

Collected Twitter/X Posts: September – December 2023

This was arguably one of the most important and tragic periods of Australian history. The first referendum influenced by social media was a catalyst for Australia's propensity to vote no to change. The failed referendum on an Aboriginal Voice to Parliament leaves Australia's White Australia era, "horse and buggy" Constitution frozen in time. The implications go far beyond the dreadful result for Aboriginal communities and for Aboriginal leaders. Every Australian is held down by a society structured by colonialism, un-necessary bureaucracy and overly centralised government. This was a thoroughly awful period in which many honest people and particularly Aboriginal people were bullied and harassed.

X/Twitter was the frontline of hate, ignorance and malevolence. Let us never forget these battlelines and the extent to which politicians were prepared to sell their souls for cheap and nasty ends.

What was lost must now be reclaimed and fought for again with renewed purpose and vigour. Next time let us be armed with an awareness of the extent to which lies, deception and misinformation would become acceptable by people who should have known better.

15/01/2024

16/9/2023

#reasonstovoteyes2023

#yesrunsonlove

#theygolowwegohigher

The very sad and terrible effect of JNP's National Press Club speech is that it not only sends a 'dog whistle' throughout our Australian community: 'its ok to be racist, we appreciate you and are thankful for the tea, flour and running water you provide'; it sends another message to Aboriginal people in remote and regional areas who are under the thumb of the local National party and squatocracy: "dont even think about independence or asserting your cultural independence. If you want something you must come up to me in my parliamentary office and beg. Because only I your local National Party representative will be the Voice for your community."

16/9/2023

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#reasonstovoteyes2023

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One of the things we are finding out through the 2023 Referendum campaign is that the whole country is on a steep learning curve, no more so apparently, than our journalists and media. Patiently and steadfastly let us continue to state the truth and the facts and consider legitimate enquiries and concerns with generosity.

16/9/2023

#reasonstovoteyes2023

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It was not the venue that was the concern. It was the closed-press conference-like-atmosphere of the whole event. Has the national press club become party to such events? Or is it a forum in which the national interest can be discussed openly and without fear or favour?

16/9/2023

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This is just a distraction from the real issue at hand in the 2023 Referendum which is 'empowered Aboriginal communities' that are able to act for themselves and to pull themselves out of the mire of Commonwealth, State and territory welfarism and paternalism.

But since you asked and I know you are playing catch up Crackers like so many others, here is some information for you. There have and continue to be magnificent people working to protect Aboriginal children across the country. However when this issue becomes politicised by the likes of JNP, Pauline Dutton, Bronwyn Bishop then everything goes pear shaped such as the \$589 million disastrous Northern Territory Intervention instigated by the Howard government in 2007 which instead of fixing any problems made them worse and succeeded in completely demoralising local Aboriginal leaders and denuding their capacity to act for themselves.

As Catherine Liddle also suggests below, like Pat Anderson, Aboriginal leaders are sick of policy being changed, programs abolished and new policies being implemented without

consultation with either leaders or people who are closest to the issues.

We need a long term vision and constancy of purpose in this and so many other areas thus, not just 'symbolic recognition' which would just leave problems as they stand unfixed but 'recognition with a voice' that allows people on the ground in communities to monitor and account for policy closest to them.

So if you are really serious about these issues volunteer to work in a community and please note that there are very much worse rates of child abuse in several non-Aboriginal mainstream Australian communities.

More on how the voice will help? Here is a message from Catherine Liddle the CEO of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) organisations:

https://youtube.com/watch?v=LrDb95aiq60&ab_channel=GirlsfromOz... Please watch this.

<https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/57.4%20%E2%80%9CLittle%20Children%20are%20Sacred%E2%80%9D%20report.pdf...>

<https://aifs.gov.au/resources/policy-and-practice-papers/child-abuse-and-neglect-indigenous-australian-communities...>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Children_are_Sacred#:~:text=The%20report%2C%20entitled%20Ampe%20Akelyernemane,national%20significance%20by%20both%20the...

https://snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/2016-2021_Strategic_Plan-Compatible.pdf16/9/2023

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"And as for those progressives who are thinking of voting "No" in October because they don't think a Voice to Parliament goes far enough, it's worth considering where a "No" vote leaves us. If the attitudes of Jacinta Price and the conservative "No" campaign are accepted as mainstream, we won't be able to have a [welcome to Country](#), let alone a treaty. Something to think about."

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Daniel James, The Monthly, 15 September, 2023

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/the-politics/daniel-james/2023/09/15/denial-reality>

16/9/2023

#reasonstovoteyes #2078

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"Terra nullius is an extreme example of racial discrimination which has wrought devastating trauma upon generations of colonised Indigenous Australian peoples. It was the act of colonisation based on racial discrimination that allowed for continuing legalised forms of discrimination that dramatically impacted upon the lives of all Aboriginal people. The operation of the Aborigines Act 1905 of Western Australia permitted the removal of Aboriginal children from their families and the cruelty of their lives in so-called 5 'humanitarian' institutions. It was this same legislation which legalised the indenturing (or forced slavery) of men, women and children to white farmers, pastoralists and pearlers, and which established the apartheid-like reserve system, encouraging police surveillance over the lives of hard-working, decent people. Of course, Aboriginal people in Western Australia, like in most other

states, did not have basic citizenship rights accorded to them. They could apply for such rights if they could prove that they had adopted the ways of 'the civilised This is not ancient history— it is the story of my grandfather and great-grandmother

Hannah McGlade, Langton, Marcia, et al. **Honour among Nations? : Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous People**, Melbourne University Publishing, 2004. p250

Reposted 16/9/2023

#reasonstovoteyes #2079

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"It is becoming clear the Voice referendum is our Brexit moment. The "No" case is being built around misinformation and fear. The basest anxieties are being stoked. As with Brexit, the choice made on October 14 will say a great deal about the country that made it.

A defeat would lead inevitably to a loss in international standing and influence – a perception, quite inaccurate, that Australia has not forsaken its racist past. As occurred in Britain, there will be, a few months hence, a severe case of buyer's remorse."

Barry Jones, "The Voice is Our Brexit Moment"

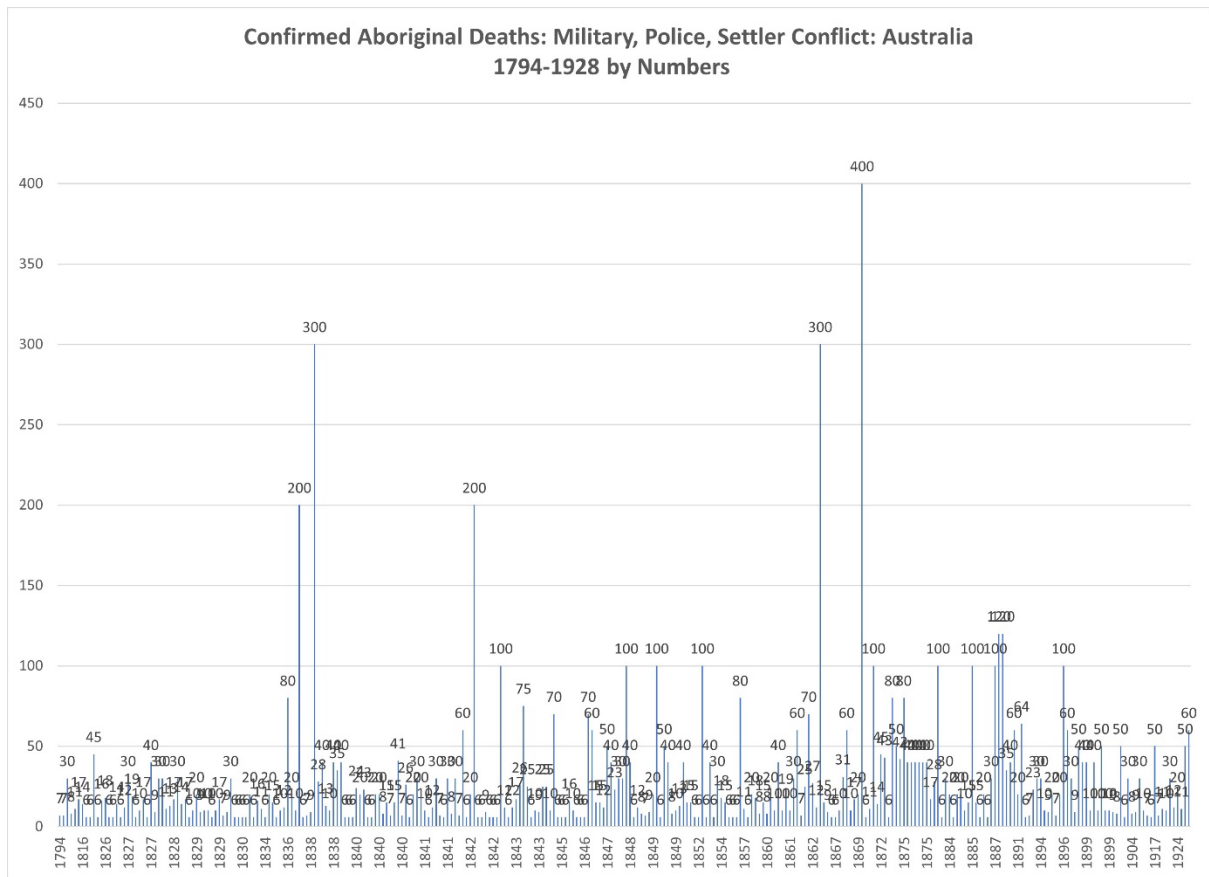
16/9/203

#reasonstovoteyes #2080

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I thought that we would never have to put this information up for Australians to see in a public debater. But here it is.



16/9/2023

17/9/2023

#reasonstovoteyes

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Wishing great luck and good spirits to everyone walking for Yes today and for everyone else having a restful and peaceful Sunday!

https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/marrakpmi-garray-beloved-christ?si=c53e699b365249539a4d8285608dfdc1&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/handing-on-knowledge-djg-healing-peter-botsman-garma-2008?si=4c304e7856a94cc182c18bace2bdcaed&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

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Graham, I am surprised you ask this question. However I have replied to others in previous posts. So you could look back if you liked by following the hashtags above.

One of the inspirations for 'recognition with a voice' was the empowered communities experiment which first began under Tony Abbott in 2013. It has involved ten communities in all States and Territories. At the centre of the project are forums where representatives of each community talk with Commonwealth and State politicians and bureaucrats to ensure that purposeful decisions are made. This has worked very well for ten years and continues for these communities. It is the embodiment of subsidiarity and how things can change for the better when people in the community are consulted about politics that effect them. The Liberal National party knows full well of this project, and liked to claim it as their own at one point, and no-one cared if they did. But for political reasons Peter Dutton and David Littleproud have chosen to argue that there are no details or substance behind the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This is completely untrue. This is just one example of why the referendum has emerged and it involved bi-partisan, non political ideas and projects.

The fear element of what is happening comes from preying on the fragility of all communities post pandemic and during tough economic times: why should someone get something when I am doing it tough. This is called a 'dog whistle', the Americans call it 'race baiting'. In fact in almost every case this is just about power plays and winning votes as Mark Twain said once fear and negativity

can roll around the world while truth and justice are tying up their shoelaces. As you can see from the example of empowered communities, this 2023 Referendum is not about spending more or getting something special. It is about doing things better. My own opinion from watching these things for the past twenty years is that any expenditure that is devoted to "the Voice" will pay itself off ten times over in productivity savings and direct government policy savings. It will also bring accountability to what Senator Liddle beautifully described as the conga line of consultancies and third parties contracting to both Commonwealth and State governments to 'service' Aboriginal communities.

This is a start for what is a complicated area of policy, human agency and cultural differences, which I haven't even addressed here.

<https://empoweredcommunities.org.au/>

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One of the people, I and many people involved in Aboriginal work and policy for many years, are most disappointed in, is Bob Katter. Many might be surprised that I might say this, but Katter was a decent Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Joh era who gave back the Deed of Grant in Trust lands back for Aboriginal self determination. It was a good step for the times.

I would have thought Bob knows that subsidiarity - allowing policy decisions to be made closest to the people effected by them is a good thing particularly in remote areas. This is of course one of the guiding principles of 'recognition with a voice'.

Why is Katter supporting the 'no' case? I note that he seems despondent about the whole Referendum. But I can only think that he, like the National Party, are threatened by the effect of an Aboriginal consultancy body in the remote and regional areas. It is a mad position because the opposite would be the case. Good local members of whatever party working together with local Aboriginal community leaders would lead to prosperity and greater productivity for all.

<https://twitter.com/realbobkatter>

Below my analysis of the political calculations behind JNP's positions.

The very sad and terrible effect of JNP's National Press Club speech is that it not only sends a 'dog whistle' throughout our Australian community: 'its ok to be racist, we appreciate you and are thankful for the tea, flour and running water you provide'; it sends another message to Aboriginal people in remote and regional areas who are under the thumb of the local National party and squatocracy: "don't even think about independence or asserting your cultural independence. If you want something you must come up to me in my parliamentary office and beg. Because only I your local National Party representative will be the Voice for your community."

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It is very clear that Warren Mundine is just looking after his own political interests by saying what he thinks the mainstream community wants to hear.

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I feel sad now to watch the ABC. It has just lost its capacity to lead or to provoke ideas in Australian current affairs. Even when people who have something to say appear, it is like Bruce Doull the flying doormat appears. Clearly the new editorial policy is to try to represent all of the mainstream media positions and the result is fluff. There really is a problem with the state of journalism in Australia because of our media monopolies and the second rate propagandistic element that exists. So giving credence to that is just dreadful and results in mediocrity. Looking forward to a new forward thinking, innovative ABC Chairperson taking over in 2024 who might shake the place up. In the meantime, I guess the truth is there are many sources of information and it is up to all of us to use them.

17/9/2023

Good article by Bridget Brennan this week.

A bruising week for Indigenous people as the nation debates the Voice and opens old wounds

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-13/voice-misinformation-stolen-generation-victoria-first-people/102850668?utm_campaign=newsweb-article-new-share-null&utm_content=twitter&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web via @ABCAustralia
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'I am not selling anything. I am walking together with my fellow Australians. Today was one of the best days of my life. I look forward to October 14 being a once in a life time beautiful day for all of us'.

Rachel Perkins, Sunday Project Interview, 17/9/2023

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Big revelation tonight: expected to see much more coverage of the rallies all over the country on the evening news. Instead there was minimalistic coverage of 150,000 people in the various cities. We have had almost equal coverage of tiny aged care home rallies by the no campaign. Mundine and Price get much more coverage than yes spokespeople.

There is an old saying in politics: "never criticize the media no matter what they do". The whole art of public relations is buttering them up and providing them with ready written articles, press releases, press kits etc. Of course the really good "communications" directors always said 'speak from the heart because then you wont make a mistake'. But its a cut throat business.

So here is tonight's revelation, what did the Morrison government do well? Or at least what did they fork out millions and millions of dollars for? Public relations! There were more spin doctors in every Ministers office than has ever been the case in the history of the Commonwealth.

When Albo came into power all of these people were retrenched with only a minority still being employed in Opposition offices. Don Russell one of the wisest old hands in Canberra really set the scene for Albo: reinvest in good government and the competency of the public service and trying to rebuild expertise in the civil service. If you like Sir Humphrey over Scotty from Marketing. So a very few spin doctors comparatively.

Where did all Morrison's pr people go? My god they went into one of the few areas where there is a few dollars to be made atm: the no campaign. I have heard a few murmurings about the lack of public relations strategy from the yes campaign. So there is probably some substance to it.

Its good to think about all this for a couple of reasons. 1) It underscores the genuine-ness of the Yes campaign. It really is a people's campaign. 2) As Rachel Perkins said tonight it is going to be up to us volunteers to defy all the spin and get the messages out to our fellow Australians 3) Perhaps we do have to criticize the media a little less, I think many journalists do feel under siege, they are trying to do the right thing but they need packages of information that they can use, and perhaps the no side is doing this better than we are. 4) Despite all this, heart can win the communications war even against dastardly negative campaigns which many of the ex-Morrison crew specialise in. 6) The 2023 Referendum is an opportunity to create one of those break through historical moments when justice prevails and ordinary people defy the odds and achieve something extra special. 30 days to go.

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We are decent, we're not Dutton.

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The "No" campaign is all spin and no substance.

We are decent, we're not Dutton.

A few one liners for the trolls.

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A good Voice mechanism will feed into grass roots networks from community in all its forms. Aboriginal civil society is currently vastly unrepresented if not represented at all in the public affairs of the nation. Aboriginal local civil mechanisms, over time, because it will take time, can start to build some local goals and outcomes: ie we want some local businesses, sustainable shops, cheaper food prices, we want a stronger market economy, we want to support traditional culture, we want to create a chamber of commerce etc.. This is currently missing in every Aboriginal community. What does exist is government service agencies. Commonwealth and State funded

Aboriginal organisations have to spend a lot of money on Qantas to lobby Canberra bureaucrats who often control the sum total of all of their income. This is who the coalition of peaks represents. The COP is a good development because areas like education, health, child care, safety organisations have silo-ed funding and they don't talk to each other enough, COP encourages cross agency communications. Aboriginal organisations in places like Broome did their own population surveys and identified problems that Canberra had no idea even existed and they have understood there is power in working together and seasoned Aboriginal workers have articulated some brilliant local goals involving cross agency cooperation, such as making housing for transient people coming through town a priority. There's a lot more to say. But you get an idea I hope of how the Voice will help to create new possibilities and strengthen good things that are occurring. The Empowered Communities model is yet another dimension to these matters. Ideally the Voice will make every Aboriginal community an empowered community.

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We have the ultimate communications strategy within us. Every day meditate for love and greater awareness from 7am to 7.30am for ten minutes. Please find this link to Mr. Gurruwiwi's healing yidaki which will be of great benefit to you and will connect us all in a positive vibration for our country, our lands and seas and skies. As Mr. Gurruwiwi used to say when the Gälpu played the yidaki the vibration travelled all over the land bringing blessings and good will to all.

https://soundcloud.com/kangarooova/handing-on-knowledge-djg-healing-peter-botsman-garma-2008?si=fac8eba13cb34731aed675979fd90caf&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

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Many Indigenous people want more from the Balanda system of governance. They want recognition of their own system of governance and more say in local affairs. Local decision making is what is needed to give more control over their lives. Yirjiya Guyula, MLA for Mulka, represents the people from his Arnhem Land electorate. From his latest newsletter comes this comment:

“A vote on changing the Constitution will be held this year. The vote will ask you if you want to include a First Nations Voice to Federal Parliament in the Constitution of Australia.

