

Fiona Katauskas

Winter of Our Discount Tent

The Guardian Australia, 30 March 2023

With rents soaring and increasing numbers of people pushed into homelessness, the Australian housing crisis deepened in 2023. By the end of March two further interest rate hikes announced by the RBA to combat inflation added to the strain on mortgage-holders and renters. Fiona Katauskas comments on the low quality of housing that some are forced to settle for in such circumstances.

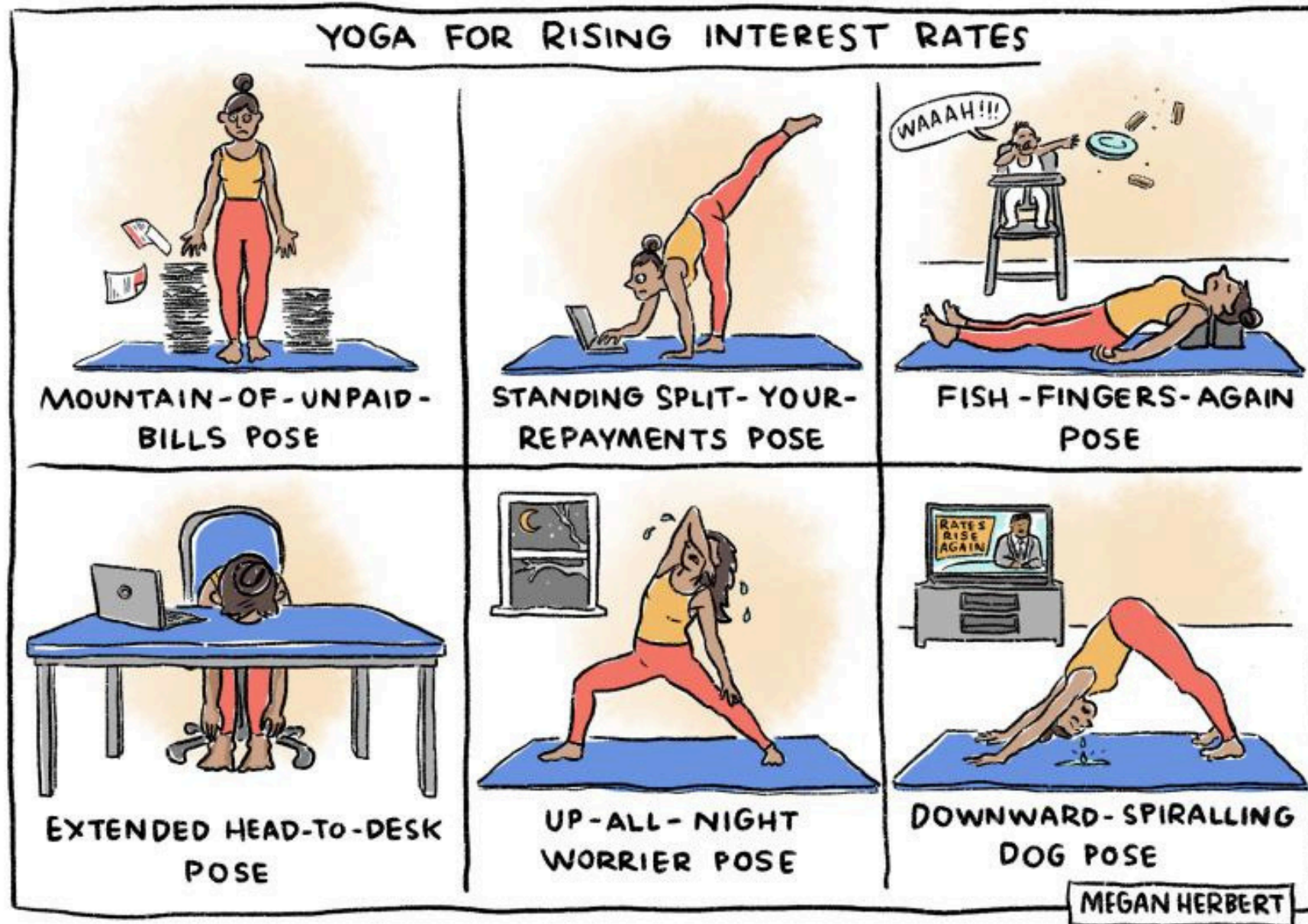
Behind the Lines 2022

Look Closely:

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Dig Deeper: How might the techniques used in this piece be intended to support the cartoonist's message? What impact does this have on us as readers?

Take Action! Create your own piece of media to present your point of view on this topic.



Megan Herbert

Yoga For Rising Interest Rates

The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, 8 August 2022

After the Reserve Bank suggested in 2021 record low interest rates could remain until 2024, it came as a shock to many homeowners when rates were raised in May 2022, for the first time since 2010. Rates steadily increased over the year – by October there had been five rate hikes in as many months. Megan Herbert reflects on some of the budgeting contortions many households had to resort to just to keep up.

