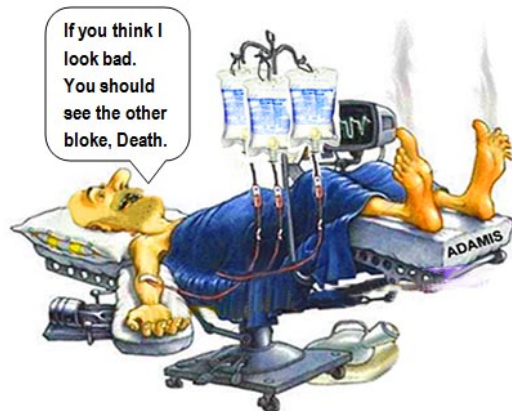


A RACE AGAINST THE ODDS

Peter Adamis 25 January 2016 - Abalinx



Apologies to the original and for the changes

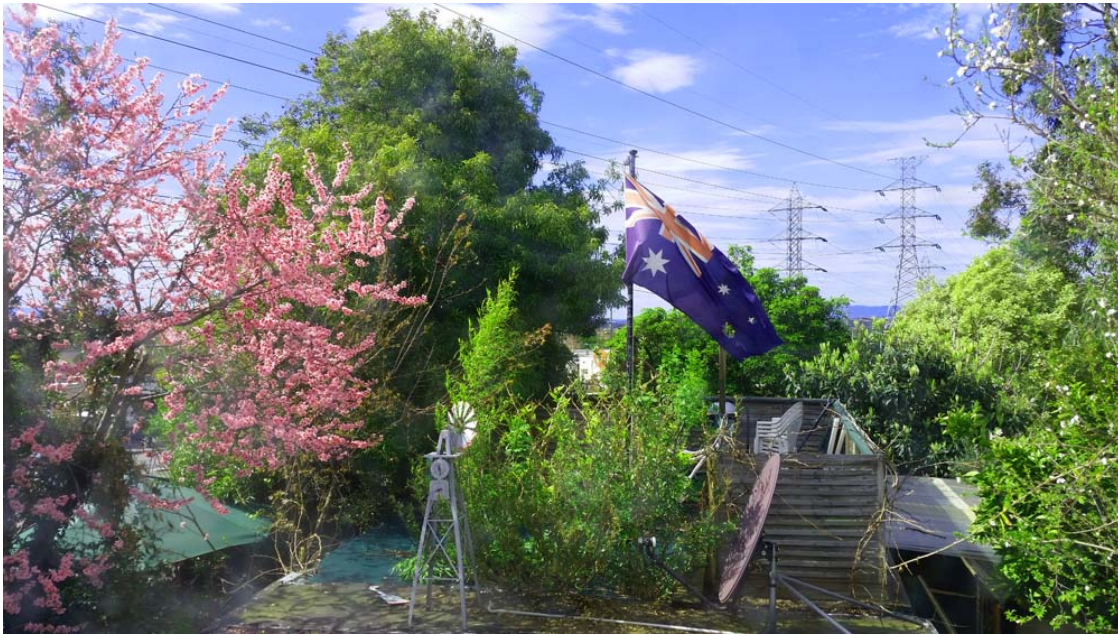
When we read the title we may be put off the article because it may relate to racing industry, yet again we are confused by the cartoon of a bloke in hospital (good looking bloke I must say). The date is also misleading because I began my first draft on Wednesday 20 January 2016. Before we begin the foray into the article let me advise the reader that the article was written for Australia Day and in stages duty current predicament.

Those in the know will understand the reasons why it has taken such a long time. Cancer is a battle that exhausts then body of all it energy and it takes longer to recover. In my case I have to rest the two fingers typing and rest to recharge the batteries.

I shall reach the ripe old age of 66 next March and also the birth my first grandchild. I am certainly happy for the parents and do hope that they have the emotional maturity to handle such a huge responsibility. Mind you, this is not a criticism but rather an observation of young parents in this age of expanding technologies.

