

Hi Robert, Michael et al.

AN OPEN LETTER ABOUT WRITERS, PUBLISHING, EDUCATION AND CHARITY IN THE CURRENT AUSTRALIAN BUDGET CONTEXT

It was great to meet you and others recently at the **Writers and Publishing in 2014** event organised by the NSW Writers Centre. I suggest a related open planning and budget direction below and attached and look forward to any potentially related contact or suggestions.

Before retirement in 2007 I taught at Sydney University for eleven years. As a former public servant and active member of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) I tried to develop a teaching approach to assist the university to develop the UN and World Health Organization national and regional planning directions to which Australian governments have been committed through legislation and via the enterprise bargain. The NTEU would not recognize or assist this, but wanted to drive everybody in a one size fits all agreement. Theirs is losing direction. One wonders what it is. Ideally it should be guided by the relevant strategic plan.

See global and national planning ideal on www.Carolodonnell.com.au which is ideally put into practice in regional planning and projects for earning and learning. Sydney Uni, for example, should grow the business broadly and primarily through its strategic plan, by forging related links beyond the commonly driving professional and academic placement silos, globally and regionally. Students should also demand much cheaper, better education that is better administered and more widely available. This is discussed in the attached budget response.

It is dysfunctional and stupidly expensive, for example, if universities employ people and then buy back their product in the form of expensively closed journals or books which students will also have to buy at great additional cost to the giant fees they are forced to pay for a course. It is mainly in order to challenge this system and find better ones that I write to you for help.

Australia is often driven in the US direction. However, in globally comparative terms, new entertainment technologies and products may be expensively unreliable or difficult to operate and so lacking for many of the old, the disabled and poor. I count myself among the first two, but being an old teacher and public servant I have disposable income and financial security. Being retired I have time on my hands so read and travel as I wish. (There are others like me.)

I speak as one identified by John Purcell, the Booktopia head of marketing and author, who has seldom been much moved by popular genres. For example, I spent \$50 in the State Library on

remaindered books before the event 'Writers and Publishing in 2014', at which John Purcell, Michael Rowbotham and others spoke. I was delighted to find the remaindered letters of BA Santamaria, as I was kicking myself for having weeded Santa's auto 'Against the Tide' from my shelves long before the election of the Abbott government, to give to the local Vinnies shop. (Santa always had a wife and a secretary to clean up his stuff. I have nobody and feel the loss.)

I read about what interests me at the moment, sometimes in order to write, as is the case in the example, **'After the Budget: Fight back with strategic planning (Advice to students, alumni and others)'**. A related proposal to the Catholic Society of St Peter and others is below.

Also see the open letter attached to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of the great book and movie 'Half of a Yellow Sun' about Nigeria, where I taught at Government Boys College, Kano, after the Biafran War but before Boko Haram. The boys loved the Penguin African writers' series. They had never seen such books before I opened up the library. It is hard to avoid the view, however, that aid may be as much part of the poverty problem as a solution to it, for reasons discussed briefly below and attached. (I wrote to World Vision but got no response.)

As a former Phd student who became a public servant in the 1980s I published three books on Australian public policy with Allen and Unwin and one with Longman Cheshire during a decade. At that time I think they did an initial print run of 2000 and I can't remember any reprinting although the Australian Government Lending Rights Scheme still delivers a small yearly cheque.

With many of the new books I often read today, I would be surprised if the author made a living wage from books alone, as they are often based on long research, rather than on the creative imagination which repeatedly works well enough to support itself, let alone others. I guess most writers are able to write because they have been supported by others elsewhere.

My more recent writing is on www.Caroldonnell.com.au. It is there as I couldn't get another publisher since I left government, (aside from closed academic publications which are very expensive for universities to purchase; read by a few; closed; and often part of very particular and dysfunctional rat races getting worse and coming to a theatre near you, no doubt). In 1976 I was also a founding member of the Radical Education Group which religiously produced for free and sold the Radical Education Dossier on a non-profit basis four times per year, before I became a public servant in the NSW Department of Industrial Relations and Employment.

How well I remember the major British academic publishers' salesmen vainly trying to flog their wares to academics when I was teaching at Sydney University for eleven years before I retired in 2007. To get a book contract since the 1990s one has often had to be able to promise to

deliver a large number of captive student bums on seats. This is something that professors and related colleagues often do best for their own, as publication (either as articles or books) is central to the points one gets for climbing the collegiate pole to which one has been wedded.

