



by Nigel Bowen

01 Dec 05:55am

# I, for one, welcome our new bogan overlords

FILED UNDER: BOGANS, BOOKS, CHRISTMAS, CLASS

183 COMMENTS

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Come Christmas Day, many members of the book-reading class are likely to wake up to find a copy of Things Bogans Like (TBL) in their stocking. The book was released in late October but its publicist, Nicola Pitt, is "expecting a spike in sales just before Christmas as people buy the book to give to friends and family. It's one of those gifts that result in lively Christmas lunch conversation".



If you ate more of these, maybe you'd rule Australia too. Photo: Brad Hunter

Needless to say, those having lively conversations about Things Bogans Like, which has spun off the wildly popular website of the same name, are not themselves likely to be bogans and any bogan who does stumble upon the book is unlikely to find much to laugh about.

In contrast to Kath & Kim's Jane Turner and Gina Riley, the six young men (who've opted to remain anonymous) behind TBL satirise what they perceive as the pretension, racism, ignorance, unabashed self-interest, clumsy social climbing, sheepish conformism, hyper consumerism and reactionary politics of Australia's rapidly gentrifying lower orders without the tiniest sliver of empathy or affection for their targets. The vicious humour of the book is irradiated with class condescension of the let's snigger about what those people watch (trashy current affairs programs), buy (Buddhist-themed home furnishings) and name their children (Chanel or Armani) variety.

The kind of hand-wringing that middle-class progressives engaged at the midpoint of the Howard era when that much gentler satire of boganism Kath & Kim debuted — over whether it was acceptable for the tertiary-educated to laugh it up at the expense of those unfortunate enough to be less tasteful than themselves — seems to have been entirely absent since the TBL website started up in October last year. The book has by and large received rave reviews despite many reviewers noting its "nasty" and "offensive" tone.

This raises the question of why the demographic that usually makes such a show of abhorring any sort of discrimination related to race, religion, disability or sexuality has lapped up barefaced prejudice of the class variety. (It's evidence of the Australian nervousness about acknowledging social class that many — including those behind TBL — like to disingenuously insist that boganism is unrelated to socio-economic status, as if it is just an amazing coincidence bogans, culturally at least, are clearly



gabs on, imming up port for the dgy Bongo - this a caption

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Day Dilemma: Does this look "easy as assemble"? - this is a caption

# Friday Dilemma: Does this look easy as assemble?

62



Arrrr be pirates: a media fantasy, perpetrated on by sooks. This is a caption

# Tharri... e... pirate... ... medic... fantas... sheer

identifiable as members of what used to be called the respectable working or striving lower-middle class.)

So why no self-doubting angst in 2010 from TBL's otherwise PC fans? The two groups we most enjoy a joke at the expense of are those we secretly believe to be either inferior or superior to ourselves. It's one of the cardinal rules of humour that it's considered poor form to hammer groups lower than your own in the social pecking order but acceptable to go to town on those more advantageously located.

When I asked 'Michael Jayfox', one of those behind TBL, to explain why it was OK to portray bogans as near subhuman when doing that to, say, Jews or Aborigines, would be considered out of order he replied: "The point is the bogan has quite little it can honestly complain about. The other groups you identified clearly do have a bit to complain about. The greatest hardship many bogans endure is that they can't have any more credit. So in terms of deserving and undeserving targets the bogan is probably a lot fairer game than some other groups of people who've had it much tougher."

While the tone of TBL is snobbishly superior, ultimately, it's the bitter humour of the oppressed. The meta-joke of the whole TBL phenomenon is that the bogans have far more economic, cultural and political clout than the inner-city elites who find it such great sport to mock them and both groups know it. It's the bogans, after all, who ensure the media keeps churning out lowest common denominator pap, who earn six-figure incomes working down the mines or as tradesmen (tradesmen!) and who live in palatial houses in the endlessly pandered to outer suburban marginal seats that determine elections.

And so, after more than a decade of being contemptuously dismissed by Howard and politely ignored by Rudd and Gillard, left-leaning middle class types are now reveling in a rare opportunity to feel superior - if only in matters of taste - to their bogan overlords.

"We've had reports that bookstores in Melbourne have been having difficulty keeping enough stock on the shelves," publicist Pitt observes. "A woman at Angus & Robertson Collins Street said, 'We've had nothing but suits come in and buy it.'"

Nigel Bowen has written an article on the rise of the bogan for the current issue of GQ.

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**Eric says:**

06:05am | 01/12/10

Bogans are fair targets for hate because they are perceived as guilty of being white, heterosexual and often male.

Political correctness was never about doing away with prejudice, merely about shifting targets. This is the great hypocrisy at the heart of multiculturalism, feminism, and the other fashionable forms of bigotry.

[Reply](#)

**Reg says:**

07:51am | 01/12/10

# on by books

I sympathize with your gallant struggle to escape being designated as a bogan Eric, but let me warn you about guilt by association. Political Correctness was always about moderating the tendency for people to walk all over each other to get to the top. A prominent faux-liberal activity that has taken hold in society. Hypocrisy- pheff! Everyone does it these days.

## grumpy old man says:

136 08:39am | 01/12/10

spot on Eric, the biggest crime in todays society is being white, middle aged, middle income, heterosexual male. Apparently we are all wife beating pedarists who have totally screwed up the world. Personally, I don't give a damn, I have chosen to opt out, do my own thing, look after those close to me and the rest of the world can go jump.

## Tubesteak says:

08:46am | 01/12/10

Not quite, Eric.

It was bogans that caused the GFC (whether in form of chavs or rednecks). It was their hyper-consumption living beyond their means and demanding the governemnt to provide them things they could never afford (cheap housing on easy credit). This was the root cause of the GFC.

Our political landscape is littered with the hubris of the bogan mindset of "how does this advantage me, it's all about me and anything that's not for me is bad".

We live in an egalitarian society. A meritocracy. You can help your class.

Bogans choose to eschew this. Instead they opt for the lowest common denominator. Destroy their environment and show not the slightest bit of compassion for others.

Political correctness was designed to level the playing field for people that couldn't do anything about their attributes - race or gender - you can't help being black or female - often these groups are subjugated.

You can always stop being a bogan. Thus their choices (that ruin it for the rest of us) are open to derision.

## Hermano says:

08:54am | 01/12/10

Get out to Greater (sic) Western Sydney and you will realise that there are a vast number of bogans who are neither white nor male. Get yourself to Oxford Street and Sydney's inner city and you will realise there's a vast number of bogans who aren't straight.

And to all of you bogan-haters: not being bogan doesn't rule out being a dickhead.

## James1 says:

09:44am | 01/12/10

You have clearly never had contact with a new-age bogan. If you had, you would realise they are a much greater threat to our way of life than mere multiculturalism.

Also bogans are not all white. Bogan is not a colour, gender, or a social class, it is a state of mind. Bogan is as bogan does, after all, and I know plenty of Lebanese bogans, Asian bogans, Indian bogans, white bogans, even a couple of Jewish bogans. Indeed, 50 percent of bogans are female, and most nouveau bogan females have pretensions to lesbianism (see the website for details).

In other words, pretty much everything you say in your post is completely wrong, Eric. Perhaps you should look into this matter and educate yourself on the threat that is the nouveau bogue before commenting further.

## Eric says:

10:12am | 01/12/10

Predictably enough, the lefty cultural elitists who like to sneer at white, male heterosexuals are defending their 'Boganhass'.

I can't wait for Liquid Krystallnacht!

**martin says:**

10:28am | 01/12/10

@Tubesteak, I think you'll find the GFC was also caused by greedy yuppies like Goldman Sachs types playing their games and lefties who insisted on changing the rules to give loans to poor people who had no hope of paying them back.

**James1 says:**

10:41am | 01/12/10

Predictably enough, Eric does not even engage with my point or the facts I present, and just proceeds to smear me as a lefty cultural elitist. How about trying to learn a bit about bogans and TBL, and then commenting Eric?

**Mr GG says:**

11:18am | 01/12/10

@Tubesteak

yeah its there fault for wanting to earn 1% of the what the big CEOs earn. Just because you were born with money doesn't mean you deserve to keep it. That's why Inheritance Tax is needed so, the Born rich morons can actually have the wealth that they deserve, the real value of what they produce which is F all. Moving some words around on a Mission statement doesn't do Anything yet you want Million dollar Bonuses for doing it.

And you cant Stop being a 'Bogan', I'm a Uni qualified Technical Professional, when I say I'm from Blacktown, you inner city elitists all of a sudden treat me like a leper.

