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**Subject:** Hanson's stubby holders; Call to cancel curfew; China's surveillance state

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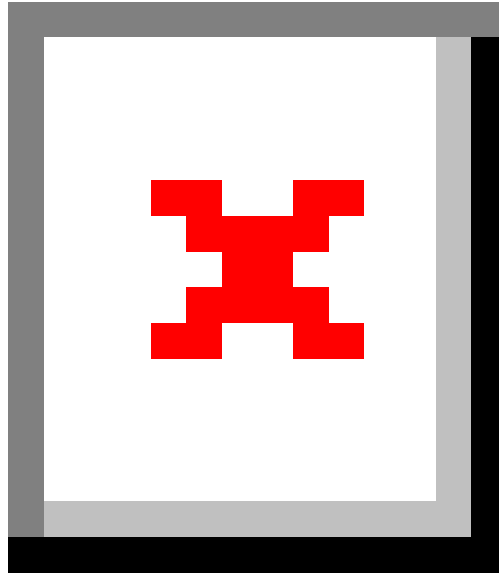
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# Morning Edition

Thursday, September 10, 2020

James Manning

Good morning. The boss of Australia Post threatened to call police unless the City of Melbourne delivered Pauline Hanson stubby holders to public housing tenants in lockdown. The Premier is facing calls to lift Melbourne's curfew after conceding it was not based on advice from health officials. The CBD will face jobs losses and other economic consequences long after lockdown ends. And we trace China's long history of clashes with foreign correspondents.



## **Pauline, the post and problematic parcels**

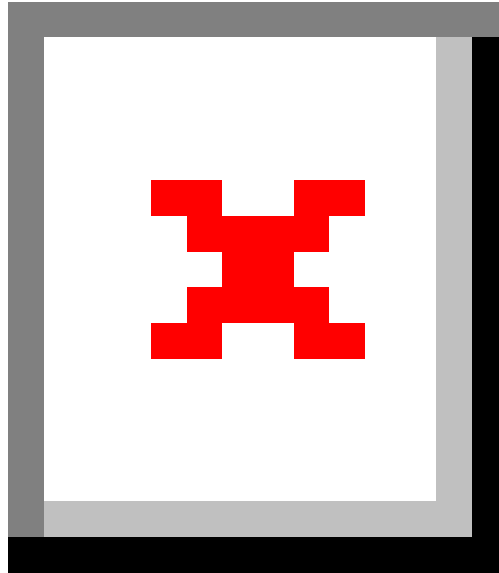
The start of the second wave, when 3000 people across nine towers in two estates in Flemington and North Melbourne were [locked down for a week](#), feels like it was about six months ago. In fact, it was only two. It has since come to light that something interesting happened during that week in July involving Pauline Hanson and stubby holders. Stay with me ...

*The Age* can reveal exclusively this morning that Australia Post CEO

Christine Holgate threatened to call police unless the City of Melbourne delivered [Pauline Hanson's One Nation-branded stubby holders](#) to every unit in one of the locked-down towers. The stubby holders, featuring Senator Hanson's face and the slogan "I've got the guts to say what you're thinking", came with a hand-written note that read: "No hard feelings".

Ms Holgate's ultimatum to the council came days after Senator Hanson labelled residents of the towers ["drug addicts" and "alcoholics"](#), and at the same time Australia Post was attempting to win over One Nation's vote to ensure a temporary relaxation in daily postal services was not overturned in the Senate.

The parcels were intercepted by council officials overseeing distribution of food, medical supplies and mail, who decided against distributing them. The paraphernalia would, sources said, inflame what was already an "emotional tinder box" within the tower after Senator Hanson's comments. The council's CEO Justin Hanney confirmed the parcels were not distributed and advice was sought from Federal Police about whether the delivery breached the Commonwealth Criminal Code.



## **Calls to cancel controversial curfew**

Premier Daniel Andrews is facing calls to lift Melbourne's curfew after confirming [it was not based on health officials' advice](#) but was introduced only to make it easier for police to enforce the general lockdown.

