2026-06-22 - Club Grubbery - Adam Walters

Graham Hood: [00:00:00] Well, good day everyone. Welcome to Club Grubbery. Good day, Johnny. Good to see you, mate. You're looking a bit rugged up there. It must be cold down in Tumut. Yeah,

John Larter: it is a bit cold in Tumut. Uh, as our next guest will testify, it, uh, it has its moments in the Riverina.

Adam Walters: Well, it's pretty, uh, pretty mild, Wingo, compared to last year, John.

John Larter: It is.

Graham Hood: Oh, we- we're copping it up in Northern New South Wales. We've had rain and freezing cold winds and everything. It's just been relentless for months. But our next guest, you mentioned him, a renowned, uh, journalist, investigative journalist, a man with a great background in journalism. Um, and it appears as I read through his bio, uh, that he is steeped in journalistic integrity.

Graham Hood: Um, he's an investigative journalist of some [00:01:00] renown. He shared a Walkley Award with the Channel Nine crew. He's done so much more than that. He was Bureau Chief at Sky News, and we are absolutely honored to have Adam Walters join us today. Great to have you on, Adam.

Adam Walters: It's a great pleasure, gentlemen.

Graham Hood: Mate, um, you know, I, I want you to, uh, I want you to unpack a little bit of your background for our viewers.

Graham Hood: Yeah, sure. Because a lot of, a lot of the work you guys do, the ones who are doing the real journalism- Mm-hmm ... are not, you know, you're not the talking heads that we see on TV every day. That's right, yeah. Um, you guys, you guys do the nuts and bolts dirty work that, uh, everyone else seems to get the credit for.

Graham Hood: Well, mm. So I'm gonna get you to tell us just how good you are. No, really, just, just tell us-

Adam Walters: Well, modesty- ... about

Graham Hood: your career ...

Adam Walters: modesty forbid, Graham, because humility is a trademark of a shoe leather journalist. Yeah. Uh, you're right, we do park our egos at the door. It's all about the story, it's never about yourself.

Adam Walters: So that's the golden rule.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: Uh, listen, the, the people who read the autocues now appear on the sides of buses and billboards. They've got a role to play. The shop front's very [00:02:00] important, so I don't wanna diminish, uh, the anchors and the newsreaders. They're, uh, at that end of the production line, if you like, but it's always, uh, was always something that was never going to satisfy me as a journalist who started in newspapers.

Adam Walters: So that's my pedigree. I began as a cadet right here in Wagga on the Daily Advertiser way back in 1981, and I switched to radio in 1984, working for a local legend down here who's featured on my podcast, a bloke called Peter Mahoney, who also trained Damian Ryan and a host of other, uh, journalists who ended up making it in Sydney.

Adam Walters: And from, uh, TWG, I went to Wollongong briefly to TLO, and then, uh, I ended up at TWS a short time later, then 2CH as a police and politics/court reporter. Had many hats there. They had a small newsroom. And then, uh, I had an opportunity in the bicentenary year to move to Triple M, which wasn't a serious career move, but it was at the height of Doug Mulray's popularity and [00:03:00] a bloody good- Oh, yeah

Adam Walters: uh, lots of fun. But, you know, you go chasing the sport reporter to, uh, read, uh, the, the seven o'clock sports report that you'd prepared for them, and, uh, they'd be in the, uh, the stairwell having a joint. You know, it was that sort of place. It was crazy. You'd turn up, there'd be people asleep in the foyer under a carpet of champagne bottles.

Adam Walters: And, and while it was fun, you know, uh, to participate in that sort of rebellious, uh, radio environment as FM was making headways into the, into the Sydney ratings, I thought, "This isn't really the most serious of career moves," and I ended up on the Daily Telegraph as a crime reporter covering the... First of all, the significant stories I covered there was the Grannon killer on Sydney's lower North Shore, John Wayne Glover, the hunt for him.

Graham Hood: Oh,

Adam Walters: yeah. And through the course of that year, I covered many crimes, which enabled me to build up a portfolio, if you like. So when a job at Channel Seven came up as the crime reporter, I was only 26, uh, [00:04:00] that came with a car. That was the big incentive at the time for a struggling young journo scraping together shekels for rego.

Adam Walters: I thought, "How good is this? They're giving me a, a bag of fruit-" The keys to a car and a job on television. Little did I know at the time that the police reporter in commercial TV was known as the junkyard dog round, uh, because of the extreme conditions under which we worked. Highly unqualified, ending up on the steps of God-forsaken, grief-stricken strangers to ask them, pre-Facebook days, for a photo of their loved one, and trying to sort of justify our presence, um, in these terrible circumstances by saying it'll help the police investigation.

Adam Walters: It was, it was ruthless, the competition you had. The sort of trauma of dealing with that, what I call the marathon of misery every day. It was the same but just in a different location. Dealing with immense sadness, grief. But compounding that was the competition with Channel 9 and Channel 10. So you can imagine, uh, just how m- [00:05:00] how fierce the pressure cooker was in those days when the competition between, uh, within the commercial media or the tabloid media was transferred from the afternoon newspapers to the 6:00 PM bulletin.

Adam Walters: It was during that transition period when the likes of, uh, Norm Lipson, Tony Barnao, uh, Simon Boder, myself, Steve Barrett, or the Barad as he was known, were switching their careers, uh, from tabloid newspapers, The Telegraph, The Mirror, The Sun, to the 6:00 PM news bulletins. And, uh, we're a ragtag bunch, to be honest

Adam Walters: You know? I was fortunate enough to have had radio training and I allowed my voice to carry me, but the other, the other guys had more experience, and they knew more police, especially in New South Wales. So I

was forced to develop contacts elsewhere to try and maintain my own competitive edge. And that happened, uh, by, uh, getting to know the federal police [00:06:00] based in Sydney And the, the fella, as I mentioned before, had very strong New South Wales police contacts.

Graham Hood: Mm.

Adam Walters: And especially Steve Barrett. Um, he was... He might as well have been a cop, he knew them that well. He was invited to all their barbecues and he... And because he was trusted, he was getting the drop on big stories. And it was incredibly, uh, competitive, as you can imagine. So from that, uh, from Channel 7, I ended up, uh, going to Channel 10 as, uh, the Olympics reporter just ahead of the Sydney 2000 Games.

Adam Walters: And an opportunity came to work for the Labor government. Now 10, of all the commercial networks, was the most frugal. You may recall way back in the day, in the late '80s, it went through a difficult financial period and it never really recovered from it.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: That was a bargain basement newsroom. Um, I remember going for a home loan at the time, and the bank manager's saying, "Is that all they pay you?"

Graham Hood: Yeah. It

Adam Walters: was at complete odds with how people perceived someone who [00:07:00] appeared on TV. Uh, you know, it was c- complete odds with perceptions of your alleged wealth. And I said, "Yeah, I'm afraid so. Lucky I love my job." But anyway, after, uh... That's why I took the job in government. I, I was approached by a, a friend of mine who worked for Bob Carr, who said the Community Services Minister, Faye Lo Pau, was looking for a media advisor, a senior media advisor.

Adam Walters: And I think guys, uh, even though I wouldn't sort of pursue that path now knowing what I know, at the time I was fatigued. Um-

John Larter: Mm ...

Adam Walters: by that stage I had covered the Port Arthur massacre, the backpacker murders, the Granny Killer, the Anita Cobby murders, the Ineb-

Ebony Simpson murder. There was this catalog, as I said, of, of very heavy stories, the Thredbo disaster.

Adam Walters: And back in the day b- uh, before, uh, PTSD was almost fashionable to discuss- Yeah ... and I'm not integrating the, the reality of that. My, uh, my partner's a police officer, it's very real. [00:08:00] But back in the day, Graham, as you'd relate as a pilot, I guess- Mm-hmm ... uh, there were aspersions cast upon your masculinity if you weren't coping.

