

Hi Tanya,

**DISABLED CONSTITUENT INQUIRIES AND PLEAS (A BIRTHDAY LETTER TO COPY AT WILL)**

‘Teachers’ pet! I wanna be teachers’ pet’. (Doris Day as usual, followed by Redgum)

**THANKS FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY 2022**

**GOD KNOWS IT’S A GOOD REGIONAL START. I LOVED IT AND PUT IT ON THE FRIDGE**

I note from your **Community Services Directory** that part of your elected office is to send out Congratulatory messages for 90<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays, and 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries. As an atheist in your constituency, I implore you to treat me in kind, to assist my death before I choose it. I also seek to be assisted in the better management of my estate for the benefit of current and future generations. I turned 75 alone in my house today so am sending you this birthday letter. Why not help me too! I hope you and the Royal Commissions, etc. will respond to the discussions of the right to death later below.

Good luck for 2022 elections. I wish you were our Leader because your hubby is a lot more exciting than Carmel Tebbutt. I’m betting lockdowns all over for a very long time while Australian manufacturing and service delivery get rebuilt. The stupid boys will have a bloody dreadful job but what can you do? Surely, the answer for us girls is to write more and move on better, so I decided to write this letter to you to suggest more matriarchal direction than you seem capable of if left to your own devices. Open up with hubby and us. You must admit that given his age and huge doctrinal limitations Pope Francis has been particularly encouraging. At least there are two of them now?

We have long religious traditions of reflecting on death and preparing for it. Surely in 2023 in this global pandemic, old women and men may ideally become part of these normal regional and personal traditions anew. It appears to me racist and unhelpful to ignore them, as younger generations may appear to want. History begets us, primarily in the face of markets. Do with my dead body what you will to recycle it, for example. By all means feed it to fish if it helps them grow up better. I can easily afford it if it seems a good idea. (After all I will be dead. Why don’t we all act openly in this fashion? Go forth girls, etc. etc.)

Tanya, are you not also named for Shakespeare’s Queen of the Fairies, (without the Tit) while I live in your electorate at St James Court in Glebe, on original Christian grounds? You bet we are both here and this is my birthday on an Australian midsummer night. After falling off my bike, and being in bed and in pain a week in December 2022, I thought more of Jews as I guess they know huge amounts about these matters. (Not to diss anyone else.)

**I ADDRESS KEY NSW ASSET MANAGEMENT MATTERS LATER, TO SHARPEN WIDER UNDERSTANDING AND VOTING IN THE NEXT ELECTION STARTING WITH THIS PLACE AND TIME FOR YOU, ME AND THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND US (GIVE ME BETTER MEN TOO)**

In December 2022, I was in bed in great pain for seven days from falling off my bike. I had bought it to celebrate the return of Lord Mayor Clover Moore and various henchpersons when all light rail, trains, buses and ferries had also been withdrawn on safety grounds or apparently gone on strike to start rebuilding Australian transport and manufacturing, perhaps. That will take many years at the best of times, with lots of lawyers and IT being legally shoved down our necks in the intervening period, whether they appear to be any good for any other than top patriarchal professional purposes or not. The thoughts of mortality, disability and further loss of autonomy my fall caused, also prompted me to reach out to you as my elected representative and a woman who naturally has the regional or family view that the man normally claims to defend. As a woman, help me to die nicely.

Can we try them? (Maybe the Horse will Talk?) After I fell off my bike, my painful time in bed made me think more than usual. Hence my birthday letter to you and the others. A couple of nights prior to falling I had addressed current Royal Commissions into disability and suicide, which I again attach. I now ask questions about making my will and killing myself when I want to go, begging for your help before the 2022 elections, as is my right. I do it as it seems the right thing to do. Indeed, the more people helping me in this bid for autonomy the better as it is necessary for the development of what American voters call 'character.' I was never a fan of Hawke or Keating in that Department, unlike many, I guess.

In my birthday letter I also ask you for a present which it should be in your power to give – an Apple. (If not, we appear fucked, for reasons addressed later. In our related intellectual traditions of time and place, which you have so ably represented as a woman, I have always wanted to be part of death with Nixon Apple. You may recall he was the Queen's and national honours pick in 2019 and 2020 respectively, for services to superannuation and trade unions, working for the AMWU and ACTU. A nod is as good as a wink, etc. etc. etc?)

I doubt you ever knew, but Nixon was my defacto for ten years when he lived in Sydney. I urge you to bring him here as he and his new wife and friends have ignored my obvious overtures and pleas for meeting and discussion for many years. (They show me poker-faced, walled off shit.) This also pisses me off because when Nixon first went to Melbourne,

the ALP darling venture capitalist, Bill Ferris, asked his secretary to ring me up and find out his new address. I immediately gave it to her as it was the right thing to do. I harp later.

The environment always knows before one does. I have learned this best in retirement from work since 2007, to live at home on the strata committee. I had been on it at St James Court since 1994. I address real estate agents and death crucially with you and others, as I discuss in submissions to current Royal Commissions on disability and suicide respectively. As Elliot Perlman pointed out, in his novel on sexual harassment in Melbourne, **Maybe the Horse will Talk**. (2019). (One normally assumes because no one else will.) In NSW I guess we preferred **Hell Has Harbour Views**, on workers compensation. However, as Judith Lucy wisely reported to Julia Zemiro on ABC TV, her personal tactic for life meant learning to mine hers better. Too right. (I could have warmed more to **Kenny** but he could do it again as plumbing, construction, power, waste and other delivery appear crucial for future life.)

Tanya, I hate the Western tops as you are represented largely by feudal lawyers and their financial forces, speeding up lies and inequality through new IT forces. I explore these matters with you below and attached in a top housing environment, also admiring others.

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

See more attached, on [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) and in **Power Loving** (2020).

**HOUSING AND RELATED ESTATE MANAGEMENT MATTERS BEFORE I DIE, PREFERABLY BY MY OWN HAND WHEN I CHOOSE: DO YOU KNOW OF PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP ME DO SO?**

**IF THEY COULD DO IT FOR BOB HAWKE IN THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ELECTION, SURELY, THEY SHOULD OFFER IT TO ME. WHO ARE THEY AND HOW DO I FIND THEM? I DON'T KNOW BLANCHE FROM A BAR OF SOAP SO PERHAPS YOU MIGHT ASK HER. (THEY SEEMED VERY CLOSE WHENEVER SHE SPOKE BUT OF COURSE YOU NEVER CAN TELL)**

As I write to you on my birthday as a 75 year-old woman who had one child, of whom I am proud: ***My will is simple, what can a lawyer do except bugger it up to meet the needs of an outdated and growing adversarial crowd of silently stopped liars, many of them smiling?*** Any can freely see my will, and so I express it here, fittingly, on my birthday. Frankly, you can receive it any way you like. (Tell this to the trolls in construction, cuddling up to the good people of Annandale, depicted on big posters near the Crescent. God it's a concrete jungle out there, as we all say to each other, locked up sick like me from falling off

a bicycle, and so used to lying in bed in pain or reading or watching TV and thinking of making my will. It seems by far the most useful thing for me to do now, with Covid come.

