

## GRANDMA'S FREE MARXIST FEMINIST ADVICE AND QUESTIONS

### **STEM AND PPE: WHAT IS LEARNED UNDER THE M IN 'STEM'? IS IT MORE TROUBLE AND COST THAN IT IS WORTH? DO WOMEN WHO HATE MATHEMATICS HAVE GOOD REASONS?**

I refer you to the regional policy and development discussion later below, hoping you will raise related regional matters in this global context with Chinese and other trading partners.

Particularly as the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, is holding a national skills and jobs summit next month, surely teaching institutions and others should consider the role that mathematics learning and teaching does play, or should play, in relation to occupations and career paths in which science, technology or engineering knowledge and skills are ideally linked?

***How good or bad for the personal money and the rest is the M in STEM? How necessary is mathematics, and of what kind, to meet the key national need for jobs and career paths in the globally or locally linked economies of Australian states today and in future generations?***

***What jobs and careers in your regional area are open to those who specialised in mathematics and mathematical skills? Do we need them or others in Australia, for example? Why? How does any current mathematical teaching assist resolution of problems of climate change or its reduction?*** (I address this in regard to real estate agents and property managers, with implications for construction industry matters attached.)

In the 1980s, I was unaware of the useful concept grouping **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** for discussion of education, job and career aspirations and standards, whether for women or for men. I write as a traditional woman, whose mathematical thinking is unconfident, slow and suspicious of potential trickery. I tend to avoid complex mathematics and value stable, simple, personal knowledge most.

It is only recently, in my political economist's understanding of Keynesian thought and the world, that I have begun to see the historical vitality of the related educational and career concept grouping, **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)** starting at Oxford University and in its later translation, to the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, for example. Mathematics and mathematicians have clearly played a central role in the development of PPE before, after and during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars, for example. The men who built atomic bombs and those who naturally wanted to test them came from all over the world.

These PPE concept groupings have travelled the world with similarly feudal notions of standard setting. These teachings appear alive and thriving today in ways which support increasing disequilibrium in the historic feudal and Christian state manufacturing positions, rather than the reverse. My common knowledge and discussion of Cambridge inspired texts such as **Macroeconomic Principles** (2007) and the world today, is that such books deal in mathematical terms which no ordinary educated person can understand or use. These terms are also applied to theory which history has shown to be wrong for today. As Keynes observed, the markets can remain irrational much longer than you can remain solvent. He

proved his financial point by leaving the upkeep of his widow to the kindness of friends, etc. However, mathematics and related IT interests appear to be driving the lot today as they have often done, thanks to continuation of normal feudal and manufacturing associations built for use in warfare states seeking to build up from more recent domestic collapse.

See the discussion below and attached, mainly in relation to construction and property management on the ground, rather than in ideal Platonic terms in the head, or the computer or space. Also think of Sylvia Nasar's great historical book on mathematics, **A Beautiful Mind** (1998); or **Who Got Einstein's Office** (1987) and any biographies of Keynes or Iris Murdoch, for examples.

Maths has often been a mystery to me so great that I can't unpack it, with the exception of social statistics and the everyday kind I learned in school for making my own transactions.

What kind of vocational maths should be studied to protect ourselves and our environments today instead of exploiting them in past norms now being rocket fuelled in IT systems to please their richer customers or themselves as usual? See more below and attached.

Cheers Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney  
[www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

#### **ON AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT AND FUND MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR MANAGED COMPETITION (IN YOUTH WE MAY TAKE THE OPEN, FREE COOPERATION FOR GRANTED)**

We are the young ones, the learners, the readers, the writers/The copiers, the reciters/We are the outlined subjects/ We are the young and small but/We are the writing on your wall.

Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank Street, Glebe, Sydney  
[www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

#### **ADVICE TO THE ELECTED AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS: GOVERNMENT HAS LOST REGIONAL AND PLACE BASED APPROACHES TO SERVING THE PEOPLE. GET THEM BACK WITH CHINA**

Peggy Seeger sang it like it is for us but as a 75-year-old, serious, self-supporting writer I take a different approach to many other disturbing matters. I write in the light of the Australian community and elected representatives concern about global warming; increasing health emergency events such as pandemics, fires and flooding; and about related loss of habitat, resources and amenity for future generations. You and others can write and take pictures too. Don't let fear of lawyers and numbers fool you as the result is expensive, slow and wrong for all. This cost comes through organizing in private, professional and state party association, not broadly, around regional community organization to serve the people.

**This discussion follows the position led in Australian and state governments during the 1980s by injured workers' rehabilitation and compensation insurance schemes, also following World Health Organization (WHO), Medicare and industry superannuation fund directions. Such understanding was then apparently lost until the coronavirus became the new international priority in 2020. Economic concerns about falling productivity and competition are tackled in this global context and at [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) . In this global approach to human and environment wellbeing**

national matters are ideally addressed in their particular global and regional contexts, which appear historically determined, as well as economic and political in their nature and production. This matter is approached in the attached questioning discussion of apparently poor and expensive land and housing treatment, real estate regulation and their related professional certification and research.