**Eric says:**

11:23am | 01/12/10

Fair enough, James1.

Please enlighten me regarding the dreaded new-age bogan, which is "a much greater threat to our way of life than mere multiculturalism".

What makes these evolved bogans so much deadlier than the old stubby-warring, thong-footed tinny-swiggling variety? How do you propose to rid us of this menace?

**Richard says:**

11:32am | 01/12/10

Tubesteak, you are a revisionist and you are wrong. The GFC was caused by the credit crunch. The credit crunch was caused by the sub-prime mortgage meltdown. The sub-prime mortgage meltdown primarily an American phenomenon caused by the type of low-interest rate policies favoured by Doug Henwood, publisher of Left Business Observer, and by the type of progressive legislation enacted by Bill Clinton to encourage home ownership amongst blacks, latinos and other lower class borrowers that were considered by most prudent banks to credit risks (as in fact they ended up being).

**James1 says:**

11:59am | 01/12/10

Classic bogans are no threat at all Eric. Every classic bogan I know is what could be classed as a "top bloke".

The new-age bogans are the idiots for whom a good night out ends in a glassing. They are the women with tramp stamps showing off their pudgy bellies. They are the idiots abusing shop staff, and ruining shopping (and music festivals) with their crass behaviour. They are the teenagers with rat-tails, running around in gangs in the western suburbs. But that is the least of our problems. Not only are they no longer just harmless white, heterosexual blokes out to enjoy themselves with a few beers and a cricket/footy match - I take no issue with those bogans, and neither does TBL (if you check their site, which I very much recommend, you might be surprised how much you agree). They are getting educations, and infiltrating our houses of parliament, universities and businesses. Because they are no longer confined to a specific ethnic, gender and class groups, they are spreading, destroying Australian culture as they go, bastardising it, and turning it into the most shallow, dull, and uniform cultural experience imaginable. And they can not be stopped, so I can offer no solution. Need I elaborate on the threat?

**bella starkey says:**

12:10pm | 01/12/10

@ Richard, although the context is different (being an American problem rather than an Australian one) that is essentially what Tubesteak is talking about.

Living beyond ones means, demanding easy credit for consumer products not really needed, buying a McMansion in Kellyville which is practically made out of Ikea offcuts for a million dollars then having a cry when interest rates go up and they can't afford the repayments for either the house or the plasma tv, leather lounge suite and Holden SS ute which they got for zero deposit, zero interest and zero repayments till 2011.

### **Reg says:**

12:26pm | 01/12/10

You're right Tubesteak, living is the cause of death, have you got any suggestions for fixing it?

### **Tubesteak says:**

01:29pm | 01/12/10

@Mr GG

Try learning the difference between "there" and "their" and learning when to capitalise a word.

Just having a degree does not automatically grant you status or intelligence.

@Richard

Bella Starkey eloquently gave my reply.

Trying to separate the GFC from the credit crunch from the cheap loans is futile. It's all part of the same problem.

@Reg

What exactly is your point?

Personally, I'd like to see politicians with the ability to lead and do what is necessary for this nation to prosper. The politicians we've had since the latter years of the Keating government have only been interested in opinion polls and buying votes from bogans.

### **NEFFA says:**

02:44pm | 01/12/10

@james1 : "They are the women with tramp stamps showing off their pudgy bellies. "

why is it that whenever you talk of women, you have to bring their weight into it? there a plenty of fatso male bogans, but no one speaks of their weight. Why do you find this ok?

### **James1 says:**

03:22pm | 01/12/10

Do I do that NEFFA? If so, I do not think it is okay and please accept my apologies.

### **Brad of Bentleigh says:**

03:28pm | 01/12/10

@James... I'm an avid reader of the TBL website, and have steered a lot of traffic their way. Even though I have some bogan tendencies myself, their stuff is still amusing.

What stands out, looking at those active on the site is impotent rage.

Just as James is alarmed at the bogan taking over Australia, and is impotent to alter the inevitable outcome. These elitist lefty types cannot get their [small] minds around the fact that, these "bogans" they look down their noses at, are mainstream Australians. This IS Australian culture in the making... they may not like it (and there's a lot not to like), but touch bananas... that's life.

I for one, welcome the head explosions from our lefty elitist types 😊

### **Justin Patterson says:**

03:32pm | 01/12/10

@NEFFA : because it's OK for guys to be overweight. It's not OK for women to be overweight, its just horrible.

**BK says:**

*04:12pm | 01/12/10*

Why does Justin think that it is OK to nickname fat blokes tubby, nugget or chubs? It isn't OK to comment about the fatness of some women.

**James1 says:**

*04:14pm | 01/12/10*

What makes you think I am a lefty Brad? Would you be surprised if I told you I have never voted for the ALP or the Greens?

**James1 says:**

*04:16pm | 01/12/10*

Also Brad, if you read TBL often, you may be familiar with my responses below the line. I am James, anti-Anti Intellectual.

**NEFFA says:**

*04:54pm | 01/12/10*

@JUSTIN PATTERSON , sorry, not funny, not even clever. just annoying.

**Eric says:**

*05:46pm | 01/12/10*

Crikey. James1, you're right - we're doomed!

**SD says:**

*07:55pm | 01/12/10*

Brad, do we read the same site?

The commenters on TBL provide a witty deconstruction of boganism. The site (blog and comments) is sharp and funny and hardly weighed down by impotent rage or lefty elitism.

Its been a valuable education for a non-Australian like me 😊

**john says:**

*12:01pm | 17/05/11*

Too often people attach themselves to an an ideology and disregard the underlining fact that TBL is intended to be a humorous comment on modern Australian society. Those who preach TBL as gossip are, quite frankly, credulous

**dead to me says:**

*06:50am | 01/12/10*

When Gillard went out to Indonesia with a 500 million gift and to plead on behalf of Schapelle Corby I knew she was our first bogan PM fighting for her own kind.

Reply

**iansand says:**

*07:19am | 01/12/10*

Or maybe it's just funny.

Reply

**Eric says:**

*07:38am | 01/12/10*

Like wog jokes are funny?

**Ian says:**

*08:56am | 01/12/10*

...and true.

**James1 says:**

*09:46am | 01/12/10*

Again you let your ignorance on this matter slip Eric. Bogans are not a race. There are plenty of Greek and Italian bogans.

**Matt says:**

*12:13pm | 01/12/10*

Does something have to be racial to be discriminatory?

**James1 says:**

*12:52pm | 01/12/10*

For something to be discriminatory, you must be discriminating against something innate to the person - something they cannot help. Thus discriminating against a person on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexuality is genuine discrimination in the negative sense. People who choose to act like new-age bogans are making a choice, and much like smokers and drug addicts, it is fine to be discriminatory.

**Geoff says:**

*01:40pm | 01/12/10*

So James, what you are saying is that it is impossible to discriminate against Muslims or Christians or Jews? I quote you - "you must be discriminating against something innate to the person - something they cannot help". You can choose not to be Muslim/ Christian or Jewish, James. It was a good attempt to drown out eric with "no, but its different" leftism but it just doesn't cut it.

**trey says:**

*02:26pm | 01/12/10*

@james1

they all drive honda civics and american muscle cars

**James1 says:**

*02:26pm | 01/12/10*

For Christians and Muslims, you are correct Geoff. In fact, I discriminate against both regularly in the same way I discriminate against bogans (ei. by looking down on them for their foolishness, avoiding the sanctimonious evangelistic ones as much as possible, etc). For Jews, you are entirely incorrect, as being Jewish is an innate thing when it comes to Jewish ethnicity. Most Jews cannot choose to stop being Jewish - despite what you seem to think - I am surprised you are unaware of this. Jews cannot choose to be Jewish any more than Arabs can choose to be Arab. Both, however, can choose to be Christian or Muslim.

Furthermore, you will find far more websites attacking Christians and Muslims than you will websites attacking bogans. Do you really care about the difference, or are you just trying to score a point against someone you erroneously assume

is a "lefty"?

So once again, I am not a leftist. I just don't like new-age bogans because they are crass and annoying. So it was a good attempt to drown me out, but your lack of a grasp on even the most basic of facts just doesn't cut it.

