

2026-04-28 - Club Grubbery - Tanya Unkervich

Graham Hood: [00:00:00] Hey Johnny.

John Larter: Hey mate. How are ya?

Graham Hood: Pretty good. Special day today.

John Larter: Special day.

Graham Hood: Special day. Mary.

John Larter: Mary. Quite contrary,

Graham Hood: contrary, Mary, miss Mary, a very dear friend of ours, is an a freedom fighter Beyond Compare, right?

John Larter: Absolutely. Top of the Notch.

Graham Hood: She is having a birthday today.

John Larter: Birthday, wow. 50

Graham Hood: 90 I think. No, no.

Graham Hood: She'd be, she'd be in her fifties. Mary, I didn't mean it, but we we're just doing this little video clip to wish you happy birthday, uh, Mary. And we just love you. And we [00:01:00] thank you for love you, Mary. And, um, we just thought we'd put this up before our interview because you're a special lady and, um, uh, we just couldn't get by without you.

Graham Hood: God bless you.

John Larter: God bless you, Mary. Wow. What a special. I hope you're being spoiled rotten by the kids. And, uh. Yeah, I'm sure she's, uh, tucking into, uh, she sent me some beautiful jam. What, um, chili Jam have you tried that? Never sent

Graham Hood: me any jam,

John Larter: didn't she? It is magnificent sour cream on top of, uh, potato, uh, wedges, or, uh, oh, geez.

John Larter: It's delightful. What? Chili

Graham Hood: jam.

John Larter: Chili jam. It's just magnificent.

Graham Hood: Mary Chili Jam.

John Larter: Um,

Graham Hood: alright. Happy birthday Mary. God bless you. Now let's get on with our tonight's episode of Club Grubby.

Graham Hood: Hi everyone. Club grubby time again [00:02:00] and great to have you all back on with us as we start the week after the Anzac Day long weekend. Johnny, great to see you back on with the red, dusty behind you.

John Larter: Thanks Mark. Yeah, great to be back and, uh, yeah, I think overall it was a very successful Anzac Day, uh, from.

John Larter: From what I saw and uh, yeah, it's good. Good to be back here, uh, ready to go again.

Graham Hood: Absolutely. And there's a bit of an Anzac flavor in what we're doing today because we have a lady from across the ditch joining us. We've had quite a few Kiwi guests, uh, in the last few weeks, and today we welcome Tanya Kovi.

Graham Hood: Who's joining us from New Zealand? What part of New Zealand are you from? Tanya?

Tanya Unkerich: I'm in Auckland. Born in Northland. Raised as a dairy farmer's daughter, but then, um, in Auckland the rest of my life. Yeah,

Graham Hood: well done. Now you, you've got a, a varied background. You've got a, a fairly, uh, strong testimony. Uh, you've dipped your toe into politics in the New Zealand scene.

Graham Hood: Yes. So we've got a few things we'd like to unpack with you. [00:03:00] Uh, but before we do that, um, John, any other issues we need to cover off on?

John Larter: Well, I, I think, uh, just in relation to the Anzac Day, uh, hoodie, I was, uh, I, I was pretty, uh, amazed actually at the response that Ben Robert Smith, uh, got on the Gold Coast.

John Larter: I think that was very heartwarming and, um, you know, young kids, uh, going up to him, it was a, a magnificent thing to see. And, uh, no, I think that, uh, it, it was really uplifting.

Graham Hood: It was indeed, it was good to see at bin and, um. You know, I've been, uh, I've been thinking about the story of Break Morant, and, uh, if those of you remember that story, he and his mate were, uh, were executed in, uh, South Africa during the Bo War because they basically conducted themselves the way the SAS did and have been trained to do.

Graham Hood: And that got politically hot for Lord Kitchener in 1903. So he had them execute it. And I think Australians and New Zealanders are waking up to the fact that [00:04:00] our government's. Are very slimy and they're very quick to throw our, uh, our, our soldiers, our diggers under the bus if it suits their political agenda.

Graham Hood: And I think there's a lot more to unpack with this. Um, there, there's a, another, uh, a guy who has, uh, served in Afghanistan, I think two or three tours. Um, uh, I think his name is Huxton Russell. Uh, he has copped a caning from the A, b, C for something he didn't do. And I watched a Spotlight program recently where, uh, Liam Bartlett interviewed him and they went through the evidence that was used by the A b, C to accuse him of war crimes.

Graham Hood: And it was fabricated evidence. They proved it. The A b, C know it was fabricated and they're refusing to apologize. Uh, but this guy has been hammered. John and I, I think Australians and Kiwis are sick and tired of the media persecuting our enlisted people we're over and done with it. Uh, I'm sick of trial by media.

Graham Hood: And, uh, and so there's a whole lot [00:05:00] more to discuss as time goes on around all of that. So we look forward to that also. What, what was your take on the booing at Welcome to Country, John?

John Larter: Well, I've gotta say, um, I, I, look, I'm not in, uh, I'm not in favor of, uh, any sort of commotion at a, uh, a solemn event like that.

John Larter: But, uh, I, I just think that that demonstrates just how, uh. Upset, uh, people are this, uh, this creep, um, towards, uh, acknowledging only one, uh, one brand of Australia. Uh, we we're all one and, uh, it's just so divisive what, what they do. I mean, I, I don't know how, how the aboriginal people, uh, are front and center.

John Larter: On Anzac Day. Um, you know, it, it really just begs belief to me that, uh, that that, uh, was the priority. I mean, that, that stuff, in my opinion, should be set aside and, uh, it should be aimed at the diggers, [00:06:00] whether they're, uh, regardless or irrespective of their background.

Graham Hood: Yeah, seven minutes for welcome to country, and a one minute silence for the diggers.

Graham Hood: It just, look, I, I was sickened by the booing. I don't like the booing, but I was even more sickened by the media and the um. The politicians, like the Victorian Premier, premier, uh, Jacinda Allen, who pretty much made out and looked down their noses at the people booing because they made out that they were booing the anzacs.

