

2024-06-14 Graham and John speak with Professor Gigi Foster...

Hi everyone, Wednesday, the 12th of June, Club Grubbery strikes again with another great episode and another fantastic interview with a lady we can't get enough of on this program and that's Professor Gigi Foster. Welcome to Club Grubbery. Thanks so much for having me back, Graham and John. Yeah, it's great to have you, Johnny.

Always good to talk to Gigi and. So many, uh, perspectives on so many issues in the country we can cover off on. Before we do that, some of the events of today, very interesting to see, and you can both comment on this before we kick into what we're going to talk about, um, very interesting to see that, um, Nick Coatsworth, Dr.

Nick Coatsworth has said, I'm not having any more COVID shots. I've had three. That's it. Um, said that on Ben Fordham's show, uh, John, it seems to be going crazy on the social media at the moment. Well, interestingly enough, he was on there advertising his upcoming television program on longevity. Uh, and it's quite ironical, isn't it, that, uh, here he is talking about longevity and at the end of the, uh, at the end of the, uh, interview, he, he gets asked by Ben Fordham about COVID and the COVID jabs.

He said, well, I've had two COVID jabs. Three, uh, and I'm not having any more. And he said, when did you last have one? He said two years ago, uh, and then said, uh, well, why aren't you having any more? And. Uh, Catesworth said, well, uh, the science doesn't back it, uh, or words to that effect. So the best bit of advice he's given for his show, his upcoming longevity show and how to live longer is not to have any more jabs.

Not to have any more jabs, Nick Catesworth. We'd love to get you on. We have approached you. We have been, uh, communicating of sorts over the last six or eight months and, uh, we'd love to get you on really. We'd love to hear your perspectives because I think anyone watching this program now would be starting to perceive that we're, We're staying, um, we're staying very well focused on what we're doing.

We're not trying to scare people one way or the other. We just want the truth to come out. And, um, and, and Gigi, you've been involved in the, um, you've been involved in various inquiries around the COVID response and everything before we go into other matters that we want to talk about education and judiciary, but how do you, how do you see the pulse of the nation at the moment, given everything that's gone on and do you perceive that.

The narrative is starting to crumble that to an extent that we may get a more open dialogue between, between different parties. Well, that's very much what I'd like, Graham. As you know, I mean, I'm very much one of these people who wants to reach everyone if possible. Um, I think the, the, the us, them mentality, uh, is kind of partly what got us into this mess.

And so we really need to overcome that on our side. Uh, and be open and and compassionate towards other people that doesn't mean forgetting what happened or giving free passes to the people who betrayed our trust. But it definitely does mean trying to talk to them I mean one thing that for example I'll use as a signal that things are moving in a more sane direction is I was actually asked to give a tedx talk Uh at unisw in I think october, uh, and i've written it about You know essentially the betrayals of the COVID era.

And the students who recommended me for this talk thought this was a great speech. I've sent them a draft speech and they were like, oh, this looks great. And I'm drawing parallels to the cultural revolution and the rise of the third Reich. They're not batting an eyelid, right? So the fact that that's happening, I mean, that I don't think I could have You know, gotten that past any reviewers, even students a couple years ago.

So the fact that I was asked after a student was in one of my classes where I was, of course, talking about COVID policy along with other things, and that they actually all appreciate that and the students themselves are from a

variety of backgrounds, including health science. And psychology and economics, of course, is the one who took my class, so I think that's a positive sign.

And of course, as local, but more globally and even nationally, I definitely do seem more of a struggle for the people who are kind of going with the mainstream narrative to find themselves accepted with that narrative. That is, it's just ringing very hollow. And I think the mainline response of Australians at this point is not so much to have any more serious, you know, Uh, credence in what they're hearing from people in authority, but rather to try to memory hole.

And that's been, of course, a major motivation for the last year or so. Memory hole, make the best of it, try to make it, make a reasonable, uh, lifestyle for your family in difficult economic times, because that's the thing that is on people's minds mostly is the cost of living crisis. How are they going to get through the uncertainty of the economy, the uncertainty of where Australia is going?

Who are we anymore? I mean, the. Yeah. The loss of our social fabric and our sense of togetherness is just pain, so painful. That's so painful because that's what makes a nation. And, and we are, we're, I feel like we're losing that even though it's true that the mainstream narrative is slipping. We don't have anything in its place.

That's really been accepted broadly by people and we used to, you know, Australia is such a wonderful country. It's why I came here. You know, I mean, it's, um, it has a beautiful history and, um, you know, a national character that used to, I thought used to feature courage and a kind of practical can do attitude and mateship and, um, a beautiful country, beautiful physical surroundings and kind of, you know, Western democracy in the Asia Pacific, you know, what's not to like?

But we've kind of forgotten about those things and now we just sort of look down and we just try to make a go of it on our own, maybe with our family, but it's, it's a, it's a fractured community. So that's what I'd like to see as the next step. I mean, even if people aren't agreeing with the mainstream narrative now, that's not enough.

We need to take the next step and rebuild. Um, clearly you can't heal a wound by saying it's not there. Does, does it concern you at the moment that in order to protect itself, From the scrutiny of excess deaths and, and vaccines being withdrawn and all the other, uh, crumbling around that narrative, um, the, the, the, the, um, the whole motive of self protection, do you see that as being dangerous in a, in a situation where we've got people really struggling to stay alive in some cases?

Absolutely. Absolutely. 100%. In fact, actually, this afternoon, I'm flying to Perth to give a seminar at Curtin University tomorrow in the business school and economics department or whatever they call themselves. And, and the theme is essentially the damage that can be done by entrenched sclerotic bureaucracies.

And one of the examples is COVID policy. There's also all sorts of other examples that I'm drawing on during the talk. And, you know, what you see is that a bureaucracy, whether it's within an organization or of a nation or in a particular industry, um, you know, TGA would be an example of a, of a bureaucratic body, right?

Their, their incentive is to stay alive. And we've known this for decades, right? This is not new knowledge. This is just rediscovered sort of knowledge based on what we've been through the last few years. We're starting to focus our minds on some of the lessons that were discovered by thinkers. You know, back in the 1970s, even Herb Simon and the the administrative state, you know, this is somebody who's who's worked in sort of the beginnings of behavioral economics, which is my field, he talked about the the bounds of reason within administrative structures and this distance between the action of a bureaucrat and the consequence of his action is an incredibly corrupting influence that's corrosive to the mission of the very bureaucracy itself.

