

# Australian Rationalist

Journal of the Rationalist Society of Australia

Number 56 • Summer 2000

## Editor

Ian Robinson

## Associate Editor

Maggie Millar

## Editorial Associate

Sonja Delander

The editorial board consists of the members of the board of the RAA and the committee of the RSA.

## Business Manager

David McKenzie

Correspondence and enquiries:

Lois Sweet

RSA Secretary

42 Ruskin Avenue

Croydon Victoria 3136

Tel: (03) 9723 2792

Fax: (03) 9725 8577

email: [rationalist@bigpond.com](mailto:rationalist@bigpond.com)

Membership application form enclosed.

Contributions are invited: articles and letters.

Editorial enquiries:

email: [gurdies@netspace.net.au](mailto:gurdies@netspace.net.au)

**Please note** that this email address is for matters relating to the content of the journal only.

Correspondence relating to subscriptions and other matters should be sent to the Secretary at [rationalist@bigpond.com](mailto:rationalist@bigpond.com)

Copyright restrictions apply unless otherwise stated. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the RSA.

*Australian Rationalist*

(ISSN 1036-8191)

is published by the Rationalist Association of Australia Ltd.

ACN 004 121 117.

Reg office: 42 Ruskin Avenue, Croydon Victoria 3136 Australia.

Printed by IPP ☎ (03) 9428 2958.

Distributed by Gordon & Gotch.

Print Post approved 349069/00042.

## Editorial

2

## PRESS RELEASE

4

Lowitja O'Donaghue

## THE STATE OF THE NATION

### Class in the Year 2001

5

Belinda Probert

## OPINION

### Cloning revisited

15

Brian Sheehan

### The way we are governed

17

Keith Birney

### The mythology of memes

21

Reg Morrison

## INVESTIGATING THE EXTRAORDINARY

### Electronic voice phenomena

26

Harry Edwards

## RATIONALIST HISTORY

### Rationalist incorporation in Victoria, 1925

28

Ralph Biddington

## BOOKS

### *The Meme Machine* by Susan Blackmore

42

Reviewed by Theo Clarks

## Letters

45

Cover and illustrations by Waldemar Buczynski.

Cartoons by John Kolm.

---

**The Rationalist Society of Australia**

*prefers reason to prejudice, science to superstition, evidence to faith; promotes secular ethics and education; holds lectures, conferences and social activities.*

---