

THE TRIPADEAL EVALUATION: TO MICHAEL WANG AND ANYBODY ELSE FOR COMMENT

TRAVELLING ALL OVER TAIWAN IN BIG BUSES, STAYING AT BIG HOTELS WITH MICHAEL WANG AS GUIDE BEFORE THE BIG MICKEY MOUSE UK BARRISTER CAME ON THE PLANE

When I saw this trip around Taiwan advertised by NRMA, I thought it seemed exceptional value for money. I also went on it because the length of time away from Australia suited me, I had never travelled in big group buses on holidays and I had never been to Taiwan.

As an Australian brought up in a comparatively egalitarian ethos, I have always been confused about what to do or give in global environments where bargaining, tipping or donation appear expected practice or not. How to judge? This often causes me personal and moral anxiety. (First world problems, looking for advice in the original clear and rational TripADeal notes.)

In this context let me first congratulate whoever designed the TripADeal advice and evaluation form which Michael delivered to us with 2 envelopes, the second last day of the trip. This applied the concept of a recommended \$10 per person per day to the performance of the tour guide and driver. It had a four-point rating scale starting with good and allowing comments. As I wrote on my form, Michael worked his butt off very intelligently. The tour delivered what it promised - great value for money in every respect. I discuss related issues.

My tip in Aus.\$ was geared to this good evaluation method. I refused the invitation on the form to rate any performances out of 100, pointing out that numbers are irrelevant to me in this case and that I don't do them. Some related development issues are addressed below and in policy documents attached in the light of the Australian government establishment of the *Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation* to inquire and report on many matters. I address the following later in related regional terms that support reference (viii): *a place-based approach that considers local circumstances, competitive advantages and involves collective governance*. See regionally related directions attached.

I discuss views of a grandchild in families of top regional Chinese judges I met on the flight from Taipei to Guangzhou later. This was better than reading Kerry Brown's nothing book entitled *The World According to Xi*, which I had no hesitation in leaving somewhere in Taiwan.

I also speak as a woman who publicly and unexpectedly vomited all over the floor and listening technology given to me at the National Palace Museum. This was just after I asked Michael why Asian museums often seemed so very dark. He had just told me it was to protect the exhibits. Was it something I ate? I can only assume so but what it was I have no idea. Since I retired from work in 2007 I have travelled all over much of Europe and Asia without any stomach upset, admittedly much to my surprise. Just lucky I guess. According to my itinerary we should have been at Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall at the time. I went back to bed and my book, *The Shiralee*, which I finished and left at the hotel while others went on to brave the smog and Taipei 101. This driving mania for building taller towers in growing smog ridden concrete jungles is making me sick perhaps? At least I didn't have a big monkey jump on my back and scratch and bite my arm because somebody was feeding them to attract tourists. This fate befell a lady on our companion Bus A. She got taken for a tetanus injection.

On mature reflection at home I commend the great thoroughness with which TripADeal directed our attention to the development opportunities and threats in Taiwan. I am particularly grateful for the highly informative maps and pamphlets related to the whole of

Taiwan and the rugged East Coast with comparatively scarce population. This is related perhaps to comparatively impenetrable, beautiful terrain the tourist loves. While maps of towns and other features in Europe, for example, appear consistently presented as a matter of course, this does not appear necessarily to be the case with maps of Taiwanese environs. This is not intended to discourage those responsible for the valuable explanatory material given to us from the East Coast National Scenic Area Administration. One is often confused.

Foolishly, I left my pamphlet on Sun Moon Lake in my hotel room, after I had read it, along with the book, **The World According to Xi** I referred to earlier that I had also finished. However, I loved the country and the Alishan National Forest Recreation Area was beautiful and historic too. I hope they may flourish in greener native futures. I thought the indigenous culture theme park was beautifully done as a mix of entertainment, museum and development as well as being in lovely surroundings. It would have been great to have my grandson with me. The visit to the British Consulate at Takow was great. I particularly enjoyed the morning of day 7, wandering along the Shakadang Trail behind Jerry, the Bus A tour guide, and being back late for bus B, which I had optimistically hoped was parked in. No.