So you set up a bureaucracy, let's say, to look after the health of people. Um, as soon as you set that bureaucracy up, you've, you've kind of gone back two steps because the bureaucracy now, because it is just a bureaucracy that's set up, it's like a standing army, right? Or a standing bunch of whoever they are getting a paycheck and

being evaluated based on what happens in that bureaucracy, whether they are seen to be making a difference, quote unquote.

But they're not really at the coalface. They're not actually in the doctor's consultation offices, in the surgery rooms, in the, you know, the, the places where people need to have healthcare. They're in this back office somewhere, you know, in some, some central office, maybe in a CBD. So they're not really seeing the consequences of their actions, and that means, and of course they want to keep collecting their paycheck, right?

So they, they then can start spinning stories about how they're being effective, you know, and maybe safe too, uh, without actually feeling the consequences of whatever they decide. And people will kind of go along with it because they don't have the time to check up on these people, right? I mean, which of us has the time to, I mean, some of, some people, you know, martyrs for the movement, you might say, have done huge amounts of research about the funding of the TGA and how it works and all these things.

But the vast majority of regular citizens simply don't have the time to investigate the quality and the performance and efficiency of the bureaucracies that supposedly serve them. So we basically just have this big gap. It's It's, it's, um, it's kind of almost unmeasurable, unseen gap between what's actually happening in these bureaucracies and the outcomes that get produced.

So the health system is a, is a really good example. You can also talk about education in this way. Um, you can talk about, you know, a lot of our systems, which in name, you know, it's, it's like it's Orwellian, right? The ministry of information or ministry of truth or whatever. It's not truth. It's lies. Right.

Ministry of health. What are they, what are they really promoting? It's not health. It's not health. It's more like profit or, you know, the preservation of the quote unquote health bureaucracy that, as you say, is dangerous. Yes. Johnny, Johnny, you, uh, you've spent 25 years of your life, um, You know, processing triage.

Let's be honest. I mean, that's that's a function of a of a good paramedic and you've obviously done that well for 25 years. You rose to station officer and um, and good triage demands that first you remove the patient from the danger. Isn't that right? 100%. Uh, and and that you look after yourself and and the people that you're there with.

Um, so with all of this going on and with people clearly now, yeah. Unwell or even dying as a result of the vaccine and the evidence is starting to point that way. I know it's really important that we hold people to account and I know you're really big on that and for good reason because you have been you've been put through a meat grinder in the legal system and what's happened to you has been the verdicts given to you have been based on lies given given by expert witnesses who are still telling people to go out and do this stuff.

Uh, and and the other day we interviewed Dr. Tess Lorry. And Dr. Tess said, look, it's more important that we just start getting people better. Let's not worry about inquiries. We've got to get people well. But in this, in a society, we've got a whole bunch of people doing that work. There's a whole bunch of other people who need to be holding, uh, these authorities to account.

And look, we're not only seeing the human tragedy of all this unfold now, but I mean, we've had Gigi on numerous times and obviously Gigi spoken with Alan Jones and numerous people about the economic effects and the other effects of what this COVID mess will see. And I think people have largely. Uh, not really understood where we're at, but I mean, here we are today.

I mean, Jane Hume, the Senator asked, uh, uh, Michelle Bullock, the Reserve Bank Governor about, um, whether we were, uh, you know, essentially in a, um, A recession and she, and she got really upset about it and said she doesn't like this term being bandied around because, um, because it has a, it's not helpful and Jared Renick made the point, well, I mean, if, if human carnage and job losses are not a good, um, Note of what's going on in your economy than what is, um, I mean, I, I, I don't know whether we're in, we're in, we're in a depression economically, but I mean, it feels like we're in one mentally, uh, for sure.

I, I totally agree with you, John. I, I was even saying that a year ago. I mean, well, more than a year ago, of course, as you say, I was predicting we'd have economic stress and I was thinking more like in the stagflation kind of arena, because that's what I remember from the history books, right from the 1970s.

It was stagnation and inflation and that sort of is what it feels like a bit. But I think, I mean, she, the reason Michelle doesn't want that word bandied about is because recessions are kind of a self fulfilling prophecy, right? One of the most famous economy economists you may know of, John Maynard Keynes, right?

He spoke of these animal spirits, because if you think about what really keeps an economy ticking along, what keeps people wanting to invest, wanting to experiment, wanting to try new things, and um, you know, In just discover stuff, which is basically the source of all growth is innovation, right? It's creativity, human creativity.

You need them to be feeling confident and positive and hopeful for the future, right? And if they're not, if they've started hearing other people say recession, or depression or economic strife or whatever, then they're just going to marginally be less likely to do that. And if you take that marginal change and, and, you know, basically aggregate it across the whole of the economic system, you can produce a recession.

That's how recessions happen, right? It's sort of a change in the underlying animal spirits. Um, it, it's, it's a weird thing to say as an economist because of course we're, we're, you know, very famous for being very quantitative and technical and mathematical and blah, blah, blah, but I tell you what, that's not the core of economics.

That's the applied math side. Then applied math is very useful, very important, but it's not the core of economics. The core of economics is human behavior, human incentives in face of scarcity. So yeah, I, I totally agree with you. And I think You know, this notion that the, that these bureaucracies exist and, you know, have done these things and we can't, we can't really, uh, necessarily hold them to account, or we don't know what a different solution looks like, and we're kind of slipping into this economic no man's land, um, that, that's a major problem, people are not engaged with that, um, like on the recession question, most people wouldn't even really know what a definition of a recession is, All right, economic literacy in this country is something I'm trying to fight on another front, um, but it's pretty woeful.

A recession is three consecutive, um, uh, periods of basically negative GDP growth. Now, in Australia, we haven't had that, um, but we have had three consecutive quarters of negative GDP per capita growth. Now, the problem is, of course, you can, if you import enough people, you have high immigration levels, you can kind of hide the fact that you might be having a recession at a per capita level, but you know, the GDP figures look fine.

So that's part of what's going on here, and it's part of why there's a bit of a sleight of hand going on around what is recession and what are we talking about, um, and, and how do you measure it? And the things you mentioned, like people actually dying in excess. I'll tell you why economists never considered that as a measure for whether we're in a recession.