Adam Walters: I remember coming back- Yeah ... from the Bali bombings, and my news director say- after six weeks of daily visits to the morgue, surrounded by people who'd lost loved ones, staying at our hotel in the pool, in the cabanas, at the bar till 3:00 in the morning there you were- Yeah ... acting as journo/counselor, and the news director burped and said, "How was your holiday?"

Adam Walters: Yeah. That's how seriously PTSD was treated back then. So- Yeah ... that was Channel Nine, actually, which came later. And then there was an opportunity to j- to join Nine, which back then was being anchored by Brian Henderson, if you recall.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: And it was at a time, uh, pre in- the dominance of- Brian told me

Adam Walters: Brian told me, yeah. And- Yeah.

Graham Hood: Yeah ...

Adam Walters: in my view, and it was pretty accurate at the time, I think Peter Robertson used similar words. If you got a job on that bulletin, it was TV journalism's equivalent of a baggy green cap. Yeah. So suddenly [00:09:00] I'm working with Peter Harvey, Laurie Oakes, Damien Ryan, Mark Burrows, these legends-

Graham Hood: Yeah

Adam Walters: of news reporting. And this is hard to believe, at the age of 37 in 2000, year 2000, I was the youngest reporter on that 6:00 PM lineup.

Graham Hood: Yeah. Wow.

Adam Walters: The youngest, you know, having had by that stage almost 20 years experience on the road. So I guess these, these were the, my formative years and I switched, uh, while I was at Nine to do politics.

Adam Walters: And having had a, an insider's view of just how cynical the world of New South Wales labor was, I guess I did have an advantage.

John Larter: Yeah.

Adam Walters: So when I knew that Carl Scully was deceiving the public over his knowledge of a police report at the Cronulla riots, I, I went hard. I used my police contacts to confirm the report had been done, a report, uh, that he denied existed.

Adam Walters: And suddenly, uh, yeah, he was gone. Now, Scully had eyes on, on the premier's job- Uh, and he was cultivating Alan [00:10:00] Jones as a key media contact to realize his ambitions

Graham Hood: Yeah

Adam Walters: And, uh, I was able to prove that he had misled Parliament, and in the end he was left with no choice but to, to, to quit. Uh, Yeama put it to him, "If you don't quit, I'll sack you," so...

Adam Walters: And, uh, that was a significant story at the time. It wasn't the only one I was pursuing. Uh, I was having a, a jolly old time down at Parliament House, um, having had a sneak preview of what's really happening behind the scenes. So I guess that's what fortified my cynicism when I switched to covering politics.

Adam Walters: I thought it was still a crime round, to be honest, but they're just wearing white collars instead of blue.

Graham Hood: Wow. Wow

Adam Walters: That was my attitude towards it, yeah.

Graham Hood: You won't get

Adam Walters: any- But in saying so- ... arguments from us. What's that, mate?

Graham Hood: You won't get any arguments from us.

Adam Walters: Oh, good on you. Well, the problem with that, though, was that, uh, I was going too hard, so I got a visit from the network news director, a bloke called John Westacott, the late John Westacott, who's...

Adam Walters: He came down, he told the cameraman [00:11:00] to leave my office, and he said, uh, "Mate- the, uh, the government doesn't like us because they don't like you." And I said, "Well, that's good. I must be doing my job." He says, "You don't get it, mate." He says, "You don't understand how this town works." I said, "I do." He said, "Well, go and work for the ABC then."

Adam Walters: As it turned out, I was, I wasn't convenient for whatever negotiations were happening outside the newsroom. I'll say this for Rupert Murdoch, he gets a lot of criticism, but he's a newsman. He doesn't run casinos, he doesn't run mi- he doesn't have mining interests. And, uh, that's why I'll always defend Rupert Murdoch, because at that particular time I was being told to back off in no uncertain terms, so I thought I'd better leave.

Adam Walters: And I did. And, uh, I don't know, guys, I could keep on going. I, I, well I think I might just leave the rest to questions because it's it's all sounding a bit one-sided from my view, but that's my background anyway. That's how things kicked off.

Graham Hood: Yeah. Well, you've, you've certainly got some credibility and runs on the board, and you're pretty straight up about it all.

Graham Hood: Uh, tell us about the [00:12:00] Kennedy Awards.

Adam Walters: Yeah. Well that was sort of, I guess, born out of my rebellious spirit. We loved Les. He was a, a guy who was never likely, never destined to win an award, purely because, uh, if only because crime reporting, long before it became a fashionable genre, wasn't recognized by the Walkleys.

Adam Walters: And after Les died prematurely from liver cancer, we missed him dearly, and, uh, we were very upset because this was happening in real time right under our noses in the pub. We didn't realize how crook he was. We knew he liked a drink and a smoke, but things sort of ran away in a big hurry. Uh, from diagnosis to death was only a matter of weeks, so we were reeling.

Adam Walters: And Steve Barrett in his eulogy to Les suggested that a crime reporting award be named after him, and we all thought that was a great idea

and worthy of just a lot more s- of a lot more than just sentimental, uh, nice words on the day of his farewell. And we were determined to make that happen. Now I, uh, I [00:13:00] was very enthusiastic about the idea because I'd had long thought the Walkley Awards had been selling short those shoe leather journalists to whom you referred earlier.

Adam Walters: Yeah. Those guys on the ground at the coalface doing the hard yards, the junkyard dogs. Yeah. We felt largely ignored by the self-appointed elites at the ABC and the Sydney Morning Herald, and the broadsheets of subculture that appoints itself as the media's gatekeepers. And we knew that we had the connections and the energy to build an institution outside a union affiliated awards system.

Adam Walters: And, uh, the doors flew open from sponsors once, uh, to his credit, the Liberal Party Premier Barry O'Farrell agreed to present- The Journalist of the Year at our inaugural awards in 2012. Now, it was a trick for me to be heavily involved because I was getting bashed over the David Campbell story. I'd exposed a former chair commission, uh, crime commission chair and police minister for living a double life and exposing himself to what the former [00:14:00] Labor premier, Barry Unsworth, described as deplorable compromise.

Adam Walters: And I was smashed at the time by the ABC and all the lobbies as, as a homophobe, which was completely, uh, not the motivation for doing the story. Uh, Campbell himself, to his credit, accepted that his conduct had not been becoming of a minister, handed his resignation to Kristina Keneally, and graciously stepped aside.

Adam Walters: But there were a lot of people whingeing on his behalf, and there was a complaint made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority about whether my story was in the public interest. Anyway, to their enormous eternal credit, Channel 7 backed me. I think they spent more than three-quarters of a million dollars defending our public interest defense, and it was upheld.

Adam Walters: It got up. But that's, uh, but un- until then, I was being bashed on Media Watch and everywhere as this sort of poster boy for gutter journalism, which was typical of the response from the elites. You know, if they're organizing a dinner party at Birchgrove on a Saturday night to [00:15:00] discuss David Williamson's new play I ain't going.

Adam Walters: I'm not gonna be invited. I know exactly. I don't know how to play skivvy, and I don't have a beard to strike, right? So- ... I'm living in the eastern suburbs, and I'm the antithesis of what they think should be a respectable journalist. So I never, my journalism never expe- expected favors. Mm. I didn't want the access.

Adam Walters: I'd rather tear them down for lying. Yeah. So you can have your exclusive story about the new bus depot at Pennant Hills, right? Because next week it'll be Channel 10 getting the lollies they hand out. I, I withdrew from that sort of round robin and went hard. So getting back to the Kennedys, I had to keep my involvement fairly discreet because I didn't want the success of the awards to be jeopardized by all the controversy that had been swirling around me.

Adam Walters: Mm-hmm. And it wasn't until about two years or three years after they started, they sort of ripped the mask off, and by that stage all the elites had been ambushed. They'd already received the trophies . It was too late, they couldn't hand them back. Yeah. And my profile sort of grew to a certain extent. I never leveraged it.