The state opposition seized on the comments, calling it a "[captain's call](#)" by the Premier and demanding it be lifted immediately. Associate Professor Adam Kamradt-Scott, a public health expert from Sydney

University, said curfews could backfire if they encouraged large numbers of people to congregate at shops or other businesses just before they close. Mr Andrews defended the night-time stay-at-home order, saying "it just makes the job of police much, much easier".

Despite the numbers rising yesterday, with 76 new cases and 11 more deaths, [the all-important 14-day average](#) case count for Melbourne continued to fall, down to 74.5 from 78.6 a day earlier. The 14-day average for regional Victoria is five, and the state remains on track to narrowly hit the [caseload target](#) set by the government as a condition for easing restrictions, epidemiologist Professor Catherine Bennett said. [Twenty-five sewage sites](#) are also being regularly tested for traces of the virus.

Meanwhile, emails provided to the hotel quarantine inquiry reveal one security company told guards to [ignore advice from the Health Department](#), which stated masks and gloves were recommended but not mandatory. Separately, police are monitoring a protest planned for Saturday after more than 1000 people said they would join a ["Freedom Walk" on the Tan](#).

Overseas, pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca and Oxford University paused the late-stage trial of [their vaccine candidate](#) after a suspected serious [adverse reaction](#) in a study participant. Delays like this are normal, but it could be a [headache for US President Donald Trump](#), who reportedly hopes to announce a vaccine before Americans go to the polls on November 3. In interviews with veteran Watergate journalist Bob Woodward, Trump admitted [deliberately downplaying the seriousness of the virus](#) early on in the pandemic.

Turning to the economy, [Victoria faces a GST shortfall](#) of \$8.4 billion over the next four years, compared with what was forecast in last year's budget. Melbourne's CBD is projected to lose 79,000 jobs annually and bleed more than \$110 billion in revenue over the next five years as the [recession ravages the city](#). Calls for infrastructure spending continue after it was revealed Australia has suffered a [\\$20 billion slump in major project approvals](#) since the beginning of the pandemic. The Greens want this building boom to focus on [social housing and public transport](#).

Now for some good news, which has been in short supply of late. A nine-year-old boy who we [reported](#) last week was in intensive care at Monash Children's Hospital with a rare inflammatory illness linked to COVID-19 has [made an "excellent recovery"](#) and is due to be discharged this week.

**[Follow our live coverage for all the breaking news related to the pandemic.](#)**

**COVID questionnaire:** [These are the questions](#) contact tracers ask suspected COVID-19 cases.

**The Age's view:** Regional areas should be [allowed greater freedom of movement](#) sooner than is currently scheduled.

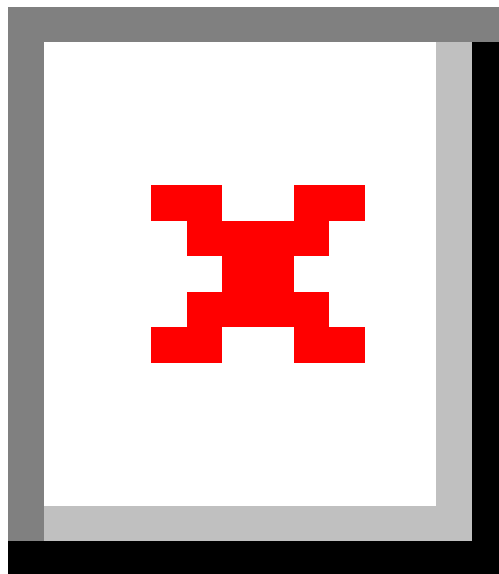
**What columnist Shaun Carney says:** Has Scott Morrison forgotten that [he's Victoria's Prime Minister](#), too?

**What senior economics writer Jessica Irvine says:** Now is no time for skimping. The Treasurer [must offer the full buffet of tax cuts](#).

