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**Democracy's a simple thing - I wonder why we choose it?
 But when we can't be bothered is exactly when we lose it!
 The 'expert' wants you to believe he is much more wise than you;
 And if you leave it up to him he knows just what to do.
 He'll fix your problems, one by one, he'll deal with any strife.
 There is just a little price to pay - the power to run your life!
 But when democracy arrived, way back in days of old,
 The people paid the 'experts' - to do as they were told!**

How Bright The Vision – Jeremy Lee 1999

TWO AUSTRALIAN WOMEN, ONE FROCK SHOP AND A RACE CLUB THAT FORGOT ITS PURPOSE

The following story from David Pascoe's Facebook page has captured what I call the genuine 'Australian spirit'. It is the spirit that pioneered and founded this nation and both young women have manifested that same spirit 200 years later.

*As for the VRC (Victorian Racing Commission) and Myers' people, their actions captured the spirit of those who came later; when the hard work was done. These people went on to ride on the backs of those pioneers. Having scrambled to the top of their particular dung heap they have displayed the crass and commercial spirit of too many so-called Australian 'leaders' in commerce, finance, and governments today... Definitely 'Un-Australian'.
 - - Betty Luks*

David Pascoe writes:

Michelle Payne and Jessica Mauboy were two of the most talked about women in the nation last week – and for very different reasons. Michelle Payne turned the VRC spring carnival into a fairy tale when she won the cup on a 100 to 1 long-shot. That made Payne not only the first woman to win the Cup, but it made an ordinary working class girl from a large racing family at Ballarat into the nation's heroine.

The Victorian Racing Club has made the transition from racing club into corporation, and along the way they have cast the Melbourne Cup in their own likeness. It has gone from being a race of dreams and a race of the people into what they like to call an international event, and the big attractions sold to the public are betting on horses owned by various billionaires, millionaires and racing and breeding corporations right around the world as they come to plunder the Cup. Now that an ordinary working class woman has won it on a nobody horse, the Victorian Racing Club are suddenly crowing that they have provided the biggest sporting story of the year. Well, not really.

Along the way, the Victorian Racing Club invited Jessica Mauboy, another young woman that the nation took to their heart from the time she stepped on to the stage and smiled that dazzling, big split watermelon grin of hers. She is another ordinary girl from Darwin, and there is something delightfully authentic about her that makes you know she's genuine and telling the truth. So when Mauboy was suddenly 'unable' to sing the national anthem on Melbourne Cup day at the last minute, a story suddenly 'emerged' that she was having a 'panic attack' and unable to go on stage.

Mauboy was interviewed by Alan Jones today and she spoke out in an effort to set the record straight. The truth was exactly as we reported it here on this page last week: the fact that the shoes she was wearing did not come from Myers, the big corporate sponsor of the Victorian Racing Club at the Melbourne Cup Carnival. Her dress came from Myer, but her shoes, it turned out, came from David Jones.

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In the dark arts practised by the image-obsessed Fashionistas out there, that is an unforgivable crime. The evil-eyed spotters for Myer suddenly noticed that they didn't stock her shoes, threw an immediate screaming hissy fit and forced the VRC to withdraw Mauboy "at the barrier" if you like.

Mauboy – ever the Darwin girl - said on radio today that she would have been happy to sing in thongs, but that wouldn't have been nearly stylish enough for the VRC.

So here's a memo to all the seriously pretentious Wally's at the VRC: please do not play silly games like this with ordinary people again, because the Australian people really don't like being taken for stupid.

The Melbourne Cup is the peoples' race, and that must never be forgotten. To make everything into a corporate event might help you run things more efficiently as a sporting event, but to give some jumped up frock-shop power over what some singer wears on her feet is deeply offensive in the extreme. You see, the Australian people are refusing to be taken for mugs anymore.

They (are) taking back their farmland and their water from bullying corporations right now, and they are taking back events such as the Melbourne Cup. Just ask Michelle Payne.

THE MAJORITY VOTE RACKET by Betty Luks

One of the last things my father said: 'No one is listening, why am I wasting my time?' I don't think anyone is listening... I don't think the nation is listening.