I will be voting YES because it is time for First Nations people to be recognised as the First Peoples of this country. We have never ceded our sovereignty and we will remain sovereign...

The Voice is the messenger - and it must not speak over the top of people but amplify the grassroots voices from across Australia. The Voice must not take our decision-making power - but make sure that we have genuine local decision-making power.

Voice, Treaty and Truth are about First Nations people having the power to decide our future. For these reasons I will vote YES.”

Gwenda Baker, Historian of Arnhem Land, 18/9/2023

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The Voice Versus the National Party

Why is the LNP fighting the Voice so actively?

At the 50 minute mark of the JNP's National Press Club speech she answers a question about her claim that the Voice would "undermine parliamentarians" aka National Party representatives in the rural and regional areas. This is certainly where the vehement resistance on the part of the LNP comes from. She says: "We are talking about constitutionally enshrining an unknown entity at this stage that we know activists have suggested will be weaponised to punish parliamentarians such as myself. So that objective is there for those that want to occupy positions of power on this Voice. Now what we want to do in the Coalition is amplify the voices of people in regional and remote communities and I wouldnt even use the word voice but thats what we would seek to do and we need ears in Canberra and we need to be listening to the regions".

It is so clear that the LNP, and the National Party in particular fear the Voice as something that would undermine their capacity to represent rural and remote Australia. It will show them up big time. Why? Because enhancing Aboriginal community capacity will also enhance the capacity of the whole rural and remote community.

The LNP is purely interested in its own self preservation. That is why JNP exists that is the basis of the LNP's desperate protests and misinformation. They are petrified that such an entity would succeed. What a shameful exercise in cynical politics.

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Most Australians were really sick of Scotty from Marketing. He was I thought gone and his ignominious reign behind us. But the central role of marketing is still with us it seems? And it is leading of all things the program that is supposed to be the ABC's watch dog on the media. Tonight on Media Watch we had the pleasure of hearing the great wisdom of marketeers on why the Yes and No campaigns are not cutting through and succeeding with Australians. Maybe it should merge with the Gruen Report.

So you see it is not about the truth or substance of campaigns? It is about how they are failing or not failing with their marketing strategy. Toby Ralph has the gall to say that both sides are failing because they are not listening to spin doctors like him and then Kos Kameron's his political counter-balance says the Yes campaign messaging is not simple enough. Then to top it off we have a statement posted by Fair Australia which is just pure spin.

What is the purpose of Media Watch? Paul Barry, in a post truth world, one would have thought that an important ingredient of your show would be substance and facts not the multi-various opinions of spin doctors.

Paul's objective commentators on The Voice were:

Toby Ralph, described as one of the 'most powerful spinners and advisers in Australia', has worked on over forty elections across three continents, including all of Australia's federal elections since John Howard became prime minister. He calls himself a marketing bloke and sometime propagandist. The *Sydney Morning Herald* said: 'Look behind big political and corporate events – such as the four pillars banking debate in the late 1990s, the republican debate, corporate reviews, conflicts, takeovers, mergers and restructures in the media, construction, transport, superannuation, mining, export, gaming,

and finance industries, environmental debates, many big listed company issues, and under-budget major infrastructure projects — and find his handiwork.'

Kosmos Samaras (born 1970/1971^[1]) is an Australian [lobbyist](#), [pollster](#), and former [Victorian Labor](#) strategist. He helped run Labor's state election campaigns for 14 years before departing in 2019 to found [RedBridge](#), a political consultancy firm, which has become influential in Victorian politics.

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"A vote on changing the Constitution will be held this year. The vote will ask you if you want to include a First Nations Voice to Federal Parliament in the Constitution of Australia.

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Mark Yirjiya Guyula, MLA for Mulka, Arnhem Land

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An Old Man learns something..

A younger person explained to me today something that I hadn't quite understood: we oldies are in his words "the teenagers of the internet" ie naive and gullible. He explained "astro turfing" and a lot of other nasty cyber games to me – these are things that most under 30s and especially under 25s understand because they have been exposed to them every day on tik tok, facebook and in many other different applications.

"Astroturfing is the practice of hiding the sponsors of a message or organization (e.g., political, advertising, religious, or public relations) to make it appear as though it originates from, and is supported by, grassroots participants. It is a practice intended to give the statements or organizations credibility by withholding information about the source's financial backers. The term astroturfing is derived from AstroTurf, a brand of synthetic carpeting designed to resemble natural grass, as a play on the word "grassroots". The implication behind the use of the term is that instead of a "true" or "natural" grassroots effort behind the activity in question, there is a "fake" or "artificial" appearance of support."

"Astroturfing" is a sinister practice and if you think about how Donald Trump denied the results of the US Presidential election you can imagine how astroturfing might extend to polling and to voting. I don't think even George Orwell imagined a big brother that could so deceptively manipulate the very core of democracy.

But "Astroturfing" maybe tame compared to "cyber-ops" which are military like campaigns designed to demoralise a target group. "Tokyo Rose" came to my mind as I read some of the "no" campaign's misinformation. The analogy is not so far off except that these days it can be targeted with some expertise at particular groups of people vulnerable to conspiracy theories and lies.

What does it all mean? The thoughtful members of the younger generation feel ready to quit the cyber world altogether. I can certainly understand that. One of the many no campaigners that regularly invades the most positive and popular notes put up by the yes campaign confidently posted his nasty reply today and added 'I love to see you wasting your time'.

I may be naive but I don't think we are wasting our time. There have been 1.5 million impressions for the yes posts I have added for the month of August/September and I know that many of you are genuine, kind, well intentioned people and there are some 'no' campaigners who are in the same camp.

The main media organisations seem to be old fashioned propaganda units just pumping out narrow political manipulative articles all being written from one perspective.

So this is our new world and this is our challenge. We can add content that backfills the vacuum of the mainstream media. We can add our ideas and research and we can build networks that are empowering through our collective sharing and criticism. I also think we can challenge the world of cyber ops, astroturfing and sheer manipulative corruption.

The 2023 Referendum is a crossroads for our nation. All those who are thinking of voting no on October 14 have an obligation to have a good think hard about the information they are relying on and to consider whether people are messing with their fears. On the yes side the Voice is something that must be developed in its detail by the Commonwealth parliament. Australians have a natural propensity to distrust government and politicians but that is all the more reason to continue to debate the issues and to make sure that, for example, the Voice is not a bureaucratic, Canberra based organisation and that it is a force for subsidiarity. The incredible networks of people that have been bound together in communities,

through social media and through churches and other organisations can continue to be a force for good, defying the nuisance and nonsense of the astroturfers and cyber ops groups. I hope so but maybe I am just a naive old man.

20/09/2023

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Freedom, Liberty, Government and the 2023 Referendum

One of the standard replies to the "nah dunno" troops is do some work and research on what 'recognition with a voice' means and dont go for the lowest reason you oppose something, think of its most compelling reason then see if you can argue against that.

So the strongest suit I can see for the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) case against voting yes is their argument that The Voice might impinge on natural freedom, liberty and involves big government. This appeals to the natural anti-authoritarian ideals of Australia. I remember the old BLF President Bobby Pringle railing against an id card or any requirement for an Australian person born in Australia to have to explain their identity to anyone. The Right and the Left come together here in various ideals of libertarianism. It also appeals to Aboriginal concepts of sovereignty that are natural rights completely independent of any government Commonwealth, State or Local. So for many voting No is a way of asserting their freedom.

My argument against this is that after 1967 when the Commonwealth assumed primary responsibility for Aboriginal affairs, government dominates 100 per cent of the lives of many Aboriginal people. In my view since that time 'Canberra under-developed Aboriginal Australia'. In the community I have worked in

for all of 2023 100 per cent of the 100 million dollar economy is dominated by Canberra. Whether it be welfarism, schooling, health, infrastructure provision everything is determined elsewhere either in Canberra or Darwin. Moreover each parcel of funding comes with its own command and consultation system. Each of the silos of funding tends to create their own congregation of people who serve as community consultation but they are totally captured by each system.

If ever there are/were communities that need to be unshackled from the dictates of government, need more freedom and more liberty, from missions to the current welfare based economy, they are Aboriginal communities.

How will voting yes help freedom and liberty for Aboriginal people in remote and regional areas? [Empowered communities](#) are one indicator of how things can change when there is more subsidiarity in decision making. In these communities Aboriginal representatives are empowered to bring government decision makers to a round table of decisions and the effects of policy can be openly discussed in a way that is not captured by the bureaucrats or government officials.

Not only can closing the gaps targets be better understood, measured and realised at grass roots levels, but bigger questions can be asked and bigger requests can be made. For example in every Aboriginal community there needs to be a more diverse economy of small businesses. How can the large sums of money that are spent in the name of Aboriginal communities flow not to fly in, fly out contractors but Aboriginal people who live permanently in the community? The Voice can also talk to lands councils about how the many regulations can be changed to ensure more Aboriginal businesses and more Aboriginal people in work beyond just CDEP. There are some big questions and issues to tackle.

Everyone is reminded in many remote and regional communities that there was a time when there was 100 per cent employment.. mission, pastoral and traditional society employed everybody meaningfully. These sorts of issues need an ongoing Voice to break through with new models and which empower grass roots people and families to thrive. I could go on and on but I hope you understand my point.

A vote of Yes in the 2023 Referendum is the most profound way of encouraging greater freedom, liberty and especially freedom from the shackles of government for Aboriginal communities. It will lift their productivity and prosperity and improve our whole nation.

Tomorrow lets look at the related subject of whether or not the Voice will be just another Canberra, elite-driven, bureaucracy.

21/09/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

I think what Barnaby meant to say was the biggest average divide between rich and poor and the biggest correlation of poverty with Aboriginal Australians. The question is why then wouldn't the Nationals be 100 per cent behind the Voice? In my opinion they have unfortunately made the calculation that it might either show them up or 'upset the racially divided balance' within their communities. What a great research question/study this would make for a young post graduate student? Be very good to drill down on this data. [And note not all Nationals are opposed to the voice and the 2023 Referendum.](#)

Barnaby Joyce says the Nationals represent Australia's poorest electorates. Is he correct? <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10->

03/fact-check-barnaby-joyce-poorest-electorates/11437932?utm_campaign=newsweb-article-new-share-null&utm_content=twitter&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web via @ABCAustralia

#reasonstovoteyes2023
#yesrunsonlove
#theygolowwegohigher

Today's meditation: Referendum 2023 something worth voting for.

<https://aec.gov.au/media/2023/09-21a.htm>

22/09/2023

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The Voice, Canberra and Elite-Driven Bureaucracy

Australians don't like elites, don't like bureaucracy maybe that's because in our wisdom as colonists we created a central government in Canberra that was never meant to be as strong as it has become. None of the original constitutionalists thought that control of income tax would give the Commonwealth government an all powerful position in our national affairs. None of the original constitutionalists ever thought their words would be frozen in time and hardly changed.

There are some things, in hindsight, Canberra does extremely well. Collecting taxation is one, processing Medicare payments is another. If you contrast the United States where taxation is more local we find that one side of the railway tracks is poor and the other is rich because of local taxation. It compounds inequality. So for Canberra to collect and distribute taxes is a good thing. Health insurance is another nightmare in the USA and Australia's Canberra based Health Insurance Administration is a triumph of efficiency that is one important reason why we can provide universal access to health care at a massively lower cost than in the States.

So Canberra is good in many areas.

But imagine if your whole life and your whole economy was controlled by Canberra. After the 1967 Referendum, it was not just that Aboriginal people were counted in the Census, with the formation of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, I can't remember what its original name was, decisions in Canberra became all important for Aboriginal communities. In the 1970s Aboriginal communities in remote and regional areas, where a large majority of Aboriginal people live, were turned upside down by the impact of award wages, eligibility for social welfare and the departure of more local based management from missions and protectorates.. Major decisions for the next fifty years would be made in government departments in Canberra and the capital cities.

The structure of government departments determines the structure of many Aboriginal communities at least so far as economic life is concerned. Money flows through the school, the hospital or clinic or the housing department or the welfare agency or on agencies that are the beneficiary of government funds - spending goes up every Thursday fortnight when money flows into communities for wages or for welfare payments. Taking a job, or creating a business, has a bench mark to jump over it has to be more attractive than a welfare

payment averaging 15k a year and it has to fit into the dictates of customary ceremonial and subsistence life.

Another problem is that bureaucrats talk to bureaucrats and let contracts to people like them. This causes major inefficiencies and wastage. Often parasites all up and down "the supply chain" feed on Canberra funding and many times nothing is left to spend at grass roots community levels in the name of Aboriginal Australia!!!

Imagine your community if 100 per cent of the funding and decisions were governmental, and mostly Canberra or capital city based?

There are many variations on the above, some remote communities have strong pastoral or mining economies that also have effects, good and bad, but if you want to know why many Senior Aboriginal leaders wanted some form of Voice from the grass roots to government decision makers it is because of Canberra and capital city based paralysis and dependency. Add to that the fact that the average tenure of a Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is less than two years. So imagine you have 100 per cent of your funding upended and changed every two years. If you are trying to work on an issue like for example Foetal Alcohol Syndrome or some form of Canberra based enterprise payments like for example Ranger programs that makes life impossible.

So the drive for the Voice is very much driven by the grass roots aspirations and frustrations of Aboriginal leaders. The whole issue is driven by the need for, the term which Aboriginal leader Paul Briggs uses, subsidiarity – getting decisions closer to the people who are effected by those decisions. This question is very important for particularly regional and remote communities but even outer urban and near urban regions.

Will the Voice solve all problems? No. But, as the empowered communities experiment begun under Abott in 2013 demonstrates, it is a big innovation that makes a difference in just about every part of Aboriginal community life.

[Empowered communities](#)

Another issue of related importance is ensuring that the Voice is truly locally and culturally based. Lets have a look at that tomorrow.

22/09/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

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[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/sep/21/the-astonishing-lies-of-the-no-campaign-burn-like-lurid-rockets-in-our-sky-we-must-not-go-saying-no>

22/09/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#) #3001

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

The astonishing lies of the no campaign
burn like lurid rockets in our sky. We
must not go saying no

Thomas Keneally, 21/9/2023

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/sep/21/the-astonishing-lies-of-the-no-campaign-burn-like-lurid-rockets-in-our-sky-we-must-not-go-saying-no>

#reasonstovoteyes2023 #3010
#yesrunsonlove
#theygolowwegohigher

The US Government faces an almost normal shut down because of right wing “nihilist performance artists” in the House of Representatives who have no interest in good government. They simply block funding for political purposes. Peter Dutton and the new Liberal National Party ideologists and their support of the ‘No’ campaign are similarly ‘nihilist’ with no interest in good government of Aboriginal affairs. Vote Yes for subsidiarity, better decisions and better government of Australian Aboriginal affairs.

24/09/2023

#reasonstovoteyes2023
#yesrunsonlove
#theygolowwegohigher

Meditation this morning and reflecting on the no rallies of the weekend: There were many sleepless and terrifying dreams writing Wakuwal (Dream) reconciling my family journey of convicts from Ireland, the colonial journey of the Commonwealth of Australia and Aboriginal culture as an unacknowledged soul across every part of our land, waters and sky.

Some things take several life times to heal or to realise or even have knowledge about . The personal love most people find, seems impossible to link with death, cruelty and suppression of someone nearby. Some cannot acknowledge the wrongs they were a part of and benefited from. Some have pain and hurt that takes priority over all else and only see pain and hurt. Some are just attached to their stuff and the material world. Some have no basic education and sense of inquiry and cannot think beyond themselves.

Some want no part of anything "official" or governmental and build their own private Idaho and do their own private apologies and reconciliations and think nothing more is necessary. We have nothing to answer for.

Some, beyond a love of sport or jingoism, have no concept of a nation, a Commonwealth of laws, funding flows and decisions and feel an aversion to those that do or, worse, work within it.

From all the negatives a false and arrogant bravado and cruelty, false patriotism, symbolic mateship and an egalitarian ethic emerges, like a dark cloud. It covers up inequality and hypocrisy like an alcoholic or a narcissist latches on to an alibi and sadly it is the children and grand children who are left to reconcile and heal themselves.

Some cannot heal or see beyond themselves in their own lifetimes, but, amongst many other positives, voting yes means not leaving things for our children and grand children to clean up and heal.

We are mostly there collectively... the greatest wisdom I have learned from those who have endured the most and survived with integrity and love is that our obligation is simply to be kind to even those who are arrogant, cannot see things we see, or are wilfully blind and ignorant. We carry on steadfastly making our case with heart and humility.

<https://garlandmag.com/article/wakuwal/>

https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/marrakpmi-garray-beloved-christ?si=c53e699b365249539a4d8285608dfdc1&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/handing-on-knowledge-djg-healing-peter-botsman-garma-2008?si=4c304e7856a94cc182c18bace2bdcaed&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

25/09/2023

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[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

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25/09/2023

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#theygolowwegohigher

Representing Aboriginal traditional culture through the Voice and
Standing up for Marginal Communities

Can the many Aboriginal language and cultural systems of Australia be represented through a democratically elected voice? No. Is that any reason to vote against a democratically elected voice? No. Why? The Commonwealth of Australia is a system of government that runs through a popularly elected parliament and a civil service that spends the funds raised by taxation. The Voice, as an advisory body that will represent urban, regional and remote Aboriginal communities, will help parliaments and civil servants make the best decisions about how those funds are invested.

So while The Voice cannot represent traditional law or from it can support a prosperous and productive Aboriginal economy and society. There are lots of things that can be done to ensure The Voice embodies and supports traditional culture in all its diversity. More about these things tomorrow. Notably, Mark Yingiya Guyula, in North East Arnhem land is an example of how a parliamentary representative elected in the normal way, can also link to and be empowered by the traditional dilak (cultural leadership) structure of the Yolngu people. Mark and all his elders with experience of what all this means, advocate "Yes".

It is understandable that less empowered Aboriginal communities in National party electorates, in regional and remote areas, and who have to deal with very strong European centric and let us be clear, racially centric power structures, are reluctant to publicly advocate a "yes" vote. They know that in normal circumstances they will be punished by the powers that be. This is a situation where the 97 per

cent of Australians who are not constrained by this very terrible power structure can stand up for such marginalised communities and empower them. This is another reason why the 2023 Referendum can be European Australia's finest hour! There is a lot to say about these issues.

25/9/2023

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97 per cent of Australians who are not constrained by the imbalanced power structures that oppress Aboriginal Australians, can stand up for marginalised communities and empower them through recognition and an ongoing right to advise about policies and issues that effect them.

The 2023 Referendum can be Australia's finest hour! Vote yes.

