

Isolated from the rest of the world for millennia, Australia evolved as a land of striking landscapes and remarkable plants and animals. It's easy to argue that many of our natural wonders are worthy of World Heritage listing, an honour for which several outback areas are now being considered. But before any are formally nominated, I believe Australians need to ask themselves a fundamental question: Is World Heritage listing an appropriate way to manage them?

In recent years, urban conservation groups have pushed the Federal Government to propose large and diverse areas for World Heritage listing, including the Nullarbor Plain, Cape York Peninsula and the Lake Eyre basin. These vast areas are home to a variety of activities, such as mining, pastoralism and tourism.

The Lake Eyre basin, which covers more than 1 million square kilometres of north-eastern South Australia and south-western Queensland, is of particular interest to me. My family's cattle property is in the northern Diamantina region of Queensland, while my work is centred on the southern portion of the basin. The Federal Government announced its intention to nominate the South Australia section of the basin for World Heritage status shortly before the March 1993 election. Because basin pastoralists knew little of the process, they sought the opinions of colleagues in existing listed areas. They were discouraged by what they heard.

The Federal Government has a poor record for consulting communities before forwarding nominations to UNESCO's World Heritage committee in Paris. To date, only one government delegation has visited the Lake Eyre region. Officials told pastoralists that local support for listing wasn't required. By comparison, land holders in the United States must agree to a listing before an area is even considered for nomination.

Although Australia's listed areas are still governed by State and local laws, they fall under the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983*. This

empowers the Federal environment minister to make land-management changes at his or her discretion, but it does not require the Government to fund them, or to compensate people who lose jobs and businesses as a result. Perhaps because they view the Act as a threat to their sovereignty, State governments are reluctant to fund management plans. This causes a great deal of uncertainty for landholders in listed areas.

Presently only major wetlands in the South Australia section of the basin are being assessed for listing, but if all four stages of the original proposal were adopted, it would be the world's largest land-based World Heritage area, covering about one-tenth of Australia. For some conservationists, the only way to manage this vast region is to remove all livestock and the Act provides the means to achieve this. It angers me to see pastoral families who have remained viable and successful for years facing this threat. My employer's businesses—representing four generations of family pastoralism and a vital part of our pioneering heritage—could eventually be snuffed out with a stroke of the Minister's pen.

Most pastoralists in the Lake Eyre basin are not opposed to conservation. In the course of my work I see many private schemes, such as fencing to protect wetlands or rare plants and land monitoring to gauge the impact of grazing. Instead of World Heritage listing, I believe basin land holders and the affected State governments would prefer Federal support for existing conservation initiatives—like the Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program and Landcare groups—and the management of the region's existing national parks and conservation reserves. If the Federal Government wants more land set aside for its natural or cultural significance, it should buy it fairly at market rates.

Greg Campbell, Australian Geographic, Jan - March, 1996

- 1 Why is the writer interested in World Heritage listing?**
- A He works in an area which may be given World Heritage status in the near future
 - B He is a local politician with a special interest in and responsibility for environmental issues
 - C He feels that the region in which he lives needs the protection given by World Heritage status
 - D He has studied the effects of World Heritage listing from a scientific point of view
- 2 What does the writer think about the Federal Government's way of dealing with the possible nomination of the Lake Eyre basin?**
- A The Government is neglecting the environmental aspects of the nomination
 - B The Government does not care whether the locals support the nomination or not
 - C The Government's main interest is how to make the nomination as profitable as possible
 - D The Government is unwilling to reach a decision on the nomination
- 3 Why is the writer worried about the planned World Heritage listing?**
- A No one knows if such listing will really protect the environment
 - B Listed regions become subject to international decision-making
 - C Other important environmental issues might be neglected
 - D It might make it difficult for many Australians to earn a living
- 4 How do the pastoralists feel about conservation, according to the writer?**
- A They are in favour of it in principle
 - B They are sceptical about individual initiatives
 - C They think it should be given higher priority
 - D They feel it is not really their concern
- 5 What is the writer's conclusion?**
- A The State Government should obey the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act
 - B Basin pastoralists should adopt a more positive attitude towards conservation
 - C Only a small part of the Lake Eyre basin should be nominated for World Heritage listing
 - D The Federal Government should take a greater interest in the conservation projects already in operation

Gopher Prairie

Jan Morris takes a stroll through Main Street by Sinclair Lewis

One grand purpose of literature, to my mind, is the freezing of time: capturing for posterity the way people lived and thought, the way things looked at the particular moment of writing. Perhaps because their history is relatively short and has been enacted throughout by literate men and women, American writers seem particularly conscious of this duty.

