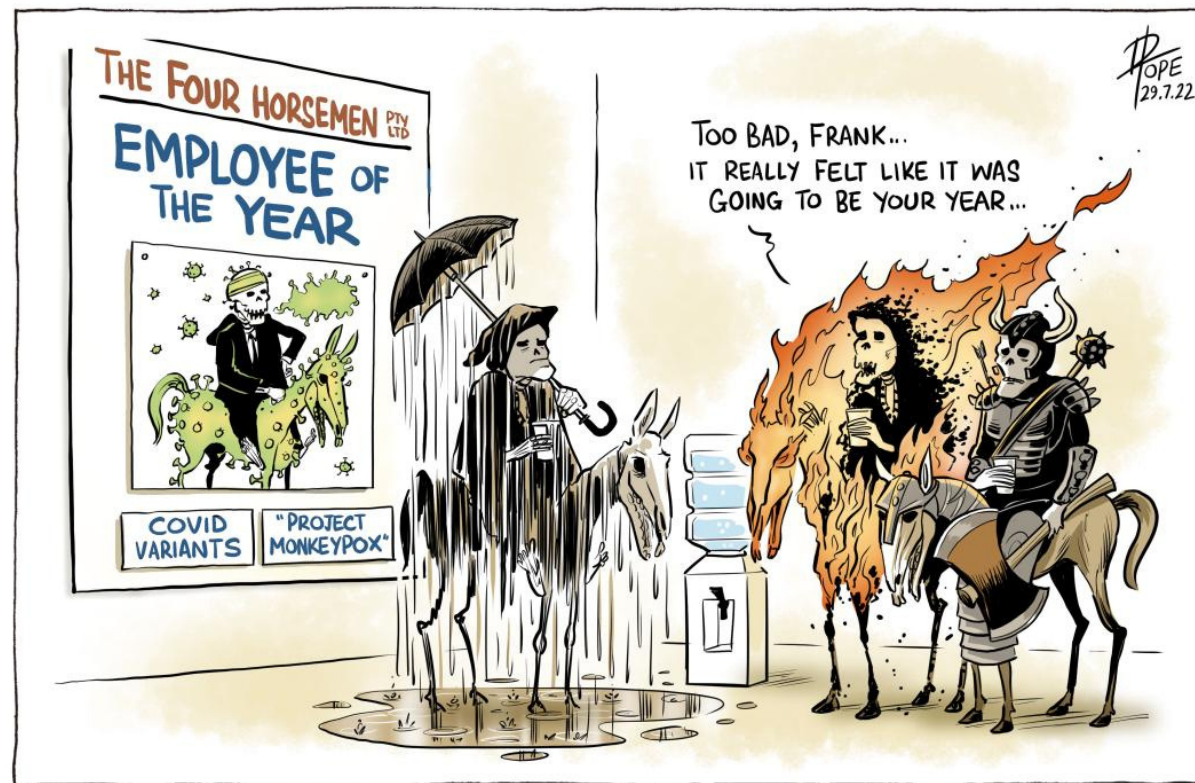
Horses for Courses,
Fiona Katauskas, The
Guardian, 3 June
2023

Cartoons from different years, artists and perspectives can give insight into how **social, political and cultural values change** over time.

comparing:
involves identifying
similarities and/or
differences

Juxtaposition:
is the act of placing two or
more things side by side
often to compare or
contrast

contrasting:
involves comparing two or
more things to look for
their differences



Employee of the Year,
David Pope The Canberra
Times, 29 July 2022

Questions:

- What do you notice? What are your first impressions of these cartoons?
- Look for similarities such as artist, time period, themes, composition, and cartooning techniques. Where are the key differences in these pieces?
- What could we learn about changes in key issues, or in the cartoonists' perspectives from these two images?
- Pick two cartoons from this curated collection to compare and contrast. How can it be useful to access a variety of perspectives and thoughts on a topic?