**Laura says:**

*02:45pm | 01/12/10*

look the point the article is trying to make is that it's been generally accepted in society and culture to 'pick on someone your own size'. i'm sorry eric but the reason jokes about your demographic are widely accepted is that in comparison to other demographics, your run has been considerably easier. i'm not saying completely without incident, but for every joke you've heard about a bogan, another individual has heard at least twice as many jokes about their non male gender identifying, non white race, non christian religion, non completely heterosexual orientation, etc, and have probably had to field death threats, been ostracised, endured physical abuse or sexual violation.

The 'poor me, i'm a white guy and no one will stick up for me' mentality is really disgraceful. No I wouldn't want you to be discriminated against any more than anyone else, of course not, but how about channeling some of that energy in to standing up for the people who need a little more help than you?

**Geoff says:**

*04:24pm | 01/12/10*

@ James1

Judaism is a religion whether you like it or not. You blast me for my "lack of facts" yet claim people can be a Muslim-jew, can you be a Christian-Buddist? how absurd James.

If you claim Jews can't help how they were brought up. Neither can the bogan children. They didn't decide "Hey! lets have bogans for parents". And according to you its alright to discriminate on the bogan's traditions and pass times but not other groups. But we have to remember "that doesn't count" does it. One rule for some i suspect.

I mearly pointed out the hypocricy in your statements. You want to say "down with discrimination" at the same time saying "this group of people can be discriminated against - as it doesn't count". I suspect you need to take your own advice.

**James1 says:**

*04:54pm | 01/12/10*

You can't be serious Geoff, surely. You really can not grasp this simple fact, can you?

Jewish is an ethnic category. People are born with Jewish ethnicity, but they are not born with bogan, Christian or Muslim ethnicity, because that does not exist. I said nothing about how they are brought up. Furthermore, it is entirely possible for an ethnic Jew to convert to Islam or Christianity, as "Jewish" is not just a religious category, but an ethnic one as well - indeed, it is primarily an ethnic category, as many, many Jews do not practice Judaism. Got it now? I don't know how I can make that any simpler than I have already.

I never said "down with discrimination", I simply said we should discriminate against people on the basis of what they do and what they choose, rather than on the basis of something that they are born with - something innate. Thus there is no hypocrisy involved in discriminating against bogans, but not Jews, as one is a set of behaviours that is chosen, the other is an ethnicity.

**Muttley says:**

*11:06am | 02/12/10*

Garbage James. Absolute garbage. Choosing to follow the Jewish FAITH is a choice. Discrimination is discrimination, no matter how you try to package it. Stop trying to excuse what is, ultimately, social discrimination. What is wrong for the goose is wrong for the gander, you goose.

**bec says:**

*07:38am | 01/12/10*

Say what you want about us "left-leaning elites". I'm practically dripping in diamonds in my second-hand car, wearing my Big W-bought clothing - I know, they see me rollin', they hatin'. But when you hear your six year old neighbour call his



mother a C-word at 140dB because she won't let him have another iceblock for breakfast, you begin to wonder whether the White Australia Policy was the worst thing to happen since hyperbole began.

I grew up in the heart of boganville. It's not endemic about class, or race, or even gender. There was a malignant, violent push to make everything the same shade of nauseating beige. If you read books, you were a faggot. If you didn't play rugby league, you were useless. The girls were just as bad as the boys. I saw friends commit suicide because of the bullying; the lucky ones escaped to other places.

Right now I'm sandwiched between two bogan households. One is pretty harmless, and they're at least quality conversation. The other are the most evilly destructive, violent, rapacious group of people I have ever laid eyes upon. They're constantly screaming racial epithets over our fence, they damage our property without even owning up to it, they spend oodles of money on upgrading their car or buying their kid the newest playstations without paying to get their pets desexed. Every morning, I wonder what fresh new hell they will bring me. Do I need to worry about them accosting friends of mine on the nature strip, accusing them of being paedophiles like they did a month ago (because being gay is \*totes\* the same thing as wanting to have sex with their inbred, foul-mouthed spawn) without my friends even going near their property or doing anything that could be, in any way, considered provocation. Can I sing a song of glee at the thought our mail might be opened again? Do I cross my fingers and hope, like every little girl dreams when she's growing up, that they will back into my stationary car in my garage and claim that I'm at fault?

If that's what new immigrants have to assimilate to become, then we're screwed.

Reply

### **Tombowler says:**

*10:13am | 01/12/10*

You should just be glad, Bec, like the rest of us that Ed Hardy has cleverly worked against such car-ambushing, no-win-no-fee-lawyer-employing, work-avoiding bogans by cleverly covering them with high visibility sequins....

I suggest you move immediately to a leafier suburb or the city where you will be able to associate with people in suits who are not celebrating acquittal; buy a beer without being stuck at the bar behind some d#ckhead shouting his mates jagerbombs, tequila and that most bogan choice of "imported" beers- Corona with his thousands of dollars in mining cash kept on a debit card.

Although, by the sounds of it what you are experiencing at your place is not 'bogan' but rather scum. Your neighbours, by the sounds of it, aren't some tasteless goons but actually rather vicious.

Perhaps you have confused bogan (a generally benign bunch; unless of course your indian) with crackheads?

### **Michael N says:**

*10:37am | 01/12/10*

That's a very well written post Bec and while I'm sorry you have to endure what you do, I thank you for making me smile (which I hope isn't out of schadenfreude - but I can't be sure...).

I must challenge you on your reference to "race" as it relates to bogan's, however. As numerous posters have stated, being a bogan is not linked to race, religion or economic capacity, it is a matter of choice - kind of like being a vegetarian (an incongruous comparison perhaps but 'free-will' is the crux of the argument).

Your neighbours sound like they probably are bogans but they are also racist bigots and this should be their unifying label (if it's necessary to give them one). You could witness exactly the same treatment from people of ethnic origin, including having "racial epithets" hurled at Anglo-Saxon" left leaning elites". So while 'Boganism' and Racism often go hand-in-hand, it is important to stress that they are not synonymous. By way of example, look at the multicultural Bogan gang the "Bra Boys".

Notwithstanding the above, I absolute loved the line "you begin to wonder whether the White Australia Policy was the worst thing to happen since hyperbole began". Brilliant.

### **AdamC says:**

*11:03am | 01/12/10*

"There was a malignant, violent push to make everything the same shade of nauseating beige."

Actually, Bec, I am always amazed by how much inner-city hipsters, with such great pretension to non-comformism and individuality, are practically clones of each other in every respect. There is far more plurality in the deep 'burbs nowadays than there is in the inner cities.

**n\_dude says:**

*12:59pm | 01/12/10*

Sounds like you have just got bad neighbours. Not sure you can paint all "bogans" with the same brush.

**Dan the bogan sympathiser says:**

*04:26pm | 01/12/10*

Funniest post so far Bec, nice work.

**rohan says:**

*02:17pm | 06/12/10*

@Tombowler:

- nice, when you mentioned Indians - i figured out which group you belong to...if you managed to move out of wollongong to perhaps US and UK, or some other places then you might have realised that Indians are actually doing well there - unlike the aussies who have moved there.

- your inherent racism could not help coming out could it?

**CJ Morgan says:**

*07:39am | 01/12/10*

The bogan is evidently developing a precious sensitivity commensurate with its latterly inordinate economic clout.

Reply

**Drew(Darlinghurst) says:**

*07:50am | 01/12/10*

The Howard Government did not Ignore the Australian Bogan. Hello think "Howard Battlers" seen in the outer Western Sydney seat of "Linsey"

Many Bogans are what John Howard and the Liberal Party would call "aspirational voters" - Think brick veneer the fibro home and call themsevels middle -class.LOL

Without Bogans would anyone go to a Cricket Match. Cricket Australia would die.

Rather interesting article, for this inner city Gay Man from Darlinghurst. "Elite"?? I dont think so.

Reply

**Russ says:**

*03:53pm | 01/12/10*

Not to mention V8 supercars.

**Judge Holden says:**

*04:09pm | 01/12/10*

Prejudice and ignorance wear many faces, Drew. Try reading a few of the posts above and replace the word "bogan" with "aboriginal", "immigrant" or "homosexual" and you'll see that judging somebody because of any percieved difference is the same under any banner. I'd say the main difference between most of the people you'd term Bogans and yourself is that they have fewer illusions of their own importance.

I can assure you that a bogan I am not, but the rather obvious double standard of those who pour scorn on th working classes, while they themselves decry xenophobia, is getting a little tired. Do the self annointed urban elite really feel that empty about their lives that they feel the need to reignite the class wars by laughing at those whose tastes are different to their own?

Ironically the book in question would seem to be the literary equivalent of today tonight!

