

**IRRATIONALITY.** Irrationality pervades our lives. Why do we not pay more attention to it and quash it, grab it by its horns and toss the beast into the dust? We need to free ourselves from the shackles around our thinking, so we can attack irrationality. **W**hy more roads, when the city is already choking on traffic? Rationally one would concede: Too much traffic? Reduce it! **T**he War on Drugs is irrational; it is clear it will never be won. Rationally we would decriminalize drugs and direct saved resources to education, job creation and rehabilitation of addicts. Furthermore, we force people to put their lives into the hands of criminals who control cost and quality of illicit drugs; it is more rational to make clean drugs available on prescription. **T**he cost to the community of violence due to excessive alcohol use is shocking. Drivers are held to a limit of alcohol levels in their blood; it's irrational not to do the same generally in public life. **I**n a peace-loving society it is irrational to allow ownership of guns, for recreation, the illusion of self-defence or 'personal freedom', and then be surprised and horrified when gun-owners kill others. **I**t is irrational to punish criminals by putting them with like-minded people, who teach them to be more effective criminals. **R**eligion is irrational; believers claim their religion holds the Truth, which patently is untrue, as they bedevil other beliefs' followers. **T**he cruellest manifestation of irrationality is war, which goes against our strongly held belief 'Thou shalt not kill.' We mourn our losses, we are strangled by grief when our loved ones die; yet, we kill enemy soldiers, who are loved ones just like our own.

*In a WWII sea-battle the German Kormoran sank the Australian Sydney (and vice versa). On 25 Aug 2007 the SMH refers to the loss of HMAS Sydney thus:*

*"The Sydney tragedy has had a profound effect on our nation - it and its crew were sources of great pride as a result of their earlier WWII triumphs ..."*

*Our side suffers losses - it is a tragedy. We cause losses - it is a triumph. There never will be peace, unless the irrationality of this concept is dealt with.*