**What travel writer Ben Groundwater says:** One of our [biggest industries is being destroyed](#). Where is the outcry?

**Fur pets' sake:** [Vets want grooming services reopened](#) after treating injuries caused by pet owners doing it themselves.

**Face mask splurge:** If you have a spare \$1000, this mask by couturier Gwendolynne Burkin [could be yours](#).



## The rise of China's surveillance state

*The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald's* first China correspondent, the trailblazing Margaret Jones (pictured above), arrived in Beijing in 1973 to launch the papers' first bureau there after Australia established diplomatic relations with the Chinese Communist Party. The economic partnership saw Australian resources fuel China's economy to the second-largest in the world within 50 years.

That connection between economic growth and press freedom was severed this week when the last two accredited journalists working for Australian media organisations were [forced out of the country](#). Beijing's move, which was [condemned by a global coalition](#) of MPs from democratic nations, appears to have been retaliation for what it called Australia's hypocrisy. State media claimed four Chinese journalists had their homes raided, phones and computers seized and were questioned by Australian intelligence. ASIO confirmed it [questioned at least one Chinese journalist](#) in connection to an investigation involving the office of suspended NSW Labor MP Shaoquett Moselmane, but no one was detained, senior security sources said.

Where once being questioned by Chinese authorities was an acceptable occupational hazard, the risk of being detained for extended periods of time on spurious charges has become palpable, with Chinese-born Australian TV anchor [Cheng Lei](#) facing national security charges in Beijing.

The road to 2020 is paved with correspondents' stories of [rising mistrust and surveillance](#) after the optimism of 1973. Just a year later, in 1974, Ms Jones found herself virtually confined to her apartment as



the Chinese took out their [displeasure on foreign correspondents](#) over the showing of a documentary that displeased the Chinese government.

**What former correspondent Yvonne Preston says:** It's impossible for an Australian reporter [to cover China safely](#).

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***Trump Biden 2020:*** Our new weekly newsletter delivers expert analysis of the race to the White House from US correspondent Matthew Knott. [Sign up here](#).

## In other news

Michelle Ngoc Tran, aka the Queen of Richmond, the Melbourne-based head of an international syndicate, paid a flight attendant to [smuggle heroin in her underwear](#), court documents revealed.

Home Affairs [gave preferential visa treatment](#) to Crown Resorts' high-roller gamblers, including people who had been refused entry on character grounds, an inquiry found.

Indigenous leaders wrote to Rio Tinto's board to back investor demands for [a clean-out of top executives](#) after the destruction of the 46,000-year-old Juukan Gorge rock shelters.

Prahran locals are angry at a move by the government to push through hundreds of millions of dollars in development of an aged care home [without a transparent process](#).

The coroner demanded [culturally-safe support for women](#) in light of a suicide "cluster" among vulnerable migrant women.

Two deserting soldiers from Myanmar's army said they were ordered to ["shoot all that you see and hear"](#) during the "genocidal campaign" against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority.

The extradition hearing of Julian Assange was told Donald Trump is [targeting the WikiLeaks founder](#) because of political reasons and his hostility towards Barack Obama.

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## Editor's picks

 EXECUTIVE  
SHAKE-UP

### How an email cost former QBE boss Pat Regan \$10 million



QBE's chairman Mike Wilkins has set a new high water for responding to code of conduct breaches.

By Elizabeth Knight

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EDUCAT  
ION

### Teachers with children see remote learning from both sides



Anna Straford is juggling a full-time job as a secondary school teacher with being a single parent to four school-aged children.

By Madeleine Heffernan

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US  
OPEN

## Nadal blueprint can help de Minaur take down Thiem



Alex de Minaur must only look to his devastating loss to Rafael Nadal in January to see he can match it with Dominic Thiem in their US Open quarter-final.

By Sam Phillips

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MATCH  
REPORT

## Lions lock jaws on top-two spot



The Brisbane Lions have again risen to the top two on the AFL ladder thanks to a thumping 45-point over the Gold Coast Suns.