Helen Bender: <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeBender68>

I am told that the younger generations find it hard to grasp an 'indepth' article, and one not kept to a minimum of words in the simplest of language. In which case I can understand their dilemma when first setting out to wrestle with 'Social Credit' teaching, especially C.H. Douglas' original works. He 'pioneered' Social Credit concepts and acknowledged it was not an easy task to come to grips with what he was about. Over the decades even words changed meanings and I have to admit, when I started out on the journey I needed a very good dictionary by my side and much disciplined concentration. I won't say how

many years ago that was, but will say I am so glad I persevered. I was reminded of the New Testament parable of the man who sold all he had to gain this one 'pearl of great price'.

Some of the points C.H. Douglas made in "Warning Democracy" first published in 1931 are worthy of further study. He warned of a 'Ballot Box' democracy and we now know what this means because we are living with its 'bitter fruits'.

He writes:

"An election is held upon some abstraction which may be labelled "Chinese Slavery" or "Safe-guarding," or practically any other subject which the average elector may be safely trusted not to understand..."

I am sure the modern reader can make a short list for himself. A number spring to my mind:

* 'Global warming' which has now morphed into 'climate change' although it was earlier the threat of 'greenhouse gases'. Now with the added urgency to apply carbon taxes.

* Further rises to the GST for 'tax' purposes. Panic! Panic! The present government is running out of bank created debt-money – didn't you know? More money is needed through taxes.

* Another is the cry for wages to be lowered because we price ourselves out of the export markets!

Question: How many Australians understand the cost accounting system, which under present conventions, determines prices? And will a breakdown of 'costs' reveal just how much governments are already taking from industry and farmers in direct and indirect taxes - thus forcing up prices?

Douglas continues: "So long as he votes, i.e., the elector, it is probably not of much importance what he votes for. It is, however, vital that he should vote in order to keep up the illusion that he is controlling his own destiny. Having voted and duly elected a body of representatives, pledged to the furthering of some wide generality, the way is left clear for a dictatorship, either of finance or administration, to interpret the generalisation in terms satisfactory to itself..." And wouldn't you say that is exactly what we are seeing – and suffering from - eighty years later? Ballot Box Dictatorship!

Douglas: "Now, it must be observed that this subservience of Ballot-Box Democracy to some kind of a dictatorship is inherent, and it is indissolubly connected with the idea that the relationships of different individuals to the same situation are similar.

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It is consequently a system of government depending for any workability it may possess upon an electorate possessing a low degree of individualisation. If it be applied to the animal world one can imagine a successful election on the subject of the most satisfactory dog biscuit...”

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in “Rebuilding Russia” (1990) explored the various concepts of a ‘democracy’, and outlined his ideas of “What Democracy is and What it is Not”.

He wrote: “Democracy is today a supremely fashionable word in our country, mouthed in endless variations, flaunted, brandished, and exploited for personal advantage.”

Thinking about his own beloved nation’s recent history he continued: “Following the bitter experience of 1917, when we plunged headlong into what we thought was democracy, Vasili Maklakov, a prominent leader of the Constitutional Democrats, reminded us all of a simple truth by the following admission: ‘In order to function, democracy needs a certain level of political discipline among the populace.’” Solzhenitsyn realising “But this is precisely what we lacked in 1917, and one fears there is even less of it today.”

I would think ‘political discipline’ contains within it the meaning of concentrated study and contemplation.

Maybe we could begin with an agreed definition of words. We are continually told we are all ‘equal’ - but are we? I see the individual as distinct and unique but as Vera West pointed out in her “Human Genetic Chimeras” article (/Vol51No44.htm) we are not ‘individual’ in the sense that Jeremy Bentham termed it. She writes: “It is only because we have been brainwashed by the philosophical world view of the methodological *individualism* of liberalism that examples such as this cause conceptual difficulties.

While Vera explains it thus: “Humans and their bodies are more like ecosystems than the “atoms” of utilitarian liberals such as Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832). The liberal’s world is a metaphysical false one.”

Yes! As I understand it, while we are all *individual persons*, even in some cases, having our own distinct saliva and sperm genes, we are *social beings*. It is important that we recognise this whether as family, or tribe or nation. And as a family, tribe, or nation, we mustn’t let our politicians ‘confound the persons’ nor ‘divide the substance’! Western history reveals the trend has been “towards Individuality and that Individuality demands its own unique relationship to circumstances.”

