

Hi Social Media Summit (Also advice to Bill Shorten, Attorneys General and others)

## **THIS REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE NSW GOVERNMENT SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMIT QUESTIONS YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A START**

*But I can't speak for you/You'll have to decide/Whether Judas Iscariot/Had God on his side*

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## **SHARING MY EXPERIENCES AND CONCERNS ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER TAKING THE SUGGESTED NSW GOVERNMENT SOCIAL MEDIA QUESTIONNAIRE**

I refer to the **Social Media Summit**, presented by **NSW Government**, on 10.10.2024 in Sydney to question your questionnaire which I have nevertheless completed. It cost me nothing but time to do so, and I have the free time and interest necessary. Apparently, the **Social Media Summit** will *"bring together experts, policymakers, academics, young people, and the wider community to discuss the positive and negative impacts of social media in people's lives and explore the path forward.* For this let me first refer you to the passage from **Alice in Wonderland** to sum up my findings below and elsewhere:

What did they live on? asked Alice, who always took a great interest in questions of eating and drinking. *"They lived on treacle"*, said the Dormouse, after thinking a moment or two. *"They couldn't have done that, you know"*, Alice gently remarked, *"They'd have been ill"*. *"So they were"*, said the Dormouse; *"very ill"*.

Can you put the cure in numbers for me? (The questionnaire is not worth much). Please move on to deal with the international and regional peace suggestions later and attached.

I also respond: *to increasing concerns about the harmful effects of social media on young people, including exposure to inappropriate and illegal content, cyberbullying, and negative impacts on their mental health and development"*. Fair enough. Good idea to learn more about social media for harm reduction. In my view, however, your questionnaire is dangerous in assuming that social media can be effectively questioned from your broad yet dominant beginning brush. It is like that question "Do you trust your neighbours?" Trust them to do what? I often wonder. One assumes the answer is as long as they keep it down.

Firstly, this seems to be a flawed questionnaire about social media, because it is not easily defined and no attempt is made to do so before the start. I use email as a form of trying to contact people to influence them and to get a response, perhaps. I do it each day for hours for free, for example. However, I tend to see social media as peer-to-peer human connexion and sale of product platforms, from which I have tried to be withdrawn; not accepting the shock of the new much. The first question, which asks how much time I spend on social media platforms, first confronts me with the need for a reasonable definition of what you think a social media platform is. Am I on one now, for example? I guess not to you. This theme, of who is qualified to judge whom, bedevils all media and social media. This is addressed in terms of World Health Organization (WHO) and related local directions later.

It is a pity if you are expected to be thinking about NSW government instead of your pet peeve now – Bill Shorten (the slimy turd who organized against PM Kevin Rudd because he thought he could deliver the national agenda best through “his” members.) I discuss the future of the former Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as he resigns to become Vice Chancellor of Canberra University in that light. Thank God Bill Shorten is not in Melbourne any more, sitting on the Minister of Defence and other powerful machinery men, giving them what they think is best for their stupid members on big projects first. Will this be followed by cars, swimming pools and air-conditioning again in baking playgrounds with shade cloths instead of trees? I certainly hope not. Let us not be a nest of cripples, Bill!

I refer, for example, to the wonders of the two free electric buses circling their local government precincts in opposite directions, like the Wollongong City Council pioneered. It seems outrageous if councils don't sit on decision making bodies in the regional directions of which they are supposed to have most particular knowledge. Then they can also be more openly challenged on regional and particular public interest lines, in housing construction, management, renovation and further development, for example. Beef up City Councils, properly and openly. One speaks as both a grandma and tourist but I know the locals must love them most. Sydney light rail, Melbourne trams and Wollongong buses are great and naturally come before support for electric cars I would have thought. (But no again?)

These days, after getting rid of stupid Bill Shorten in Melbourne, I prefer big trees to men, and many women make me sick. I find I most like rocks and water led in Alaska and Canada, from the Royal Caribbean boat, **Brilliance of the Seas**, perhaps. Alice took a great interest in eating and drinking but showed no obvious concern about what happened to her waste. Men have moved on since then so women should catch up and openly wish some dead. The nature of the learning which must be undertaken by us all is found in its practice. This practice is denied, however, by the very forces which are supposed to produce it freely or cheap. Safety never takes a break and neither does competition. Just ask the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)? Why have an organisation which started from competition as the ultimate market good, rather than greater free knowledge and cooperation, for example? Productivity is addressed in related contexts later and attached.

You know it makes sense for the future of open cruise learning to open development up to more sustainable learning, approached on the ground and the water, for example. This could be helpful to all community and individual planning by making the bones of the land clearer; whereas now the bones in the private sector business, which is most of us, hardly exist for inspection. The new Sydney Fish Market is ideally looking for backers in related lights, one can only assume as a local fish loving Glebe grandma. (I once sat on the jetty and had a beer and a joint like Nixon Apple and wondered why I felt so happy, although he had gone to Melbourne. I guessed it was because I was wearing his shirt and stubbies while eating prawns. These things are not primarily about acquisition if God gave you a lot.)

As Bill Shorten and we all know, loss and regeneration or renovation can be improving, even in the waste. However, it naturally depends on what part of the whole it was. See more in files attached on touring and travelling matters, on the **Brilliance of the Seas**, for example. I address **Google-translate** with a Chinese artist, calligrapher and technical and further

education teacher later because President Xi well understands the benefits of first cultural exchange. I do too, although I usually shrink from it, as men may often do to rest their chops and give their girls a go. (I know the feeling but always smile politely nevertheless.)

My advice to Bill Shorten in his new Canberra University VC role is the same as that given to me, after Nixon Apple exchanged Sydney for Melbourne. To reorient from the pain of loss, I went to the first meditation retreat I ever attended. It lasted ten days and on the evening of one of them the teacher spoke of the central fact of death in life. He said we should make the most of our own death by closely observing the passage of decay as a dispassionate scholar, enjoying more knowledge or ending the pain. Has Julia Baird never noticed or admired that capacity in men of science, for example? What about JBS Haldane? I have. What does Baird mean when she talks about a strong woman? Does she deny death?

Bill Shorten should try meditation if he is going to move to Canberra to make some new and different friends. In my view, this is a big opportunity to pursue the next direction with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), for example. Technical and further education is supposed to be made free; employers need more assistance tailored to their region of practical work shortage; people like certificates, and Bill Shorten will be at the University of Canberra. What can go wrong? I guess Melbourne will not like this but they don't get out much these days either I gather from the look of a lot of them. I voted Clover Moore as Sydney Lord Mayor yet again because she has been right and strong about a lot for a long time, often against the odds. As an Independent she deserves more power than the position allows. I think the current national and state contexts are a chance to sharpen state and local contradictions. I address the recently elected Northern Territory government and others later in this light to consider the rights of the child and community goals of violence and harm reduction. Open up conflicting regional goals which are normally pursued in secret.

I am going to Japan soon so greatly recommend Shusaku Endo's *The Samurai*. In 1613, long before Australia was settled as a British penal colony, a group of Japanese merchants and Samurai warriors crossed the Pacific for the first time, on a trade mission to Mexico, then Spain and then Rome. The trade group were sent by the Japanese government but led by a committed Franciscan, feuding with the small Jesuit outpost in Japan. He was intent on Japanese religious conversion, as an aid to trade, or not, but was disappointed in both. When you have had you own developed forms of feudalism, the Christian one must look nuts to many others, unless you happen to work for it. (The guys in Melbourne have never thought about much outside Melbourne for a long time, I guess. Help Bill Shorten fix it.)

