



John Ditchburn

The War on Waste

The Courier (Ballarat), 12 October 2019

Cartoonist John Ditchburn summarises an ongoing issue causing problems around the country. Australia had previously exported one million tonnes of waste to China each year. In 2018, China stopped this trade. In 2019, media outlets reported on the attempts by business and government to find workable solutions to the growing stockpiles of rubbish around Australia. Behind the Lines 2019

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.



Jon Kudelka

Plastic Reef

The Australian, 30 May 2019

In recent years, the Great Barrier Reef has experienced significant coral bleaching episodes. The algae that gives coral its vibrant colours dies when the water becomes too warm for it. This leaves a white skeleton. Jon Kudelka imagines an inventive solution to a white reef, tapping into an issue of concern for the local Member of Parliament Warren Entsch, who has vowed to reduce plastics in the ocean.

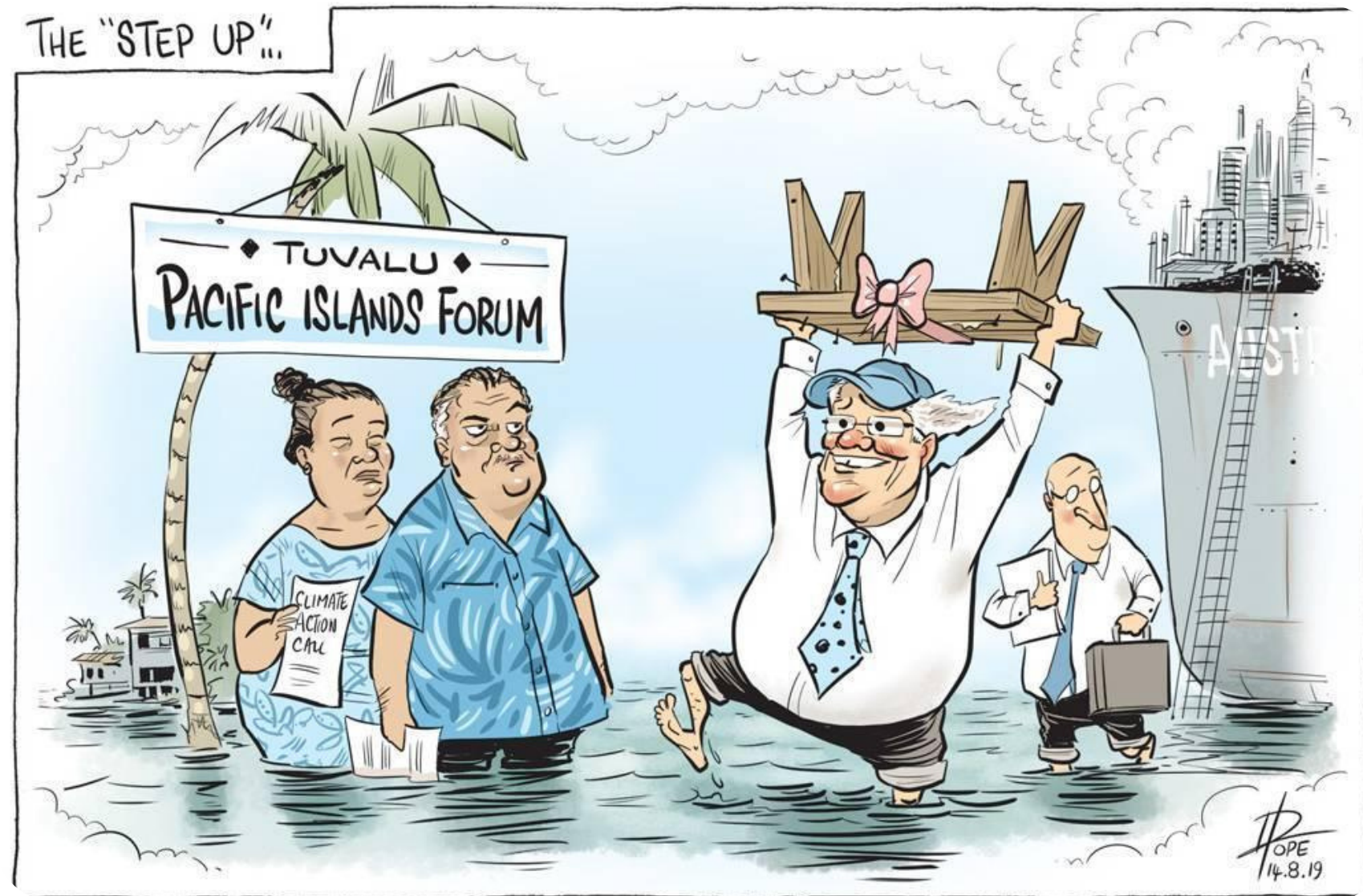
Behind the Lines 2019

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David Pope

Pacific Step-UP

The Canberra Times, 14 August 2019

Tensions with Australia's neighbours surfaced at the Pacific Islands Forum in August 2019 over actions on climate change. With a publicly stated intention to 'step-up' in the region, Australia's responses at the forum caused disappointment. David Pope captures this misalignment with a small step being gifted to the islanders standing in water caused by rising sea levels.