Graham Hood: They weren't booing the anzacs. They were, they were there in reverence of the anzacs and they wanted to see them get full measure of the time spent there. And I think that the politicians and the media that are beating this up into an anti Anzac, uh, commotion. Uh, they need to be put up against the wall and smacked.

Graham Hood: They really do. I, I think they're just driving this country deeper into division. It's not gonna help the healing. It's not gonna help the forgiveness that we need to get into. And it's not, it's not generating any compassion. It's just political gamesmanship. And I think we're done with it. And, uh, I think we can [00:07:00] probably say the same about New Zealand.

Graham Hood: Tanya, I, I'm sure you had celebrations over there over the weekend.

Tanya Unkercich: Well, we did have celebrations and uh, I didn't notice anything too bad like what you are talking about right now, but as you were speaking, actually it, I, it got me reflecting on some of the time I've just spent in the US uh, a couple of months in fact, and I was around a lot of people who had been in the military and I cannot tell you how many times I heard just people who are serving them in the shop.

Tanya Unkercich: Thank you for your service. They just so respected. It was so different. And that was just something that came to me actually as you were speaking. It's very different there. They just got so much respect everywhere we went.

Graham Hood: Mm-hmm. And I, what was heartening about our Anzac Day celebrations were the, the turnout was huge.

Graham Hood: Again, John, they seemed to be getting bigger every year. Yeah. And, and naturally, you know, these celebrations are gonna draw out Patriots.

Tanya Unkercich: Mm.

Graham Hood: People who have been on this earth, you know, for a few runs. [00:08:00] And, um, they've had enough. And once again, this is a prime example of the political leadership of our countries who are not reading the room.

Graham Hood: They're just not reading the room. Ernie Dingo, I think, made a statement on the weekend saying that, uh, you know, the Welcome to Country was pretty much an invention of his designed for one or two specific events that he was going to, and this developed a life on his own and he never foresaw that happening.

Graham Hood: And I'll tell you what, a lot of aboriginal people that I've spoken to, and we've got a community in the area that I live, they're all saying the same thing. They actually, excuse the French, said it's bullshit. They don't hold to it. So I just think this needs to be reviewed and it needs to be reviewed with vigor because people are just over and done with it.

John Larter: Yeah,

Graham Hood: and they're over and done with a whole bunch of stuff. Tanya, now before we get into what's going on in New Zealand around the mandates

and COVID and all the rest of it, there's other things you've been involved in. Just for this, for the, uh, benefit of our viewers. Unpack your life's journey for us as we [00:09:00] lead into this conversation.

Tanya Unkercich: Oh wow. My life journey actually, it's, um, it, it goes a long way back actually, as a teenager, I, I really struggled with my self-esteem and that was what got me into personal development. I became a bit of a personal development junkie and, you know, very fortunate. I say God's blessed me with a lot of adversity because it was what got me on that path of resilience, uh, at a very early age.

Tanya Unkercich: Say as a teenager, and then in my twenties, I made some not so good decisions, which I then paid for. And in my thirties, when I really started feeling grief on a number of levels, one of them was in infertility. I decided to go and actually study to be a therapist. I was an accountant by trade computer consultant, but I really needed to find purpose in my life.

Tanya Unkercich: And meaning I thought, gosh, if I'm not going to have babies, you know what? Croatian doesn't have babies. That's part of our lives. So big and I, I really struggled with the grief of that. So I went and [00:10:00] studied to be a therapist and I specialized in the area of grief and unbeknown, to me, that was actually going to be a bit of a prerequisite because at 40 when I decided with my husband, okay, let's just let go of the whole baby thing and let's just try and live our lives.

Tanya Unkercich: He was then diagnosed with terminal cancer and he died five months later. So here I am at 40, um, having to then. Find out who am I? Who am I, what am I here for? I had to really dig into those deep, deep questions and just fall on my knees in a way and surrender, you know? And you know, my parents both had cancer diagnosis as well, and so many people around me were getting cancer, which was crazy.

Tanya Unkercich: So I then really worked on. Well, I had to work on myself, to be honest, to find meaning and purpose again, to find out what direction I'm going to go in. But I really also wanted to write about Phil's journey because it was something he wanted to do. He started writing before he was, um, before he passed away.

Tanya Unkercich: It was a very quick ending 'cause he wanted to help people. [00:11:00] On that journey of suffering, especially with cancer. So I ended up writing a book and, uh, unplanned journey, and it was his journey for his last

five months and then my journey for the next 12 months after he died. So it's a very raw book on grief.

Tanya Unkercich: And then I, I wrote another book on, uh, it was a workbook companion to help people through that grieving process, those early days. And then later on I ended up. Writing two more books. So on that journey of really wanting to help others, I was coaching, speaking, I became a coach for Tony Robbins and uh, and then wrote the other two books.

Tanya Unkercich: And one of them is called From Grief to Greatness, and another one is called F the Food, the Ladies Guide to Letting Go. And that that's to help women in particular on that journey of just letting go of that food obsession, you know, that so many of us have, and how much it takes over your life. So. I've had a heart for service all of my life and not having children, my elderly parents being Croatian.

Tanya Unkercich: You know, we [00:12:00] nurture and look after our elders and they became my babies, you might say. So I spent a lot of their later years looking after them, and it was then during that whole COVID craziness when they both became very ill. Separated in, in separate rest homes couldn't be together. Uh, they were both vaccinated.

Tanya Unkercich: Uh, my father died very quickly after the second shot, and I just got my eyes opened. Uh, it was a pretty frightening time. Um, I won't lie that I spent a good couple of weeks waking up in fear. Every night because I was never going to take the vaccine. I'm, I'm just someone who doesn't do much in that side, side of things, you know?

Tanya Unkercich: Uh, but I, for two weeks, I remember I'd wake up and I would pray myself back to sleep because I thought, what's going on in the world? So that was a big wake up time for me. And, uh, getting into politics, it was. One of those times of going, okay, God, what [00:13:00] next for me? You show me how you want to use me. And that was when the opportunity to go into politics showed up.