I would not travel in this way again soon, geared to short stops spent in spots with so many people of varying mobility. As a single fit old woman with a backpack it is also difficult to fit in to my liking with a world geared to couples touring and big hotels in your company manner. I miss the **Intrepid small group** approach to travel and will try to go back to it. I get the impression their sustainable development regional touring focus was increasingly crushed in the effects of the global recession in 2008. This is a pity as it was a good one which could teach everybody a lot. The alternative is a guide's feigned blind eye. I cannot now recall their last trip evaluation form but I was impressed at the time. (This isn't common with me and evaluations, especially in numbers. See more attached and at www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

Many of the Intrepid trips that I was on were guided by very gifted and capable young people. '**Guide**' seems exactly the right way to describe them to me and one may be asked to guide in many things. The actions of people like Victor, the Intrepid Kenya guide influenced me for life. I often think about the young Russian woman who guided us across the trans-Siberian, the young Tasmanian woman who also fixed her own bus, and many others. There were few flies on Michael Wang. Pass this on and tell him we're all in the Truman Show avoiding Manilla next. Why doesn't TripADeal have an email address? Doesn't it like good direction or policy or planning? Blinded by voting, can't it tell the difference? Take broader planned approaches. Grandmas return happily to the wabi sabi garden and wildlife, rather than to the Giant California out of China global peasant bling aesthetic. Wake-up to yourselves and avoid Dell.

THE BIG MICKEY MOUSE UK BARRISTER PASSED ON AND CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES

(FLIGHTS CZ302 AND CZ3097 SYDNEY-GUANGZHOU-TAIPEI WITH CZ3098 AND CZ325 BACK)

On the China Southern Airlines flight home to Sydney between Taipei and Guangzhou, a tall, plump Asian man dressed in a tight white T-shirt and tight black shorts, with a stylised headphones symbol on his breast, sat down by me and began to talk. We had to do this loudly to hear each other for two and a half hours, but the encounter was most entrancing. His field was Constitutional Law and he was the grandson of diverse brothers in top Chinese families of judges. His mother was a professor of Sinology. He had qualified as a UK barrister before study and work sojourns in Boston and other places, returning to professorial roles in London.

He claimed to hate lawyers but I thought his view of them as languishing in the 19th century was exceedingly generous. Their theoretical paradigm is pre-Enlightenment in our case, often without clear aims or definitions such as those found in the common dictionary, for example. I was fascinated to learn about the development of the Taiwan Constitution as a result of Japanese occupation, based on the German approach in the Weimar Republic. As I understood from him, judging is a state registered profession and all evidence to a dispute is disclosed before the court by all parties before it. The lawyer is to him a different hateful fish. Gee that sounds pretty good to me and he was off to his village-based research in Guangzhou. Key related Australian policy discussions are hopefully attached in case anybody is interested.

When I began my trip with China Southern Airlines, in Sydney at the overseas terminal 3 hours early, I was confronted by long lines of people around the block already. These were getting longer and a middle-aged Caucasian woman was walking up and down the line urging people to get their boarding passes via their on-line devices such as i-phones or laptops. She tried to bully me into using my i-phone, leaving all the Asians lined up like me alone. She implied being shocked on behalf of the counter staff when I said this was too stressful and I would remain in line waiting for them to attend to me. They do this ticketing task repeatedly every day for money whereas I only do it once or twice a year so naturally I find it stressful and am far more likely to make mistakes. That's the way everybody in travel likes it these days? The return flight on the Guangzhou-Sydney leg was remarkable for its wide range of the latest international movies as well as many classics coming on simple, working, IT. That was terrific. See a related letter below about a website. Why are no email addresses for questions or feedback? This is the thing that disturbs me most, beside pretend email addresses, of course.

