

Comments following article by Henry Ergas in The Australian, 21 April, 2023

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/crisis-in-our-museums-reaches-far-and-wide/news-story/a4f4a08e73eb57454faf68bccaeed9ea>

Tiberius

1 HOUR AGO

I loved going to the Powerhouse Museum. Stopped when was obviously changing into a fashion boutique. Sad that people are so ignorant, IMHO of course!

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Malcolm in Mona Vale

10 HOURS AGO

Another loopy decision by Mike Baird.

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rachael

14 HOURS AGO

‘The wasteland of the Australian mind’ is sadly already here and cultivated in ever expanding fashion by our universities. The fact that Henry Ergas can state the following is proof that the universities are themselves wastelands because they are not producing the kind of technologically and scientifically driven minds that value and care about scientific innovation: “The constituency for science and technology in Australia is weak, and that for their conservation even weaker...”

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Warren

16 HOURS AGO

Very sad to read .

We went to that Museum many times 70 years ago when at boarding school .

Fascinated by how things worked .

Likedthumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

17 HOURS AGO

Henry Ergas raises a profoundly important point, but it is one that usually slides by under the radar. Our cultural bodies are under siege everywhere. Ergas uses the Sydney Powerhouse Museum (SPM) as an example, but I worry that the Australian

War Memorial's renovation may soon fall into the same camp. It was intended as a memorial to Australia's soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice, illustrated by scenes of the battles they fought. Now, however, it is apparently to become a museum of military history, with emphasis on the 'frontier wars,' of the nineteenth century. It is no coincidence that the Ultimo site of the SPM this year held a 'Blak party' on Australia Day. The museums are to be used to prosecute the culture wars and to overthrow what were once thought of as Australian cultural norms. Antonio Gramsci must be cheering from his grave.

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

bob

17 HOURS AGO

Ha!

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Jennifer

17 HOURS AGO

The erudite and timely article by Henry Ergas bells the cat and is a resounding call for action to stop the trundling demolition of the world renowned Powerhouse Museum. I worked there for 3 decades - its 10 year development, then for 20 years of the Museum's brightest decades when its changing exhibitions and permanent galleries displayed an extraordinary range of ideas and new perspectives inspired by its outstanding collection. From the priceless 1785 Boulton and Watt engine, the beginning of the Industrial Revolution powered by steam generated in the Museum's basement, to Marc Newson's Lockheed Lounge; the family excitement of interactive exhibitions like Circus and Real Wild Child to the thoughtful and exciting Universal Machine linking computing technologies like the dancing robotic arm, to their origins in Charles Babbage's Difference Engine No 1 and the maths genius of Ada Lovelace. Nigh on 40 exhibitions a year attracting young and old, families, school and education groups, tourists, specialists and devotees.

The Powerhouse Museum can be renewed and revitalised as the great Museum that it is at its heart, with political will, community advocacy and museological professionalism. If the current demolition plans are not stopped, among a raft of absurdities, the Boulton & Watt engine is planned to be disconnected and moved out - at insupportable risk to such an irreplaceable world treasure, then reinstalled -

electrified ie vandalised - to entertain the visitors to the planned design and fashion precinct. No civilised society destroys a museum.

[Likedthumb_up5](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Marvin

17 HOURS AGO

The plates with those vile captions say everything about the mindset of those enacting this cultural vandalism. "Filth" is the right word to use.

That people with such gross and tasteless mentalities should be in charge of any museum is a condemnation too of whoever appointed them.

The utter abandonment of restraint in language and actions so evident today is stark evidence of a society in terminal decline. Unless we can return to a way where civility is treasured and obscenity condemned we have no future worth living.

[Likethumb_up3](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Crosscheck

18 HOURS AGO

This is all part of the overarching aim of the far left to tear down the foundations of our culture and civilisation, as well as the essential knowledge of history.

Extremely distressing to observe, especially as it is our taxes that are being squandered in this manner.

[Likethumb_up8](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

JazzyfromWA

19 HOURS AGO

‘The useful arts’ is mostly a contradiction in terms.

[Likethumb_up1](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Jimothy

11 HOURS AGO

No

in this sense, “arts” is meant artisanship.

Like building stuff and making stuff

ilent Majority!

2 HOURS AGO

"I am not doubting you" - um, that's exactly what you are doing!

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

46 MINUTES AGO

Crockery

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Janet

20 HOURS AGO

This is so true - it is all emotion over logic and common sense. As William Stoltz said in yesterday's Commentary we need to revolutionise our education system and promote high level maths and sciences.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

IainC of The Ponds

20 HOURS AGO

And little wonder too that as cost blowouts mounted, the projected visitor numbers in successive cost-benefit appraisals magically increased too, ensuring the expected benefits would continue to exceed (albeit by no more than a hair) the expected costs.

Another case of "spreadsheet planning": "How much do I have to increase each cell in the column by to reach the number I promised? 6% will do it just nicely!" Exactly the same methodology has been used for RE projections.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

AnthonyR

20 HOURS AGO

The "long march through the institutions" is the term, is it not?

First the university students, since they are young and naive, and keen for change (for the sake of change, and in the belief it is improvement), and keen to make their mark. Then those graduates become, in one direction, the teachers of successive generations, at all levels - which amplifies and accelerates "the march". And in another direction, they go into politics - which, through policy, facilitates "the

march". And in yet another direction, they become the staff, then the management, in the arts and institutions such as galleries and museums (and business). And inherent in their indoctrination, back when they were so young and naive, is a conviction of their own rightness, righteousness, and superiority - which carries them through, as they age, and prevents them from learning any better.