One wonders what learned performance employers want most. Let theoretical and practical bits be taught free on national radio or TV. Certification is rather more expensive because one naturally wants to avoid shoddy as well as expensive work. Harm reduction goals are preferable to excellence in performance goals to me because the latter may sharpen or droop with age, depending on the particular case and observer. At least give reasons for the choice! Don't hide behind the idiocy of the unexplained extremes along sample populations, because they may also show the way to madness. I think of all media in this technologically driven context of global, regional, and historical reform, rather than professional reform. Frankly, there are too many professionals already stirring the pot and

they are naturally taught to ally themselves more with closed private sector sources. As a result, one relies increasingly on a lot of potentially dodgy data to know what is going on, or what has been suppressed for the sake of the organization. This is high risk to old scholars.

In writing I am nevertheless trying to influence the NSW government the easiest and cheapest way I know how for me. Why not try it yourself or get someone to help, like scribes did in the old days, when most ordinary people couldn't read or write. This isn't just sending people off to get lawyers through objectionable on-line pathways devised by those who want to palm off any real work or responsibility for knowledge and action onto others. For women, "***If you can't be honest be nice***" has replaced "***If you can't be good be careful***". In my view, this US transformation in morality isn't so much of an advance on the past.

Related discussions on harm reduction strategies aiming to protect children and women arise in that context for me, in relation to governments funding and choice. Basically, I argue that that government should assist products to be cheaper or free and avoid doing harm. The role of trade unions in construction and property management is addressed in this context later, to support the brief contention of the former leader of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), Bill Kelty. In an article on the current split in Australian building and other trade union ranks entitled "**Sparkies union backs Greens in protest at CFMEU problem**" in the Sydney Morning Herald and later, Kelty said that unions should stick together but not allow corruption, violence, drugs or kick-backs (SMH 7.9.2024). Fair enough for a short start. Corruption, however may be a geographically moveable cultural feast for discussion as homosexual or drug-addicted or mentally disabled members of the community who recall historical prohibitions or treatments may remember.

Should women and men be treated equally? (Start with the right to personal choice to answer Yes or No, in my opinion? I address Julia Baird's current SMH article entitled *Elle, if not for science, wouldn't be alive*' to point out that some people may genuinely prefer the quality of their life to be more important to them than its length. Why get upset if women choose this option for themselves? Julia Baird has chosen to trust the "*competence and determination* of her *brilliant* surgeon in regard to her recurrent cancer diagnoses. Like most people, sometimes I thumb my nose at doctors, dentists and optometrists and sometimes I don't. However, I would no longer see any of them without symptoms of something being wrong, like losing teeth through poor gum care after menopause, for example. In my view, that way lies madness and that's the way Bill Kelty, Bill Shorten and their mob have driven. Without attention to this problem the National Disability Insurance Scheme won't work as a great many of us are lazy and prefer more free time and support. God knows I often have.

On your questionnaire, I ticked that I spent no time on social media, unsure what you meant by the term. For example, IT has morphed into AI as a common term in a very short time in my world and I think this is largely because a lot of supposed information technology (IT) is actually selling technology (ST?) which has given better information a bad rap, whether it is provided primarily for money or love, etc. Assisted intelligence (AI) is also a new murky term for me unless it is clearly defined by the group posing questions about it. I may then disagree or follow their definition if I know a lot or nothing about the matter, for example. We are all equal around here? In performance we all should be judge? (No way.)

The question on various forms of social media is confronting because I know about LinkedIn, from trying to interact with it to find Nixon to my satisfaction and failing. This has set me against it many times, along with other aspects of its operation, for example. I yearn for the days when everybody could be found in the common telephone book with reasonable reliability. I find globalisation confusing, which makes me anxious. In other cases, I may rely on my favourite media, or my own experience, or that of friends or parents for what I think, for example. However, the flimsier the evidence on which my personal opinion is based, the less credence it may reasonably have. Nevertheless, I have used and seen YouTube used by many people far smarter than I am, so can easily guess what an incredible advance it gave to knowledge and practice for a lot of us. I often feel the same about Wikipedia, for example. Google-translate is addressed with a Chinese bamboo artist and calligrapher later.

**SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR PRODUCTIONS IN COMMUNICATION MAY SEEK TO BE COMPARATIVELY CLOSED, OR WIDELY BROADCAST, OR SEEK TO BE BOTH, FOR EXAMPLE**

**ONE FAVOURS CHEAP OR FREE PRODUCTS WHICH ARE ALSO OPEN TO QUESTION AND SCRUTINY BY ALL WHO SEEK TO KNOW MORE FOR REASONS OF HARM REDUCTION (THROUGH ENJOYMENT OR NOT)**

Social media are platforms for products in communication. In my view, social media is not easy to address because what is helpful to one person may be harmful to another, in reality or in some other perception, based on reasonably good evidence, or not. Products are generally best for people if they are free, cheap and open to question. I champion national free to air broadcasting in the Australian national context for related reasons. Regional and historical approaches appear best in global directions which are suggestions, not orders. I champion World Health Organization (WHO) directions to focus on land and property management later. Globalisation means the regional lens are employed for comparisons and discussions of products, their dissemination, outcome and competition in services.

However, there are so many things which may go wrong with the human body, that I often ask why anybody would ever look for problems in the absence of symptoms. Why risk becoming part of self-fulfilling professional prophecies as a result of a diagnosis for problems which are not felt? This is in no way to discount the wonders of modern technology, vaccine, drugs or surgery for improving health. It is merely to point out one doesn't sensibly seek answers to problems one doesn't feel one has. As Dr Knock, a big black African escaped to France after the first world war observed, "*there is nothing so sick as the man who thinks he is healthy*". Perhaps it depends on his changing his surroundings at a young age or not. I thank the recent great Australian movie **Strangerland** for pointing out what may happen to girls who seek to escape the strictures of urban life and fail. They may escape, or be sent to stranger lands even more far flung from what they seek in romantic escapes when young.

I use email for hours each day because doing so seems more direct influence on social decision-making structures than social media. It is usually impossible to influence the private sector or related closed professional clubs in this way because most of them don't provide an email address. I regard social media, without knowing much about it, as producer driven advertising, exchange and free play for enjoyment alone or with others.

The idea of publicly dumping on an organization through some short or unexplained complaint, especially in a star system, seems an authoritarian approach similar to your study. It appears unnecessarily limiting to all learning through feedback. It may not be corrupt but it isn't helpful to good government, as one might say about a dominating discipline, I guess.

At 77 I am well over the age at which I consciously care much what my supposed peers think, as I often try to avoid them. I tend to lean on old familiar ways, preferring books or TV or movies to social contact in real life. However, I guess this happens to many, depending on their past location and interests. I was far more socially outgoing when young and in search of partners in enjoyment and meaning. A combination of knowledge and experience have given me a different set of criteria for purchase than this questionnaire, which I feel sure is nevertheless informing of some emotion, truly reflecting one's thoughts and feelings about oneself or others at the time, or not. Ask me at different times and get different answers, depending on what I am thinking of at the time, for example. "Behavioural science" is bunk.

In short, one can't generalise about social media usage as much as I think your questionnaire seeks to do. I've never bought into Linked-in, for example, but I can see that it favours commercial closure once someone is on board. Related discussions are undertaken later below and attached about regional trade, governance and related legal or moral matters, particularly in relation to ownership of property and treatment of land, construction and technical and further education. The Labor government now expects the latter to be free, as discussed later. However, I guess social media now penetrates all aspects of living in technologically complex society and I therefore prefer to address it in that context rather than through any common questionnaire. (I know almost nothing about social media.)