*In particular, this discussion advises and questions those new and regionally elected Australians, experts and their constituents in reference to three key events in the new Albanese Labor government calendar, as addressed in the daily press and on free to air TV and radio:*

**(1) The new inquiry into the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA);** I inquire into international and financial matters in the light of Australian relations with governments and others in China and in the US. In his latest book, **The Avoidable War** (2022) former PM Kevin Rudd, the usual Christian, identifies key areas of common global aspiration for urgent global and regional risk management, rehabilitation and managed funding expectations. I ask whether the RBA inquiry will receive and consider related propositions from common Marxist, atheist or other cultural perspectives. I also question others on the ideal functions of boards in common service sector operations now, in comparison with manufacturing sector operation, for example. Perhaps newly elected women MPs might particularly wish to comment on these matters concerning our life, death and care in disability as well. Related matters of particular concern for future generations appear in the attached discussions.

**(2) The new Treasurer's jobs and skills summit to be held in August 2022.** Related discussions of worrying state matters in banking and housing management and construction are attached, with emergency areas requiring treatment after Australian fire and flood catastrophes topmost in mind. **What do particular constituents seek in land and housing treatment now? What occupations (professions) are wanted in construction and building management terms to do what, expressed in open and particular regions and places?**

I address this in state government and real estate professional regulation matters attached to show the NSW government doesn't seem to understand any more that the customer of the government and professional real estate regulation is not supposed to be the real estate agent. The customer of government is supposed to be the land and property owner and others living, leasing or renting on any residential spot. The customer is not the property manager or estate agent. Newer law is soon wilfully distorted against the interests of the broader people, to reflect adversarial party and industrial interests, driven with lawyers.

**(3) The new Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, released the State of Environment (2021) report in July 2022 at a National Press Club address on ABC TV. How can the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust best support the promise of the new Commonwealth Labor government that by 2030 there should be 30% of Australian land and sea areas being conserved in line with the expectations of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity?**

The above three calendar matters of the Commonwealth and state governments are addressed later, in the light of former PM Kevin Rudd's book **The Avoidable War** (2022) which deals with the dangers of catastrophic conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China. Rudd argues that Australia should be aware of key risks of common concern for potential

global or regional cooperation, as well as managed competition, to avoid the general global drift to rearmament and wars polarised in US or Chinese alliances. He states that at the end of 2020, the property sector represented approximately 29% of Chinese gross domestic product (GDP), 41% of all Chinese bank loans and 78% of the wealth invested by urban Chinese (p.319). US and related property treatment became the source of global financial crisis in 2008, which fuelled increasing social and generational inequality. China experienced such crisis during the global coronavirus with the great Evergrande collapses in construction. This has fuelled population unrest and increased concern about corruption. The warrior behaviour of President Xi Jinping should be sympathetically judged in that light. This is a warning to all warriors building up their war chests with other peoples' money so they can kill kids and sitting ducks. (We don't want your wars generated by elections or not.)

Rudd considers the common international need for cooperation, including for the leading global economic competitors of the US and China, to work better together as well as with others. His evidence is that the key ways to avoid war appear to be by cooperation to attain greater financial stability; the avoidance of increasing inequality and corruption; the reduction of violence; the reduction of greenhouse gases and global warming through investment and other support for cleaner production; and the prevention of pandemics by treatments to control infectious diseases or disabilities caused by forms of health and environment collapse. Many come from the problems of globalisation outlined above.

Rudd is a Christian and so more aligned to the US than Chinese views. Those who would prefer a more authoritative view of current Chinese direction should perhaps turn to the book **Xi Jinping: The governance of China**. It was in its 6<sup>th</sup> printing in English, in 2017 and is produced by the Foreign Languages Press in Beijing. It contains Xi's speeches, talks, and instructions on continuing goals and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Xi states early that it is necessary to carry on the enduring spirit with Mao Zedong thought. If you ever want the supposed Chinese line on anything, and you should, get yourself a copy.

As an Australian woman I view war primarily as violence pursued by men on a scale which is normally sanctified by the particular state and its Constitutional, legal and religious history. Australia has been judged one of the most harmonious and rich multi-cultural communities in the world. I include aborigines in this because how they live now is largely their own affair, in my globally comparative perception. I would have thought they are in a good position in this nation to keep leading in Australian native development on world stages. I guess one of many reasons I greatly respected Kevin Rudd as PM was that all the new free-to-air TV stations were created at that time. **Only the rich can rely on new technology.** (For some reason blokes can't get that simple message through their heads. Like any gamblers they are always pushing the line that your participation in new systems will make you rich. To Freudians like me, these guys have serious hardships differentiating themselves from others. If that sounds like lawyers to you, you're not wrong, Narelle. I could go on, but am sure you would find it even more boring. (I haven't been the same since my tips dropped.)

The last census, however, showed Australia is far from overwhelmingly Christian in faiths and origins. I and many others are atheists and the Islamic, Buddhist and other faiths also exist beyond the pale. (Don't mention the Jews?) Personally, I think us old people should be allowed and assisted by the state to die when we want, not be artificially kept alive against

our will by the so-called 'caring professions'. We've done enough and should be able to go when we want, with state help if we want. Having watched the nature of population unrest, especially in Africa, Papua New Guinea or elsewhere around election times, I can also understand those who call for the return of the death penalty, rather than privileging violent prisoners with the only welfare state available to the poor outside the family.