Thus, as elucidated here by the ever erudite Mr Ergas, "the worst are full of passionate intensity".

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

44 MINUTES AGO

And then we go bankrupt.

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Daisy

20 HOURS AGO

Woke elites running all these institutions have no respect for history probably because they want to cancel it for being patriarchal and imperialist - meanwhile they order golden cutlery sets. Any one ever watch the Hunger Games.

Likethumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

Robin

20 HOURS AGO

Heartbreaking

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

U-235

21 HOURS AGO

Brave as it may be to suggest a correction to anything Henry composes, but here goes. Perhaps the last phrase could be amended to read '...and a wasteland that is the Australian mind will spread with it.'

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Roadrunner

21 HOURS AGO

This destruction was wrought not by Labor or the Greens, by the NSW Liberal (so called) government. The puzzle has been answered today with a "moderate", Mark Speakman, becoming the Opposition leader. The takeover of the NSW Liberal party by the left is now complete. In this they are only following in the footsteps of their counterparts in WA, Victoria and South Australia. It is not hard to predict that the party will occupy the opposition benches for the foreseeable future.

Likethumb_up26

Replyreply

Reportflag

Paul

15 HOURS AGO

Perhaps it could be said the government in its factional arrangements occupies both sides of the House!

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Keyser

21 HOURS AGO

The Powerhouse used to be such an educational venue for both children and adults to enjoy. And in the perfect spot, close by to so many other historic and iconic beacons for anyone visiting Sydney's heart. This a classic example of the woke/broke behaviour.

Likethumb_up27

Replyreply

Reportflag

PETER

21 HOURS AGO

Glad we had the chance to meander down the road to Powerhouse late last Century for look see following look see whilst living nearby. Usually completed our circuit with Paddys and Chinatown. Hard to believe the damage wreaked to the Museum.

Likethumb_up16

Replyreply

Reportflag

Indicator indicator

21 HOURS AGO

Thomas Sowell b 1930

The most fundamental fact about the ideas of the political left is that they do not work. Therefore we should not be surprised to find the left concentrated in institutions where ideas do not have to work in order to survive.

"The Survival of the Left", Forbes (Sep 8, 1997)

Observe our Universities, now Museums....

Likethumb_up34

Replyreply

Reportflag

MC

21 HOURS AGO

I'm sorry, but a lot of academics and researchers work very hard, especially in the sciences, including engineering, computer science, health, etc etc. And in addition to the hard work they do in their core duties (teaching, research, administration, etc), they devote time to science communication, school outreach programs, etc to encourage children to follow a STEM career path. They would also be appalled to see what is happening to the Powerhouse Museum.

The science and technology focus should be retained and government should have invested in an upgrade of the museum in line with its original focus.

Likethumb_up17

Replyreply

Reportflag

PHILLIP

21 HOURS AGO

Looks like "Bogans" have infiltrated all parts of our society.

Likethumb_up26

Replyreply

Reportflag

Colin

21 HOURS AGO

I don't think there are many "bogans" who would be hosting an Australia Day "Blak" party nor spending \$18,000 on dinnerware with obscene messages. This sounds more like the elitist class who are very fond of spending other people's money to push their "brave and courageous" messages to the plebs.

Likethumb_up39

Replyreply

Reportflag

MC

21 HOURS AGO

The rich ones would, especially if they think that engaging in this type of activity would somehow make them more sophisticated.

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply

Reportflag

Andre

17 HOURS AGO

Anyone invited or paying to attend this dinner should have walked out in disgust at the inappropriate messages while making it very clear Tom the organisers why they were leaving. But they just sat down and pretended it was so very 'edgy' and 'progressive'.

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Agent Larrabee

16 HOURS AGO

Cashed up Bogans. CUB's for short

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

IainC of The Ponds

20 HOURS AGO

I prefer "Bourgans": highly educated, leftist bourgeoisie who are nonetheless highly unsophisticated, unknowledgeable and unable to create. To compensate, they destroy what they don't, and can't, understand.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Jimothy

11 HOURS AGO

I like it!

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

MaxPower

21 HOURS AGO

It's said that the great library at Alexandria was destroyed by a Christian mob upset at its CEO, Hypatia,

Rome was sacked by various iterations of Vandals, Goths and the like,

The great Moslem library at Bagdad was sacked by Genghis Khan's forces who are said to have done it so thoroughly that the River Tigris ran black with ink for days.

So who and what have we got to destroy our culture, learning and civilization?

Why, the marxists of course. The most iniquitous political philosophy ever.

Likethumb_up33

Replyreply

Reportflag

Paul

21 HOURS AGO

This just demonstrates the abounding ignorance of our political class.

Likethumb_up30

Replyreply

Reportflag

Jeffrey*

21 HOURS AGO

The constituency for science and technology in Australia is weak, and that for their conservation even weaker:

Because science and technology are evolved as our understanding and experience expands and so are based on open inquiry, scientific laws, replicable facts and rules that take effort to learn and understand.

When the consensus based post-modernist anodyne thought bubbles, posing as 'truth', are fixed in the 'progressive' ideology of the 'progressive woke world' of our institutions, where the catch cry is to tear down or bury the standards of our past, because they are so hard to live up to.