I address the Convention on the International Rights of the Child later in this context to ask why the child only has a right to life and no right or duty to death. In the Convention a child is anyone under eighteen. This denies young people desires and responsibilities which they may often undertake in real life, like looking after parents and younger siblings or those who are disabled, or who work, paid or unpaid, which helps to support the family. I address housing from related health and property management perspectives later and generally argue that young people should not be barred from voting and the acceptance of other adult responsibilities just because they are under eighteen years old. For example, to bring another life into existence when one doesn't have the means to care sufficiently for oneself is an act which often has ramifications on the child and all around it. As I am so old and thus close to death, whether I want it or not, I address property affairs in related willing contexts.

Children have been transformed from primary producer goods to consumer goods in many wealthy countries and families like ours. Only in the richest are they supposedly relieved of the normal duty to look after parents and other family members who would otherwise be likely to die younger. The effects of anti-discrimination legislation are addressed in this new global beginning context which Australians have enthusiastically adopted in government and elsewhere. The person is the social product. They may be expensive, cheap or free but common notions of productivity count only market activity as goods. This is a big common mistake which downgrades all services which are commonly done free for oneself or others.

Productivity, on the other hand, values a war sales economy more than a peaceful one, especially if the latter is frugally well organised. Risk management aimed at reducing harm does not necessarily need growth as much as global restructure to achieve the collective goals of service better. I have tended to look for WHO and government leadership in that and been disappointed for reasons which I could never understand. I still struggle a lot.

On the other hand, the assumption of risk is often necessary to learning and producing better in the real world. Learning to lay carpet may be different from learning to lay grass matting, for example. Work may be done slowly and material wasted in either attempt. Let the institution come to the workplace or community place to learn, not force more travel to theoretical places long before any real on the job training begins. It wastes time and money because the student has a poor context of reference in closed peer group assessments. Blind Freddy could see that the mature professional in the relevant profession could become a teacher fast in any environment which demanded the core knowledge and a reasonably confident capacity in its further pursuit with others, in theory or practice. This may be openly assessed to judge merit. Certification is not just tick-a-box online stuff as usual. As sportspeople must withstand their performance scrutiny openly, so should many others.

The National Press Club address by former Mirvac Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and new Chair of Australia's National Housing Supply and Affordability Council is addressed later in this context to point out that state government and the related state constitutional assumptions have historically led the treatment of land and housing and still do, through local or shire councils. The payment and deployment of quarterly levies for services received by those who live in strata buildings, compared with those who live in free standing dwellings are legion and subject to a range of dysfunctional legislation already. It is too easy to bring in more, without attending to the regional and historical context in which building and property management normally reside. Risk management to reduce potential harm in any area ideally starts with identification of the most severe and most common risks ideally being treated to avoid them, without producing other harms instead. Decision is not for the faint hearted and so avoidance, which is common, is often preferred. God alone knows?

I usually try to influence those, like politicians, or their inquiries, or journalists, whom I consider might be influenced by my emailed questions or views and respond to them. I take this route as it seems more direct than social media, which I essentially see as popularity and peer driven, segmented like the market. This appears largely driven for us so far by US English speaking interests, led in California, with the Chinese and Muslim or Christian diaspora becoming the increasingly dominant global manufacturing and trading hubs, out of Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila and Taiwan, or Mexico, for example. This trading includes all that involved in producing construction materials and labour to transport, construct or manage property in Australia, for example, to live in it more permanently oneself or not.

In Australia one may prefer to deal with Singapore, for many reasons, for example, including their city state and national track record on housing and related water planning. One naturally also assumes advanced trade with British, Canadian and Northern European routes will continue. This has particularly interested me in recent years as housing and water consumption for an Australian global minority have hugely increased in their expected

cleaning standards and prices, supposedly to avoid poor health and environment pollution. This often occurs through widening global and regional inequalities in regional core and peripheral service provisions which also appear to be increasing. Does social media or any other fill these gaps which have been left by closure of post offices or banks, for example?

**REGIONAL DIRECTIONS IN HOUSING AND OTHER TRADE MATTERS ARE FURTHER ADDRESSED THROUGH THE PARTICULAR HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC LIFE SPAN.**

**SEE MORE GLOBAL EVIDENCE IN AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL AND LOCAL CASES ATTACHED COMPARISON IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF COMPETITION? (GEE, BABY, I GUESS SO.)**

Social media has developed after the popular introduction of the iPhone, around the time of the global financial crisis in 2008 and particularly in wealthy nations. Like the civil and criminal codes, it is now a largely unknown defining part of nearly all our other business, family, organisational or individual endeavours. It is a reflection of us all to the extent that we use or are affected by its use. Sometimes it was promised as a liberation technology for the poor but seems to have significantly fuelled social inequality and disorder so far.

As individuals, particularly in technologically advanced societies with substantial welfare states, we are often producers, consumers and investors with contradictory wants, depending on our age, interests, and assumed responsibilities as well as rights, for example. This is a complex global and regional regulatory environment already, without having even more regulation, perhaps with unintended consequences besides increased cost to the public purse. Social communications media may seem most of benefit to lawyers and those rich enough to employ them and wait out the costs of the case or cases in court, bank-rolled by others or not. Much seems most likely to be learned to meet all social harm reduction goals from willing and experienced global law and market players who pioneered and succeeded in key industries, like Bill Gates, for example. Those who failed to prosper may also have lessons from an experience lived at rarified global heights about which most of us know comparatively little or nothing. This may or may not be true in my case more than most, for example. To believe that legal and professional closures make sense asks a lot.

As Hamlet reminds us, *“There is nothing neither good nor bad but thinking makes it so”*. Whether it is truer, or falsier, than what went before is another story which is the primary business of scientific and technological invention and application in the practice of service rather than profit through expansion of business in many cases. I make these points also to discuss health, housing, education and related social or social service indicators before deciding what to support ourselves or as a community with a social media reflection. See more at [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) on regional rather than professional communication and broadcasting approaches, of which social media may or may not be a reflection, depending on law and/or personal choice. Consider education, health and housing or other services which government may or may not support in primarily regional terms.

Discrimination legislation is discussed in many related cases to conclude that freedom of choice, (in sexual partners, for example), commonly expects discrimination. Choice and judgment of social media depend on their market context of use and whether the product is



received as a form of coercion or service, for example. Julia Baird's article "*Elle, if not for science I wouldn't be alive*" addresses Elle McPherson's reported discussion of her decisions about breast cancerous or pre-cancerous growth. Their differing decisions about how to treat their bodies after their first cancer diagnosis and treatment are conducted in contexts where medicalisation of life has been pushed into every corner of our lives by the market and government support. This desire to stress years lived as the common goal of life, now seems the driving medical model which must seem unhelpful to many men, or former soldiers, for example. This is addressed in regard to suicide responsibility attached.

My major contention here is that harm reduction depends more on greater openness rather than greater closure in good societies, and I apply this to social media and also to the intellectual property related to many areas of communication, to make it more available and cheaper or free to more. Let technical and further education be a free service, for example, to those seeking it most in industry first, for example. I addressed this mainly in regard to university education at [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) as that is what I have been most familiar with. However, the former Labor Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), is resigning his position to become Vice Chancellor of Canberra University. One assumes this is a position where many industrial and other financial affairs may be treated through transitions to free technical and further education, in distance mode, or not. For Christ's sake don't bring in separate contractors to do it as usual. It seems so unnecessary. These matters are addressed in relation to national library systems attached, for example.