And Then... What? The Majority Vote?

Bearing in mind Douglas saw that the subservience of Ballot Box Democracy is “... a system of government depending for any workability it may possess upon an electorate possessing a low degree of *individualisation*.”

For Douglas in 1931 certain factors stood out: “Both Ballot Box democracy as seen in America and the Socialist Party in England naturally assumes the fundamental soundness of decisions arrived at by the counting of hands, because, as I understand it, the Socialist Party *does not recognise any important difference between any one individual and another...*”

And he continues:

“Neither do I believe that it is an accident that the accredited spokesmen of the Labour Party utter this peculiarly vicious nonsense. They are, in my opinion, assisted to attain and to retain their leadership because of their ability to foster and manipulate a characteristic which is essential to the dominance of the group over the individual.

The characteristic which I have in mind is that which I have on various occasions called abstractionism. The theologians call it idolatry. I should say as I understand it the practice of *taking some object or virtue, and without understanding or even trying to understand its true nature, investing it with attributes which do not belong to it...* We have here a typical instance of idolatry.”

The 1949 Liberal Party understood the importance of this matter

Statement of Beliefs No. 3 reads:

“We believe in the Individual. We stand positively for the free man, his initiative, individuality, and acceptance of responsibility.”

And in Statement of Beliefs No. 4 one can read: “... Democracy depends upon self-discipline, obedience to the law, the honest administration of the law.”

We now know where Ballot Box Democracy was intended to lead us but I am pleased and encouraged to see many Australians, from all walks of life, are awakening from their slumbers and taking a stand for their freedoms.

Further study for the beginner can be found here:
(<http://alor.org/Library/Butler%20ED%20-%20Social%20Dynamics.htm>)

... whilst for those already delving go here:
(<http://alor.org/Library/Jones%20T%20-%20You%20and%20Parliament.pdf>).

THE RELEASE OF THE 1975 PAPERS Turnbull Should Beware of Rattling the 1975 Skeletons

Today is the 40th anniversary of the Dismissal, which was actually the withdrawal under Section 64 of the Australian Constitution by the Governor-General of his letter commissioning Gough Whitlam to form a government. The section states:

64. The Governor-General may appoint officers to administer such departments of State of the Commonwealth as the Governor-General in Council may establish. Such officers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor-General. They shall be members of the Federal Executive Council, and shall be the Queen's Ministers of State for the Commonwealth.

In what is an obvious attempt to try to bring discredit upon our system of constitutional monarchy by the republican Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, his moves to release the Kerr correspondence twelve years ahead of its time could well come back and bite him and show once and for all that Kerr acted in the best interests of the nation as opposed to those of the Coalition. Politicians never learn that they must always beware of rattling skeletons in the closet.

Of all those representing the monarchist interests, there appeared to be very few who, in 1975, understood and supported the actions of Sir John Kerr. The others who are pontificating on the subject apparently supported Whitlam and Labor at the time.

Perhaps now is the moment for the correspondence to

be released and for this matter to be put into perspective and that perspective is that Sir John Kerr was forced into a political crisis not of his own making. His duty as Governor-General was to attempt to resolve the stalemate between the venal Whitlam and the over-ambitious Fraser.

All the discussions, consultations, negotiations, letters, advices and so on are irrelevant compared to the fact that the blockage of the Bills of Supply by the Coalition/Independents controlled Senate was put to the people to resolve.

Thank God we have a constitution that works and despite attempts by republican politicians, continues to work well.

When Malcolm Turnbull became a Member of Parliament and on each session thereafter he swore to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Queen.

One must question his motives, firstly in taking this oath if he doesn't mean it and secondly in trying to force the release of confidential papers in what is an obvious attempt to embarrass the Queen. An attempt that could well rebound and put the Liberal Party he now leads into a very bad light.

Philip Benwell, National Chair, Australian Monarchist League

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE ADVERTISER

Katrina Stokes article in Today's *Advertiser* advocating a Republic, unfortunately shows her shallow appreciation of Monarchy. We are not in any way governed by the United Kingdom. We are a Constitutional Monarchy and have as our Monarch, Queen Elizabeth 2nd. We are fortunate to share her in that role, along with other realms including Canada and New Zealand.