**Bruce says:**

09:04pm | 01/12/10

Drew: The very people the labor party abandoned.

**ibast says:**

08:07am | 01/12/10

I find that TBL has really stretched the definition of Bogan in an attempt to keep it's head above the relevance waterline.

Reply

**Markus says:**

10:09am | 01/12/10

It lasted less than a couple of months before the creators just started listing things that they consider too mainstream (does anyone honestly think a real bogan even knows what a Shaolin monk is?)

**GB says:**

11:43am | 01/12/10

Agree, at first it was amusing but they've gone on with the joke far too long and now it just sounds like snot nosed unit students having a whinge...

**Jade says:**

12:58pm | 01/12/10

I agree with you all, last time I was on there things that were listed we random things that any person "bogan" or not would do. I think the whole concept is lame.

**Chinaksi says:**

02:20pm | 01/12/10

Of course, in over-analysing the site, you're ignoring the fact that it's satire.

I personally find the spread covers the modern-bogan demographic quite well.

**Russell says:**

08:08am | 01/12/10

Fair points, but Nigel, you have not explained why "you welcome our new bogan overlords" Either (1) that headline was written by a Punch sub, or (2) you have a child named Mercedes.

Reply

**Nigel says:**

11:30am | 01/12/10

Wasn't my headline, and I'm not quite sure I do welcome our new bogan overlords, Russell. Not sure about the name Mercedes for my soon-to-be-born daughter, but I might go with Portia (spelt Porsche)

**Retired Soldier says:**

08:14am | 01/12/10

Eric says:05:05am | 01/12/10: I agree with you that Bogans are seen as predominantly male however come and visit the Gold Coast for a while and that theory might evaporate very quickly. In this wonderful paradise you will see young women (and old ones) swearing abuse at anyone in range, you will see them walking the streets all day and night actually looking for a physical fight and of course they all drink grog, smoke and swear at the same time. I think the perception that Bogans are all male should now be changed to include their sweet little lady friends.

In fact I am more inclined to avoid a group of Bogan looking women than men.

Reply

**Jade says:**

*03:22pm | 01/12/10*

I frequently go out on the Gold Coast, and we must be going to very different Gold Coasts. I frequently see some bogans, and some very rich, very elitist people who look down their noses at anyone driving a car that cost less than \$60,000 or who is wearing an outfit that didn't cost above \$1000.

I don't recall ever seeing young people walking around the streets drinking, swearing and looking for a physical fight. Except during Schoolies week, where a majority of the youths are not Gold Coast locals anyway.

**Dimetri Polgnaris says:**

*08:21am | 01/12/10*

Australia needs a book like this but instead of plain bogans, it needs WOG bogans or a like, you know the Ed Hardy wearing fake Armarni shades wearing, broken english talking, fist pumping, done up 3series driving BOGAN. This would be a laugh we can enjoy!

Plus then it gives us white males event more racist content to read!

Reply

**Iggy says:**

*10:08am | 01/12/10*

You obviously haven't read the book or seen the website as all the things you listed above is mentioned.

**Zaf says:**

*03:30pm | 01/12/10*

There is currently a copyright dispute between Bogans from Wollongong and Wog Bogans across Australia for the term Wogan. I think we should all share the term, because you know, why not?

**Mark Young says:**

*08:44am | 01/12/10*

Nice article Nigel, I enjoyed reading it.

I agree, there is a nasty undertone (actually not really an undertone, just a tone) that runs through the entire site.

Do you think it is because people have an innate desire to poke the fun at people who are different and 'bogans' from the Western Suburbs don't have an anti-discrimination lobby to make you feel bad about it?

Reply

**Tom says:**

*08:45am | 01/12/10*

Even the word "bogan" has come a long way and is now being bandied around as a definitive all purpose argument-winner.

Like "racist", "luddite" "xenophobe", "born to rule", using the word "bogan" has become the cheap path for lazy arguments to claim a moral ascendancy.

Reply

**Chris L says:**

*02:49pm | 03/12/10*

Along with "Lefty".

**TChong says:**

*08:50am | 01/12/10*

21st century Bogans are last centuries, Westies, Waxheads, Petrol heads etc.

Most of us can roll with the punches and take a joke or two, no big deal.

If not, then who ever is doing the whinging need to relax a little, and accept they probaly are Bogans, with denial issues.

Reply

**Tom says:**

*10:01am | 01/12/10*

"denial"? perhaps @ TChong. However, consider that there may be a conscious choice between labelled a bogan, metero-sexual or even worse, a SNAG. I would rather be labelled a bogan any day.

**TChong says:**

*10:44am | 01/12/10*

Me too Tom. Bogan and proud of it.

In fact, this week end , I'm planning a trip out to Bogan Gate.

Must get the duffel coat, cords,and Desert boots dry cleaned for the big day.

VB stubbie holder at the ready.

**TD says:**

*09:07am | 01/12/10*

"...the pretension, racism, ignorance, unabashed self-interest, clumsy social climbing, sheepish conformism, hyper consumerism and reactionary politics of Australia's rapidly gentrifying lower orders".

That's the perfect description of the bogans it's entirely fabulous to poke fun at. There's no sport in hassling those who are really struggling financially to pay for their VB and winny blues, but cashed-up bogans like Shane Warne, and even the less famous ones in their McMansions, are absolutely fair game.

Reply

**Mark says:**

*09:14am | 01/12/10*

One of the biggest bands in the world has a whole army of Bogans....ACDC....so they do have some power.

Reply

**Dan the bogan sympathiser says:**

*04:30pm | 01/12/10*

It must be hard living in a world where ACDC don't ROCK! I wouldn't know, I'm just guessing.

**martinX says:**

*10:07pm | 01/12/10*

Akkadakker stopped rocking when Bon died.

**S. Morris says:**

*09:29am | 01/12/10*

I prefer the term 'neo-bogan' for the recent cashed-upped and indulged class. These are the people buying into Northcote's new-build concrete bunkers. I prefer the older type bogan or ocker. At least there was a humor and a sense of community. This new lot are the indulged Gen Me without any cultural or societal capital.

Reply

**James1 says:**

*09:49am | 01/12/10*

I prefer nouveau bogue. It captures their sense of "clarsiness and that eh".

**G says:**

*09:30am | 01/12/10*

Everyone is allowed to payout white people, we are the majority who are not oppressed. So we can take the hits, personally, I'm o.k. with it.

Nigel you realise the formula for the 'stuff bogans like' website is stolen from the <http://www.stuffwhitepeoplelike.com>, which is about ten times funnier.

Reply

**James1 says:**

*09:50am | 01/12/10*

You shouldn't see yourself as taking hits for white people, as TBL is not about white people. It is about bogans.

**Lance says:**

*09:56am | 01/12/10*

Agree G. Why has no one else noticed that these guys have just copied something from overseas? Its a poor imitation of something far funnier and clever.

Maybe they are the failed tv executives who brought us Survivor Australia?

**James1 says:**

*10:26am | 01/12/10*

Lance,

Everyone who reads the site has noticed. Indeed, TBL themselves have written of it several times.

Personally, I find SWPL too American in its outlook and cultural references. TBL is talking about Australian stuff that rings true for me, and cultural references that I recognise.

**chris says:**

*10:34am | 01/12/10*

That's very astute of you, G, especially as TBL has a link to [stuffwhitepeoplelike.com](http://www.stuffwhitepeoplelike.com) on their home page. Face it; if you removed everything from the web, print and TV that wasn't a cut-and-paste from something else, well you wouldn't be left with much at all, would you?

**lebogue says:**

*10:34am | 01/12/10*

The brilliant thing about [stuffwhitepeoplelike.com](http://www.stuffwhitepeoplelike.com) is that their targets grasp the concept of satire and embrace it. Thingsboganslike occasionally pokes fun at itself (see 'The Bandwagon') which is endearing but it's not as funny as [stuffwhitepeople like](http://www.stuffwhitepeoplelike.com) because self absorbed as most people are, laughing at others is never as funny as laughing at yourself. Not even the intellectual elites are all that curious.

**G says:**

*10:55am | 01/12/10*

@ chris,

That sounds time consuming, looking at their webpage.

Am I really going to do that much research to back up my comments when posting on 'the punch'.

Come on !!!

**BK says:**

*11:39am | 01/12/10*

Look at this f@#ing hipster.com used to be quite funny too. It takes aim at a different group, yet relies on the same type of humor.