It's because we just never really And I thought that that would be a thing. I mean, except in wartime, when do we have excess numbers of people dying or, you know, or a massive plague of some sort like, you know, 1918 flu or something, nothing like COVID, but something really serious that's taking out huge numbers of people.

And that's not really even an economic thing. That's a, that's sort of, you know, it's a health thing. And the last one of them back in 1918 was before a lot of the modern economic measurements even really came to the fore. Yeah. So we kind of are in uncharted territory in terms of figuring out how to, how to gauge whatever economic situation we find ourselves in right now.

And half a million people a year, we're bringing in 10, 000 a week. Yep. One a minute. One a minute. That's incredible. I know. And I mean, I've talked about this before. I mean, the Western Heritage Association, um, or Western Heritage Australia, I think they call it, had a little, uh, a shindig in the CBD about mass immigration in the nation state, uh, maybe, I don't know, six months ago.

And we talked about the, the benefits of immigration to Australia. Of course, in history, uh, immigration has greatly benefited the country. I mean, I'm an immigrant. You know, and I like to think that I've, I've on net helps the country, but, but there are different programs, right? So there's a skilled migration program.

There's the student visa program, right? There's the kind of temporary workers for the fields and whatnot program. And I think, you know, skilled work is something that we do need more of. Immigration isn't the only way to get it. It is a way to get it in the short run, but it's not the only way. And so one of the things I've been wanting to see the Australian government do is invest more heavily in training our native people and encouraging people to invest in, in what they would like to learn how to do, right?

So education investments are one of the best investments you can make, um, and also have more kids and all that sort of stuff. So we don't have to rely on immigration to keep the nation healthy, you know, strong enough and large enough to be healthy and competitive. But I mean, there's also these student immigration numbers, which are huge.

And I've written about this more than 10 years ago now, and it's not necessarily good for the country, right? We bring in these huge numbers of international students. There's no guarantee that their preparation is equivalent to the domestic students preparation and in fact in the paper that I wrote for economics of education review and I think 2012, I find that they do worse on average than the domestic students so you know the conclusion is that they're not as well prepared, and they they harm learning in tutorials and they lead to great inflation in courses, according to the data that I have, I'm just a test this just You know, based on some hypotheses and some econometrics, it's nothing.

I'm not trying to prove a point. I'm just trying to see whether it's true that there are these negative effects because one might hypothesize that there would be if you've got people who are less well prepared coming into the system. So again, I don't think we should have zero immigrant students, foreign students, but the numbers we have are, I think, not optimal for our country.

How are you feeling about the educational system? I mean, universities aren't getting a very good rapidly, but Yeah. University of New South Wales is really impressing me because, well, just by using you as a barometer, your, your tenure has been, has been continued and maintained throughout your outspokenness, which is a good, it has.

I don't know how that's happened to be quite frank with you, Graham. My best guess is that I've just been useful in other ways to the university. So I've, I've, I do some other things. For example, I run the Australian Economics Olympiad and the Australasian Economics Olympiad, which are high school economics competitions.

Um, and. That's useful to the university because they want to be seen to be doing outreach and to be, you know, engaging with our community and all this sort of thing. And of course, they want to increase economics numbers, students who would come to UNSW to study economics. I was also the education director during COVID, right?

So I've kind of been hard to get rid of. That's been my strategy, you know, basically be a bit hard to get rid of. So they have to accept the package deal that I am. Um, and maybe they, you know, might've thought about. Trying to shut me up or trying to kick me out, but I've had no word about that formally or otherwise at all during this whole period.

So I am very grateful to them for that. But, you know, more broadly. Yeah, I do worry about the university sector. I worry about value for money that we're providing for students in universities. I worry about the environment on the university campuses, which is really not the same environment. It was 20 years ago, you know, when I was a student, it was much more a case where you come to university and you can literally think and explore and say pretty much anything.

I mean, you can't call for genocide, but you know, apart from a few things like that, you can, you can say things like, gee, I wonder whether this. Particular government policy is totally wrong, or I wonder whether this totally different option would be better, or should we have, you know, a lot more government or a lot less government, or what should we have?

And there was kind of an open slather on discussion and intellectual engagement and respectful discussion, debate about what we should be doing as a society. And there was also a tether to the needs of one's Society the needs of one's community that was essentially subsidizing one's educational experience because a lot of these universities are public as you know, I mean I'm paid by the Australian taxpayer.

So, in my mind that means I have a moral obligation to be relevant in the work I do to the Australian taxpayer to what's important to him or her. And so that's kind of, I just have always taken that for granted but that isn't really a very strong point of view. Um, theme or motivator now in a lot of our universities.

And so in part in reaction to this, um, one of the, as you know, I, I co-founded Australians for Science and Freedom last year and science and freedom.org. And we have a number of different projects and, you know, those projects are in areas where we think that reform and new institutions are possible to build and that we can show what those new institutions would look like.

You know, we were speaking of bureaucracies before. the problems of these entrenched sclerotic bureaucracies sort of sitting on huge swaths of the human experience and kind of slowing us all down and making things worse. What's the alternative? You know, how, how do we envision the alternative? We want Australians for science and freedom.

We want to be a place where we can think about what those alternatives might look like and then try them out. Actually pilot them, see if we can get them going, because if you, it's like in any kind of market, if you think all the suppliers are charging too much for a shoddy product, that's an opportunity.

It's an opportunity to go in there with a better priced, better product, right? And you'll grab the market from those existing incumbents, and eventually, they'll go out of business. So that's kind of our strategy. It's going to take years, of course. And these things don't happen immediately because of course these bureaucracies now, um, have expanded to just be so huge that most people don't even think about a world without them, right?

They're just such an automatic sort of assumed default part of our lives. You know, you get sick, you go to a hospital. You know, yeah, you got you got to go to school when you're young, you go to a state school, right? So people don't really think truly outside the box. But one of the experiments I wanted to talk to you about that we're running.

In this area of education is a new higher education experiment not here in Australia, but Australian students absolutely can partake in it if they want. It's called Nova Academia, and it's happening in a castle in Belgium, which was purchased by my co author Paul Freiders and his wife, Erica, about maybe three months ago.