Reflection is not action for a start. Social media posts, one assumes, remain reflections which should not be judged necessarily as actions. To act, violently or not against another is one thing and to speak or write against them, however much in ignorance or anger is another. Rick management at its cooperative best is about turning down the violent or other wrong action whereas social media is about turning up knowledge and entertainment to increase productivity, for good or ill depending on the eyes. Personally, I would seek to reduce violence and allow sex as service to flourish. Make peace not war was the essential message of the feminist movement when I was a girl. I foolishly questioned the utility of getting into men's clubs because I could already get into those few clubs that I wanted to join. How many would you want to join? Today I see the point of clubs being more open because otherwise they may pursue their own interests to the detriment of others outside. The continuing views of US Jewish feminist, Phyllis Chesler, are treated later in that light.

I worked as a public servant when the desk-top computer and internet were introduced to the NSW public service in the 1980s. When the iphone was introduced in popular bulk to the market in 2008, the global financial crisis was also occurring, led in US state housing, banking, insurance and tax treatments. The pandemic of 2020 and working from home expectations have been accompanied by new and major changes in trading, work, education and home location and their finance. General infrastructure, commercial and housing building costs are addressed in regional lights through the life span as good housing and related communication and education developments are vital for human health, wealth and freedom from want. Australian building standards and costs have risen higher than most.

One cannot discuss social media well in an institutional production and dissemination vacuum. I guess that free to air people at ABC and SBS communications channels would have a lot of knowledge about the impact and archival treatment of a lot of their media and social media product and transmission, for use in free technical and further education. I love **Behind the News** for school students, for example. Presumably one is asking how social media may be used to dial social risk down rather than up, whilst providing the knowledge and entertainment for the good life (eating and drinking, in a nice house with a good bathroom and lighting for communication, not anxiously at war with oneself or anyone else.

Let us open up far more broadly and nicely in learning from regional and historical rather than professional trading and market perspectives which guard and live off their intellectual property as well as their capacity for action. How concepts of intellectual property are ideally treated in real life and social media to serve the majority of people are interesting questions in real life and social media, whether the latter business is involved in education, entertainment, or sales promotion, related or not. The focus of our recent years has often been on better housing as a key foundation for physical and mental wellbeing for example. (See related discussions attached.)

Mirvac Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and new Chair of Australia's National Housing Supply and Affordability Council, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz said at the National Press Club on ABC TV, that allowing people to use their superannuation to purchase a home would push prices up." *It does nothing to stimulate demand,*" she said. *"I'll give it as my opinion as the chair of the council. "I think it's a very dangerous policy to allow people to diminish their superannuation, which they will need in retirement, to only serve to make the problem we're trying to solve worse."* One assumes she is talking as a Labor government appointment and is ignoring the fact that weight reduction surgery may be paid for through access to superannuation funds. Surely this is a leading edge to the future of higher cost private treatments of risk which also drive prices up continually for most consumers when closed?

Susan Lloyd Hurwitz also concluded that caps on international student numbers would likely have *"very little effect"* on housing rental supply, because students are only 4 per cent of renters. She said it is not the case that international students are crowding out renters in our cities. This perhaps ignores the effect of off-shore or on-shore parents purchasing power when wealthier students start off at private schools then enter private college accommodation at Group of 8 universities to prepare their closed family and personal trajectories in law, politics and property for life. One considers the rich native personal lives in Australian and US property and political development of former Liberal Treasurer Joe Hockey and his wife, or former PM Malcolm Turnbull and his wife in this context. This favours confidential wealth development, through more closed and unknowable family office and tax treatments, for example. Former PM Kevin Rudd and his wife, Therese Rein, got rich in more Labor oriented ways. The US system has its politicians, judges and lawyers bought in far more states. Open up better.

In Australia, unlike in the US, however, few have ever needed to pose as great warriors to get ahead in voting. Voting for Australian representative management is also seen as a compulsory duty of living under its land and social administration. Voting in Australia is geared towards supporting both the particular expression and the generally more stable middle. Because it supposedly takes in the total population, the national census is equally valuable, in offering good data for further planning and action, as was the national referendum on an aboriginal Voice in the Constitution after the global

covid pandemic of 2020. Whether a national referendum was won or lost seems beside the point for good data driven action. To think otherwise is not particularly helpful, I guess. Why should a federation of a few states with a reasonable Constitution describing expected administration of a large island in 1901 become a republic instead of a federation of states? What's in it for us except struggling against a lot more foolish secrets and lies in US practice in global and regional terms.

Susan Lloyd Hurwitz speaks in favour of investment in housing construction by superannuation funds (industry superannuation funds supposedly serve members, rather than shareholders). As an owner without mortgage of a single strata housing unit, I agree with this. However, under normal state government and treasury expectations, also reflected in industry expectations, or vice versa, I don't understand why this wouldn't cause housing prices to rise. State and local government need to open up together equally. They are at the first regional step in production and consumption where waste often starts and is best treated at source from normal risk management perspectives, for example. Many suitable academics might freely make their teaching products and/or services available in technical and further education. However, most systems and organisations currently appear designed to protect insiders, addressed attached. This is increasingly risky and expensive. More should be given the chance to get out of the institution to see their product flourish or not.

Housing and its construction and management, (in strata plan, cottage building or related management and renovation terms) is highly regulated by state governments to protect those already working at the top of big developments and in related building trades and real estate interests already in the property renovation and management industries, for example. Would anybody expect this to change, except through reducing or increasing the number of migrants otherwise entering the country temporarily or for good? Nor do I understand why NSW Fair Trading has supported new legislation to forbid underquoting on housing sale prices, but not overquoting. Alliances between producers and real estate agents seem designed to pass an increasing range of costs onto housing consumers, whether they are owners or renters on any block? I dunno.

### **LET THE BOYS OPEN UP: MARK IRVING IS WRONG ALREADY ON RUNNING THE CFMEU**

Most construction (CFMEU) union branches were deregistered very recently, according to the front-page article in the Sydney Morning Herald entitled **Deadly history no barrier to CFMEU** (SMH 26.8.24). I rely for views expressed here mainly on the article **Former communist to clean up old Setka branch** (SMH 24.8.24). On the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024, Attorney General, Mark Dreyfus, installed barrister, Mark Irving, KC, to run the CFMEU nationally. The administration follows a joint investigation by the Herald, the Australian Financial Review and 60 Minutes that aired allegations of corruption, coercion and bkie infiltrations within the union which in effect sets the rules for the Australian construction sector.

I wonder what deregistration of any branch requires in practice and it is in that light that I also address the inadequacies of the expressed position of Mark Irving, KC, later. What is he and whose rules is he supposed to be following in his position, openly sympathetic to the CFMEU and the Australian Services Union history and continuation? **"No woman, no cry"**?

I address related matters later, as described in the article **Former communist to clean up old Setka branch** (SMH 24.8.24). As an old communist and teacher from the same historical period, I always thought Graham McCulloch, the founding general secretary of the left wing National Tertiary Education Union was in the Labor Party or maybe just a fellow traveller, as I was myself. Anyhow, Graham McCulloch will lead efforts to clean up the CFMEU Victorian

branch. God knows what that is expected to mean either. What are the rules of this game? I assume Bill Shorten, Graham McCulloch and others in Melbourne know most about this. Surely everybody concerned must be told very soon.

In my experience of living on a strata plan, the rules are set by prime movers at state levels, following federal gains in many related places, perhaps. See related local, regional and global discussions of ongoing housing management matters attached. I can also judge by my 1980s knowledge of the unequal effects of the submissions model of funding children's services, unless local council planning and other private sector service delivery stepped in, as in schools. From my trip with my grandson on the new Sydney Metro, from Central Station to Chatswood, I guess that train stations, child care centres and schools ideally go together. The rubbish left on the seats in the little military park in Chatswood is appalling. I often pick it up and put it in the bin while theatrically shouting at the Asians or others who left it behind. However, others may think this causes me to lose face. They can stick their face up their bums. (I speak as a grandma dealing with related waste matters later and attached).