For example, an obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH 11.11.21, p.37), **'Hanging judge' a PNG peacemaker**, addressed the death of Sir Robert Wood. He helped draft the PNG constitution before independence in 1975 but was the second expatriate judge to impose the death penalty since its reintroduction by Parliament in 1991. This was in response to growing public anxiety about violent crime. The court heard that three men, members of a gang, went looking for a rival gang member and when his mother, aged in her forties, would not reveal where her son was, she was repeatedly raped and stabbed to death. *'The people of Papua New Guinea are very concerned about such violence and intervillage fighting and pay-back'*, Sir Robert said. He also said the widely accepted custom of revenge killing is a means of settling inter-tribal disputes contrary to the constitution.

I think the death penalty is good in cases of terrorism like the one discussed above and for undoubted perpetrators in many cases of community massacres, which occur with such horrific toll and regularity in the US. It gives me a horrible feeling to be 'protected' in countries by men carrying guns and flying planes over head. I don't feel safe! Should I? The lack of a death penalty means men can continue to run their killing businesses from inside prison, state supported with impunity, while impoverished people they continue to oppress outside, fear their return. Ours is a vile system, based on the elevation of the gun trade to the heights of the US Constitution. The privileged chances of the men with the weapons are endlessly enshrined in their rights to secret dealing and silence before lawyers and court. The Christian state outlook seems very unfair to me.

Writing as an Australian woman atheist, not organised as a patriarchal Christian state, I think the future requires plain language and open, non-profit organisation and thought to provide many services and related trade better. Situated in the South Pacific and close to Asia, Australia should try to benefit from its British, European and US heritages as well as the key fact that China is its major trading partner now. This can only occur, in my view, if the historical dominance and shortcomings of the ALP and manufacturing rather than service cultures are addressed openly and properly. Writing this is my weak and pathetic attempt to do so. Why do I even bother? (It seems more interesting than anything else to me as I've got plenty of money and time and no place to go.) Silly old grandma?

John Authors makes a helpfully convincing observation to an old colonial female product like me, about the Oxford **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)** combination in his article **'Brits still can't see past Oxford for their leader'** in the Australian Financial Review Weekend (AFR 22.7.22 p.7) He laments *'the PPE degree course is great training for the mind, but it has come to exert an unhealthy influence over Britain's political culture.* Apparently, PPE was started at Oxford about 100 years ago to help train the country's future leaders. Whether these people appear today as male or female; Conservative or Labour, or from Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or other background appears far less relevant now than whether they learned from the PPE tops. After his roll call of Prime Ministers and their contenders who

did PPE, Authors concludes there is opportunity in Britain, but it still seems to depend on getting to Oxford. Authors, who is an Oxford PPE graduate, finds it disturbing that Britain is still outsourcing the task of training and vetting its leaders to the PPE Faculty of Oxford. I guess Author's reference to PPE being 'training for the mind' is ironic, recalling the earlier demand for Latin and classical training for the ruling schoolboy elite at Eton or Winchester.

Australia's 'top' universities assisted these intellectual trends, providing professional jobs related to following and embedding British PPE disciplinary conventions. However, Americans soon began dominating the publishing scene for the Australian academic and PPE related mind. This came about because of their much larger scale and self-referential research communities, with cheaper books and journals. Then IT hardware, software, and research magnified the huge desire to be seen as scientific as a result of using numbers instead of words to treat problems like pain or depression. Personally, I'd be anxious and suspicious around any men with guns and I can't see why any women and kids wouldn't be.

Author's article about the history and force of the Oxford PPE international ideal explains a lot I had long wondered about, wishing on a pony in far-away Australia, and pondering the Australian legacy of Keynes approach to economics and where it has left my local post-war generation globally and locally. On the basis of my own close experience of the local crowd, with a former Cambridge PhD husband who specialised in the Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Keynes and beyond, I'd guess that with PPE the top global men can still do maths and the top global women can still write stories. The Christian church and legal history naturally remain in the frame through philosophy and their related community and family associations. Many may go on to do law at top Australian universities today, which may also benefit them in marriage, while they keep each other in check as much as seems reasonable or possible. I bet Canberra has more than its fair share of this type and could get rid of a lot of the older and richer ones instead of the young ones for a good cheap change. They should freely continue with what they like to do for free, as wealthy people often do.

I consider related financial environment matters attached, 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. In ***Other People's Money: Masters of the Universe or Servants of the People?*** (2015), 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. One wonders how the new RBA inquiry will deal with such common criticisms, as they seem borne out in land and housing. I wonder what the inquiry would think, for example, about my former husband's book, ***Macroeconomic Principles, A First Year Text*** (2007). I don't think those outside a small coterie of men with maths would be able to understand or judge what is in this book. As a political economist who follows Marxist thought most, I also think the theoretical framework is long outdated and wrong in respect to the global economy today. I like my former husband and respect his top capacities. However, politicians should never ship matters off their plates by trusting experts instead. They need to understand things for themselves, especially after turnover.

I refer again to former PM Kevin Rudd's excellent book, ***The Avoidable War*** (2022), on the dangers of a catastrophic conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China. Learn with China.