25/9/2023

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Its nice to be important but its more important to be nice.
Ronald Dale Barassi

25/9/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#) [#3005](#)

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[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Voting Yes is a no brainer for working people

"I saw the government come and take the children from their mothers and fathers. They wanted to take them away – kids like me – so they couldn't mix with their own people, you know. But I was lucky I was really a station boy – a big boy I was – and I do a lot of work around the station and they like me. So all the station fellas were saying, "Well you cant take that boy, he's to good to be taken away' and I've been a working man all the time since"

Peter Kangushot Coppin, in J. Read and P. Coppin, The Life of Nyamal Lawman Peter Coppin, p. 2

25/9/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#) [#3005](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Supporting the 2023 Referendum is a no brainer for Labor people

Was the Pilbara Strike of 1946 the greatest strike of all time?



<https://solidarity.net.au/aboriginal/the-pilbara-strike-how-aboriginal-workers-defied-forced-labour-and-exploitation/>

#reasonstovoteyes2023 #3005

#yesrunsonlove

#theygolowwegohigher

The Kamahl "No Yes" man and the usual story of a lie travelling around the world while the truth is still tying up its shoe laces.

http://crikey_news <https://www.crikey.com.au/?p=1119967>

26/9/2023

#reasonstovoteyes2023 #3007

#yesrunsonlove

#theygolowwegohigher

Background to one of Australia's greatest actions, the Pilbara Strike of 1946

"But he's a station hand. He must have been working there all his life, from when he was young. Might be when I wasn't born here. But he was a middle-aged man then, when I know him. He really learnt me a lot. White man's way too.. he got no nail or anything, he just got a bit of wire and two timber clamped together like that. He got sheets of paperbark like that, like this roof here, one over the top and he put wire through, twist from here tight. Same as this corrugated iron here. And he put the wire through to hold it down, the land as dry as anything underneath. Oh, he used to make a good house.

We were all camping there in rain time. Some of them sleep in the shed somewhere, might be working shed. They never give us good

houses. It was never, 'You boys can have this one' or something like that. Nothing, because the boss used to have a meeting about the blackfella , every place, everywhere, and maybe another whitefella say, 'Oh, they're happy. They're used to it,so keep them like that.' Maybe they used to talk like that to keep us down.

It was cruel. My word, it was cruel all right."

Peter "Kangushot" Coppin in P. Coppin & Jolly Read, The life of Nyamal Lawman Peter Coppin Kangushot, p. 10.

26/09/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023 #3007](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

<https://fb.watch/nhNQ5lxFB9/>

26/09/2023

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[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Newsflash: Warren Mundine the Voice is not primarily for you or for Aboriginal elites. It is primarily to "close the gap" and when those social, economic, health and life gaps are closed then it will be there to support the many independent cultures and nations of Australian Aboriginal people for all time. The Voice is about recognising all of these nations within the Commonwealth of Australia and all its affiliated States.

26/09/2023

#reasonstovoteyes2023
#yesrunsonlove
#theygolowwegohigher

Warren Mundine's National Press Club speech is a wonder of wilful ignorance. He quotes the productivity commission but not its finding that when Aboriginal people are listened to about policy that relates to them then good results are achieved. He forgets the Empowered Communities results because of course it inspired the Voice. <https://empoweredcommunities.org.au/>

26/09/2023

#reasonstovoteyes2023
#yesrunsonlove
#theygolowwegohigher

Warren Mundine's National Press Club speech unfairly loads up education with the whole box and caboodle of ending inequality in Aboriginal Australia. We just need to keep kids at school. I am sure all teachers across Australia must be sitting back thinking wow that's another impossible responsibility. Its another reason why he doesn't understand the need for The Voice as a way for grass roots Aboriginal communities to discuss all of the issues and policies that effect them.

26/09/2023

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Warren Mundine's National Press Club speech reminds me of Joh Bjelke Peterson. It is illogical. There is no substance just a jumbled

up obfuscation of just about everything. Not much point in going through it.

26/09/2023

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[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Warren Mundine's National Press Club speech so infuriating on so many different fronts. All of the Law Societies in all of the States support the Voice as a sensible and practical change to our national Constitution. All but a tiny majority of High Court judges and experts support the voice similarly. Warren's conclusion: oh but it still could be legally profligate. Complete madness and welcome to our new Trumpian world where just because you say something means it could be true.

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Today's Meditation: Reflection on the Suffering of Others

.. when every person is required to vote and voice an opinion.. then it also becomes an opportunity for a cry for help by people who feel alienated or vulnerable...

When you get an over the top message check out the legitimate profiles and the often very vicious world some people live in. Gamers who have drifted into some dark place, divorced men who resent financial settlements, people who are struggling to survive financially, people who are struggling with their loneliness and vulnerability, many and varied numbers of alienated, suffering people..

If someone or something gets a great deal of attention or appears to be getting something easier than you: "40 billion dollars" or if someone puts your fear or alienation or vulnerability aside in favour of something that is not understandable 'the public good': "Dictator Dan", then one of the pleasures becomes viciously attacking the "virtue signallers" or anyone who does not prioritise the pain or suffering of those that feel they are the real victims.

There are many Australians who feel, ironically in the context of the 2023 Referendum, that the old world of neighbours and half acre blocks and prosperity is disappearing rapidly and life is getting very tough. The harder you work the more precious your possessions and your house and car become and the scarier is the chasm that separates you from a vicious life of need.

Heroes are those like Malcolm Roberts or Pauline Hanson who appear to say:

'we feel your pain',

'we know they are not listening to you, but we are'

'we fight on your behalf against the corruption and conspiracy that keeps good people down'

'don't give money and recognition to those who dont deserve it and havent really suffered as much as you',

'we should simply focus on those who deserve support whoever they are regardless of their origins or background'.

Special super heroes in the current context are people of Aboriginal descent like Warren Mundine or Jacinta Price who confirm the resentment and speak out against the virtual signalling elites and leaders who are doing very well nicely thank you very much.

Warren Mundine's classic Press Club remark 'there are not more university age Aboriginals in jail than in university', there are many Aboriginals like me who are doing very well nicely and who are lawyers and doctors and the like.. we just need to keep kids at school so they can thrive like everybody else.. and succeed through hard work like me.." get great cheers from the long suffering oppressed forgotten struggling Australians who no-one listens to.

The facts dont really matter or they make people even more obsessed with voting no.

Warren Mundine was asked why all the major churches and religious faiths invariably support voting yes on October 14 including his Catholic faith? He had no reply.

The only consolation or thing that I can think of is that yet again Aboriginal Australians of all people are the lightning rods for what is good and bad in our country. I know from my own lived experience that invariably Aboriginal people and families will honour someone's suffering and hurt above their own. If they can heal you they will. They try to look beyond appearances into the real soul of the person.

Perhaps this is what this whole period is all about, sharing will all Australians, the compassion and love that is so evident in even the poorest of Aboriginal households.

https://soundcloud.com/kangarooova/handing-on-knowledge-djg-healing-peter-botsman-garma-2008?si=fac8eba13cb34731aed675979fd90caf&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

27/09/2023

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When Lionel Rose from Jacksons Track beat Fighting Harada for the World Bantamweight Boxing Title he did it for all Australians. Now all Australians need to stand up for Lionel and all Aboriginal people.

27/09/2023

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<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/nitv-radio/en/podcast-episode/all-the-event-information-you-need-to-know-for-the-2023-koori-knockout/d2r00884t>

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[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Today's meditation: The effects of Colonialism.

Noel Pearson said it well yesterday, after 235 years we don't know each other well, but we share a love of the land.

One of the effects of colonialism is to blind non-Aboriginal Australians about traditional values and the very marrow of Aboriginality in each person.

This is why assimilation fails every time. This is why at its core the Voice, as an advisory body is so very necessary.

Archie Roach was taken away at an early age and was part of a well meaning family who adopted him. Yet something stirred in him and he could not accept the European framework of life.

He and Neville Bonner stating angrily 'How dare you think you know what is best for us'! Should be nudging us all this morning.

Ruby Hunter's lyrics give us an idea of the directions we should be thinking. Many will say the Voice is not enough to truly know Aboriginal culture. Of course its not. But as Sam Walker from Ngarda media said on The Point: "It's only a small step for a big change. I'm going to fight for these crumbs because crumbs can turn into a slice of bread and a slice into a loaf, and then bang there we are everybody".

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ1By8Bsvos&ab_channel=SBS News](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ1By8Bsvos&ab_channel=SBSNews)

Crawled out of bushes early morn
Used newspapers to keep me warm
Then I'd have to score a drink
Calm my nerves, help me to think
Down city streets I would roam
I had no bed, I had no home
And there was nothing that I owned
Used my fingers as a comb
In those days when I was young
Drinking and fighting was no fun
It was daily living for me

I had no choice
It was meant to be
Now I'm a woman, I'm not alone
Find more lyrics at ✂ Mojim.com
I am married, I have children of my own
Now I have something I call my own
These are my children
This is my home
I look around and understand
How street kids feel when they're put down
Down city streets I would roam
I had no bed, I had no home
And there was nothing that I owned
Used my fingers as a comb
I look around and understand
How street kids feel when they're put down

And finally a special shout out to NITVs The Point hosts Narelda Jacobs and John Paul Janke, what shining stars they have been throughout the whole Referendum debate. I, for one, think they have grown a few inches as professionals and people before our eyes, and it is a joy to see people in media and journalism flourish in such a difficult and controversial time. And what beautiful, complementary team work and purpose they have as interviewers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_ZzKkrJOqM&ab_channel=ArchieRoach

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_City_Streets

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"It's only a small step for a big change. I'm going to fight for these crumbs because crumbs can turn into a slice of bread and a slice into a loaf, and then bang there we are everybody".

Sam Walker, Ngarda Media

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ1By8Bsvos&ab_channel=SBS
News](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ1By8Bsvos&ab_channel=SBSNews)

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John Williamson, Voice from the Heart

<https://youtu.be/F4Rf8wzMAHU>

"I hear the call from the heart,
Perfect time for a brand new start
Uluru Forever"

John Williamson, Uluru Forever

<https://youtu.be/eseLZu9cdEc>

28/9/2023

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Simple, elegant and responsible... who could ask for anything more?

What may change in the Constitution?

Statement of the proposed changes to be made to the Constitution

The proposed law, being the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023, would change the Constitution by inserting the following text after Chapter VIII:

Chapter IX—Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- (i) there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- (ii) the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- (iii) the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

The proposed law would also change the Constitution by inserting the following text into the Table of Contents in the Constitution, after the reference to 'Chapter VIII Alteration of the Constitution':

Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

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"Our minds are like those maps at the entrance to the Metro stations in Paris. They are full of unilluminated directions. But when we know where we want to go and press the right button, the route is illuminated before us in electric clarity. We may go through life with no light ever shining along the unused tracts of our minds; or something, the influence of our parents or our friends, our environment or our own stupidity may cause us to press the wrong button, so that instead of reaching stations of which the names glow with history and devotion, Sevres Babylone, Cluny, Strasbourg, St Denis, we arrive only at Monge. The right button is more often pressed by some accident than by our own choice, as when a line of poetry or a glimpse through a doorway may show us where we long to go".

Martin Boyd, **Outbreak of Love**, Lansdowne Press, 1957, p. 5

29/09/2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

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[#theygolowwegohigher](#)



29/09/2023

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Today's meditation: Last 14/15 days before the Referendum closes.
Some thoughts please add to them:

- We must stop talking about the injustice of people around us, stop blaming, stop complaining about Dutton, Murdoch et al

and try to drill down into the people who are undecided and understand where they are coming from.

- There are a large number of people who are struggling and like someone who hasn't eaten properly are in a bad mood and are just plain resentful. Let us talk to them about what is going wrong in their lives and then ask them to consider people who are less fortunate and to give them a go.
- There are many who are completely new to Aboriginal issues and to constitutional change and the foundations of our Commonwealth, let us use this opportunity to open their eyes to new possibilities and about the big ways things can be made better through our democracy and each person's individual awareness.
- When we see someone attacked on twitter and facebook let us help them and gently change the direction of the conversation and politely leave it if it is intractable and suggest the same to others who are getting no-where.
- My quote of the whole campaign so far is Samantha Walker from Ngaarda Media on the point: "It's only a small step for a big change. I'm going to fight for these crumbs because crumbs can turn into a slice of bread and a slice into a loaf, and then bang there we are everybody".
- For some the 2023 Constitutional change is too much, for some it is too little, I think it is just about right: responsible, careful, modest and hopeful for our future.
- Whatever the result this has been a good process and a wonderful exercise in broadening awareness and creating a stronger and fairer Australia.

30/09/2023

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A good mate of mine has two fully paid tickets for today's AFL grand final between the Brisbane Lions and Collingwood, in a private box with food and refreshments included. Unfortunately she didn't realise that it was the same date as her wedding, so she can't go. If you're interested and want to go instead of her, it's at 2pm Church of Good Shepherd, Kangaroo Valley and his name is Julian.

30/9/2023

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Only have to re-arrange that KI to YE and you have it? Nothing like a bit of old fashioned rock n roll.

30/9/2023

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What will 'recognition with a Voice' bring to the Australian nation? It will be a long journey and perhaps at first not much will be shared. But for so long the generosity of Yolŋu Aboriginal people has been there and it is time that generosity was reciprocated. Enough of the taking. What deep knowledge can be learned from having a good relationship with Aboriginal communities? Here is just a taste of what can be.

Dhukarr Yäkthun <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/717374132>

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Stay positive!

Dhukarr Yäkthun <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/717374132>

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“in Virginia, they not only had slaves, but every man with a conscience, or even the first throbbings of a conscience, is a slave.”

Moncure Conway, 1854

“In Australia, they not only had Aborigines, but every person with a conscience, or even the first throbbings of a conscience, is an Aborigine”.

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“Those who have learned a little of the Ancient Wisdom,
Know the illumination, the peace, the joy,
the strength, its lessons have brought into their lives”.
Annie Besant, The Ancient Wisdom, 1897

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This place we call Australia is a blessed, ancient land, a font of wisdom etched over millenia. When the Commonwealth of Australia recognises and gives voice to the descendants of our ancient peoples, all who live here and the world will look anew at who we really are.

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I guess some of the No campaigners will say its all vibe and sentimentality. But please note the two teams that won their respective Grand Finals are strong advocates for Yes. It is the right and sensible thing to do.

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It is concerning that no matter what the moderate conservatives do, Donald Trump seems to own the Republican Party. This seems to match the experiences of the 2023 Referendum in Australia. No matter what sensible information is put forward there are some who

have a predisposition to valorise the most absurd ideas and conspiracies. How much is to do with concocted trolls, "astroturfing", "swift boating" is something for history to determine. But what seems clear is that every contest in public life, be it an election or a referendum will from now be a contest between common sense people who believe in their own abilities and knowledge and those who live in fear and invest in the biggest bully to protect them from something dastardly that is just around the corner. What is the recipe for sanity in this environment? An acceptance of science, honest work and substance and a belief in ideals and ideas in equal proportions sprinkled over by oratorical powers and skills.

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"Give us "the voice" and we will transform our communities and energise the Commonwealth".

"Give us the ballot and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights.

Give us the ballot and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passing of an anti-lynching law; we will by the power of our vote write the law on the statute books of the southern states and bring an end to the dastardly acts of the hooded perpetrators of violence.

Give us the ballot and we will fill our legislative halls with men of good will, and send to the sacred halls of Congress men who will not sign a Southern manifesto because of their devotion to the manifesto of justice.

Give us the ballow and we will place judges on the benches of the South who will “do justly and love mercy,’ and we will place a the heaf of the southern states governors wh ohave felt not only the tang of the human, but the gloss of the divine.

Give us the ballot and we will quietly and nonviolently, without rancour or bitterness, implement the Supreme Courts decision of May 17, 1954 (Outlawing segregation in public schools”.

Martin Luther King Jr, *Give us the Ballot – We Will Transform the South*, 17 May, 1957, Lincoln Memorial.

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The Old, New Circus

“She seemed happiest really when, in her clown’s dress, made up with plastered face and rouged mouth, she waddled into the ring and tumbled about, making herself grotesque and hideous, to get the brittle crashing merriment of the crowd that could hurt her no more, in whose laughter she could join, at the order and harmony of a world to which the circus held the dim surface of the mirror”.

Katharine Sussanah Prichard, *Haxby’s Circus, The Lightest, Brightest Little Show on Earth*, Jonathan Cape, London 1930, p. 320

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Bitten

I have been bitten by bugs
fleas, scorpions
kangaroos tick
almost by a snake
Had sandy blight
Bruises on my feet
through walking
Been hungry
Drunk brackish water
Had barcoo rot
But the worst of the lot
Is to be bitten by the man.

Jack Davis

in *The Moment Made Marvellous A Celebration of UQP Poetry*,
1998, p. 246

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<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1372205630341860>

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Genocide

Two hundred years of white occupation
Two hundred years
of BLACK desolation
Two hundred years
on the Europeans' menus
A million bloody tears
still the genocide continues.

They got rid of us
down in Tasmania
Now they're trying in
the rest of Australia
Why we plead
we are a race of so few
Are we beasts to cull
or are we humans too

They cry for BLACKS
deep in SOUTH AFRICA
They cry for the oppressed
In the jungles of NICARAGUA
Why dont they cry
For us in this HELL
Instead of chaining lynching
in cold prison cells?

Graeme Dixon, 1998, *The Moment Made Marvellous*, p. 248

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Uncle Paddy

I'm black Paddy. I pick grapes
An' I trap rabbits
One extreme to the other
Sweet juices on my hands one week
Stinkin' rabbits guts the next
I don't eat "flash" most of the time
Sometimes chops, sometimes hash
Mostly sugar/flour/tea, goannas that I seek
Moolingmah 'n gullingah (sheep guts)
An' other butchers trash
It does me. I'm a trapper – but I'm *free* Know what its like, Boy?
It's like the sweet spring breeze singin' in the tree
The clean face of the moon on a winter's night
The powerful pound of the sea.
No man calls me "Jacky"
No man counts weekly pennies into my hand
No man cheats me or patronizes me
No man calls me "danky" or "boy"
No man calls me "Sir" or "Mr Patrick"
It's great to be free, worthwhile to be free
Even if you have to trap rabbits and eat sheep guts –
Eat well of it – not for the hell of it
Eat sheep guts – and fight to be *free!!*

Jack Davis, 1998, *The Moment Made Marvellous*, p. 243

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..when I was big enough they reckon you should ride the young horses now, the big, rough ones. You got to learn that! Oh Jesus, they were hard to ride and some bucked and you got chucked off. You got chucked off everywhere! But we came good, we got up again and ride them, and then we can ride any rough horse. We worked them in the yard to make them used to it."