Adam Walters: [00:16:00] Um, it was all about raising money for colleagues in hardship, those that lost their job, those who, who were crook. Um, all sorts of circumstances, uh, with gambling addictions. You know, we were there, the Kennedy Foundation, to help them out. We raised millions to stage a, a very glamorous event. We thought we had to be loud and proud to put ourselves on the map, and I did that.

Adam Walters: I was event director of the Kennedys for 10 years before I took up the bureau job in, for Sky News in Brisbane, and, uh, handed that over to a very capable woman, Anna Magnus, who had worked with the Queensland Awards, and she knew how to put on an event. She's been doing a sterling job since. And it still sits there as the Glo- the Golden Globes to the Walkleys Oscars, if you like.

Adam Walters: But, uh-

Graham Hood: Yeah. Adam, Adam, how much, uh, how important is integrity in journalism?

Adam Walters: Very, and I think it's compromised all the time by bias. People don't attack stories objectively anymore. We see that especially within the ABC and [00:17:00] the left-wing media, The Guardian in particular, which Pauline

Hanson tore to shreds at the Press Club this week, as we saw, deserved every word of it.

Adam Walters: Yeah. It's a disgraceful rag, The Guardian. Yeah. It's hypocritical, takes massive donations from big corporates with a stake in the so-called, uh, global warming or climate change industry. Yeah. Uh, correctly described by Pauline Hanson and Barnaby Joyce as a hoax. Uh, so yeah, I, uh, I think integrity's very important.

Adam Walters: Um, if someone- Have you seen, have you- ... had my own integrity attacked by people who, who have none, who would, who would rather defend the overreach of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, uh, the double life of a minister exposing himself to blackmail and compromise in a post- Yeah ... September 11 environment as police minister.

Adam Walters: If you wanna go and defend those people, don't tell, talk to me or lecture me about integrity

Graham Hood: Do you think integrity's on the wane in, in your, in your profession at the moment?

Adam Walters: Uh, listen, I think, um, the legacy media or the [00:18:00] relic media, or as I call it now, I mean tuning into a Channel 9 bulletin's like time travel.

Adam Walters: You know? You're suddenly back in 2005 learning about a car hitting a pole in Eastwood, you know. They're still sticking to that, that, that tired formula. They're not nimble enough. They haven't embraced, uh, the sort of technology which has seen TikTok and Twitter or whatever they call it now, X, and YouTube thrive.

Adam Walters: They still see... They still condescendingly and stupidly regard those platforms as Johnnies come lately. Which they are, but they're very popular, and that's where the advertising dollars are going. And for as long as the advertising dollars are streaming away from the traditional legacy brands, they're gonna have problems upholding those standards.

Adam Walters: They're gonna have junior reporters with less experience who won't be trusted by an aging audience, because they're young enough to be their grandchildren, with all due respect to their potential. But the days of being the youngest reporter in the Channel 9 newsroom at the age of 37 with 20 years under your belt are gone [00:19:00]

John Larter: Yeah.

Graham Hood: It must have been good days, though. I mean, you know, working with the likes of Laurie Oakes and Peter Harvey- Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah ... there seemed to be credibility. But I'm, I'm hogging the microphone a bit. Johnny's itching to ask you some questions, Johnny. Yeah,

Adam Walters: sorry. I think I'm the one hogging the mic. I'll have a go at it.

John Larter: Oh, it's, it, it's beautiful to, uh, get that insight, Adam, as to, as to what, uh, went on. Um, y- you've certainly sort of built the building blocks here, uh, for people to understand how, how the media, uh, you know, works in relation to bias. Mm. And I, I think that's a perfect segue to, to ask you about, uh ... W- we've, we've got a, uh, a very good relationship with a US senator, Senator Ron Johnson.

Adam Walters: Okay.

John Larter: And, uh, he's been on the program half a dozen times. Um, a- and he, and he's screaming from the rooftops about what's going on with the data, the government data- Mm. Mm ... in relation to the mRNA vaccines, the injuries, the deaths, the, the-

Adam Walters: Yep. I've been following it. Yeah, it's been buried.

John Larter: Buried. Yeah. Uh, [00:20:00] and the media won't talk about it.

John Larter: Um-

They

Adam Walters: won't because they, uh, as we know, the whole sort of television industry, as Bobby Kennedy pointed out-

John Larter: Yeah ...

Adam Walters: um, is financed by big pharma. So it's not in the interests, it's not in the financial interests of the legacy media, the traditional brands over there, ABC, CBS.

John Larter: Yeah, you've interviewed

Adam Walters: Bobby.

Adam Walters: You've interviewed Bobby. I, I interviewed Bobby, and I copped a lot of stick from the ABC for that, for interviewing a kook. Well, that kook- Yeah ... that so-called kook is now the most powerful health official on the planet. So they were proven wrong again, the elites, you know. And my- Well, if the ABC- They, they keep giving him a softball interview, a softball interview on the 60th anniversary of the Dallas assassination, talking to him candidly about how he felt about the loss of his uncle, and- Yep

Adam Walters: how at the age of 14, losing his own father in the same circumstances must have been devastating, and how did you deal with that? I wouldn't call that a softball interview. I'd call it a very emotional and [00:21:00] an explorative piece about a man's incredible, incredibly tough journey. And he's a bloke who was maligned because he spoke honestly about the dangers of, of unknown, uh, vaccines, and that was another example of how, you know, uh- People with an alternative valid view were maligned and even demonized

John Larter: Yep, yep.

Adam Walters: Yeah. And the ABC tore me to shreds over that story. Well, uh, you know, isn't that a badge of honor for you though, Adam, that when you- Well, sure, but just- ... when you cop it from the ABC? I, I keep hearing that, "Oh,

Graham Hood: it's

Adam Walters: a badge of honor that you exposed ICAC for its overreach with the Kazal case and finding him corrupt but not recommending prosecution." That didn't get any sort of mainstream sympathy until Gladys Berejiklian, the former New South Wales premier, found herself in exactly the same circumstances.

John Larter: Mm.

Adam Walters: And what, what really annoys me about the ABC and its claims to have integrity, and that's why I was so happy to see Pauline Hanson propose this subscriber model, which is what it should be.[00:22:00]

Adam Walters: But what really annoys me is that when a body with the gravitas to which it usually defers, like the United Nations Human Rights Council, comes out with a finding in favor of my story about corruption

commission overreach and the injustice suffered by Berejiklian and Sharief Kazal, they just ignore it.

Adam Walters: They don't report it. They haven't got the, the intestinal fortitude to put their hands up and say, "We were wrong", you know? It's, uh, it's so annoying. So yeah, badge of honor, but, uh, I'm still angry about the dishonesty within this so-called gatekeeper media community. Um, I wouldn't have them at my front gate.

John Larter: So it, it... was it the, uh, the, the, the John Westacott types that were, were stopping this? I mean, you know, we, we've spoken to Chris Yeoman, we've spoken to- Yeah ... a, a number of people. But just seem, never seem to get anywhere.

Adam Walters: Well, Westacott, I mean, they, they like you if, you know, when they can put some hair on their chest about a ratings victory.

Adam Walters: Yeah. When you become [00:23:00] commercially inconvenient, you become very disposable, and that's how Westacott operated as a, as the editor of the, uh, pol- state political editor for the Daily Telegraph. He was treated like a fax machine by Neville Wran's office, which was, had its media operation run by David Hurley, who went on to become...

Adam Walters: And Hurley's a good bloke, but he became the, uh, corporate affairs director for, uh, Channel Nine, the chief flak catcher. Now, he didn't have anything to do with this, but Westacott came from that culture where you had access for favors. Um, so... And that, that paved the way for a good career that he had as a news executive.

Adam Walters: You know, the f- the favors were repaid and he was running Neville Wran's agenda on the front page of the Daily Telegraph, and they were happy with that and that's how the system worked in Sydney. So someone like me comes along from Wagga without any sort of school tie or establishment, uh, incumbent establishment networks within Sydney, and I become a nuisance.