Otherwise, the national progress apparently made with the Australian development of national and state health care, industry superannuation funds and related disability support legislation and funds will fuel increased inequality and loss in land, housing and related treatment of any wrongly man-made and natural environment. Learn with China because the authoritarian male frame of mind is backward and frightening for any people who also helped create an advanced welfare state that is fairly inclusive by international standards. The development of newer international preoccupations requires more attention to the nature of service, rather than manufacturing driven in hard times to war to rebuild. Like Christine Velde's letter from Buderim in the Australian Financial Review, I think all sides should stop playing war games. Anthony Albanese's generous donation of arms to Ukraine is just one more indication to me that these guys are still fighting for the Anarchists in Spain. Baby, he never asked me and I don't see why I should think myself any less stupid than him.

### **THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT.**

The **State of the Environment** (2021) report was provided to Susan Lley, the former Minister, before the election which brought the new Labor government led by Anthony Albanese in 2022. Tanya Plibersek pointed out the overall state and trend of the environment of Australia is poor and deteriorating. This is caused by increasing pressures from climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction. Changing environmental conditions mean many species and ecosystems are increasingly threatened. Multiple pressures create cumulative impacts that amplify threats to our environment, and abrupt changes in ecological systems have been recorded in the past 5 years.

Plibersek is guided by the second Independent **Review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*** (EPBC Act), led by Professor Graeme Samuel AC, which was released in January 2021. This review, known as the Samuel Review, found that the EPBC Act required significant reform. The Australian Academy of Science welcomes the recommendations of the Samuel review and calls on the Australian Government to advance them. It also calls on the Opposition to support durable, collaborative reform to Australia's environment laws that places science and native knowledge at the heart of the EPBC Act.

**Plibersek indicated she had begun to shape direction and work with state and territory leaders, elected independents, scientists and all others interested in particular regional and strategic planning and management approaches to matters of protection, repair and management of the environment. This may begin earlier and do better in the light of more knowledge about competing approaches for better land management and use on any particular ground.** I will address our related regional themes and hope you do too.

### **KEY QUESTIONS FIRST FOR FORMER TREASURER, JOSH FRYDENBERG, NEW TREASURER, JIM CHALMERS, AND THE INQUIRY INTO THE RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA (RBA)**

Discussions attached are primarily raised in the light of the now vital initiatives of the former Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, before he lost office in the elections of 2022 and before the coming inquiry into the RBA.

**In particular, I question the nature of bank payment systems in general and for the Reserve and Macquarie banks in particular. I also ask:**

**What can a board do for any membership or expected fund beneficiaries that more open organization can't do better and cheaper for free when working for love of the matter?**

You might think of the above question as particularly directed to the guys who like guns and those who love them, whether they are supported first by the US Constitution, the men of Ireland or any other regional group. This is because they seem to be ruling the roost as usual. Closer to home, in peacetime, for example, I find myself the sole owner without mortgage of land and property operating under a strata plan in historic Glebe. I have sat on the strata committee since 1994. I have often pointed out to other owners living on the property, that were we the owners of a gold mine, instead of old women owners on the spot, supposedly representing the interests of 18 Glebe townhouse owners and residents, the building and construction industry wouldn't be able to use the strata manager to push us around doing stupid things, using the excuse of the NSW Strata Management Act to do it. Basically, the building and construction industry still confuses us owners with housewives who lack the right commitment to them, whoever they are. I address related key problem for adequate treatment of competing uses for particular land and property again later.

When I was young, I fought for children's services action and we see these services as part of regionally expected services for children and parents today. They may be delivered in close cooperation with other education institutions or not. However, in regard to any future directions in the planning, construction and building management of any regional group housing in Australia, I ask related personal questions first. For example, should we lady owners who have always dominated on the strata committee, be paid, or would that make all current and future Australian housing problems worse? I guess the latter, for reasons also addressed in the attached discussion of the depressing shortcomings of the **Property and Stock Agents Regulation 2022**. This is being remade by the Policy and Strategy, Better Regulation Division of the NSW Department of Customer Service, for old fashioned legislation without aims. This takes place in a political environment which appears to have lost any brief understanding of what social insurance for populations and individuals was meant to be about. I blame the Labor blokes who got rid of Kevin Rudd. Does the RBA inquiry give a shit about this? I guess not in public.

***In the modern era, when the internet, Microsoft Office and the advent of universal media (words and pictures) have arisen for the masses everywhere, why do we need boards over the top of any Chief Executive Officer and their top managers? What do boards do in secret for money that more people couldn't do better for free in the open, for the satisfaction of making a useful contribution to society, of which they are part?***

Should we strata committee ladies living on the plot, who do quite a lot more than key and rubbish pick-up checks for other land and property owners, prefer to be on a board, instead of a strata committee? If we were the owners of a Glebe gold mine, wouldn't we be paid with big money for the time we put in for other owners instead? **I don't want payment for those on strata committees as it would create more problems than it would solve. However, when I look at the RBA website, I wonder why it needs a board; how members**



***are chosen; what they are paid; and what, if anything, they are expected to do before and after meetings. The bank appears properly and clearly driven by its aims, although I have not read any of the legislation which supposedly backs them up. Nevertheless, the site easily delivers it up. Are boards just privileged old fashioned top fat that closes off many other avenues of better and fairer information to the populations they should be serving?***

I also ask these questions as a result of over a decade working for NSW government after the first occupational health and safety act covering the whole workforce in NSW was passed in 1983. I was employed to provide policy and plain information, development, recording and access advice, as well as research to support the Act aims; and did similarly in workers rehabilitation and compensation matters later. I provided secretariat services for the NSW government departments of industrial relations and employment; for the work injury and recording, rehabilitation and insurance system of NSW; and for many inquiries. As a woman who has had some experience of board and meeting behaviours, good and bad, I ask the following:

***Is this RBA Board trip just a gig where you read the papers the night before the meeting after receiving the agenda and some supporting information, and nod a lot or vote during the meeting address?***

***Why are paid board members or lobbyists necessary in this era where sensible legislation should have aims which are designed in the interests of the key stakeholders of the organisation and for its management to follow? The key stakeholders are the ones for whom the organization is established to serve and who pay for it.***

***In a supposedly non-profit member service organization, such as an industry superannuation fund, backed in key superannuation requirements placed in legislation across the nation in the 1990s, one expects the membership to be well served in ways consistent with the general community understanding of regional service direction.***

***What are boards expected to do for any retirement and investment funding organization, paid or not? From apparently good evidence and broad information gathering, as well as democratic and cost perspectives, surely the payment of any board may present more trouble to the key stakeholders than it is worth?***

***Surely boards are creatures of the private sector, which ideally operate in more openly managed, cooperative and comparable regions, when receiving large or small investors funds? In a similar vein, I see why Aboriginal City of Sydney Councillor, Yvonne Weldon, wishes she was paid for her efforts in many related regional organisations. However, I think she should relish these tasks freely. If she doesn't, I guess others who care more can increasingly be found to take tasks over now. Democracy often works because a lot more of us can read and write a lot better and take pictures for easier dissemination now.***

***The upcoming review of the RBA, I assume, will not address its Payment Systems Board. How does it serve the Australian people; at what cost to them and is it worth it?***

I raise additional issues for the RBA review from articles by the former Australian Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg and others in the national press.

In **'Payment rules fit for digital age** (AFR30.8.21, p. 42), then Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, stated: **'Ultimately, if we do nothing to reform the current framework, it will be Silicon Valley alone that determines the future of our payments system, a critical piece of our economic infrastructure'**. I ask attached how our strata relations with Macquarie Bank fit in. Is the Bank serving the needs of the Australian people for housing to protect and maintain the quality of life for current and future generations comparatively well? Or, has it served mainly to increase social inequality since the 1980s, as suggested by much US, UK and Chinese evidence on the effects of increased private banking and financial trading, especially since 2001? To a simple old woman like me, the NSW state legislative notion of a fair-trading department makes more sense than addressing payments alone, as appears the normal case for some reason. Receipts and payments seem best conceptualised and judged together as both are taken to exist in any trade, I naively would have thought. **As the RBA appears to host a Payment Systems Board, such matters necessarily seem current.**

I also refer with dismay, for example, to Rear Window column **'Labor's Treasury hides super fund donations'** (AFR 18.7.22 p. 35). According to Rear Window, as part of former Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg's **'Your Future, Your Super'** reforms, funds were for the first time required to provide a list of spending information for their members ahead of their Annual General Meetings (AGMs). For the first time ever, funds were also required to provide a list of spending information on how their members' money was spent on **marketing, political donations, payments to industry bodies or trade associations and related parties**. Funds were also due to disclose monies that went to **entities connected or associated with the fund trustees**. One assumes that 'trustees' are clearly expected in legislation to serve the membership or beneficiaries and owners of the fund, including through their related associations. I guess they follow lawyers in assuming they can speak best on behalf of their clients in secret associations with them and others. These producers' privileges are costly in many ways. Men appear determined not to know.

According to **'Labor's Treasury hides super fund donations'**, the new Labor government under Anthony Albanese wants more consultation on the question of the proposed changes to the disclosure requirements before superannuation funds 'annual members meeting notices' (sic.). Apparently, Labor doesn't want the disclosures of fund expenditures on **marketing, political donations, payments to industry bodies or trade associations and related parties to be itemised as usual, but displayed only in the aggregate**. This seems worse than useless for the purposes of good policy, which serves the members and their broader associations, rather than serving older, more narrowly vested trade union, party, or other family and professional interests. Any suspected corruption of the key stakeholder and related regional interest cannot be investigated or judged under law which supports it.

**The Treasurer's proposal in the last Commonwealth government seems a vital disclosure reform. Why bother to hold an AGM if fund members are kept in the dark before it? The practice appears to make AGM and other membership or similar voting practice unnecessarily ignorant. Is it perhaps normal private sector practice? It also raises questions on how board appointments are made; what board members are expected to do at or between meetings; and how much their perhaps unnecessary presence costs to the key stakeholders or membership of the organisation or its related regions.**

The article '*Labor's Treasury hides super fund donations*' raises the key question of how the fund members' money held by any organization is ideally spent to serve the members and their dependants best now and for future generations. It also raises the related question, long common in trade union and Australian Labor Party circles, of whether political parties add more than they detract from any process intent on serving the members and their dependants, now and in future. Only government leading the constituted populations in openly managed cooperation and competition is likely to serve us all well in future, I guess. It should do it with open assistance from anybody it likes and can openly justify in my book.