Peter "Kangushot" Coppin in P. Coppin & Jolly Read, The life of Nyamal Lawman Peter Coppin Kangushot, p. 28

5 October, 2023.

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For 200 years us blacks are beaten down here too long on the dole
My dignity I'm losing here and mentally I'm old
There's a system here that nails us ain't we left out in the cold
They took our life and liberty friend but they couldn't buy our soul

Joe Hill died, Che Gevera fought and Pemulwuy lay down dead
If a person speaks out critically here you can get loaded down with
lead
How long can the majority wait for their story to unfold
They took their life and liberty friend but they could not buy their
soul

The cleverman spoke precisely, humanity he said was done
It's creed of greed could not proceed if our struggle's to be won
For humanity's more important here than that constant quest for
gold
You may take life and liberty friend but you cannot buy our soul

Jesus woke one morning, rode a donkey up through the gate
He could see quite clearly he was going to face his fate
And the powers that be, could see that he, could not be bought or
sold
They took his life and liberty friend but they could not buy his soul

Kev Carmody, "Cannot buy my Soul"

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The Psychology of No

"Unfortunately there can be no doubt that man is, on the whole, less good than he imagines himself or wants to be. Everyone carries a shadow, and the less it is embodied in the individual's conscious life, the blacker and denser it is. At all counts, it forms an unconscious snag, thwarting our most well-meant intentions."

Carl Jung

It is useful to embrace and understand our shadows. This is the problem of the "No" campaign. The LNP leadership steadfastly deny the shadows of Australian history and their ongoing effects today. The issue for the nation is that if the no campaign is successful the shadows will intensify. It becomes harder and harder to address

them and the “unconscious snag” as Jung describes it becomes more and more traumatic.

Saying “no” in its most immature form is about asserting power but it becomes counter productive if there is no recognition of our own shadows. The discourse of Peter Dutton, Warren Mundine and JNP is to deny the shadows and to just assert an assimilationist view that incorporates trauma into some form of normality. A young advocate like the no campaign’s Freya Leach represses pressing issues in favour of a false and sunny outlook but the unconscious still holds this unresolved trauma. “No” will result in more severe trauma and trouble for particularly those who cannot face their own shadows in the future.

“Yes” is about addressing the wrongs of Australian history in a constructive way and acting upon the basis of those who have been wronged in our past and present. Even more importantly it gives a say about policy closer to local people who are affected by that policy.

A successful 2023 Referendum represents a catharsis for the nation, not a complete cure, but some useful steps forward and a way of releasing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians to develop a new picture of themselves and a new pathway into the future.

6 October, 2023

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Just a quick moment to debunk the latest No campaign disinformation.

1. "A successful 2023 Referendum will divide the country". False. The 2023 Referendum will right a wrong by recognising for the first time our first peoples, the Aboriginal people of Australia, who lived on this continent for 80,000 years. Our original constitution was openly racist in its orientation and was devised in the era of the "White Australia" policy which privileged only European people and was against incorporating Aboriginal and any other Asiatic or non European people as citizens.
2. "The Voice is legally risky." False. This is unmitigated disinformation. The Voice will be under the complete control of the parliament. There can be no basis for any kind of legal challenge to this basic operating principle.
3. "If it was such a good thing why wouldnt we prove it through legislation." This is just a nonsense argument because the parliament will create legislation for The Voice and it will have the power to amend and improve that legislation over time. The permanency of The Voice means that the right of Aboriginal people to a voice over their own affairs cannot be denied. This is the problematic track record of the majority non-Aboriginal parliament when dealing with the small minority Aboriginal population. So it is a good balanced proposal.
4. "The Voice will be about more bureaucracy." False. The Voice will almost certainly result in less bureaucracy as the silos of government policy will be able to shed their own consultative processes and Aboriginal peak bodies will be able to devote themselves to their own areas of policy expertise. The Voice will be a body for subsidiarity bringing policy and decisions closer to the people who are affected by those decisions.

I see Freya J. Leach, the Director of Youth Policy at the Menzies Research Centre having free rein to make these assertions on ABC

News. How frustrating it is that these assertions are simply allowed to stand without any form of debate or debunking.

5 October 2023.

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“If truth is not acceptable, it becomes the imagination of others.”

Patrick White, Voss

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“Its only words and words are all I have to melt your heart away”.

Barry, Robin, Maurice Gibb, Brisbane, 3 October, 1967

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It is time to get out of our comfort zones and go to the heartlands of the No campaign and start asking questions. Lets go.

7 October 2023

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Who are the grifters? Who are the cheats? Who live off taxpayers money and are promoted by mindless ideologues following the propaganda line of an aging meglomaniac newspaper and media baron?

Well strike me lucky! Its not Pat Anderson and Aboriginal leaders. Its a bunch of people working the system and who are useless politicians.

Who are they? Do we even need to say who they are? They have put no policy forward. They defend the indefensible. They defend the status quo in which people are dying prematurely in communities all over the country. They want audits when there have been hundreds of audits. They are spineless. They have no guts. They have no spirit. They just everyone to feel all right. They build themselves political careers on the ignorance of others, they will despoil all they touch.

It is not all right. Things need to change. The system is corrupt and needs to be fixed. There needs to be grass roots accountability. There needs to be recognition.

So fcs get off your couches, vote for affirmation and action. Vote for change. Fcs yes!! And then lets get on with it.

7 October 2023

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The lies and misinformation of the No Campaign.

https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/63d3515a8ab52a364d37ddd5/64ec4f65098c6e5a999f53e3_Peering%20Under%20the%20Rock%20Paper%20by%20Joe%20Stella.pdf

What makes this 2023 Referendum debates so fractious and angry? The complete nonsense pedaled by groups who are clearly part of the No campaign propaganda machine. "Peering Under the Rock" was written by a post grad Ph.D candidate and quite frankly it doesnt deserve to pass a first year uni assignment. It is full of twaddle.

It has only just come to my attention and normally such a document would have been beaten into some form of respectability by debate and the sunshine of a forum between different people with different backgrounds and perspectives. This is the great ideal of universities and places of knowledge, but this paper comes from Scotty and the marketing department they have no care about logic, rhetoric or truth.. all they want is something glossy that might convince an unknowledgeable person for the short run up to this referendum. After that who cares it can be toilet paper on October 15 for all they care.

The paper is just a fit up and grievous misrepresentation of the Uluru Statement of the Heart. For example it opens "Yet the document fails to connect the problems faced by many Aborigines to any specific defect in the Constitution..."

Can you believe this opening statement? So the fact that the first peoples were left out of an essentially White Australia era document is not a defect.. Serious.

Here's another statement: "The official 'Yes' case implies that the Statement reflects 'many years of work and countless conversations in every part of the country' and bears the imprimatur of 'nearly 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and elders". Everyone knows that the process led to the Uluru Statement began with John Howard, involved multiple governments and multiple iterations and huge amounts of dedicated work from many different Aboriginal leaders. How could any impartial or objective document begin with such an egregious statement?

The document then goes into the process of coming up with the Uluru Statement and suggests that the fact that the many meetings that led up to the final meeting at Uluru had differing points of emphasis was a problem. Let me give you an analogy we could for example go to the Liberal National Party Conference and isolate all the differences of opinion amongst delegates as a reason for delegitimising the final Liberal National Party Electoral Platform. Malcolm Turnbull has a different perspective than John Howard so throw out the policy. The paper is just a fit up. Its the height of hypocrisy to expose an Aboriginal policy process to this kind of scrutiny while presumably allowing the No campaign with absolutely nothing other than 'no' as its policy a completely free run.

Here is another statement from this excreable paper:

"Nor do the dialogues conspicuously resemble anything we know about traditional pre-contact modes of decision-making. These invariably excluded women and young people, yet quotas ensured that both sexes and a range of age groups attended the dialogues and convention."

Can you really fathom this? The idea of the conventions leading up to Uluru was to create a deliberative democracy process combined with a consensus approach rather than a vote counting exercise. In other words it was the best of all worlds! So the document has the audacity to criticise the Uluru Statement because it did not meet some amateurish anthropological idea of pre-colonial society. Again the hypocrisy is rank and astonishing.

Then the document argues that the Uluru Statement is illegitimate as were the processes leading up to it because "The largest political

unit in pre-contact Aboriginal society was the band or horde, a group of around 25 people who lived, travelled and hunted together. Though bands formed part of larger linguistic blocs thought to average 450 members (sometimes called 'tribes'), these did not function as political communities." So the logic is that there is no political substance for any political conference of Aboriginal communities. They just don't exist.

Even the most prejudiced legal cases against Aboriginal Australia from Terra Nullius on look positively progressive against this rubbish and the fact that apparently Aboriginal sovereignty does not exist but at the same time the document is happy to quote the Black Sovereignty Movement to undermine the Uluru process is just par for the course.

The most sinister, contrived, evil piece of misinformation and lies is the view that the Uluru Statement of the Heart is not authentic to the great constellation of Aboriginal peoples, communities and cosmologies around this continent and that it was concocted in a hotel room by Noel Pearson, Megan Davis and Pat Anderson – the so-called elites. Then the consensus was whipped up by the so-called communist Thomas Mayo. If ever there was a more egregious lie then this is it. If people have already voted no in this referendum based on this lie then there will be a hefty judgement day coming to them and this nation in the future. Let us then consider the rotten dimensions of this lie and misinformation.

There are hundreds of Aboriginal cosmologies and languages on this continent, many have been completely wiped out by colonisation. Anthropologists and others have tried to map, shape and think about how these different cosmologies co-exist and co-

existed. Charles Warner's break through book *Black Civilisation* in 1927 rocked the world of anthropology, when through Harry Makarola and his ongoing master translator descendants the Dhurrkay and Lanhupuy families, when it explained the basic forms of the moitey and malk systems. These forms were not as previously supposed, thought to exist as a guide to marriage, but as the broad principles of a gurrutu structure that spanned vast geographical areas and language systems. But we are still babies at understanding this world, these interconnections and the way philosophy, politics and governance occurs across Aboriginal language groups and cosmologies.

So along comes the politicians, the courts and the ideologues like the no campaign and they want to know the will of the "Aboriginal" and the "Aboriginal nation". So they concoct something similar to what we think of as a Commonwealth or nation. They have the temerity to say that because one Aboriginal person disagrees or feels that a process of deliberation is not representative of them and their people – that the whole process is illegitimate. Imagine that there was an entity called "the world". How could that entity ever exist as a decision making unit, if any nation disagreed or conducted their own independent actions separate from the group? It is a nonsense idea and the fact that people are hood winked by right wing ideologues on this question is a very sorry business indeed.

We should in fact celebrate the qualities and skills of Aboriginal leaders, not just Davis, Pearson, Anderson, Mayo.. but of the many, many Aboriginal regional leaders who brought to this nation the Uluru Statement of the Heart. It is an absolutely unique and wondrous piece of work.

Here is the thing. Regardless of the outcome of the 2023 Referendum the quality and purpose and process of the Uluru Statement of the Heart will be celebrated internationally as a way for Aboriginal peoples to have a just and righteous voice in a post colonial world.

The judgement day comes on October 15 for the Australian people. Were they stupid and sucked in by misinformation and lies? Were they wise and able to understand, perhaps for the first time, the sophistication and skills of the great diversity of Aboriginal peoples in Australia?

History is indeed being made. The world is indeed watching Australia and our judgement day is October 15, 2023.

FCS and the sake of the nation reject the utter bullshit of the No campaign and vote yes!

8 October, 2023

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Ita Buttrose was a legendary editor of a magazine. But her role at the ABC, beyond all politics, means we have to have a good hard look at our public media. Our public media should be the hallmark

of objectivity and principle. Ita's policy is to create one on one journalistic interviews with people from the perceived sides of particular debates. In an era where truth seems up for grabs this creates a situation where anybody can say anything and the role of journalists is simply to broadcast every piece of nonsense under the sun.

What is the answer? Rigorous debate. Journalists do not have a role as opinion makers they have a role as objective hosts for vigorous debate. Insiders is pathetic as a show which simply broadcasts journalists views. We need to go back to debate formats that give independent and objective time to different opinions and we need to give people the change to take each others positions apart.

Public relations is not journalism. One on one interviews and closed media conferences are quite disgraceful and useless in giving people the information they need to ensure we have a good society.

Why should a journalist like David Speers over and over again display their bias or intellectual incapacity when interviewing the Prime Minister? The fact is the ABC should be creating debates between the protagonists: JNP and Noel Pearson, Pauline Dutton and Albo, Megan Davis and Michaela Cash, Marcia Langton and Warren Mundine. If the media let politicians and policy advocates off the hook then we all suffer.

8 October, 2023.

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If anything points to the uselessness of Insiders as a vehicle for imparting information at a very important time in our history, its Peter Von Onselen, contributing editor of The Australian, smugly and arrogantly making predictions about the future as if he was somebody with authority, gravitas or a service record to the community that anybody should care about.

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The substance of the Voice is what can turn the tide/This is not a public relations campaign it is about real people, real issues, real change.

Well it was a bad match up on Seven's Spotlight on the Voice and the ABC's troll around Australia called The Voice is equally problematic in terms of advocacy for "recognition with a voice".

The "Yes" campaign is being out marketed by the "No" campaign and there is a clear bias of the media towards the No side. But that is not necessarily a bad thing. JNP and Lydia Thorpe were snappier and more media savvy than Ray Martin and Malindirri tonight but many people in the audience had a feeling there has to be something more to the request by Aboriginal leaders to consult government and parliament about policies that concern them that cant be dismissed by JNP'and Lydia Thorpe. They just want to know

more. Here are some suggested dot points/talking points please add your own:

- The Voice will be an elected body of Aboriginal people by Aboriginal people.
- The Voice will have the capacity to investigate practical details that politicians and bureaucrats cant, precisely the sort of detail that Lydia Thorpe noted on 'Channel 7 about hanging points in prisons.
- The Voice will bring "subsidiarity": policy making closer to the people who the policy is about which as the productivity council suggests empowers communities and improves outcomes in health, housing, law and order, welfare, employment policy and more.
- The Voice will have the benefit of continuous improvement because it will be subject to the oversight of all political parties through the parliament.
- The Voice will keep the bastards honest in a way that Aboriginal politicians who are subject to their party political factions and leaders cannot.

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Pauline Dutton and JNP got a free ride tonight on Channel 7 far more robust debate needs to be unleashed on their positions. They have to be tackled on every point of the No position. Yes needs to go on the attack.

The Voice is what is missing and wrong about Aboriginal policy. It will bring greater accountability.

- The Voice will be an elected body of Aboriginal people by Aboriginal people.
- The Voice will have the capacity to investigate practical details that politicians and bureaucrats cant, precisely the sort of detail that Lydia Thorpe noted on 'Channel 7 about hanging points in prisons.
- The Voice will bring "subsidiarity": policy making closer to the people who the policy is about which as the productivity council suggests empowers communities and improves outcomes in health, housing, law and order, welfare, employment policy and more.
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The most important thing about 'recognition with a voice' is that it is right. Recognition without a voice is just symbolism. The Voice is an active responsible and sensible force for Aboriginal communities

to pursue their own self determination, passions and productivity. It is the height of hypocrisy for JNP and Lydia Thorpe to be sitting alongside each other arguing against a mechanism that will benefit all Aboriginal communities. We need to really take the debate up to the No side.

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“Recognition with a voice” means Aboriginal communities can raise issues, ask questions, suggest innovations. Recognition without a voice is just symbolism and marketing and reliance on the conventional political system that has served Aboriginal communities very badly. There must be lasting change beyond political parties, politicians egos and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals. Voting yes means an investment in greater accountability and hearing directly from Aboriginal people and communities about the issues and policies that matter to them.

9 October 2023

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Thank you John for your question. The answers to your concerns are very clear.

Aboriginality

Aboriginal communities in every part of the country know who is Aboriginal in their own communities, if we vote yes we empower them to make these decisions for themselves. It is not a problem. But as Kalma and Langton proposed there would be an "ethics council" to review such matters. My view is that would hardly ever come into operation. (see below)

Enriched democracy

With regard to elections, there is some hesitation because in some Aboriginal communities such as NE Arnhem land, the dilak, a council of elders exists that embodies the will of their many clans and communities, so in such cases they would form "the local and regional voice" from which the National Voice representation would arise. In most other communities where these formations are not in place, elections would occur. The Kalma/Langton Report says that nine principals of enriched democracy should govern how local and regional voices are made up They are:

- Empowerment
- Inclusive Participation
- Cultural Leadership
- Community-led Design
- Non-duplication and Links with Existing Bodies
- Respectful Long-term Partnerships
- Transparency and Accountability
- Capability Driven

- Data and Evidence-based Decision Making.

If the 2023 Referendum is successful, the Kalma/Langton report which was submitted and accepted by the previous Morrison government at cabinet level would form the framework of how the Voice would work. (See below)

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[Honing the Message/Details](#)

[Aboriginality](#)

Aboriginal communities in every part of the country know who is Aboriginal in their own communities, if we vote yes we empower them to make these decisions for themselves. It is not a problem. But as Kalma and Langton proposed their would be an "ethics council" to review such matters. My view is that would hardly ever come into operation. (see below)

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The Voice will enrich our democracy and Aboriginal community democracy

The Kalma/Langton Report says that nine principals of enriched democracy should govern how local and regional voices are made up They are:

- Empowerment
- Inclusive Participation
- Cultural Leadership
- Community-led Design
- Non-duplication and Links with Existing Bodies
- Respectful Long-term Partnerships
- Transparency and Accountability
- Capability Driven

With regard to elections, and how local voices would be appointed, there is some hesitation because in some Aboriginal communities such as NE Arnhem land, the dilak, a council of elders exists that embodies the will of their many clans and communities, so in such cases they would form "the local and regional voice" from which the National Voice representation would arise. In most other communities where these formations are not in place, elections would occur.

If the 2023 Referendum is successful, the Kalma/Langton report which was submitted and accepted by the previous Morrison government at cabinet level would guide parliamentarians who would set up the Voice and be representative of all political parties. (See below)

9 October 2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

"Recognition with a voice" – the guts of the 2023 Referendum proposal is about empowered recognition - it is about enriching democracy in Aboriginal Communities

How would local and regional communities be represented through Voice?

In some Aboriginal communities such as NE Arnhem land, the dilak, a council of elders exists that embodies the will of their many clans and communities, so in such cases they would form "the local and regional voice" from which the National Voice representation would arise. In most other communities where these formations are not in place, elections would occur. The Kalma/Langton Report says that nine principals of enriched democracy should govern how local and regional voices are made up They are:

- Empowerment
- Inclusive Participation
- Cultural Leadership
- Community-led Design
- Non-duplication and Links with Existing Bodies
- Respectful Long-term Partnerships
- Transparency and Accountability
- Capability Driven

- Data and Evidence-based Decision Making.