After stating that he had been a member of the Australian Services Union for more than 30 years and praising the CFMEU's record of successful struggle to keep workers safe while improving wages and conditions, with which I strongly agree, Irving promised to address corruption, fraud and organised crime in the industry. He states, **"the administration will come and go but the work of the CFMEU must endure"**. Needs must where the devil drives? If he wished the matter in Crown law he should normally say "shall endure"? We all know how wedded to the application of their building codes the CFMEU have usually been in strata management, where it also counts? However, it seems to me that Irving gets off on the wrong foot or regional service logic when he makes the defining statement below.

Apparently, he said the union would not ***"engage in party politics during the administration and will not make donations to any party, seek to exercise any influence through representations at political conferences or promote any candidates of any faction or party."***

I can understand why you wouldn't want politicians, or judges or administrators or anybody else being bought. However, it enrages me that money and service are again conflated as if these men believed the stupid view that if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys. I understand the "guaranteed" minimum hourly rate in Australia is \$26 per hour and a lot of other places have none. People should try to understand the full ramifications of this, wherever they are, as addressed in the international travel industry in regard to waste, tipping, bargaining, begging and gambling behaviour attached, on the seas or in port, for example.

However, to shut down the freedom of speech through representations at political conferences or to deny anyone's right to promote any candidates of any faction or party is a denial of any related popular right to speak truth to power, as Americans like to say. Neither is it going to increase the general or specialist knowledge quickly and cheaply, through trying to find out freely, rather than denying the existence of service which was not bought, starting with mother. Australian codes of male silence or lies are addressed in this context to open them up more broadly and usefully in the design of free technical and further education courses because Australian government and employers need them in many cases.

Building trades, such as those represented by the CFMEU, and related subcontractors who may work in construction of infrastructure for civil production and in ongoing property and accommodation management, have often set the tone for what follows, for example.

These guys like Irving and McCulloch fail because their management is geared purely towards the gratification of construction and related industry interests to the detriment of more effective and honest treatment of consumers and owners globally and locally.

Violence is violence. Sex is sex. Money is money. Time is time. The problem with market driven labour and union views which have easily entered universities through health and psychology faculties, etc. is that they have the audacity to conflate the lot through anti-discrimination and related professional legislation and approaches. They measure reported pain along scales. The difference between physical violence or similar bodily breach, (eg. with a penis or needle) and other forms of verbal offence must be preserved in the interests of harm reduction. The term "coercive control" at least allows one to think in more historic and geographic terms than women often can or will, while clutching their man or his baby.

From this perspective, the position paper **Housing is a Human Right**, circulated by the Glebe Grapevine in June 2024 is ideological Marxism which is not based on evidence from the reality of human life on the ground. For example, it is claimed that maintenance in public housing has been neglected by successive governments for years. I can believe it from the state of the garbage gathering outside some of these places. The Glebe Grapevine states, however, that privatization reduces service quality, *'As we've seen with everything from buses to energy – and the maintenance of public housing is no different.* Personally, I see more signs of gentrification, parks and good transport service than former decay in this area. It often seems due to better private sector service which is able and willing to operate more broadly with government expectations while others try to ignore or frustrate them as usual. I think the Glebe Grapevine needs broader, more comparative regional service data capture systems than mindless allegiance to one kind of coloured political cat can normally give. The people who live in private sector housing are no less worthy than those living in public housing which may or may not be sustainable for anybody involved in its administration. (See brief discussion of forbidden bamboo and trees at St James Court, later, for example.)

### **FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE SEEMS IMPROVED IF OPENED UP IN FREER CHOICE AIMED AT HARM REDUCTION TO ONESELF AND OTHERS**

A range of matters relating to the creation, dissemination, storage and funding of products and services, no matter how they may vary or be received, has meant I return in attached discussions to other aspects of the role of the general parliament and the Attorneys General. This also seems to affect the case in social media or other communications affecting Australians, whether they relate to education and training, entertainment, or selling other stuff as usual. For example, an attachment originally responded to the call from former PM Malcolm Turnbull to consider the intersections between the enjoyment of the freedom of religion and other human rights. I address the role of freedom of religion and speech in identification of good global and regional service for the prevention of violence and corruption attached. Anti-discrimination legislation and its limitations have increasingly been discussed in related contexts, across the normal and abnormal human life span,

depending on the time and place. I address US Jewish feminist Phyllis Chesler's development later in this context. I also address changes in social attitudes wrought by the passage of time and anti-discrimination legislation affecting key urban or rural centres here, for example, or not, as the case may be.

I recall Phyllis Chessler's 1972 book **Women and Madness** as an important break-through work in observing that while some men may typically end up in jail, more women may typically end up in forms of medical care. Google Chessler to read what a predictable position she has developed today, facing the world as a well-known US Jewish intellectual and feminist once married to an Afghan. Basically, she sees Muslim men as being a particularly bad problem for others all over the world. I bet Christians are still worse. Jews are thoughtfully eliminating themselves from contention by marrying outside the faith and having fewer children than global norms. The rich get richer and the poor get children as usual. I would have thought the answer lies in giving better housing incentives for couples choosing contraception and abortion, not everyone knowing poor treatment of kids occurs.

Reading Randa Abdel-Fattah's book **Coming of Age in the War on Terror** (2021) shows that a Sudanese Australian Muslim woman and Senator Jacquie Lambie had a related debate on ABC TV about the apparent prevalence of violence in Muslim cultures. As a young New York Jewish feminist writer, who married into an Afghan Muslim family when young and free, Chesler has ended up defined by this professional and personal background. We are different here in Australia and we don't have to regard ourselves as the far-flung vassals of any nation, Christian or not. On the other hand, the slogan "**No man, no master**", is not necessarily or ideally a call to lots more little closed clubs. The trouble with clubs is that a few people may try to get out more than they put in and also to get out earlier. Risk management is the art of broadening standards to reduce harms. Gross domestic product (GDP) measures, on the other hand, thrive agnostically on war and peace alike while still preferring war in many countries for whatever reasons. (In war only orders matter so in the modern world one feels this closed approach is eventually doomed to fail, but not always.)

We can all have disability now and have our addiction and violence encouraged in court, through law reducing the culpability of a drunk or otherwise drug-affected offender. I regard the death penalty as far more protective of society in clear cases, like that of the murder of nine-year-old school girl, Charlise Mutton by her mother's fiancé, for example. He killed her and then said her mother killed her. I don't care if he was on supposedly therapeutic legal or illegal drugs at the time, or not. The social aim should surely prefer reduction of community risk, rather than having a fifty-fifty split of women and men in jails on one hand and under psychiatric care on the other. In this global context I would seek to reduce harm by following the lead of Papua-New Guinea parliament. It reintroduced the death penalty to dissuade violent men, (whether acting in gangs or not) from killing and raping their opponents' women and children as the route to finding others. This has never been possible in "*advanced*" nations because Constitutions have protected the armies of the reigning monarch or a related rebel leader such as the US President became in global terms.

However, what's really at issue is whether a man is either an anti-abortion fanatic or a pro-abortion fanatic. Whether a man believes that a woman's body is hers and hers alone--or

whether he believes that women's bodies belong to men. This constitutes a great grave divide. Women still have a hard time voting for women; still crave the "protection" of a traditional man. But the winds of change are also out there and both women and men may want something different, fairer, more open to change (not joy and hope or everlasting life) but just more genuinely meaningful personal choice. (Don't hold your breath waiting.)

