

**SCOOP?**

Over the past few days, the country's media, especially the Victorian based media, has been patting itself on the back on its exposure of police corruption in Victoria. The Police Commissioner and the Victorian Police Minister have been at pains to point out that they will do whatever has to be done to stamp out Police corruption, especially in the drug squad in Victoria. Noble sentiments indeed.

Excuse my cynicism about these media scoops. The Victorian media's scoop on Police corruption is very old news indeed. Raymond Hoser, one of Australia's leading anti-corruption authors, named names in his 1999 publication *Victoria Police corruption I and II*. He has published over a thousand pages of material on alleged police corruption in Victoria. You would think that Raymond Hoser's efforts in exposing this scandal would mean that his work would have been acknowledged by the Victorian and Australian media as well as the Victorian government.

Well it seems that although Raymond Hoser's contribution to this debate provided some of the impetus for the current "scoops" and the Victorian governments belated response to this sad state of affairs that Hoser's contributions will not be acknowledged. In fact his publications have brought him nothing but trouble.

In April 2000, the Victorian court refused to ban *Victoria Police corruption I and II*. Currently, Hoser is waiting for another Victorian court judgement on *Victoria Police corruption I and II*. The Victorian Attorney General's Department has accused Hoser of "scandalising the courts" with his publications. If found guilty of the charge he faces, the possibility of bankruptcy, as well as a significant prison sentence. I wonder if the corporate and public media will report the outcome of this trial - I doubt it, if they did it, it may make their scoops look decidedly second rate.

**From: *Anarchist Age Weekly Review*  
Number 476, 26 November-2 December 2001,  
pages 1-2.**