With the proposal to deregulate university fees, the Hockey budget appears likely to see continuation of the bulk **of** the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) spent on sport for comparatively wealthy males at expensive colleges. Fight back with the Sydney University strategic plan against the rich, closed collegiate cultures this Commonwealth budget will represent unless sharply redirected by as many students and other communities as possible.

To satisfy everybody better, the conceptualisation of books and related communication seems ideally to be undertaken first with more broadly shared historical discussion of openly related and shared values, assets and key administrative processes, in order to guide all pricing better.

University strategic plans ideally bear open pivotal relationships to earning and learning, as discussed attached in regard to the Hockey budget. Publication and film should be constructed in related regional planning contexts in which publishers are not driving, as much as openly cooperating with other key parties to manage shared values, assets and interests. This case should be made for books in regard to management of the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF), as discussed in passing in analysis of the budget and related arenas which are ideally designed more openly as cooperative arrangements to support strategic and regional planning.

Key stakeholders in the management of **out of print; new and remaindered books**; appear to be ***tertiary student organizations; universities; booksellers; publishers with some serious historical and intellectual cachet and backlog publications (e.g. Penguin, Allen and Unwin, university presses); writers and their organizations; charitable organizations***, etc. etc. etc.)

The alternative is to be driven blindly by an exclusively financial and professional price interest that has repeatedly driven financial instability and cost; regional social inequality; environment destruction and related species loss. Globally, the UN, WHO, UNESCO, Australian government and other charitable directions try vainly to address this against the earlier colonial, professional and related government, market and military or tribal odds. The attached budget discussion primarily addresses health care, aboriginal and education services which ideally appear as key drivers of change to serve the **key budget stakeholders** better.

These are the current Australian populations and future generations in which the local communities and their typical and unique individuals are also represented as discussed attached. Following George Orwell in Catalonia as usual, this is considered to be a new world

order where we are all considered normal but some are more normal than others. (I am a bit special.) If you are interested in a related direction I'd be more than happy to hear about it.

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Hi Sister Mary (Others for information and related invitation)

SHOCKING ME RIGHT OUT OF MY BRAIN: ANOTHER CONSUMER EXPERIENCE OF THE CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF ST PETER AND MAHSOC IN HEALTH AND WELLBEING WEEK, 08-10 APRIL 2014

BEST PERSONAL LEARNING AWARD SINCE 2007 GOES TO THEM AND ME: I MAKE A PROPOSAL

Following our short discussion with a student last Wednesday at the Catholic Society of St Peter, about the priest and speaker on 'Five Roads to Repentance', I put this in writing as I think it may be important for our joint and several understanding of mental health and human rights, to make the most of the university and our related community and individual experiences. I argued on related regional planning themes to Patricio Campos, ADP Manager, World Vision Ecuador, copied to you. (Related potential of the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation for strategic planning is addressed later.)

Apparently 8-10th April is Health and Wellbeing Week and I had found the enlightening MAHSOC Mental Awareness and Health Society photograph and messages exhibition and talks on available services and practices very positively stimulating. (I hope the young woman whose head I bit was not permanently damaged. Tell her it's the quiet ones you have to watch. If another woman or young person ever again says to me questions about money are illegitimate I swear I may strangle her.)

Anyhow, the Catholic priest who spoke this week, if I understood him correctly, believed that if somebody wrote a letter slandering you to the heights and widely, including to your face, you need not respond directly to his allegations in writing, if you feel yourself right with God as a result of a series of actions. These boiled down to internally questioning one's relationship to God and sin with priestly help. This must be followed by putting good habits in the place of bad and greater charity.

These seemed more like five steps than five roads to me. This is not some mere quibble because roads are regional concepts in ways steps are not. (Wasn't there also something about restitution in kind and number? – always good for research?) Before last Wednesday I had absolutely no idea that for the Catholic priest and his flock death is ideally conceived as the fruit of sin and that God never intended death. The definition of sin appeared historically also to relate to the Ten Commandments and to ten earlier (Old Testament?) statements related to Catamites, Sodomites, etc. etc. etc.

When that nice young man asked me what I thought, I said the priest's view was like that of Michael Corleone in the Godfather, and that any moral or related accusation must be responded to for open judgment before the appeal to God. Even if you think your accuser is mad, from my viewpoint, you should face him and reply to keep faith with ideal human morality and God. He may not see himself as mad. These issues appear related to the ideal regional conceptualization, management and treatment of mental health, human rights and other matters. They also seem issues for theology, science and technology which have long relationships ideally bent on serving better more broadly.