A master of this literary historicism was Sinclair Lewis, the first American to win the Nobel prize for literature. A supreme example of the genre is *Main Street*, published in 1920. It is not, I think, really a great novel. It rambles, repeats itself, hammers its messages rather, and helped to set the baleful American fashion for books that are too long. But the point of it is that it is utterly and consciously dated. It describes the affairs of a small prairie town during the first decades of the 20th century, and it does so with an almost photographic precision, except that it captures emotions as well as scenes.

Lewis's device is to have an idealistic young woman from the big city (St Paul, Minnesota, actually) marry a country doctor and come to live in a one-horse market town called Gopher Prairie. She looks at everything with a jaundiced eye; this enables Lewis to set out for us, in meticulous detail, every single thing she sees. We meet everyone in town. We hear how they talk, and we inspect the furnishings of all their houses.

Carol Kennicott, the heroine of the book, decides to make an enlightened town out of Gopher Prairie, and the story of her repeated frustrations has often been seen as satire. But, although one or two of the town characters do verge upon caricature, for the

most part *Main Street* is painstaking and brilliant reportage, or even anthropology.

Most fascinating is that, 75 years later, so much is still half-familiar. In the way that many English villages changed, Gopher Prairie is emerging from the simplicity of the frontier into the sophistry of chain stores, publicity campaigns and automobiles. Carol herself, stuck with her kind but unimaginative husband, with nothing to do except be a housewife and a mother, is an early epitome of feminism: yearning to fulfil herself, to find her own image, against all the odds of bigotry and convention. If she sat on her porch for the rest of her life, she thinks, she would never see a grand parade or an interesting person pass by—what underestimated woman in a suburb nowadays has not thought much the same in moments of despair? In his closing pages, Lewis prophetically recognises that, for all its hidebound parochialism, his imaginary American town is destined to be part of “a dominion which will rise to unexampled greatness”. In our generation, for better or for worse, we have watched it happen.

Lewis tells us how essentially seamless is history, seldom changed by cataclysm but by slow progress. A leitmotif of *Main Street* is the sound of Dr Kennicott clearing out the furnace in the evening, before he goes to bed. Far away in Wales, I know that sound like the sound of my own voice: for I heard it every night myself, regularly as clockwork, until we changed over to oil just before Christmas.

The Sunday Times, April 2, 1995

6 What is Morris's objection to *Main Street*?

- A It is superficially photographic
- B It is far too wordy
- C It repeats what others have already said
- D It deals too little with human feelings

7 What does Carol Kennicott want to do?

- A Reform Gopher Prairie to suit her ideas
- B Make the town well-known over the country
- C Go back to St Paul as soon as possible
- D Join the Women's Lib movement

8 What has happened to towns like Gopher Prairie since the book was written?

- A They have become more and more like English villages
- B They have declined and deteriorated
- C They have been remarkably modernised
- D They have remained the same as they were

9 What is Lewis's view on history?

- A It is characterized by a series of violent events
- B Its distinctive feature is gradual change
- C It repeats itself endlessly
- D It is impossible to predict

And here are some shorter texts:

The Cause of Schizophrenia

Recently, many experts have favored a hereditary explanation of schizophrenia, citing studies showing that if an identical twin has the disease, the other has a 50 percent chance of being afflicted. But according to a study by Stefan Bracha, a psychiatrist at the University of Arkansas Medical School, environmental factors play a role, too. But which ones? If Bracha is right, the instigating factor is not uncaring, manipulative parents, or other family trauma. Rather, the chief suspects are prenatal insults—such as viral infections—that may damage the fetal brain, setting the stage for the development of schizophrenia later in life.

10 What does Bracha emphasize as an important cause of schizophrenia?

- A Hereditary factors that give rise to brain damage
- B Infections affecting babies before birth
- C Stress affecting mothers during pregnancy
- D An unhappy and traumatic childhood

Human Development

There are severe limitations to the applicability of laboratory experiments for the study of developmental processes, if only because there needs to be a focus on continuities and discontinuities across very long time spans. For obvious reasons, it is not practical to undertake controlled experiments lasting, say, thirty years! The use of animal studies with species having much shorter life spans provides a partial answer, and one that has been very useful in some connections, but there are numerous difficulties in extrapolating across species with respect to psychological functions that are characteristically human, such as language, or to those where effects are very dependent on social meaning as, for example, with teenage pregnancy.

