

**Editor-in-Chief**

Stephen Leeder, AO, MD, FRACP

**Deputy Editors**

Tatjana Janusic, MB BS, DPH, FRACGP  
Wendy Morgan, MB ChB, MPH(Hons), FRACGP  
Astika Kappagoda, MB BS, MPhil, PhD  
Robyn Godding, MB BS, MPH, FRACMA  
Christina Gee, BSc(Med), MB BS(Hons)  
Diana McKay, FRANZCP, MHM, AFRACMA

**Deputy Editor, Poetry and Fiction**

Leah Kaminsky, MB BS, BA

**Senior Assistant Editors**

Elsina Meyer, BSc  
Katherine McLeod, BSc(Hons)

**Assistant Editors**

Christina Binskin, BSc  
Suzanne Habjan, BSc(Hons), PhD  
Olivia Wroth, BVSc  
Graeme Prince, BAppSc, BA(Hons), MA(Hons)  
Sonya Chervonsky, BA

**Scientific Proofreaders**

Gita Sankaran, BSc, MIM, PhD  
Kathryn Tuckwell, MB BS, BA(Hons)

**Librarian** Jackie Holman, BAComm(Info)

**Engagement/News Editor** Cate Swannell, BA

**Editorial Administrator** Kerrie Harding

**Editorial Assistant** Zane Colling

**Production** Glenn Carter, Peter Humphries

**Electronic Publishing**

Peter Hollo, BSc(Hons), BA, LMusA

**Publishing Assistant** Wade Clarke, BAComm

**CONTACT THE MJA**

AMPCo House, 277 Clarence Street, Sydney,  
NSW 2000. ABN 20 000 005 854.  
Post: The MJA, Locked Bag 3030, Strawberry Hills,  
NSW 2012. Tel: (02) 9562 6666. Fax: (02) 9562 6699.  
mja@mja.com.au

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:** <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/mja-instructions-authors>

**ADVERTISING AND COMMERCIAL REPRINTS**

Sales and Marketing Manager David Kelly  
Commercial Manager Delores D'Costa  
Bus Dev & Senior Account Manager Mike Mata  
Advertising Coordinator Susantika Susantika  
Tel: (02) 9562 6621.  
advertising@mja.com.au, reprints@mja.com.au

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Jane Anderson

Tel: (02) 9562 6617. [subscriptions@mja.com.au](mailto:subscriptions@mja.com.au)

**2014 Annual subscription (+ GST):**

Individual: RRP A\$410.00 (new), A\$350.00 (renewal).  
Institutions: on application.

The Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) is published on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month by the Australasian Medical Publishing Company Proprietary Limited (AMPCo), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Australian Medical Association (AMA). The statements or opinions that are expressed in the MJA reflect the views of the authors and do not represent the opinions or policies of the MJA or the AMA unless so stated. None of AMPCo, the AMA or any of its servants and agents will have any liability in any way arising from information or advice that is contained in the MJA. Although all accepted advertising material is expected to conform to ethical and legal standards, such acceptance does not imply endorsement by the MJA. The MJA is intended for medical professionals and is provided without warranty, express or implied.

All literary matter in the MJA is covered by copyright, and must not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by electronic or mechanical means, photocopying, or recording, without written permission.

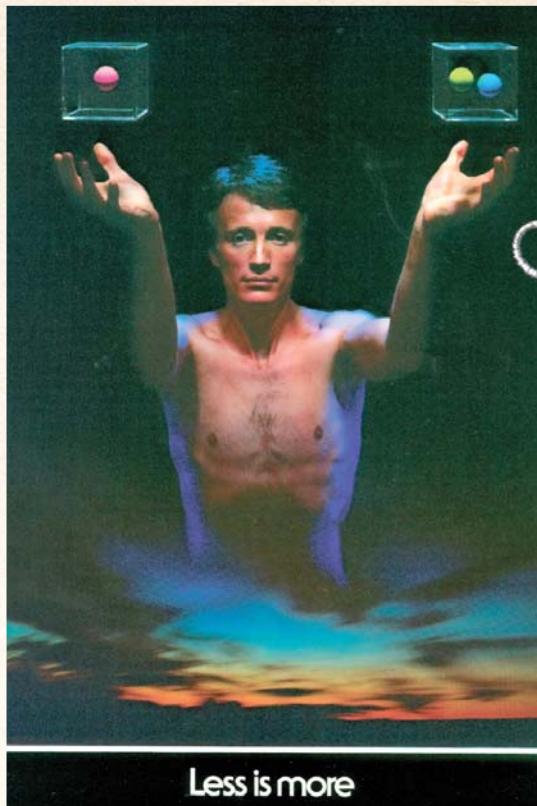
© AMPCo, 2014 · Printed by Webstar Australia.