Behind the Lines 2019

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Matt Bissett-Johnson

Native Forest

Melbourne Observer, 31 May 2023

Matt Bissett-Johnson's native Australian wildlife look amazed at the Victorian Government's decision to ban native forest logging on Crown land by 2024. Announced in the state Budget in May, the decision means an end to native forest logging in Victoria six years earlier than scheduled. The other state planning to end native forest logging by 2024 is Western Australia.

Behind the Lines 2023

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Jon Kudelka

Reef Coloured Glasses

The Saturday Paper, 26 June 2021

Rising ocean temperatures due to global warming pose an existential threat to reef systems around the world. In June, a draft report released by UNESCO proposed listing the Great Barrier Reef as 'World Heritage in Danger'. Strong, and ultimately successful, lobbying by the federal government against the listing included taking more than a dozen foreign ambassadors snorkelling on the reef.

Behind the Lines 2021

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Badiucao

Pilot Whales' WA Mass Stranding

The Sydney Morning Herald, 31 July 2023

A mass stranding of a pod of 97 long-finned pilot whales in Western Australia in July 2023 drove Badiucao to create this cartoon, which carries an urgent environmental message. While they didn't actually spell out 'SOS', of course, the whales did exhibit strange and unprecedented huddling behaviour before the stranding. Long-finned pilot whales are usually found in cold waters, and the reasons for the stranding are not clearly known.