My first question to anyone reliable is: **Do I need a lawyer to make a will stating I leave my entire estate to my daughter, and signing and dating it? If I do or should need a lawyer – Why?** I say this as my daughter knows me better than anyone else and I trust her to try to look after my needs better than anybody else. I made her my **Enduring Guardian** when I was a member of **Dying with Dignity**, for example. We filled in and signed forms provided by the NSW Health Sydney Local Government District to that effect. I have a card making clear she is my Enduring Guardian, (apparently from the NSW Trustee and Guardian), in my purse. My daughter and I remember our obligations to each other, but will others? (Tanya, I'm sorry to say I very much doubt it because of all the nasty stupid guys who won't see us.)

We are simple people, so keep it simple, Stupid. Tanya, why not try to help us constituents out for a change with clearer and more helpful information, instead of keeping mum for your more gormless brothers? (No names no pack drill!) You would surely be foolish, for example, not to pass this on openly to your husband, who comes from a top Australian Labour Party (ALP) tradition in the current NSW Liberal coalition government. God knows why Premier Dominic Perrottett keeps having children and what good it does him and his wife. They appear maniacally keen. You might take all these issues up together, and tell us the results because he seemed surprisingly inviting at the National Press Club on ABC TV.

We have been spoilt for choice on recent TV which has also shown the great movie I had never known about before, **The Special Relationship** (not just between the Blairs and Clintons) and **Primary Colours**. These lawyers are primarily representatives of feudal forces which historically warmonger for a living, selling arms easily in secret, legally or not. If you can't do anything about this kind of thing here, what is the point of women like you? (Ruth Bader Ginsberg was just another convenient Jewish woman married to a tax lawyer to me.)

According to a recent AFR article, former Labor prime minister, Kevin Rudd, has criticised the nomination of competition litigator, Gina Cass-Gottlieb. She follows Rod Sims, as the next chairwoman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). Apparently, Rudd did so because of her long-standing ties to Rupert and Lachlan Murdoch's media empire. I know they prefer to hold these top legal, professional and academic appointments fairly tightly within the few normal family bosoms, who also sent their kids to expensive single sex private schools. However, I fear the woman's appointment is generally unlikely to open things up to greater general understanding, speaking on their usual past,

ignorantly timid and unsubtle performances. Whatever you might think about Rod Simms, who lost so many of his cases, at least he looked a lot like Basil from Fawlty Towers. Gina Cass-Gottlieb looks different -tweedy - hardly even Jewish. What is she thinking and doing?

Remember Bettina Cass and her medical husband? Are they still alive and watching their daughter, for example? Given what their family were supposed to stand for, they should all explain a lot better by going straight to the point instead of dancing round it to confuse others. The main thing I learned in retirement is that the environment always knows before us. We know what patriarchal culture looks like and there are vampire lawyers at the top. I wonder what matriarchal culture should look like and so should you and the kids. I focus on death as I've done contraception and child care already, not to mention marriage, divorce, promiscuity and living in sin. I am celibate now but so what. The ruling views on abortion made me sick. Death is the next big thing so I will be making a will for my daughter.

But what would I know about matters at these lofty heights today? After all, I'm only a voter. Ask your husband what he thinks about our assisted death and tell us. You've known each other long enough. I speak mainly as a disgusted mother of one, hoping to die nicely quite soon, comparatively speaking. Whatever you do, you should always do it nicely, or so they always tell me. I guess you do. I've admired the capacity but this time is different.

### **LEARNING ABOUT MY HOME AND GARDEN IN RETIREMENT TO SEE US, BUILDING FOUNDATIONS, BUILDINGS, FENCES, GROUNDS AND BIG TREES AMONG OTHERS TREATED BETTER (JESUS, HAS THAT BEEN A STRUGGLE FORWARD TO THE LIGHT FOR US ALL?)**

***'Sydney house prices rose \$1000 a day in 2021'*** according to **Australian Financial Review Property** (AFR.1.2022. Commercial real estate.) I address housing related asset management later and first ask you and real estate agents in particular, ***'Why are all the fucking specialist lawyers necessary for every potential housing client apparently approaching wall or related dividing matters, potentially to purchase or repair or renovate the place?'*** (As my good old boss, the Manager of Insurance and Fund Management in NSW WorkCover once pointed out, *'Trouble usually arises at margins'*. Never a truer word was spoke in retrospect I realize, surely? I address John Kay's book, **Other People's Money: Masters of the Universe or Servants of the People** later, as I think far too many now have either lost the plot or have never known it in the first place. (I hope it is better revealed to us and this is partly why I tend to appeal to you rather than a lot of others I might name.)

If all the parties are encouraged to refuse to talk - why do they think lots of lawyers will know better? I refer you to related discussions on Australian and global politics and development written at the invitation of current Royal Commissions into disability and defence and veterans' suicide. These are national policy issues clearly at the heart of many matters for people who are going to die comparatively soon, like me, for example, whether they like it or not. Don't leave it up to God if you want to go sooner. Let's do it nicely.

Americans appear to be drugging and killing themselves and others with guns at comparatively alarming rates and you know how we ape them globally, through the normal professional and collegiate associations. My oldest sibling, for example, who worked as an engineer for the US space program in Los Angeles, tried to shoot himself in the head when he got Parkinson's disease and bungled the job. The result was expensive for his family although he and his wife had proposed he be killed as he wished. Fate is often unkind unless we can recognize and change it but the sliding doors usually go the wrong way.

I don't want to be forced into any such shameful US position here, held captive to markets and others in the environment. However, as a local Australian resident and grandma, I thank you and your staff sincerely for the sensibly laid out and informative **Community Services Directory and Calendar for 2022**. This will be handy on the fridge and I haven't seen anything as logical for years, since old telephone books went out on the proposition that we would all be better off locally when we didn't know what or where anything was on offer, if it was any good for us, or how to get it. If the numbers prove to be wrong on checking them out, God knows it seems better than ignorance and confusion as usual.