As LP Hartley's novel and film, **The Go Between** shows. "*The past is another country. They do things differently there*". Attachments discuss the role of freedom of religion and speech in identification of good global and regional service for the prevention of violence and corruption. Social media and your questionnaire about someone's supposed use of it are both addressed first in that historical, regional, institutional and personal light. If I don't care or think about the answers to your questionnaire, or if I lie, perhaps hoping to please you, does it matter and how would anybody ever know? These questionnaires cannot stand without their related and often far more important surrounding and explanatory context.

You ask for a response and mine is for any judgment. However, wider regional trade and risk management implications are also addressed attached in pursuit of law and order which appears better for advance than comparatively thoughtless numbers or their pretended scientific validity, such as questionnaires like yours might normally claim for sources. Social media is addressed in related contexts as the reflection of any society and its regulated concerns for individuals at any stage of the normal life span, depending on their surrounding history and conditions. These cannot normally be captured well in questionnaires, especially those which invite no written feedback, or questions or further explanation. In the Australian case, we are used to following US orders, as handed out in your questionnaire, for example, which brooks no opposition or alternative view to its own. This is a shallow approach.

I expect that any organization may become a **cult**, which the Collins dictionary surprisingly describes as a '**system of religious worship**'. I would have thought a cult is an organization characterized by secret illegal activity based on family or other charismatic association. I can only guess the Collins dictionary, as a consciously post-Enlightenment product, is solving its dominant Christian cultural origins by calling all pots black. This seems reasonable as in a choice between legal words and the common dictionary we should pick the latter. This is because of the common clarity of its definitions compared with partial legal drivel which has been built up relatively senselessly to most of us for years. I address Freud and comparative medical, psychiatric, psychoanalytic and related views and practices in the '*church*' of scientology and dianetics attached. This is done by seeing their associated theories and certification to practice tickets as quality standards and commercial self-support mechanisms rather than cults. If such practices, religious or not, appear to be curative or criminal, these are other matters. More openly cooperative approaches are sought to judge.

I recommend adoption of the WHO view of sexual health described by Nutbeam and Blakey in the journal *Health Promotion International* 5 (1990). Sexual health is defined as:

The integration of physical, emotional, intellectual and social aspects of sexuality in a way that positively enriches and promotes personality, communication and love.

This is a helpfully questioning and uniting test of one's behaviour which does not depend on conformity with particular religious, state or other institution, but which applies well to all. The importance of birth control in the lives of children and other community members is a key theme discussed attached. Traditional Christian church or tribal views on some things have spelled disaster, as discussed broadly and in personal terms. See curriculum I taught at Sydney University for eleven years on [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) for global and regional contexts. One nevertheless seeks support for the direction of Pope Francis in his Encyclical on the Environment (**Laudato Si**). I don't have to be Christian to support this and I'm not.

To give the worst global example I know of, the US Constitution enshrines a right to gun sales and ownership for family and property protection under God; while avoiding taxes as a hindrance to the secret development of markets and religious or other free choice; to promote the product. This gives any secretly associated and proliferating killers greater power over others globally and regionally, through related advances in secret communication. This led to the US military machine being larger than all other key military players globally combined, for example. It also leads to far higher rates of US family killing of other family and community members and school kids than anywhere else in the developed world. (Am I a bunny hoping for more intelligent life in outer space?) No fear. I prefer the Oz Knights of Nih. They are addressed often in relation to Chinese history and practice.

From the Freudian view in **Civilization and Its Discontents**, which I often take, and increasingly so since retiring and becoming a grandma, myth may be compared with the Marxist concept of ideology. The latter is a partial, self and community reflecting and enhancing belief system. Myth or ideology battle with increasingly broad technological, scientific and creative global forces. These may particularly ignore or address the home and emotional life in key family, feudal and other tribally related or associated operations. These may also appear to be the keys to further inflammation of painful events and effects. I discuss the theory, practice, and costs of psychiatrists and cheaper versions of the same thing attached. (I guess I've been a free psychiatric nurse to some men. I bet they forgot.)

### **THE BROADER CASE FOR REGIONAL OPENING UP TO LEARN MORE BROADLY, BETTER AND CHEAPER THROUGH FREE AND FREE TO AIR TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION AT WORK OR IN OTHER COMMUNITY SETTINGS**

Reading between the lines of the excellent **Carriageworks** exhibition on **The Great Strike 1917**, I guess Australia has had classic fascist (producer controlled) state operations for longer than many colonial nations more rooted than ours in aristocratic land and feudal legal privileges. At the end of the day in Australia, when we all went home for a chop, the key protected producers have had to get on together and were close enough to do it. Welfare was often in the hands of families, particular church communities and willing supporters.

As a self-employed person even today, for example, a man might work alone in business as an employee of his company or work with unpaid family or other paid help. He might be employed by another boss for work later in the week. The relations between trade unions or related professional organizations seeking to close off practice (as in the case of '**no union ticket no start**') to other potential workers, may be guided by the contradictory nature of the effects this has on the particular independent contractors and employees of all stripes.



This whole industrial edifice, however, was based on the related expectation that married women had no effective choice over their level of reproduction, as those matters were properly left to God and man alone, ignoring the rest. The white Australia policy also protected wage levels from being undermined by cheaper competition from huge peasant populations such as those found, for example, in China, India or Indonesia. Do their men usually leave and one never hears about their past loves and children ever again? Is this constant migration, (legal or not), reducing or increasing inequality? Surely it depends?

What in God's name does a republic mean for lawyers is the first obvious question to me. Why isn't the current federation of states just as good or better than a republic? I am good at finding obvious questions. Could it be because I'm a woman and not a lawyer following US driven routes already? These ideologues typically pretend they speak for others best while silencing them and everybody else to take over their matters completely. The effect is to confuse us with stupidly incomprehensible and multiplying laws, leaving us more expensively confused. One cannot simply add new bits to pre-global paradigms.

Under the Uniform Evidence Acts, according to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) report discussed attached, the right to object to giving evidence apparently applies not only to the spouse of an accused, but also to a de facto spouse (as well as a parent or child) of the accused. Apparently, this is justified by the legal view that having all relevant evidence available to the courts is less important than *'the undesirability, in the public interest, that:*

- *The procedure for enforcing the criminal law should be allowed to disrupt marital and family relationships to a greater extent than the interests of the community really require, and,*
- *The community should make unduly harsh demands on its members by compelling them, where the general interest does not require it, to give the evidence that will bring punishment upon those they love, betray their confidences, or entail economic and social hardship. (Australian Law Reform Commission, ALRC, 2005 p. 98)*

If a person is questioned or accused in relation to breaking the criminal or civil law this may be a very serious matter. There is a strong possibility that those accused do not live in the happily united families and communities conveniently conceptualised above by the lawyers who wrote the ALRC Discussion Paper. I believe that requiring adult family members to give a true account of how they see their spouses and their actions would often be in the immediate family interest as well as in the interests of the wider society. One might expect that many such views would be sympathetic to those accused. However, a social expectation, enshrined in law, that any view clearly relevant to a matter would naturally be expected to be heard, would be more likely to protect more vulnerable members of any family and society, rather than imperil them. The ALRC view is objectionably controlling.

If all vulnerable people were required to speak the truth as they see it, they would also have an excuse for their action before any potential dominators' wrath and would also be more likely to be protected from it. This is particularly the case if community education and development were allowed to emerge from their perceptions, rather than being quashed,

whatever the common verdict. The general encouragement of secrecy by calling it necessary for protection of the weak often just silences everybody but provides expensive, monopoly control over adversarial situations by lawyers and other professionals whose interests are tied to theirs. The alternative is to assist community empowerment through encouraging greater public knowledge, discussion and debate of all contentious issues, which is what post-war feminists generally believed, before so many of them joined forces with lawyers. I expect Brittany Higgins successful rape case against a man she worked with, when in their office, after both of them had been drinking, was very expensive for the rest of us funding it through our taxes. However, I think Justice Lee established vital principles in his judgment. One wonders, along with Julia Baird, what the offended Minister thinks she is doing in court against Brittany Higgins. (The poor girl was raped and said on TV the Minister didn't help.)