And they basically poured their life savings into buying this castle, you know, for two million dollars. You could get maybe a closet in Sydney for the same money. And they're now furiously refurbishing it and having, um, you know, sort of sessions to show people what the education environment would be like, what the plan of a given day would be like if a student were to choose to come and join them.

They're running one year programs starting in September of this year. So my my whole family and I are going to be going over to the castle mid July and helping out at some of these boot camps and taster sessions, giving lectures and you know we're trying to promote essentially what we all when because we're all kind of middle age what we learned when we entered universities ourselves was the point of the academic year.

life and the academic experience, which is you're, you're employing the scientific method, you're discussing and thinking on a broad canvas, and you're trying to improve your society somehow. Learn something about the world that helps you to help others, help something get better for people. That's kind of the idea.

So we are very, very strongly and unapologetically pro enlightenment values, classic liberal thinking, and no bureaucracy, so no accreditation, which is of course, you know, a bit of a, of an Achilles heel because people will, you know, who really want to come might say, well, if you're not accredited, will my future employer even see my education here as relevant?

All we can say is, look, if you start going down the path of accreditation, you sign yourself up to more bureaucracy. So if we're really going to do an experiment that's different, we have to stay away from that. So we've got minimal bureaucracy, maximal professorial voice, maximal student centered, um, pro social, critical thinking.

pro enlightenment values, scientific method oriented economics and health. Those are the two faculties, economics and health. Um, and so it's very exciting. It's probably, I think, definitely the most radical experiment in higher education that's happening now in the world. Nice censorship. Well, interestingly, they've been having these taster sessions, as I said, and, um, as it happens to one of those taster sessions came an undercover journalist.

And the journalist took furious notes and then went back to the Netherlands and wrote up a hit piece about how this was a castle full of conspiracy theorists tinfoil hat wearing anti vaxxers and whatever else, you know, all these epithets that people fling at us. Good advertising. Yeah, well, yeah, good advertising in certain circles for sure.

Right. Um, but apparently that now has gotten the attention of the central intelligence agencies of the Netherlands and Belgium. And so now they are, um, kind of sniffing them out and trying to figure out ways to shut them down, which probably will be done. Through bureaucratic mechanisms coming back to the bureaucracy issue.

Um, because as you can imagine, wherever you're located to try to do something new, you got to be able to sort of be approved of by the people who are currently in charge. So that means for them, the Belgian authorities in their local region have to sort of give their blessing. And they can withhold their blessing on all sorts of, you know, completely baseless bases, such as, you don't have a fire safety certificate.

Why don't you have a fire safety certificate? Never mind that this castle was used for Airbnb for many years before they bought the castle, so apparently it was fine. But no, no, no. Now you need to have a fire safety certificate and oh, you can't have that without doing step one, two, three, four, five, and seven and everything else.

And you have to have this person stamp it and that other person. And then it takes three months to process and yada, yada, yada. You are swimming in the molasses of bureaucracy and that's effectively the same thing as shutting them down, right? That's how it works. So they're hoping that that does not happen, but, uh, you know, it's touch and go.

Do you think any of the content, uh, will be put online, JJ? Well, there is already an online mentorship program. So if anybody in Australia, ages 18 to 30, is interested in following, uh, one of us, I am a mentor, but there are also about a dozen other ones. Um, and basically having online mentorship sessions, there's no cost.

It's just to kind of taste a little bit of what the, the teaching expertise and the content and the. The sort of method would look like, um, they can sign up on the website. They can, uh, have a look at the different mentors, um, profiles and just, you know, read what's required. I think, you know, everybody has a slightly different requirement.

Again, we are empowering the professors to say what we think is important. So each of us puts down, okay, these are the themes that I think are important to study. I would like students who have this kind of background, you know, write me with this length of a, of a sort of proposal or description of who you are, what you Um, these are the, uh, character traits that I think are important, you know, go for your life.

So, so that is possible as a taster, even if you don't want to go to Belgium yet. Um, but in terms of whether they put anything online, uh, of the actual main in person one year program. I kind of doubt it, at least certainly not live streaming or anything like this, because one of the main points is that we actually want to distance ourselves from the idea that online university education is just as good as in person university education.

We think in person learning is just, that's worked for centuries for good reason. Humans are social animals, we're emotive animals, we connect better with each other when we see each other and we can, um, we can share Emotions and feelings and reactions in real time with actual, you know, our physical bodies there as well together.

So we just think that that's a preferable way of learning. Um, I mean, we don't raise our Children online, do we? We raise them in person and that's, you know, It's just, you know, it's an extension of guiding a person when you are mentoring them or, or educating them in a university environment. So, so I don't think it'll be live streamed, but, um, but yeah, people are welcome to join up with the mentorship program.

And I, I hope that some Australian students will actually take the plunge and come at least for a taster session over the summer, over the European summer. So their website for that is Novacad, N O V A C A D dot org. Yep. And you can find the mentorship. I think there's a mentorship tab and there's events and all sorts of other things you can look up there.

No, that sounds very interesting because the reason we're in this mess is because education's been bought and sold out, hasn't it? Yeah, I wouldn't say that's the only reason, but that is one of the major problems. Education has become the pawn of the powerful and the moneyed, and that's of course the case as well in many other large bureaucracy initiatives like health, where the TGA gets most of its funding from pharma, et cetera.

You know, when you have the The fox is in charge of the hen house. Then, you know, what do you expect? Speaking of the hen house, Michelle and I've just returned from just doing a grocery run, uh, in a major center in Northern New South Wales to find that, uh, eggs are in short supply and very expensive because of the bureaucracy's approach to, uh, to bird flu in Victoria, which is already starting to impact on the economy.

Um, and I was talking to a friend of mine who's a butcher in next to the, um, Manure pantry there in Cuyahoga. And he says they're not looking forward to the bureaucracy that's coming through. We've got primary producers wondering how they're going to PCR test their cattle. What cattle have got to do with bird flu sort of leaves us cold.

How do you think, Gigi, that the Australian economy will stand another hit? Another pandemic, which seems to be coming out of their pipeline from the WHO. They've already known in advance. They've been talking about this for three years or more. Look, I mean, I, I definitely think the Australian people are not going to be quite as accepting of draconian measures as they were previously.