Tell it to the marines? I have recently done so most enjoyably at Brooklyn and prior to that at Wollongong, as discussed attached with Frank Coluccio, Anton Dominis and others in regard to the report **Illawarra: Nature and Technology in Harmony: Towards the First Smart Hi-Tech Eco-City in Australia: Wollongong (2013)**. The primary marine suggestion for your consideration, among others, is to invite Fortescue Metals Group Chairman, Andrew Forrest AO and others to Wollongong to discuss a **Memorandum of Understanding**, perhaps like those he has been signing elsewhere in the world according to the article '**Twiggy may need to separate Fortescue from his hydrogen expenses** (AFR 22.11.2021).

Their service culture in Brooklyn certainly appears to beat Wollongong, where nobody appears willing to deliver more than a couple of copies of the **Australian Financial Review** (AFR) to the station, so they are gone by 7am, although the shopkeeper asks for more. On the other hand, the free Wollongong community bus is great. Should we climb stairs or ride bikes if old, disabled or clumsy? (I rather doubt it. How about you? I find that every time I discuss the supposed rebuilding of Australian manufacturing culture it makes me want to

die because I generally lack faith in what people like you are doing and I think I have gone far enough already with a lot of silent or lying, self-promoting arseholes telling everybody else that the greatest virtue lies in being nice. (I address dentistry at a later time.)

I consider related environmental matters first in the light of many of the views of John Kay, visiting professor at the London School of Economics, and fellow of St John's College, Oxford. I refer specifically to his discussion of the role of the middle man in ***Other People's Money: Masters of the Universe or Servants of the People?*** (2015). On the coming elections, I agree with Kellner in a ***New European*** journal article addressed in the first attachment on the Gates Foundation and non-profits in general. Kellner apparently advised the Labour leadership to begin first with getting the product right by asking what policy and development models will make Britain richer, fairer, cleaner and more contented, rather than by asking how to win an election. However, from the view of anybody who wants to serve the people first, rather than being pro-gun, pro-God and pro-life in normal Western policy terms, we must surely seek to move towards peace, health, education and communications leading work in the environment, paid and unpaid. Gee that would be new. Shouldn't you help? (I naturally put this to other parties on whom we have relied.)

Great articles on regional communications in the Sydney Morning Good Weekend (SMH 23-23.5.2021) suggested national security should now be more openly understood in terms of population health, not in trading designed to destroy it in weapons related transactions, as well as in more commonly popular forms of communication consumption for gambling; or for surgery or drug consumption interests, addressed attached. As Dong Wang, Professor at the School of International Studies and Executive Director of the Institute of Global Cooperation and Understanding stated in '*Strategic competition with China needs a rethink*' (AFR 4.1.22, p. 8) the common '*democracy versus authoritarian narrative*', so common in the thinking of Western lawyers, only encourages a divisive new cold war which ignores the regional and historical wishes of many in Asia and elsewhere. I share that view as usual.

From this global perspective, rather than the normal Christian one adopted by lawyers and their acolytes' who deny the inevitable utility of death, Kristina Kenneally superficially looks like a total waste of space, but then so did Anne Aly to me at first. What was I thinking? I address this along with related women and men in your good party and associations and outside it, later. If Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu had a pine coffin, surely, I should be able to go early and donate my body for feeding fish, or for population or other profit, for example. (Frankly, I don't care much what gets done with it because I won't be there to know.)

In ***Other People's Money: Masters of the Universe or servants of the People***, Kay primarily addresses the global rise of the financial trading culture since the 1980s which has enhanced the bias to finance generating action that reduces ethical standards and increases the costs of financial intermediation as well as the costs of general population and financial instability. Locally, for example, I consider IT demands made on old women who want to cash cheques

sent to them at home. Do not tell me I have to go into the city Head Office of the National Australia Bank, (NAB) when I want to cash an Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) cheque sent to me from NRMA, (God alone knows why). Tell Scurpanic Singh the next time he tells me I must get a new App. On my phone before I can get real money, he should get fucked and be shot. I am an old and sick woman living alone, without a daily IT literate person or even a person on tap with a car, and this is apparently my money, although only God knows why I got it. As the whole of the NSW transport sector appears recently to have been taking away or diverting our light rail, trains, buses and ferries on one pretence or another, we appear forced to stay at home and use IT. I hate the stupid lying brothers in the growing financial and legal circles even more than usual, starting at the top. The mob banging on about covid virus on a daily basis just bore me so much I want to die soon. (This is normal.)

However, I am also reminded you can't keep a good man down, or something like that, so also refer to your handsome husband, **Michael Coutts-Trotter**, the current [Secretary](#) of the NSW [Department of Premier and Cabinet](#) for Premier [Dominic Perrottet](#). (I have no reason at all to doubt Wikipedia on this or most matters. Since Wikipedia began, they have improved it hugely in my humble observation. It states he was previously [Secretary](#) of the New South Wales [Department of Communities and Justice](#), after being the director-general of the [Departments of Education](#) and [Customer Service](#). Coutts-Trotter served almost three years of a nine-year [prison sentence](#) after being convicted for the importation and distribution of heroin into Australia in 1986 and the NSW Teachers Federation and School principals appear still affronted by his rise to power, perhaps. (Surely it makes one think.)

Apparently, Coutts-Trotter was born in England and arrived in Australia with his parents in 1976. His father Paul was the son of [Sir Murray Coutts-Trotter](#), former chief Justice of Madras, while his mother Helen was from Cootamundra.<sup>[3]</sup> Coutts-Trotter matriculated from [Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview](#).<sup>[4]</sup> In 1986, when he received a nine-year [prison sentence](#) as a drug dealer selling heroin to addicts. He served two years and nine months in jail before [parole](#) in 1988. He graduated from the [University of Technology Sydney](#) with a degree in communications in 1995.<sup>[A]</sup> As you both recently observed, in the Sydney Morning Herald Good Weekend, he was lucky to meet you.

The law typically looks after its own, and I have often wondered what part Sydney University academic, Tim Anderson played in the Hilton bombing, and who his parents were. He has had august support it seems to me from Game family and related associations. Anderson and I had similar intellectual interests before retirement and we both worked at Sydney University. He would never return my phone calls or other attempts at contact. Many men make a comparative virtue of keeping their mouths shut and their whereabouts and origins a comparative secret. This tendency is accelerated by IT. Do you and hubby talk at home about key things for us outsiders? I guess you should and I am currently reminded by the Sydney Morning Herald article of Anna Bligh. Remember the former Premier of Queensland

and currently CEO of the Australian Banking Association after the Royal Commission into the banking industry called in 2018 by former PM Malcolm Turnbull (SMH 8.9.1.2023)? I do.

