



**BELLSOUTH
BACKYARD POULTRY CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

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Dear friends,

I have found the state of politics in our country somewhat disturbing over the last few months, and for a long time I have been unable to place just exactly what is wrong. It is easy to discard all politicians as dishonest, or corrupt, but I believe that is too simplistic.

In my thinking on the political state of the nation, in the midst of the hoo haa of the bicentenary (not bicentennial which means lasting 200 years and I am glad this will not go on for that long) I have come to the conclusion that 2 things are wrong, and they are both related.

Firstly, politics today assumes that we can change the way society operates by changing the outside rules under which we live. Someone has described society as a madman, and the politicians have put him in a straight jacket, but he keeps breaking the straight jacket. So they try to make the jacket stronger. So we are subject to stronger rules over every area of our lives. This is not the answer, the answer is to cure the madness so that the straight jacket is not needed.

The second disturbing element has been the inconsistency of politicians in the way they make policies and enforce them. I was astounded to see the Victorian government acceptance of the Nieuhausen report which said that the availability of alcohol did not effect the abuse of alcohol, and so more outlets were to be allowed and even corner stores allowed to supply it.

In the next breath the government has banned semi automatic weapons, and made the most forceful pronouncements that the availability of guns increases abuse.

All this in the light of research showing that 80% of murders were committed while the offenders were intoxicated, statistics showing that the majority of cases of domestic violence occur when the offender is under the influence of booze, 50% of all road deaths and road accidents (the numbers of which make the murders pale into insignificance) were alcohol related, and 70% of swimming accidents are alcohol induced.

This inconsistency even leads to government departments working against one another, with the government refusing to restrict availability of alcohol, but the police having to