The tendency to keep people in institutions of learning ever longer does few favours if they are increasingly removed by this process from the experience and expectations of common practice. Having conscious memory back to 1970 at least, one thinks of Africa, in comparison with China today, for example. Am I the only one who has noticed the origins of global turmoil? It isn't just Jews or Christians. It's having too many children in poor peasant or hunter and gatherer families in increasingly impoverished landscapes for a start. This is not a problem the medical models can handle. Women in rich countries and China noticed that the number of children they would have without effective contraception and abortion would drag down their health, wealth and family welfare immeasurably. Can't they see it for others? This is not a subjective matter. The effects are historically clear for anyone to see yet are ignored. Have more lovers and fewer children as this may also be better for the children. I remain confirmed in this 70s feminist view of community. The Western obsession with gay marriage is telling in ignoring bigamous or related associations as norms in many countries. The romantic dream and social media have shaped the old, "*Marry in haste, repent at leisure.*" Chesler was young and naïve. Monogamous Australian women still don't know?

My view is that one can waste a lot of very expensive time talking about words which don't mean much in relation to action on the ground, but it all has to be paid for by those who live in the place in time or money. Let speech be as broad ranging, direct and cheap in practice as possible, with encouragement to try to be openly honest where it counts. This is the reverse of legal operation, out to win at all costs while helping to hide one's client's secret information. Most highly placed people, with lawyers at the top, often assume their legally driving words alone will equate to knowledge and right population action. This rubbish is discussed attached in regard to views on freedom of religion and human rights. My general case is for clarification of the difference between words and other action. The reality is our command over more words and pictures usually makes us better off, particularly if we have some good standards of judgment already. See Richard Florida's **The Rise of the Creative Class** (2003) for a related argument. Australia should avoid seeing its IT? (AI?) development kill its golden state eggs, like comparatively honest free-to-air, national, TV or radio.

In global, regional and individual planning and management contexts, in which post-war Australia has accepted and effectively integrated higher rates of immigration from around the world than almost any other country, one accepts the definition of community put forward by the International Labour Organization (ILO), WHO and UNESCO. In the context of

direction on community-based rehabilitation (1994), these organizations defined 'community' as:

- a. a group of people with common interests who interact with each other on a regular basis, and/or
- b. a geographical, social or government administrative unit

This is a good definition as it is clear and allows services or goods to be managed more transparently (openly, clearly) on related international and regional bases for the purposes of evaluating and improving wellbeing and understanding in Australia and beyond.

The general approach to sustainable development globally and in Australia is ideally based on a critical following of WHO, UNESCO and related international directions, starting perhaps with the aspirational nature of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC). The earlier international Conventions are often adopted in Australian government direction already. However, some of the Conventions on organization established by the ILO, are products of government, employer, and trade union work and welfare associations which lasted through two 20<sup>th</sup> century world wars. These now appear out of date in welfare plans which have gone beyond key urban workplace management and are now driving into all rural and other areas of life where a lot of wealth and disadvantage may be easily created as a result.

Discrimination is necessary for the exercise of choice. For example, as a woman in any culture I may seek to choose a partner who is comparatively kind, rich and handsome to my mind. However, anti-discrimination legislation, which typically forbids discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual preference, ethnic identity and physical or mental disability was developed with programs to promote more equal inclusion of all citizens in the general bounty of the land and its governing people. Education was also treated in the supporting service of those in rural and remote areas. It queries views of merit, discussed attached. The Australian fourth estate and many broadly scientific or emotional states are better equipped to judge a particular person in a case than lawyers are. They are more focused on grounded reality than lawyers are. Lawyers focus on the legal word in adversarial terms which easily double the cost of judging actions in adversarial ways unlikely to address the truth of any matters effectively. A related regional view of fund management is attached. It follows Australian direction. See more about the problems of legal practice on [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

Chesler is still writing about current affairs in 2024. She asks: *Why are crimes not being treated as crimes anymore? How can someone who has attacked, strangled, beat down, stomped upon, another human being, in an American city, who has wounded and nearly killed someone in their 70s and 80s, not be put away for a long, long time? Or soon hung? Why are there calls to "de-fund the police" in the name of anti-racism--when people of color are so often the victims of crimes? At least they were. And it included black-on-black crimes. Today, however, it is mainly all who are vulnerable, young women, senior citizens, who are being preyed upon, both economically, sexually, and physically by men. This includes men of color, many of whom are mentally ill, more of whom are rageaholics, who lose their tempers on a dime and attempt to murder someone else for a minor or even an imagined "diss."* (I guess US anti-discrimination legislation approaches and lawyers didn't help.)

**Waltzing Mathilda** is a song about a suicidal sheep stealer, which is probably better known globally than our national anthem where we are joyously proclaimed to be young and free and girt by sea. Personally, I prefer "**We are one, but we are many**", because it is short and I am not so young any more. Like the child in '**The Band played Waltzing Mathilda**' who saw the man who had lost both his legs in war, marching on Anzac Day, and who asked why, I often ask myself the same questions as Chesler. She seems to be playing to her base. Peace may depend on adversarial posturing but how many take it seriously if secret building of war chests is the natural state of economic affairs? In the 20<sup>th</sup> century war became a matter of the mass murder of civilians as well as soldiers in what may be well conceptualised as global ruling class factional war games and interests. This is addressed in relation to Australia as a British and then US client state. This is also a discussion of what President Xi has rightly diagnosed as 'Cold War Mentality'. The Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, who has much more sense than Bill Shorten, will go to China to address this.

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Hi Aihua

I loved the picture you sent of your painting bamboo, doing calligraphy and drinking tea with friends on holidays in China. I am sure you are very good with everything and I thank you for the translation of the second poem I bought from you about bamboo, in which its knots now stand out so strongly to me. The poem you send is transcribed again below and reminds me again of the emotional connections which people from entirely different cultural, geographic, historical and linguistic backgrounds and ages may make through poetry, or song or art, whatever the more officially received critics think about them or what they mean. The scholar reads and writes and the artist paints the bamboo and the calligraphy of the associated poem:

Green bamboo dances in the wind

Stirring my lonely heart

With 30,000 volumes of strange books

From dusk to dawn

I learned to speak and teach English and French partly through popular songs and I guess the same is true for many people around the world. Today I ponder the dangers of wrong teaching in my view, especially in online presentations, like Google play, although I've never used it through personal incapacity and disinterest. I am lazy and love English too much to try to learn another language, particularly at my advanced age.

I usually love Google and Wikipedia for finding out reasonably reliable information. However, your statements following each single line of poetry on Google play, rather than immediately revealing the whole poem first, make me think about education and the role of the teacher again. I hated it when Power Point was first introduced and teachers revealed the full slide only line by line, for example. The preferred practice is surely to reveal, (not to obscure the poem, with a dictation of its supposed meaning line by line. This may be wrong and downgrades the artist who first created the complex work of any era, in my opinion.

You write that what you write "is translated by google translate because my English is not good". You are not sure that it is very well put and ask that if I have any questions or don't understand you to ask again. Mine is a tentative attack on Google translate, from a stupid old woman who has never been willing to use it and who only speaks one language fluently. Nevertheless, as a former English teacher today I often have the following fear.