Although the Queen has been, and continues to be a wonderful example, there is much more to Monarchy than personalities. It provides a system of government where power is divided, thus avoiding a *coup d'état* for example. It is the Crown which sets us apart from republics.

In Australia, our Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove represents the Crown. He is Commander-in-Chief of the Military forces which denies any over ambitious Prime Minister from taking over the nation in a crisis, as we often notice elsewhere around the world. There is much more to the Monarchy than horse drawn carriages and ceremonies, which are more important to our national security. It is a pity more are not aware of it.

Ken Grundy, Naracoorte

TO THE AGE

All Australians, including those having indigenous ancestry, are well protected by our Constitution, which should not be used, as is currently proposed in some quarters, to favour one small, ill-defined ethnic group over all others. Debra Shill's idea that our 'first people' are excluded from our constitution (10/11) is a fantasy. The word 'fair' in our national anthem surely essentially has the connotations 'beautiful' and 'shining with light', so no Australian need feel offended by that.

As to the questions of justice and freedom, we are all fortunate to live in one of the best nations of the world at enshrining these ideals in community life.

It is regrettable that Aboriginals experience what appears to be disproportionate disadvantage in various contexts; but the remedies for this do not include artificially manufactured blame of others.
Nigel Jackson, Belgrave

It was good to see Bob Katter talk some common sense to Parliament about free trade with his critique being published in *OnTarget*, November 6, 2015. The economic elites of the chattering class have been gushing about the latest globalist adventures, the China Free Trade Agreement and the larger TPP, rolling out long-refuted arguments by 19th century Jewish economist David Ricardo about comparative advantage. Sorry, the comparative advantage argument only works without the free movement of financial capital and labour as economist Hermann Daly has often pointed out. In other words, globalism undermines Ricardo's argument.

Wally Klink (*OnTarget*, October 16, 2015) gets right to the point on the TPP: "The truly insidious and treasonous aspect of the TPP is the surrender of national sovereignty". While our "insidious" and "treasonous" elites have been rolling on the ground manically shouting "We are even more a part of Asia! Oh Asia! Oh money!"

In the United States Hillary Clinton has opposed the TPP, expressing scepticism that such agreements will open markets and create local jobs. (*The Australian*, October 9, 2015, p.10) This shows how far our elites have sold us out when we find ultra-politically correct über-Liberals such as Hillary Clinton defending national sovereignty.

In fact it is simply a myth to suppose that free trade agreements will support the growth of Australian agriculture and food as Mark Mick argues at theconversation.com, September 17, 2015.

Consulting OECD statistics he says:

"The balance of trade positions of Australian agriculture and food manufacturing have deteriorated since FTA's with New Zealand, the United States and Thailand have come into play".

Examining these FTA's he concluded: "Clearly, these three FTA's have failed to deliver. There has been no improvement evident in the agriculture and fruit trade position under any of these three agreements. Rather, deterioration has been evident in each case". And agriculture is the globalist fanatics best argument for Australia's internationalisation.

Foreign Investment:

Selling the Family Farm

The Chinese corporate buyout of Australia continues at record speed. In Queensland alone, in 2014-2015, the Chinese corporate's gobbled up nearly \$1 billion in properties. (*The Australian*, October 21, 2015, p.5) Again, like free trade the economic globalist see no limit to such foreign buy-ups. If all Australian farms and infrastructure was owned by China that wouldn't matter.

Likewise with comparative advantages, if Australia has no comparative advantage in anything, then let the nation and its people die.

All that matters is the global market, and money and power for the international Money-Power.

Thus our elites were overjoyed when Darwin Harbour was sold in October 2015 by the Northern Territory government to a private Chinese corporation.

Strategic thinkers were concerned about the military ramifications of this given that Darwin is central to US operations in South East Asia. (*The Weekend Australian*, November 7-8 2015, p.20) There are, nevertheless military and strategic concerns which far outweigh economics.