Let the writers write! This is like **Let the Managers Manage**, only broader, more generally useful and a lot cheaper than usual, as addressed later and attached. Other discussion addresses construction and building industry and property management development in a primary regional call to the Country Women's Associations (CWAs) of Australia, regional land holders, representatives of aboriginal organizations and others. As I wrote in earlier discussion attached, these questions are particularly addressed to teal candidates and others successful in the last Commonwealth election. I think teal election winners and others should seek plain language and open operation in the public interest first, as it would avoid a huge amount of ignorance as well as legal and other expense. As I understand it, the 'teal candidates' are well-funded and well-organised independents who targeted Coalition seats in wealthy electorates. They come seeking remedies for climate change and poor relations between men and women; value integrity or lack of corruption and come from the heartland of private school and related legal, financial and landed wealth in many cases. New Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, seeks to work with teals and many interested others. This is up their alley

**THE NEW ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MINISTER, TANYA PLIBERSEK, WELCOMES ALL INDEPENDENTS, ALL STATE AND TERRITORY LEADERS IN SCIENCE AND OTHERS INTO THE REGIONAL TENTS TO REMEDY THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.**

**HOW DO CURRENT BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION TRUST STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES IDEALLY RELATE TO THIS DIRECTION? (ASK THE MINISTER AND HER HUSBAND)**

Before I read the article on rapidly increasing species loss at rapidly increasing rates, entitled **Plibersek promises to tackle decline** (SMH 20.7.22, p. 7) I had watched Tanya Plibersek, the new Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water, speak at the National Press Club on ABC TV. She is long married to a senior official in NSW government and it would be stupid for them not to talk and write together about the common goals they have for serving the people of NSW and beyond. Anybody elected to public office should be able to justify themselves and their decisions in those terms because this is far quicker, cheaper and clearer than relying on silence and lawyers after any matter has travelled to court. When Tanya Plibersek, (also my locally elected representative), released the State of the Environment (2021) report she also promised that by 2030 there would be 30% of Australian land and sea areas being conserved in line with the expectations of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. This is the national context for Australian dealing.

As land and housing are state matters it is first lucky, for example, that Tanya Plibersek's husband is **Michael Coutts-Trotter**. She won't even need to Zoom to talk because they live together with their kids. He is currently [Secretary](#) of the NSW [Department of Premier and](#)

[Cabinet](#) for Premier [Dominic Perrottet](#). I have no reason to doubt Wikipedia on this or most matters. It states he was previously [Secretary](#) of the New South Wales [Department of Communities and Justice](#), after being 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. The NSW Teachers Federation and School principals appear still affronted by his rise to power, perhaps. Surely it all makes one think about Tanya Plibersek and her husband's intelligence, good faith and level of interest in their well-paid jobs, let alone the other politicians and mates. Talk and tell us what you think, not about them but about what the regionally constituted needs for development are, along with skills and jobs. Coutts-Trotter matriculated from [Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview](#).<sup>[4]</sup> He graduated from the [University of Technology Sydney](#) with a degree in communications in 1995.<sup>LA</sup> As the couple recently observed, in the Sydney Morning Herald **Good Weekend**, he was lucky to meet her. People in parties seem dimmer and their numbers are dropping but rusted on? I address this later to make observations about the skills and jobs necessary for this economy.

Land clearing for competitive construction and management of infrastructure and waste in areas of farming, mining, manufacture, transport and housing are addressed in related contexts to ask: **What projects do constituents in particular Australian regions want to pursue to meet global warming and sustainable development goals?** This matter is addressed in the light of historic regional and other development plans along the Illawarra Coast and in Wollongong at [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) under the Heritage Way side bar.

Let anyone write and reply to questions so anybody interested may judge the intent, to the elected or former politicians most of all, perhaps. The idea that the same population must cut itself up to meet particular Commonwealth and state or local government bureaucratic and IT designs is expensively unnecessary when constituents and elected representatives can write so openly and directly to each other instead, for public perusal or more limited justification. The idea that anybody needs lobbyists or lawyers to make contact with others is an expensive waste of time and money. We can go open as we can write to pursue our own and regional interests. If anybody needs a secret door opening service, then others may wonder if any payment for it is corrupt, whether it is declared to anybody or not. Former Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg is mourned in the light of some apparently good law approaches he took to such matters, now being questioned by the Albanese government.

Australia operates in a changing global environment begun dramatically in 2020 with common government concern about global pandemic, global warming and the common downside of explosive growth in travel. This travel growth and related communication, entertainment and other consumption have increased dramatically through increased promotion of tourism, studying, working and investing around the world. At the same time, many regions have experienced increasing flight from natural and man-made disasters. One thinks of war, desertification or other social and environment collapses which occur through comparative want, over-population or natural destruction and waste to please others.

**The Avoidable War: The Dangers of a Catastrophic Conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China (2022)** is Rudd's clear, informative and thoughtful work about recent Chinese, US and global history. His analysis and remedies often make sense in the new

global environment. President Xi's current calls for 'common prosperity' reflect a concern that income inequality has got radically out of hand in China, to the extent that it is threatening the party's legitimacy. Xi pointed out that nominally communist China now has one of the most unequal income distributions in the world and worse than in the US. Xi has apparently identified seven sensitive topics that could no longer be the subject of any academic discussion or debate. These are: **universal values; freedom of speech; civil rights; civil society, the historical errors of the Communist Party; crony capitalism, and judicial independence** (p. 92). He must have been kidding? Marx and Engels must be rolling over? Work with China by choosing plain open writing to remedy the feudally secret male mind. The Royal Commission into Veteran's Suicide is addressed on these grounds attached.