By Scott Spits

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TOUR DE  
FRANCE

## Aussie Ewan wins tight sprint to claim Tour de France stage 11



Caleb Ewan threw his bike forward over the line to narrowly beat triple world champion Peter Sagan, who was relegated for dangerous riding.

By Julien Pretot

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REVIE  
W

## Yes, Michaela Coel's *I May Destroy You* really is that good



This keenly anticipated "consent drama" has been rightly applauded for its treatment of hot-button topics. It is also audacious and to be savoured.

By Debi Enker

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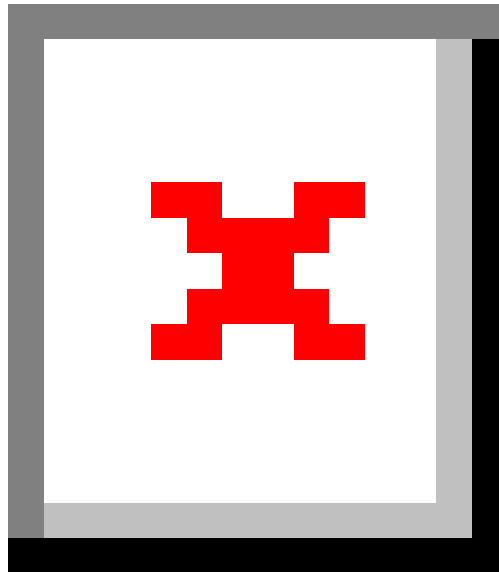
## New diversity requirements revealed for Oscars' best picture nominees



From 2024, films hoping to qualify for the best picture category at the Oscars will have to meet inclusion standards both on-camera and behind the scenes.

By Nicole Sperling

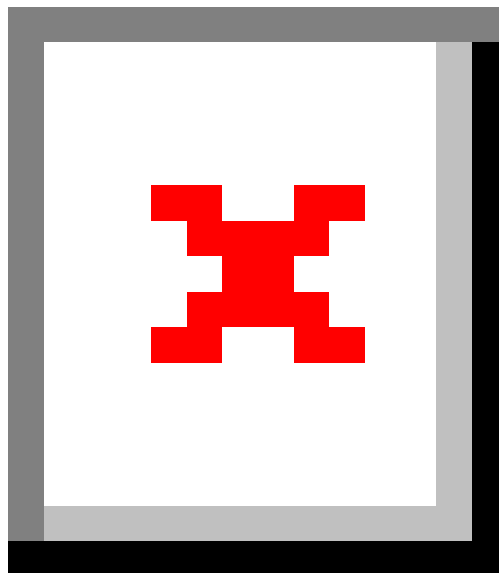
### On this day in 1958



## From the archives: Fitzroy turns 100

Sixty-two years ago, the City of Fitzroy [celebrated the centenary of its creation](#) in front of 300 onlookers. Lord mayor F.W. Thomas described it as a "beautiful parkland area inhabited by the wealthy".

## Picture of the day



Like most people Melburnians, 82-year-old Raissa Outchitel's social life has ground to a halt. But a [new pilot meals program](#) that offers

much more than food has helped her feel connected and cared for.

*Photo: Jason South*

**CBD**



There is drama on the leafy streets of South Yarra. For a start, the spring hard waste collection, scheduled to start on September 1, has been delayed. But much more sensational is a crude flyer that has been popping into the mailboxes of local residents, taking direct aim at deputy mayor John Chandler. The pamphlet details an incident CBD has decided to christen Portraitgate involving a [handsome painting of the deputy mayor](#).

## **And another thing**

For months now, it has felt as though the nation has been cleaved in two. Communication between Victorians and non-Victorians can feel immensely fraught: one side is often left feeling frustrated, the other helpless. Here's our [guide to cross-border conversations](#).

## **Time to play**

For our premium subscribers... it's time to play [the daily crosswords](#)

## **Your feedback is important to us.**

What would you like to see in *The Age's* Morning Edition newsletter?

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