I once read she had been wooed with the early gift of a Redgum record and I was too. For related reasons, I would like to be put in touch again with my former ten-year defacto, Nixon Apple. I learn he was recently awarded Queen's and national honours for services to superannuation and trade unions. His father was a rich Canadian lawyer, with mining companies among his clients. What is Nixon doing for the brothers and for any related family members now and how wealthy and well connected is he in Melbourne? I often wonder how he is doing as in my experience he could easily have become an impoverished gambling addict and alcoholic smoker without the love of a good woman, such a yourself, for example. Did Marion Gaynor stick around or did he try out for something younger and fitter? How is his health? The personal and political are naturally kept apart by lawyers and their male offspring. The job of the rest is to open them up for examination in order to go forward better in a world we must remain in until our death. (Maybe the Horse will Talk?)

In **Intermediation**, Kay writes, quoting Flaubert's **Sentimental Education** (1869) '*There are some men whose only mission among others is to act as intermediaries; one crosses them like bridges and keeps going.* However, one keeps going, while the employment of lawyers appears geared to ever more expensively opaque complexity, rather than to any increase in productivity. This may produce a lot of stupid new financial sector and related jobs and costs, depending on the particular situation. In 2018, for example, former NSW Liberal Premier, Nick Greiner, lamented the poor effects on productivity and good administration of 'over-regulation', in the **Independent Review of the NSW Regulatory Policy Framework**. Kay concludes that the complexity of modern finance has been designed, and has operated, principally to benefit financial intermediaries rather than the users of financial services. So what? Any more apparent truth has seldom deterred the comparatively rich getting richer, as we all appear to be doing now, at least on paper. I'm guessing, for example, that this general state romance with vaccination will go on for years, as related Australian manufacturing is substantially rebuilt, for example, with construction, transport and other organizational help. Thus, I address death and disability later and attached. (Somebody other than lawyers should although lawyers inevitably will to suit themselves not us.)

In '**Other People's Money**' Kay points out that successive waves of innovation in transport have brought us railways, cars and planes which have transformed the lives of ordinary people. Nobody could say the same, however, of forward exchange rates, credit default swaps or collateralised debt obligations. The risk generated by the financial system, which is also a political system, are increasingly sloughed off to Main Street and end users as costs for us to bear. As Kay points out, the scale of financial market activity today would be

impossible without the expectation, proven by the global financial crisis which began in US housing in 2008, that both the liquidity and solvency of banks are underpinned by government. Since we often regard our own family housing as our most important asset, what does this mean for us in Australia in regard to acquisition and deployment of key national or state taxation, industry superannuation and related organizational or individual fund treatment? Any ideas that might shed more light before the next election?

I stress the National Australia Bank service has always worked reasonably well for me because of its clear reliability in relation to how I get and spend money. I like to use the occasional cheque for large amounts, as I explained to the guys at the local ANZ bank, near the NAB outlet. This is because I can easily retain a historical record of the transaction and I don't trust any transactions generated by my i-phone, which I hate, and prefer my home computer. I address housing, banking and taxation policy in the light of the Australian 2023 elections later, hoping for increased understanding from comparatively reliable Australian or other media and people like you. Kay observes the modern investment bank retreated from search, (the creation and discovery of new investment opportunities), into trading with other people's money to benefit its senior employees. His analysis appears consistent with the rising regional, generational and organizational inequality internationally. This occurred to greater or lesser extents, depending on the regional case. (This is an environment where I lost excitement in any woman being head of Coca Cola, for example, unless she opens it up to broader scrutiny than normally appears to be the case. (Keep hope alive?))

Kay recommends an international tax on all financial transactions aimed at reducing trading volumes to the modest needs of the non-financial economy. He claims this would kill the attractions of high frequency trading which depend on blisteringly fast arbitrage and microscopic price variations. The idea is often called a Tobin Tax. **How is it collected?** Should one assume the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) **will now address it?** Will any of us, including you, be able to understand their self-serving legal rubbish and does it matter? Lawyers create more lawyers and their related hangers on, assuming the changes they require will occur mainly through some numerical magic behind a curtain or not. In a quest for better regional directions, I naturally appeal attached to real estate agents and related regional forces. This is because I guess they love their kids as much as we do. Surely in future fewer should benefit for so long from such intransigent ignorance generated by top lawyers and their best mates. (Join a grandma fight back.)

In the attached discussions of World Health Organization (WHO) policy and direction, I note former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, writes in a recent AFR article entitled '**Museum**

*piece*' that progressives waste what little hope is left. He states that the British Labour Party has been embarrassed by generational culture wars and has largely tried to ignore them. He writes that this is a mistake and merely reinforces the 'sense of being weak people' who don't really stand for anything. If you wonder why productivity is low and housing prices are high and rising, I guess one answer is a general lack of trust in the financial sector interest in dealing fairly with us as people. Others like me, perhaps agree with Mark Twain's **Puddenhead Wilson** about Diversification. According to Kay, Wilson thought '*Put not all thine eggs in the one basket*' was a silly call to scattering one's money and attention. Puddenhead thought that the wise man puts his eggs in one basket and watches it carefully instead. I've done it in land and housing all my life and I'm not alone, Narelle. Help!

**'Sydney house prices rose \$1000 a day in 2021'** partly because some people like us don't believe any other businesses are likely to get started and work well for long without government or related large backing, which also comes from people like us who have first demanded it in legislation. The law, however, compared to more sensible pursuits, is not designed for variation depending on the case. It is assumed one size fits all in part because of the need to widely collect and manage the money related to managing risk. Because of the size of the cohort, Australian baby boomers with houses appear to be rapidly cannibalising the chances of their kids, who must pay more for education than ever before without the security of good and reliable jobs or housing at the end as stores of value. I think the little kids here should all go back to school soon. This is because the supposed home schooling in NSW and distance education using IT, rapidly exacerbates key knowledge and wealth inequalities between communities and individuals in obnoxiously risky ways.

Kay distinguishes between the roles of search and stewardship. He argues asset managers can only perform effectively when they understand the alternative directions to those of the financial casinos that have been created by powerful financial forces designed increasingly since the 1980s only to see the simple and weak go under the lot, rather than get raised or supported better. This IT directed financial direction, forged with expertly directed magic numbers, will often do anything rather than offer good insurance for ongoing protection of weaker populations. The latter naturally appear comprised of individuals who may experience both unique and general situations, met in particular times and places. I support autonomous thought, action and responsibility about the end of life as well as its beginning. What others around here think is a matter for them but we are equally your constituents.