But eventually if you push your people too far, they leave. So young people who still have the chance to start a new life somewhere else will just move. That's what's happened in the U. S., right? You've seen Florida, um, accommodate huge numbers of migrants from New York and California, for example. Um, and, and that just shows you, you know, an awful lot about what actually is working, which systems are working.

If you look at international migration flows, which I do with my students in labor economics, which I teach next term, um, you know, those migration flows tell you which, Economic and social systems seem to work for people because people never try to get in to communist countries, for example Right all the foot traffic is towards the western democracies That's, that's what it has been at least up until pre COVID.

Now at this moment, you're starting to see movements within those Western democracies towards the states, for example, in the U. S. or the countries in Europe that are less restrictive, less mad, less bureaucratically beleaguered. And more in line with actually suiting human needs. You know, not surprisingly when the, you know, rubber hits the road, it's whether or not my, myself and my family are going to get a good quality of life with minimal restrictions on my freedoms, that I'm going to be able to develop my skills.

My children will be able to develop their skills. We'll be able to get ahead in life. That's what people really want. And they want to be able to see whoever they want to see their friends, their families. Um, they want to have, of course, you know, a reasonable community life. These things are important.

What's not important is, you know, okay, all the cows have to be culled because somebody in some office somewhere is worried that on the next boat from China, maybe we're going to get some flu. That's just, that's so far removed from what needs to happen. And people, this is an important point because I think people often sort of push back on the idea that maybe the bureaucracy is a net problem because they say, well, how else are we going to handle these problems?

How else could we, like, what if there is a huge viral infection, you know, that comes in and attacks us all? And, and what are we going to do? Like, it's going to be chaos, you know? It's not going to be chaos. What you do is you do the same thing as you do when you are managing a marketplace. You, you have the government there.

They are providing stability and confidence. And a stable sort of legal structure and roads and some things like this, but they are not running the show who's running the show the people in the marketplace who are seeing the local signals and can decide what is optimal to do. It's the man on the street argument.

The man on the street sees those signals. The guy in the bureaucratic office cannot see them. He can't. This is the reason why communism fails. I mean, it works at a family level, right? Everybody kind of communally decides things and, you know, you don't have to, you don't have to have the same sort of structures as you do at scale.

At scale, it breaks down very badly because there's this huge distance between the cold face and the decision, again. So what you need to do in the case of like a viral infection or whatever, is this the state needs to try to give reassuring messaging, learn as much as possible about this new thing, and then give information to people so that they can make the optimal decisions at the coal face, rather than issuing broad restrictions and mandates and requirements.

requirements for lots and lots of people to fall in line with one particular action. That's almost surely going to be the wrong way to go because the right action, the optimal action is going to be different in different circumstances. And the only people who can see those circumstances are those people at the coalface.

And those people who did that to us in the last round of pandemic have all been awarded with, uh, with what amounts to a knighthood. I mean, we're rewarding the people who are, who are the psychopaths and the sociopaths, aren't we? I know and that's very disappointing but it was kind of it kind of had to be I mean that I don't think that was ever going to not happen because, again, the whole system is so bound up with this I mean we've spoken about this before Graham but not just people on the street but particularly the people in the bureaucracies and the politicians ranks and the big companies that were part of the COVID stuff they have huge, huge Not just monetary and status reasons, but psychological reasons, ego protection reasons not to see what happened.

Not to be honest with themselves. And this is where the failure of courage comes so, so strongly to the fore. You know, somebody who has real courage is willing to eat a little bit of humble pie and realize maybe I was wrong about something and maybe my inappropriate decisions, actions, mandates, rules hurt people.

I'm sorry. To say that sort of thing, there's so few people who have said that, there's probably, you know, six or so who I know who have, you know, become evident on the, on the resistance and restoration channels. And I

think those people are heroes, because they are showing real courage, they're showing real psychological courage because imagine what they then have to say to themselves, I am not so great as I thought, I, I really messed up badly.

I, my decisions may have led to the deaths of people, right? That's, that's a huge, huge burden to bear. But in the end, hopefully, you know, after hopefully months or years, they'll be able to actually sleep through the night, right? And look at themselves in the mirror and say, okay, you're only human. I forgive you to be able to forgive oneself for that sort of thing.

You know, it takes a bit of effort, but they can, whereas so many people today. Just don't have that courage, and they just are just going la la la la la, you know, knighthoods, AOs, whatever, whatever will keep the whole nonsense running and protect their egos. So, you know, I see a lot of ego, unfortunately, also in the Resistance these days, because it's becoming fashionable to be a Resistance restoration person, and that's, that really is a bit of a drag, but it also just shows you the nature of humanity.

Graham, you know, people do have to have some sense of self esteem in order to get through life and we generally do overestimate our talents. Um, everybody thinks they're a better driver, a better lover, a better writer, a better everything than they really, you know, than the average, but the average is the average, right?

So it can't be true. So, you know, we do have to have that in some sense for our survival, but we also, if we're mature, we have to learn how to be humble sometimes and accept that we've been at fault and, and be able to get through that. Psychologically. Um, and so again, in that, in that area, I think they, they, the people who have, have this problem, they need our help.

They need our support. They need our love to be able to actually get themselves through that process. Um, and that's going to take years. So I'm not expecting that to happen tomorrow, but I hold out hope that it will eventually. Donny, I don't want to monopolize your guests Gigi, mate. The floor is yours for a while.

Gigi, um, Do you get the sense, um, I think Graham and I and many, many of the people we speak to have sort of got the sense that we've reached a tipping point, um, you know, with our, with where we're at and, you know, we're hopeful that things might really, uh, the dam wall might really burst open. Do you, do you get that sense talking to your friends?

And, um, I mean, I definitely get a sense that things are, um, slowly changing, but I have had that sense for a couple years now. It's just a question of how, how big the sort of the openings have become, right? And people will look at the same thing and see something completely different. So you and I may look at the Fauci hearings in the U.

S., for example, and think to ourselves, well, that's it. That guy's completely toasted. He's just, you know, face planted himself into the, into the, you know, moral disapprobation bin, right? That's a lot of people will make lots of rationalizations to excuse that man for all the horrors that he inflicted upon us.

Um, upon the U. S. people in particular. And the same thing with, you know, his TYC and anybody else who goes through those hearings. And you see that in the Democrats response, right, during those hearings. I mean, they're just, they're sort of, you know, very reverent still, and trying to find excuses for him.