11 How does the writer feel about the study of human development processes?

- A Studying the psychology of certain animals is a satisfactory method
- B Human behaviour is unique and cannot be studied scientifically
- C Laboratory experiments are often not sufficiently relevant
- D The time for laboratory experiments must be drastically extended

A Cute Little Fellow

In 1910, a copper miner in central Germany picked up a nearly flawless fossil: an unusual reptile with a winglike fan of bones spreading from each shoulder. When he sold the specimen to Otto Jaekel, the premier German paleontologist, the miner labeled it “Flying Reptile”. But Jaekel thought the animal too improbable and removed the bones of the wings, believing they were the fin rays of a fish superimposed on the reptile. In later years, it turned out that the miner was right and the expert wrong.

12 What are we told about the fossil?

- A It consisted of two animals
- B It was not genuine
- C It was some kind of fish
- D It was indeed a “Flying Reptile”

A Pernicious Policy

“User-financing” and “cost-recovery schemes” are among the most pernicious policies. The poorest families are often willing to spend their last pennies to care for their sick children. But they can ill afford to do so. In the Makapawa community-based health programme in the Philippines, health workers found that the money poor families spent on medicines instead of food contributed to child undernutrition and high mortality.

Studies in some countries have shown that when cost-recovery was introduced, the use of health centres by high-risk groups dropped. In Kenya the introduction of fees at a centre for sexually transmitted diseases caused a sharp decline in attendance and an increase in untreated infections.

13 Which statement is in line with the writer’s main point?

- A Diversity in health services should be encouraged
- B Healthcare spending should be cut
- C Healthcare should be free for everyone
- D Better food is the best way to promote good health

Knocking at Heaven’s Door

Vicars have been told to turn away beggars from their gates in a set of guidelines that turn Old Testament teaching on its head. Clergy “should not attempt to get involved” with callers at the vicarage, the London Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility advises. “There is no mandate that requires Christians to care on demand.” *Knocking at Heaven’s Door*, the Board’s guidelines, urges the Church to recognise that the type of casual caller has changed greatly in recent years. They are likely to include carriers of knives, the mentally ill, and people on drugs intent on getting money. It warns that clergy often do not know where to draw the line when ministering to them.

14 What is said about the guidelines?

- A They are written in accordance with old Christian ethics
- B They advise vicars how to deal with crime
- C They are not in accordance with criminal law
- D They tell clergymen not to welcome unknown visitors

American Doctors

“Board-certified OB/GYN with well-established solo practice (\$500K+ annually) looking for an associate to share the workload.” So reads a recent job advertisement in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Yet in the same publication, readers have lately been presented with copious analysis and commentary about an impending physician glut—a surplus that could exceed 165,000 in a few years’ time. It seems difficult to reconcile the ubiquity of physicians earning hundreds of thousands of dollars in salary with the image of hundreds of thousands of doctors pounding the streets in search of gainful employment. Could both sets of numbers possibly be correct?

15 What is the writer’s main conclusion?

- A Americans are paying too much for medical treatment
- B Doctors make less money than most people think
- C Doctors are pricing themselves out of the market
- D High salaries and a surplus of doctors are a paradox

In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Look at the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet.

The Fear of the Rich

Whenever a fear is well-grounded in the sense that the danger apprehended is real, there are two things that need to be done: one is to create in the individual that kind of fortitude that makes him able to face possible misfortunes calmly, and the other is to ameliorate the social system in such a way as to cause the danger to**16**.....

This applies, for example, to the fear of destitution, which is very wide-spread and very deep-seated in all competitive countries. A very great many wealthy people who seem otherwise**17**..... are quite irrational about money. There are men who, though they are willing to write large cheques, cannot bear to part with loose cash, and rather than do so will face black**18**..... from untipped waiters.

To prevent such fears there are three different sorts of things to be done. There is first the Stoic method of persuading a man that he should submit himself to destiny, and not let himself**19**..... too much when misfortunes occur. Then there is the method of persuading him that he is not very likely to become destitute; in mild cases this may be done by economic arguments, but in extreme cases it is a matter for the psychiatrist. Lastly there is the political method of coping with the whole problem of destitution, and making it no longer one of the things that befall the**20**..... All these methods should be pursued in all such cases.

Bertrand Russell, New Hopes for a Changing World, 1951

- 16** A persist
B improve
C disappear
D occur
- 17** A sane
B odd
C emotional
D economical
- 18** A methods
B looks
C lies
D spots
- 19** A rejoice
B insist
C go
D mind
- 20** A unfortunate
B Stoics
C young
D politicians

That is the end of the English test. If you have time left, go back and check your answers.