Jim O'Neill, former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management and a former UK treasury minister, who is a member of the Pan-European Commission on Health and

Sustainable Development admits he hasn't a clue about the future in his article, '**Deep uncertainty looms over global economy in 2022**' (AFR, 4.1.22, p.39), Eminent US economist, Nouriel Roubini writes much the same in a contemporary AFR article. I note that under government covid regimes we are all getting richer in the rich world, at least on paper, so the new normal vaccine research product testing and delivery may never end soon. Many of us in the baby boomer generation may also decide to plan our deaths soon, as stupid professional intermediaries are making life too hard and unpleasant to bother with. **Do you know of a doctor or other legal source of assisting my death at a time of my choosing it?**

In case you or others are interested in related regional and generational matters before the 2023 elections, I attach recent submissions on domestic violence and housing to the current Royal Commissions - into disability; and into defence and veteran suicide. It was strange that I sent them the day before Lord Mayor Clover Moore was returned to office and as the light rail, trains, buses and ferries all appeared out of commission or going to unknown places, (one assumes while Australian manufacturing is rebuilding), I bought a bike. Then I fell off twice, suffering painful buyer's remorse for a stupid idea. Even when young I was nervously clumsy, with slow and poor reflexes and without gearing. Falls are among the greatest killers of the old. I was a week in bed and in pain. What was I thinking? (Big.)

On the other hand, as an old woman I am naturally proud of how my daughter and I have worked together to achieve our shared and separate aims in life. There is nobody who I would rather have in stewardship of my death and affairs as she has been comparatively understanding of me and my wishes and so superficially likely to advance them best. **Can I write my own will, which is to leave my estate to her? Is this a good idea? If not, why not? Will I need a lawyer to write my will for me? If so, why? Do you know a cheap one?**

Tanya, I guess I would again vote for you in the next election, preferably as Labor Party leader. This is partly because your hubby is the top NSW public servant and I guess you would have to be a foolish married couple not to discuss matters together. As voters we would surely like to get two for the price of one, as we are often better organized than Americans and we could open you both up better in the service of our great people and economy. (Fat chance?) Thanks again to SBS TV for showing the brilliant movie **Special Relationship** about the Blairs and Clintons in an earlier supposedly brand-new day for international war relations led by lawyers and mates.

Emma Shortis, academic and author of **Our Exceptional Friend: Australia's Fatal Alliance with the US** writes that '*American democracy has always been uneven*' in her recent article

*'What's the plan for the worst'* (SMH 5.1.22, p. 22). Jesus, what does that even mean in a land where the Constitution is first based on the right to secret trade in weapons? The US is a place where the fate of everybody else lies as usual in the hands of secretive lying men peddling ignorant violence. If Shortis thinks the US is a democracy, I've got news for her. It basically appears to be a place where any supposedly popular representatives must be bought to succeed. The nation can't even get regional agreement so that everybody can vote without some obnoxious interference. Frankly, Australian democracy looks like a comparatively peaceful and well administered place and I guess many may feel the same about where they live with equally good reason. (Don't let lawyers and associates ruin it.)

If I were an optimist, I would guess Australia is now facing a transition from insurance mainly as a comparatively early form of industrial product and wage protection, to newly inclusive forms of social insurance and fund management. They are led in company with government and based on the perceived need for many wider population protections and supposed services. Medicare and the National Disability Insurance Scheme may appear ideally leading this development in more openly cooperative communication with those they are expected to be serving, which is us. (And Twiggy Forrest of course, apparently now standing in for God these days). Surely, however, lawyers should be avoided, especially where there appear to be boundaries, as regionally open inquiry and decision making based on the particular cases should be open rationales for action in the light of international aims and standards. In construction and housing management, however, they appear to be piling on the jobs, jobs, jobs costs for lawyers and their special mates as fast as they can. This adds to rising costs in housing for good reasons or not, depending on the case. (Professionals, perceiving us as their property, plough on regardless.)

We are all going to die comparatively soon compared to future generations, so the National Disability Insurance Scheme ideally is regionally broad, rather than covering comparatively narrow ground, for mutual support and development purposes. Housing investment, construction and management practices are crucial determinants of population wellbeing. Disability generally increases with age, ending in death for us all. Attached submissions address housing investment and management so that people with disabilities, real estate agents and others may assist all Australians to develop better. If I may say so, you and Bill Shorten and Anthony Albanese have done a pretty lousy job of explaining related matters to the Australian population and I don't think this is good.

Disability is ideally addressed in regional contexts which apparently must accept disability as an increasing way of life. This occurs in increasingly complex and demanding work environments, driven by demands for more IT, where the general system of supposed service delivery to populations and individuals appears rationally constructed or not. Yet treatment of land and housing remain pivotal matters for population wellbeing at any age, including for those of us who consider ourselves disabled for any comparatively objective or subjective reasons, such as loathing of constant IT change requirements. They may appear comparatively stupid, difficult, forgettable and costly for us or not. I query housing construction and management broadly in hopes of understanding how Australians may best be served by their superannuation and related funds. So far,

superannuation fund build-up and investment have rather been associated with sending housing ownership increasingly beyond the reach of younger generations than with their support. The world appears increasingly designed for normal old male personal pursuits as usual so I wrote to the Royal Commissions, seeking help to die early when we want. Some people with disability commit violence, perhaps from frustration with their poor understanding or communication ability or pain, and even end up in jail. I also address related matters of violence, murder and suicide as public health and housing problems in the attached submission to the **Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran's Suicide**.

My general argument, based on World Health Organization (WHO) direction, which contradicts any Australian Royal Commission, is that more global and regional approaches must be taken to many particular matters. The aim is to go forward better in regional environments which are increasingly related globally through financial and other trade and investment. Feudal and professional matters of association are part of the problems which now appear to be reflected in increasingly unequal, fragmented and opaque operations as markets also drive us wrongly in new directions which suit rich US, UK and other homeland interests. Thus, to read the comparatively clear article '*Banks turn crime busters in league with AUSTRAC*' (AFR, 4.1.22, p.22) makes one feel a little more comfortable that at least the current Liberal Coalition Minister, Peter Dutton and AUSTRAC CEO, Nicole Rose, appear to have the right regional and international approaches to home security, whatever one might guess the ACCC appears to be doing with all the usual lawyers. So much for Christina Keneally and her Irish Catholic relatives and connexions as usual? (They give me the shits and I've had to live with their violently authoritarian professional controls my entire life.)