If the 2023 Referendum is successful, the Kalma/Langton report which was submitted and accepted by the previous Morrison government at cabinet level would form the framework of how the Voice would work and it would guide parliamentarians (representative of all parties) who would set up the Voice. (See below)

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

What is the political and moral position to adopt on October 15 regardless of the outcome? That is easy we need to be guided by the great Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders; but particularly the Aboriginal leaders who have endured so much: steadfast adherence to justice and truth, humility, compassion and, above all, forgiveness.

10 October, 2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Natasha Wanganeen, Lydia Thorpe and the black sovereignty movement, it is a strategic mistake to vote no in the 2023 Referendum:

- The Commonwealth colonial constitution of 1901 does not invalidate Aboriginal sovereignty whether it recognises Aboriginal first nations or not.
- “Recognition with a voice” would improve the lives of the great majority of Aboriginal people particularly those in regional and remote communities
- “Recognition with a voice” would be a useful forum for advancing truth telling and the pathways to treaty
- “Recognition with a voice” helps to secure the various State wide treaties, truth telling and voices because the Commonwealth constitution forms a broad framework for all States and Territories

No matter what is said, the Black Sovereignty movement, by taking a No stand in 2023, would forever align itself with blatant racism and denial of Aboriginal rights and justice. Under no circumstances is it all right to sit alongside and even support those who deny the trauma of colonisation on Aboriginal people in every part of this country.

10 October, 2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#) [#4001](#)
[#yesrunsonlove](#)
[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

“The animals at the zoo are looked after. They have servants to care for them. Food is supplied for them. Their homes are sure. Not so the blacks. We still feel unsafe in the hands of those who are controlling and “protecting” us.

William Cooper letter to the Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, 31
March, 1938

10 October, 2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#) [#4002](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

At this terrible time of conflict in the Middle East, and no matter what your position on Israel or Palestine, it is well to remember the compassion of the Australian Aboriginal leader William Cooper and the Australian Aborigines League.

After a wave of violence known as Kristallnacht swept Germany Cooper delivered the following resolution to the German embassy on 6 December 1938

".. on behalf of the aborigines of Australia, a strong protest at the cruel persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazi government of Germany, and asks that this persecution be brought to an end."

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2023/mar/02/an-extraordinary-act-of-courage-the-aboriginal-activist-who-protested-against-nazi-germany>

10 October, 2023.

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

How to derail a referendum? Ask for details, they cannot be included in the Constitution.

They are the responsibility of parliamentarians and the legislature.

10 October, 2023.

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Love overcomes Hate

Yes campaigner turn up the music at the polling stations!

Very moved to see the PM embraced by Anangu women with their song and art yesterday.

In the last few days of this campaign I hope the following songs might bring peace and good will to all who listen to them.

When I first heard these songs at Birritjimi, and maybe before that on East Woody beach, I heard the women singing in the far distance and it truly felt like the angels had landed from heaven.

I forever think of these wonderful people as the "angels of arnhem land".

Aboriginal friends and relatives please be aware that these recordings contain the voices of loved ones who have passed away.

Deep and Wide:

[https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/deep-and-wide?si=9c549e231f4f403ba07c11e251864eea&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social sharing](https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/deep-and-wide?si=9c549e231f4f403ba07c11e251864eea&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social%20sharing)

Somewhere Beyond the Blue:

[https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/somewhere-beyond-the-blue-mix-down?si=ca0c51e74d3c44e5a63f337606f4d1e2&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social sharing](https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/somewhere-beyond-the-blue-mix-down?si=ca0c51e74d3c44e5a63f337606f4d1e2&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social%20sharing)

Garray Dangu Nngya Nhunul Nrranan

[https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/garray-dangu-nngya-nhunul-nrranan?si=c4e2f29d336a41fcbc4588ee148724d6&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social sharing](https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/garray-dangu-nngya-nhunul-nrranan?si=c4e2f29d336a41fcbc4588ee148724d6&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social%20sharing)

My Saviour Loves me

[https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/my-saviour-loves-me?si=66c5fc4cf8864e39b3d873c2cc377b69&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social sharing](https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/my-saviour-loves-me?si=66c5fc4cf8864e39b3d873c2cc377b69&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social%20sharing)

Marrakmpi Garray (Beloved Christ)

[https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/marrakpmi-garray-beloved-christ?si=e898a50eb396458995e7d3f7a9df3296&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social sharing](https://soundcloud.com/kangaroova/marrakpmi-garray-beloved-christ?si=e898a50eb396458995e7d3f7a9df3296&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social%20sharing)

Albo and the Anangu

<https://x.com/AlboMP/status/1711681822361608616?s=20>

And there is always, for those who are not so sentimental,
Briggs

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6Ms3ebVxVUaVzZB2sfyOzl?si=f94d05552e694da1>

Create your own sound track! Play it at the polls!!

11 October, 2023

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

What is the political and moral position to adopt on October 15 regardless of the outcome? That is easy we need to be guided by the great Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders; but particularly the Aboriginal leaders who have endured so much: steadfast adherence to justice and truth, humility, compassion and, above all, forgiveness.

10 October, 2023

I like so many others who hoped that our whole country would move forward together will respectfully spend the next week in silence, watching, listening and thinking, mourning what might have been.

But this must be said: 5,395,3665 Australians voted "yes" on the 14 October 2023 this represents the largest ever number of people that have become knowledgeable and tuned into Aboriginal Australian issues in our history. A formidable alliance of corporates, church organisations and community organisations also supported the yes campaign. This is something to celebrate and to build on. The 3 per cent have now been joined by a further 36 per cent of Australians. We must remain active, strong and steadfast thinking

and working for a better future for Aboriginal Australians and by default all Australians.

We know from history and from the contemporary events all around us, that majorities can be wrong, deceived and react to fear and lies. So while we must respect the results of the referendum and the views of our fellow Australians peacefully, our democracy means that we do not have to surrender the views we know to be correct and just and moral. There is much to be done let us use this week of silence to meditate on the work ahead of us.

16 October, 2023

In many ways Aboriginal leaders took on the hardest single moribund document of Australian society so it is not surprising that a change to the constitution was not achieved. But so much more has been achieved.

The 'no' vote represents many things. Those who voted no have other priorities, were deceived and/or are ignorant about the major issues facing Aboriginal Australians around the country. In many ways it is simple as that.

On many occasions in history national majorities have been wrong and have been led into conflict, negativity and the persecution of minorities. On October 14 the 3 per cent Aboriginal population was strengthened by an additional 36 per cent of Australians who will stand by them through thick and thin.

We must build on the strength and fortitude of the 'yes" campaign. We must with renewed strength and vigour continue to debate those who are ignorant, self serving and hooked into corrupt, gerry mandered regimes of political representation particularly in regional areas of Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and NSW.

But most importantly we must look to the centre of the Yes areas and build from them, new regimes of Aboriginal empowerment, new empowered Aboriginal communities where government agencies must talk to local representatives. The Voice can be created with or without the Commonwealth and we can at some future time enshrine it by showing to our fellow Australians that it works unequivocally to increase the prosperity and well being of Aboriginal and all Australians.

What is clear is that emphasis must shift to truth telling. It is clear that many Australians do not know, comprehend or want to understand their own history from the Constitution to the fate of Aboriginal peoples who suffered the onslaught of the first settlers and their antecedents.

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Kangaroo Valley voted with a resounding yes, 60 per cent, 363 votes to 215 (votes counted at 6.30 pm Oct 14, 2023). A beacon of light, and a great credit to the many who supported the Yes campaign in the Valley. On October 14 the Aboriginal community formally gained an additional 5 million supporters. In other words, the 3 per

cent Aboriginal Australians was formally joined by a further 36 per cent of tuned in, loyal and understanding Australians who are committed to listening and working in partnership with Aboriginal communities. To change the constitution and to gain the support of a majority of Australians would have been a huge leap forward, but there is no doubt we have moved forward a few steps, and maybe that is a good thing. Now it is time for a week of mourning, thinking and reflecting and above all healing.

October 16, 2023

363

215

2

[#reasonstovoteyes2023](#)

[#yesrunsonlove](#)

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

The 5 million who voted yes are not just passive voters, they have stood up against a withering storm of lies. They are passionate supporters of Aboriginal Australian communities and their rights to self determination, cultural independence, a better quality of life and ongoing, enduring prosperity. The 2023 Referendum will not be remembered for the deceitful, fearful no campaign but for the fearless, ongoing and positive campaign to support our Aboriginal first nations across the country. So take a bow Albo, Ken Wyatt, Linda Burney, and so many others.. we now know who we are and what we and you are up against..

16 October, 2023

#MataMatacars

Yothu Yindi spirit, Dhamalingu,

#theygolowwegohigher

The media just cannot stop its 24 hour malicious need to fill every void. If we do disregard the request for everyone to stop talking and have a good think about what has happened, lets reflect on non-Aboriginal Australia's baby like resistance to changing the Constitution.

Australians need education about who wrote the Constitution and why. It is a tremendous weakness of our country that people in the bush can recite poetry about pioneers, lament the sale of cattle stations to Chinese billionaires and pontificate about all and sundry but they do not have a clue about the founding document that binds us, limits us and determines many dimensions of our lives.

We live in a fog of constitutional blindness and all of our false boundaries of work and life are bound to it. Perhaps more than anything else the 2023 Referendum is a fog horn blast to Australia's constitutional stupidity and false patriotism.

<https://www.workingpapers.com.au/papers/stranger-hobart-reprint-1999>

18 October, 2023

Further...

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

Robert Marr's Killing for Country reminds us that the worst barbarism did not come from London. The worst depravities came from Australia's greedy "Lords of the Soil". From their self interest evolved a detestation of "elites", "philanthropists", "religious societies" who did not understand 'the practicalities' of eliminating those who stood in the way of their industry. They would even shun protectorates as a waste of money. pp. 72-100

The realization after October 14, 2023 is that this terrible, grass roots self interest and barbarism persists: Australia's unconscious is racist and is incapable of understanding or admitting another way of knowing, being and managing this land, the water and the invisible spirits of places. Furthermore the suppression of alternative ideas is well funded and pervasive.

The violent response to Bruce Pascoe's work Dark Emu was driven by this paralysis of understanding.

The great threat is the realisation and possibility that: the Aboriginal understanding not only has tenure over land, seas and water, but that it is deeper, superior and all the trappings of technology and industry are illusory, temporary and superficial.

[#theygolowwegohigher](#)

The Aboriginal community holds this country and the world together with manikay, dance and ceremony? How ignorant we, the newcomers who have taken so long to understand the

basic level of Aboriginal thought, to have not given voice to that wisdom?

That is the great loss for non-Aboriginal Australia, from the outcome of October 14.

October 19, 2023

#andyouwillknowthetruth,andthetruthwillsetyoufreeJohn8.31-2

“This period of military supervision was one of terrible slaughter, scores upon scores of the Aborigines falling victim to the white man’s gun .. One of the men who assisted in putting many of the unfortunate blacks out of existence told the writer several incidents which if repeated here would scarcely be regarded as pleasant reading, nor yet redound to the credit of persons even now living”

Janes Knight, *The Brisbane Courier*, 25 April 1892, p. 7 in David Marr, *Killing for Country, A Family Story*, Black Inc, 2023, p. 141

October 20, 2023

“The preferred squatter strategy was to attack their sleeping camps at dawn. It didn’t matter that in the barely lit confusion of horses, bodies and guns it was impossible to identify the men the vigilantes were pursuing. Nor did it given them pause that only after the sun came up could they hunt for some shred of evidence – a shirt, a tomahawk, a book or a side of beef – to justify the attack.”

David Marr, *Killing for Country, A Family Story*, Black Inc, 2023, p. 137

October 20,2023

#andyouwillknowthetruth,andthetruthwillsetyoufreeJohn8.31-2

"Australia was fought for in an endless war of little, cruel battles."

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 131

October 20, 2023

#thetruthwillsetyoufree

#Constitutional reform

Let it be cast in stone for all who want to change our moribund Constitution that all referendum campaigns must begin and end with the electorates that are farthest away from the capital cities and those most ignorant about our history.

October 20, 2023

#,andthetruthwillsetyoufree

#October14nomorelies

Aboriginal people were prohibited from appearing as witnesses in courts of law in the early colonial period. This meant that justice was an impossibility in any trial involving crimes against Aboriginal people and communities.

The extent of racism is barely imaginable today. Pastoral aristocrat, founder of the University of Sydney, the Australian newspaper and

member of the first European party to cross the Blue Mountains, William Charles Wentworth, wrote: "It would be quite as defensible to receive as evidence in a Court of Justice the chatterings of the ourang-outangs as of this savage race". Sydney Morning Herald, 21 June 1844, p. 3

These unfortunate, unjust and ignorant mistakes of early Australian society created blatant, ongoing racism and continue to blur the truth of Australian history.

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 130

October, 20, 2023

#andyouwillknowthetruth,andthetruthwillsetyoufreeJohn8.31-2

#theoriginsofAustralianracism

#proudblackarmband

#October14society

#committedtorightingAustraliaswrongs

"Not only have we despoiled them of their land, and given them in exchange European vice and European disease in every foul and fatal form, but the blood of hundreds, nay of thousands of their number who have fallen from time to time in their native forests, when waging unequal warfare with their civilized aggressors, still stains the hand of many of the inhabitants of this land!" John Dunmore Lang, The Colonist, 29 December 1838, p-.4

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 129

October 20, 2023

#andyouwillknowthetruth,andthetruthwillsetyoufreeJohn8.31-2

#theoriginsofAustralianracism

#proudblackarmband

#October14society

#committedtorightingAustraliaswrongs

"In 1842 Pastor Karl Wilhelm Schmidt made a note in his diary: " A large number of natives (about 50 or 60) having been poisoned at one of the squatter's stations. The neighbouring tribes are going, we are told, to attack and to kill the whites, wherever they meet with any." .. The story of Kilcoy finally broke in the press ten months after the massacre. Schmidt was attacked viciously for making such wicked accusations.. The Australian Chronicle took aim at everyone who had known of the poisoning but said nothing for so long. "We have no words to express our sense of their conduct in allowing this deed of darkness to sleep for so long a period. They have all the to a man chosen to be actively or passively partners in the crime."

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 128-9

In the 2023 Referendum the Blair electorate voted 29.4 per cent Yes and 70.6 per cent No.

20 October, 2023.

#andyouwillknowthetruth,andthetruthwillsetyoufreeJohn8.31-2

#theoriginsofAustralianracism

#proudblackarmband

#October14society

#committedtorightingAustraliaswrongs

I dislike after the event, I told you so analysis. but its important to have a look at all the informed ideas out there and certainly Frank Brennan needs to be heard.

My own view is that in the political defeat of the 2023 Referendum are many things the whole country needs to acknowledge and deal with.

We should be thankful to hear the doubts of our neighbours about Aboriginal issues and about our constitution now. It is better to hear of them now than in some uncertain future.

The large No vote is not something to gloss over and say 'if only we had a different strategy'..

There are some fundamental flaws in our national character:

1. There is a great ignorance in understanding Aboriginal communities, their needs and strengths and this cannot be papered over.
2. There is a great ignorance about our national framework and particularly our Constitution.
3. Any referendum campaign must begin and end in the electorates and with the state of mind farthest from the capital cities.
4. There is a fear that a voice might open up some chasm of the past that non-Aboriginal people might slip into; when in fact it is clear that our future cultural, economic and social salvation must involve a full reconciliation with Aboriginal people.
5. We are living in a new era of politics where the truth is malleable by political parties and the national media.

All these matters must be understood and we must address them.

In the meantime I agree with Thomas Mayo, a great new movement has been formed that is as powerful and strong as any in our history.

This is an opportunity also to comprehend the strength of Aboriginal leadership and character and to say thank you. In my mind there is no more formidable and great body of leaders in our

nation, whether party political, civic, religious, social or cultural. The problem lies not with the capacity of Aboriginal leaders but in the fact that their sense of national well being is far more advanced than our national polity or our wretched body politic and fourth estate. I have every confidence that their vision, their generosity and their common sense will prevail and it will be us, and it will be when we start to build a new awareness at the grass roots community levels of our country.

21 October, 2023

[#ThankYou](#)

[#October14movement](#)

This is an opportunity to say thank you for the strength of Australian Aboriginal leadership and character.

In my mind there is no more formidable and great body of leaders in our nation, whether party political, civic, religious, social or cultural.

Thank you to each and every Aboriginal leader for being so courageous, generous and open and for enduring a great storm of lies and for prevailing with character and strength.

The problem lies not with the capacity of Australian Aboriginal leaders but in the fact that their sense of national well-being is far more advanced than our national polity or our wretched body politic and fourth estate.

I have every confidence that the 2023 vision, generosity and common sense will prevail and it will be us, and there will be no question mark about when, this vision is implemented.

But we must start to build a new awareness at the grass roots community levels of our country about the good character and wisdom of Aboriginal leaders and about many of the doubts of our neighbours that came out so clearly and openly during the 2023 Referendum.

21 October, 2023

[#October14nomorelies](#)

Isn't it clear that we need to get back to the bedrock fundamental basic facts and information about Aboriginal communities in Australia and the Commonwealth constitution. The Australian people cannot be fooled again. Referendums certainly cannot be taboo, successful referendums must be de-rigueur if we are to progress as a nation.

21 October, 2023

[#BillHayden](#)

Vale a Humble Queensland Police Man of True Grit, Vision and Character.

Bill Hayden wrote of his time as a young Brisbane policeman that 'Giving help can be nourishing for the soul"pix

What a contrast this makes with another contemporary Queensland politician who began his working life as a police man.

As a young policeman Hayden finished an economics degree and he was consumed by a vision of government for the poor and needy. He says of his belief in big government at the time' it was Utopian and impractical ..the affairs of many nations were regulated by such thinking in our lifetimes, mostly with dreadful consequences". p.6

Hayden's traditionalist vision of big government came tumbling down with the fall of the Whitlam Government. He exposed traditional Labor philosophies to a modernizing, humanist criticism. The skill in which Hayden applied market economics with a social vision was one of the principal reasons why Labor was able to enjoy its most celebrated period of government from 1983-1996.

Hayden did all the hard policy yards that enabled Hawke/Keating to transform the Australian economy and he was the political architect of Medicare.

For many closely involved the replacement of Hayden with Hawke on the eve of the 1983 election was a gut wrenching tragedy. He wrote poignantly of his deposition as Labor leader ‘..it is distinctly dangerous in politics not to have a little paranoia. If you drop your guard when it should be up, that’s when you enemies will get you”. p. Xi But while it was a personal tragedy, it was the right political decision and though many argue Hayden, like Evatt, was the best man ever not to be Prime Minister, Hayden’s sacrifice was part of the reason for the long tenure of the Labor government. It was also the reason why he was appointed as Governor General for the longest period of office in modern history.