Adam Walters: I become a problem that has to be dealt with. [00:24:00]

John Larter: We thought Sky was gonna be the, uh, you know, the, the, the helpful branch of the media. Uh, but, but I mean, even Alan Jones said to us that, uh, he, he was going to speak to, uh, one of the most eminent professors in cardiology-

Adam Walters: Yeah, yeah ...

John Larter: uh, Peter McCullough, and, and Sky News shut him down.

John Larter: Um, they, they didn't want any opposition to what the government narrative was either.

Adam Walters: Well, I think at the time, because COVID was such an unknown And because the public was being held captive, as you like, as an audience with these daily updates from politicians, police, health officials, they were being bombarded by ostensibly authoritative, credible characters, like directors of health, police commissioners, and which sort of subverted any cynicism that may have been around about how politicians were using the whole crisis as a diversion to look over their strategy.

Adam Walters: And we know, we've seen them do that with bushfires. You know, when they're in a bit of trouble over, [00:25:00] uh, extravagant rebuilds of perfectly good football stadiums, uh, suddenly they're standing next to the Rural Fire Commissioner and all summer for the next four months, that's all we talk and hear about. Uh, so I think the, the, the presence of these heavy-hitting health officials, doctors, um, uh, doctors who have since changed their mind, I've noticed, but they were being used front and center by the Morrison government at the time.

Adam Walters: Uh, credible, telegenic doctors telling you to do the right thing, get the jab. That there was no real reason at the time, ostensibly, given that news services have been the source of information that had been trusted over decades, to suddenly start doubting. And it wasn't until people, uh, such as yourselves, uh, with independent, free, intelligent minds, uh, could draw their own conclusions.

Adam Walters: And I'm sure, uh, you know, there are tens of thousands of people with those insights, but they're not the majority, and that's, I think, [00:26:00] what the politicians were exploiting at the time. And there were commercial realities attached to that. So if Sky... Sky paid a heavy price, if you recall, uh, for its YouTube...

Adam Walters: You know, had, had its YouTube channel shut down at one stage for allowing these alternative theories. So there were commercial repercussions, punitive as they were, uh, for news organizations that didn't follow the narrative. I'll, I'll always stick by Sky because they had very open minds to begin with until the regulators came after them, until the, uh, the

thought police on social media started, uh, penalizing, penalizing them in a, in a, in a considerable financial way.

Adam Walters: Um, in the same way I was forced to go to work, uh, the, with the job jab, um, I think corporations on a larger scale at one point were forced to toe the line. I really do.

Graham Hood: Yeah. I just returned from Washington DC. I, I was invited by Senator Johnson to the, [00:27:00] uh, the Senate hearings over there on the causal link between, uh, mRNA vaccines and accelerated aggressive cancers.

Adam Walters: Yeah.

Graham Hood: And all the evidence is there. It's amazing how much evidence is there. Mm-hmm. And it's almost irrefutable. And he has just uncovered, um, data through Freedom of Information and some emails that he's been, he's received- That clearly indicate that the director of the, uh, FDA over in America and the, and the CDC were colluding to alter the VAERS data showing that the vaccines were actually, actually killing children who received it.

Graham Hood: Yeah. Children who had no risk of getting COVID.

Adam Walters: Bloody hell.

Graham Hood: Now, he's uncovered all this information, and we're gonna interview him on Wednesday, and he's gonna blow the lid on it again. Has

Adam Walters: he got a good relationship with Bobby? Did, did-

Graham Hood: Yes, he does. He does. Good.

Adam Walters: Well, that's good. That, that augurs well for an honest outcome, I think.

Graham Hood: But

Adam Walters: the thing, the thing- Because at the end of the day, I think Bobby, Bobby's retained his independence. He doesn't wanna be the next president. He's not involved in Vance-Rubio dance. Uh, I think [00:28:00] he, you know, Bobby will hold his head up

Graham Hood: But the thing that, the thing that, uh, the thing that's troubling him, and it troubles...

Graham Hood: it should trouble everybody, is that that is... I mean, somebody sticks a needle in a strawberry in Australia and it's, it's front page news forever.

Adam Walters: Yep.

Graham Hood: And this thing is happening, it's been covered up. They knowingly and willfully have deceived the public. People were getting their kids vaccinated even though they knew it was killing kids- Right.

Graham Hood: Yep ... and they covered it up. You would think that that story would be blown sky-high by mainstream media. He can't even get traction for that in the States. And that's- Yep ... that's why it's important that we keep pushing, we keep pushing the truth as it ex- as it ex- as, as it's exposed to us- Mm ... because people sitting in their lounge rooms watching A Current Affair and, and, uh, and Sunrise and all that other stuff-

Adam Walters: They're not

Graham Hood: being educated

Graham Hood: they need to be h- they're not being educated. No. So how do we, how do we break out of the bubble? I

Adam Walters: think, I think before you become too frustrated with it, uh, the [00:29:00] ubiquity of social media platforms now means that the audiences for the alternative media, uh, as opposed to the legacy brands, are much bigger.

Adam Walters: And I think, uh, in the same way we're seeing, uh, the Fire the Liar campaign succeed so spectacularly for Pauline Hanson. Yeah. There's nothing that Albanese can do about it. There's no amount of whingeing that he can do or cuddling up to the... You, you saw him recently saying, "The problem is no one's getting their news from Nine, Seven and Ten these days."

Adam Walters: You know, trying to cuddle up to the incumbents at a time when their audiences are shrinking. I mean, that's pretty pathetic. So don't lose heart. I think you, you've got the right approach here. You're talking to journalists like me. I'm sure there's plenty of other experts lining up. Um, and at the end of the day, the success of your campaign will not depend on how many viewers you have, it'll be all about the quality of the viewer that you have.

Adam Walters: Yeah. So if Janet Reinhart is watching this, if Pauline Hanson's people are watching this, that's what matters. It doesn't, you know... While TV [00:30:00] stations in the commercial world and that, which I call Jurassic Park, because if they zoom out they'll realize that commercial TV is this little island off the South, South American coast now.

Adam Walters: But out in the real world now, where there's this ubiquity of honest information from intelligent chaps such as yourselves, uh, there is an audience, a powerful audience, that will listen and act. And I, I wouldn't lose hope. I, I think what we, what we do, Graham, is fall into the trap... Because we, we're Boomers, we grew up with that media, and there's a certain amount of rejection we feel when perfectly legitimate, horrendous stories like the ones you're outlining are ignored.

Adam Walters: Because it's not consistent with the narrative they maintained earlier and they're too, they're too proud or stupid or, or confused to do anything about it. And at the end of the day, their input is irrelevant. They can keep on reporting into ca- a car into [00:31:00] a pole at Eastwood, you know? Yeah. And pretend, pretend that that matters.

Adam Walters: Yeah, see, our, our- I think that you guys are at the, the tip of the spear i- in terms

Graham Hood: of- Our, our sit- our situation is we're not, we're not sort of frustrated 'cause we're not getting recognized. We've, we've come to a conclusion in recent, in the last few years that Australia has become accustomed to leaving its wounded on the battlefield.

Graham Hood: Mm. Um, you know, there, there are scandals that go on and on, and we're in a 50-year apology cycle in this country where when everyone's dead, the people who caused the drama and the people who were victims of it- They're gone ... when everyone's dead- Yeah ... the government comes out and apologizes. Mm. We're not, we're not gonna stand for that anymore.

Graham Hood: No. You know, we've taken on, we've taken on the man- the, uh, mantle of supporting Infected Blood Australia. You know, there are people who in the 1980s were given hepatitis C tainted blood products- Mm ... innocently, told they were safe and effective.

Adam Walters: Mm.

Graham Hood: That, that story, that story has lost traction because it's outside the news cycle now, but there are still people suiciding, [00:32:00] there are still- Yep

Graham Hood: people struggling with, with death. And we as a country pride ourselves on the ANZAC spirit. Mm. No way would an ANZAC leave a wounded guy on the battlefield. Well, what, what I-

Adam Walters: But it's, we would ... I think those values are being diluted by this mass uncontrolled immigration, to be honest. Yeah. You know, like they were, you're right.

