

# **Poor fella my country ...**

*(with apologies to the ant and the grasshopper)*

*The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.*

*The grasshopper thinks he's a fool, and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.*

*Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed.*

*The shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others less fortunate like him are cold and starving.*

*The ABC and Channel 9 show up to provide live coverage of the shivering grasshopper, with cuts to a video of the ant in his comfortable warm home with a table filled with food.*

*Australians are stunned that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so while others have plenty.*

*The Democrats, the Greens, the Coalition Against Poverty and the unions en-masse demonstrate in front of the ant's house.*

*The ABC, interrupting an Aboriginal cultural festival special from North Queensland with breaking news, broadcasts them singing "We Shall Overcome."*

*Bob Brown rants in an interview with Ray Martin that the ant has gotten rich off the backs of grasshoppers, and calls for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his "fair share."*

*In response to polls, the Liberal Government drafts the Economic Equity and Grasshopper Anti-Discrimination Act, retrospective to the beginning of the summer.*

*It is quickly passed through the Senate.*

*The ant's taxes are reassessed and he is also fined for failing to hire grasshoppers as helpers.*

*Without enough money to pay both the fine and his newly imposed retrospective taxes, his home is confiscated by the government.*

*The ant moves to Asia, and starts a successful agribiz company.*

*The TV stations later show the now fat grasshopper finishing up the last of the ant's food though Spring is still months away, while the government owned house he is in, which just happens to be the ant's old house crumbles around him because he hadn't maintained it. Inadequate government funding is blamed, Kim Beasley now is appointed to head a commission of inquiry that will cost \$10,000,000.*

*The grasshopper is soon dead of a drug overdose, the media blames it on obvious failure of government to address the root causes of despair arising from social inequity.*

*The abandoned house is taken over by a gang of immigrant spiders, praised by the government for enriching Australia's multicultural diversity, who promptly terrorise the community-at-large.*

