

WHY a REPUBLIC?

by PETER CONSANDINE © 2017*

In the pre-election climate obtaining, there are semblances of the kind of apprehension in the body politic that abounded in the republican referendum year of 1999. Perhaps, this is because a percentage of the body politic are observing a general trashing of the place being perpetrated by a desperate Federal Coalition and a reckless Labor Opposition.

Indeed, there is a palpable fear in the electorate-at-large that too much spending is being contemplated by the majoritarian parties - ALL too soon/expedient; UNaffordable and potentially damaging to Australia's precious AAA-credit rating in the short-term and the economy and the country's terms of trade in the medium-long term.

Over-Spending, Over-Promising, UNDERestimating and UNDERperforming aside, there is the ONgoing relevance, indeed importance, of the REPUBLICAN issue to be addressed as our monarch has recently turned 91 years of age and is, inevitably, that much closer to either death OR abdication.

I probably have a keener awareness of the mood of the Australian electorate than most because, on average fortnightly, I conduct (usually) ALL-day Republican street meetings in the suburbs and townships of Australia - in ALL 6 States and 2 Territories. FACTually, I have personally manned The Republicans' street booths on 772 of the 774 outings to date staged by the REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA (RPA) since October, 1991 until the present time, early July, 2017. In the latter 22 months of this activist period I have been, simultaneously, advancing my pastoral republican visitation schedule which sees me actually calling one-to-one/door-to-door on committed & committing fellow-Republicans. I have mostly enjoyed this unique "reunionising" involvement - especially since I have positively signed a Net 338 confirmation 'numbers' in to The RPA fold out of the overALL 928 new recruits to **The Cause** since the April 2014 WA Senate Re-Election Campaign.

I am about to commence a nationwide street meeting schedule in tandem with my political party's Federal election campaign and I expect to widely detect general resentment in the body politic with adversarial politics and much irrelevance, scare-campaigning, ridiculous tax & spend auctioneering options the order of things.

Obviously, a change to Australia's constitutional arrangements will involve ALL manner of cost, dislocation and fear engenderment. However, I genuinely believe that it will be cost-beneficial to switch to a republican system. Moreover, I personally believe the coming of the Australian Republic will amount to a culturally-enriching, palpably aspirational, country-wide celebration for the masses/ALL community groups - the kind of overALL stimulating experience that I *mostly* enjoy *I do get lots of flak from hostile monarchists - sometimes it gets quite violent and, in fact, flak from objectors to my Street Warriorism is *on the rise*) along the pathway I am forging week in - fortnight out.

I therefore think it is timely to revisit the arguments that were advanced in the lead-up to the failed first referendum to ensure that my party [The RPA] and its nationwide membership and its supporters are sufficiently well-briefed to mollify and not (further) infuriate the 'Angry Brigade' of people - monarchists/status quoists - who they will come across, sooner or later.

Back in the 1997 - 1999 years I was invited on numerous occasions to participate in talks, conferences, debates and the like on the reasons - WHY - Australia should become a REPUBLIC.

Some Answers and Counterpoints from *those days* obtain until the present day:

- In the 'NO' case prepared by Australians for Constitutional Monarchy (ACM), there was absolutely no mention of the incumbent monarch. Australia cannot possibly be seen by other sovereign countries of the world to have a *discernibly Australian* national identity when its Head-of-State is a foreigner who does not reside here and who ONLY takes time out from her *British* duties to visit these shores once every-so-often. If Australians are so enamoured with 'monarchy' then why shouldn't we/why don't we commence our *own Australian* royal house/line?
- The Governor-General is NOT Australia's Head-of-State...the Australian Governor-General is purely *the representative in Australia* of the British monarch - Australia's constitutional Head-of-State.
- To the nonsense, status quoist, viewpoint: "If it ain't broke then don't fix it"...the confident 'Republican' response would be/should be along the lines of: "Well, fob watches *still* work!"
- To the nonsense, status quoist, viewpoint: "It'll cost us a fortune which the country cannot afford - now or ever"...the confident 'Republican' response must be: "Democracy always comes at a cost to this nation; Yes, the changes involved with the conversion from monarchy to republic will come at a cost BUT it will be *cost-beneficial* for the republicanised nation in the medium-long term". Moreover, the confident 'Republican' response must be: "there will be cultural, symbolic, inclusivist, aspirational and economic advantages for Australia to install it's own Heads-of-State; to elect or appoint some of our own".
- To the nonsense, status quoist, viewpoint: "we have a 'crowned republic', already"...the confident Republican response, assertively must be: "there is no such thing as a 'crowned republic' - that is a sop...a 'crowned republic' is a contradiction in terms".
- To ensure that the second Republican referendum succeeds [failure will NOT be an option], there must be a 3-Phase process (see: The RPAs position paper: 'REPUBLIC DELAYED is REPUBLIC DENIED!') guaranteed by a *united* Republican vanguard. This process - with absolutely no cutting of corners or shortcuts - will stymie the *united* reactionary forces which will be, no doubting, brought to bear.

Of course, with the coming of the Australian Republic there will be an attendant Australian Charter of Rights, Responsibilities, Freedoms, Choices & Values.

Check Out The RPAs website for the Direct Election model for Peoples' Sovereignty once the monarch cedes her sovereignty back to Australia and Australians on the website: www.therepublicans.com.au

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