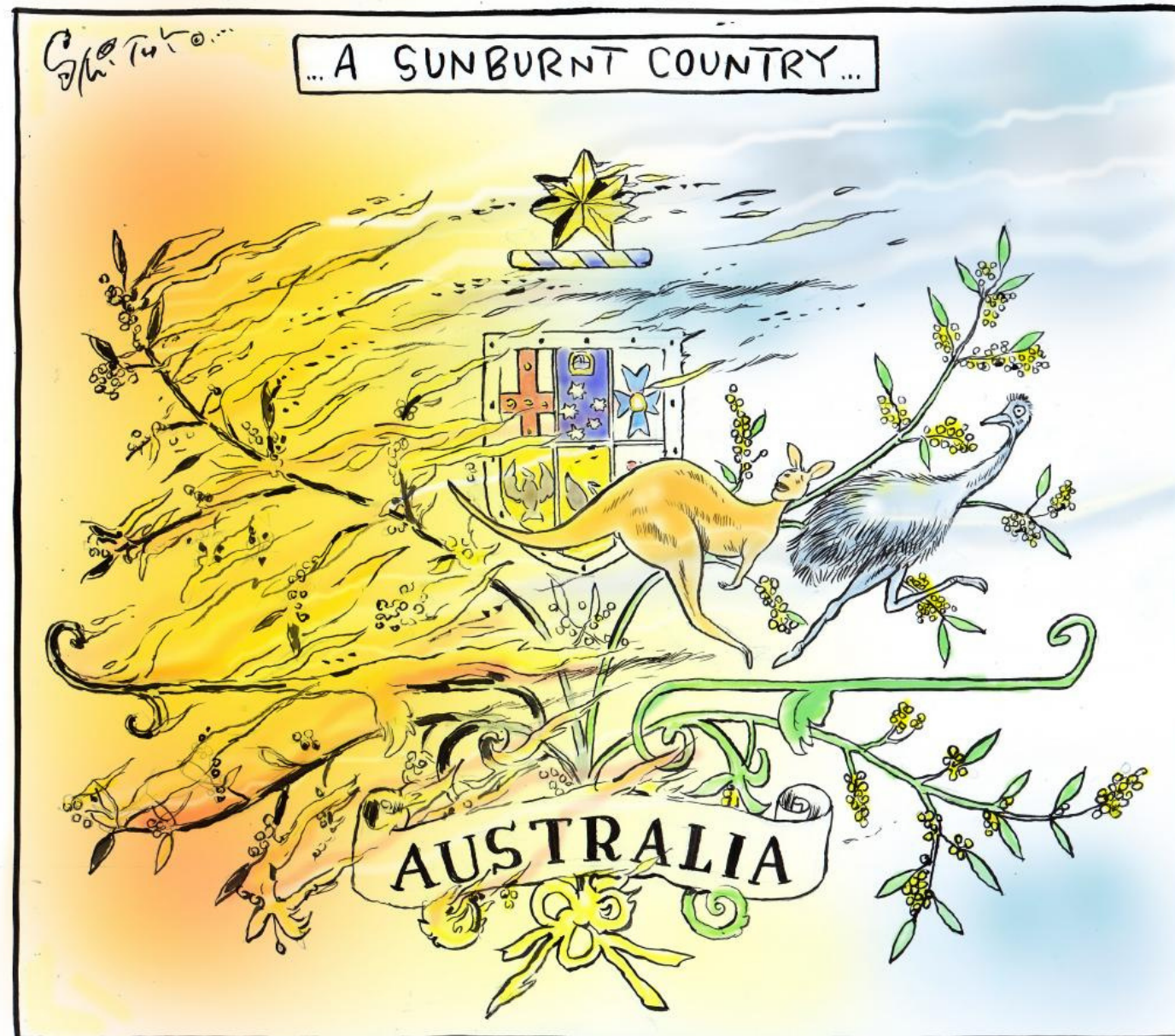
Behind the Lines 2023

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Greg "Smithy" Smith

A Sunburnt Country

The Sunday Times (Perth), 5 January 2020

The emu and the kangaroo were chosen for the Commonwealth Coat of Arms to symbolise 'a nation moving forward' as neither animal can move backwards with ease. Smith depicts both creatures fleeing a raging fire – underscoring the concerns voiced during the unprecedented bushfires about the runaway impact of climate change on our environment and society.

Behind the Lines 2020

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Matt Golding

Australia's Climate Action

The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, 27 October 2021

Ahead of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, the government was under pressure to set an ambitious 2030 emissions-reduction target. With vocal resistance from the Nationals, the Prime Minister instead focused on persuading them to support a plan for net-zero by 2050. Barnaby Joyce was opposed, but his party room voted in favour. Critics argued the plan lacked legislative commitment.

Behind the Lines 2021

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John Shakespeare

Sussan Ley Says "Yeah Nah" to the Environment

The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, 17 March 2022

In 2021 a group of eight teenagers and an 86-year-old nun secured a federal court judgement against Environment Minister Sussan Ley. The court ruled that, when considering the approval of fossil fuel projects, the minister had a duty of care to protect young people from the climate crisis. Ley appealed the decision, and the court overturned it on 15 March 2022.

Behind the Lines 2022

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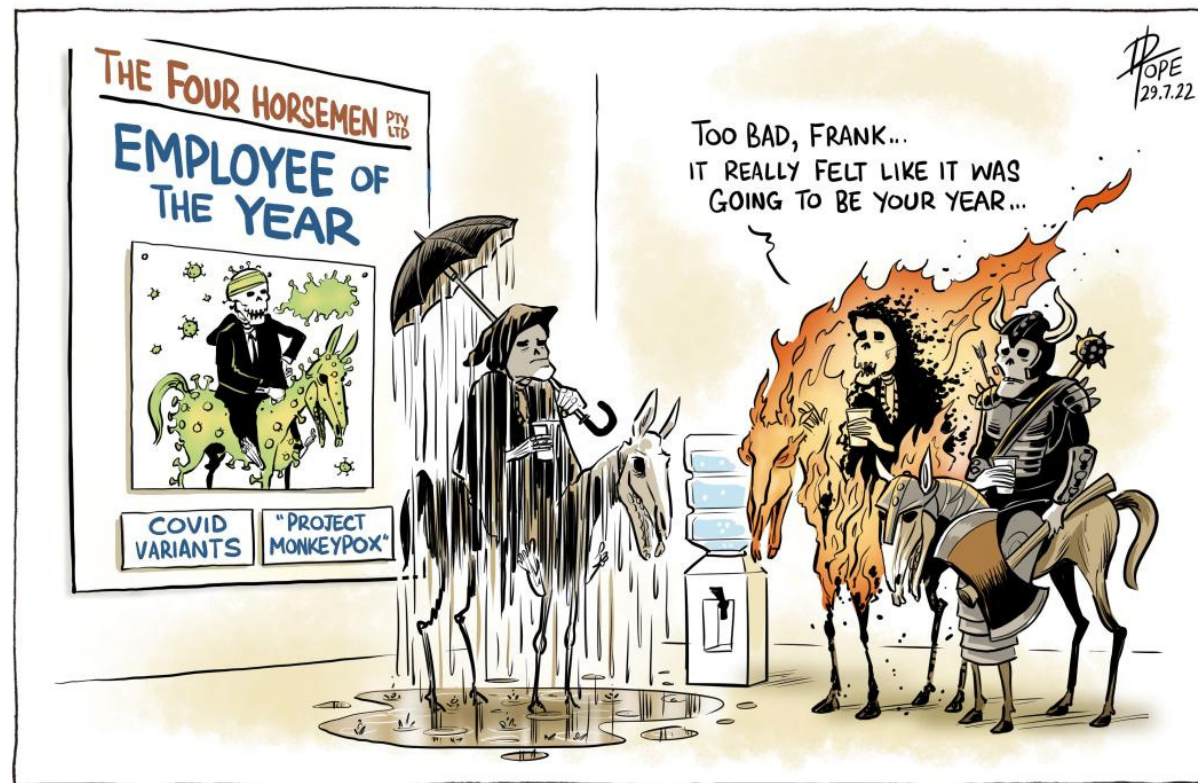
Horses for Courses,
Fiona Katauskas, The Guardian, 3 June 2023

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?