Adam Walters: Their values we, this country once upheld. Mm. Remember the Chelmsford outrage over the, uh- Yeah ... the, the lobotomies that were, uh, uh, the-

Graham Hood: Electric

Adam Walters: shocks ... horrendous physical injury that w- were, was being inflicted on the brains of patients. That was a huge story at the time, wasn't it? Remember Chelmsford.

Adam Walters: And thalidomide. Thalidomide. Yeah, all of those things got the attention they deserved- Because those core Australian values of justice for the every man were front and center. Well, they're not now, and we've got a prime minister trying to tell us that that was yesterday. Now we've got today to deal with.

Adam Walters: And the cynicism behind that, as we know, is that they're trying to rebuild their electoral base because all the blue collar jobs have gone to Southeast [00:33:00] Asia and China. Yeah. So what, what's the solution to that? Ship in the votes, and at a time when AI is reducing the white collar workforce by 10% over three years, increase the white collar workforce of the public service by 24% over four years, and get us to pay for it.

Adam Walters: You know?

Graham Hood: Far out.

Adam Walters: This is why the Labor Party that I once worked for and that my father, uh, as a s- a school teacher headmaster once supported, and his father as a steelworker from Wongong once supported, is no longer relevant because it's

not the party we know. It's not the party that was worthy of, of support in the days of Chifley, a train driver from Bathurst, who would be rolling in his grave now to know that the Labor government of Anthony Albanese has ditched the Inland Rail project Which was gonna support regional communities in Australia, all the way from Melbourne to Gladstone, ditched.

Adam Walters: Now, what would Ben Schefferly think of that, the Bathurst train driver, you know?

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: I [00:34:00] tell you what, the light on the hill would have a... It, it'd look like a flashing blue and red siren.

John Larter: And even the underhanded manner in which they've gone about, uh, persecuting, uh, Ben Robert Smith, just, just an outrage.

Adam Walters: Outrageous, and the retrofit of laws that we've since discovered to make sure that they had him in a so-called corner. Well, I think as we've seen, and g- back to my earlier point about the irrelevance of mainstream media, uh, people aren't going to accept the word of Channel Nines, of, of, of the ch- of the, the major networks and the mastheads anymore, because they're seen as collusive.

Adam Walters: They're seen as being part of the establishment. And as someone who worked for them, I can testify to that. That's not, that's not the paranoia of a, of a sovereign stater who's living, uh, off the grid. That's... I mean, that's how... That sort of alternative thinking is characterized by the establishment.

Graham Hood: Yeah,

Adam Walters: yeah.

Adam Walters: It's perfectly legitimate. It's [00:35:00] perfectly legitimate. It's the ability of people to express themselves now using multimedia platforms, uh, that, uh, the sort of people who tried to make a difference as those who, uh, authored letters to the editor. That was about as good as you were gonna get, and even they were edited in a way that meant that a contrary view was not always gonna be published.

Adam Walters: So now we've got this independence, and here we are sitting here having a, an intelligent discussion about what's wrong with the world, and there's no censorship, and we can speak our hearts and minds, and that's precisely why Pauline Hanson is succeeding. I noticed, uh, Rob Harris from the Sydney Morning Herald had the penny finally drop on him the other day after the Press Club speech when he said that, "For what Pauline Hanson lacks in polish, she certainly compensates with authenticity."

Adam Walters: And that's correct. She doesn't speak the language of bureaucrats, of the press gallery, of [00:36:00] politicians. She's speaking to people in the pub who have the BS meter, which is, you know, it's more sophisticated than any worm used on 60 Minutes, the BS meter, the pub test, and Pauline passes it.

John Larter: And we've got, we've got a perfect example of, of, uh, o- of how to do things and how not to do things at Channel Nine and, uh, the Karl Stefanovic program at the

Adam Walters: moment.

Adam Walters: I mean- Karl's going gangbusters and I, I'm loving... You know, he said he's unleashing, uh, as part of his marketing. I know Karl well, we covered the Bali bombings together. Uh, he's un- un- unleashing the beast, and he is. He's obviously setting himself up for a future away from Channel Nine as an independent broadcaster and thinker, and he is cutting to the quick.

Adam Walters: He, he's a machine. He's obviously got a good production team behind him, and I can't keep up with him. I'm starting to wonder, uh, whether there's two of him, whether, whether he's had a secret twin stashed away somewhere, because his output's just amazing. To say he's [00:37:00] ubiquitous is a massive understatement.

Adam Walters: I'm trying to get him on to... We've agreed that he should come on to Beyond the Great Divide and have a chat about the regions- Yeah ... which of course has been a huge part of his focus, especially in the, uh, area of, uh, the, the ridiculousness of renewables and the, you know, the prose- the argument prosecuted by Barnaby Joyce.

Adam Walters: He's found plenty of people to support that, uh, because what Barnaby Joyce says is true, uh, taken from someone in Wagga here. So, no, Karl's, uh... It, it's great to see him in full flight, to see his, uh, to see that his

wings aren't clipped anymore. It's great, especially after that rough treatment he had. You know, they came after him.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: Uh, for the sin- So how long, how long do you reckon Nine- For the sin of falling in love, you know ...

Graham Hood: how long do you reckon Nine are gonna allow him to do what he's doing

Adam Walters: without sort of saying- Oh, I think he's... I read somewhere, I don't wanna sort of talk about Karl's personal affairs, but, uh, I read somewhere his contract's up for negotiation at the end of this year.

Adam Walters: I know he's, he's signed a radio deal. Uh, he's gonna be doing a, a Friday afternoon show. But I think [00:38:00] Karl's loving what he's doing Bit like me, he's not, he doesn't have to shave every day. He can just chuck on a black T-shirt and be his self. Uh, but-

John Larter: Well, Hoody

Adam Walters: and I were speaking- Only because Royal Ascot's happening at the moment, I went to the trouble of putting on a coat for you guys.

Adam Walters: But, uh-

John Larter: Could've put a yellow one on ...

Adam Walters: suits have got no tails. Yeah.

John Larter: No,

Adam Walters: it's freedom. I think, uh, you've lived with deadlines, you've lived with this sort of strict sort of dress code. Yeah. Uh, to see the strings snap off Gulliver.

Graham Hood: Mm. A

Adam Walters: giant like Carl who, who's got an enormous following. You know, he's a, he's a- Terrific

Adam Walters: terrific performer, Carl. He's the consummate media pro. I think he's very underrated. Uh, very smart guy. Uh, and has that ability, like Pauline Hanson, to speak in plain language- Yes ... which people respect. They don't like being patronized. Yeah.

John Larter: They

Adam Walters: don't like being spoken down to by somebody who's swallowed a bloody dictionary, you know?

John Larter: Yeah. He resonates with people. I mean, Hoody- Absolutely ... and I, we're only speaking before we w- we came on that, uh, you know, we'd, we'd love to get Senator Ron Johnson onto his program. [00:39:00] Um-

Adam Walters: Yeah ...

John Larter: and we'd- Onto your show? Yeah. Yeah, on, onto, onto Carl's show. Oh,

Adam Walters: onto Carl's show. Yeah. Oh, that'd be fantastic. Yeah.

John Larter: Because that- That would be ... would really hit the mark, you know?

Adam Walters: Yeah, I think, uh, you know, Carl would've done well with, uh, Bobby as well, you know? Yeah. Given him a fair go. That's what I did with Robert Kennedy, was giving him, give him a fair hearing Uh, I, I mentioned the fact that he was, uh, maligned, uh, as a, as a crank, uh, in passing, but I didn't dwell on that.

Adam Walters: It was an old story anyway. I mean, uh, that's the p- problem with the ABC, and they'll, they'll, I'll start telling Carl what a story is soon too, you know? Mm. The gatekeeping, uh, elites have their own so-called standards-

Graham Hood: Yeah ...