My problem, which I have come across many times before, in the supposed translation of the meaning and emotion of Bob Dylan, or the Don McLean song, Bye Bye Miss American Pie, for example, is that the Google translate commentator, (who is presumably an academic teacher of some kind) obscures the poem, to present their own interpretation of its related meaning in creation instead, emotional or not. Then students may parrot this to pass their exams, rather than respond to the poem or song themselves, a fact of subjectivity which generally first made it so famous.

You did not write like Google translate in the first poem you translated for me and I noticed the difference. I have also been pondering the work of the US Jewish feminist psychologist of my generation who wrote **Women and Madness, in 1972** in a related global light in regard to law and order and the rights of children and women. **Phyllis Chesler**, is still writing today but is on the opposite side of the street from me on many current international questions we share about the situation of women and children in Islamic and other religious nations like Australia. Like the US and Britain, and unlike Jews, we have had essentially Christian roots before. Indigenous views have been strongly influenced by Christian beliefs too. My gripe has always been that the atheist position is not sufficiently acknowledged, which is partly what led me to be interested in modern Chinese history and religious or spiritual thought, particularly around Mao and after.

(I wonder how Phyllis Chesler feels about bamboo, among other things of interest to women and children today; and this is only a slightly facetious question because trade and construction standards will either lean toward bamboo or metal scaffolding and demonize the other, I guess, in practice.)

The thing about poetry or song or art to me, however, is that they cannot and should not be taught as if their appeal is not emotional and direct to the person first. As a former teacher based on words and writing, I have always felt fine if the supposedly more informed teacher helps the student to understand the historical and social context of the work, after presenting it, for example. However, the principle point of artistic creation for me is that it speaks to the emotional side of the person first and that this mysterious subjectivity should not be downgraded in favour of the so-called specialist academic or other expert of the moment, talking about the environmental and psychological state of someone unknowable because they are the other (although I often value their opinion greatly myself).

I make the point because I feel that the on-line teaching world is increasingly in danger of promoting this more dictatorial route taken here by Google translate.

To refer to First Wave and Second Wave feminism as American women and academics commonly do, for example, seems to me to be a denial of the essential continuity of history, in order to elevate the status of the academic above the artist or related practitioner, expert or popular or not. I like to see the teacher instead as one who is born to be cast aside as history marches on, rather than to remain necessarily in memory as a great teacher, with great numbers of followers, or not. The US commercial route has raised the particular name and celebrity to giddy market heights, only to pulp or drop it for another.

Since when I was young, I have always responded strongly and positively to Asian painting of bamboo and the natural world whereas the ubiquitous pictures of the Virgin Mary and related European works have left me cold and I have always wondered why, for example. No idea. However, I will send you what I write on Phyllis Chesler later because her ideas about women and children used to influence me a lot and I guess they still reveal a lot about the US today, compared with China or Australia, for example. Australia sits in the middle between the US and China with British roots dominating aboriginal ones I always think.

I always welcome your views on these or other matters, however delivered. Cheers Carol

### **SHORT EXTRACT ON OWNING AND PROTECTING MY LAND AND BAMBOO ON STRATA**

..... However, let us discuss bamboo in this mix as I have just read Shane Wright's article ***Australia's incredible shrinking houses*** in the ***Sydney Morning Herald*** (SMH 31.8.24, p.10). **He states that timber board and joinery count for 33.5% of construction costs in Australia today.** I find that hard to believe for a variety of reasons. However, if Wright is correct, I previously recommended green wooden fence construction and repainting beside No. 18 and beside No. 11, my neighbour. I now recommend a cheaper bamboo fence or new lattice instead.

**Perhaps we need something less permanent and cheaper, than brick, that we can grow plants over and that will be strong and cheap and look nice and cover the dangerous gaps safely and nicely. What about bamboo?** (It has been the lifeblood of many civilizations, some of them appear poorly used now and we are in their regional territory. Like many Australian women I have always loved natural fibres. Australia is wrongly focused on the European experience first in the financial department. This determines the way we think of housing trade and appears short-sighted and behind the times, as I have argued here since 1994. (On a related matter, one wonders why the

recent newsletter of the Department of Fair Trading supports the new legal requirement that underquoting on property should be illegal. Why isn't overquoting on property also made illegal, in the interests of lowering rental, property and related turnover costs, one wonders. Any ideas?)

## **2024 AUSTRALIA DAY ADDRESS (LAND, HOUSING AND LEGAL MATTERS)**

You can bet there was vegetation and no concrete anywhere when it was aboriginal land. See below and attached for related place management propositions which also relate to housing as a key foundation of healthier lifestyle. How do you feel about **by-laws**, as discussed below and attached, for example, and about **the training that group housing managers ought to receive? Owners and tenants in property appear to be key stakeholders in land and housing** whose disputes internally and with neighbours appear best handled outside court to reach and generate broader understanding. Key matters are discussed below and attached.

Digitization ideally represents a countervailing international force against NSW lawyers, their traditional secret commercial alliances and related professional assumptions about what may or may not be said or written outside of court. Law remains based, however, on original feudal and secret colonial links, topped by state Constitutions. Their forces continually broaden into the present day with expensively opaque consequences for fair and effective treatment of children or anyone else.

What can be done about these problems? I focus on our state concerns in housing.

As an old woman and former teacher, anything I write is my intellectual property and I will give it to anybody I like. This is the logic of the position held in the major study by the Australian Law Reform Commission, the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Health Ethics Committee in their 2003 report entitled **Essentially Yours: The Protection of Human Genetic Information in Australia. Owners and tenants of property are the key stakeholders in group and other housing in NSW.** Their affairs are more effectively managed together more openly by group housing committees and by contracted managers of their financial and related affairs. This is best carried out under the Department of Fair Trading rather than the Professional Services Council for reasons of obtaining better quality, more accessible, fairer and cheaper services.

As I pointed out in my Australia Day Speech at Callan Park, attached, I thank Legal Aid NSW for their free **2021 Legal Topics for Older People Calendar** but write to correct them on key associated matters for those of us closer to death every day. Under **Helping Out Your Family** advice in October 2021, the Legal Aid publication sensibly states:

**If you don't have a written agreement, it can be hard to get your money or home back.**

Too right. You will forget what you said or thought before and argue about it a lot later if time and circumstances change anybody's mind, as they may always do. Honestly open writing is the best policy because others may then check it and offer potential corrections to it for consideration. The free Calendar wrongly states, however:

**'Independent' means you do not use the same financial adviser or lawyer as your child.**

(Check the dictionary to see that this is another self-serving, expensive load of lawyers' rubbish.)

The 2021 Legal Aid NSW Legal Calendar accepts and reflects old professional interests designed to gain more money and prestige for professions through secret legal associations following courts. They are designed in professional interests in more medico-legal research and enclosures based on the wrong assumption that we all want everlasting life. We may want state help to die when we want instead, as in my case. I don't see myself as part of medical experiments and am old enough to decide for myself. My daughter may seek medical guidance but she is my named enduring guardian. My trust is in her.

**Owners and Tenants in dispute should get better and cheaper help to resolve matters through NSW Fair Trading rather than be referred back to lawyers and the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, as the 2021 NSW Legal Aid Calendar on Legal Topic for Older People expects.**

**You and your child or anyone else may prefer to make many open and dated agreements, using the same lawyer, or another person who can write as well or better, in a manner which is also open to understanding through broader understanding, scrutiny and witness. This is otherwise pointless, multiple secret handling of multiple matters where lawyers take expensive control.**

Check out the related NSW Marine Estate Management Plan and Projects and consider their free and informative newsletter on related regional approaches. See other discussions at St James Court below and submissions made to NSW government inquiries into housing and related regional place management matters attached.

Cheers

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