

Howard's passage to Indi

As a proud Australian of Indian origin living in this country since 1960 I am delighted that our Prime Minister has finally taken serious interest in India.

Hair-raising decision

It was sad day for cricket when umpire Darrell Hair played a key role in accusing Pakistan of ball tampering.

Considering anti-Asian decisions by Hair in the past, cricket lovers must be surprised he was

Sad episode

It was sad to watch players using aggression in their gold medal match Australia. They did not do to their talents. I hope from this sad episode future play hockey is shuggery.

Max-e-uray
30/9/06

Yes Minister

The Way I saw it...

Australia and the World

1962-2019

Ikram (Ike) Naqvi

riter worthy prize-winne

saddened to read Piers's criticism (*The Mercury*, 15) of the awarding of the Peace Prize to writer Arund-

acknowledging Mr Aker's very right-wing views are pathetic. I would commend the Peace Prize committee in choosing Arund as the worthy recipient.

Regarding the Booker Prize, I think Roy could have retired in a life of luxury.

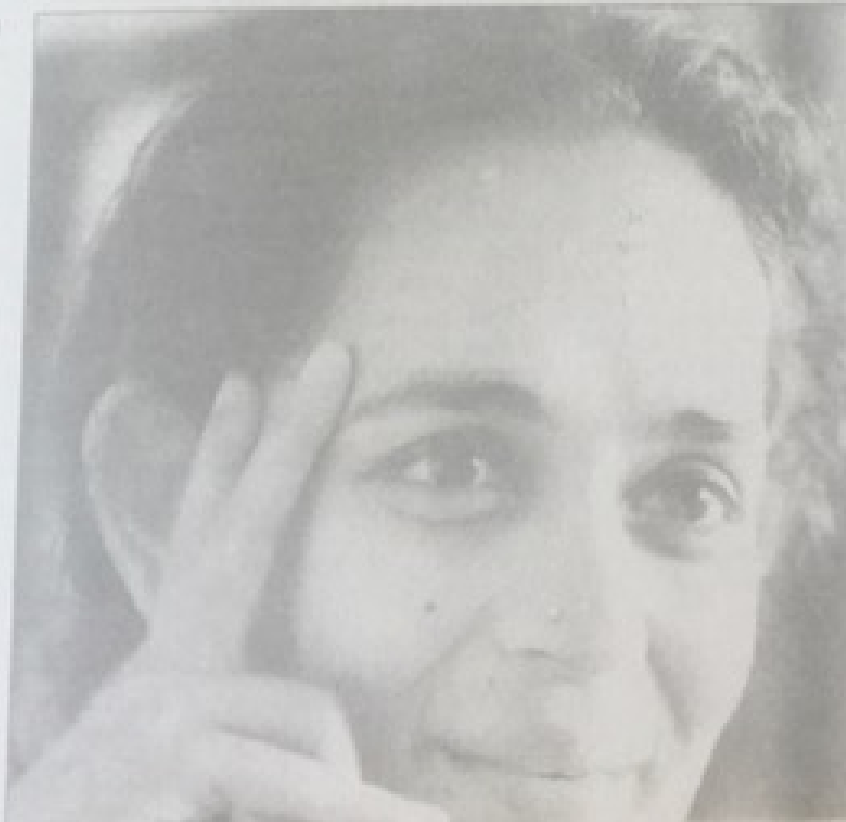
She decided to give the prize to the poor and fought on.

She went to prison fighting the case against displaced persons as a result of the dam.

She should be praised for donating money of \$50,000 to the poor Australians.

Her statement that the dam was a policy of genocide defies previous re-

As I know Tasmania was an example of genocide,



Muslim at a religious festival

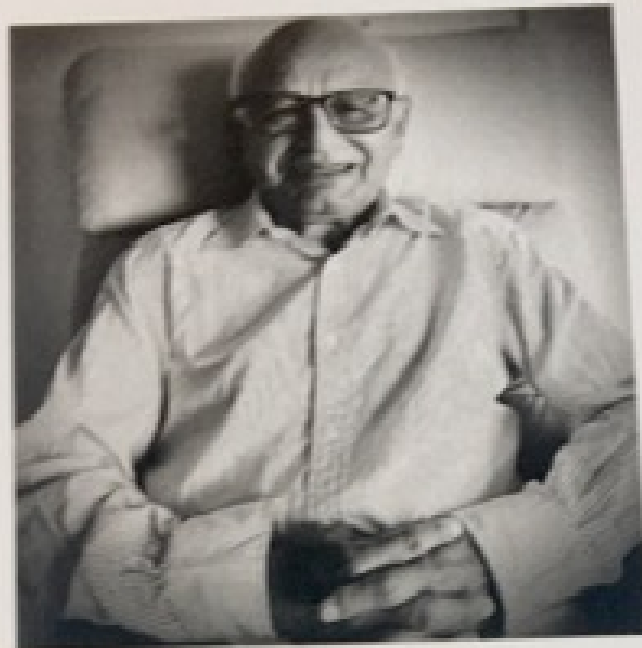
If we have been the victims of a terrorist attack. A momentary claims threat is a fantasy and al-

American prosecutors and had to required a criminal o-

ly perceived al terrorism, fantasy that and distorted ark illusion questioned round the us, and the 'series' in border: and ideas tr of a liticians power.