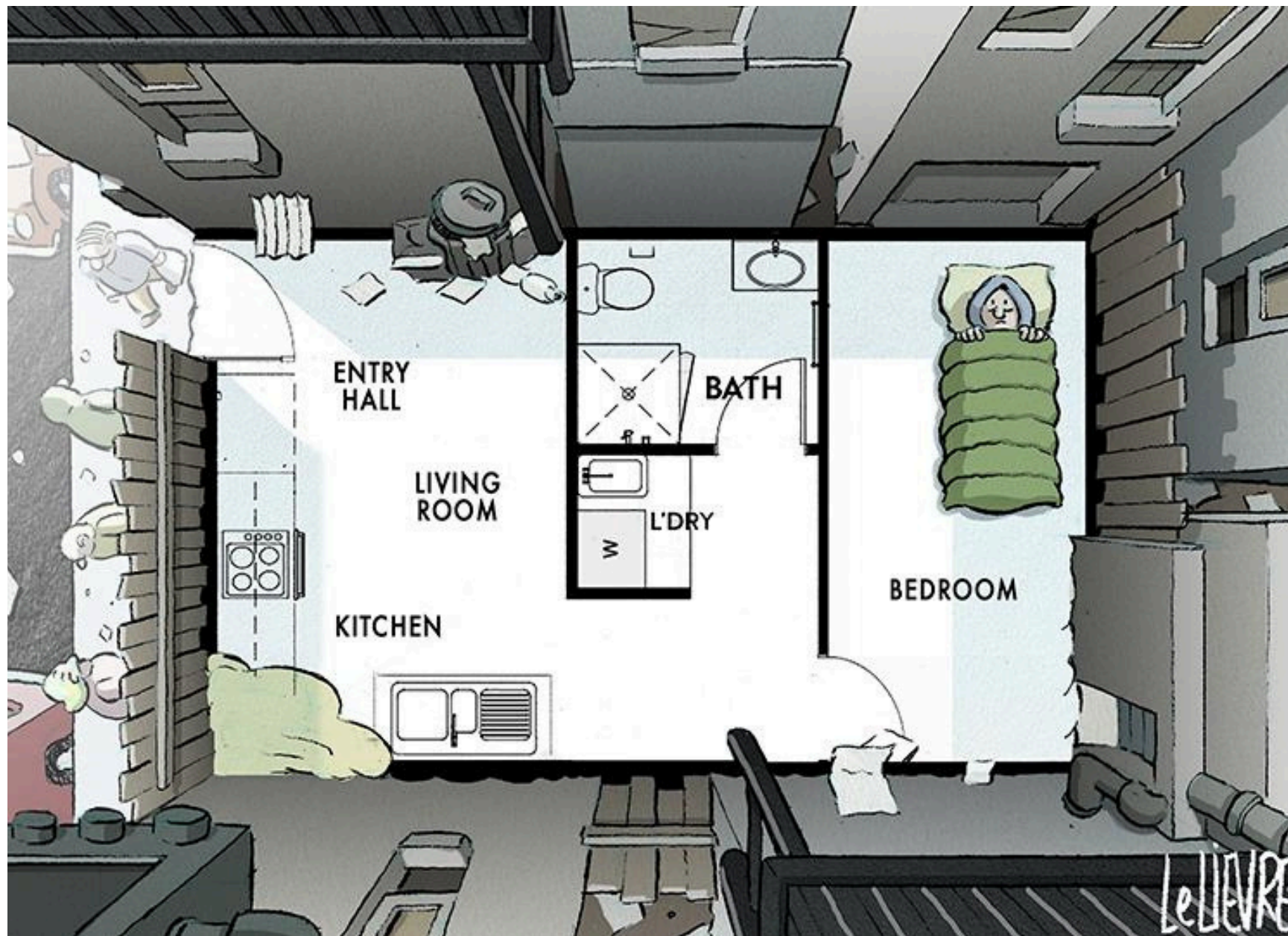
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Glen Le Lievre

Floor Plan

Self-Published, 18 May 2023

In a time of increasing homelessness and politicking over housing, Glen Le Lievre laments the lack of adequate houses and apartments being built in urban centres.

Behind the Lines 2023

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Fiona Katauskas

No Hollywood Ending

The Echidna, 15 March 2023

Fiona Katauskas's cartoon encapsulates the challenges of 2023 for many people: a person lies sprawled on the floor swamped by a pile of common household bills, from 'Rent rise' to 'Surprise bill'. The title of the 2022 Academy Award-winning film, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, ironically illustrates the feelings of Australians facing cost-of-living pressures.

