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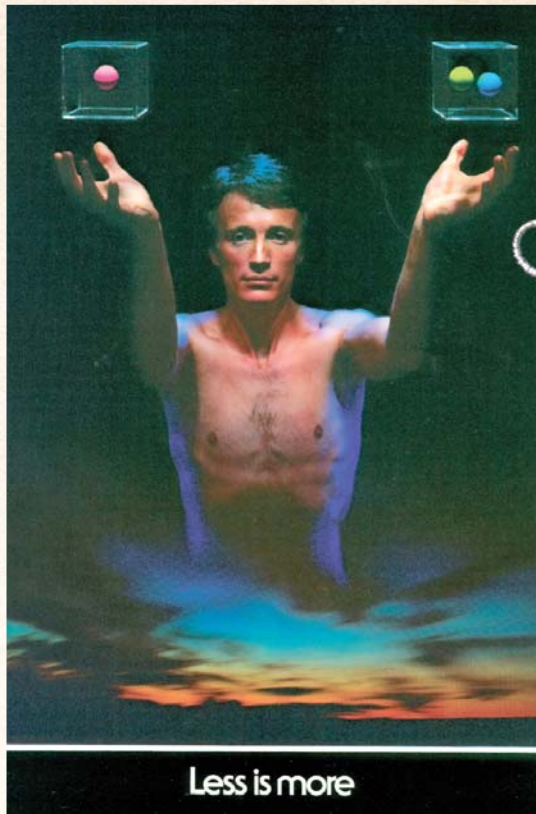
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Highlights from our 1980 archives



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)

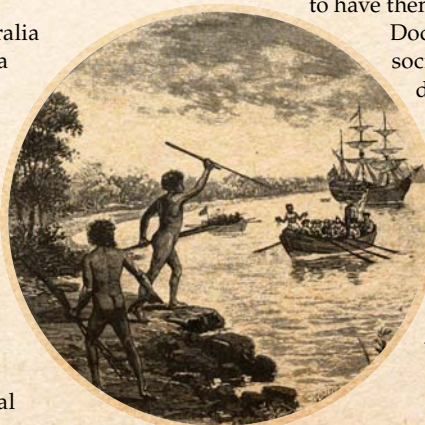


Illustration from *Australia: the first hundred years*, by Andrew Garran, 1886