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into a seat rison (Letters, ht. Seating in the Recital Centre e leg room than s. As I am l usually request unknown dream that there lem in such a ful centre. amped seating v Summer h the magical duckinupin was experience was y aching legs. architects who Hamer Hall e in as many e? Theatre is to endured. hett

he hall NT of Hamer ting please and re light. At a n Chamber

Orchestra concert, the cold wind from the supposed "heat- ing" whipped around our shivering bodies, while the now regular low lighting before the show and at interval made it impossible to read the program. Megan Penlston-Bird, Hawthorn

Count the job losses

DAVID Milner (Letters, 17/6) would do well to consider the big picture when looking at Greens' policies. The number of jobs that will be lost if these policies aren't enacted will be far larger. Remember David, without a sustainable environment, jobs in many industries will be gone forever. Sadly, this is something that has not been considered by our Government. Linda Kelly, Newport

Brimbank a minor player in ALP's game

THE State Government would like people to believe that ALP branch-stacking is largely confined to the City of Brimbank and is about trying to control local government. Its real purpose is about delegates to state conference and representation on committees.

Each federal electorate is allocated delegates according to its member count, hence the need to enlarge the membership by any means possible. The use of members who know little and care even less ensures a compliant delegation that will obey their warlord. The rule change allowing the appointment of every committee by delegates has increased factions' power and reduced the involvement of members, while rewarding those who stack branches.

When I joined the ALP, policy

you — many times over — to the State Opposition, the Greens and others who blocked the legislation in the upper house.

Please hang in there. We locals have been excluded from this so-called planning process by the State Government. How obscene, to watch one's suburb treated as a mere resource, to be exploited to the max by the circling vultures. Olga Kimpton, Coburg

Our final hope

ALL IS not well and transparent, Ian Lewis (Letters, 17/6), with Justin Madden's decision to override due practice at Bastion Point, Mallacoota. Mr Madden appointed an independent panel to inquire into the construction of a breakwater on this treasured headland. He has ignored all its findings, which had 13 expert witnesses and 482 submitters — 87 per cent objecting to the proposal.

Mr Lewis trots out old arguments that were dismissed by the inquiry. The minister's assessment of the panel report ignored serious concerns with entrance and exit to the ocean from the proposed facility, and the panel's view that it would have extreme risks.

Regarding the plebiscite of community views, the panel was not persuaded that the 2000 ballot represented community views on the current proposal.

For Mr Lewis to claim that the breakwater is needed to increase tourism in Mallacoota is in contradiction to the panel's finding that the development will be to the net detriment of tourism.

Environment Minister Gavin Jennings, who has the final say on this proposal, must reject it — or rip up the Victorian coastal strategy it so thoroughly ignores. James Thyer, Save Bastion Point Campaign Melbourne Group, Northcote

Fair dinkum, mate

I CAN assure Shaun Carney (Comment, 17/6) that as an even older boy from Nambour High, there was no sucking of the sauce bottle, fair or otherwise, in my time. All we ever had was a fair crack of the whip.

Nor did we go about casually dropping f-bombs. Kevin must have picked up those bad habits elsewhere.

John Egerton, Toorak

who else in Victoria is better qualified to pronounce on the matter of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory than Jeff Kennett?

Tony Roberts, Northcote

Politics

DAMN, Australia has missed the opportunity to have a government led by Abbott and Costello. William Jones, Greensborough

PETER Costello, please don't give up. Start your own party. I am waiting to vote for you. (Keep the bastards honest.) David Hutchinson, Frankston

HOW dare Kevin Rudd invite Costello "into the tent" — the Dollar Sweets man, the sneaky supporter of WorkChoices, the right-wing supercilious denigrator of the ordinary people. Brendan O'Donoghue, Strathfieldsaye

PETER Costello, prince of petulance — proof that puerility and smugness are no barrier to political success. The cartoonists and journo might miss you, Peter, but the people won't. Dave Lancaster, Briar Hill

AS PREMIER John Brumby can't see beyond "major events", Bernie Ecclestone should tell him to protect Victoria's old-growth forests as carbon sinks for Melbourne's grand prix and as a water source for the track's lawns. Wolf Passauer, Shoreham

CAMPAIGNERS for green wedges and parkland wait three months and three years respectively, while Justin Madden invites developers for lunch. Says it all. Anne Sgro, Coburg North

Moran shooting

IT IS a matter of record that this week's prominent shooting victim was a man who had profited criminally at the expense of others and from the suffering of drug addicts and their families. Why, then, do ordinary people eulogise him? Mike Rodgers-Wilson, Balwyn

MELBOURNE, while Judy Moran is a resident of your fine city, Sydney-siders will never give any consideration to the proposition that Melbourne is better than Sydney. Surely she is your city's answer to Rose Hancock. Adrian Nolan, Thornleigh, NSW

What's more

WITH Jeff Kennett on your side, who needs an opposing team? Ken Barnes, Glen Iris

NATHAN Buckley has gone to Notre Dame to hone his coaching skills. Will he recruit some hunchbacks for his new team? Roman Horoway, Mount Martha

"CROSSING the lines" (Focus, 17/6) reminds us that Lynne Kosky, not long ago, forced upon the people of Brighton level-crossing gates that they did not want, and did not have the initiative to provide them to country Victoria, where the people urgently want and need them. Ray Brown, Seymour

CONNEX'S PR department is slipping. It did not blame yesterday's fog for overcrowding, delayed or late trains and cancellations. Kevin Laws, Sunshine

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