US v China War:

Australia as the Meat in the Sandwich

Mike Adams at NaturalNews.com has been arguing for some time that there is an-as-yet undeclared war occurring between the United States on the one hand and China, backed by Russia. For example an unarmed Trident missile was fired from the USS Kentucky Navy submarine recently. The Federal Aviation Administration prevented planes from flying over the area even though the Los Angeles airport is the second busiest in the United States. Mike Adams hypothesises that the test missile claim is nonsensical because missiles don't have to be tested in such highly busy areas.

The real reason is detailed in a report from the Congressional Research Service, *China Naval Modernisation: Implications for United States Navy Capabilities - Background Issues for Congress*, (September 21, 2015).

The message here is that China can now destroy all US Navy ships. The White House, under the guise of dealing with solar flares, is also now taking seriously the likelihood of a Chinese EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack designed to destroy electronics.

A National Security report has detailed how such weapons plan to be used against the United States.

In this context the Trident missile launch can be seen as a warning to China. Presumably the United States is saying that a Trident missile with a nuclear warhead could devastate Beijing. It is worth noting that both China and Russia have attempted to hack secrets about Australia's submarine project. (*The Australian*, November 9, 2015)

The globalist cult of free trade and immigration will prove to be a major security risk for Australia as we enter World War III (or is it "World War IV?")

SOCIAL CREDIT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

I am not favourably impressed with all the hysterics and histrionics about climate change. Climate change has been occurring since the origins of the planet and will continue to occur under influences far greater than man has capacity in the long run to alter, primarily that of the sun. Carbon dioxide is not “dirty” and is absolutely essential to plant growth which has been lush at times when its content was higher. We are not talking here about carbon monoxide or other genuine pollutants which do require monitoring and regulation.

Recent studies have, I think, thoroughly debunked these strident allegations about irreversible contemporary warming of the earth. (As a Canadian I wouldn't mind having warmer winters and I understand the Russians have similar thoughts.) As has been said any number of times, one volcanic eruption could almost immediately undo any and all efforts on the part of man to alter the composition of the atmosphere. This whole contrived debate revolves around political ambition and economic rivalry and constitutes a form of thought pollution which far exceeds its alleged physical counterpart.

The promoters of the “climate change” chimera tend to be ill-informed authoritarians who spend sleepless nights dreaming up new schemes by which to herd masses of people as compliant automatons into ever larger global pens - and people who see in such schemes an opportunity to derive economic and political power at the expense of others.

There appears to be a considerable element of envy or jealousy involved where some people, who are self-conscious underachievers, publicity seekers and/or zealots, aspire to pull others down to their own level of mediocrity and are willing to misrepresent the facts in their efforts to do so.

There is undeniably more than a grain of truth in environmental concerns but this has primarily to do with the existing defective banking and financial cost-accountancy regime which requires increasingly that some further act of production is necessary before we as a society can claim the entirety of goods flowing from the production line in any given cycle. This accounts for evermore irrelevant, wasteful and/or destructive activity - increasingly for military expenditure without which the economy of the United States would collapse overnight. The so-called “environmentalists” appear to be totally blind to the primary source of environmental damage or degradation and socio-economic turmoil in the world - with all of its resultant political chaos. I wonder why it is that the environmental movement is so (willfully?) blind to the financial factor as causative in the affairs of mankind. Are its adherents simply blind or do they have aspirations for world power which are consonant with those of the international banking fraternity?

There appear to be genuine environmentalists and pseudo-environmentalists.

Wally Klinck, Canada

SCENARIOS FOR CRISIS AND CONTROL

‘The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule.’ H. L. Mencken

Huxley wrote, 'Permanent crisis justifies permanent control of everybody and everything by the agencies of the central government'.

For generations the international coteries that desire centralised world control have offered up continuing scenarios of crises generally of their own making, to be 'cured' by the global concentration of power, first via the ill-fated League of Nations in the aftermath of World War I, and then via the United Nations in the aftermath of World War II.

Italian industrialist Aurelio Peccei co-founded the Club of Rome with Alexander King in 1968 as a globalist think tank for detailing crisis scenarios and proposing globalist solutions, principally through the expansion of the authority of the United Nations. Peccei was a regular attendee of the annual Bilderberg conferences.

