

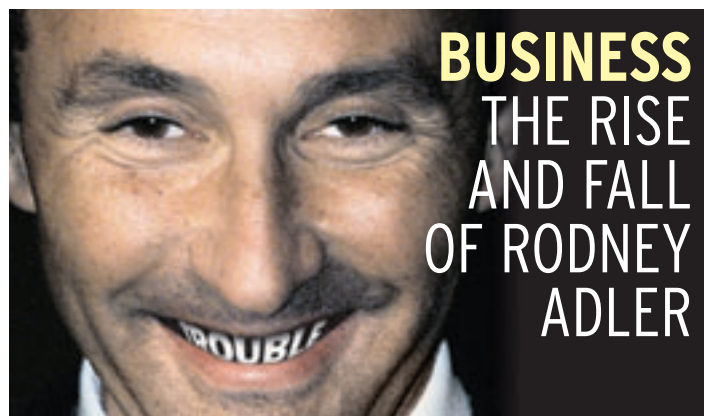
# THE AGE



theage.com.au

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2002

\$2



**BUSINESS**  
THE RISE  
AND FALL  
OF RODNEY  
ADLER



**SATURDAY  
EXTRA**  
JOHN CLARKE  
ON A FUNNY,  
WEIRD  
IDEA



**GOOD  
WEEKEND**  
THE STRANGE  
TRACKS OF  
DAVID  
GULPILIL



**NEWS 8**  
THE BEST  
OF SUMMER  
ENTERTAINMENT

## Bracks, PM do gun deal

Phillip Hudson  
Political Correspondent  
Canberra

About 500 types of handguns will be banned from July 1 under a deal brokered yesterday by Prime Minister John Howard and Victorian Premier Steve Bracks.

The ban is three times tougher than the proposal put forward by federal and state police ministers last week.

A six-month amnesty for shooters to hand in illegal handguns and a government buy-back scheme will begin on July 1.

The agreement comes seven weeks after a licensed shooter killed two students and injured five others at Monash University.

Only four of the seven guns owned by the Monash gunman will be banned under the agreement, sparking claims from gun control advocates that thousands of semi-automatic handguns would remain on the streets.

Mr Howard said governments had made a sensible deal to remove easily concealable handguns from the community while looking after genuine sporting shooters.

He said handguns were "a curse in our kind of society". The crackdown was aimed at "lunatics" and criminals that threatened public safety.

"This is a very important step to making the streets of Australia safer," he said.

The agreement imposes graduated restrictions on access to guns and new licensing rules. Mr Howard said some of the guns owned by the Monash gunman were not banned because they were used in the Olympic, Commonwealth and world championship shooting events.

He argues that tougher licensing rules requiring shooters to face police checks, waiting



**NEWS 4**  
Louise Dodson comments  
Colleagues rally behind Crean

periods to own a gun and probation at a gun club would have prevented the Monash gunman owning any legal weapons.

Mr Bracks said it was a "stunning" result and claimed "a significant victory" after he teamed with Mr Howard to force other leaders to agree to the ban.

Mr Bracks estimated it would cut the number of handguns in Victoria by up to 25 per cent, removing between 4000 and 7000 handguns from the state.

There are 46,000 registered handguns in Victoria. Many are owned by police, security and military personnel who will be exempt from the ban.

"It will ensure the community feels safer and ensures there is less likelihood of the incidents that occurred at Monash happening," Mr Bracks said.

Federal Justice Minister Chris Ellison said at least 500 handgun models would be banned under the deal, which allows only legitimate sporting shooters to own guns to a maximum calibre of .38 with a limit of 10 shots and a minimum barrel length of 120mm for semi-automatics. Single-shot guns and revolvers will have a barrel length limit of

100mm. Special categories of target shooters will be able to own .45 calibre guns.

The Sporting Shooters Association estimated that between 800 and 1000 handgun models could be confiscated. Spokesman Gary Fleetwood said: "We believe a lot of genuine sporting shooters will go and replace one firearm with another that meets the criteria but some will just leave the sport because of the government regulations."