Hence our civilisation is being eroded from all sides through purposeful omission, as is the high culture that springs from our civilisation, because it demands effort and full context to understand. So the desire to conserve the best of both, is being smothered, by mediocrity and the desire to remove context. A false narrative has subsequently emerged that ensures we in Australia won't reach the leading edge of applied science and technology, outside of a few cloistered spaces where even those spaces are being diminished; but look how well so many of us can emote.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Dan H

16 HOURS AGO

Well expressed Jeffrey.

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Shaun

22 HOURS AGO

Must be a First World problem. Aussies are trying to afford power petrol food mortgages rent. NO MORE MONEY for these woke projects... Arts Farts.... Fix the cost of living first

Likethumb_up10

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ross

21 HOURS AGO

The Powerhouse was never a Woke project, until it was turned into something opposite to what it had been and should continue to be, a museum of science and technology. If we fix the cost of living first we will never have any museums, or reminders of our history; we will be reduced to "living by bread alone", and with no awareness of history.

As Henry Ergas points out, the destruction of the Powerhouse has cost far more money than upgrading it in a way that retained its original purpose would have. The result is a pretend museum that speaks neither to the head nor the heart.

Likethumb_up28

Replyreply

Reportflag

Reflection

22 HOURS AGO

(Edited)

The best way to improve visitor visitation is to have a great permanent collection and have regular traveling exhibits that provide new things to see. Have a look at the Canberra museums. I predict that the Powerhouse museum will morph into another shopping mall with time - a failed museum.

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

Sage View

22 HOURS AGO

(Edited)

Such a powerful summary of the increasingly sterile & mindless abandonment in Australia of the appreciation of history, language & science in favour of dumbed down & crass showiness.

Australians are becoming (& may have already succeeded) as a Russian hacker/scammer, operating in the antipodean cyberspace criminal world, recently described as the 'the most stupid people on the planet'!

Likethumb_up33

Replyreply

Reportflag

MC

21 HOURS AGO

Yes, the upper/ruling classes are full of pretentiousness.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

22 HOURS AGO

So true Henry. The barbarians have burst through the gate overwhelming our arts and education institutions.

Mediocrity reigns supreme it seems.

Is there an arts champion out there willing to stand up to it? P

[Like](#)[thumb](#)_up24

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

A proud Sydney man...

22 HOURS AGO

Oh dear, the Philistines have arrived.

[Like](#)[thumb](#)_up13

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

David H.

21 HOURS AGO

(Edited)

The reference to philistines usually refers to a cultured civilization and then boorish barbarians turn up to wreck and spoil things. I would say that we in the Western World, in art, had a cultured civilization in our galleries and art spaces. And then from the late 1980s the galleries began displaying dark depressing 'art'. Bad paintings by artists without talent were displayed. Canvas covered with dubbings of paint. And the 'coffee & chardonnay' sippers fell over themselves to say it was wonderful. And then in came the disgusting and anti Christian displays. And now anything, from bits of rusted metal and broken wood. And its called art. No it isn't.

[Like](#)[thumb](#)_up22

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

James

20 HOURS AGO

Yes, and I would add that the arts and sciences are but one realm of western society that as a whole has been affected by this subversive force. You see the same theme of attempting to destroy anything old or established - sexuality, religion, the family, gender, democracy... Order into chaos. We can blame the marxists for executing it, but I believe there is something even bigger at play, behind it all.

[Like](#)[thumb](#)_up1

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

Yilgarn Man

22 HOURS AGO

Art and science, they are both so passe.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Andrew

22 HOURS AGO

"Destruction" is a bit dramatic - the Powerhouse has certainly been massively reinvented, and in an excessively expensive and probably unnecessarily disruptive manner, but that isn't it's "destruction". I love old fashioned museums and don't like the current trend of making them more theme park/ entertainment centre like - but that's hardly unique to the Powerhouse or even Australia. Such reforms make the facilities better at handling truly massive crowds and to make them more appealing to more people. Is that a "dumbing down" ? Maybe - but museums only survive if they attract crowds and the Powerhouse site at Ultimo was failing at that task and so a significant restructure/ reinvention of the institution was overdue.

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ross

21 HOURS AGO

Exactly the wrong reinvention. Triviality and irrelevance in place of meaning and awareness. A wasteland of the mind and the heart. The clueless are determined to inherit the earth and proclaim the joy of their emptiness. And invite us all to be like them.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ed

22 HOURS AGO

A science museum might encourage children to become future submarine engineers..

Likethumb_up25

Replyreply

Reportflag

Marty

22 HOURS AGO

The wasteland of the Australian mind is here right now. MAFS, Lego Masters et al,...

Likethumb_up34

Replyreply

Reportflag

Winston Smith

17 HOURS AGO

Exactly

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Doug

22 HOURS AGO

The one glimmer of light is the federal government's reversal of its funding cut to the National Library's budget that would have resulted in closure of its magnificent Trove service.

Likethumb_up16

Replyreply

Reportflag

Feral Abacus

17 HOURS AGO

Perhaps. Of course they could have kept Trove and got rid of a few dozen supernumerary bureaucrats while staying within budget. A revolutionary thought I know.

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

Paul

23 HOURS AGO

Epitomizes the successful march of the Left through Institutions.

PaulM.