In these dark political times Hayden’s passing reminds us of what it means to thrive on policy not political opportunism. He used his experiences as a police man to contribute to the greater good and not to sensationalise and politicise unfortunate and tragic events. Let us hope that our brain dead fourth estate study the life and work of Bill Hayden. He was a true modern day hero that contributed greatly to the prosperity of our nation. That he was the Member for Ipswich, now more famous as a haven of right wing conspiracies and racist nonsense must give us pause for the thought.

Reference: Hayden: An Autobiography, Angus and Robertson, Brisbane, 1996.

21 October, 2023

Vale Louise Glück

At last the night surrounded me;
I floated on it, perhaps in it,
or it carried me as a river carries
a boat, and at the same time
it swirled above me,

star-studded but dark nevertheless.

“Midnight,” Louise Glück

21 October, 2023

“At Waterloo Creek on 26 January, 1838, Nunn’s troops drove a large number of Kamilaroi into a swamp and slaughtered at least 50”.

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 76

Federal Electorate, Parkes, Member Mark Coulton, National Party
2023 Referendum Result: **Parkes** 20.64% Yes, 79.36% No

21 October, 2023

Myall Creek electorate 2023 Referendum Results: **New England:**
24.2% Yes, 74.6 % No/ **Parkes** 20.64% Yes, 79.36% No

[#October14nomorelies](#)
[#thetruthwillsetyoufree](#)

In The Australian today Geoffrey Blainey today revealed the deep agenda of the conservative side of politics. He also inadvertently revealed why the National Party is doomed and why the electorates farthest from the capital cities should have voted overwhelmingly yes in the 2023 Referendum:

Remote and regional towns will only survive with the full cooperation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. If Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents in remote areas do not stick together they will be blown away and barons like Gina Reinhardt will simply rule the roost.

Blainey argues that Australia is not wealthy enough to support “tiny remote and rural towns”. This is a more radical vision of Tony Abbott and Warren Mundine in government, not \$500 million in reductions, but if Blainey has his way, and the rationalists of the IPA have theirs, billions of Commonwealth funding will be wiped from the budgets supporting rural and remote Australia and particularly Aboriginal towns and communities.

Blainey wants also to peel back all of the remnant lands handed back to Aboriginal communities since the 1970s and forget the homelands movement or any acknowledgement of ongoing Aboriginal culture. With JNP and WM, as their Aboriginal advocates, if the conservatives have their way, a new era of assimilation will begin in which all Aborigines will be required to be self sufficient on their lands or move back to capital cities or regional towns. The same will apply to non-Aboriginal Australians who are not employees of some mining or pastoral consortium.

Blainey argues that “closing the gap” targets should be thrown out the window and that if Aboriginal people stopped smoking there might be an improvement in their health!!! He writes: The life expectancy of us all, Aboriginal people included, has improved dramatically since 1788. ..Today Aboriginal Australians have a life expectancy equal to that of Bulgaria and rural Romania. Their life expectancy is higher than that in Russia and Ukraine”

A divided Australia was the catch cry of the No campaign. But truly now we have a massive divide in Australian politics.

Thankfully the 2023 campaign has created a new and strong movement of Aboriginal advocates who have a different vision for the bush, remote and regional Australian towns and a new understanding of Aboriginal communities. The fight only now begins.

October 22, 2023

Real truths that should be told after the Indigenous voice to parliament referendum



GEOFFREY BLAINEY

[Remote and tiny towns can exist only in a nation that is wealthy enough to subsidise them on a generous scale.](#)

- 12:00AM OCTOBER 21, 2023
- 349 COMMENTS

It must be hard for a prime minister to admit that he has been crushingly defeated in an electoral contest that he originally expected to win with ease. In one segment of his speech last Saturday night, Anthony Albanese praised himself as a bold man of conviction – as if he had actually won the referendum.

Many viewers who at first sympathised with the Prime Minister on television regretted that he did not directly congratulate the two Aboriginal leaders who [especially defeated him.](#)

Only one sentence was needed. He failed to speak that sentence. Yet in our long political history this probably was the most significant public victory yet achieved by Aboriginal campaigners. Moreover, they had fully digested and then condemned the controversial Uluru Statement from the Heart, but Albanese had not even digested it. As a political leader he has his merits, but [command of crucial detail](#) is not yet one of them.

READ NEXT

Alongside him on election night was Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney. She offered no congratulations to [Jacinta Nampijinpa Price](#), the talented senator by whom she had been overshadowed and outgunned this year.

In the past 60 years there were notable victories in achieving Aboriginal goals but they owed more to mainstream or white Australian political leaders. The victories also owed as much to High Court judges. Here was a unique event – a national triumph for two true-blue Aboriginal leaders, Nyunggai Warren Mundine and Price.

Crucial to the national debate is the health of Indigenous people. It is often proclaimed to be a matter of urgency, almost of shame, that they have a “life expectancy eight years shorter than non-Indigenous Australians”.

But that fact, standing on its own, is misleading. The life expectancy of us all, Aboriginal people included, has improved dramatically since 1788. Nearly every country in Africa has a much lower life expectation than Indigenous Australia. Even the EU displays more than an eight-year gap between member nations. There is even a wide gap between north and south England.

Today Aboriginal Australians have a life expectancy equal to that of Bulgaria and rural Romania. Their life expectancy is higher than that in Russia and Ukraine. It is about the same as the average citizen of the world. Indeed, it soon would be improved if those Aboriginal men aged 40 and older were not heavy smokers. Of course we in the Western world – my generation included – taught them to smoke.

Ownership of land remains another divisive topic. Federal departments some years ago should have investigated what proved to be right or wrong, sensible or misguided, in the way vast areas of land were transferred to Indigenous people. Should these new possessors of the land be exempted from paying taxes on this new but erratic source of income? Moreover, should the families who lived on native title lands be able to build a house and own the land? Instead, most of such land is held collectively, almost in Soviet fashion.

Here is one of the most remarkable ventures in Australia’s modern history, indeed in world history, but some of the key effects are blanketed in silence or dispute.

In all, an area of land twice as large as Indonesia and eight times as large as France has been transferred to Aboriginal Australians since 1975. The supporters of this transfer tend to excuse it or apologise for it by asserting that it is largely desert or semi-desert, but in fact it embraces or borders one of the main mining regions in the world. It also contains mini-regions with high rainfall and a potential for tropical agriculture as well as large expanses that are reserved for environmental reasons.

‘The idea that Aboriginal people could have remained, even today, the only occupiers of this huge expanse of land is fanciful.’

Gary Johns, a minister in the Keating government, later became an alert investigator into Aboriginal affairs. In *The Burden of Culture* he is brave enough to conclude that the introduction of native title has proved to be a dubious reform: “The benefits are few and fitful; the costs are high; the disputes are many; the system will need to be propped up forever on the pretence that native title holders can contribute to the ‘north’ of Australia, or indeed, the remainder of Australia.”

In Johns’ opinion, these unique kinds of land tenure that now occupy a little more than half of the nation are based on the faith that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a spiritual affinity with their tribal lands, to which their spirit or soul, on death, must return.

But most Indigenous people even in the Outback no longer cling to the religious faith that underpins the concept of native title. The censuses of 2016 and 2021 make this clear. I believe most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are far, far better off today than if they were living in 1788. Price, after recently [expressing a similar belief](#), was flayed by critics who had faint idea what daily life ashore was like before the coming of the First Fleet. Unfortunately, a minority of Aboriginal people still have to struggle with two different values and ways of life.

This land is infinitely more fruitful than it was in 1788, and most Aboriginal people are now the gainers. The whole globe gains too. In some years Australia produces enough food to sustain probably 100 million people in the world as a whole. In the past decade it has produced for at least one billion people the minerals with which to build aircraft, railways, motorways, ships, cars, power stations, schools, stadiums and city apartments. Likewise, here in this continent arose a democratic society that, for all its imperfections, offers liberty in a world where liberty is not normal.

The idea that Aboriginal people could have remained, even today, the only occupiers of this huge expanse of land is fanciful.

“How can the 1000 or more Aboriginal towns be helped? Have such tiny and remote towns a future? The question has to be asked again and again. It is an experiment rarely conducted in modern history – the creation of isolated towns that grow little of their own food, rely heavily on subsidies and social welfare, are mostly too small to attract a capable nurse, police officer or teacher, and provide few jobs for their poorly educated children. Most of these Aboriginal towns are too far apart to share amenities. They are also marred by family violence.”

The Uluru statement laments the high numbers of Aboriginal men in jail but does not mention that so many are there because they bash the women of their own race. This message Price has emphasised. Without saying so too loudly, she knows the so-called Stolen Generations were often Aboriginal children who had to be rescued for the sake of their own safety and welfare.

Such remote and tiny towns can exist only in a nation that is wealthy enough to subsidise them on a generous scale. Yet many are eyesores, viewed by their few visitors as blots on the nation that allows them to exist.

One argument in their favour is that the older people wish to retain their own culture and to oppose assimilation by an alien culture. On the other hand, the recent censuses reveal that Christian pastors – mostly Aboriginal – are more influential here than in most suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne.

A simple, short and accurate statement of the rival Yes and No cases is required for every referendum. This year, small but rival groups of federal parliamentarians had each summarised the arguments to be printed, side-by-side, in Your Official Referendum Booklet. The Australian government then printed millions of copies. Translated into many Indigenous and foreign languages, it reached more households than any bestselling novel in our history. At the front of the booklet, readers are assured they will find valuable information on where and how to vote if they turn to page 21. But the editors had forgotten to number the final pages.

Even enthusiastic citizens must have been bored or even bamboozled, except for the occasional short quotations from lawyers speaking with some authority.

Alas, the booklet did not even print the one-page Uluru Statement from the Heart. As this referendum involved more factors than any other in the past 100 years, a lucid source of information was vital. The booklet failed.

In contrast, at the 1999 referendum on the proposed republic, a committee of four lawyers and historians – presided over by Ninian Stephen, the former High Court judge and governor-general – had issued a readable and careful assessment of the rival arguments. The present government seemed unwise to ignore such a precedent.

Australia is one of the oldest continuous democracies in the world. Democracy is government by debate. The federation and the commonwealth were born only after long and extensive democratic debate extending from 1889 to 1900. In contrast, the present government has shunned or tried to minimise debate.

We can now see that the debate conducted during the past year was indirectly a clash about two conflicting views of this nation's history.

Albanese's view is of an Aboriginal Australia that was – for 60,000 or more years – a form of utopia. His vision owed much to historian Bruce Pascoe, an engaging speaker who by [pretending to be Aboriginal](#) tended to convince young people, and their teachers too, that he possessed an insider's knowledge. Pascoe claimed the Aboriginal people [invented democracy](#) and that they lived in peace and prosperity until the Europeans invaded.

The present government and its leader can hardly be attacked when the heads of the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and other universities actually promote a similar black-armband version of Australia's history.

Albanese was captivated by a heroic version of history even before he won the federal election last year.

Persuaded that such a version had been deliberately hidden from us all, he announced that since 1788 our nation had provided largely a history of brutality – until the era of multiculturalism arrived. One day his project – though defeated in last Saturday's referendum – may provoke or inspire a total rewriting of Australia's history. Its official names will be Truth-telling and Makarrata, for they are embodied in the short Uluru statement: a document containing highly vulnerable accusations against mainstream Australia as well as several sobering statements about Aboriginal distress today.

There are two different Australias. Admittedly, many Aboriginal Australians live in unsatisfactory and even appalling conditions. Also true is that a larger number in urban Australia have become important ingredients of our success as a modern nation. They are often overlooked.

On election night we often gathered from commentators the idea that most Aboriginal Australians lived in the Northern Territory or in remote tropical outposts to the east and west. In fact, NSW, especially Sydney and its far western hinterland, is the nation's stronghold of Aboriginal people.

More live there than in any other state and territory; and an update from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows the surprising advances they have made in the 10 years from 2011 to 2021. Their life expectations are higher than the referendum booklet dismally reported. Of their houses, the overwhelming numbers are not overcrowded.

More than 40 per cent of these houses are owned outright or with a mortgage. The proportion of their students who pass year 12 or attend university and other tertiary institutions has soared. Successful Aboriginal leader Mundine, originally a tradie, was reared in one of these towns far west of Sydney.

The Uluru statement, compiled by the leading large group of Indigenous activists, concludes that a revolutionary new era is beginning: "We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country." But hosts of Aboriginal people have little need to leave their base camp in the big towns and cities and go trekking.

They belong to the 21st century and share in its opportunities.

Historian Geoffrey Blainey is the author of more than 40 books. His recent memoir is called Before I Forget (Penguin).

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The New Era of Radical Assimilation

Australia October 14, 2023: Pauline Dutton et al interpreting the 2023 Referendum result: "You'll be right if you live in the city and act like a white fella. Otherwise we really don't want to know you, hear you or support you."

October 22, 2023

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Aboriginal people do not want to take or emulate what you think of as ownership or wealth.

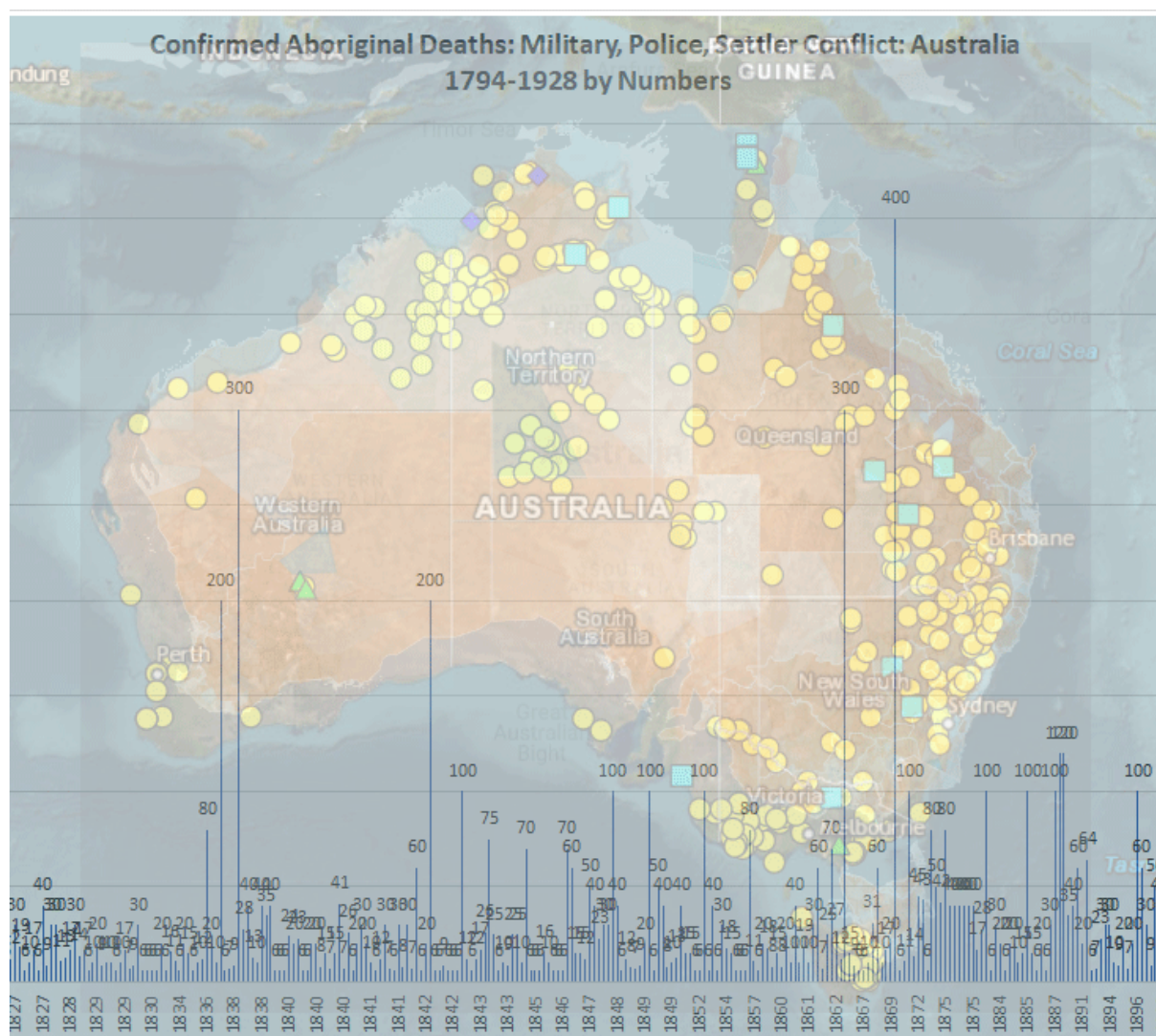
October 23, 2023

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[#The Shadow of No](#)

The Shadow of No

From Appin to Conniston our nation is haunted by the souls of Aboriginal men, women and children slaughtered and massacred across the landscape. These souls haunt the Commonwealth of Australia seeking acknowledgement, peace and solace from the descendants and beneficiaries of those who stole their lands and because of which they were brutally murdered.

The AEC map of polling booths who voted no across the nation in the 2023 Australian referendum eerily mirrors the map of massacres between 1788 and 1928. Here are the two maps: the referendum no polling places, massacre sites and the table of massacre statistics superimposed upon one another.



Australians voting against a voice for Aboriginal peoples represents a deep denial of our history. Until we reconcile and acknowledge these truths as a nation there will be no real peace and prosperity for the Commonwealth of Australia or the non-Aboriginal people who live on this continent.

It is a simple matter of justice, not politics*.

October 25, 2023

For Carl Jung and the collective unconscious of Australia.

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The Right of Might

"We have seized their country by the right of might, and by the right of might the whites will continue to possess it. When all other remedies, and amicable means, have failed, they ought to be civilized by compulsion".

Moreton Bay Courier, 16 Jan, 1847, p.3 in
David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p.
154

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The lazy, latent racism of Australia.. unlike any other in the world. Now at least, it is on view for all to see. Maybe now it can be challenged and overcome.

26 October, 2023

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[#theenlightenednovoter](#)

"The Enlightened No Voter"*

Let us make no mistake friends there were many Australians who voted "no" at the 2023 Referendum with the best intentions in the world.

Racist? Oh lordy no, these great individuals were in tune with the wishes and needs of Aboriginal Australians.