**James1 says:**

*12:01pm | 01/12/10*

BK,

Check this one out:

<http://unhappyhipsters.com/>

**papachango says:**

*01:05pm | 01/12/10*

@ James1 - SWPL is universally applicable. Could easily apply to Balmain, Glebe, Northcote etc, in fact the guy who wrote it visited Melbourne and declared North Fitzroy our 'whitest suburb'. nevertheless there is actually a Melbourne version - [stuffwhitepeoplelikeinmelbourne.blogspot.com/](http://stuffwhitepeoplelikeinmelbourne.blogspot.com/)

I agree SWPL is far funnier, mainly because it was written by of 'the right kind of white people' poking fun at themselves. Whereas TBL was written by hipsters attacking bogans, and just comes across as nasty and vindictive.

As shame because there is good natured fun to be had in the bogan stereotype (see bogan bingo, poida, kath & kim), but calling them all racist and ignorant isn't really funny.

Funny how it's the left wingers sneering at the working classes they're supposed to be champions of!

**James1 says:**

*01:40pm | 01/12/10*

I guess you have a deeper exposure to American culture than I do, papachango. I like the Melbourne version though - largely because I dislike wankers as much as I dislike new-age bogans.

Also, TBL is not about those type of bogans - it is about the new-age bogan, a far different creature - not one necessarily confined to the working classes. Furthermore, I am not a lefty, but I love to look down on bogans (many of whom earn far more money than I do) for their crass behaviour. Across the road we have a bogan family in a McMansion, the teenage daughters an unnatural shade of (fake tan) orange (with names like Tiarni and Shakaylah), cars as big as tanks, and with near constant screaming and swearing coming from their windows. It is a constant source of amusement to my wife and I. Although, someone was glassed at a party there recently, so we are beginning to see the threat posed by this family.

**chris says:**

*01:52pm | 01/12/10*

@G: All that scrolling and clicking has worn you out, sport. Go have a lie down.

**BK says:**

*09:32am | 01/12/10*

I resisted using the term bogan for a long time, because it reeked of class prejudice. TBL won me over to the concept. It is much more about the alternate looking down on conformists than about class.

Reply

**Poseidon says:**

*09:34am | 01/12/10*

"like to disingenuously insist that boganism is unrelated to socio-economic status"

I dont think that boganism is necessarily related to socio economic status. I think Shane Warne, Dermot Brereton and any number of media and sports types who have made some money but sustain an inner bogan. The monied bogan exists.

Reply

**Jane says:**

11:46am | 01/12/10

It sure does - there is the acronym CUB, which stands for "cashed up bogan"

**Rog says:**

09:51am | 01/12/10

Read the book, really funny. It's purposely written from a snobby viewpoint but still obviously 'tongue in cheek'. The bogan class really is powerful and influential in Australian but also sheep like. They also believe they are battlers when most of their battles are trivial and inane. That's what makes the book so funny. It analyses so many double standards in Australian society and you end up recognising a lot of your own funny traits

Reply

**TheBigMicka says:**

10:01am | 01/12/10

Bogans are fair game because Bogans are not self-aware. Go to a Stand Up Comedy Night at a Suburban footy club and watch the comics make bogan jokes. In a room that's pretty much full of Bogans, they'll all be pissing themselves laughing.

Reply

**Eric says:**

10:40am | 01/12/10

That \*is\* self-awareness.

Bogans can laugh at themselves - but I suspect many of the "elites" can't.

**Alyssa KT says:**

01:16pm | 01/12/10

Not always, Eric; they think they're laughing AT someone, not with them...

**Reg says:**

01:36pm | 01/12/10

No matter how you attempt to divide and pigeon-hole, one of the great strengths of Australians in general, is an ability to laugh at themselves. It's the culturally deprived, like the Americans, who don't understand this. They even regard our convict origins as an opportunity to sneer when in fact more English convicts finished up in their Colony before the war of Independence. I think bogans are misunderstood, it's Bougainvillea I hate with a passion.

**rufus says:**

02:33pm | 01/12/10

@ Eric - Haven't seen much of you poking fun at yourself either, Eric. If I have it right, you're a white misogynist male, probably retired or unemployed, living on the Gold Coast. Seems like a comedy goldmine there.

**Reg says:**

03:24pm | 01/12/10

On behalf of we retired I must object Rufus. From information to hand Eric is a woman hater who operates a coal washer in the far North of WA which is very strange since they don't mine coal there. However, the isolation does explain many things, not least of which is the desire to escape to a reclusive environment from which he can broadcast his restricted outlook. I'm not even sure he's ever seen a bogan other than in the mirror. Despite that I'm sure he's a nice chap. Just doesn't laugh a lot.



**Miles says:**

03:42pm | 01/12/10

Reg, you have go to be kidding!!! We have, for the most part, totally lost our ability to laugh at almost anything. With the amount of people being offended by anything and everything and the ensuing litigation going on in this country, it's like we have no humour at all. In fact, I would not be surprised if someone attempts to launch action against the very site that this article talks about!!!

**Dauida says:**

04:19pm | 01/12/10

@Rufus and Reg,

To my understanding Eric lives in QLD, works in Water Infrastructure ( a "real" job, not some pseudo- feminazi caring profession), has a conniving ex who colludes with CSA to get his money and is the "voice" of disenfranchised white, heterosexual, middle-aged males (and other extinct/threatened species). Then again, he could be a creation of the Punch team to elicit responses.

**rufus says:**

04:34pm | 01/12/10

I rush to assure you, Reg, that I intended no offence to the retired by my assumption that Eric may be among their number. On the contrary, I hope to join that happy band myself in the not too distant future.

**cRook says:**

10:04am | 01/12/10

I really think we need to recognise the different class structures within the bogan demographic. Yes, there are the foul mouthed, drunken, unemployable, excessively breeding, constantly criminal bogans, but we can't forget (or forget to love) the Daryl Kerrigan bogans. The guy next door that wears a blue singlet, drinks VB and drives a beat up Commodore. Maybe his kids are scattered around different mothers, maybe he swears too casually, maybe he even plays ACDC a bit loud every Friday night. But he'll know your name, he'll keep an eye on your place and he'll offer to lend you his lawnmower before you ask. He might even mow it for you. He has a strong sense of honour, family and mateship and he'll always tell you the truth. He's a true Aussie, the way we used to be.

Why do we think it's OK to pick on bogans? Probably because we've all got at least a little in us. Christmas is a good time for us all to get in touch with our inner bogan.

Reply

**johnboy says:**

01:27pm | 01/12/10

The person you are describing is more of an "old school bogan" (OSB) - he is a generally good bloke and is not the target of the blog.

**WACHick says:**

10:22am | 01/12/10

The writers of the book and website wouldn't know a proper bogan if one threw a pack of winnie reds at them!

Reply

**Alyssa KT says:**

01:13pm | 01/12/10

Yaaaa, that's because it's about NABs (New Age Bogans)...

**Richard The Lionheart says:**

10:25am | 01/12/10

Oh dear! I fear my nephews may be somewhat boganesque. One a tradie, the other tertiary educated. Good lads, good workers, overweight, into heavy rock and ute's, heavy drinkers and love pizzas delivered to their front porticos. Loath looking different or smart and prefer to dress down in dull colours. Forget about the arts or reading anything apart from car or boat adverts. Nevertheless they have attracted very smart educated women as their betrothed. Can't wait to see their kid's growing up. Their own parents are bubble-wrap, proud, professional baby boomer mates who refuse to cringe.

Reply

### **Max Vaunted says:**

*10:26am | 01/12/10*

The diversity of comments here serve to confirm my suspicion that inside every dinkum Aussie lurks an inner Bogan struggling to get out, and it's just that in a great many of us the inner Bogan has erupted to the surface. Funniest of all though are the earnest musings of the evidently upwardly mobile @Tubesteak, who even attributes the GFC to the generally feckless Bogan, as if Bogans were responsible for setting the policies of lending institutions!

Reply

### **Sick of it! says:**

*10:33am | 01/12/10*

What the hell is a 'book-reading class'. So people read book are now somehow their own class, inferior or superior to non-book reading classes. This arbitrary and attacking labelling of groups you don't associate with is getting ridiculous. 'Late-sipping' 'inner-city-lefty' 'intellectual-classes' 'chardonnay sipping glitterati' 'bogans' 'twitterati' so and so forth. It's getting droll and tiresome. Does it make you feel better to arbitrarily label someone like that? Make up so kind of stigma?