I have four sons, all brought up myself in an environment where under normal conditions one would think I was tyrant. I still get emotional about it all. The last two week have not been the best for family, with one son being clipped and potential for dying by the driver of other car running the red light and allegedly on 'ice'. This was followed by the youngest being rushed to hospital with a temperature of 200/110 and finally the second eldest who came back home to help my wife while I am in hospital and having is car stolen.

Those who know me would be surprised to see me write that I felt like a tyrant. However one, must consider all the facts, being alone, serving in the Australian Regular Army, feeling guilty leaving the boys at home alone, working late hours, keeping fit balancing the budget supplement by a vegetable garden and handouts from friends and relatives. To make this all work some of control mechanisms need to be installed and followed up periodically.



I guess my children will probably judge me by my latter comments and not understand the depth of despair, fear and trepidation if I was seen not to be a good father and provider. Getting back to the mountain so to speak and our very own Australia Day. If the reader happens to pass by the Watsonia RSL turn you back and you see the Aussie flag fling proudly above the numerous trees.

Prior to the big day some scallywags will attempt to raise the passions of Australians against fellow Australians and yes demonstrate the ugly side of the Australian character. Some will go on social media thinking that they are doing what they believe all Australians are thinking. They could not be further from the truth even if they tried.

There will be horns blowing, tyres being burnt, vomit all over the place, road rage, drunks, speedy Gonzales driving over the limit. There will be battles between crowds and the Police, injuries galore, emergency departments full to the brim. Jails will fill up quickly and courts struggling to judge and condemn those brought before them. Yes this one version of Australia Day and what sickens me the most is the destruction of people's lives and property.

However despite the macabre description given above, there is an Alternative Australia Day where none of the above destructive tendencies appear. A day where families get together, enjoying each other's company, over a BBQ, good food, a few beers, soft drinks, wine, and deserts that everyone can be happy with. Flags flying, trips to the beach or countryside depending on weather conditions, catching up with old friends and with a few go to the cinema to watch the latest movie is the preferred Australia Day without the rough and tumble of the above.

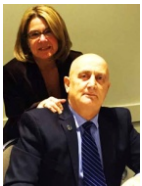
Yes, it's not hard to imagine an Australia day free of hoon and larrikin behaviour, a day of peace, tranquillity, a day that is within means, control and hands. On that day spare a thought for the parents, law enforcement, Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Services, and other services and above all to those who have since left us, leaving behind an Australia Day that belongs to all Australians, no matter their origins.

As I live directly across from the Watsonia RSL, I would normally attend the service there and return home for a BBQ with the family. Sadly it will not be same this year as I may still be in hospital battling this deadly cancer. It has been a struggle but mind you is not what life is all about, facing the challenges, finding solutions and getting on with life. The senior consultant had just arrived and I passed him writing to hear his brief. He was the bearer of good news. He said that I had responded better than expected and was pleased with my progress.

What this translates to is that the deadly cocktail Leukaemia, Mantle Cell Lymphoma and CD5+DFLBCL have been stopped dead in its tracks. I have since found out that the new body of knowledge is indicating that if after the second PET scan a person is clear, their survival rates jump from 55% to 75-80% chances of surviving. The consultant's news today placed me in the latter. Although it is certainly great news, I am left with a low immune system that has no remnants of my childhood vaccinations and there I am subject to infections until those vaccinations are given to me again some six months later.

There is so much more that I would like to write about Australia, but I have constraints placed upon me at the moment that cannot be ignored. Still as my ex Military mates would often say about me, "Pete you are an Australian who having served this nation can be equally proud of your Hellenic origins and be comfortable with both". My response to that is to say that "I love this nation of ours with the passion of Greek".

I wish each and everyone living in this wonderful country of ours a very Happy Australia Day. As always, please accept my apologies for the grammar and punctuation.



Peter Adamis is a Journalist/Social Media Commentator and writer. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538