



WHY IS AUSTRALIA LACKING COLOURFUL CHARACTERS?

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This nation is home to millions of Australians and yet those who rise to the occasion by demonstrating leadership and vision are criticised.

Why is it that we cannot embrace and rejoice when colourful characters appear on the scene giving hope to the nation? Jeff Kennett was controversial and colourful, Bob Hawke and his mate Paul Keating were the same. Robert Menzies had a flair about him and Arthur Callwell was not far behind him. Black Jack McEwen and John Curtin were great and patriotic Australians who when called upon answered the call.

Why then is the current crop of our leaders lacking in vision and skills necessary to lead this nation forward. Why is it that the media is focussing on petty matters of dual citizenship, gender changes, marriage equality when the nation is crying out for visionaries to come forward?

Are we as a nation so complacent to the dangers confronting us, are we emus and foreign ostriches with our heads in the sand? Is it because technology has reached into our homes and invaded our privacy, influencing our youngsters with ideas that are so seductive that logic does not become part of one's life and it is difficult to argue with a subject or a product that appears beneficial to mankind? We can only blame ourselves for the rut that we are in and Orwell was correct and farsighted to be able to write about the future with such uncanny vision.

Why are we forever putting down those that dare to buck the status quo and dare to call a spade a spade? When did we change as a nation and let minority groups dictate our way of life and when did the word "RESPECT" disappear from our vocabulary.

The media has much to answer for and also needs to be made accountable to the people and not be overly concerned with the fiscal side of things. The media have the opportunity to demonstrate responsible leadership and set an example to society.

Those radio and television "jocks" who pontificate across the airways need also to look at their own personal lives before making outrageous and harmful contradictions that only attract the loonies and the minorities.

We as Australians need to redefine who we are as a people and rise above our shortcomings and learn to live in a world that is changing every moment. We will be left behind sleeping while the rest of the world passes us by and looks upon us as the poor cousins of this earth. We need more colourful characters and visionaries in order to take our rightful place in the world.

Like the image demonstrates, let us not wait for the sun to set over the horizon to realise that we are about to be cloaked in the darkness of ignorance because of our complacency. If and when that time heaven forbid arrives; let us be thankful for the few who were vigilant and had their light globes and torches ready to shine the way.

I have used a number of metaphors and veiled speech to get my message across and therefore I cannot be sure that my messages will bear fruit. I do hope for us that I am not alone.

2015 and 2016 for me were years of reflection, treatment and recovery. 2017 was laced with sadness with the passing of family friends and acquaintances and yet despite their passing, I have become the recipient of their memories and will not forget their contribution to making me who I am. Not to dwell on what could have been but to ensure that whatever time we have left is not squander in futile objectives that lead to nowhere. I intend to make life more meaningful and worthwhile, worthy of those who had a hand in making me who I am today. Life as we know it can only be sustained by vigilance and with that vigilance comes responsibility.



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