An Asian girl beside you whispered an apparently very interesting question to the priest, but she whispered so softly I didn't have a clue what it was. Perhaps you heard it. His response related to the relationship of repentance with charity. One assumes this relationship is highly relevant in treating death, insurance and related services in theory and practice on Crown lands and beyond. (One has just received a hard copy of the Crown Lands White Paper from Trade and Investment. Whacko the diddlo. It is a cracking story. I'll tell you more about it after reading 'It Takes a Village'.)

As Malcolm Turnbull recently pointed out at a Chinese dinner, 40 years ago, Australia and China did not recognize the existence of each other in diplomatic relations. Now anybody who speaks both languages can chat openly together and with others about such matters to the mutual benefit of all communities. I am also looking forward to Bob Carr talking about his budding relationship with Hillary Clinton on April 15 at the USyd. Law School in 101 your usual room. At what time God knows. (I hope he talks about Hillary before he gets to Henry Kissinger or I fear I might throw up and leave.)

Anyhow, I cannot say how much I have enjoyed the presentations of the Catholic Society of St Peter since I retired in 2007 and also found out about Lilith in museums in Vienna and Berlin. (I had also forgotten about 'East of Eden' until reminded later by Margaret and David on TV). The Catholic Society of St Peter have often shocked me to the core many times since, although Father Lanzon, speaking on 'Jesus and the Adulterer', in which he first read from the Bible about how Jesus met the woman at the well, was riveting. I thought him the winner in all respects and not just because he reminded me so strongly of Julien Sorel in 'The Red and the Black'. How might his view of the institutions of the church and marriage help George Pell and the Pope to reform Vatican finances, one naturally wonders? (You recall he denied his was an unconventional view of the institutions of the church and marriage. It seemed to me, however, to be the opposite emphasis of Pell. Was it?)

Earlier Catholic Society of St Peter highlights have been hearing about the meaning of natural law; hearing three priests speak on how they took the cloth; and hearing about how God seeks babies above all else - from two women. Thus I realized the commonality of His views with the Business Council of Australia. (Too much sport is never enough indeed. It also explains Murdoch, the man who underrated typists. Today does this happen to graphic designers who are skilled engineers?)

LET ME MAKE A PROPOSAL WITH FUNDS (HOW OPEN IS MANAGEMENT?)

In regard to any potential for joint community development operations, I have a lazy \$39,000 in a six-monthly NAB fixed term deposit (3.15% is the indicative rate). I wouldn't like to lose it because I might need it before I die. However, it surely could be put to better use with others in a manner more related to achieving state, local and other regional planning and strategic goals better, as earlier discussed. I would love to fund land and health related development in Vietnam, starting with the removal of land mines if necessary. However, I'd also be happy to consider anything else for a longer fixed term. I often assume desertification is the primary global problem and that joint activities with many other regions related to this first could also help Australia manage Crown and related lands better. I have no idea how Sydney University develops the funds to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, but will attempt to find out from Bequests, etc. (Funny how nobody ever seems to lack money whenever they want to put up new giant buildings or renovate.)

In this context the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, as described in the Australian Financial Review (AFR 3.4.14, p.1) appears a model for related regional community development focused first on greener and simpler development need in the village and in related rural and urban planning. Apparently it is the largest private education scholarship program in Australia's history. The scholarships would promote innovation, technical and design expertise, engagement with Asia and leadership skills. It will be focused on graduates seeking to study in Asia and develop skills in technology and innovation. The \$100 million will be placed in a charitable trust, and investment in markets to provide income to fund annual scholarships in five areas which appear to be science, technology and community development related. Bank leaders said the Asia focus was smart given 'that is where our trade and investment has gone' (AFR 3.4.14, News 6). How open is management?

The Vancouver Agreement referred to by Clover Moore and the SBS Codes of Practice (2014) were addressed previously in related contexts of regional and local place development. A critique of the article 'Decentralised energy: What does it mean?' by David Green, CEO of the Clean Energy Council was earlier also attached as a strong warning of how some people are prepared to overlook the bleeding obvious historical fact of Australia starting as a penal colony, to erect a stupid theoretical edifice to confuse and profit from it instead. (Sister there are a lot of men around like that and I have met more than my share.)

Anyhow, as mother used to say, let us get cracking. There is no alternative before the Lord from my view, that of JP Sartre and others with an opportunity/cost view of time, like Becker.

Cheers

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