Curtis al own statistics victims of September people detained month, and guilty.

Of these, republicans, members of other tion to Islam has been con member of al In fact, Ct wondering abe



Ikram (Ike) Naqvi has been writing letters to the Editor of newspapers for more than 50 years. The letters allow him to express his views – beyond the dinner table - on a range of subjects, spanning immigration, to foreign policy, to cricket. He was publicly recognized by the Mercury Newspaper as one of the most notable and prolific writers to the Editor in the recent decades, contributing to the dialogue that underpins a healthy democracy.

Ikram immigrated from India to Australia in 1960 to study geology. After obtaining degrees from India, Australia and Canada, as well as enjoying two careers in geology and fundraising for charities including Save the Children, Freedom from Hunger and Oxfam, Ikram founded a non-profit organization, the Amroha International Society, which funds cataract operations for those who cannot afford treatment.

Ikram lives in Tinderbox, Tasmania. This is his fifth book.

Other books by Ikram Naqvi:

Safarnama, 2010

In the Mood For Mughal Food, 2013

Reflections from the Bench, 2015

Khandan, 2020

Book of musings red letter day for writer



Excerpts from avid Ike

ALTERNATIVE FACTS MAKE LIFE A BREEZE

January 28, 2017

Thanks to Mr Trump I have now found the existence of "alternative facts". I no longer believe my credit card statement and my scales show numbers that I refuse to accept. If it is good enough for Trump, then it's good enough for me and all you elites can go jump.

IMMIGRATION

May 22, 1984

The present debate on our immigration policy has shown that there is very little morality in politics. A bipartisan policy in this area's of national importance. Otherwise there is a risk that racism and racial intolerance could be promoted to the detriment of our national unity and international image.

WE MUST LOOK AFTER THE MOST VULNERABLE

April 21, 2018

(Our politicians) should be embarrassed that our children are going hungry and people are living in tents at the Hobart Showgrounds in this cold weather.

UNFAIR

February 15, 2016.

Australia was a much more egalitarian society when I came in 1960. But no more. As Australia's richest 10 per cent own more than (the) other 90 per cent. Let's make tax fair.

Mr Naqvi's new book, *The Way I saw it... Australia and the World, 1962-2019*, is a compilation of all of his letters to the editor of the Mercury since 1962.

Picture: Chris Kidd

KE McCANN

AM "Ike" Naqvi has I clippings from the Mer of his letters to the editor 1962.

ew he is releasing a book g his decades of mus- n politics, social justice mate.

inderbox local had elders brimming with g of opinion letters) he d in over the years.

ver, Mr Naqvi knew ere was a better ve-

hicle for preserving his handwork.

"My original plan was to put them all together for the family so, when I kicked the bucket, they can all laugh about what I've been writing," he said.

But, when Mr Naqvi started adding annotations explaining the context of each letter, it became an academic exercise.

He has captured the zeitgeist through his own uniqueness, with his new self-pub-

lished book *The Way I saw it ... Australia and the World 1962-2019*.

He wrote his first letter to the Mercury in the early '60s to dispute a letter from someone else that claimed people from Africa lacked intelligence.

"That prompted me to say, 'Well that's not right,'" Mr Naqvi said.

The rest was history, with the Hobart local writing in so often that sometimes people would ask him why he'd

stopped if he went quiet for a couple of months.

The book has chapters on asylum seekers, foreign affairs, climate, terrorism, sport, religion and discrimination written during Mr Naqvi's 60 years in Hobart after growing up in Amroha, India.

A narrowed selection of 210 letters canvas historic events such as troops being pulled from Afghanistan, Prime Minister John Howard's visit to India and the Franklin River Dam contro-

versy. "In a democracy, why I like the letters to the editor is because this is a healthy way, a peaceful way, of extending ideas," Mr Naqvi said.

"It's good we have other opinions. You should respect other people's opinion, and I hope they respect mine."

"A lot of people I run into say, 'I agree with 90 per cent of what you say.'"

He has worked over the decades as a geologist, for charities such as Save the Children and as part of an ad-

visory body for the Australian Multicultural Affairs Council.

He founded the Amroha International Society — a charity giving aid and scholarships to people in need — and many of his letters reflect his passion for multiculturalism, international relations with Asia, and compassion for asylum seekers.

To receive a copy of Mr Naqvi's book, email theamrohainternational@society@gmail.com

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