Adam Walters: which are appalling. They're so biased, you know? The guardian- Johnny, Johnny- The guardian-

Adam Walters: Lara, the microphone's

Graham Hood: yours. I'm not, I'm let- I'm letting you ask the remaining questions, mate, because I've been hogging

Adam Walters: it-

Graham Hood: What's that? ... too much.

Adam Walters: No, I wanna talk to you, Graeme, about, uh, thank you for nodding to, uh, my podcast the other day about Wagga Airport. [00:40:00] Uh, uh, just in a nutshell for your viewers, I returned here after 40 years, loved it.

Adam Walters: I was coming back to be with family, close friends, uh, and enjoyed revisiting everything I love about the place, and there's a lot to love about Wagga. Uh, it sounds like the punchline to a joke wa- uh, Barry Humphries joke, Wagga Wagga. In fact, it was at one point. I think. It's about a wine called Chateau Wagga Wagga.

Adam Walters: Anyway, uh, it- What I'll leave to- But its sophistication as a city, as an urban area, equidistance between Melbourne and Sydney, and I don't wanna sound too parochial, but it is sold short by its name, you know?

John Larter: Mm.

Adam Walters: Uh, put it this way, Inverell's a better fit for Wagga -

John Larter: Yeah ...

Adam Walters: that night. But anyway, I came back and, uh, I started having a look around about what hadn't been done.

Adam Walters: Vacant lots that I've been staring at for year after year when I'd come back for Christmas, uh, at the, at the gateway to the CBD. And people say, "Oh, they can't do anything with that because a petrol station used to be [00:41:00] there." And there was this can't-do attitude. The most popular, uh, Facebook page for people in Wagga is Lost Wagga, which is this marathon of sentimental journeying through the old days, sepia-toned tours of what the place used to be like, black and white photos.

Adam Walters: And here's Cyril Baxter standing outside his bakery in 1932, you know? There was that, so I set up a Facebook page called Future Wagga, which had a football stadium, a 737s Graeme landing here, you'd be happy to know.

Graham Hood: Yeah ...

Adam Walters: and all the things that it should have one th- quarter of the way through the 21st century.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: And the same attitude applied to the airport. I'd, I'd ask questions at the pub, what's going on with the idea that the technology used to fly people in and out of Wagga was invented in 1928, the turbo prop. It was conceived in 1928. We're, we're two years off the centenary, Graham, of the turbo prop [00:42:00] technology, which is still being used, what, 70 years after the jet age began.

Adam Walters: When did the jet age begin? You'd know. What, 1950 maybe?

Graham Hood: Oh, it started during World War II, but-

Adam Walters: Yeah, it

Graham Hood: started- ... in transport it was the early 1950s ... commercial. Yeah.

Adam Walters: There you go. So what a proud boast, right? That 70 years into the jet age, uh, the largest inland city in New South Wales, the fourth largest in the state- Still has these, uh, decommissioned.

Adam Walters: I, but I don't think they ... Do they still make the Dash 8, Graham? I don't think they do

Graham Hood: Yeah, the Q400 is a really sophisticated airplane, it really is. But the thing- But are they- Were, were you having that conversation in Geoff Dixon's pub?

Adam Walters: Uh, he used to own the Turvey Tavern, he was a partner in that. Um-

Graham Hood: Right.

Graham Hood: Well, you know

Adam Walters: his

Graham Hood: background ... Geoff Dixon,

Adam Walters: yeah, he was a former chief of staff at the newspaper where I started.

Graham Hood: Okay. Well, he, he was, he was a top CEO at Qantas. He r- Yeah ... the biggest mistake he made was hiring Alan Joyce. Um- Dickson's fantastic ... that was the biggest mistake. That, [00:43:00] but, uh, Geoff Dixon is a very proud Wagga boy.

Graham Hood: And I, I gotta tell you, I listened to your monologue piece the other day, uh, you know, 'cause I wanted to get to know you before we spoke and everything. Sure, sure. And when I listened to your monologue piece on Wagga, it sort of brought a tear to my eye. And I can tell you, the way you presented it, and I'm not blowing smoke in your back pocket-

Adam Walters: No

Graham Hood: it was like listening to a really good song. Really? Um, the, yeah, the, I, I believe, you know, the, the way you worded it and the way you presented it, uh, I listened to it twice and it really resonated with me. Because I think, I think that's why Karl too is, um, is pro the regions because- Mm ... that's where our heart is.

Graham Hood: Our hearts aren't in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane or Canberra. No. Definitely not in Canberra. I mean, Canberra's where we should be, where all our effluence should come from. Um-

Adam Walters: Where it should go ... um,

Graham Hood: where, exactly. So- Yeah ... I believe that, you know, r- elevating places like Wagga, and there's places like Tamworth, you mentioned Inverell- Mm

Graham Hood: all those places are fantastic. They have the potential to employ a lot of people. [00:44:00] And, and- Absolutely ... and not only that, they provide cheaper accommodation because they're further out. Mm-hmm. Uh, you know- Well- ... people can rent ...

Adam Walters: yeah, that's a good point. I've got a 31-year-old daughter who's earning ... I won't give away what she's earning, but it's a good income, working in North Sydney.

Adam Walters: She's Buckley's of living, you know, buying a place in Sydney. Just not gonna happen, you know?

Graham Hood: Yeah. Yeah. So, uh, yeah, I, I think, look, there, there are jets flying around now, modern-day jets, regional jetliners that would service Wagga beautifully.

Adam Walters: Yep.

Graham Hood: In fact, Wagga was an alternate airport if we needed it in an emergency on a 737.

Graham Hood: I've never flown a- Well,

Adam Walters: the runway length is an issue. I th- I think is it 1,600 the, the absolute minimum for a-

Graham Hood: Yeah, it's probably, probably right. I mean, uh, you know, I think Hamilton Island was 1,800. We used to land there. But the thing, the thing that ... Or I used to land there, they still do. Yeah. Um, there are jets in the Qantas fleet, for example, that are capable of doing Wagga easily.

Graham Hood: Uh huh. Uh, but it all gets back to commercial viability which is this is where the bean counters, uh, [00:45:00] and, and the lawyers run the airlines, and they run every other institution we used to have faith in. Mm. They're now run by the humans r- human remains departments- Yeah. ... the legal- I like that. I like it You know, the, it's

Graham Hood: We're, we're just seeing a degradation of everything that relates to- You know, an airline should be, should be run by operational people who know what an airline is, not a solicitor or- Abso-

Adam Walters: absolutely. Yeah. I, it's, uh ... And by the time you throw CASA into it, Graham, and, and the, the bureaucratic hurdles- Oh

Adam Walters: for aviation generally-

Graham Hood: Yeah ...

Adam Walters: uh, it, it's so frustrating. And what, what beggars belief for me in Wagga, and I didn't mention it in the podcast, but the ultimate incongruity of Wagga not being able to accept a jet is that we share the airfield with a RAAF base.

John Larter: Yep.

Adam Walters: Now, what sort of RAAF base, what sort of air force base can't take a jet?

John Larter: Yep.

Adam Walters: Yeah. It's ridiculous. I mean, that is a joke, right? If you tell American, someone in the American military that, they'd laugh. [00:46:00] They'd just think- Well- ... that was absurd, that it was fabricated

John Larter: What do they think happens in Canberra at Fairbairn? You know, like, it's, it's a joke. I mean, they have landed a 737 at Wagga, I know that, because, uh- Yeah.

John Larter: Yeah ... Prince Charles, uh, landed there, uh, uh, probably 10 years ago, uh, when he was the prince.

Adam Walters: That's right, I remember that. Uh, that's the joke. Uh, he said to Philip, who was alive at the time-

John Larter: Yep ...

Adam Walters: uh, well, anyway, he was picked up at Wagga and he had this sort of fur hat on.

John Larter: Yeah.