Tanya Unkercich: Uh, the big driver for me was not to get into politics. The big driver was to get the existing government out. Because of what was done to everybody. The division, everything, the mandates, you name it, the, the destruction and chaos of society and family, all those things that are so deep to society, it enraged me and so it, that was my driver.

Tanya Unkercich: Just get them out. Even if I only do one term, just help get them out. 'cause I felt I had something to contribute. So, um, yeah, uh, we can talk a little bit about why I left politics, uh, if you want later on, but that is the lead up of things. And, uh, you know, I'll write more books, some journaling every day.

Tanya Unkercich: That's a big part of my life and I know it'll come together in another book very soon. So, uh, yeah. You know, I, I'm a real person of faith and it's like, okay, God, wherever [00:14:00] you want. Me next, you just lead me and the doors sort of open and I just walk through them and, uh, I do it with faith and no matter how much uncertainty is there, I just get used to that feeling of discomfort as I walk in this uncertainty and, uh, the ultimate direction has shown.

Tanya Unkercich: Yeah.

John Larter: Tanya, uh, I'd be interested just to know a bit about the, the heritage side of things with, with your mom and dad, because I know, uh, my friends down the road, they're, um, they're Croatian as well, John and Sue, and they're, they're, they're very much, uh, family, uh, driven people that, that live a very simplistic life in terms of growing food and, and the like.

John Larter: But they, they essentially wound up in Australia because their parents wanted a better life for them, uh, and they were in. In, in the sort of regimes, and that's what, what's what I call 'em now, like, uh, communist regimes, uh, in their own countries, uh, and escaping to places like Australia and New Zealand. I [00:15:00] mean, how, how did your mom and dad end up, um, you know, going, having the vaccine and sort of, you know, because I'm sure that's probably why they ended up here in the first place, or in New Zealand.

Tanya Unkercich: It was in 1950. They were married in 1952. I think it was 1958. They came with my eldest brother. They were invited by an uncle to come down to New Zealand and say, look, there's a great life for you down here. So he brought them down. Actually, they left, they were 26, I believe, my parents. And you know, it was the last time my mother ever saw her father as they were waving goodbye.

Tanya Unkercich: And, uh, it was hard. It was like they left. Everything they knew behind because they wanted to have a better life for their children. Of course, it was communist Yugoslavia then, and I went back on holiday with

them for the first time, actually in 1981 when it was still communism and uh, what a difference.

Tanya Unkercich: You know, you couldn't. The churches and things like that, you weren't [00:16:00] free to do a lot. So they thought they were coming down to a better life in New Zealand. It was a tough life. I won't, uh lie. They had a very tough life. They went up to Northland and they were sheer milkers dairy farmers. My mother pregnant with.

Tanya Unkercich: You know, nine months and she's still up there milking cows at 4:00 AM in the morning. They worked really hard and they wept. Uh, my eldest brother said he would often hear the two of them weeping for who they left behind, but they just made such a sacrifice for their children. Uh, sadly when I was eight, so there's three brothers and then me, our house burnt to the ground and they lost everything.

Tanya Unkercich: So my parents also have had. So many tragedy tragedies happen, which is why they're so resilient. But you know, like you say, they came to New Zealand for a greater life. There was a small Yugoslav community there. And uh, and you know, we used to go to the club, the Yugoslav Club, it was called back then, and very much stayed together with family.

Tanya Unkercich: [00:17:00] And, uh, they worked hard. They, they didn't take holidays. We never had a family holiday. They just taught us children how to work and study. You must study because we didn't get an education and that is what we want for you. So I'll be eternally grateful to them for the sacrifices they made for us.

John Larter: Mm.

John Larter: Yeah. Yeah. Why do you think they, they took the vaccine though, uh, and ended up in that predicament, given your stance on

Tanya Unkercich: it. Yeah. Well, look, I, I wasn't aware how, what the vaccine was doing to people.

John Larter: Yeah.

Tanya Unkercich: They were both in rest homes, so coincidentally it was February, 2020 that there was an event at home.

Tanya Unkercich: They couldn't care for themselves. My mama was. With dementia. I don't know if you've ever been around Croatian women who are older, boy, they're stubborn as, as mules and, uh, they couldn't take care of each other. And it was just an unfortunate period actually, because they both [00:18:00] had to go into a hospital, into a rest home for a temporary period of time, and they couldn't be put in the same rest home.

Tanya Unkercich: So they would temporarily. Separated and then we were locked down like three weeks later. So in order to be in the rest home, uh, a year later, like we couldn't get them out. We couldn't bring them together. It was just awful. Um, they were both on that verge of mom more so than dad of dementia in their mid eighties to later.

Tanya Unkercich: And, uh. Nobody thought anything of it, to be honest, that it would be harmful. And being in the rest home, it was sort of compulsory for them to do it. But it didn't occur to me at the time to say no. It didn't occur to my brothers either.

John Larter: And this happened to hoodie too, didn't it? Uh, with the dad,

Graham Hood: yeah, with, with, with my mom.

Graham Hood: Um, my dad passed away before COVID. Thank God for that. But, um, with my stepmom, um, I, I had to give permission for her to, uh, have the Pfizer shot. Uh, [00:19:00] which I did. I I didn't think anything of it that was in the very early days. And, uh, it was to keep her in a, the nursing home was brilliant, a great, uh, a great organization.

Graham Hood: It was a beautiful facility. She was really happy there. And, uh, I thought nothing of it. I thought, yeah, by all means I had her medical power of attorney and I said, yes, give her, give her the vaccine. Um, and uh, she had two shots. I think she didn't have any, any further. Uh, and she was in dementia and, um.

Graham Hood: She eventually passed away, uh, about two, two and a half, three years ago. And, um, I can't say that the, uh, I can't say that the jab caused that, but you know, I too thought at that stage that, you know, I trust the government and, uh, lo and behold, here we find ourselves. It wasn't long after I gave her permission that Michelle got me to, uh, my wife got me to examine.

Graham Hood: What's really going on with it and, uh, do some risk benefit analysis. And that's when I came out so strongly. Um, [00:20:00] but, you

know, I wasn't allowed to go and see her when she died because I hadn't been vaccinated. That was really ugly.