So that's, again, that's the psychological reasoning, that they need to find a reason why going along with all this stuff was an okay thing to do. So they're trying to protect the person who led them along that path. Um, so, you know, I, I think in the resistance, we see, Oh, yeah, great. This is, you know, all coming down and it's all gonna, you know.

Sort of, I mean, what do we expect is going to happen? Everybody's going to just wake up. We're going to snap our fingers, you know, enough fouchy hearings, like two or three more, and then everybody's going to be like, Oh yeah, well, that was dumb. I'm so glad now that we see everything was wrong, and we'll never have that happen.

That's just not how it's going to go, right? I mean, people will gradually wake up one by one. That's what happens after huge herd thinking, crowd thinking events. And it's on a personal level. It's for personal reasons in each case, everything's different, right? It's not like one size fits all, everybody has to have a different story that leads them out of the mire of, of falsehoods that they've been fed into something like a more sane and honest picture of the world and what's happened recently.

Um, and that takes a long, long time and it takes a lot of love and it takes a lot of, effort by a lot of people. And the reality is that the people in charge of massive crimes in history don't generally get full justice, right? They don't generally get punished to the extent that you might think is warranted by, um, a full consideration of what actually happened.

Uh, and the people who got betrayed and abused generally have to pick themselves up in a corner and dust off and keep going. That's usually what happens in history. So I'm kind of expecting that that is eventually where we will go, but it will be a few years until we actually have some trials. It'll be a small number of trials.

And we won't ever get full justice. But one thing that I'm hoping will happen, and this is one thing I think we should push for, because we need something to push for. We can't just be pushing against things. We have to push for things, right? One thing to push for is some sort of process for the country.

I think I may have mentioned this a bit before on your show. South Africa had one after apartheid, right? Apartheid was just a hideous time in history. And again, just as with COVID, lots of excuses made for why there had to be these rules separating people from each other based on skin color, right? Um, and horrific damage done to, to people's whole lives, right?

And opportunities and just Horribly, horribly wrong, ethically, um, and people really, I mean, they were so damaged at a, at a personal level, at a community level, there needed to be a process of reconciliation, getting back together, conciling each other, you know, with each other, atonement in a sense, right?

And so that was called the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process. And so we need something that looks a little like that, um, in Australia, I think, in order to have a Place to put the pain on the table, the pain of what happened during the COVID era, have the ability that the forum for some people to say, you hurt me and other people to say, yes, I did.

I'm sorry. Yeah, those kinds of things make so much of a difference. And we haven't had anything like that yet. And we're obviously, um, A devastating point with so many businesses, uh, looking as though they're going to go, uh, bankrupt. Um, manufacturing is virtually non existent and those that are manufacturing in Australia aren't assisted like our friends at Drifter, uh, you know, not getting any support.

What can we do to help, uh, those businesses? Yeah. Uh, well, I'll tell you what Albo is trying to do, of course, is, you know, he's painting that kind of, um, pain into his plan made in Australia, right? The made, the future made in Australia policy. I mean, this is so typical politics. You take what you sense to be a sentiment bubbling up from the grassroots, which at this moment is what's, what is Australia?

We don't make anything here anymore. We don't have any jobs, hold and left. We can't, you know, we're just serving, you know, foreign students. What are we even here for? So he's taking that, sort of a nationalistic sentiment, a little bit, and he's wrapping that around something that he wants to do for political reasons, which give a whole heap of subsidies to a bunch of renewable energy companies and projects, right?

And, you know, it's just, it's economically nonsensical. Absolutely economically nonsensical. And I mean, on the others, on the other hand, as he does this subsidizing, the other hand, he's giving rebates to, you know, people for their energy bills, the ultimate political sleight of hand, right? I mean, and it's happening in broad daylight and people don't see it.

I don't see this. Again, the economic illiteracy of people is just a sight to behold, right? I just think it's almost comical that he's able to get away with that sort of thing. Um, that is what we don't need. We don't need the government deciding that, you know, these are the kinds of projects that we really want, the ones that benefit their mates and don't actually make economic sense and, and crowd out the, some of the major comparative advantages that we have in this country.

Okay. You know, our, our national resources are, like, amazingly, um, prolific and, You know, we were just a hugely rich country in that area. Why are we trying to make it difficult for our, our natural gas industry? And it just doesn't make any sense. So, so yeah, look, I think we need to, in a lot of cases, just wind back the government, um, you know, check writing.

In various different dimensions. Uh, I wouldn't, I wouldn't go so far as Javier Millet in Argentina, but I like some of what he's doing, right? Look at some of where you're just basically getting in the way. And I mean, he's a perfect poster boy for the frustration with bureaucracy that I've been experiencing.

Pressing now, just extreme right, he is kind of an anarcho, capital capitalist. He calls himself and of course he's got a real mandate because he, he is got this massive inflation outta control and everything else seems to have failed. So why not try something different? Um, and I don't agree with all of his policies and I think it's, you know, is, it's maybe a bit extreme in some cases, but jeez, he's getting some results right now, even though it's short-term pain for people.

So I would say yeah, cutting back on, um, a lot of the subsidies and encouraging competition. I mean, we've had this problem perennially in Australia, and this is another area where people don't really understand if they don't have the economic literacy to appreciate, consumer welfare goes up when you have more choices.

So if we only have a few choices of whom to buy from in a particular market, then we're going to have lower consumer welfare in that market. We're going to have higher prices and lower quality. In expectation, so you want more entrance, more market entrance. And of course, that means often you need sort of lower barriers to entry.

So that often means less red tape. Um, an example here would be childcare, you know, many years ago. I, I mean, I love babies so much. I love children so much. I only had two, but in an alternative life, I would have like eight. If there weren't an opportunity cost to having so many kids. Um, and, uh, now frustrated, you know, want to have grandkids, but they haven't produced yet.

But I used to think, well, when I. You know, finish my academic career. Maybe I'll open a family daycare because then I can have kids around me all the time. It'd be great. Right. And I, I think I'd be good at that. Um, I could have music lessons cause I'm musical and I, you know, all sorts of, I could have economic lessons, you know, it'd be great.

Um, so I looked into this a bit. My goodness, the red tape you have to go through to open a family daycare in this country is out of control. Right. It's in the stuff you must, you know, all the regulations and the, this, that, and the other. And I'm a sort of. You know, proven mother. I mean, I've got two adult kids.