Greens senator Bob Brown said the deal nullified Mr Howard's good reputation on guns, forged after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre.

"It seems now we are going to have to wait until there's some dreadful massacre like Dunblane coming out of the use of these semi-automatic handguns before we'll get the leadership that the nation deserves in getting rid of these weapons," he said.

National Coalition for Gun Control co-chairman Roland Browne said taxpayers would be paying for gun owners to hand in unpopular illegal guns and buy legal semi-automatic weapons.

"This agreement will allow high-powered semi-automatic handguns like those seen in *Lethal Weapon* movies to be available to target shooters. It will ultimately mean no change in the number of semi-automatic handguns in the community," he said.

Mr Bracks said the states would impose uniform tougher jail terms, maximum sentences and fines for breaches. No proposals were discussed to change storage rules for legal guns.

Treasurer Peter Costello estimated the amnesty and buy-back could cost between \$100 million and \$200 million. Canberra will pay two-thirds of the bill and the states' the rest.

It's called the shuffle, and it's Melbourne's own



Clubbers at the Hard Kandy nightclub in Little Bourke Street do the shuffle, recognised in international dance circles as a unique dance style hailing from Melbourne.

PICTURE: PAUL HARRIS

Can Melbourne's thriving dance scene survive moving into the mainstream? **Farrah Tomazin, Patrick Donovan and Meg Mundell** report.

**R**ena Smith was dancing at The Fridge nightclub in London several years ago when a girl approached her. "You must be from Melbourne," she said.

"How do you know?" asked Smith, who grew up in Oak Park.

"It's a dead giveaway — you're doing the shuffle."

To the untrained eye it might

look like a cross between the chicken dance and a foot-stomping robot. But to the young nightclubbers who spend countless hours mastering it, the Melbourne shuffle is an art form, and recognised in international dance circles as Melbourne's own.

"On the dance floor, Melbourne goes crazy," says Sarah Mitchell, 27, of St Kilda. "They have this dance style called the Melbourne shuffle and they just go off."

Alistair Weddell, 22, agrees. He discovered the shuffle at Hard Kandy, a Friday night dance event in the city, after a calf injury brought him here

from New Zealand for surgery two years ago. Weddell, who now lives in Melbourne, says the shuffle is "the most innovative dance-style that has come out since breakdancing. It's so much more relevant to young people than any other dance I know," he says.

Europeans tend to dance from the hips up, says Smith, who now lives in London. In Melbourne's techno and trance clubs, where the shuffle is most common, it's all about the feet.

The shuffle is a fast heel-and-toe movement, coupled with a matching arm action. While the dance is free-form (no two people ever shuffle

exactly the same) the basic step involves repeatedly shuffling your feet inwards, then outwards, while thrusting your arms up and down, or side to side, in time with the beat. The upper body continues to "bob" with the music.

With practice, shufflers can add a 360-degree spin, a fancy side-step or two, and even a double-footed jump to match the peaks of the music. Talcum powder is sometimes sprinkled on the floor so dancers can slip and slide faster as they shuffle. There's even a competition, the Shuffle-Off, held in Melbourne every few months.

The shuffle is one reason

why, to the thousands of Melbourne people who go nightclubbing every week, this city has a unique dance culture. More than 100 clubs — most but not all of them in the central business district and inner suburbs — cater to the electronic dance scene.

Other events such as raves or outdoor dance parties can be held anywhere: in stadiums, on vacant land under the West Gate Bridge and in country paddocks. Country dance events are known as "bush doofs" —

CONTINUED PAGE 10

INSIGHT 3: Dance trance

## Australians join Gulf exercise as Saddam deadline nears

Marian Wilkinson  
United States Correspondent  
Washington

Australian military officers are joining American forces in Qatar for a huge exercise designed to test command systems that would be used in a war with Iraq.