Tanya Unkercich: I was kept away too. Yeah. Yeah.

Graham Hood: It, it's just terrible. But can you, um, so you, you obviously became incensed at what you were seeing.

Tanya Unkercich: Mm-hmm.

Graham Hood: You, you, you're on a very similar journey. You, you, uh, you thought, you know, everything's gonna be okay. They're gonna, they're gonna find some kind of cure for this, or there'll be a vaccine, it'll be safe and effective and all that sort of stuff. And then as things started to pan out and, uh, coincidentally, uh, we we're talking about, uh, the rain of Jacinda Ern.

Graham Hood: Um, I flick through Netflix, uh, last night, Johnny, and was surprised to see a documentary movie about Jacinda. Painting her as, uh, the Joan of Arc of the political scene globally. Uh, an amazing woman. Um, uh, I, I was sick and just watching the preview of it, to be honest with you. Um, so [00:21:00] that that whole era in New Zealand politics was pretty gross.

Graham Hood: Uh, her attitude, her smiling, assassin kind of attitude to people who weren't vaccinated was reprehensible, and that would've lit the fuse for you, I guess.

Tanya Unkercich: Interestingly, if I step back a little bit in February of 2020, my husband and I, before New Zealand was shut down, we went to America on a holiday and people were saying to me, oh my God, you know, COVID is rife, and all that sort of stuff didn't bother us at all.

Tanya Unkercich: It just didn't, you know, so we never had fear of getting COVID. I looked at the stats, I was following what was happening overseas, and so I never had fear at all of getting COVID. Uh, when they came up with the vaccine, it didn't cross my mind that it would be in any way harmful, but was I going to have it?

Tanya Unkercich: No. Because for me, I've just always been that natural kind of girl. I've never had a flu shot. I've known a lot about [00:22:00] vitamin C and all that sort of stuff, all of my life. So it was never a question for me, but it. I didn't in any way question that it would be harmful at all for my parents 'cause they were getting flu shots every year themselves.

Tanya Unkercich: So that wasn't, um, a big deal for me. Now during that thir, Jacinda Arder was in coalition with other political parties from 2020, right till the election at the end of 2020. And during that period of time when people were seeing her as the savior. She was very different. She was, um, motherly nurturing, and we got those one o'clock bulletins and all that sort of stuff, so.

Tanya Unkercich: She was different until the election in 2021. I mean, they still locked us down and they were, um, throwing billions of dollars around as it probably happened with you as well, [00:23:00] which we're all paying for now, but she wasn't as. She shifted. She really did change. After that election, I saw a change in her and she just, it was very narcissistic behavior in my opinion, that I was watching drunk on power.

Tanya Unkercich: I. And, um, yeah, it, it was like they got off on, on having that power over the people. It was disgusting to watch, but there were still other people who felt that she was their savior in saving New Zealand, you know, but that's the power of fear. I saw fear driven into people from 2020 when it first started, and it was that fear.

Tanya Unkercich: I feel that change. People stopped trusting themselves. They stopped thinking for themselves. They allowed fear to override their own personal responsibility, and that was what was done [00:24:00] during that beginning of 2020. Everyone was doing it, putting the life the fear of God into everyone over COVID and. So I, I saw it as a, as a progression, you know, and it was an insidious creep you might say.

Tanya Unkercich: And then once you're a bit like the black widow spider, right? Once you've captured everyone, that's when you really get into it. Um, but there was so many techniques I saw, I could see it happening. I dunno if others saw just that very, the fear and then that slight division. Amongst people. Hey, make sure you let us know if someone's not in their bubble.

Tanya Unkercich: You can only go and pee in your neighbor's, um, toilet if there's so many people around. All that pathetic stuff that you'd see in kindergarten. But that was all. Very insidious ways of driving more and more fear into people. And then once the election [00:25:00] happened in 2020, at the end of 2020, and Labor had the mandate, they had power, they just went for it.

Tanya Unkercich: They were like drunken sailors with all due respect to sailors. Um, just the power, the ego, the narcissism. It was disgusting to watch, but a lot of people didn't see that though.

John Larter: Tanya, there's, there's been, um, very few times in history, uh, that, that, that you could probably recall where, uh, politicians have, have, have acted in such unity, uh, on, on, on, on, on such an important issue.

John Larter: And, and essentially they were all part of this, um, process that you've just described, this fear, this, uh, this divisive sort of, uh, nature. I mean. Uh, who, who do you think was advising them on? I, I mean, because to come up with a plan like that, I mean, we haven't really spoken about this much. I don't, I don't think, uh, uh, during the process, [00:26:00] but maybe Ros Neal and Cook, uh, hoodie has, uh, sort of alluded to it.

John Larter: But, um, there must have been someone giving them advice, uh, from a psychological point of view, from a coaching point of view on how to achieve all this. There must be documents somewhere. Uh, that, that demonstrate. There was a, uh, there was a songbook.

Tanya Unkercich: And that I can't answer that. I don't know. I recognized it simply be because of my background in, in psychology and, and counseling and helping people get out of narcissistic, abusive relationships so I could identify patterns.

Tanya Unkercich: But it wasn't until the vaccine mandates came in, did I identify that it was similar in other countries? So that was the thing that actually triggered me a little bit is like, gosh, it's so coincidental that Canada is doing so much the same as what's happening here and in the UK as well. So that was what, that was one of the things that [00:27:00] probably instigated that fear that I felt for that.

Tanya Unkercich: Two week period, I felt there was something bigger going on and uh, and that was probably, that uncertainty brought my own personal fear on. But who was it? I don't know. Uh, you know, some people say, oh, Tanya should tell the truth now that she's out of parliament. I didn't see anything, to be honest. I was a back bencher, so I'm not privy to that high-end stuff at all.

Tanya Unkercich: But, um, it was just interesting that it was the same pattern in other countries.

John Larter: Mm.

Graham Hood: Tanya to go from the life you've had into politics would've been a big stretch for you. Um, you know, John John's been involved in it. He's

run several times. He's also an elected representative for his local shire. I toyed with the idea for a while and I could just, I just couldn't see myself doing it.