They're basically functional. You know, I, I have a, I can get a working with children check fine, but you know, why do I have to adhere to all of these? You know, why can't I just contract with some people in my neighborhood to take their kids for, you know, 20 hours a week or something? You know, it just seems like there's too much intervention in there.

And because we have those, what we call barriers to entry, Okay. People like me and many, many other people won't try in that industry to be a new entrant. And so we won't offer another option apart from the standard institutional daycare and this, that, and the other. And so then you have less welfare. And of course, this is a canard we talk about all the time.

Childcare is not accessible and not high quality and not affordable. Well, that's part of why. Because the government is directly in the way so in industries where the government can get out of the way more without, you know, sacrificing the stability of the institutional sort of confidence that you do need to have the government provide just let the market run a little more by itself and not have the hubris to think that the government itself by creating checklists and boxes to tick is going to actually promote quality in a particular area.

I mean, Texa in higher education, do they promote quality? I don't think so. I don't really think so. I don't think that happens. It's a great example too, because you have to be vaccinated to get daycare. There you go. And I would like to be able to contract with people who don't have vaxxed kids because I would like to help them, you know, but can I, and, and, and doctors worry about this now too with, you know, like the APRA situation because they can't, I mean, even doctors in the restoration movement.

And I'm sure you'll have had these conversations, they can't give advice, they have to be very careful because they're worried that if they do anything that looks like practicing medicine, and they are in Australia, they're on Australian soil, APRA is going to come clamping down on them if they don't adhere to APRA's rules, right?

So one of the sort of nubs of an idea that we were having at the, at the most recent ASF workshop, which was, um, on Easter Monday, We had a New Directions in Health workshop, and we were talking about, you know, what's an alternative system in health? We've spoken about an alternative system in higher education, but what would an alternative system in health look like?

Right now, APRA and the health bureaucracy kind of have their, their claws into everything in Australia. Right. So doctors and any trained professional kind of is essentially controlled by them. So it's very difficult to imagine what they could do. How could they act somehow that would help us? And there are all sorts of crazy ideas that have been floating in the restoration movement.

Like, Oh, I'll just, you know, I'll write something on a board and then I'll walk away and it wasn't me. Or how can we organize this? Right. But another idea is, well, we've got, you know, we're an Island nation, so we've got a lot of ocean around us. How about we just hire some boats? And, uh, or maybe buy them and put up flags of another country, like let's say India or something else like that.

And then offer that, uh, you know, Australian providers and suppliers of medical services might be interested in having a little, uh, boat vacation. And maybe some people who might like to have some alternative health, uh, provided to them would like to sign up for this system and occasionally have a boat vacation themselves.

You see where I'm going. That's the kind of thing we have to be thinking about creatively, right, in order to work out what is our alternative system going to be, how are we going to demonstrate that it's possible to run an alternative system to actually promote and preserve human health that doesn't involve the current bureaucracy.

Right point. What do you think, Cody? Look, I, you know, I was waiting for you to throw another question, Johnny, because I am conscious of Gigi getting a plane. Gigi, you talked about, um, you talked about the resistance cohort. Um, what does that cohort or movement, I hate to use the term movement anymore. Uh, what, what does that, what does that movement have to do to become effective in bringing about the changes we need to see in this country?

Um, I do think, as, as always, we need to, uh, organize, to start trusting each other, to allow each other to fail, and to put our money and our effort and our resources where our mouths are. Um, and, of course, think forward. Think future. A lot of our effort gets spent writing submissions to Senate inquiries and writing to MPs and pleading with APRA and, you know, doing things that are basically on the terms of the enemy.

You know, the enemy sets out terms, here is how you may engage with us, and we engage. We need to start setting some of the terms. And to do that, we need to, again, think outside the box. How can we start building structures, even if it's a very local, hyper local structure. Um, you know, start looking after your neighbor's kid.

for a little while. Just call it family daycare. Yeah, family, or maybe, maybe not that exact word because maybe that's covered under something. Call it family childcare or family early learning, whatever, right? Start doing it. Start showing that it can be done. And eventually you gain political support at the grassroots level for those, those kinds of new systems and it builds on itself.

And then you are setting the terms of how can we change our. Way of life. How can we change the institutions that are that are basically an everyday part of our love what we live and breathe in order to do basic functions like raise our children or educate our children or get our health taken care of, or, you know, whatever other thing we would like to have a different system and and some systems are basically working okay.

You know, like, I love the fact that there's tennis courts around and they're generally looked after. Well, it's okay. Maybe we don't start a new community sports area, but choose an area of life where you're really sick of how things have been and you think you've got a talent or some kind of insight about how things could be different and Work with others to make that happen.

And don't just expect it's going to fall in your lap. It does not fall in your lap. You have to work really hard and then keep working even harder. And I see this even in ASF, you know, in Australians for science and freedom. There was a few of us who are like, push, push, push, push, push. And there's a lot of people who, you know, they'll join a meeting and they kind of say, yeah, great.

But when push comes to shove. They may not even pay the membership fee. They're not actually willing to show up to a meeting to actually think about how to do something or come to an event. So, you know, we just have to work together more as much as we would work for anything where you're building a future for your children.

Imagine what you're what you're leaving to them. If you don't do that, you're leaving in the same pile of nasty stuff that got us into this whole problem. So for me, it's I do it for my children, my children's children for everybody else's children as well. I was up at 4. 30 this morning writing a devotional for I'm running a project called Church Without Walls, uh, and and I write daily devotionals and I was putting one together this morning on forgiveness because all of next week is going to be about forgiveness and the piece I wrote this morning after much prayer was about how people on the same side of the fence can be can become more cohesive you By forgiving one another because, you know, anyone who's enamored with the notion of Jesus Christ or, or, or a God who is a beautiful loving father, not a punishing dictator is always grateful that he's willing to overlook as long as we repent and ask for his forgiveness.

He's willing to overlook. They want that for themselves, but they don't want it for other people. And they're not prepared to give it to other people. And, and I think this resistance. Our cohort. Needs to stop, um, attacking everybody because they don't have the exact same opinion. And, uh, and we need to start forgiving one another and rebuilding trust.