CIRCULATIONS  
AUDIT BOARD  
30,074 circulation as at  
30 September 2013 · ISSN: 0025-729X

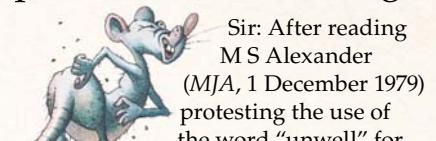
Member of  
PublishersAustralia  
Media that informs

## Highlights from our 1980 archives



*This advertisement for a single-dose hypertension medication appeared in our 26 January 1980 issue.*

### Rodent characteristics of patients: faecal feelings



Sir: After reading M S Alexander (MJA, 1 December 1979) protesting the use of the word "unwell" for "sickness" in medical practice, I must report the use of a euphemism in vogue nowadays.

I refer not to "unwell", but to the term "rat shit", which is used to describe the feeling when one is ill or sick.

When I first heard the phrase from the mouths of otherwise respectable young people, I thought the word being used was "wretched". Alas, I was in error, and I have to report these new words for the edification of my less enlightened colleagues.

Self-confession is good for the soul and I find myself in almost complete agreement with the description that these patients give of themselves (although I differ slightly with their interpretation of the phrase).

Charles Roseby, Richmond Hill, VIC  
12 January 1980

## The more things change ... The Aboriginal Treaty Committee

Sir: I am writing this letter to you on behalf of this small committee which was formed last year to persuade Australians that a treaty should be signed between representatives of Aboriginal Australians and the Commonwealth Government.

A treaty would bring to an end the long period of hostilities between black and white Australians.

It will also unite our country as it is not united now.

The occupation of Australia was accomplished in such a way that those Aboriginal people who survived were dispossessed of all their land (which was the source of their strength in every sense) and so crushed in spirit that they have been left "unequal" citizens of this country.

It is time, we believe, to negotiate with Aboriginal

Australians as equals; they fought for their land with courage and still demand a just settlement.

We believe that it will take many months to convince enough Australians of the need for this kind of settlement, because members of parliament (both federal and state) will not want to move until they can be sure that they have enough support for the idea in their electorates.

This means that Australians who understand and share our views, in general, will need to work to have them accepted, wherever they live.

Doctors have a special place in society with unique opportunities to discuss issues with people in the towns and cities where they live.

Many of our sponsors are doctors.

We hope that many more will read our book *It's coming yet* and then join the local and or professional committees which are beginning to promote the treaty idea.

Stewart Harris, Canberra, ACT  
9 February 1980 (edited extract)

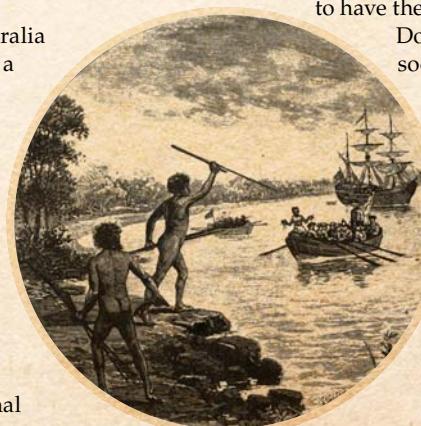


Illustration from *Australia: the first hundred years*, by Andrew Garran, 1886

doi:10.5694/mja14.a1020