Graham Hood: What was it like for you when you decided to run, and how did you find the campaigning and what was the mood like around [00:28:00] that pre-election period prior to you winning your seat?

Tanya Unkercich: I didn't actually win a seat. I came in on the list. So the party I came in with, uh, didn't actually win any seats. So we've got MMP here in New Zealand, and so we all came in on the list.

Tanya Unkercich: So I decided in early February of 2022 that I would definitely do it. I was toying with the idea and then I decided, no. Interestingly, a few weeks later I went, no, Tanya. It doesn't feel right. And then towards the end of that year. It was a big year, 2022. My father died the year before, and then my mother died eight months later, and there was a big gap in my life probably with both of my parents dying, and I really wanted to keep serving and seeing what was going on in New Zealand as well, and seeing all the vaccine injured.

Tanya Unkercich: I really thought Tanya, step up and [00:29:00] be of service if you can to these people. So I then made the decision at the end of 2022, yes, I will stand, and the election was the following year. So campaigning and all that. Um, I. I'm a pretty tough cookie, so for me, hard work isn't an issue. It was hard work, there's no doubt about it.

Tanya Unkercich: And there was a part of me that was quite naive on what being a politician really meant. I, um, I'll share this with you now. Don't know if I've ever shared this publicly, but when I first decided to do it, someone said to me very sarcastically, why are you going into politics Tan? I just can't see that that is you.

Tanya Unkercich: Why are you doing it? And my response was, well, I'm going there to serve the people. And he said to me, well, what do you think the real job of a politician is? And my response was, well, of course you are there to serve the people. [00:30:00] That's what you're there for. And he went, no, Tanya, the purpose and the real job of a politic.

Tanya Unkercich: Is to get reelected. And I never forgot them saying that to me and I went, oh no, it's not. I'm going in there to serve the people. But you know, now in hindsight I go, actually, there is truth to that. And that was one of

the things I struggled with when I eventually became a politician, was I wanted to give a hundred percent of my time to serving the people in need, those in suffering to help them out of suffering.

Tanya Unkercich: And it felt disingenuous of me to. Have this background thought of, yes, but where are you going to get votes? You know, that didn't sit right with me. But anyway, going back to, um, look, I was just, I was just naively campaigning because I wanted to serve the people, [00:31:00] especially those people who were injured by the vaccine.

Tanya Unkercich: I had them, I was. Pretty silent online, but I was helping people that whole year and after my father died, I was coaching people. I was giving pro bono time to many people helping them. And I thought, well, maybe you can do this on a grander scale. So naively, I suppose, I thought Tanya. You can help them on a, a much grander scale.

Tanya Unkercich: So I sided with a party that was really looking at doing that, at helping them, and I, I, I got in, so, you know, just by the skin of my teeth, I was number eight on the list and I just scraped in and I thought, okay, maybe I'm meant to be here to serve and. And I, I suppose my ability to sit with uncertainty and discomfort helped me that entire time because I just kept surrendering.

Tanya Unkercich: If I'm meant to be, then I will be there, you know, and I just trust that I will be able to serve those people how I [00:32:00] really want to serve them.

John Larter: Hmm.

Tanya Unkercich: I talk a lot. I'm a Croatian.

Graham Hood: Go on. Johnny.

John Larter: Tanya, do you, do you think, uh, I know this is probably a difficult question to answer, but, uh, we, we've interviewed so many people, um, over the five years that, uh, have been very aware of what's going on.

John Larter: Uh, especially doctors and, and I can understand, um, their reticence to, to, to actually speak up, um, because they feel. That their work wouldn't be able to continue helping those like you, you, you've just described in, in the background there, you, you're helping people, um, silently in the background, but do you, do you think that part of the problem is that, uh,

cumulatively if, if all those people were actually to stand up, then it might actually solve the problem rather than just sort of tinkering away in the back?

Tanya Unkercich: Well, that's what my message has been, [00:33:00] particularly since I've left politics, is it's up to the people. We need to rise up together. Take personal responsibility for your life. Don't, um, don't be fool by fear. Don't be ruled by fear. Find that self-worth, again, that self-respect. Stand up and say, this is my life.

Tanya Unkercich: Let's all, um, link arms together and say no more. Um, you know, that's, that's been a big message for me to individuals. There's been so much division and one of the things I spoke about it in my maiden speech was the, the importance of unity. And whilst our country have got cost of living crisis, you name it, everything else.

Tanya Unkercich: The cost of the people not coming together, I feel is a far greater crisis than all of those other things without unity in a country where nothing, and this is the thing [00:34:00] that disappoints me so much. Everyone out there in leadership, so, well, not everyone, many people in leadership, in in positions of influence media, the rhetoric is still one of division.

Tanya Unkercich: And you know, it can be very subtle and silent. Or it can be loud, and this is the thing that I didn't want to be a part of. If you are in a position of influence or leadership, do whatever you can to bring the people together. Again, I know I've gone, uh, and onto another topic here, but by bringing the people together, that is what might give the people to the strength to stand up and say, actually this is what we want, or, no, but people are fearful of saying no.

Tanya Unkercich: Because of the gaslighting, the putting down, the shaming, um, even within families that's happening, you know, so everyone's personal foundation in a way has been [00:35:00] rocked. And you've gotta be a really strong individual to stand up and say, no, this is who I am and this is what I stand for. And I'm not going to budge no ma no matter how much of that brown stuff you're gonna throw at me.

Tanya Unkercich: This is who I am and this is what I stand for. Sorry, I changed the topic a little bit there.

Graham Hood: I think it that all, that, all that unity that you're talking about, uh, only works when there's mutual respect.

Tanya Unkercich: Yes.

Graham Hood: And the biggest problem we've got at the moment is people are so cynical, they're so skeptical.

Graham Hood: They've lost faith in every institution they ever held dear, ever trusted, including the church. And now they're, uh, they're so skeptical, they dunno who to trust. There's no respect. If you have a different view from somebody else, then you, you, you're labeled as a Freemason or a controlled opposition. And we've seen that go on an awful lot in Australia.