In 1991 the Club of Rome issued its report on global crises with emphasis on global warming and population, in time for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development which issued Agenda 21. Among the crisis scenarios that had to be dealt with by ‘global governance’ were global food security, overpopulation, AIDS, wars, peak oil, and the

re-emergence of nationalism with the demise of the Soviet bloc. Authors Alexander King and Bertrand Schneider give humanity a stark choice between the tragedy of division or the hope of global authority: 'In a declaration made by the Club of Rome in 1985 we said, “there could be a bright and fulfilling future awaiting humanity if it has the wisdom to reach out and grasp the difficulties ahead or a slow and painful decline if it neglects to do so.”

The hope of humanity is that we take up the challenge and accede to ‘global governance,’ which is said not to be a ‘world state’ as such but an international system of laws, upheld by an institution with expanded powers, such as the UN. The Club of Rome credits itself with having made humanity conscious of world crises by having the issues taken up by the news media. The authors state: ‘Never in the course of history has humanity been faced with so many threats and dangers . . . The challenge...as a global challenge requires a global approach.’

Among the various crises facing humanity that require ‘global governance,’ even in 1991 ‘global warming’ figures as the most prominent. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page) 'Prevention of global warming represents one of the greatest challenges humanity has faced, and demands an international effort.' This 'international effort' includes an 'energy tax'. The Club of Rome report recommends the creation of a 'UN Environmental Security Council,' like the UN Security Council, composed of politicians, industrialists, economists and scientists. Under their auspices there would be regular meetings between industrial leaders, bankers and government officials, to be called 'Global Development Rounds.'

The Club of Rome report makes the bizarre admission that they 'searched for a common enemy' to justify 'global governance' and 'came up with' a number of disaster scenarios. However these need to be dealt with by a fundamental shift in human consciousness; that is to say, humanity must shift to a global consciousness: "In searching for a common enemy against whom we can unite, we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water

WHAT DROWNING SEAS? from Andrew Bolt's Blog

Tony Thomas contrasts predictions by warmists of massive sea rises with the actual record so far. (Note: the effect of movements of the tectonic plates are not factored in.)

I stumbled the other day across a user-friendly website for actual sea-level data (no forecasting or homogenising involved). It's not one of those sceptic sites, like joannenova.com.au, but from NOAA, America's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. NOAA tracks sea-level movements around the globe via tide gauges.

Try starting with the NOAA sea data for Sydney (Fort Denison) and Fremantle.

The Sydney data goes all the way back to 1886. The reference point is a plug in the northern wall of the Department of Lands Building in Bridge Street. There are other plugs in the stone wall on Fort Denison and Mrs Macquarie's Point.

For the period 1886-2010, the sea level at Fort Denison rose by 0.65mm/year, a rate of 6.5cm per century. That is a fifth of a foot, in other words. So tiny? Some mistake, surely! Let's check the Sydney numbers against those for Fremantle, 4000km to the west. In this case, the reference point is a little brass plate set in concrete below a cover plate at the inshore corner of 'A berth' landing.

CHINA'S RENMINBI AS A WORLD CURRENCY: Endorsed by the City of London

By Ariel Noyola Rodríguez: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/author/ariel-noyola>

The Government of China promotes the internationalization of *the people's currency* ('renminbi') through a policy of alliances that does not take ideological barriers into account. In an initial stage the diplomatic forces of the yuan were concentrated in the Asia Pacific region, but in a second stage, it became necessary to gain the support of the West.

After the President Xi Jinping visited London, between the 19th and the 23rd of October, the basis of the *golden age* between China and the United Kingdom were established.

shortages, famine and the like, would fit the bill. In their totality and interaction these phenomena do constitute a common threat to humanity, which must be confronted by everyone together. But in designating these dangers, we fall into the trap, which we have already warned readers about, namely mistaking symptoms for causes. All these dangers are caused by human intervention in natural processes and it is only through changed attitudes and behaviour that they can be overcome. The real enemy is humanity itself".

The 'human intervention in natural processes' some of which are indeed very real, "is intervention by the very bankers and industrialists with their system of international finance and commerce, that has created the problems in the first place". They now pose as our saviours from these problems of their own making, by proposing solutions that will invest them with greater power.

Revolution from Above - Dr Kerry Bolton (Arktos Media)

From 1897 to 2010, the average annual rise at Fremantle was 1.54mm, or 15.4cm or a mere 6 inches per century.