Reply

### **Mr GG says:**

*11:36am | 01/12/10*

yeah as some one born and bred in Blacktown I always consider myself a Bogan, But as I am an avid reader I guess I'm really in this class instead.

and Harry Potter is for kids, Adults should be Embarrassed to read it. And really it is More the Inner city rooster chokers that go on about being 'readers', yet when you ask they have read Dan Brown.

My tastes are more Historical Fiction, currently reading series by Christian Jacq, a French Curator of Egyptology.

### **Alyssa KT says:**

*01:23pm | 01/12/10*

Mr GG is spot on about Dan Brown being the fodder of book-reading bogans. (And most of the titles on Oprah's book club list.)

But as Sick of it! you may be, not reading books at all makes you infinitely more bogan...

### **Lido says:**

*01:06pm | 04/12/10*

Mr GG, I find it funny that you're an "avid reader" and yet you indulge in random capitalisation throughout your post. I'm also going to assume you haven't read Harry Potter (since that would clearly be "embarrassing"), and thus should refrain from commenting on the age group it is appropriate for.

The one thing you may be right about is the part in relation to Dan Brown.

### **Sparkie says:**

*10:35am | 01/12/10*

"Why has no one else noticed that these guys have just copied something from overseas?"

Actually, the guy who founded Stuff White People Like has praised the site (and TBL has a prominent link to SWPL on its front page). I don't think they have ever tried to hide the connection.

If I can summarise, TBL does not attack the person who reads Dan Brown, they attack the person that reads Dan Brown

and claims to be well read. For every action in the book, there is a motive - and it is the motive that makes the bogan.

Reply

**martin says:**

*10:37am | 01/12/10*

Personally I think PC has gone too far, and I think it's not just the bogan who deserves to cop a lot of criticism. But I think they deserve it the most in this country. It's not really a case of "class" anymore seeing as you have tradies arguably doing the best out of everyone at the moment with nice houses, investment properties, a lot of them being incredibly overpaid, and a far easier barrier to entry in their jobs.

The bogan is very often a reverse snob as well which I find probably even more insulting than traditional snobbery.

Reply

**Saskia says:**

*10:57am | 01/12/10*

The website is completely wrong. They are talking about "Chavs" not true bogans.

And why no mention of the ALP on their site? Boagns always vote Labor its in their DNA!

Reply

**James1 says:**

*11:04am | 01/12/10*

You try this all the time over at TBL Saskia. How do you explain the number of Liberal votes in Frankston, Camden or Toowoomba (which has been a Liberal seat for pretty much ever) if bogans always vote Labor?

**Simon says:**

*11:39am | 01/12/10*

Actually, I think you'll find Bogans will vote for according to 'What's in it for me'. Otherwise we'd never change government.

**Mr GG says:**

*11:42am | 01/12/10*

ummmm....

The Bogan Votes for Abbot to 'Turn Back the Boats' because one of the biggest facets of Bogans is they're racist.

Otherwise yes they (being of lower socio-economic background) would be better off voting labour (if labour actually followed their Ideals).

**Alyssa KT says:**

*02:52pm | 01/12/10*

I know so many loudly Liberal-supporting bogans, you have no idea!

Thinking ALP is bogan is... bogan

**James III says:**

*07:26pm | 01/12/10*

Saskia is dead right.

Check out the bogan 100% worst feral suburbs in your city and 100% of the time they are rolled gold ALP.

Bogan = ALP voter. It's simply fact.

**Mr Pod says:**

11:03am | 01/12/10

While TBL is mildly amusing, rabid feasting at barbs aimed squarely at the low socio-economic groups, is not. The use of stereotypes to belittle and to feel superior to other groups, is the same mechanism as racism. Bogan hating may appear harmless but using it to gratify white middle class tendencies for racism, is not. Anything that encourages a belief in the superiority of us over them is very dangerous, especially in one of the kinder societies of the world. Please do not get too carried away demolishing human lives, even if you do not see them as the same as yourself, at your next wine and cheese soiree.

Reply

**Dan says:**

11:16am | 01/12/10

Enough material for a thesis here, but let's just treat it all as a joke. Sometimes not very funny, but an attempt at humour nonetheless. And, it's a voyage of self-discovery. I like Coronas and cricket, ergo I'm a bogan!

Reply

**ibast says:**

03:10pm | 01/12/10

Coronal and Cricket hey? I think that makes you a gay Bogan. I bet you Bring Chicken to a Barbie

**Dan says:**

03:49pm | 01/12/10

Sorry Ibast, red meat and hetro!

**Wilma J Craig says:**

11:22am | 01/12/10

Bring it on! I can't wait to get a copy in my stockings so I'll go out & buy one today! We have put up with so much Political Correctness being shoved down our throats by politicians, social workers & all those other parasites who think they have the right to tell us how to live our lives. We are not allowed to do or say anything in case it upsets somebody else so we are required to be dishonest. Today you are not allowed to criticise another person if they happen to be from a different ethnic background than yourself. If you do you are branded a Racist. Strange that for members of, particularly, minority ethnic groups are allowed to criticise others with impunity. When challenged "That's not racism, that's me exercising my Right to Freedom of Speech" is the response thrown back at you. Though one myself the people I dislike most are White Anglo Saxons of whatever control-freak religious organisation they belong to!

Reply

**papachango says:**

12:52pm | 01/12/10

erm Wilma - I think you'll find that TBL is the epitome of all the politically correctness itself !

Apparently it's politically correct to sneer at the working class, but not at inner city lefties nor any ethnic or minority groups.

In fact TBL is anti-anti PC, listing 'political correctness gone mad' as one of the things Bogans like, apparently as an excuse for their racism and xenophobia.

Might I suggest that you'll find "Stuff White People Like" more to your taste - instead of poking fun at working class people it rips into to inner city lefties, though it is much funnier and less spiteful than TBL

**Alyssa KT says:**

02:56pm | 01/12/10

<http://thingsboganslike.com/2009/12/03/38-political-correctness-gone-mad/>

**Chubby says:**

11:22am | 01/12/10

As usual, the point is missed. Perhaps the appellation "Bogan" is a poor choice by the TBL authors, despite all their efforts to rationalise and explain it. The term in the context used has nothing to do with socio economic status. Personally I am a big fan of both the site and the book, and I am a pensioner. Apparently I am also quite the Bogan according to the authors!

None the less I love the site for deriding what is essentially the "dumbing down" of our society. As Todd Sampson said, paraphrasing an advertising industry maxim, "The more you think, the less you spend."

Nigel Bowen's critique of TBL appears to be little more than a plug for his work at GQ  
Ne C'est Pas?

Reply

**Barry says:**

12:04pm | 01/12/10

Nigel, the sneering tone of your article and the use of 'book reading...elites' (whoever they are) gave the game away for me early in the piece. A confused and confusing article.

Reply

**Elitist Wayne Kerr says:**

12:06pm | 01/12/10

TBL should be renamed "Wankers complaining about stuff". Whatever whiff of humour & satire that was there at the start has long gone and now its a place where tossers go to complain about petty crap.

Reply

**heather says:**

12:11pm | 01/12/10

My 2011 NY resolution to cultivate my inner bogan (not a big ask, I was brought up in the country). Bogans are much more fun than poncy, PC, left wing, greens voting, inner city, d\*ckwads who are completely incapable of fixing anything, and spend their whole time discussing coffee brewing techniques and which private schools are best...

Reply

**jade says:**

01:02pm | 01/12/10

Hahaha thats so true, nothing beats country bogans 🤔 and bogans have way more fun I think!

**Put Me In A Box says:**

05:01pm | 01/12/10

My stereoetype is better than your stereotype  
ner ner ne ner ner.

**Roadkill Charlie says:**

12:17pm | 01/12/10

The fact of the matter is Things Bogans Like is a poor cousin to the original Stuff White People Like and Stuff Environmentalists Like, which take the piss out of the inner-city urban lefties far more effectively than TBL does. Fairs fair, but props to the original, wittier, far less angry version.

Reply

**Kika says:**

01:38pm | 01/12/10

Ha, yeah. I noticed the same thing.

**John Mc Johnson says:**

*02:03pm | 01/12/10*

This is nothing new, TBL freely admits that it is derivative of Stuff White People Like.

**melsy says:**

*12:25pm | 01/12/10*

i am so disapointed, i thought i was a bogan and now i find out i'm not. what will i do with all my flanno's? what will all those shazza's and bazza's do now that channel and amarni have taken over. oh the shame of it all....