Graham Hood: I was surprised when I was in New Zealand just over a month ago with Michelle that we, um, [00:36:00] we were over there doing a church camp and we were invited to speak in an event at Palmerston North, uh, after the camp meeting that we were attending. So we went from being at a faith-based kind of. Uh, gathering for a few days to this freedom group, and I was really uplifted by the fact that, uh, there were five freedom groups in that area that all joined together to bring that event around.

Graham Hood: Because I happened to be in the area at the time, they didn't have a lot of notice and I was amazed at how they worked so well together, five different groups, and when we had lunch with them prior to the, the meeting that night, um, they all admitted that they have differences of opinion. But the things that they agree on, they work together on.

Graham Hood: And I was, I felt really comfortable. I felt really safe and I felt like I was in a clean environment, not a toxic environment, which is what we get in Australia a fair bit. Now, I dunno whether that has permeated right through the freedom movement in New Zealand, but it's certainly refreshing to [00:37:00] come from here in Australia to that in New Zealand and see people come together even though they have differences of opinion.

Graham Hood: Yeah. But the good thing that stood out for me that day was respect. Yes. They all respected one another.

Tanya Unkercich: And that is so true, and that's one thing I've noticed as well is that the, the freedom people, while there are some differences of opinion, I don't see that they fight amongst themselves. You know, it's, I suppose it's the human condition A, everyone wants to be, right, but you do have to give others the space to, to share their view.

Tanya Unkercich: And as you say. Respect one another. But I also wanna add to that is self-respect is something that I, I've noticed a lot of people have lost because they've been beaten down a little bit. And I really encourage people to find that self-respect again. And if you find that you, you're in a room where. Or at a table where respect is no longer being served, then you may have to get up and leave the [00:38:00] table because it's going to chip away at your self-esteem.

Tanya Unkercich: It's going to chip away at your sense of certainty and decision making. Uh, it doesn't mean that you have to fall out with everyone, but you can love people from afar and, um. And just do everything you can to really ground yourself on a strong personal foundation and personal respect. Must be, must be there.

John Larter: Hmm. Tanya, you raised earlier. Um, uh, uh, the, the issue around politicians wanting to get reelected, um. Wh why do you think it is that, uh, so many, uh, politicians lack conviction? Um, yet when we see someone like Winston Peters in your country, uh, make a, uh, a very bold decision to. Remove, uh, the, uh, the, the New Zealand government from, from the, uh, treaty, uh, with the WHO, [00:39:00] uh, you know, it's so well received.

John Larter: Mm-hmm. Uh, not only in your own country, but globally. I mean, why, why do these politicians not back themselves in, um, like we're seeing Pauline Hansen do here in Australia? Uh, so no, we're not gonna put up with this.

Tanya Unkercich: Hmm. It does take brave people to stand up and say no when everyone else is saying yes. So Pauline is amazing like that.

Tanya Unkercich: And yes, Winston did do the right thing. The, the government did do the right thing on that, so I believe it was a cabinet decision, but it was something that New Zealand first did campaign on. Mm-hmm. You do have to. Um, be okay in having mud slung at you when you are going against the narrative. Um, it's called a democracy, isn't it?

Tanya Unkercich: People vote you in in order to do those things, so you really must deliver on your promises. And that was one that was delivered on, thankfully.

Graham Hood: Mm-hmm. So tell us about those 18 months, uh, in, in your political career [00:40:00] because, um, you obviously resigned before the, um, before the next election. That would've been a hard decision for you too.

Graham Hood: So how did you find it going from the lifestyle you had into the political Ji Barge of, of Wellington and the beehive?

Tanya Unkercich: My lifestyle was actually rather quiet, to be honest, before I went into politics. So it was a little bit of a, a shock to the system because I'm an early bird. You know, being a dairy farmer, I've always remained one of these people that gets up early.

Tanya Unkercich: But when you're in politics. You get very little sleep when you're there in parliament. So that was, when people say to me, what was the hardest thing for you? It was just staying awake until midnight sometimes. That was the hardest thing. I wasn't scared at all of the hard work. I loved the hard work. I loved being able to be there and really support the people.

Tanya Unkercich: I do feel that, um. And I wasn't scared to go in there and speak on topics that were controversial. For [00:41:00] example, I was, um, very vocal about the COVID inquiry and I felt it was very important to mention the vaccine injured in the house. Which I don't know if they'd been mentioned before. I'd met with the vaccine, injured a lot, a lot of groups.

Tanya Unkercich: And for me, they were New Zealanders who were left behind and who were still suffering, and they deserved to be heard. So I really felt fulfillment. In being able to stand up for people, I, um, never really got to speak on this topic. It would've been something that I could, but I don't think it would've been that well received.

Tanya Unkercich: As for the unborn child, uh, I feel that, uh, the legislation in New Zealand that was passed. In the middle of the night, back in March of 2020 when everyone was locked down is one of the worst things that's ever happened in our country. And to be able to abort a child in the third trimester, I feel [00:42:00] is inhumane.

Tanya Unkercich: So it's something that look, would it be heard? I don't know if it's anything that's really being addressed in any country. Um, maybe in America they have though, haven't they? So that is something that. Whilst I would've liked to have done something about that, I dunno how well received that would've been.

Tanya Unkercich: I really stuck, uh, my hand up for palliative care because I dunno what it's like in Australia. Actually, I think your palliative care system is considerably better than ours, but our hospices are screaming. For funding and having been around so much death and being next to people at the end stage of

their life, I feel it's not only a privilege for the person who is the caregiver, but for the person who is passing away, they deserve the right to die with dignity.

Tanya Unkercich: And with family around them and, and that sort of thing. So I really advocated for [00:43:00] palliative care and had a member's bill there. So I was, um, I don't mind being bashed at, I, I wasn't, uh, a fan of men being in women's sports and things like that. I didn't mind standing up for all that sort of thing. And I knew that I was getting smashed around for that, but it didn't bother me.

Tanya Unkercich: I just. Felt that people who didn't have a voice needed a voice in parliament. So those were the things I felt really proud of. Did I feel that I was making a, a huge difference or that there would be a, any change from what I was doing? I really felt that no, there wouldn't, and I felt that I was actually better to be outside of parliament and to have a stronger voice.