Likethumb_up31

Replyreply

Reportflag

Tony

23 HOURS AGO

(Edited)

As a result, what was a depot in Sydney's outer suburbs is being "repurposed" into the Powerhouse Castle Hill that will hold – and occasionally exhibit – the collection's magnificent transport and engineering objects at a site where visitor numbers are a minute fraction of those at Ultimo.

Well Henry I live in the Hills area of North West Sydney and it looks as though from your article we, rather than Sydney or Parramatta, are the big winners getting a real science and technology museum with less crowds, no public transport costs and on road free parking (no paid parking stations or metered parking as yet).

The irony is I work one block from the new purpose built and bigger Parramatta site which was supposed to be a major draw card being in the geographic center of

metropolitan Sydney.

I think it was the great philosopher of science, Karl Popper, who wrote about the unintended consequences of government actions!

[Like](#)[thumb](#)[_up](#)9

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

David

23 HOURS AGO

A good museum near the CBD, in a very appropriate building for the exhibits, in a central place for transport purposes? That couldn't last, surely!

[Like](#)[thumb](#)[_up](#)8

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

Paul47

23 HOURS AGO

I remember the Powerhouse museum in the mid 1980s. It was always a delight to take our children there for very educational visits.

Such a pity to see it gone.

[Liked](#)[thumb](#)[_up](#)31

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

GRAHAM

23 HOURS AGO

I'm aware of two friends who have donated a valuable collection [model aeroplane engines], and an historic item of transport [the winning entry in a solar powered car race] respectively. I'd love to know where they went, or even better, see them on display.

[Liked](#)[thumb](#)[_up](#)16

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

Susan

23 HOURS AGO

Another excellent article HE

you are so right we definitely have "a crisis of cultural purpose, direction and governance."

Just who appoints these strange people who have no grace and integrity.

[Like](#)[thumb](#)[_up](#)25

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

Kay L

23 HOURS AGO

(Edited)

A direct result of 9 years of an anti-science federal Coalition government, and years of an incompetent Liberal state government wanting to turn it into a business.

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

Jan

23 HOURS AGO

A sobering telling of the truth of what we as a nation are becoming. I recently overheard a 20-something man being asked if he had given much thought to The Voice. He said it was a pretty good television show. More depressing still, he was serious. What is happening to our museums would be meaningless folk like him.

Likethumb_up26

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

23 HOURS AGO

Not becoming , what we are now !

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Jonathan

22 HOURS AGO

Maybe say, "the voice, as in lower case" might help with a distinction.

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

Lloyd

13 HOURS AGO

I asked a very intelligent buddy what he thought of the voice. He said he doesn't watch those shows. Yikes.

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

david

23 HOURS AGO

Well done Henry Ergas.

Your writing is always well researched and opinions well grounded.

We always enjoy your work.

Don't let up. Please.

Likethumb_up38

Replyreply

Reportflag

Anthony A

23 HOURS AGO

Marxism and Bureaucracy feed off each other and is funded by taxing the worker.

Likethumb_up21

Replyreply

Reportflag

DekB

23 HOURS AGO

I quite like looking at precious, delicate items in glass cases. This is because, without those glass cases, these precious and delicate items would have to be protected by not allowing the public to see them at all. They would be stored out of sites in some remote depository.

Last year I visited the British Museum. Lots of glass cases. Loved every moment of my visit.

The only problem I have with the glass cases is that the lighting is often poorly placed which makes photographing that which they contain difficult.

So, as far as the philosophy guiding the Powerhouse Museum at this point in time - "Boo! Hiss!"

Likethumb_up17

Replyreply

Reportflag

Doug

22 HOURS AGO

Glass cases are now necessary to stop the Extinction Rebellion clowns glueing themselves to the exhibits.

Likethumb_up19

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rima

23 HOURS AGO

Hear Hear @

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

23 HOURS AGO

I stopped reading a third way through. I knew it would only get worse.
Our museums are being destroyed and mothballed.

Likethumb_up18

Replyreply

Reportflag

Neffi

23 HOURS AGO

With appearance taking over substance, the meagre offerings from "museums" of today can not inspire or provoke thought or future design possibilities or inspiration so needed by enquiring young minds.

The shallow attention given to displays by the keepers of this immense human resource of achievement and innovation has put progress at the bottom of the intellectual pile while superficial maxims rule - and impede - all decision-making.

As more graduates come from the university system and are put in charge of these gold mines of human innovation and thought, it couldn't be more apt than now to say the inmates are well and truly running the asylum.

Likedthumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

Fergus

23 HOURS AGO

Apparent silence from Labor on this issue.

Why haven't those responsible for damage to the Bleriot monoplane been prosecuted? Presumably it has some form of heritage protectio.

Likethumb_up16

Replyreply

Reportflag

Kay L

23 HOURS AGO

This all happened under the watch of Liberal federal and state governments.
Silence from them both at the time, and of course no mea culpa now.

Likethumb_up2

Denis

23 HOURS AGO

How on earth do these people get away with it? Our society is slowly but surely apart under the weight of woke rubbish like this.

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

Marty

22 HOURS AGO

Slowly? Hardly.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Doug

22 HOURS AGO

The last museum I've visited was in Falmouth. It has been turned into an interactive Disneyland that keeps the kiddies happy. The dumbing -down trend is probably widespread.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

23 HOURS AGO

"the wasteland of the Australian mind"...

Dear Henry, we would welcome your thoughts again on our (obviously) failing education system. Where to begin in rekindling a love and respect for learning?