Nicole Rose, on the other hand, writes that AUSTRAC and the banks are now working much more closely together to prevent financial fraud. No doubt the Chinese people and those in key parts of other nations face related problems which are hard to deal with. As **The Godfather** and **The Wire**, (former President Obama's favourite TV series about Baltimore) showed us clearly, the most common way to launder money may be through real estate purchase. A related reason may be that an increasing number of us don't trust many new financial 'debanking' forms. I address such state matters with the Real Estate Institute of NSW attached and often wonder whether people like you and your mates do or why not.

It's a pity that the NAB and ANZ bank offices at the Broadway shopping centre don't even appear to be capable of working together to bank cheques, even for old dying people who prefer them for transactions, because they are frightened of what might happen in future to those forced to rely on an i-phone or similar mobile device. Some like me can't read or understand or confidently rely upon these comparatively fleeting, unclear or outdated print and related transaction demands, compared with those on desk or laptop computers, for example. Microsoft allows for better personal administration and recording methods, using email and banking websites and related paper or other storage forms at will. AUSTRAC CEO, Nicole Rose, encouragingly said the Australian banks had become a 'fantastic partner' for financial intelligence gathering 'Now staff understand the impact it has on the community, from criminals coming in to use ATMs, using bank branches for laundering cash'. Apparently, AUSTRAC are turning their attention now to casinos, pubs and clubs. That seems a good idea, especially in comparatively closed environments like Broken Hill or other

places where populations appear to be comparatively ill, old or unemployed with many to support in environments where labour shortages may also abound, for whatever reasons.

I also refer you to Michael West's utube discussion emailed to me by Jefferson Lee on **how to drive up Australian real estate prices with dirty money; i.e. how to launder money through Australian real estate**. West refers to vital opening up legislation affecting real estate agents and others. Now I know about it I do too. Apparently, in December 2020, the Australian Government passed the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 (an AML/CTF [Amendment](#)). The Amendment supposedly introduces a raft of measures aimed at strengthening Australia's anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework. The intention addressed below seems good, but as usual one wonders what lawyers will make of it. An apparently clear government idea so often become twisted to serve the interests of the same old groups leading the rest by the nose or not. What do you know about these matters as our local ALP representative? Why not tell us? The key website provides the information below.

The amending legislation gives effect to recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) (an inter-governmental body which sets global standards for tackling money laundering and terrorism financing) and a 2016 statutory review of the Anti-Money Laundering regulatory regime. The amendment introduces changes to (among other things) customer identification procedures, correspondent banking relationships, tipping-off offences, access to information, and the cross-border movements of money. New sections allow a reporting entity to rely on customer identification procedures undertaken by a third party if the entity:

- enters into a written agreement or arrangement with the third party, where that third party is subject to appropriate AML/CTF regulation and supervision;
- carries out regular assessments of the arrangement; and
- has reasonable grounds to believe that the customer due diligence requirements of the AML/CTF Rules are being met.

The Amendment supposedly enables greater information sharing between the public and private sector to enhance investigation capabilities. The AML/CTF Act previously 'designated' relevant agencies which could access and disclose AUSTRAC information, and utilised a narrow definition of 'AUSTRAC information'. Section 125 introduces a more general information sharing power which allows the AUSTRAC CEO to authorise officials of Commonwealth, State or Territory agencies to access a broader range of AUSTRAC information for the purpose of performing their ordinary duties and functions. One particularly wonders what real estate agents might comment on such matters.

Section 127 also allows the AUSTRAC CEO or a Commonwealth, State or Territory agency to disclose AUSTRAC information to foreign agencies and governments upon the provision of relevant undertakings. Various safeguards have been introduced to accompany this increased information sharing. The Amendment expands a number of offences in the AML/CTF Act for disclosing AUSTRAC information to also prohibit making a record of, authorising access to or using AUSTRAC information, other than as provided for in the AML/CTF Act. The Amendment supposedly streamlines provisions relating to cross-border movement of physical currency and bearer negotiable instruments, such as cheques and bills of exchange.

I urge us all to grasp this opening regional nettle to protect current and future Australian people and beyond. Don't let lawyers and their related adversarial interests ruin it as usual.

I address Amy Auster's article '*NSW opt-in plan to replace stamp duty is a winning ticket*' (AFR, 4.1.2022, p. 39) in a related vein because I can't understand it. She states everybody knows why stamp duty is the most wretched of all taxes. **I don't. Why?** She repeatedly states there is clear agreement on matters I understand little or nothing about. Where does that leave me as a voter? She states NSW government leader and former treasurer, Dominic Perrottet wants a transitional approach to replacing stamp duty with land tax, where property purchasers may choose to opt into the new regime or not. She states that in the ACT, stamp duty rates have been wound back while council rates have gradually increased. Why do some people apparently want the state to '*securitise its future tax revenue for a seamless and pain-free transition*'? What does that mean and why is it good for the people of NSW or anywhere else? What does she mean by writing that '*Securitization in this case just means the revenue is replaced by borrowing*'?

For a woman who is a partner at PwC and a former senior executive at both the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance and the Commonwealth Treasury, this article is a lousy explainer of why some unclear change without a clear aim will be '*very, very good*' for us as residents of NSW. ABC TV typically does a lot better on many important matters like this. Auster should be shot but men stink so anything in a skirt can look good? I don't know. How about you? When was the last time you heard a man admit that? They never will?

Having had enough of writing this on my birthday, I think I will go off and do a bit of currently forbidden singing and dancing, naturally at home alone in the nude without trying to film or put it on social media. (I may be a grandma but I am not always just a fool.)

Cheers and please help. (I guess you knows it's the right thing to do.) Carol O'Donnell,  
St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney 2037 [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

Hi Maureen, Lili, Sally, Elizabeth and others

### **CASH MANAGEMENT STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH TO 31.12.21**

I'm writing to tell you that I have totally lost the plot about the moneys coming into our Administrative Fund and Capital Works funds. I refer first to the attachment Cash Management for the **Month 31.12.2021**. I stress I am not particularly confused by the monthly payments that were made to Carpentry Plex, R.W. Jackson, Eveready Plumbing and Maintenance, etc. some of which I assume will be shared out later because of relative commitments. **(Is this correct? Will we learn further about this at the next meeting of the strata committee? I hope so.)**