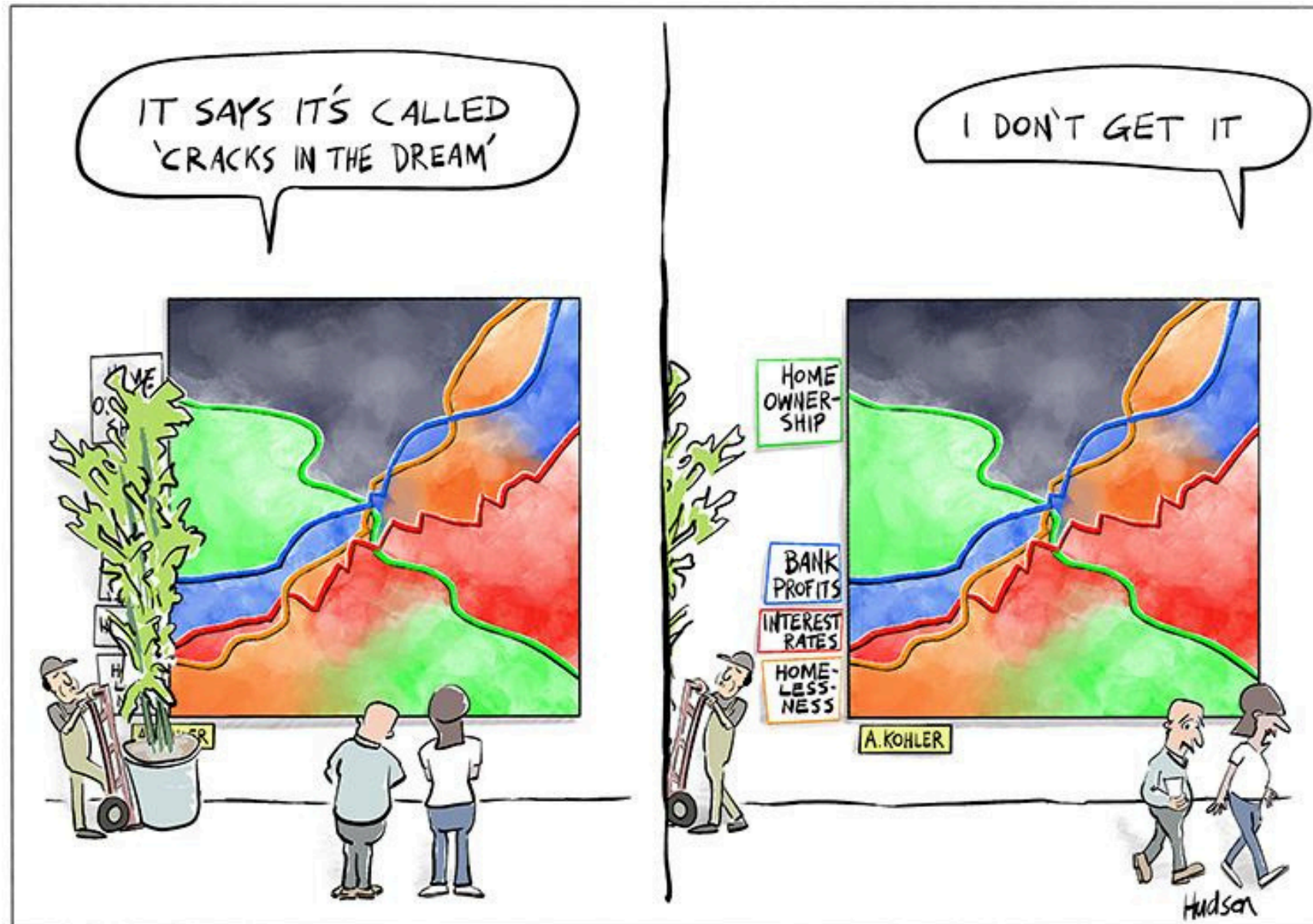
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Pat Hudson
The Art of It
 Self-Published, 4 May 2023

'The great Australian dream' of home ownership is a term that dates back to the post-Second World War era. Pat Hudson imagines a modern painting, attributed to ABC finance journalist Alan Kohler, that shows how rising interest rates, record bank profits and greater levels of homelessness have combined to push the dream out of the reach of many Australians.

Behind the Lines 2023

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Alan Moir

We're Going to Lose the House!

The Sydney Morning Herald, 1988

When our share market followed Wall Street's collapse in October 1987, many feared it meant another Great Depression. It didn't. The boom just moved to the property market, eventually necessitating big rises in interest rates to bring it under control. It could have been the end for Bob Hawke and Paul Keating at the 1990 election, but Labor stayed in control of the Lower House for another six years.

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Chris Downes

Highs and Lows

The Mercury (Hobart), 29 May 2024

After a tough year for Australian households in 2023, the challenging trend continued as the cost of everyday essentials kept on rising faster than household incomes. Downes' light bulb could be a reference to a nationwide program of issuing free replacement LED globes to lower electricity costs or to the \$300 rebate in the latest federal Budget - or just a comment on the lack of ideas addressing the issue.

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