Reply

**Likes Joining Dots says:**

*08:04pm | 01/12/10*

melsy, hate to break it to you, you are thinking of OSB's (old school bogans).

The definition has moved on since then, your flannels are now retro cool.

Hint: get your old OSB flannies & dunlop volleys on ebay.

**Tran says:**

*12:27pm | 01/12/10*

I think the racism of the inner city arteests is a much more dangerous kind. Sure, the boggans will scream 'turn back the boats' because they're the last whites left in the street. But the inner city arteests usually live in pure aryan neighbourhoods and they keep it that way by screaming 'no development'. The difference between a bogan and an inner city arteest is one is at least honest in their bigotry.

Anyway, It's funny watching white people have a pseudo class war. And even funnier reading the claims that a 'bogan' is ever anything but white. I'm sure, just as the American hipster eventually turned 'ironic' racism into the real thing(see Vice magazine, Jim Goad etc), the Australian hipsters will follow.

Reply

**bella starkey says:**

*12:41pm | 01/12/10*

Dude, hipsters are just bogans who had no friends in highschool.

**PiesRUs says:**

*12:48pm | 01/12/10*

@Tran - it does appear to be Australia expanding the current two class system. There has always has an elite and then everyone else. The introduction of a bogan/feral strata allows a middle class to officially separate and create a more normal a three class system.

Au revoir egalite.

**papachango says:**

*03:58pm | 01/12/10*

what you call 'inner city arteests' iI like to call radishes. Red on the outside and white on the inside. i.e. fashionably left wing, carrying on about how wonderful multiculturalism is, just as long as they don't have to actually live next to any darkies.

**Caramac says:**

*05:57pm | 01/12/10*

Radishes say things like "I respect and like colored people, my doctor is one, top chap"

**TnuC says:**

01:00pm | 01/12/10

I guess I get the best of both worlds then dont I...

Ranga & Bogan... = legendary 😊

methinx I see lotsa pretentious wannabes out there in blogdom... mayhap half of u need to get over urselves.. some of us bogans are righteously good people... I know lots of deplorable humans that should have been neutered at birth & funnily enough they fall into all classes of society.. go figure..? some people just shouldnt be allowed to breed..!!

So many folks need to get over themselves, look at life & smile & laugh cus its the only one you got so enjoy it & learn to

laugh at urself & others 😊

.... if not Karna will getcha

Reply

**Kika says:**

01:36pm | 01/12/10

Who's Karna?

Or do you mean Karma?

**James1 says:**

02:30pm | 01/12/10

Perhaps it is his daughter's name?

**A Bob says:**

03:00pm | 01/12/10

Nah, it's Karna alright. Karna Crows. She lives down the road from me. Really have to watch yourself, or she'll give you a good thong whacking.

P.S. Good name, TnuC, slipped past the moderators nicely. 😊

**TnuC says:**

03:25pm | 01/12/10

Strewth ruth how did that simple typo get past me... maybe i gots a speeth impedimenth or maybe i had a ranga/bogan conflict going on at the time... were happy that u noticed Kika, sanx..

Ranga out.. 😊

**Kika says:**

01:02pm | 01/12/10

Ah, who cares. We all know that. My sister is a bonafide bogan - whereas I do pretty well on those bogan tests going around viral on email. It's true though.

The issue I have is that their book and website seems like a cheap imitation of the books and site called "Stuff White People Like". This will appeal to those offended bogans as his stuff pretty much makes fun of the inner city hipsters like myself who enjoy a DINK lifestyle (but with an indoor fur-baby cat), Yoga, the Greens, living in an inner city apartment with no aspiration to own my own home at any stage, nor having children, and sushi (only at reputable Japanese joints and preference to raw fish not that horrible california roll imitation sushi rubbish).

<http://stuffwhitepeoplelike.com/>

Reply

**AdamC says:**

*01:46pm | 01/12/10*

Kika, I think TBL acknowledged their great debt to the stuff white people like blog.

The difference is that, while SWPL is about inner-urban trendies laughing at themselves, TBL is about inner urban trendies denigrating people who live in the suburbs. TBL has its moments but it running out of ideas. It also has very nasty, unpleasant tone to it.

As for the general issue with class, bogans, etc, I think Eric captured it fairly well.

**stephen says:**

*01:05pm | 01/12/10*

Bogans get things done.

They mostly got a half-dozen things on the boil at once, and but (er, should say 'though'), nothings done ter suit a prince,(um, better make that 'princess'), its all done at a cracking pace.

Favourite sayins are 'what yer see is what yer get' ; another is ..

'Shauna will yer rack off i'm talkin ! sheez'.

now let me see...ah yes, there's 'what goes round comes round' an finally there's 'How much is that doggy in the window ?'

(That one's not for families.)

Bogans got a hearta' gold. that is if'n yer don't owe'em money or you ain't pissin in their pocket. (Bogans can always pick it if yer pissed...if yer get my drift.)

Unfortunately they conceive all feelings and thought, to action...which is actually an explanation for violence, which your everyday bogan will never run a mile from. (Hope sergeant jeffries is readin this).

So watch out christmas, here we come,

and hello sis and hello Mum.

Reply

**Davida says:**

*01:43pm | 01/12/10*

I seen what you done.....

**stephen says:**

*10:55pm | 01/12/10*

Yeah well...

Shauna !

' hey darl, could yer take the dog out please ? Sheez.'

Apologeez, bro', but me wife's just read me stuff up top en she wants ter know what yous saw.

PS that dog ain't always in the house.

**Bon says:**

*01:36pm | 01/12/10*

I read books, have a degree and like plenty of "stuff" that the authors of that book think bogans like. I also married a bogan (a construction worker no less), live in a bogan town, my children go to a bogan school and many of my close friends are bogans. My 7 year old son even has a rats tail, and I have contemplated getting a tattoo in the past, but have decided against it. Guess that makes me and my children bogans, and I am cool with that.

Reply

**rats tail says:**

*02:39pm | 01/12/10*

Would that be Bogan Gate NSW that you live in?

**Daniel says:**



01:39pm | 01/12/10

Bogans are fair game because nobody is a bogan. The bogans are always "those people over there", no matter what. It's one of the laws of boganism. To the inner city sniveller, all outer suburbs tradies are bogans. To the outer suburban tradies, you have to be receiving an income support payment to be a bogan. To those on income support, a bogan is a flannie-wearing, drug-dealing wife basher. And the wife-bashing neanderthal drug dealer is too busy looking out for the police to be concerned about some book. So bogans are and always will be fair game because there's nobody to offend.

Reply

### **The Judge and Jury says:**

02:41pm | 01/12/10

@Daniel - The Winner

### **notSue says:**

01:50pm | 01/12/10

All this classist rubbish is hilarious (as obviously it was intended. )! My background is pure 'beaughan' ( the spelling I prefer, James1 - it reeks of just the right amount of pretension!) and I thank the Universe on a daily basis for it. If a sense of equality and fair play, a detestation of snobbery, a sense mateship and love of the simple pleasures in life qualifies me, then yessireee, sign me up! I'm also grateful for my education, my leftie leanings and my upwardly mobile (former) professional status.. so classify me, I dare ya..oh and I don't (and never have) live/d in the inner west of anywhere! ha! Peace!

Reply

### **Matt says:**

01:53pm | 01/12/10

I read the blog for a while until I came to realise that it was not a gentle poke at the less fashionable nor even an angry expose of the views of a reasonably large section of the community but simply a snobby put down of those that the writers see as déclassé. It is all about the middle class keeping the working class down where they belong - nasty, nasty stuff.

Even the condemnation of the supposed racist attitudes of the "bogan" (the definition of which has been stretched to breaking point in TBL) isn't based on anger at the effect of the racism on society but simple ridicule in that the "Bogan" does not know that socially-hip people hide their latent racism rather than express it openly.

Give me TISM's social and class based satire any day - "Whatareya?" and "The History of Western Civilisation" leave TBL for dead.

.

Reply

### **James says:**

02:13pm | 01/12/10

I've noticed some people claiming the anti-'bogan' blog is a forgery of stuffwhitepeoplelike. Whilst the format and schtick is a rip off, the satirical target is actually polar opposite.

Stuffwhitepeoplelike mocks pretentious, hypocritical, faux-multiculturalism loving whites. It is written (mostly) by a guy who used to be part of that white demographic himself.

The anti-'bogan' blog mocks the (mostly) white underclass, the proles, those who are 'stuck in the past', the traditionalists and anti-modernists, those who question their demographic replacement by the 'other'. It is written by outsiders looking in with a large dollop of scorn.