Likethumb_up28

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

1 DAY AGO

Such depressing reading ...

Likethumb_up19

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

23 HOURS AGO

Yes, I had to stop a third way through.

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

Stimson

1 DAY AGO

The sorry state of the Powerhouse Museum is the result of the NSW Government's decade long obsession with turning a 'lazy asset' into apartments to make money for its developer friends and state coffers. This was despite that fact that this path was ferociously opposed by the community.

A shopping center you describe is clearly a path to getting this via benign neglect. Future generations will condemn those involved for their short sighted stupidity.

Likethumb_up21

Replyreply

Reportflag

Doug

22 HOURS AGO

No - future generations will have no understanding of our history. They'll only know about "truth-telling".

Likethumb_up5

Replyreply

Reportflag

alwyn

1 DAY AGO

If we can cancel history, people will forget about how rotten things are today. dad.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

John

23 HOURS AGO

This is the only motivation I can think of too - so our children consider a dumpster fire of civilisation and living standards to be normal.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Just quietly

1 DAY AGO

The redevelopment of Perth Museum has had a similar change- but not to the extent of the changes at the Sydney Power House Museum. There is a significant Indigenous focus with appropriate story telling. However the disappointing feature, as I see it, is that permeating the new museum the education aspects focus more on theme/philosophy/values rather than celebrating the place of the past (in the widest sense) in the journey to where we are today.

Thanks for an enlightening article, Henry.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Crosscheck

18 HOURS AGO

Definitely an Indigenous overkill at the new Perth museum.

Likethumb_up

Replyreply
Reportflag

Robert

1 DAY AGO

A sad tale indeed. Its our children and young adults in particular that will suffer the effects of this cultural degradation.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply
Reportflag

David H.

1 DAY AGO

Art is in the eye of the beholder, I was told when I was a wee boy, by my Irish Granda when he took me to look at art work in a gallery. Well in the eye of this beholder most modern Australian art is crud. And the gallery directors promote this rubbish. I went to the NGV in Melbourne last week and there was a display of wooden things? And most modern paintings are dark and depressing. Contrast that with the art in the Ian Potter gallery displaying the works of the 19th century and the Heidelberg school. Uplifting.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply
Reportflag

theotherBuddy

1 DAY AGO

Perhaps the odd deluded narcissist in the high arts you reckon? I doubt that they want a display of scientific advancement which is a product of dedication and intelligence that is useful, functional and artistic next to their colourful brain fart. Makes them look a bit pointless.

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply
Reportflag

Harold Webb

1 DAY AGO

The AWM, instead of expanding their Canberra museum, should have built a regional museum in the north of Australia e.g. Brisbane or in the west e.g. Perth. All they needed to do was look at the IWM model in the UK where there are multiple IWM's outside of the capital that take displays to the people living in the regions and to tourists who avoid the capital.

John -

1 DAY AGO

Henry's writings should be preserved for future generations to look back and marvel upon.

Not sure how that would be achieved in this day and age.

Likethumb_up7

Replyreply

Reportflag

A+A

1 DAY AGO

All of our institutions are now held captive by the Left. When will a Liberal government ever show some backbone?

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Tom

40 MINUTES AGO

EDIT

The Liberal Government of NSW is totally responsible for the intended destruction of THE Powerhouse MUSEUM. They have indeed shown backbone in the way that they have pushed through this project, despite the fact that it trashes heritage, wastes huge amounts of money, and, worst of all, tramples on democratic process. They have appointed the present executive, the trustees and the people organising the various design processes for both 'Powerhouse Parramatta' and 'Powerhouse Ultimo'. They corrupted the heritage assessment process so that the award-winning museum conversion could be obliterated. One of the main statements in this judgement is that the Powerhouse Museum had only a local relevance and significance! What is needed is input from people with museum knowledge and qualifications, who listen to the cries of despair from the arts community and the general public. All major decisions have been made, with no consideration of this protest outcry, by a small, secretive group of politicians and business people,

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Gerry

1 DAY AGO

No surprises here, just another day, and more information comes out of institutional incompetency, I really wonder if there is anything we can do without a bureaucratic mess.

Likethumb_up8

Replyreply

Reportflag

Andrew

1 DAY AGO

The Sydney Modern at the AGNSW and Australian Museum are now disasters.

Likethumb_up10

Replyreply

Reportflag

Steve

1 DAY AGO

When the Melbourne museum shifted to the Exhibition area in Carlton many years ago its focus moved from historical representation based on scientific facts to “interpretive” representation based on ideology.

Thank god the British Natural History Museum.

Likethumb_up8

Replyreply

Reportflag

Donn D

1 DAY AGO

Dear Henry, I have, for many years, been a great 'fan' of your erudition and collections of knowledge and understanding across a wide range of topics. I have recently been blighted by a serious brain bleed/stroke and write this from my bed in a Brisbane hospital. Fortunately for me, recovery is promised as an achievable goal. Right now I am grateful for the great gifts of scientific understanding that has been bestowed on us so that my pathway back to 'normality' seems eminently achievable. Ironically, my memory still enables me to transport 'myself' back to my first visit to the Sydney Museum in College Street in 1948. the awe of gazing into the empty eyesockets of a real human skeleton has never quite left me. please keep up your commentary, Dear Henry.