Adam Walters: And the bloke who, uh, picked him up, out of curiosity that got the better of him, he's halfway into town along the Sturt Highway there, he said, "Your Royal Highness, I can't help but ask, you know, what's with the roadkill

Graham Hood: on your head?"

Adam Walters: And Charles said, "Well, I was talking to my father, Philip." And I mentioned to him that I was going to Wagga Wagga and he said, "Where the fox at?"

Adam Walters: True story. Where the fox at? So I did. [00:47:00]

Graham Hood: Look, I gotta, I gotta tell you though, getting back to Wagga Airport- Yeah ... the, the issue is you can land and take off in a 737 there, you just can't carry much of a payload. No. And so it's not economically viable. But if- No ... if they turned it into a 2,200 meter runway it would be, it would be vastly different.

Adam Walters: They say that, Grant, they say it's not economically viable because there, there's a weight limit, right? Which would require the reinforcement of the runway, which apparently has been done. I, I've been trying to get to the bottom of that. Apparently some work was done to reinforce the depth of the, the runway, uh, some years ago.

Adam Walters: In the same way that's happened at Ballina apparently.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: And it needs to be extended by another 122 meters to be able to take a fully laden 737. 122- Yeah, that's all it takes ... not 122 kilometers.

Graham Hood: Yeah.

Adam Walters: Yeah. Yeah. 122 meters, you know? And I've got people on my Facebook page saying, "It can't happen." Well, $80 million is a, that's a line item in a federal budget.

John Larter: Yeah, it's a joke.

Adam Walters: Who's gonna, who's gonna jump up and down and say, [00:48:00] "How outrageous. They're giving Wagga $80 million so they can take jets to the largest inland city in New South Wales. This is despicable."

John Larter: Yeah.

Adam Walters: Yeah. The region- More despicable

John Larter: is

Adam Walters: $1.4 billion for a national broadcaster that can't tell us a story down the middle of the line, you know?

Adam Walters: That's what's despicable.

John Larter: As you know, uh, Adam, look, they're just taking the piss out of bloody regional Australia at the moment. I know. There's this garbage like with this Bondo wind farm. I mean, it's absolute disgrace that this, this stuff's even being talked about, uh, let alone, uh, y- you know- Well, fancy putting a bloody wind farm with 300 meter high towers, this is what...

John Larter: There's the- Mm-hmm ... and how many of them, in a state forest, whi- which is the economic activity for the entire Snowy Valleys, uh, uh, Riverina region. I mean, why would you want a bushfire risk, uh, let alone what the bloody things look like. I mean, they're an absolute eyesore. Uh,[00:49:00]

Adam Walters: you- Well, and they don't, they don't serve any dual purpose either. Absolutely. Try making a phone call, as you would, when you're on the Hume Highway at Yass on a mobile.

John Larter: Yep.

Adam Walters: You can't get through. Wrong. If you're on the wrong side of the hill-

John Larter: Yep ...

Adam Walters: you can't make a phone call. Yet another 60 Ks up the road and you've got those monstrosities looking like extras out of War of the Worlds, just absolutely devastating what used to be the gorgeous landscape at Gunning.

Adam Walters: You know, extending to Crookwell- Yes ... in the north and, and, uh, Canberra in the south. Yeah. That beautiful range just destroyed by these monstrosities. I mean, environmental considerations. I mean, I haven't seen a worse scar on the environment than those things. You're right, awful.

John Larter: 100%. And you know, at the end of the day, Michael McCormack was the Deputy Prime Minister.

Adam Walters: Yeah. He was. And I... Listen, Mick's a, a mate of mine. I was the best man at his wedding. I have no beef with him personally, but I would say to him, in a hypothetical world if I went up against him, I'd s- I'd say, "We do disagree on one thing. I think it's time for a [00:50:00] change."

John Larter: Yep.

Adam Walters: Because, uh, as Adam Giles, a guest of mine, a former NT Chief Minister and lieutenant to Gina Rinehart and head of, uh, CEO of Ha- Hancock Agriculture said recently, it's...

Adam Walters: When I raised the abandonment of the inland rail, he said, "Well, that should've been finished under the coalition government," and he was right. There were unacceptable delays and I've... I'd say to Mick, "Mate, you were the Transport Minister. You were the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. You had those military contacts.

Adam Walters: You were the member for Riverina. Where are the jets? Where are the jets, mate?"

John Larter: Yep.

Adam Walters: You know, he's-

John Larter: Yeah, but, but as you know, the bureaucracy runs the show, and that's, that's the problem. Yeah. I mean, he, his intentions are, are pure and I, I'm with you. I'm sure

Adam Walters: they are. Yeah. He's,

John Larter: he's a magnificent bloke, but at the end of the day, we're, we're, we're just hamstrung by these idiots that, that, uh, uh, uh, and, and as Trump says, "Drain the swamp."

John Larter: I mean, that's what Pauline- Absolutely ...

Adam Walters: Hanson- And they hang around. I've seen them in government at a state level. They condescend to ministers, knowing [00:51:00] that they're ephemeral.

John Larter: Yep.

Adam Walters: Knowing that there's plenty more where they came from. Yes. So they just wait for the political rolling, revolving door to spin-

John Larter: Yep

Adam Walters: for the next person to walk through that they can bullshit to as well. Look at Pip,

John Larter: Pip Spence. She's head of CASA. I mean, what does she know about aviation other than the chairman's lounge at Qantas? Feeding-

Adam Walters: The list, the list goes on. Go on. I had a good friend who was involved in, uh, uh, whose airline, whose small charter business was involved in a crash at 1770.

Adam Walters: You might be familiar with it, Graeme.

John Larter: Mm-hmm.

Adam Walters: Uh, I know Aunty Prue picked up- With it, ran with it, and, uh, I managed to get Bruce onto the 7:30 Report with Adele Ferguson. So it was the CATHS investigation into this crash at 1770, and Bruce was in a plane behind the one that crashed after it had engine failure And the, the investigative methods used by CASA were completely dodgy, and Bruce, before he died of a brain tumor two years later, blew the whistle on CASA.

Adam Walters: And I had a good look at them for the first time and [00:52:00] thought, "Geez, it's fast and it's loose." We're talking about an investigation here that didn't even visit the maintenance facility that was in charge of servicing the plane. Yeah. It gl- didn't even go there. Yeah. Now, what sort of investigation would overlook that?

Adam Walters: Yeah. There's been a light plane crash after a engine failure. Yeah. Uh, wouldn't investigators as a matter of course go to the facility where it was serviced to check, check the integrity of that? In, in the old days,

Graham Hood: in the old days they would've.

Adam Walters: Yeah.

Graham Hood: But compromise has crept in, and once again, this gets back to the bean counters.

Graham Hood: It's not economically- Yeah ... viable to investigate to that level, so let's just, you know, let's

Adam Walters: just-

Graham Hood: Let's

Adam Walters: just shred someone ...

Graham Hood: let's just shred someone. Yeah, I mean, this- Yeah ... this is why we're leaving wounded on the battlefield. It just

Adam Walters: unbelievable. Yeah. That's an example of what you were saying before we do, you can hear the, the bullets bouncing off the backs of helmets, can't you?

Adam Walters: As people run off- Yeah ... you know? 100%. It's like

Graham Hood: these- Now, lastly, lastly from me, um, John and I went to an event with Nigel Farage in, uh, Sydney several [00:53:00] years ago.

Adam Walters: Oh, yeah. Yep.

Graham Hood: And we were collared on the way out by a senior news executive from Channel 7, I think it was, John.

John Larter: Yeah, Ja- Jason Morrison, when he was there.

John Larter: Oh, Jason.

Adam Walters: Gosh. Yeah, Jason's

John Larter: a good guy.

Graham Hood: Yeah. Now, he's, he, uh, he was very frank with us. And he said, "Look, you know, we've looked at some of the stuff you guys are putting out, and there are times when you get more viewers than we do."

Adam Walters: That's

Graham Hood: right. Um- Yeah ... and I, I said, "Well, you know, w- uh, why don't you guys cover the, the stories that we do?"