### **THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT (2021), THE LIMITS OF PRODUCTIVITY AS A CENTRAL MEASURE OF ANY SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING, AND THE RELATED STATE FUNCTIONS OF THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION TRUST (BCT)**

Land clearing for whatever use, appears the biggest destroyer of habitat for endangered species. Many will disappear soon without better regional planning and rehabilitation. I address this with more capable others seeking better planned regional development which serves Australians better now and for future generations. Banking, superannuation and other fund and board treatment are addressed with the aim of reducing unnecessary, big, secret, costs to fund members and those they are supposed to support.

As any NSW property owner without mortgage, who also employs a strata manager (an agent), I also address attached what the NSW Department of Customer Service proposes for the Property and Stock Agents Regulation 2022. This legislation supposedly sets standards for the growing number of people whose property plan employs a strata manager or who uses associated real estate agents. The attached analysis of the regulation is to point out why it will not serve the great majority of the people of NSW who are engaged in buying and selling as well as living in or leasing or renting accommodation. This is also done in the light of the Commonwealth plans to hold a skills and jobs summit in September 2022, before the Commonwealth budget, to meet current and future Australian development needs.

Land is a state matter addressed through state and local council bureaucracies and I particularly can't understand what is going on with inland water. Nevertheless, this discussion addresses several new opportunities for political and practical involvement to serve the Australian people as shown to us recently in the Australian Financial Review (AFR), the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) and other vital organs of national, state and other communication. Those who can read and write can all learn better today than in the past when there was little or no education for broader cultures of service that women have traditionally rendered to the old and disabled, including to men and children at home and in unpaid or paid work. The market and service cultures clash in their competing demands and many Australian men, elected or not, appear to be living in an increasingly expensive past while carrying it into the future with their driving demands for multiple new IT systems.

I address the role of state governments; bank and other funds; boards; and their legally supporting aims again attached. The execution of buying, selling, leasing and renting land and property for actions to serve those who fund and expect to benefit from the action are also addressed. This is a regional membership and service analysis rather than a product

mining and manufacturing one. It is undertaken mainly in regional, not market terms of association, to suggest better ways of serving Australian and other people. Without this service understanding, global warming will increase as a Labor emphasis will generally be on manufacturing and financial cultures to provide direction and jobs in normal market terms. I've felt the wrong, slow, expensive and wasteful results of this in group housing since 1994.

To champion the leading aim of increased productivity, as the new Treasurer, Jim Chalmers does, is to refer only to the supposed market value of output. This questionable numerical product ignores the value accruing to us of the work done freely or forced at home or in the towns or fields, most often by women and children. The well-being of individuals in a population also depends on how many of them there are; how equally the common wealth is shared out; and whether it benefits those living in the place of its creation or degrades them. War and related personal or property destruction may also be most productive, as it appears now. The regional focus is also upon global pandemic, food and other shortages, floods, fires and tornados; and the international and local problems of under-insurance or refusal to insure. The emphasis on **productivity** appears to focus on the more blindly but powerfully gambling market, while hiding benefits of **association**, with families or individuals on one hand, or government representatives on the other. This is a huge waste of reading, writing, numerical and other scientific or technological talent. It might otherwise be used better in comparatively open harmony and debate during managed competition.

It has been said that productivity is almost everything for the accumulation of wealth. This is a male product manufacturing mindset that is wrong in populations with the benefits of advanced education, national communication capacities and related state supported capacities to include all Australians in planning and development, in theory at least. I guess many Labor politicians remain driven by their original construction, forestry, mining, manufacturing, energy, transport and related trade union associations; not by their newer state population service and non-profit associations. These regional opportunities, may be found mainly in national communications, children's development and in others' land and health care, including service to or from old or otherwise disabled people. Women have fought to get caring services on the agenda of men for whom the only things worthwhile doing must extract them more money, rather than free time or waste product, for example. Advanced regional approaches were offered by the World Health Organisation since 1948.

Men are fond of saying that if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys. They do this while they narrow the entry channels to their increasingly complex and mystifying specialisations and widen their markets through their normal production and trading associations. From the normal consumer's view, however, the free service which tries to cater to their variety of personal needs may be as good or far better for normal purposes than many that are paid, depending on the particular or surrounding conditions, that men will seldom admit in law or public. Once society has developed to the current point of caring for people, it should try to do so, because that is where its greatest talents lie from the ideal international perspectives. To understand and operate service economies well requires wealthier changes of heart than reducing common benefit to pay and career related terms which appear wrong.

**The Biodiversity Conservation Trust**, which is a statutory, not for profit body, provides an informative website to assist people with proposals for particular areas of the state of NSW

in which they operate or live and own. The [National Parks System Directions Statement](#) currently guides the building of the state's network of public conservation reserves. Together with the **Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018**, the statement will work towards establishing an integrated protected area system across public and private land in New South Wales. **Elected representatives and others should not hold back in helping this to occur as quickly and well as possible for their own constituents or others.**

The Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018 sets the government's priorities in private land conservation. The NSW Government has committed more than \$350 million over the next 5 years from 2019–20 to fund the [Biodiversity Conservation Trust](#) to deliver its private land conservation programs. This investment will be guided by the [Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018](#). It sets out short and long-term targets (5 and 20 years respectively) to help measure progress in meeting the strategy's environmental and socioeconomic objectives.