Back in Australia, I learned from Councillor Dai Li on Fairfield City Council, speaking on 'The Drum' on ABC TV, that this multicultural council supports zero profit, zero emission and zero debt direction. I thought that seemed to open up many possible local and related opportunities more broadly. Gardening Australia and Gruen are wonderful programs I think.

Cheers and good luck (Avoid Dell computers because they hate writers and readers.)

See more below and attached with supporting material on www.Carolodonnell.com.au

Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney, 2037.

CIVILIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS WITH 'INFORMATION' TECHNOLOGY WHICH HATES WRITERS: SOME COMMENT ON THE FRONTIER COMEDY WEBSITE AND A PARTICULAR PERFORMANCE COMING IN JUNE

Thanks Ren. I think I'll just turn up at the first event and try to pay at the door, like you can do at the **Sydney Film Festival**. If I can't get in that way I will go away.

The only things I really wanted to see at the Sydney Film Festival were **Raoul Pecks**. A lovely man who couldn't go to Marx and Engels gave his ticket to me for free, via the box office, as I was first in the line-up. **THIS IS A SIGN OF THE INTELLIGENT LIFE SOUGHT BY MONTY PYTHON. People should follow the practice.**

Raoul Peck led the Marxist revival in my book. (I am pretty much an air-head.) **Nick Torrens** and I are making a film about the **Art of the Girls in Tin Sheds**, starting at my place this month. The **Sydney Film Festival** raised my faith in the positive organizational capacities of the community around me, as did the movies put on by **Cinema Politica in Redfern**. On the other hand, **I don't trust the competence or good faith of the Frontier Comedy website for reasons addressed in policy terms in the attached selection of contributions to linked Australian inquiries**. See more on www.Carolodonnell.com.au

I AM A WOMAN IN LOVE WITH THE FREE TO AIR CHANNELS OF THE ABC AND SBS TV; AND WISHING TO EXTEND THEIR ROOTS AS RUDD INTENDED. WHY NOT HAVE MORE IN YOUR HOME. (YOU BUNCH OF MORONS?) IT'S GOOD FOR THE KIDS AND A LOT OF IT'S BRITISH.

We all have major problems with technology and I am a frightened old woman. The last thing I want to do is add to them. This is basically why I will pass on using their website.

I speak as an old woman who has major troubles with technology. (**THE DELL COMPUTER IS A PIECE OF SHIT FOR A START.**) and who has no friends as she thinks those around her may all be gutless boring liars in packs, (except for **Kitty Flanagan**), leading to small minded and lying subcontracting, which is self-defeating. (The giant Mickey Mouse lawyer in the tight white T-shirt and black shorts I met on the plane between Taipei and Guangzhou doesn't count. He came from a long line of Chinese judges' associations to become a UK Barrister before he passed on. You know what they are like, talking the ear off a donkey.)

A book or report is as good as a live performance, for example, depending on what it is. If I can't get in to **Buggalugs** show, as I wish, I will go elsewhere happily enough and read something nice like **The Scarlet Letter**. I left the **World according to Xi** and **Kitty Flanagan** in hotels in Taiwan, along with the **Shiralee**.

Compare the pair and see the nasty vicious values we have come from. Thank Christ I was never married to Darcy Niland like poor Ruth. I was also spoiled for choice in English language newspapers and the latest international movies on the return flight **Guanghou-Sydney** leg; **Flight 4, 3 May, CZ325**. See if you can get it as **CZ302, Flight 1 on 25.4.18** had shit movies and shit IT. The definition of shit IT in this case is not easy to use like it was earlier with fewer lawyers and better judges. (**ITonia** and **Gone Girl** were most engaging. God knows what the interesting looking young woman beside me who could read, did for a living.)

The problem with youth, I find is that they don't understand the times or else if they do they are not game enough to say so. Try following **Kitty Flanagan**, especially if **Richard Gere** is not a possibility.

Cheers

Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney (71 like Kitty Flanagan's mum.) See more on www.Carolodonnell.com.au