Graham Hood: And he said, "Well, there are lo- lots of reasons we can't." But he basically said, "Whatever you do, just keep doing what you're doing." Um-

Adam Walters: Well, that's what I've said today, too. Don't lose heart. I think it's fantastic the job you guys are doing. It's so heartening to see intelligent people out there prosecuting common sense.

Adam Walters: Uh, no one's gonna doubt the credential of you guys, the credentials of you guys. Uh, and it's just great that, that people like you are becoming broadcasters in your own right now, and articulating your cases in a very [00:54:00] clear, logical, sensible way that can't be ignored, and people aren't ignoring it. Uh, and I think it's, getting back to the quality versus quantity when it comes to your audience, I think you'll find increasingly, especially with the resurgences of One...

Adam Walters: or the emergence, I should say, of One Nation as a genuine political force, and likely government, that, uh, you're gonna find yourself, uh, find yourselves in the, the offices of these new ministers, I think, because they're all ears. They, they're making the same arguments in other, other areas.

Graham Hood: Yeah. So- Well, let's, let's look, let's look for some, uh, honest, uh, integrity in the whole system and, uh, get some changes happening

Adam Walters: It's on its way, I think.

Adam Walters: I think people are sniffing it, too. Uh, Pauline touched on it in her National Press Club address. Yeah People aren't afraid to speak their minds anymore. She's emboldened people to be honest about their feelings. There's no more tiptoeing, there's no more tulips, there's no more politically correct minefields.

Adam Walters: Pe- [00:55:00] Yeah ... people can stride confidently forward now and express their views without the fear of being marginalized, maligned, and demonized, which is a great thing. Great thing for democracy.

Graham Hood: Uh, just closing. One of, one of the, uh, telling points out of that press, National Press Club, uh, luncheon speech was afterwards, um, David

Speers and one of their lady journalists, I forget who, uh, was being questioned, uh, on ABC News about, you know, what was it like, uh, how was the speech and what about what happened there?

Graham Hood: And it was... They talked about the controversy of that ridiculous banner being lowered- Mm ... and they were, they were laughing about it. I mean, I, I, I would, I would've thought that that's a really black day for the National Press Club. I don't know how it can hold its head up anymore after what happened there.

Adam Walters: Well, I, I... It seems as though the officials, uh, are at least putting on a show of, uh, outrage over what happened. How sincere it is, I don't know. But clearly- But when are these

Graham Hood: people

Adam Walters: gonna realize it? Clearly, uh, you know, for, in order for that banner to be [00:56:00] erected and installed, there had to be, uh, a degree of an inside job.

Adam Walters: Unless, I mean, look, I've organized big events. We, we were talking about the Kennedy Awards before. So on the floor of the Royal Randwick Ballroom on the day of the gala as we're setting up the stage and getting ready, there'd be any, uh, there'd be up to 200 different people wandering in and out in black T-shirts and it's impossible to absorb- all the personnel at once, and, uh, you'd be accused of paranoia if you were to sort of interrogate every single one of them about their presence there, so you just accept that, yes, there's a lot of people involved in this production.

Adam Walters: And I suspect this is how these people blended in at the press club. They probably turned up all in black looking like stagehands, looking like the very stagehands who tore it down, and no one blinked, no one thought twice about it. They thought, "Oh, Pauline must be doing a presentation, they must be her people," or...

Adam Walters: You can see how it happened.

Graham Hood: Well, I'm, I'm wondering whether GetUp is actually employed by Pauline Hanson because they're doing, they're doing an awful lot for her. It [00:57:00] works that

Adam Walters: way.

Graham Hood: Yeah. You know, I mean, it... Anyway, Johnny, have you got a final comment or question? Well, uh, just a- And

John Larter: we've

Graham Hood: gotta wrap it

John Larter: up

John Larter: just a final comment, Woody Sure ... just, just on a positive for, uh, Wagga, I did hear Adam mention the other day that, uh, that there should be a, uh, a stadium, uh, that reflects, uh-

Adam Walters: I think so, yeah ...

John Larter: yeah,

Adam Walters: and, and- Um, can you imagine that, what that would do for Northeastern Victoria and Southern New South Wales as a catcher- Yeah

Adam Walters: to attract international acts? That way you wouldn't need a bloody jet to go to Sydney or Melbourne. Out of it. You could just drive to the concert. I mean, we've got this legacy of sporting legend which, uh, any, uh, regional city in Australia identified a rival-

John Larter: Mm ...

Adam Walters: across the spectrum, Australian rules rugby league because of the Barassi line that runs through here.

Adam Walters: Uh, and tennis, Jason Stoltenberg, golf with Steven Elkington. I mean, the list goes on and on and on.

John Larter: And the

Adam Walters: The fact that we have these sort of huge light towers that wouldn't look out of place at the SCG or the MCG in place and no stadium just [00:58:00] says to me again, one quarter of the way through the 21st century, that the can't do attitude that is fed by the fact that state and federal governments just ignore the regions, uh, this, this notion of impossibility prevails, and it shouldn't.

Adam Walters: It shouldn't. And I think that, uh, the one good thing that government departments have done over the years is to decentralize their operation. Uh, we saw the state debt recovery office go to Lithgow because, uh, um, it needed cheering up, Lithgow. So they sent the, they sent the debt collectors- Poor Lithgow

Adam Walters: no, but-

John Larter: People

Adam Walters: are, people are brainy ... various government departments have set up, uh, set up shop in the regions. And, uh, there's no reason why- Corporations can't follow

John Larter: Yeah

Adam Walters: And it'll dawn on them one day that if they do move their operations to regional centers, that their employees aren't gonna be banging on the door for pay rises often because they'll have their mortgages covered.

John Larter: Yeah. Yeah.

Adam Walters: And that- That light [00:59:00] bulb moment's yet to happen, but that takes leadership and incentives offered by government. The... Someone's gotta get the ball rolling, and I think for as long as we've got these three-year political cycles at a federal level, the balls are never gonna roll. In fact, the balls are never gonna be- grow to be big enough to display the courage involved in what's perceived as a risk.

Adam Walters: Well, it's not much of a risk, uh, Graham. If that runway is built, the cost's about $80 million. If it's modified, if the air- uh, terminal itself is expanded to accommodate the bigger sec- uh, security screening machines, it'll cost a total of $80 million and it's, according to modest modeling, uh, conservative modeling, it'll take 7 to 12 years to get that money back into the local economy.

Graham Hood: Well, it'd be even better if

Adam Walters: you got- On, on that

Graham Hood: return ... it would be even better if you got the Victorian Labor government to do it. The cost would blow out to 80 billion. Anyway, we better,

we better leave it. We've, we're running out of time. Um- Bye, Graham ... I'm gonna close, I'm gonna close with the customary prayer.[01:00:00]

Graham Hood: Right. Lord Father in Heaven, we thank you for integrity, we thank you for the light of truth, and we thank you for guests like Adam Walters, Father God, who help us to illuminate that even more. Guide and lead us in this process, we ask in Jesus' name, amen.

Adam Walters: Amen.

Graham Hood: Johnny Lada-

Adam Walters: Good on ya ... you've often been heard- Thanks, Graham.

Adam Walters: That was terrific. Thank

Graham Hood: you ... you've often... Don't go. Don't go yet, mate. We, we just wanna catch you after we stop. You've often been heard to say, Johnny?

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

Graham Hood: You just couldn't make this stuff up, that's so true. Adam Walters, you've been a great guest. Uh, we'd love to have you back on.

Adam Walters: Oh,

Graham Hood: anytime. And, uh-

Adam Walters: Yeah ...

Graham Hood: and look, Australia, what you did yesterday got you to today. Let's not leave anyone behind. Come on. That's not how we do it. Let's not leave anyone on the battlefield. Stay true to yourselves, stay out of the trees, and we'll see you next time on Club Grubby. Thanks for [01:01:00] watching