Your friend, Des Byrne, usually of Samford Valley, Qld.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Michael

1 DAY AGO

Henry, you just don't get it. This degradation of all of our historical institutions is just a part of that virtuous pursuit of 'decolonisation' which is now sweeping the Western world. It's all integral to the (marxist) cultural revolution which must cleanse us of our sins of improving all people's lives through scientific advancement.

The totally intellectually vacuous proponents of this destructive agenda are the direct result of the atrocious education systems that are indoctrinating young minds

will this evil ideology.

Michael2

Likethumb_up14

Replyreply

Reportflag

Kent

1 DAY AGO

From the missus:

I was not aware of this devastation by stealth. Thank you, Henry, for alerting Oz readers. I await the day when board members & "designers" of the new Powerhouse are replaced by Artificial Intelligence and booted out of decision-making roles. I'm sick and tired of people who think they have a god-like right to rewrite history, and remake our culture into what they want it to be.

Likethumb_up12

Replyreply

Reportflag

Stu_NQ

1 DAY AGO

Demise of the Powerhouse Museum is a shame on the bureaucracies and a festering sore on all true Australians.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

1 DAY AGO

Henry you have written a very worrying piece again about Powerhouse. I think it's the scorn for our civilization and culture and achievements that is the problem. Havileh should be sacked not our museum wrecked or put in storage. That quote you gave condemns her .

Conservative Ian

1 DAY AGO

Went to the so-called "National Museum of Australia" last year...Lucky it was free! A bit of Australiana thrown in with a whole lot of contrived indigenous "history" reflecting the romanticised ABC Radio National obsession with faux spirituality and "country"...Universities have a lot to answer for...

Likethumb_up37

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

23 HOURS AGO

I observed the same about 10 years ago.

Seems nothing has changed.

Probably has gotten worse.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Under the Red Gum

1 DAY AGO

Conspicuous consumption, in todays art world, seems to be at odds with a climate emergency. We are being led by the new philistines.

Likethumb_up21

Replyreply

Reportflag

Concerned

1 DAY AGO

Henry spot on

Likethumb_up24

Replyreply

Reportflag

Craig_A

1 DAY AGO

I went to the National Gallery about 6 months ago and was terribly disappointed.

Admittedly there were works happening but even being forgiving on that point there was so little to see. The Victorian gallery in Melbourne is far far better.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ann

1 DAY AGO

Amazing!

Politicians continually tell us what we want and then stuff it up.

When it ain't broken don't fix it.

We don't want politicians stuffing things up any more so we as voter need to perhaps sharpen our thinking more.

If you get people in your electorate who you don't think can do the job then don't vote for them, invalidate your vote.

So if the Electoral Commission have a poll with actually no votes then perhaps

Parties will get the message and we might just get the people we need not who the Parties think we need.

the other half

Likethumb_up8

Replyreply

Reportflag

Dissenter

1 DAY AGO

Good article. A related problem is the ascendance over the last 15 years of curators and designers who demand high budgets for temporary exhibition fit outs.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

James

1 DAY AGO

“Wasteland of the Australian mind...”

Thank you Henry, you sure can turn a phrase.

Five words, in a phrase that perfectly captures where we are as a nation and society.

Likethumb_up45

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

1 DAY AGO

I find this quite distressing. This is all new to me. I'm not from Sydney but have fond memories of the old Powerhouse museum. Remember visiting on my honeymoon. Why do people want to tear down our past all the time?

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

A+A

1 DAY AGO

Because the elites ruling over the ignorant masses see a risk in those people learning from the past.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

lynda

1 DAY AGO

Because reality doesn't fit with their confected view of history.

Likethumb_up5

Replyreply

Reportflag

Lloyd

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

Great question. This was one of most ill considered decisions of the Gladys government. The museum was an outstanding presentation of technology and I attended a number of very successful corporate events held there. Why move this to a flood prone location away from the CBD was just foolish. With such blatant disregard for technology no wonder the country has difficulty grasping concepts of reliable energy supply. Wasteland minds indeed.

od

1 DAY AGO

I, likewise, find this distressing. Apalling might be a better description. Or outrageous. Unacceptable even. I'm not sure what we can do to remedy the situation. Perhaps we can take a lead from a bunch of volunteers who are restoring "The Great Melbourne Telescope". As Carl Sagan might say, this wonderful project is a candle in the dark.

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

John

1 DAY AGO

This is a great & timely column. There's still time for the incoming govt to halt the destruction of the museum & save the taxpayer a billion or so. A proper independent investigation would reveal a decade of waste, deception & cultural vandalism.

Duncan

1 DAY AGO

A great article but we should only blame ourselves for electing the politicians who allow or worse direct this to go on and then meekly accept the results. Take a look at how meekly and unquestioningly we gave up rights and privileges during the Covid outbreak and you will soon see how we are in the mess we are now. All Australians need to wake up and not just get a voice but shout out loud enough of this nonsense. Don't 'do a Covid'.

Likethumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

Charles

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

What was the NSW Liberal Government thinking
Thousands opposed this but it was pushed through, so much for consultation &
listening.

[Likedthumb_up23](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Thethinker

1 DAY AGO

Henry a brilliant article. I for one decided to study a specialist geological science, purely after being taken by my mother to see rocks, gems and mineralogy on display in every state we travelled. How many other real scientists began their careers by visiting museums and galleries specialising in entomology, early medical instrumentation and so many others. Far from being a showcase to offer youngsters insights, the. Museums and galleries foster curiosity, fascination and then commitment to purpose for so many Australians. When all this is gone what will be left for the inquiring mind to-be satiated?

