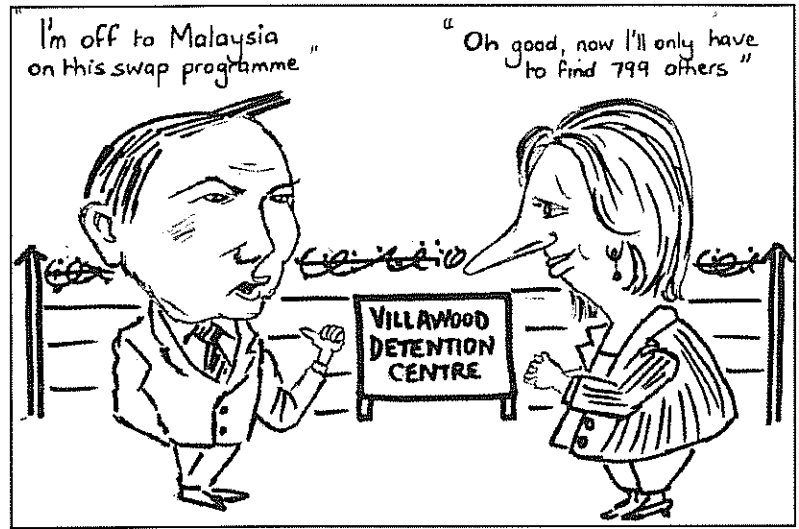


# Xenophobic Nation

A national lead from Canberra. Racism by any other name.

By David Brooks



Refugees are people. They flee their countries because of dramatic events. Always political and military happenings, with great elements of violence, murder, maiming, rape and theft by people seeking power over others. They take their lives and their families to the extremes of risk and danger; to places where foreign languages are spoken, where the culture is different, where the laws are strange and where the people look different. They do this to seek out a decent place to live, among decent people, to work and to raise their children.

## “Only the bravest arrive by boat.”

Of these gutsy people only the bravest three out of every hundred arrive by boat. And many of these have spent time in “refugee camps” awaiting the deliberations of that bureaucracy called the UN, or the Australian Immigration Dept. Australians, to our eternal shame, vilify these people. This vilification is led by Federal politicians and the media. We have created special laws and crimes to deal with the “Smugglers” who bring these people to our shores. We always need a scapegoat!

The airwaves are full of the hate and revulsion of the shock jocks who sneakily play the game of “public interest” and lead the people on in a horrifying display of hate. Ignorance and fear reign supreme. This is the Australia that sanctions special laws for the Aborigines of the Northern Territory, and deny that this is racism. This is the Australia that still steals children from their (white and coloured) parents on just about any excuse. This is the Australia that has learned nothing from the pre-seventies child stealing; nothing from the 1940’s English child stealing and migration abuse.

Just how does one teach humanity to a government, and especially to its public service? None, I repeat “none”, of these have ever been policies advocated by a politician at an election before they were introduced. Indeed, with the present government, with respect to its immigration policy, a far more liberal (dictionary definition of the word “liberal”) outlook was expected. This is the sign of a duplicitous government.

Arguments that this is an overcrowded country are ridiculous. Queensland alone is seven (7) times the size of the United Kingdom which has

a population of sixty million. England is by no means overcrowded. The claim to overcrowding is an attempt to redirect the discussion. This discussion is about human rights. They apply to everyone, no matter where they come from, no matter where they were born, no matter what their religion, no matter the colour of their skin or which way their eyes may or may not slant. This is about human beings, about people, about their right to live, about their right to a place upon the earth. Human rights apply for all Australians, black and white.

## “This discussion is about human rights.”

We have marginalised the blacks; who will save the whites from being on the margin? We need to treat our fellow man as we ourselves would wish if we were in their boat. Won’t happen in Australia? Don’t believe it! A government callous enough to implement the current policies are likely to do anything. ■