All government investment in private land conservation made by the Trust should be undertaken in accordance with this NSW strategy. It ranks NSW landscapes into priority investment areas. The higher ranked areas will be the primary focus of government investment in private land conservation. The strategy also sets out investment principles to address environmental, social and economic issues that should be considered when making decisions about investment in private land conservation. A set of 5- and 20-year targets has been developed to support strategic investment decisions and to enable progress to be measured. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust will consider and monitor progress against these targets through its business planning and priority-setting processes.

**My first and central question to elected representatives and others, beginning with the Minister and her husband is: How can the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy best support the promise of the new Commonwealth Labor government that by 2030 there should be 30% of Australian land and sea areas being conserved in line with the expectations of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity? (If this kind of information is kept secret until the last development minute how would anyone know what to do?)**

Finally, I raise the example of my last defacto of over ten years in Sydney, William Nixon Apple, for example. Although we have not been in contact since he left to work in Melbourne in the 1990s, he has sat on a lot of councils, boards or committees for the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) or the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). I read that in 2020 he was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to the superannuation sector and to trade unions. On the face of it, I prefer the disclosure of key relevant information to members before the AGM than the disclosure to the board. I want to know why we have boards, or related organizational super-structures, what their members are expected to do for the broader members and what it costs. Why not start asking Nixon about these matters as I have been trying to do for a long time without success? These guys are full of old-fashioned shit and need help? Looking at other countries around the world I guess they're not alone Narelle.

Death may soon offer a welcome relief without any end to this crap in sight?  
Cheers, Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney 2037  
[www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)



**STEM AND PPE: WHAT IS LEARNED UNDER THE M IN 'STEM'? IS IT MORE TROUBLE AND COST THAN IT IS WORTH? DO WOMEN WHO HATE MATHEMATICS HAVE GOOD REASONS?**

I refer you to the regional policy and development discussion on the state of the Australian environment later below, hoping you will raise your related regional and state of the environment matters in this global context with Chinese and other trading partners.

Particularly as the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, is holding a national skills and jobs summit next month, surely teaching institutions and others should consider the role that mathematics learning and teaching does play, or should play, in relation to occupations and career paths in which science, technology or engineering knowledge and skills are ideally linked? Regional development and the State of Environment report are addressed later in this context.

***How good or bad for one's personal money and the environment is the M in STEM? How necessary is mathematics, and of what kind, to meet the key national need for jobs and career paths in the globally or locally linked economies of Australian states today and in future generations?***

***What jobs and careers in your regional area are open to those who specialized in mathematics and mathematical skills? Do we need them or others in Australia, for example? Why? How does any current mathematical teaching assist resolution of problems of climate change or its reduction? (I address this in regard to real estate agents, property managers and banking, with implications for construction industry matters attached.)***

In the 1980s, I was unaware of the useful concept grouping **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** for discussion of education for job and career aspirations and standards, whether for women or for men. I write as a traditional woman, whose mathematical thinking is unconfident, slow and suspicious of potential trickery. I tend to avoid complex mathematics and value stable, simple, personal or related written knowledge most.

It is only recently, in my political economist's understanding of Keynesian thought and the world, that I have begun to see the historical and global vitality of the related educational and career concept grouping, **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)** starting at Oxford University and in its later translation, to the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, for example. Mathematics and mathematicians have clearly played a central role in the development of PPE before, after and during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars, for example. The men who built atomic bombs and those who naturally wanted to test them came from all over the world.

These Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) concept groupings have travelled the world with similarly feudal notions of standard setting. These teachings appear alive and thriving today in ways which support increasing disequilibrium in the historic feudal and Christian state manufacturing



positions, rather than the reverse. My common knowledge and discussion of Cambridge inspired texts such as **Macroeconomic Principles** (2007) and the world today, is that such books deal in mathematical terms which no ordinary educated person can understand or use with confidence. These terms are also applied to theory which history has shown to be wrong for today. As Keynes observed, the markets can remain irrational much longer than you can remain solvent. He proved his financial point by leaving the upkeep of his widow to the kindness of friends, etc. However, mathematics and related IT interests appear to be driving the lot today as they have often done, thanks to continuation of normal feudal and manufacturing associations built for use in warfare states seeking to build up from more recent domestic collapse. This issue is important for all investment in the state of the environment.

See the discussion below and attached, mainly in relation to construction and property management on the ground, rather than in ideal Platonic terms in the head, or room, or computer or space. Also think of Sylvia Nasar's great historical book on mathematics, **A Beautiful Mind** (1998); or **Who Got Einstein's Office** (1987) and any biographies of Keynes or Iris Murdoch, for examples of how maths in PPE may be carried out, wondering at it, or not.

Maths has often been a mystery to me so great that I can't unpack it, with the exception of social statistics and the everyday kind of maths. I learned in school for my own transactions related to consumption and investment. (Do the terms **supply side** and **demand side** for economic discussions give wrong and confusing accounts based on the idea of economic 'laws' rather than their regional and political roots in production, consumption and investment?)

What kind of vocational maths should be studied to protect ourselves and our environments today instead of exploiting them in past norms now being rocket fuelled in IT systems to please their richer customers or themselves as usual? See more below and attached for your related advice or action.

Cheers Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe,  
Sydney [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)