[Likethumb_up45](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Andrew

1 DAY AGO

Our rulers don't want inquiring minds. Just obedient socialist lemmings that they can control.

[Likethumb_up23](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

David

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

Excellent article as usual, Henry. The question is, who approved of this staggering cultural vandalism? They should be named and shamed.

The dumbing down of Australia's museums and galleries has been going on for years.

For example, the curators at Australia's two leading galleries/museums in my professional area either have no degree, or no advanced degree, in the areas for which they are responsible, and have no research track record.

[Likedthumb_up38](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Marianne

1 DAY AGO

The answer is the Berejiklian government. We have them to thank for this travesty.

Likethumb_up8

Replyreply

Reportflag

Janice

1 DAY AGO

I suppose our arts decline is a result of University graduates in Arts Curating who have been indoctrinated in very modern way out design and have forgotten about the exact nature of an exhibition. It is to inform not shock and must stay true to the appeal of the average person not an elite cliché of modernists.

Likethumb_up18

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ross

1 DAY AGO

Part of the problem in this country is simply that we have too many "cultural institutions" all begging for funds. As a result we have lots of museums but with ad-hoc collections. Sydney's new Contemporary Art Galley is a case in point. We already had one at Circular Quay. Why did we need another, \$350 glass box a mere two kilometres away with a piecemeal collection on display? Surely one good one would have been better than two mediocre? Splitting the Powerhouse was always a dumb decision and moving part of it to Parramatta was little more than a vote buying exercise.

Likethumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

MikeB

1 DAY AGO

Beautiful essay as per usual Henry. Thankyou.

Likethumb_up14

Replyreply

Reportflag

John

1 DAY AGO

Not worth visiting now. An utter waste of taxpayers' money with no discernible, let alone profound, commitment to telling the stories of Australia's Western, democratic heritage.

Likethumb_up20

Replyreply
Reportflag

John Steen

1 DAY AGO

It is truly appalling what has been done to the Powerhouse Museum. It used to be one of the truly great places to take children. And can someone educate me as to what is meant by the use of "Blak"?

Likethumb_up24

Replyreply
Reportflag

Bev

1 DAY AGO

Lidia might be able to help you out.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply
Reportflag

Curious Citizen

1 DAY AGO

The Bleriot being broken is a catastrophe: first airmail plane in the country, immediate successor to the plane first flown over the English Channel, one of the few in the world. Alongside the huge beam steam engine in the Powerhouse Museum and Mephisto in Queensland, this was the most stunning artefact in a museum in the country!

c

1 DAY AGO

Well said.

Likethumb_up12

Replyreply
Reportflag

Andrew

1 DAY AGO

Why did you steal "c" so "Blak" is featured?

Likethumb_up

Replyreply
Reportflag

Ian

1 DAY AGO

Australia - the lucky country 😊

Likethumb_up7

Replyreply
Reportflag

Craig

1 DAY AGO

The rot started with the change to "the powerhouse museum". It really should have been emphasised that this was the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. A Museum that recorded and celebrated Engineering and the related disciplines. Slowly but surely it has been taken over and controlled by the fashion and culture crowd. Funnily enough, when they were fighting a few years back to save their own skins they made a very big deal about the Engineering heritage and some of the amazing exhibits they have. Many of which have literally never been out of storage. When they did manage to win the battle, their very first exhibition afterwards was a collection of guitars.

That to me says it all.

[Likedthumb_up34](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

evan

1 DAY AGO

A shame on them all. I am illiterate when it comes to good taste, but I know when I see a great work in progress.

[Likethumb_up11](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Tim

1 DAY AGO

It's Sydney, a city which its self is a museum to its history of valuing redevelopment before cultural assets. If it wasn't for all those projections the Opera House would be redeveloped into something with more "potential".

[Likethumb_up3](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Geoffrey

1 DAY AGO

I spent many hours at the Powerhouse Museum soon after it was opened some years ago. I was disappointed with the announcement of the proposed relocation to Parramatta. It is both an inspirational and magnificent museum,

Geoffrey- Victoria

[Likedthumb_up22](#)

Replyreply
Reportflag

Bill

1 DAY AGO

Visited the National Museum in Canberra last year, mostly repetitious indigenous stuff, a few diorama about the minority European settlements but no science or history or other cultures. Very disappointing.

Bill SSC

Likethumb_up28

Replyreply

Reportflag

Robert

1 DAY AGO

Official vandalism is the correct term.

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

J. Galt.

1 DAY AGO

Went two weeks ago with grand-kids. Gay-pride outfits at entrance, sexual identity posters on walkway & a room full of Zampatti outfits. How is that science or technology?

Likethumb_up51

Replyreply

Reportflag

Roger

1 DAY AGO

And all this has happened under a Liberal Government, both State and National.

Likethumb_up19

Replyreply

Reportflag

Tom

31 MINUTES AGO

EDITPENDING

Yes!

Blase

1 DAY AGO

Nope!

Debra

1 DAY AGO

Brilliant article Henry, and about a really important topic. Museums are a reflection of general trends in our society. 30 years ago I worked in the National

Maritime Museum and even then this tension was becoming apparent. In those days it was pretty much a competition between “male” or “blokey” items or objects like boats and ships and those with a more feminine appeal, such as tea cups and swimming suits. The engineers and mechanics who managed and maintained the boats and machinery were constantly having their status downgraded, their space reduced and their ability to run their operation compromised. Women were in the ascendancy and there was no acceptance or recognition that a Maritime Museum would inevitably have a “male” look and feel to it. We can search the whole world for the tiny contribution made by women, but the fact is that early maritime exploration and the design and construction of the ships required for it was undertaken by men. Any honest museum would acknowledge and accept this fact.