So head north to Bundaberg and Townsville, and all you get is 5.8cm and 14.8cm per century, respectively, a few inches and half a foot. Criss-cross to t'other side, Port Hedland (21.8cm/century) and Carnarvon (28.9cm/century). That's a bit higher, but we're still only talking of barely a foot in 100 years.

Over to NZ then, let's spread our sample. Same boring story, 12-23cm per century. So head for those drowning Pacific isles, Tuvalu and Kiribati. Tuvalu gets an average annual rise (since 1977) of 3.74mm or 37cm a century: 15 inches. This rate could become a problem in 30-50 years if the islanders maintain their high birth rate and continue degrading their environment. Even so, the island chain's surface area is growing, not drowning.

But here's Kiribati: a mere 6cm per century, a few inches. Then there's the Cook Islands (15cm per century or half a foot), Palau just a tad higher, and the Marshall Islands, higher again at 36cm, or 14in. But those statue-building descendants on Easter Island can relax: their vast Pacific Ocean surrounds are rising at a mere 3.3cm per century, or not quite 2 inches in a 100 years.

Numbers like this spoil the narrative of our coastal-catastrophes-to-come.

LETTER TO ALAN JONES: 2GB RADIO

Dear Alan, a friend forwarded me the extract of your show where you spoke so strongly about the mining and resulting casualties in good farming areas. It was a great message and I forwarded it to many of my contacts with the same concerns.

I had previously learned of the death of George Bender. What a blot on the miners; especially Origin who no doubt provided 'the last straw' as far as he was concerned. I liked your reference to Company Environmental Impact Statements being so bulky that nobody actually studies them and in any case whether the Coalition or Labor are in power, they pass it, since they are significantly funded by the miners. What hope does a little old farmer have?

Most conservative commentators support mining, even if it threatens the environment, because of its benefits to the economy. They will support practically anything because of our debt situation. This thinking has been endorsed recently with moves to prevent those not directly affected in an area, being able to lodge legitimate objections. Why shouldn't they show concern? Thankfully, you are the exception to the rule and you lucidly project the case for landholder rights and environment protection.

The main question remains. What are we going to do about it? What strategy should we adopt?

I am a retired farmer in the SE of SA and have been involved in political activity for fifty years. The overall situation has worsened. I suppose one could claim it would have worsened more quickly had people like you and me, not been active. I have been involved in political parties and farm bodies. The former have MPs who are not bound to the membership and the latter do some good but often finish up on the wrong side. Over the years we have seen a proliferation of new parties, many of which begin with good policies but there is power behind the scenes which use the media to cast them in a bad light which brings about their demise.

We have had some very good Independent MPs but there have been a few disasters too and the image of an Independent means it is difficult to win. The one consolation is that MPs are responsible to their electors and I believe this provides the best avenue for corrective action. It might seem too slow for some but is it better to go slowly and succeed or go swiftly and waste much time, energy and money?

Action needs to be outside of the party system. Electors are the people employing the representative and are entitled to know where the candidates stand on certain matters. So it is right and proper to get answers prior to polling day. Furthermore, candidates who are genuine should be willing to sign an undertaking to pursue, to the best of their ability, specific policies raised by electors which have common appeal. We must sort out 'promises' which are offered without sincerity prior to polling day. **A genuine commitment is required.**

Hopefully, most of the candidates would provide some response. Then even if the candidate with the best answers was not elected, the successful one would have given a commitment of some sort, meaning electors had something to work on. It is likely that a small committee would organise the questions (only about 6) to candidates and they would publicise the responses before voting day. The same committee or any individual would ideally follow up after the elections to assist the winning candidate achieve the desired result.

Once a couple of successful exercises along these lines are achieved, it would spread like wildfire to other electorates.

I see this as a way to break the strength of parties where the elected MP obeys party policy ahead of his constituents. We know parties will always exist but as long as the candidate (even a party man) has given a signed commitment to his electors, it does not matter under which banner he stood.

There are plenty of candidates offering for the job - the key is to get them to undertake to work firstly for their constituents.

Ken Grundy, Naracoorte

"Alan Jones responded to the letter with encouragement and he agreed it was essential MP's give first loyalty to their constituents."

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