Tanya Unkercich: For those areas that I've just spoken about, and you know, that's what I'm doing is I'm really helping others who are struggling in those areas now because I feel like I'm getting an outcome. Uh, [00:44:00] I didn't feel that, and this is probably naively on my part, I thought I would have a bit more influence, uh, in being a member of Parliament, but I, I felt that I would actually have more influence and the ability to help people more outside of Parliament, as you may have.

Tanya Unkercich: Seeing yourself and deciding not to do it, you know, you're probably serving more people this way. Um, and you know, there, there were things for me that didn't sit right for me, and I thought, Tanya, how is this affecting your value system? And it was, and that was a big decider for me. So it was hard to do.

Tanya Unkercich: The decision was easy, interestingly, but it was hard to do. Um, because I knew there'd be public backlash and people will be talking, et cetera, et cetera. None of us like that, but so be it. My heart and my soul feels clean and rested.

John Larter: Hmm. Does it surprise you, um, Tanya, that, uh, senior government, uh, [00:45:00] officials like your health minister have lied about, uh, the, the advice they received in relation to, uh, especially children being, uh, vaccinated, uh, and, and, and, and why politicians seem to, uh, be immune from, from prosecution?

John Larter: I mean, essentially. These, these, uh, these should be investigated by the police, uh, in all these jurisdictions for, uh. For murder?

Tanya Unkercich: Look, no, it doesn't surprise me because I remember reading through COVID, our phase one COVID inquiry. I saw documentation in there that papers were delivered to cabinet, and this was about three weeks before the.

Tanya Unkercich: Protesters came to Parliament. I don't like calling them protesters. I like to call them New Zealanders, who were crying for help when they showed up at Parliament. Oh, wow. So even before they arrived, I saw [00:46:00] paperwork that cabinet had received papers so that it didn't surprise me. Um. I don't, I, I can't answer the question as to why nothing's happening.

Tanya Unkercich: I suppose. I look overseas and I go, is anyone being prosecuted overseas? No, they're not. Um, I think this is a lot bigger than anything I could imagine personally and Tanya. You just keep doing your bit for the people who are right in front of you to help them in some way out of suffering and, and help them to move forward.

Tanya Unkercich: But this is a pretty big beast. And, uh, I saw that actually there's not a lot I can personally do apart from helping those individuals around me, one person at a time, if it, if it takes. So, um, look, no, it didn't surprise me that all this recent media came out about them having the information. We saw it, I saw them, I was listening to them, I was talking to them, people, youth being injured.

Tanya Unkercich: I've [00:47:00] listened for hours. To teenagers who are suffering from heart condition. So it didn't surprise me at all.

John Larter: And what was being said in the hallways in relation to the whistleblower, uh, that, that released all the information from NZ Health,

Tanya Unkercich: uh, Barry Young. You're talking about Barry Young? Nothing was said about Barry Young.

Tanya Unkercich: No.

Graham Hood: There, there was, um, we, we've had several politicians who sadly lost their, uh, their positions in the last election. Who actually stood up in, in liberty of conscience to say what they really believed they went against the party line one standout. Well, there's a couple of standouts. I think Jared Rennick is one absolute standout there.

Graham Hood: John, um, who was Disen endorsed, uh, by the liberal party and ended up running as an independent and everything was stacked up against him. Um, but also, um, uh, Russell Broadband the, uh, member for Monash in Victoria. He was, you know, a [00:48:00] 25 year veteran of, of, of the parliament. A man respected on both sides of the house.

Graham Hood: Uh, he was a liberal politician, a conservative for many years. Once again, was Disen endorsed in favor of a more teal, like more woke candidate in his area. Um, he would often say to us, he's a good friend of our program. Uh, he would often say to us that every time he stood up and gave a speech in the house, reference to the COVID mandates.

Graham Hood: And, uh, safety and efficacy. He would often get booed, but then he would've people approach him in his office later or, uh, run into him in the corridor or have a coffee with him that say, you know, we agree with you Ru Russell. We know that you're on the right track, uh, but we can't do anything about it.

Graham Hood: Did you, did you come across any kind of willful blindness in, in the Parliament while you were there for that 18 months? Did you see people who were. Clearly uncomfortable about what was going on, but refused to acknowledge it.

Tanya Unkerich: Um, [00:49:00] well, I also got booed and screamed at during my debates when I was talking about COVID and the vaccine injured, like screamed at, I had to scream in order to be heard.

Tanya Unkerich: Um, but look, did other politicians come up and say anything to me? Uh, look, I had a couple and in the government, I won't lie, who said to me, good on you, Tanya. That was your best speech ever. But they didn't, um, say I agree with you or anything like that. I think everyone's just very careful. Um, I'm, I'm, I'm trying to remember to be honest 'cause it was about a year ago, but I think people were proud that I stood up and screamed back at the opposition.

Tanya Unkerich: But everyone's quite careful that I think, yeah.

Graham Hood: Uh,

John Larter: and by the same token, did you get, uh, I, I mean, I know the vaccine injured are, are obviously, uh, writing to, uh, members of parliament all the time, um, you know, advocates for them, but did you come across

[00:50:00] doctors, uh, you know, senior doctors bureaucrats, uh, within, within the government that, uh, would, would say at a cocktail party or, or, or drinks or some function, uh, at Parliament, you know?

John Larter: Yeah. We know what's going on.

Tanya Unkercich: Look, I personally didn't have that. I actually went to very few events. I deliberately did not want to go to many events, but I personally didn't have like existing doctors come up. I would have pen people from the Freedom Movement who were no longer doctors reaching out to me.

Tanya Unkercich: But no existing doctors, no, I personally didn't have that. Mm-hmm. Others may, I don't know, but I didn't. But like I say, I also was. Um, not one to, I, I tried to avoid as many of the functions as I could.

John Larter: Mm-hmm.

Graham Hood: You're aware of the doctors, of course, who are facing deregistration at the moment. Dr. Matt Shelton, I'm sure you know him.