**I refer to the general meeting of the Owners Strata Plan of 21.11.2021 where the owners of the 18 townhouses in strata plan 10775 agreed to pay a special levy to increase money in the administrative and sinking funds to cover the works already begun on the building with Carpentry Plex and Eveready Plumbing and Maintenance.** (I sent a cheque for \$10,260 to DEFT for this amount on 12.12.21 at Whelan's request, and I assume others paid slightly larger or smaller amounts. I also paid a new and higher quarterly levy than previously, (\$1516 as a result of another meeting of the strata committee) **How does this relate to our current overall accounts of receipts and accumulations in the balance sheet of 31.12.2021?**

**I would like to understand what I guess may be OVERDUE levy matters, to be addressed at the next meeting of the strata committee, perhaps under the agenda items:**

#### **(1) Key Financial information (2) Budgets and levies (3) Ongoing work and costs with Carpentry Plex**

I would also like to address **(4) Tree Pruning in front, back and side gardens** (for nos. 9,10 and 11 in particular) and in regard to the total plot vegetation, garden and fence care in general)

Overall, in this monthly account, (31.12.21) I note our total receipts and payments for the period meant we had roughly **\$ -9703** in the administrative fund and **\$136,457** in capital works. Our overall Bank and Investment Balances state we are **\$-11,725** in the Administrative Fund and **\$277,709** in the Capital Works Fund.

However, the information in the **Levy Income Administrative Fund and the Levy Income Capital Works Fund** are mysteries to me, compared with the clarity of what appeared to be expected from owners in payments into our respective accounts from the meetings on 10.11.21, **where 13 of the owners of the 18** townhouses turned up to vote unanimously for a special levy, (viz.):

*4.0 Resolved that the Owners Corporation determine that a special levy be raised in the sum of **\$180,000 inc. GST to fund the retaining wall remediation works.**  
**Instalments due on 1.12.21 in accordance with units of entitlement.***

A later meeting, on 1.12.21 via Microsoft Teams, appeared to add to that amount. For example, at the meeting 1.12.21, it was agreed that:

*The owners Corporation determines the following amounts to be levied in 4 unequal instalments:  
**Administrative Fund \$77,000 and Capital Works Fund \$19,00.***

I have no idea how the money that I (No. 10 owner) have paid in full to DEFT on Whelan's request relates to the Administrative and Capitals works fund information provided on 31.12.21, or thus whether it is correct for a start.

Secondly, I have no idea how the moneys in the supposed financial information now presented to us for 31.12.21 relate to what **any of us owners, (including myself)** may experience as the current statement of the affairs of Strata Plan 10775 that Whelan's presents to us.

From my perspective, as a poor stupid old woman living on the plot since 1994, I haven't understood the strata plan accounts big picture of receipts and accumulations since we moved from Verdun Walsh to Whelans, **commencing March 2019**. You recall we also paid substantial amounts to make the change. I have been wondering about how DEFT is supposed to work for us as distinct from confuse us on an ongoing basis ever since. I guess Verdun Walsh, Whelans, etc. are all following DEFT religiously now but it doesn't mean that I have a snowball's chance in hell of understanding whether the accounts are any good on a continuing basis, either as an individual owner or as a member of the strata committee or owners' corporation. Will an auditor have a similar problem? (One increasingly wonders these days as specialist costs also increase.)

Perhaps some of the men who came out of the woodwork to vote unanimously for the increases in all our payments at the end of last year might favour me with an explanation of how they

assumed we would all benefit from what they did. (Should I forget about the amounts and trust as usual? Will everybody win that way? I guess not for reasons I have raised with our local federal representative in the attached. I would be grateful for any greater understanding.)

### **TREE PRUNING IN FRONT AND BACK GARDENS**

I refer to the partially useful Arborist Report provided to St James Court on 30.3.2017 by Bradshaw Tree Services when Verdun Walsh were running us. Since then, we have got rid of many large trees, often in an unpleasantly adversarial environment because our strata management legislation and insurances appeared supported by the industry in seeing trees and gardens as a financial menace to all building, better ripped out. For those of us owners who live here on a continuing basis, this view has led expensively to the exact opposite of any comparatively beautiful, informed and peaceful life, combating global warming as we have increasingly been expected to do as a nation, since I joined the St James Court strata in 1994.

Personally, I love the trees that remain in the front gardens of my neighbours, No.11 and No. 9, which overhang my garden. I find both beautiful and shady for my plot at No. 10. I think they need expert pruning to avoid unnecessary damage and cost to the building and related grounds. I am very happy to contribute to the cost of this, but not to pay for the lot.

Bamboo infests all our back yards and I guess I love mine because it hides the neighbouring grounds beautifully and I can chop it back. Climbing bougainvillea at the back of No. 9 requires chopping back yearly. Jo and I have spoken amicably about this and I raised the matter with Lili who said leave it with her. I am aware that the work being done on No. 11 requires back and side garden renovation as well. (I have lost touch with others requirements on the plot and we have paid for a lot of trees to be torn out entirely, so I seek to prune others close to me.) **How?**

I have only ever seen large pruning once at this place since 1994, as distinct from tree removal. When it was done, it was largely a waste of time and money (like plumbing and a lot of other things used to be) as the men doing it claimed a Council regulation prevented them from cutting more than 10% of any canopy and that this was a regulation all over NSW. (I thought this pruning was perhaps an example of stupid spite and another industry money-making venture.)

I am aware that Lili's husband did a beautiful job of cutting back her climbing bougainvillea one free afternoon and I would love to see bougainvillea pruned better yearly, so it flowers. However, while I love my neighbour's vegetation, I am not allowed to trespass on their property to prune it properly, and I am not prepared to pay for the lot, even if it were possible.

I look forward to any suggestions regarding all the above matters and refer you also to the recent related letter to Tanya Plibersek (ALP), our federal representative. You will note that Lord Mayor Clover Moore (Independent) has been recently re-elected to the City of Sydney and our state MP, Jamie Parker is Green. Even PM Scott Morrison speaks about the wonders of combating global warming now. I have been trying to find out more to do something about it alone or as a pig ignorant member of the Strata Committee since 1994 so am a little jaded. On the other hand, I managed to write the attached and related letter about all the matters above to Tanya Plibersek. I hope some of you read it far enough to see the increasing inequality and loss of financial control that has worried me since the 1980s. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer faster now. I would rather be part of the solution than the problem in strata. How?

Looking forward to any answers at the next meeting which I am always happy to have at my place (No. 10) so that any people interested may actually see some issues of which I now speak.

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

## WORKING WITH THE ARMY AND OTHERS TO PLAN A GOOD DEATH FOR ME

Hi Mario

As I explained to your predecessor, who emailed me after my first of two submissions to your Royal Commission, making my submission did not upset me, so I saw no reason to call on him further. He thanked me and closed the file.

