

SUBMISSION IN DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**PRESERVE OUR CONSTITUTION**

- **Australia already has an AUSTRALIAN AND A WOMAN as Governor General and our Legislative Councils are independent of any British authority. We do not need any Republic, especially one of unknown format.**
- Consider the prohibitive cost of a plebiscite/referendum during Depression/Recession. Money could be much better spent in alleviating hardship. In NSW alone there are 7000 vulnerable, helpless, homeless intellectually disabled persons awaiting accommodation, 40,000 homeless persons and legion impecunious pensioners, in addition to a failing and inadequate Health System, inadequate Transport and a restricted Education System. It is a fallacious argument to maintain that the holding of a plebiscite/referendum, financed by newly-printed paper money without security, will create jobs. How could a change to a Republic improve the lot of these above groups?
- Would-be Republicans have either forgotten or have never known about the dark days of the Nazi Era 1939—1945 when Britain and later the US stood alone against the Nazi menace. 10,000,000 Jews, many old people, all the disabled, many Central Europeans, gypsies and all who opposed Adolf Hitler were routinely exterminated or sent to the gas chambers. The British people then suffered unimaginable privations while defending our freedoms and the freedom of the world. Are we, a small isolated nation, so immature and ungrateful that we wish to cast off our founders, while still retaining all the benefits, stability and freedoms and renowned legal system it bestowed upon us? If we cast off our existing alliances we will be quickly usurped and over-run by some other repressive and perhaps near-by nation. How many Republicans were alive or are sufficiently educated to recall the valour of the British Army and its diversionary battles under General Sir William Slim in S.E. Asia at a time when Australia was threatened with Japanese invasion? Eminent Republicans deride and scoff at the role played by Great Britain in the defence of Australia after the fall of Singapore (February 1942). My cousin Wing Commander Harley Stumm DFC , barrister, scholar, sportsman, airman and Rhodes Scholar-in-Law at Oxford, joined the RAF while in UK. He was killed in action in 1944 over SE Asia while flying a plane constructed of plywood, aged 31 and leaving a young widow and a tiny daughter. He died in defence of King, Country and the democracies, protecting our troops and prisoners-of-war from starvation and torture and the women of Australia from becoming “comfort women”. In his visionary “After Victory” (written while on active service prior to Pearl Harbour, December 1941) he outlined his idealistic precepts for a new system of economic principles and international law to preserve future post-war world peace. Some of these precepts have today been implemented. We need to be faithful to the vision of the many who fought and died to protect us. How many Republicans are prepared to sacrifice or die for the good of their fellow men?
- Few Australian media outlets either broadcast or reported the Christmas Day Speech 2008 of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in which she extolled service to the Community and to our fellow men. The Queen’s reign of almost 60 years has provided a shining example of dedication and service to her country and to the Commonwealth. Few Australians are aware of the dedication of HRH Prince Charles and the huge annual sums of money raised by his

Prince's Trust and donated to assist unemployment, poverty and suffering. Australia was once "the lucky country". However, over the last 35 years, under the guidance of several leaders, it has degenerated into a greedy and alcoholic one.

- Will a Republic better the conditions, health and education of Australian Aboriginals? I commend to you the Australia Day 2009 address of NSW Governor Marie Bashir and her praise of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his clement and far-sighted aboriginal policies. Over the years probably as many white as black children have been removed from their families, with the intention, rightfully or wrongly, of protecting them or of bettering their circumstances. Will circumstances improve for the Aboriginals with the advent of a Republic?
- The qualifying period for Australian citizenship and the vote was once 17 years: it is now 2 years. The 1999 Referendum was defeated by a majority of votes and in a majority of States. If a plebiscite/referendum is now carried, it will be influenced by biased media reports and it will also be carried by the vote of many recent newcomers to Australia who have fled the poverty and disease of oppressive regimes (mainly Republics), and sometimes from genocide and cannibalism, often fearing for their lives, for the freedoms, kindness, largesse and wealth, social services and health and education services of Australia and its Westminster system of government which they now seek to destroy.
- Governors General are traditionally highly educated, highly qualified and have performed exemplary service to the community during their lifetime. Could it be possible that, with popular media support, with an elected Republican (or other) President that a King or Queen of Rock or Pop could be elected who lacked all other attributes and claims to fame?
- The Monarchy is the lodestone of our constitution based on the Westminster system of government, from which our democracy, stability and freedoms emanate. If we change our constitution to that of a Republic, we risk those freedoms and perhaps pave the way for the establishment of a dictator, loss of bicameral government and possible overthrow by a foreign power. Australia already legislates independent of any interference from Britain. Surely our politicians and leaders can be better occupied in these economically dangerous and unstable times than to destabilise, at great financial expense, our country by casting off a proven system of government which has over a long period has served Australia well. My arguments in this submission are based upon social perspectives: I leave the legal arguments to those more learned.

God Save the Queen

Judith A. Douglas (nee Stumm)