

Ron Manners: a memoir

Libertarian and entrepreneur, Ron Manners, is an articulate proponent of free market ideas. He originally made his mark in the lucrative gold mining industry and he says that in terms of money, mining and economic management we are living through a re-run of the 1970's with an end to boom times and a surplus that's already been spent.

Guests

Ron Manners

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Further Information

[Mannkal Economic Education Foundation](#)

Publications

Title: *Heroic Misadventures (Australia:Four Decades-Full Circle)*

Author: Ron Manners

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COMMENTS

Peter MacSporran: 11 Jun 2010 11:36:08am

What a great interview! Ron's discussion of discovering FEE and his "Workers Party" brought back memories of the years of frustration of the Whitlam government as it systematically tried to drag Australia into the mire. It was people such as Ron whose principled ideas were to turn the country around - oddly enough through the efforts of Keating and Hawke (Keating, incidentally learned a lot from Arvi Parbo). The recent aberrant behaviour of the Labor party is a reversion to the Whitlam era via the gross interference in economic behaviour of the US Government that inevitably led to the GFC. It is interesting that the only people who foresaw the GFC were free market economists. But back to Ron Manners. What a great Australian! His tribute to Sir Arvi Parbo is great and well deserved.

Greg Hamilton: 07 Jun 2010 1:49:31pm

I was unaware that I'd started a 'pee-up the wall' competition to be noticed, Bernard, but I'm game.

With the arrival of Gordon Gekko on the scene with his 'greed-is-good' recipe, the world took a turn for the worse. The humanities were down-graded in our universities, supplanted by the Mickey Mouse boys of the management specialties, founded on the business of 'wealth creation'. With intellectuals confined to barracks and the university system dumbed-down to make the plodders look like genuine replacements, the path to success came to rely on not knowing certain things. Ignorance of critical factors provided a distinct advantage. One could 'get on' not by talent or knowledge but by discrediting those with them, and operating with disregard for the more than half of reality that was regarded as restrictive.

This current definition of wealth creation is a dud. When examined closely, in the present context, it means getting privileges of ownership (often involving theft) and cornering profits for your mates and yourself. All I'm saying on this blog is that when I hear a guru raving about how good he is in that department, I grab for a plastic bucket.

There, Bernard. I've reached the sill of the fanlight. See what you can do.

JB: 05 Jun 2010 12:45:14am

Hasn't all this absolute free market nonsense been rather discredited by the gfc, and Mr Manners hero Hayek along with it (see Big Ideas May 2). It always surprises me that free market advocates have trouble with unions of

workers, but seem to get along rather well with unions of capitalists. It seems that blindly following ideology in pursuit of nirvana (either economic or spiritual) will always lead to self-destruction of one sort or another. I don't particularly care if Mr Manners wishes such an end for himself, but please keep it to yourself.

Bernard Palmer: 04 Jun 2010 11:38:32pm

"All our gurus at the moment seem to be forged in areas of affluence and privilege,"

What a great observation!

Must be though programs like Counterpoint have to measure a persons survival abilities first by their ability to produce wealth and second by public service.

Probably there are a million would be gurus out there all hoping to be noticed. Well you've just be noticed.

Now it is my turn.

<http://www.primaryfundamentalright.org/index.php?pageName=pfrWhatIs>

JG: 04 Jun 2010 3:51:10pm

Ron Manners was a delight to listen to, but then I have found people who actually do things to create the wealth we all share in often are. More please.

Greg Hamilton: 31 May 2010 8:46:55pm

Ron is as much a libertarian as Lenin was. Libertine in the antinomian sense might be closer to the mark (doing as you please regardless of the consequences). I think this poor country has had more than its share of half-baked messiahs with half the answer - both sides of the ideological spectrum. We need to try a lot bloody harder. All our gurus at the moment seem to be forged in areas of affluence and privilege, and their sermonising makes me puke.

Don: 31 May 2010 7:43:56pm

How did it come about that the term 'Libertarian' has been hijacked by the market libertarians? They swiped it from the left-libertarians (eg the Sydney Libertarians, self-styled 'non utopian anarchists) & then took it over. It was the left who first coined the term wasn't it? Don. Chelsea Victoria.

To see more comments go to:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/counterpoint/stories/2010/2914025.htm>