In their wisdom the "enlightened no voter" was doing the whole country and Aboriginal Australians a big favour:

- people are people no matter what the colour of their skin
- Aboriginal people should not see themselves as victims
- Aboriginal people should just get a job and live like everyone else

- 'real' Aboriginal people did not really want "the voice"
- Australia should not be divided on racial lines, or at least diverge from the racial lines that already existed
- Spiritual connections with Aboriginal people were more profound than 'political connections'
- Constitutional change was permanent and might cause harm over a long time
- Politicians of all persuasions could not be trusted
- People are people no matter what race or colour and should not be treated differently
- The Uluru Statement of the Heart was not a true reflection of the deep spiritual sovereignty of Aboriginal people
- "The voice" would be another welfare rort for grifters, bludgers and elites that wouldnt do any good
- Recognising Aboriginal people symbolically was safer than allowing them to question the nation's government and politicians

- The voice would be a permanent place for Aboriginal people to complain and not take responsibility for their own issues

- Aboriginal people just need to connect back to their roots and their own spiritual needs

- the Aboriginal world and the world of politics and government should not be mixed up with one another

- Like lock-downs and vaccination the voice was just another exercise in big government that would take away every one, including Aboriginal peoples' freedom

- The best way to help Aboriginal people was to police their communities and stop child abuse, violence against women and bludging

- Welfare and sit down money was the main reason for Aboriginal people's problems they should just work and earn a living like everyone else.

Above all, voting no was not about racism or guilt, it was just common sense, only politicians, academics and bleeding hearts supported the voice and they were a cancer on our society. They did not have a practical bone in their body.

Please go ahead and add your own justifications and rationales as you hear them. A lot of "enlightened no voters" dont think we understand them or they just think they know best.

27 October, 2023

*warning: this post may create an impromptu vomit reaction

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#questionsafterthereferendum

Why did Sky News, the Murdoch press and all of Australia's media monopolies including the ABC, on many occasions, have the right to pursue clear editorial lines verging on propaganda, while SBS and NITV confined themselves to trying to cover all views equally? Time for a rethink. Also note that JNP the Opposition spokesperson on Indigenous Affairs failed to appear on NITV. Will she and Pauline Dutton cut the NITV budget and threaten its capacity to be independent?

27 October, 2023

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Can there be such a thing as an objective journalist?

Journalists like Leigh Sales and Ita Buttrose are old school and pretty good value. The problem is, I think, they have a lack of philosophical education. It is not possible to do as Sales advocates, in the spirit of Andrew Olle, be an impartial, objective journalist. To not have a position and to provide some kind of unbiased coverage of all sides of politics or a debate is to take a political position.

For example, in the case of Britany Higgins, to take an impartial position is to favour one side more than another. In the case of the 2023 Referendum to give equal space to lies and misinformation is to take a position.

The idea that to be a journalist should entail not being "an activist" is a red herring. It creates a biased conservative position that invariably favours existing frameworks of power and politics.

What Ita and Leigh hope will save the day is the idea of 'the fearless questioning journalist' afraid of no-one. But this, with respect, is about journalists talking to journalists and in fact celebrating and being lost in their own power.

Journalists with an inflated sense of their own importance, and as politicians in their own right, is indeed why, Leigh, people are turning off the news. Nevertheless Sales' questioning of Dan Andrews and indeed famously Noel Pearson was entirely justified and defensible. Its just that it is not enough, certainly not an end in itself, certainly not enough to protect our democracy or build our collective wisdom and wordliness.

The role of the ABC and other public and private news outlets should be to take considered editorial positions after airing all sides of a debate or issue. Rather than assuming objectivity the classical liberal position that one may disagree with an opponent but fight for their right to have that opinion is a more acceptable position. This too is conservative and favours the social, political and economic status quo. But at least it curtails the ever inter-rupting, all knowing, fearless cub reporter, newspaper editor or proprietor who wants to be as important, nay more important than the Prime Minister. This is actually journalism as an active, incestuous space in itself.

27 October, 2023

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The No Country

In 1964 Donald Horne wrote his book *The Lucky Country* with an introduction by Hugh Mackay: *'Australia is a lucky country, run mainly by second-rate people who share its luck'*.

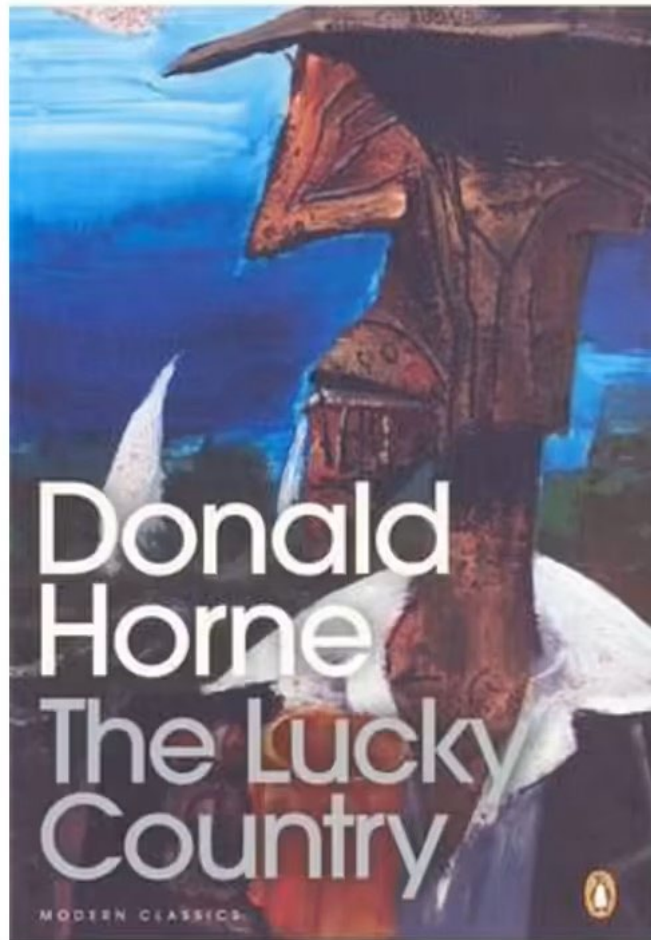
After the 2023 Referendum when 60 per cent of Australians voted to not recognise Aboriginal Australians or to give them a voice, what epithet now fits:

“the stolen country”,
“the stupid country”,
“the white country club”,
“the lost country”,
“the blind country”,
“the no country”,
“the ignorant country”,
“the soulless country”,

“the heartless country”,
“the racist country”,
“the country in denial”,
“the ignorant country”,
“the I dont know country”
“the fearful country”
“the undeducated country”
“the News Corp country”
“the (white) mates country”
“the negative country”
“the colonial country”
“the jacks as good as his (white) master country”
“the country of egalitarian racism”
“the ‘multicultural country’ that does not recognise its First Peoples” ...

Perhaps “the no country” fits best because while Australians continue to vote no to changing their ‘horse and buggy’ constitution, they dont really have a country, and when it boils down to it, the European colonies that banded together as a “Commonwealth” have no soul or origins other than opportunism. Maybe in our perverse way, the no country will become a badge of honour. I can see that. Is it such a bad thing to have no country? Millions fighting and dying for the no country.

28 October, 2023



28 October, 2023

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The elephant in the room: Australia's Palestine, hundreds of peoples with unique languages, cosmologies and lands, denied by colonists who, on October 14, 2023, voted by a majority in a majority of former colonial "states", to not even allow them a voice and agency within the so-called "Commonwealth" of Australia.

The hypocrisy of racists and militants voting together to deny a moderate, generous, proposal. Should we be surprised if the tide turns to more radical opposition and a more militant call to deny the legitimacy of Australia itself? Should we feign ignorance when hurt turns to stronger opposition?

Once again the prosperity of this nation hinges on the forgiveness, generosity, wisdom, peace and kindness of Australia's first peoples.

The destructive ignorance of the forces that now circulate around Pauline Dutton, Gina Reinhardt, Rupert Murdoch and their puppets know no bounds.

Wake up Australia!

1 November, 2023

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<https://illuminative.org/>

1 November, 2023

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I would just like to question the acting Leader of the Opposition Susan Ley: Australia is not “the most successful multi-cultural nation in the world” while we do not recognise or give voice, acknowledge truths and have a treaty with our first nations people. Moreover the Opposition is unelectable as a government until it changes its position on these matters. Furthermore after the 2023 Referendum the Opposition is unlikely to be ever trusted as a fair partner or even an honest broker by Australia’s first peoples.

2 November, 2023

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2023: King Charles moves a bit higher Australia, after October 14, sinks a bit lower.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67273676>

3 November, 2023

“Across the colonies, decade after decade, witnesses to massacres almost never came forward. Why would they risk everything going to a magistrate more than likely too gutless to take over? The Myall Creek prosecution was remarkable from the first, for the white man who saw those bodies burning on the pyre rode down to a good magistrate in the Hunter Valley, who set the machinery of law in action before anyone in Sydney heard of the slaughter. But after Myall Creek a curious but brutally effective omert`a was imposed in the bush, a code that let so much be written in the papers about massacres but saw nothing done about them in the courts”.

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 207-8

3 November, 2023

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Decolonise yourself..



3 November, 2023

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The Ugly Australian*

Australians are apt to think themselves better than Americans or Brits, friendlier, more informal, egalitarian, more worldly than most insular "septic tanks" and less class bound than "poms".

After October 14, 2023 the lie is exposed.

The 1958 novel *The Ugly American* was about the innate arrogance of American diplomats in South East Asia and their failure to understand local culture in the context of the Vietnam war. After the 2023 Referendum we can now talk about the Ugly Australian.

The Ugly Australian is someone who suggests:

- people are people no matter what the colour of their skin/but knows no-one but their own insular mainstream Australian family group
- Aboriginal people should not see themselves as victims/without reflecting on their own relative wealth and affluence
- Aboriginal people should just get a job and live like everyone else/total ignorance of the cultural differences and unwillingness of many first nations people to assimilate into a destructive economy and society

- 'real' Aboriginal people did not really want "the voice"/this fabrication reflects a long tradition of listening to Aboriginal people who say only what the mainstream society wants them to say.
- Australia should not be divided on racial lines/complete ignorance of the massive inequality and racial division that exists in Australia
- Spiritual connections with Aboriginal people were more profound than 'political connections'/again this is a construction of acceptable Aboriginal people and beliefs that do not threaten the status quo
- Constitutional change was permanent and might cause harm over a long time/exhibits complete ignorance about the nature of the founding Commonwealth document written by white misogynistic horse and buggy era colonialists
- Politicians of all persuasions cannot be trusted/while believing the worst racist, fear mongering populists and just being lazy about learning anything about civil society and its functions.
- People are people no matter what race or colour and should not be treated differently/this is again just another sop for a status quo in which White Australia lives supreme.
- The Uluru Statement of the Heart was not a true reflection of the deep spiritual sovereignty of Aboriginal people/ this once again

cherry picks Aboriginal people who mainstream Australians want to hear, as against those they don't.

- "The voice" would be another welfare rort for grifters, bludgers and elites that wouldn't do any good/blatent lie that in fact protects the many mainstream Australians who benefit from what is called the Aboriginal industry, the voice would have reformed and brought accountability to the "Aboriginal industry"

- Recognising Aboriginal people symbolically was safer than allowing them to question the nation's government and politicians/another indicator of laziness and mainstream Australian protection of their own insular culture and lifestyle

- The voice would be a permanent place for Aboriginal people to complain and not take responsibility for their own issues/again just a fabrication the opposite was the case

- Aboriginal people just need to connect back to their roots and their own spiritual needs/plain hypocrisy when most Australians have no connections to land other than to benefit from its exploitation and abuse

- the Aboriginal world and the world of politics and government should not be mixed up with one another/this is just another rationale for assimilation and for not being "different"

- Like lock-downs and vaccination the voice was just another exercise in big government that would take away every one,

including Aboriginal peoples' freedom/in fact it was a product of a process of deliberative democracy in which Aboriginal leaders wanted to take responsibility for cleaning up welfare and government spending in their own communities.

- The best way to help Aboriginal people was to police their communities and stop child abuse, violence against women and bludging/this is short hand for police state, apartheid, justification for the extreme levels of Aboriginal incarceration.

- Welfare and sit down money is the main reason for Aboriginal people's problems they should just work and earn a living like everyone else/Aboriginal Australians have their own culture, economy and society, welfare or market capitalist activities, express that reality.

- voting no in the 2023 referendum was not about racism or guilt, it was just common sense, only politicians, academics and bleeding hearts supported the voice and they were a cancer on our society. They did not have a practical bone in their body/In fact the no vote was impractical and unwise. It sets Australia on a more confrontational, rights based, courts based process to determine how Aboriginal and mainstream Australians live alongside one another. This now seems to be the main pathway to ensuring that the 97 per cent of new Australians respect the rights, culture and society of the first peoples of Australia.

- the ugly Australian like the ugly American of the 1950s has no concept of how he/she is viewed by the world and by anyone other than an insular peer group of like minded people of limited culture and intelligence. Social media confounds this issue.

4 November, 2023

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The Aftermath of “No”: A Police State in the North?

Every Australian should watch the latest 4 Corners show “Guarded” <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-30/guarded:-private-security-policing-the-public/103041420> and think about the parallels with the Black Lives Matter protests that paralysed the USA after the deaths of Eric Garner in 2014 and George Floyd in 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_can%27t_breathe

In the United States African Americans comprise 12 per cent of the US population. In Australia Aboriginal Australians represent 3 per cent of the population.

Perhaps this explains the comparative lack of power of Aboriginal Australians when dealing with police, prisons, and in the NT, private security firms.

During the 2023 Referendum Peter Dutton and Jacinta Price made much of the violence occurring in Aboriginal communities, it galvanized an intolerance to think much beyond their solution of holding a Royal Commission into child abuse and taking strong police action against those who are violent in Aboriginal communities.

Even the NT Labor government seems now paralysed to think about anything but a strong arm approach and in fact using private security firms as surrogates for police to deal with public order issues in cities like Darwin. The fear is that they will alienate mainstream Northern Territorians who are intolerant towards Aboriginal violence overflowing into their businesses and homes.

Meanwhile the whole situation of transient Aboriginal populations in cities attracted towards hotels and alcohol (that is not as available in many remote communities because of dry community regulations insisted upon by elders themselves) worsens. Driving problems across the entire Territory is the huge income divide between Aboriginal and mainstream Australians. This situation is worsening.

So now the people who could do most to solve many of these problems: experienced, thoughtful, resourceful and concerned Aboriginal leaders feel crushed by the ignorance of their fellow Australians. This is yet another shocking problem created by the “No” vote.

Things seem destined to get worse and worse and Dutton and Price et al have only themselves to blame.

4 November, 2023

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A Further Note on the Ugly Australian

I still am astonished by the ignorance of Australians about the treasures that exist in Aboriginal worlds.

I still am astonished at the ignorance of the idea that Aboriginal Australians are just the same as every other newcomer to this continent.

I still am astonished at the parochial, mundane idea that we are only as good as our capacity to “work hard and make our own opportunities”.

We have made Macdonalds restaurants on ancient temples.

We have cut our land to pieces and sold it per kilo without understanding its true value.

We have abused nuns and holy men of the highest standing simply because we could not recognise who they were or what they were doing.

The utter incongruity of the majority of Australians in a majority of “states” voting not to recognise the land’s heart and soul or to allow it to have a voice will haunt us for a very long time.

<https://www.workingpapers.com.au/papers/dw-gurruwiwi-yidaki-power-1933-2022>

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Ugly Australia hurts us every single day: economically, socially, culturally

When sophisticated visitors come to Australia, who want to do more than one trip, who want to visit more than one capital city on the south eastern seaboard , venture out to the regions, what is it that they ask to see? Where is the demand?

It is certainly not Malcolm Roberts, Pauline Hanson, Mark Latham or Peter Dutton. If they knew of them I doubt they would ever want to come anywhere near Australia.

Those visitors who do penetrate the now increasingly problematic racism that permeates Australian politics ask to talk to the oldest Australians living on their country, they want to buy Aboriginal paintings, they want to know the philosophy of the oldest culture on the planet!

The Pauline Dutton Party is now clearly an entity and it hurts us practically and economically every single day.

The strategy now is for the Senate uglies to dog whistle loudly on a range of issues from welcomes to country to vaccination then they are taken up by the Liberal National Party.

A few years ago no one in their right mind would have ever thought that this rubbish would take hold amongst the population let alone Australian conservatives. But that is clearly happening.

Perhaps the principal response is to now show how these antics divert us from major practical initiatives around the country as well as hurt our national reputation and the quest to create an enduring value adding tourism industry that is about creating strong enduring relationships not shallow tourist visits to natural beauty spots.

Welcomes to country perhaps should briefly start to mention the work by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people around education, employment and cultural self sufficiency and development. Perhaps they should also end by talking about the billions of dollars that come into our economy through Aboriginal culture every year.

Unlike the extractive industries, for example, there is no time limit, no destruction to the environment, Aboriginal culture is rich, infinite, enduring and complex and it benefits millions of non Aboriginal Australians every year. Enough is enough.

November 9, 2023

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Australia's Political Impasse and the Rise of the New Post Truth Conservatives

One of the questions I would like input and debate about is the extent to which we should interact with the Murdoch and mainstream press so clearly in the pockets of a quite terrible post-truth conservatism?

Labor and the progressive side of politics have never been good at investing in alternatives to the Institute for Policy Analysis, the Sydney Institute and of course most of the mainstream newspapers, Sky news et al.. It is somehow illegitimate for a Labor government to give to an entity like the Evatt Foundation and many Labor chiefs are too concerned about their own political capital to trust a bunch of intellectuals running around with free rein. The Australia Institute is probably the best entity we have and it is disturbing to see how often Labor and progressives disagree with its policy papers when the policy should be to allow debate to occur and to invest in high quality information and research.

Phillip Adams has maintained his Saturday column in The Australian for many years. I wrote a weekly column in the Australian in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Noel Pearson, Marcia Langton and others have written regularly in the conservative press for the good reason that we don't want to only speak to people who agree with us and also the old political precept that 'your enemies are not always wrong' is a good guide to effective politics.

But things have changed. Australia is wall to wall propaganda and the 2023 Referendum was an indicator that The Saturday Paper, Crikey, and other left of centre journals have no sway at all amongst a large majority of Australians.

Thus my question: do we engage more minimally in the conservative press, social media and simply build on an agenda with the 5 million Australians who are not in the pocket of the conservative post truth movement? What do you think?

I am now on the view that we must cease even trying to engage with the conservative side of politics and make them have to address with the positive ideas that we put forward. Twitter and other social media forums do allow us to publish ideas and stories every day. The 2023 Referendum tells us exactly where we stand as a nation and about the divisions that beset the country.

