

I am entangled in a theme on Truth, which affects me as I'm writing this newsletter, and as we approach Easter it takes on a more pertinent meaning.

I have used some 'copy' of the Newsletter from Peter MacLeod NSW, who had used someone else's, and like most information sharing, we are trusting of our sources. As I was editing, and adding some detail of my own, I felt I had to be sure I was right, and in the process of checking my own details, I found that some other details were amiss. It didn't change the essence of the story, but I generally feel that if some of my information isn't right, then it throws the rest into question, and I don't want *Media Watch* jumping on my case. Oh –No-Sir !

In publishing and research, the principle is to check your information, then quote your source, so if any fallout occurs, the blame goes there.

I have spent many years as Secretary of School Councils, Church congregation, as well as various other community committees, and have learned the appreciation and respect of accuracy and truth, especially in Minutes and records. It is not science, and I don't profess to be necessarily good at it, especially when attention, interpretation, and memory are involved. Sometimes, for me, these 3 things act more like the Three Stooges than the three stages of good Secretariat; but we should strive for accuracy & truth as best we can, and we still sometimes err.

What's this to do with Easter?

Well, for me, one of the great historic stories is Jesus being interrogated by the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate is on a short course of discovery, encapsulated in a few moments and words, from his impatient cynicism for the Jerusalem mob, to final statutory proclamation. Here is his paraphrased dialogue with Jesus, and with the Jews.

"Are you King of the Jews?"..... ("Yes")

"You are a **King** then?".....("Yes, everyone on the side of Truth listens to me")

"What is **truth**?"

(Pilate to the mob) "Here is the **man**.....I find no basis for a charge against him"....("Crucify him").

(Pilate to the mob)..... "Here is your **King**"..... ("We have no king but Caesar")

Pilate fastened a notice to the cross... JESUS OF NAZARETH KING OF THE JEWS...in Latin, Aramaic and Greek... (emphasizing the point to all)..Then the climax of the scene was realized; if it is a LIE Jesus was a loon and the joke is overplayed. If it is TRUE then what ? Pilate plays for truth.

...(then to have the final word and silence the Jewish priests).. Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Gospel of John ch. 18:28 - 19:22

The words, "WHAT IS TRUTH?", have echoed in the voices of countless others, resounded in the halls of time, and in our own conscience. The uncomfortable nature of the question, for whatever situation, is that it does not necessarily have an absolute answer every time, and many philosophers have explored the nuances of Truth and its relative meaning.

In terms of fact, Truth is a powerful force and is a challenge to other persuasive, evil powers, which at times seem like they're at war with our own Principles. Our senses can be affronted. It is played out in Politics, Public issues, Media, even in our own conscience. You'd think that in the modern Tech age with communications and recording devices in hand, all "truths" could be confirmed and triple cross checked; but it still is a slippery thing in greased palms.

Sometimes the discovery or preservation of Truth is a trial, a test of courage and conviction; but I believe it is one of the noble qualities of life. So is the employment of Truth.

Jack Nicholson, as Col. Jessep in the movie *A Few Good Men* memorably boasts, "You can't handle the Truth". He usurps its power to justify his own status and methods. Even in fiction Jessep's tyranny is in sharp contrast to Pilate who proclaims the truth he discovers, and defers its power to Jesus on the crucifix.

"*HOLD FAST*" is a great motto and we should exhort one another, and society, to hold onto great principles like TRUTH.

We know this much

"*Truth is the first casualty of war*" and. "*History is written by the victors...*" and... "*The meaning of Life, the universe and everything....=42*", the perfect spoof on our sometimes gullible quest for absolutism in Truth.

I hope I get my facts right. -Alex.

Post Script March 2017

USA President Donald Trump (TV celebrity & realstate tycoon) frequently instructs his audience with "It's a fact. It's true. You know it's true."
Yeah sure Don!