SWPL is post modern, edgy and was something new. The 'bogan' blog, whilst having a few amusing observations, is a bit tired and outdated. It is way too obvious and predictable. It lacks empathy and nuance. It reads like desperate hate mail by someone itching to be told they're better than the proles.

If SWPL is Ricky Gervais, the 'bogan' blog is Dame Edna.

Reply

### **papachango says:**

02:37pm | 01/12/10

correct. TBL is just the left leaning, pretentious, hypocritical, faux-multiculturalism loving whites trying to get revenge for SWPL, but while the former is funny the latter comes across as mean and nasty.

Though I wouldn't call SWPL 'post modern' or 'edgy'. Unless it's actually postmodern and edgy to take the piss out of postmodernism and edginess 😊

Not my experience, most edgy postmodernists I know take themselves dreadfully seriously and don't find SWPL at all funny.

### **Jill Steinberger says:**

02:15pm | 01/12/10

BOGAN PRIDE, I say! After browsing the TBL Facebook page, I've decided I must be a bogan and I'm prepared to stand up and be counted. I never used to think I was one, but after reading the judgemental and sometimes downright nasty posts from self proclaimed non - bogans, I'd rather be on my side of the fence any day. It appears bogans are people who really don't give a stuff about the trappings of non - boganism. For that, I salute them. Oh, and it appears bogans have @hotmail addresses...

Reply

### **Punters Pal says:**

02:29pm | 01/12/10

Am I correct, bur from memory, in Sydney 15-20 years ago, term "bogan" was not used. The term which was widely used was "yobbo". Bogan was always Melbourne term and Sydney people only started using it in last 10 or so years.

Reply

### **Bon says:**

02:34pm | 06/12/10

"Yobbo" was the term used here in QLD when I was a kid, but "Bogan" seems to have taken over. I remember many a conversation my Mum had with my Dad, where she denounced most of his motorbike riding, fourx drinking mates as "Yobbos".

### **Veganista says:**

02:41pm | 01/12/10

Bogan satire in 2010? It was funny in June 1995. By July that year it had jumped the shark. What's the next offering from these geniuses of comedy? 'You know you're a redneck when...' jokes?

Smugness fail.

Reply

### **chester says:**

03:08pm | 01/12/10

@Veganista - 15 years behind the times thats not bad - usually its 20.

### **Drew(Darlinghurst) says:**

02:57pm | 01/12/10

It's the Bogan vote that kept John Howard Prime Minister for 11 years 8 months and 23 days.

And lets not forget the C.U.B's Cashed Up Bogans. (Like Shane Warne)

I guess like it or not Bogans are the Backbone of Australian popular culture

Reply

### **Jane Wallace says:**

04:41pm | 01/12/10

Ignore Bogans! ignore liberals!

Reply

**Dan says:**

04:53pm | 01/12/10

You always see bogans having fun though (or fighting !!).  
Hey we've been picking on Bogans for ages and it's getting boring.  
Now there is a new group we can all berate - The Hipsters.

Reply

**susan Q says:**

07:34pm | 01/12/10

Bogans always vote ALP. Bogans breed like rabbits.

We are stuffed.

Reply

**Nicky says:**

09:55pm | 01/12/10

Technocrats, the new Estate are Bogans.

The Technocrats repay the constant sneering of the Inner City set by promulgating stories of imminent doom, stories such as Y2K and Global Warming.

Watching the Technically Illiterate Sneering Set build modern day religions around such stories, watching them link together via the sacred Apple hardware to chant the approved left wing mantras, is frankly hilarious.

That's what Bogans like.

Reply

**DarylS says:**

11:01pm | 01/12/10

A common thread here is that the anti bogans are inner city Greens. Can someone please explain how you could be an inner city Green without being a hypocrite. If you are of a Green inclination surely you would like to live where you can touch nature? My personal definition of a Bogan is someone who is mentally lazy and always takes the easy path like watching sport (not science documentaries), C&W music or pub rock rather than classics or quality heavy metal, wants shock jocks to analyse complex issues and supply one line monosyllabic simplistic wrong answers, and so on.

Reply

**hot tub political machine says:**

01:25am | 02/12/10

So many people miss the point. TBL is:

Not critical of a lack of education - its critical of wanton ignorance

Its not about feeling superior - its about shaming the racist myopic superior attitude in Australia

Its not about deriding the working class - its an attack on modern greed

Its not about feeling "classier" - its about showing selfishness for what it is

My guess is many who are against the message willfully misinterpret it - because to actually see what it says about our greed would hit far too close to home.

Reply

**Habib "Tupac" Ishamal says:**

08:53am | 02/12/10

It's not my fault yous are all jealous of me and my boyz for life, we are thug bogans, we rule the streets of Lakemba, Bankstown and Marrickville, youse better stay away from the toilet block at my local park as thats our hang out, when the car park at maccas is closed. WE own Parramatta Road as we cruise the streets with the chicky babes all wishing to have what we are packing down stairs

Youse are all jealous because my hotted up torana is fully sic and its a shaggin waggon for the chicky babes.

Youse all should come out to my hood and see my neighbours, all are single mums who have kids to different fathers to claim more money, once my bad back gets better, I plan to get a job as a mechanic, but until then I can only wear 5 gold chains with my white singlet and addidas shoes.

Thig bogans for life

Reply

### **azram says:**

*01:56pm | 02/12/10*

Bogan's a bit of a continuum. Some people seem to be more bogan than others.

I don't really take issue with bogans unless they're trying to subject me to their political opinions. And yes, it does bother me because "bogans have far more economic, cultural and political clout". That's exactly the problem. It offends me that I am in the minority of voters (or, at least, so it seems these days) who don't fear invasion by "illegal immigrants" in boats... Granted, that viewpoint can be attributed to a wider group than just bogans.

Reply

### **hot tub political machine says:**

*04:49pm | 02/12/10*

Don't fall for the "Stop the boats" is the popular opinion line azram. Remember Abbott's lowest ever approval rating came just after his stop the boat's speech. The idea that people with compassion for refugees is the minority is a bit of a fallacy methinks

### **thomas vesely says:**

*11:50am | 03/12/10*

boganza of a book.... 🤔

Reply

### **Kristy Venson says:**

*01:39pm | 07/12/10*

Nothing wrong with being a bogan if you choose to be an elitists this is all a person is who name calls someone a bogan. Most have jobs, vote, drive cars, participate fully in society nothing at all like the American white trash. It is about time our bogans were looked up to instead of down on. Rednecks are not all bogans in fact I have met many a same sex couple who are bogans. Leave them be and lets value this Australian icon.

Reply

### **Nicos says:**

*03:10pm | 29/04/11*

Another great post, amazing. Nicos

[http://www.hotelsincyprus.eu/City/Ayia\\_Napa.htm](http://www.hotelsincyprus.eu/City/Ayia_Napa.htm)

Reply

### **Shirley says:**

*09:21pm | 08/05/11*

This is your best post yet!

<http://onfemale.com/>

Reply

### **chimney sweep bellingham ma says:**

*01:11pm | 18/08/11*

I absolutely love this page!. My family and I recently recommended your personal weblog at this site. I truly comprehend the matter may be not as enjoyable as your website, however it definitely is an pressing topic designed for me. My current internet page is undoubtedly information about . Provided that you at any time drop by and see my internet site, make sure to feel free to leave me a feedback. Many thanks once more with regard to the terrific content.

<http://gfsprague.com/services/gutters-flashing/>

Reply

### **residential roofing says:**

*02:15pm | 28/08/11*

This might be your gretest read ever!. I personally just recommended your own page right here. We appreciate the particular topic area is undoubtedly not really as highly-charged as the one you have, yet the item has become an vital topic area for the purpose of myself. My husband and my blog page is generally more or less . If, perhaps you at any time tour my web pages, you should feel free to leave me a review. Many thanks once more with regard to the great content.

<http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/chimney+repair+boston+ma>

Reply

### **Nazza says:**

*08:15pm | 19/09/11*

If you look through the comments section on any of the refuge articles on here, or any other media site, you will see that the bogans have absolutely no trouble whatsoever being bluntly offensive towards the "latte sippers", "communists", "bleeding heart lefties" or any of the other terms they manage to dredge up. Both sides are fair game for each other. To complain that the poor bogans are being sneered at completely discounts the belligerent attitude they have for those of us in the inner city. Class warfare is alive and well on all sides of the fence.

Reply

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