I have just started to ignore the drones and trolls and I know many have had that strategy for a long time. My feeling is that we just have to be disciplined in our positive policy work. Let me know what your thoughts are in the comments to this post!

November 11, 2023

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The Aesthetics of BBC News 1

Who would have ever thought to write about the aesthetics of BBC News? Might it be like writing about puce wallpaper?

In 2023 it seems now natural and mildly spectacular for this thought to be running through minds. For here is some semblance of calm impartial authority. The capital of the empire trusted? surely no.

Perhaps the odd editorial licence or even lie seeps into the news coverage. Perhaps also, such aberrations are done with malevolence and influence intended. How could such flaws seem understandable, even forgivable?

The reality is that this "news" is not like a greedy child smashing a birthday cake on the floor in a fit of spite. Nor can the ideological push and pull be felt as if two giants were pulling your entire house apart with giant cords.

Even the ABC News has been drawn into the vortex of the media monopolies. The pained look on the forrids of news readers betrays the conflict behind the scenes.

The spin jockeys, bullies and ruthless barons will not stop until all is overcome, thankfully the BBC News having faced down Boris and generations of toffs seems ironically safe and steadfast.

Who would have thought we would look with some fondness on the nightly offering of BBC News as a compass guide for what is happening in our world.

Some of us thought that the marketing public relations teams had been beaten. No they were only just beginning. Poor us.

November 13, 2023

Bend Over Queenslanders

It's a year since the "Bend Over Queensland" indoctrination campaign by Ian Mc Farlane and the Qld Resources Council began, millions spent on tv, radio and newspapers. My feeling is that its a collector item something up there with Where the Bloody Hell are You?

Let me paraphrase for you:

"For decades, Queensland's resources sector has been giving you one Queenslanders and poisoning the globe at the same time ."

"Now we are asking Queenslanders to bend over yet again. We extract super profits and now we want you to tax us less."

"We only have a limited time to export all of Queensland's coal so we want to make as much money as we can"

"You know when the time comes we dont give a toss about jobs, towns or people so come on Queenslanders you have never been this difficult before.

"Just take one more for us, dont be so difficult, bend over.

13 November, 2023

#bendovermaroons

#bendoverqueenslanders

The meaning of this year of death and negativity

Every postcode of Australia had a gaza like massacre of innocents. Near every Macdonalds, Coles or Woolworths, often on their very site, was a shanty town of people who existed without rights in a protectorate, fringe

camp for much of Australia's modern history. One cannot simply erase these facts from memory or history.

Hundreds of languages, cosmologies, peoples were wiped from the face of the earth. But so deep was the connection between these peoples and the lands, waters, sky, seasons, flora, fauna that their spirits have simply re-emerged in the glance of a farmer at ants in the sand or at sundown on the wide plains.

Those many native peoples who survived in full or in part weathered it all, just as they had the great murmurings of the earth since the Ice Age.

In 2023 it was a miracle Aboriginal peoples offered us "multi-cultural" newcomers a chance to put all concerted man-made death and destruction behind us and enter a new period of civilization.

Yes it is life or death. Foolishly some simply prefer the path of death and negativity. Most know not what they do. This ignorance can no longer be tolerated and that is the meaning of this year of mass death and carnage. Learn or be condemned.

Begin again or slowly die from perverse hypocrisy and ignorance and the ongoing cycle of violence of mad men. Be that real estate agent from Poltergeist or sit through ceremony, manikay, dance and purify this continent and the political forms that have emerged. Make them better, make them work for all who live here and for all forms of life and spirit whistling around us like a giant rainbow serpent climbing the gawurr with his companion marurrumburr and djarrka dancing below.

So this too is a lesson for Israel from the oldest continent. Learn from the hypocrisy of the colony of Australia. A spiral of death and destruction leads to unimaginable hypocrisy, impurity and torment for the protagonist. One cannot live freely, openly and safely, cultivating or covering up mass death.

Do not be a settler, colonial society, intertwine, reconcile, face truth and recognise the many blessings of all.

Every single death is a time to pour in and renew the blessings of mother earth and to settle souls into the paradise. Stop the bombs and begin the prayers and ceremonies.

November 15, 2023

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(See below) Similar results in Australia.. but after twenty years of plugging away with the ISX (www.isx.org.au) I have realised that it is not about having Western world “capital and resources”, it is about deep understanding of spirituality and ceremonial society.

A DECOMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AMONG
INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS ADULTS IN CANADA BY
BARRY WATSON* Faculty of Business, University of New Brunswick
AND ANGELA DALEY School of Economics, University of Maine

Using the 2004–2007 and 2008–2011 panels of the Canadian Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, we examine earnings and employment disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults. While an income gap exists and tends not to significantly change over time, taxes and transfers reduce it by almost 40 percent. Further, the gap is generally largest at the bottom of the income distribution. The explained component of the gap is primarily due to differences in education, particularly for young workers, and although the unexplained portion decreases over time, this is due to increased differences in observed labor market characteristics, implying that labor market discrimination may be on the rise. In addition, the probability of joblessness is higher for Indigenous adults and the male gap has increased.

November 15, 2023

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Keep the focus on Immigration

Defining a new immigration policy is strategically important for any long term Australian government.

If we had a half decent journalistic milieu then the work of Clare O'Neill in immigration and home affairs would show up the regressive Liberal National Party thinking in this area. However because we have journalists who are more interested in "gotcha" moments and short-term political mistakes the attention goes to tabloid style commentary.

The High Court's decision that governments cannot keep refugees in indefinite detention is a reflection on a sorry fifteen years or more of poor, politically motivated Australian government policy. It is not and could not be sustainable.

Clare O'Neill is bringing professionalism and most importantly a new philosophy to what is in effect Australian citizenship. What does it mean to be an Australian citizen in the context of a world where hundreds of millions of people live with far less privileges, rights and socio-economic privileges than Australians? What do we expect of people aspiring to become Australian citizens? These are the questions that should be asked and immigration policy needs to

be framed around the expectations that we as a country have on these matters.

There needs to be a progressive move forward in this arena and Aboriginal nations should also be consulted on the way in which they have also worked with international partners in the past and I am thinking here of the many hundreds of years of Macassan Trade with Northern Australia.

Immigration policy should not be driven by fear, xenophobia or the perception that we need to erect walls and barriers. Rather we need to ask ourselves who are we, who do want to be, what kind of neighbours do we seek?

The department of Foreign Affairs and Trade always attracts the best and brightest minds, there now needs to be stronger links with Home Affairs and Immigration as we unveil a new Australia, that carries on the traditions of Evatt at San Francisco after the war. Australia's role in Washington, Beijing and San Francisco this week creates that hopeful possibility.

Pauline Dutton's increased propensity to play politics with matters of national importance means that the LNP is more and more unlikely to catch up with these new directions. This may play well with the Murdoch media, but it is not a strategy that will pay off in the medium and longer term. It also plays into the view of many Australians that Dutton just does not have what it takes to be ever Prime Minister.

19 November, 2023

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Queens land

“Millions of acres had already been occupied but millions more were waiting for squatters and their flocks. Bowen was hard line: he believed Aborigines had no claim whatsoever to their country. Queensland he said, was “territory over which these few hundred Aboriginal tribes formerly wandered; for it would be incorrect to state that they ever in any strict sense, occupied it”. Sir George Bowen

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 229

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November 19, 2023

“One Evening” in Maryborough

“Mr. Bligh, with a party of police.. fired several shots at a few blacks encamped near Cleary’s then came into East Maryborough, charged a camp near Mr. Melville’s, drove the poor creatures from it- some through the town, some into the river-and commenced butchering them forthwith.

“Darkey”, who had been constantly employed in the town- who could have been apprehended at any moment, had there been any desire, or occasion, was shot down opposite Mr. Palmer’s, where his body was left and subsequently roasted.

“Young Snatchem” an excellent and industrious black, was driven into the river, near the public wharf, -scores of men, women and children stood by, and Lieut. John O’Connell Bligh stationed himself in the bow of a boat, which was in readiness, and forty or fifty shots were actually fired, five or six by Mr. Bligh himself. The boat overtook (the black) in an exhausted state, and the “gallant hero”.. lowered his carbine, and shot the defenceless, tired, unresisting wretch, in the back”.

“One Evening”, Maryborough Chronicle, 5 June 1907, p. 3

David Marr, Killing for Country, A Family Story, Black Inc, 2023, p. 22932

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[November 19, 2023](#)

Australia’s Ghettos

Australia’s ghettos are not in the inner city. They are in the remote areas, in the corners of sugar plantations, on the edges of pastoral stations, in remote towns where there is no industry or production apart from government payments.

Gradually these places are exploding and the consequences are being felt in regional towns and cities and in the remote areas where break-ins are reaching epic proportions.

A majority of Australians believe that the answer is to: abolish welfare, increase the powers of police forces, build larger prisons and detention centres.. not that they have thought about any of these issues in any detail.. they simply react when these problems appear on their doorsteps.

The No vote on October 14 was a profound tragedy. It meant that the best partners government has had in trying to find solutions to many of these problems were not only rejected but profoundly insulted.

Worse still the No campaign gave power to those who have no solutions to these problems other than those indicated above. There is a great risk of fascism arising in Australia, especially in the regional and remote areas.

The only way all this can turn around is to develop a profound and practical education campaign where those advocating quasi-fascist solutions are directly shown better alternative policies. There is a lot at stake.

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[November 20, 2023](#)

Someone's got it in for me
They're planting stories in the press
Whoever it is I wish they'd cut it out quick
But when they will I can only guess

Idiot wind
Blowing every time you move your mouth
Blowing down the back roads headin' south
Idiot wind
Blowing every time you move your teeth
You're an idiot, babe
It's a wonder that you still know how to breathe

With apologies to BD.

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November 20, 2023

Lets get real, look at the amount of money that was spent by the IPA on sabotaging the Yes campaign... there was no equivalent research or public policy group working for the Yes side.. until this imbalance is corrected Aboriginal policy advocacy is reliant on individual academics.. and will always be defeated.

<https://ipa.org.au/thevoice>

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November 21, 2023

Jordan Peterson captivates intelligent people. The clinical psychologist no longer in service to his patients but to himself and his ego. So many simple truths amplified into a rambling discourse fuelled by real drugs and the drug of adulation.

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November 22, 2023

Rhinoceros Hide and Politics

If you want to use X/twitter as a guide to who is taking the initiative? who is a good Minister trying to get things done? Then just count the offensive character assassinations that trend. Last week it was Clare O'Neill this week it is Chris Bowen.

The lesson: to be an effective figure in public life these days, you need to have Ned Kelly's armour, a great deal of self confidence and you must have an ability to look through the trolls and be able to recognise what is legitimate criticism and commentary and what is not.

November 26, 2023

Fing Journalists

A Paul Keating who is a decisive Prime Minister comes along once in every generation. What is as common as garden worms are journalists who dilly dally about government decisions. I remember the shockingly indecisive debate about telecommunications and the digital age in the 1980s and 1990s. The argument was that we couldn't pick what would be the dominant technology and so we created a market based delivery system involving multiple market based agencies. If we had backed a public telecommunications company providing fibre optic services to nodes around the country we would be a long way ahead of where we are and the country would have saved trillions. But even Keating could not see that and our telecommunications mess is one of his policy legacies.

Now we have a similar kind of debate around energy. The opposition and the fourth estate can always find reasons why we should not do things. What is clear is that we need to boost local renewable energy self sufficiency. Government needs to back this option and forget about the noise on all sides. It is clear but these days we need to move to a whole new level of selling policy and big national initiatives. What we used to apply to a whole of government media capacity, now needs to be delivered around big policy ideas and initiatives. They require a massive task force of public servants, public relations people, academics and think tanks to get behind the ideas that will take our country forward.

November 26, 2023

The Rising Tide of Conservatism

There is only one way that Labor can beat the rising tide of conservatism sweeping the world and that is to be twice as good as their opposition. There needs to be practical and bold initiatives.

Labor should incorporate dentistry into Medicare as a major initiative in its next period of office. In the spirit of Bill Hayden this requires much thinking and research!

30 November, 2023

Gentlemen's work - the origins of Australian Racism and the "No" Vote in 2023

"This was gentleman's work. To be an officer of the Native Police on the frontier massacring blacks was one way of living up to the motto engraved on Edmund's (Uhr) signet ring: For Christ and Country Danger is Sweet. The qualities Inspector George Murray looked for in officers were sobriety, energy, bush experience and "being a young Gentleman of good character". There was even a notion that gentlemen were particularly suited to leading black troopers because gentlemen and black's saw eye to eye. "I believe every black fellow is one of Nature's gentlemen, in manner and disposition", the Maryborough magistrate Richard Sheridan told the 1861 inquiry "He dislikes coarseness in every sense of the word". All this talk of good breeding attracted its share of mockery. "Red Indian" wrote in the *Maryborough Chronicle*: "It is a farce endeavouring to throw credit over such a trade, that by a uniform and by bastard titles gentlemen can be found to carry on the trade of a butcher".

Report from the Select Committee on Murders by the Aborigines on the Dawson River, 1858, p52, Murray to Colonial Secretary, 27 Feb, 1863, Report from the Select Committee into the Native Police Force, 17 July 1861, *Maryborough Chronicle*, 28 Feb 1861, p. 3

David Marr, **Killing for Country, A Family Story**, Black Inc, 2023, p. 258

3 December, 2023

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The origins of Australian Racism and the “No” Vote in 2023

“It would be another dozen years – the bloodiest in the colony’s history – before Queensland allowed blacks into the witness box. After half a day, with almost no evidence before them, the three Gayndah justices announced: “The bench do not require any defence, and the prisoner is discharged”. Harris was sacked. After this it was clear to Native Police officers that the worst that they might suffer for the random killing of any black was dismissal. The Harris case renewed their licence to kill.

Maryborough Chronicle, 13 August 1863, p. 2; The Courier, 17 August 1863, p. 2, 21 August, p. 3

David Marr, **Killing for Country, A Family Story**, Black Inc, 2023, p. 262

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The ABC's Fireside Chat is about two years past its use by date. Why would we want to watch comedians commenting on serious issues when there are so many better options on SBS – PBS Newshour, CBS News, George Stephanolous

Idiot Wind

The “Idiot Wind” blowing through our nation is part of a very serious problem facing the world that can only be solved by enhancing the knowledge and capability of each individual. The rise of Trump, post-truth lies and deception cannot be addressed by putting up an alternative version of truth and asking people to believe in it. It is a political truism of long-standing that negative campaigns seem to win referendums, elections and media debates. However this should not deter us from innovation and putting forward positive policies and ideas, working hard for good government but we are only as good as the capacity and intelligence and objectivity of our fellow citizens. We are only as good as our weakest link, so that means talking to our neighbours and friends, challenging lies when they see them and doing our best to promote education and ideas.

It is important that we do not retreat to behind our barricade lines. That is why I now take X/twitter seriously. Other forums such as Tik Tok, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram are also not to be taken lightly. These are the places to create informed debate and good quality ideas and information.

One of the basic precepts of a good education is to think critically and to not just accept ideas from anybody. Another point of classical liberalism is to defend the right of adversaries to have a different opinion and to enthusiastically and without prejudice debate those ideas.

The alternative to this scenario is dictatorship, war and death. For if these principles of democracy are forgotten then it is simply a matter of force either through media monopolies, coercion, military force and ultimately the final silencing death.

The world faces profound crises. The killing, degradation and terrorist acts and philosophy of Hamas cannot be tolerated. Neither is the genocidal bombardment of Gaza acceptable. The Russia/Ukraine War is a tragic travesty. There needs to be positive settlements of these situations, maps of peace articulated by our national and international leaders must be advocated and advanced.

After WWII and the killing of hundreds of millions there was an appetite to create a world body that would never allow another world war. The United Nations was formed and Australia's Dr. H.V. Evatt played a very important role in advocating for the small nations of the world. Australia must once again play a role with the small nations of the world in advocating positive solutions to world problems from war to climate change.

Thinking about and debating the great questions of the world is one way of keeping the hounds of hell at bay and at the same time educating those who fall for the propaganda of lesser minds and causes. We must wedge the racists, hate-mongers and evil away from the main show cases and it has to start here on social media as much as any other place.

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A Balanced and Compassionate Immigration Policy is an Asset for Australia

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

America’s greatness and true genius lies in its diversity and its relatively generous immigration policy.

Australia, in the post war period has been influenced by the power of the United States. Now on one measure Australia has more migrants as a proportion of the population than the United States. The other side of this is the fact that the US is a more multi-racial nation

One Nation are linking the current post Covid increase in immigration with other problems that have nothing to do with migration. In fact as in the United States immigration is a tremendous boost to productivity in areas like farms where not enough fruit pickers and agricultural workers can be recruited.

Here are the facts courtesy of the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

“Australia's population grew by 2.2 per cent to 26.5 million people in the 12 months to 31 March this year, according to data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Beidar Cho, ABS head of demography, said: “13 months after international borders were re-opened, net overseas migration accounted for 81 per cent of growth and added 454,400 people to the population in the year to March 2023.”

Net overseas migration was driven by a large increase in arrivals (up 103 per cent from last year to 681,000) and only a small increase in overseas migrant departures (up 8.8 per cent to 226,600). This pattern, low departures in particular, is a catch-up effect after closed international borders, as international students return with only a small number departing because very few arrived during the pandemic. This effect is expected to be temporary as the number of departures will increase in the future as temporary students start departing in usual numbers.

Natural increase was 108,800 people, a decrease of 18.5 per cent from last year. There were 301,200 births and 192,300 deaths registered during this time, with deaths increasing 7.9 per cent and births decreasing 3.4 per cent. COVID-19 mortality was still a contributor to an increased number of deaths.

Western Australia is the fastest growing state (+2.8 per cent) followed by Victoria (+2.4 per cent) and Queensland (+2.3 per cent). The largest increase in total population was Victoria with 161,700 people, slightly more than New South Wales with 156,300 people.

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“Any movement that claims to represent an oppressed people must act in an ethical way *even if it is not in power and perceives itself as weak.*”

Susie Linfield, “The Return of the Progressive Atrocity”, *Quillette* Nov 1, 2023

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December 9, 2023

Some Measured Dimensions of Yolngu life

"My father's rich, my mama's good lookin and I can play the blues. I have not suffered and I do not intend to suffer."

Miles Davis

11 Jan, 2024

[#thetruthwillsetyoufree](#)

The Australian Flag has a secret implant in it.. it was secretly sewn into the lining by the World Economic Forum.. anyone displaying the flag on their car will be targetted by a drone that drains all brain cells from the body.. Dont know if you have noticed?

#theshadowofno