



Money is better spent on drink

WHAT a load of Croc Dundee.

Recently the government spent \$180,000 on consultants to discover that event organisers inflated the worth of their events to the host cities/countries.

Soccer's World Cup is a timely example, where the only things not exaggerated are kickbacks to "lobbyists", consultants and voting members.

There are some odd things about this finding, not the least that that's a fair whack to spend on the obvious.

Furthermore, coming from an institution itself no slouch in inflation and exaggeration, ie government, why commission such a thing and worse, having done so, why publish the findings, then spend squillions luring the most exaggerated of all world events?

Frank and his bid committee mates would have spilled more than \$180,000 worth of good wine bribing, sorry, swaying, Sepp and his mates that Australia loved soccer and would be a wonderful place to hold the event.

Yet the Cup was given to a country with almost no people, no stadiums, no great love of soccer, and nothing to see between games – see one minaret you've seen 'em all.

However, Qatar is the best choice, and as it happens, is the most egalitarian choice too. Qatar has squillions of lazy dollars to splash around yet without having to pull money out of other, less important things such as health, housing and education.

Ultimately, it came down to the least-worst bid and, mercifully, Australia was knocked out in the first round accordingly.

Struth, Nicole Kidman repeatedly mispronouncing Oceania, a geriatric Crocodile Dundee (appearing gratis

out of tax guilt), beach, reef, blondes, Uluru, Opera House, Thorpedo, Freeman and 14 racial stereotypes all resplendent in digde-infused soundtrack. At least the kangaroo lying in the middle of the road was believable, until it got up.

Alas, left to soccer's dinosaurs, all red wine would be fortified, all rieslings sweet, Grange still called Hermitage, and bottles with screwcaps banned for being rubbish.

Australia has moved on, Frank, it's time soccer did too. You'd should have just bought FIFA a case each of these, screwcaps and all.

Galli Estate Artigiano Chardonnay 2009, \$30. How multicultural? If this is the Italian expression of chardonnay, I'm moving to Italy. Nestling alluringly between the Mountain of Oak and the River of Insipidity. 8.8/10.