The head of the Australian defence staff in Washington, Major-General Simon Willis, confirmed that Australian officers were expected in Qatar, in

the Persian Gulf, to observe the classified exercise, Internal Look, due to start on Monday.

The Australians are normally attached to US Central Command headquarters in Florida, which this week released details of the exercise.

The inclusion of Australian observers demonstrates the close relationship between the US and Australia military and the expectation that Australia will participate in any US-led war on Iraq.

Australian SAS forces, who recently served in Afghanistan, are expected to join any war, along with naval forces and reconnaissance aircraft, which could be based in Qatar.

Next week's exercise will be conducted by General Tommy Franks, the US commander responsible for the Middle East, the Gulf and Afghanistan. He would be in charge of any war with Iraq.

About 1000 of his Central

Command battle staff, along with a newly constructed headquarters, banks of computers and containers of communications gear, have been shipped to Qatar for Internal Look.

One Washington-based official described the exercise as critical. "It enables the US to work out if it is equipped to manage a conflict if one happens," he said. Qatar is expected to be a nerve centre if a new Gulf war starts.

The exercise has been con-

ducted three times before, but this is the first time it has been run outside the US.

The 10-day exercise will test US ability to communicate with and command army, air force, navy and special forces spread throughout Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. British forces are also taking part.

The exercise will begin just after Iraq hands over to the UN its inventory of its weapons of mass destruction, demanded by

the recent UN Security Council resolution.

President George Bush and his senior officials have predicted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein will deceive weapons inspectors in the inventory, despite Iraq's early cooperation.

There is speculation that the exercise in Qatar is designed to exert more pressure on Iraq to disarm.

WORLD NATO asked to help **NEWS 17**



**CAN SWIM, CAN'T COUNT**

Gold Coast swimmer Stephen Penfold, left, made an embarrassing gaffe while well ahead of the field in his 400-metres freestyle heat at the Melbourne shortcourse World Cup yesterday. But he miscounted and stopped after completing 14 laps instead of 16.

Out for the count **SPORT**



### Weather

**MELBOURNE** A partly cloudy day with fresh south-westerly winds becoming light. Top 23.  
**TOMORROW** Rain developing. Top 24.

**VICTORIA** Morning fog and frost patches in the north. A cool to mild and mainly sunny day.  
**TOMORROW** Rain developing.  
**FULL DETAILS** NEWS 35

### Odd Spot

**A man charged with theft in Pennsylvania didn't have the money to pay for a rehabilitation program that would clear his criminal record, so he stole a courthouse computer to pawn.**

### theage.com.au

Age Online's constantly updated news service will keep you informed throughout the day with all the news, entertainment, sport and business.

### Home Delivery

\$6 a week\* (GST inc) Call (03) 9604 1460  
Subscribe online: [theage.com.au](http://theage.com.au) \*Conditions apply  
The Age 250 Spencer Street, Melbourne 3000  
Founded in 1854, No. 48,247  
Telephone: (03) 9600 4211 Classifieds 132 243

ISSN 0312-6307



9 770312 630066

## TAKE A SUNDAY DRIVE



**ABSOLUTE  
WATERFRONT  
APARTMENTS NOW  
ON SALE**



Taking a Sunday drive takes on an exciting new meaning when you are living at The Conder. The Conder apartments at NewQuay, Melbourne Docklands have been designed to take advantage of what is arguably Melbourne's premier location.

Experience all that NewQuay has to offer:

- > Waterfront retail precinct featuring some of Melbourne's best known restaurateurs now open.
- > Marina facilities situated along NewQuay promenade
- > Art lined promenade
- > Established local community
- > Proximity to Melbourne's theatre's and nightlife

To take advantage of this rare opportunity, visit the NEW Conder Display Suite on the corner of Docklands Drive (Dudley Street) and Harbour Esplanade (Footscray Road), Docklands.

Melways reference F3, map2E. Entry off Harbour Esplanade.

Open every day 10.00am - 6.00pm.

> 1300 555 033  
> [www.condertower.com.au](http://www.condertower.com.au)