However, hearing from you after my second submission makes me think that it would be useful to meet somebody from your organization **if our discussion won't cost me money**, and also gives me further ideas in pursuit of my own version of a good death.

At the age of 75 I am naturally seeking to avoid a long period of unpleasant decline before I die and would rather die before it. **Do you know of any doctors or others who would provide a pleasantly state assisted death, when I think I require it, for example?**

The two things I find most destructive of pleasure in my life are the normal disabilities of living a long time and new forms of technology which we are all increasingly required to use, and which I hate. I attach a recent discussion with friends below. My two submissions to the Royal Commissions are again attached.

Somebody from your organization would be welcome to visit me at my address outlined later below, **if I am not charged for the privilege**, to discuss any matters raised and related to our respective views of death planning.

Thanks for your interest in these matters of great import to me. Cheers,  
Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney 2037

As I wrote to friends recently:

I hope you are enjoying Xmas wherever you are. I write because we won't see each other for a while and I hope you are enjoying your own developments. (I note we are all getting richer in the rich world under covid, at least on paper, so the new normal may never end.)

In case you or anyone else you know is interested in these matters before the 2022 elections etc. I send the attached files on domestic violence and housing to the current Royal Commissions - into disability; and into defense and veteran suicide.

It was strange that I sent them the day before Clover Moore was returned to office and since the light rail, trains, buses and ferries were all on strike while manufacturing is rebuilding, I bought a bike. I promptly fell off twice, thus suffering very painful buyer's remorse for a stupid idea. (Even when young I was nervously clumsy and without gearing. Falls are the greatest killers of the old. I spent almost a week in bed and in pain. What was I thinking?)

Hi Norm Are we going walking Saturday or Sunday? (I forget which and will text you later.)

On another matter entirely, my webmaster is doing stand-up comedy in Noosa. It made me wonder if your son is into stand-up comedy. Buz (son of a doctor from Afghanistan) asked me what I thought of his stand-up on u-tube and as an amateur psychologist I gave the answer below. I am wondering how you respond to stand-up humour. Any views you have would be very welcome. Cheers Carol

Hi Buz

I made two Tropfest films **for 2006**, before the iphone really hit us. However, somebody told me later they had seen them on utube and showed me how to find them and there they were. I haven't looked at them since but have my own 2x 8 minute copies entitled Losing It (about pregnancy) and Meet the New Professionals (about mental health). All I did was be a writer and a student called Peter Van Vliet did the technical lot. We had him and other students as actors. Professor George Rubin of Westmead kindly agreed to play the doctor. Everything describing such forward directions from my view is in the last chapter of my autobiog Power Loving.- Travelling Grandma. I guess the birthday letter to Tanya Plibersek is now trying to get some political traction for the educational or other views in Power Loving.

Re your performance on open mic. stand-up at Noosa, I hugely admire the practice of stand-up partly because I know I would never have the courage or capacity to do it. I have never been cool or well timed enough and my memory and confidence in my performance are far too poor for it. In my younger days there was only really preaching or lecturing or debating or toast-masters but stand-up was a purely amateur and largely male game of joke telling, usually aimed between mates with shared cultural values. I work best as a semi-serious writer and can remember only about five jokes, because they have struck some lasting chord of significance for me. (e.g. What's the difference between herpes and true love? With herpes, it's forever.) However, I remember that in my collective housing in Glebe in the 1980s, Commonwealth and state bureaucrats and other friends occasionally played a circle game where each person had to tell a joke. The other people in the circle then had to shout out whether the joke was sexist, racist or merely bawdy. They then had to explain why they made the assessment and the joker got to reply. (We were a heterosexual company I guess because nobody told gay jokes.) I have forgotten nearly all the jokes I heard and God knows I've heard a lot. I've also read a lot of Freud on them, etc. etc. etc.

I think humour often rests on assumed and shared knowledge which is often also subversive of a dominant ideology and way of life. In an international culture, humour can often cross a huge number of boundaries too, in my experience. After all, I guess we have all had, to greater or lesser extents, that special relationship with New York and California in one way or another at least since Disney and The Mickey Mouse Club began. (Blame it also mainly on Jews as outsiders who didn't want to be lawyers?)

I thought your jokes were more like Dad jokes than a more dedicated and self-mining stand-up comic might produce, but I think that is good too because there is too much professionalization in a world which destroys communities and confidence in enjoyment beside the increasingly expected professional advance to get money or more of it. I like the general joke about Australia having too many rules when you have been born in Afghanistan and was fascinated by the joke about the policeman replying 'Oh' when he asked what you did and you said you were a web developer. (Shared knowledge I don't share?) I would think 'The Abdullahs' might be a good name for a group. It seems to me good if your kids or their friends helped you find some of your jokes. Anything to lighten dad up internationally?

Like enjoying open night ukelele, or other music or poetry nights I guess, you can choose to practice as little or as much as you like but professionalism in that particular field is not really the name of the social learning game, or everybody can easily lose with a few exceptions. Sadly I remain, however, a puritanical intellectual at heart, cloistered in old age and hugely admiring my version of excellence on the TV, etc. (I've been Ayn Randed/ Nearly branded a Communist, cos I'm left handed/ That's the hand they use/ Well never mind. (Paul Simon and his more driven ilk will rightly go on touching global hearts very deeply for a very long while I guess.)

Re advertising, I find myself loathing US advertising often, much more than Australian advertising which picks up on some more shared global or related meaning. I remember when Telstra did 'No-one's far from anyone any more' when they did their Xmas phone calls all over the world on birthdays, etc. and the US businessman saying sadly over the phone

'Richie, why didnya call'? Who could forget the ad for the White Pages with a boss leaning out of a window waving them and shouting 'Not happy, Jan! (We've all been there.)

When the Victorian Tourist Industry had the slogan 'You'll love every piece of Victoria' and a young couple were shown disporting themselves on beaches and in other places to the sounds of 'La Mer', it touched me deeply but not enough to book another trip to Victoria in old age. Oz Airline ads.brought tears to my eyes. In short, I often hate US advertising because I hate US values in a lot of cases and they are everywhere. I have actually warmed to a lot of Oz advertising but always watch ABC or SBS TV partly because I hate most ads interrupting anything that I find exceptional or sometimes even mediocre. (I hate new technology even more.)

For what it's worth, that is my personal age and sex related feedback. I would be grateful for any response or suggestions about the Tropfest stuff but will probably send you a new set of articles for my site on the weekend. I have Tropfest related stills and pictures as well as the movies which have a Sydney Uni. badge. I would be interested in any views, suggestions or info.

Cheers Carol