Graham Hood: Yes,

Tanya Unkercich: yes, yes. And

Graham Hood: he's the next cab off the rank to face all that rubbish that's going on over there.

Tanya Unkercich: Yeah. Very brave man. [00:51:00] I used to work in a clinic that did IV vitamin C many, many years ago, so I was involved in that, um, arena for a long time. So I knew a lot of those holistic doctors, interestingly, before I became an mp.

Tanya Unkercich: So they would be reaching out to me, going, remember me, and of course, of course I remember them, you know, so, um, yeah, really good people. Really good people treated appallingly. Yeah.

Graham Hood: New Zealand doctors, SOS, they deserve a medal, every single one of them. And, um, yeah, we had, they're friends of ours as, uh, the, you know, Australian Medical Professional Society.

Graham Hood: You know, I think nearly a thousand doctors, John joined that organization and they're just amazing, amazing human beings. And they, they're being persecuted from Pillar to post. It just seems to be the norm.

Tanya Unkercich: I've followed, um, Ian, bright Hopee actually for probably 30 years. Would you believe so? Um, it was good to connect.

Tanya Unkercich: Great friend of ours. Yeah, great friend

Graham Hood: of ours. Then.

John Larter: And you had good success with the vitamin C uh, in the program over there?

Tanya Unkercich: Uh, look, I'm [00:52:00] a firm believer in vitamin C. I'm someone that will, before I take anything, if I feel like I've got something coming down, I'll put vitamin C and vitamin D down my throat in a heartbeat and in in large quantities.

Tanya Unkercich: So for me, it works really well. Uh, but because I used to work in the clinic, I used to see some very unwell people coming in, and it was wonderful for their immune systems. So I've been around that a lot and, uh, unfortunately it's not spoken about enough, so I've been a big one for alternative medicine personally because I know it works for me.

Tanya Unkercich: You know, I'm 62 soon and, uh, I'm as fit as a fiddle, so, yeah.

John Larter: Good on you.

Graham Hood: Yeah. Well, when people like Ian Bright Hope, speak the glories of, uh, vitamin C the way he does, I mean, he's pretty much the ian of all that stuff in Australia and indeed around the world. He's much respected.

Tanya Unkercich: Yeah. Yeah.

Graham Hood: And, uh, then you have the likes of buffoons like Dr.

Graham Hood: Norman Swan from the A, B, C, the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The [00:53:00] doctor for Australia coming out and saying, there's no scientific evidence to prove that vitamin C actually works and it can be

dangerous and it can assist in the passage of cancer cells. And I mean, it just, I spoke to Anne Bright, hope about that the other day.

Graham Hood: He is coming onto the program to debunk all that very soon, so.

Tanya Unkercich: Oh, I see. Yeah. Yeah,

Graham Hood: it's just amazing. We, we go on and on and on with this stuff. So what's, what's ahead for you, Tanya? What's the future looking like? What are you planning to do?

Tanya Unkercich: Well, I'm going to definitely write another book because I still have this heart to serve and to, you know, I really believe that it's important that we take personal responsibility, that you develop a strong personal identity again, and have good boundaries, develop good boundaries because people have become used to abusing.

Tanya Unkercich: And getting abused as well. So we really need [00:54:00] to, it has to start with you though, so develop that strong identity of self and that is what I will continue to do. I'm doing consulting, I'm helping a friend out in his business, which I'm loving. And um, you know, I just keep moving forward and. One day at a time, uh, things arrive on my plate and I just make sure that I strive for a life of fulfillment.

Tanya Unkercich: We all know that achievement is possible and it's great, but it's short-lived, so find meaning and purpose and fulfillment, and that's what I keep searching for. Keep doing the right thing, you know? I think that's it. Just keep doing the right thing.

Graham Hood: What more can we say?

Tanya Unkercich: Yes, it's a nice note to finish on.

Graham Hood: A nice note to finish on. Um, forgiveness is the key in all of this because, um, people only drive you crazy if you give them the keys. And one of the best way to give 'em the keys is to live in a life of hate and forgiveness. Doesn't mean there's no accountability.[00:55:00]

Graham Hood: Forgiveness is the only way forward because when you're stuck in lack of forgiveness, you're stuck in a prison of your own making. So,

Tanya Unkercich: yeah, and, and don't forget to forgive yourself as well. So many of us, you know, we, you know, if I knew back then what I know now, I would've done things very differently for my parents.

Tanya Unkercich: And it was important for me to go through a process of forgiving myself. So I encourage people to do that as well. 'cause if you keep beating up on yourself, then that isn't going to serve you.

Graham Hood: No, it doesn't serve and it only just drives you further into the dark and, uh, that's what we've gotta try and avoid.

Tanya Unkercich: Yeah. Yeah.

Graham Hood: I might, uh, say a prayer as we bring this to a close.

Tanya Unkercich: It would be lovely. Thank you.

Graham Hood: Dear Lord, father in heaven, please grant us a serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one beautiful moment at a time.

Graham Hood: Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, but [00:56:00] taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is and not as we would have it, trusting that you will make all things right if we surrender to your will so that we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever. In the next we ask in Jesus.

Graham Hood: Amen.

Tanya Unkercich: Amen. That was beautiful. Thank you. Highlight of my day. Thank you. Yes, the Serenity Prayer. Thank

Graham Hood: you so much. Uh, thanks for joining us, Tanya. I'm sure we'll touch bases again soon.

Tanya Unkercich: You bet. That'll be lovely.

Graham Hood: I think they're organizing a community of unity too, for Michelle and I New Zealand later in the year, so hopefully we can catch up on that.

Tanya Unkercich: Oh, that'll be lovely. Thank you so much to both of you and to all your listeners

Graham Hood: and Johnny, you've often been heard to say.

John Larter: You just couldn't make this stuff up.

Graham Hood: Thank you. We're not. We're not. God bless you Australia. Don't forget what you did yesterday Got you to today. Let's do it one day at a time and stay compassionate.

Graham Hood: We'll see you next time on Club Grubby. Bye for [00:57:00] now.