Because I think the big problem we have is trust has been completely destroyed. It's been deliberately done that way. I mean, the government are going to be coming after John and I for this program very soon when the misinformation bill comes, comes through. And it will pass, we know that. But they are the ones who put us in this position because we were both law abiding, government supporting citizens with our taxes and the way that we abided by the laws.

We were all that, but they have turned us in to what they now want to lock up. And we have Dr. Tedros apparently being reported as saying recently that anyone who refuses a vaccine for bird flu will have to be arrested. In, in, in, in WHO countries. I mean, they've created this mess. I mean, we are living in a, in a weird position.

Final question from me. I know you've got to go putting North America to one side because we know you're a native of North America. And given that you love this country, if you had to go anywhere else where you could have a better future, can you please tell me where that is? Because I can't really think of anywhere.

Boy, I mean, I used to think New Zealand. No, no, that would not be on my list anymore. No. Yeah. I've used to think it, uh, yeah, my first choice was going to be Florida or someplace in the south of the U S but if you've taken that off the table, look, I've, uh, I've got a family island, which sounds very posh, but it's not, it's like three quarters of an acre square in, uh, in Ontario.

If I can just get into Canada, generally speaking, they don't bother me too much when I'm on the island, so that would be nice. But of course, there's, you know, it's a very different life there. You're by yourself, or maybe, you know, your whole family, but there's not much of a community there. You're on an island, uh, alone.

And it's pretty cold in the winter. Let me tell you. Trudeau will find you there, Gigi. He will find you. He might, he might. Well, I haven't shown him exactly where it is yet. He'd have to do a bit of work to find it. I think anyway, but yeah, that look, I don't like the Canadian policies any better than I like the Australian ones in some places, in some ways they're worse.

Um, geez.

Poland, I mean, Argentina, Argentina's a bit too, it's too rough ready? It's too, it's too uncertain and outta control and, you know, financially unstable, uh, violent, uh, you know, one of the, you know what I'm struck by? What's that? Yeah. I've heard that a lot of, uh, people are looking at immigrating to Russia under Putin.

Yeah. There's a large expat community. I mean, Russia is a bureaucratic country. They are standard on bureaucracy, but there's a large number of people, especially Australians who are seeing life in the former Soviet Union as maybe not a bad option. Well, I speak Russian, so maybe it would be a good choice for me, but I don't know, I would probably go more for an ex European, sort of Eastern European bloc country sort of thing, so yeah, Poland, maybe Lithuania, Latvia, something like that.

Macedonia, Yugoslavia. Yeah, maybe Yugoslavia, yeah. Um, but you know, it's I'm not going to do that, I don't think, not yet, uh, and my first choice would be the U. S. because I have a son there and, you know, he may settle down there and everything, um, but even there, right, there are, there are major battles that are being fought and, uh, depending on where you settle, you have a very, very different kind of life that's, uh, that's facing you, so, look, we're in this for the long haul, so we'll just have to see and, and watch the migration flow, so I think it's great that you're watching that, Graham, and, uh, and it can tell you a lot.

Absolutely. I thought you'd be going to Tasmania, would he? It's still part of Australia, John. Tasmania? Is that another country? No, of course not. We love Tasmania. It's a bit cold though. I've got a wife who suffers from asthma. So, look, we've got to let you go and I hate to do that. I've got to ask you one final very quick answer for that.

Um, When's the last time you were invited back on Q& A in the ABC? Well, I haven't been invited on Q& A, uh, gosh, I think, I don't know how long it's been, but I always say yes when I'm invited, so the last time I was on there is the last time I was invited, but I do now do a, uh, for a little while anyway, a radio ABC, um, uh, spot, Radio Melbourne.

Um, with another person and it's sort of, you know, just a little talk radio thing about economics. So I don't think I'm completely blacklisted at the ABC. But you never know. Like, I think it depends on whether they think I can actually add value to a discussion. And I do think that they are having a good, solid Um, I think it's important for people to really ponder about who they really are, what they stand for, and, and maybe they'll, maybe we'll see a revised kind of program like that coming out later, but I would advise instead people, um, look to the alternative media channels like yours to, uh, to get their actual in depth analysis and, and, and real investigative journalism as well.

Johnny, a Q& A, uh, done by Club Grubbery with a regular guest spot by Gigi Foster. Uh, Dr. Phillip Altman, uh, Russell Broadbent, I mean, we, we could go on. We could have a, we could have a fantastic cast there, couldn't we? Ian Plymer. Yeah, we Plymer, interviewing him in a couple of days time. Look, Gigi, we've got to let you go.

Um, firstly, before I do, a lot of people in New Zealand are saying, when are you guys coming to New Zealand? I can confirm to all of our friends across the ditch that I've been asked to emcee, uh, two major events in New Zealand in September. On the 21st and the 28th in Auckland and Christchurch. I can't tell you who the guest speakers are yet, but I can tell you I've seen the list and it is unbelievable.

And I've been honored to be asked to be the emcee at that event. And Michelle and I will be there for about 10 days. And we're going to be organizing some other things while we're there. So can't wait to see you guys across the ditch. We love you and looking forward to that. Um, I think we've got to close with a prayer.

What do you reckon, guys? Dear Lord, Father in heaven, firstly, we'd like to pray for Gigi's safe travels to, uh, to Perth, and that her journey will be successful and seamless, and that she has healthy pilots. And also, Father, we want to, we want to just pray that this kind of truth that we've been discussing here, a reality, is permeated throughout our society, that we can build compassionate, forgiving, uh, communities.

Who love each other enough to hold people who need to be held to account to account. Not because we're evil and we want to crush them, but because being held to account is a great way to develop your character. And we know a lot of people need character development at the moment. So God and leaders, Lord is our prayer in your precious name.

Amen. There we go, Johnny. You've often been heard to say. You just couldn't make this stuff up. You couldn't make this stuff up, Gigi. You're a breath of fresh air. so much for having me on. I really love talking to you guys and just keep it up. You're doing such a wonderful service for the country. Thank you so much.

Have a great flight and we'll get you back on soon. And if you ever want to come back on and talk about anything else, our viewers love it every time we come on. So stay out of the trees everyone. Remember if what you did yesterday got you to today. If you love somebody and you haven't told them the words, I love you over the phone right now could change their life or even save their life.

So start loving each other. God bless you all and see you on Club Grubbery for another great interview tomorrow night. Bye for now.