Likethumb_up43

Replyreply

Reportflag

Iain1

1 DAY AGO

The Art gallery and Brisbane museum seem to have cleansed anything to do with the early settlers which made us great. Indigenous and Asian has plenty of exhibits. I had to go to Newstead house to find out about our heritage. Our heritage is even being cancelled. Sad for our children and grandchildren who should be told the truth.

Likethumb_up19

Replyreply

Reportflag

Sobriquet

1 DAY AGO

Very sad but in a comprehensive analysis of events and attitudes currently prevailing in Australia, it's just another decaying brick in an old wall.

Likethumb_up18

Replyreply

Reportflag

PatrickJD

1 DAY AGO

We live in disposable times. The careless treatment of Bleriot's pioneering aircraft is in keeping with the throwaway mentality of the times. I have seen scarce artifact's manhandled and damaged by uncomprehending children in touchy feely museums.

Likethumb_up14

Replyreply

Reportflag

DoomPatrol

1 DAY AGO

I can perhaps overlook a CEO that boasts of her willingness to “ignore the weight of history, language and architecture” as mistakes are made in hiring people and they usually get sorted out - but how are the trustees of the museum not being held to account for the destruction, and why is government handing over money when the legislated purpose of the museum is ignored or undermined. Heads need to roll.

Likethumb_up45

Replyreply

Reportflag

FickleFinger

1 DAY AGO

That's the problem. Everybody grumbles, but nobody does anything.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

James

1 DAY AGO

The brief of a museum CEO(?) or head curator should be to *embrace* ‘the weight of history, language and architecture’, not boast of ignoring it.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Geoffrey

1 DAY AGO

The truly disturbing thing is that the sort of changes happening at the Powerhouse Museum and other museums and art galleries across Australia are not a peculiarity to Australia. They are happening to museums, art galleries and National Trust administered places of heritage across the UK. This is not just coincidence. Who is orchestrating this collective loathing of our own cultural heritage?

Likethumb_up49

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

1 DAY AGO

In a word . The Left.

Likethumb_up21

Replyreply

Reportflag

Lex

1 DAY AGO

That's two words. :)

[Likethumb_up4](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Tom

30 MINUTES AGO

[EDITPENDING](#)

This is a Liberal party fiasco from the outset!

ScotInOz

1 DAY AGO

Wokies?

[Likethumb_up5](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Adam

1 DAY AGO

We are definitely being dumbed down here.

The once amazing home for science and technology is now a display case for celebrity underwear.

[Likedthumb_up47](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Eda

1 DAY AGO

Congratulations Henry on probably the best (for me) column this year. As a 'mushy middle' member of society with several science degrees I find it ironic that the push for more STEM graduates, especially females, is being carried out with the decimation of our museums. If I were to pinpoint one huge influence in my choice, at 17, to study science nearly 60 years ago, it would be the rainy afternoons I spent with my father & siblings in the Natural History Museum. Not here in Australia I should add. Arriving in Brisbane with 3 small children the Museum became one of our favourite places. That and the wonderful library system. I KNOW times change and we fuddy duddies need to move on. But museums & libraries need careful nurturing IF we want a generation that can do more than txt and TicTok.

[Likedthumb_up79](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Tom

1 DAY AGO

The Powerhouse Museum was magnificent. Now we are left the poorer.

[Likedthumb_up42](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Meg

1 DAY AGO

The cultural history of western civilisation has been taken over by ideological zealots and it was only to be expected. We have allowed this to happen through the education system. Our willingness to allow poorly educated teachers to construct a curriculum to their own liking, has led to indoctrinated children heading to universities to change the way the western world should regard its history. An absolute tragedy.

Penny Dreadful

1 DAY AGO

I'm surprised the Victorian gallery is so popular. I went for the first time in years only to discover the wonderful Australian collection that so entranced me as a kid (bushfires, lost kids, Collins St rush-hour) have been moved to Fed Square. Why?

[Like](#)[thumb_up](#)7

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

PatrickJD

1 DAY AGO

For a publicly funded museum custodian to say: "ignore the weight of history, language and architecture"; says it all about the sad state of the Australian nation.

[Liked](#)[thumb_up](#)56

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

Peter

1 DAY AGO

Ahhh, but it's Woke you see!

[Like](#)[thumb_up](#)21

[Reply](#)[reply](#)

[Report](#)[flag](#)

SteveH.

1 DAY AGO

It's not just museums that are in decline, the visual trivialisation of state owned art galleries is also in full swing, the dominant curatorial practice is now to mash up collections like a fruit salad.

A couple of weeks ago I went to the State Art Gallery of South Australia for the first time. There the visitor is greeted by an aesthetically incoherent collection of colonial era oil paintings interspersed with various first nations artifacts. While ideological message is fairly obvious, there is no real theme or visual relationship

between the various works. The next gallery was even worse the walls were completely covered with all sorts of objects including wooden chairs, it might have worked well in a bric a braca shop, but it said nothing as an art installation, presuming that was what it was meant to be.

Fortunately, some parts of the Gallery's collections are still more or less intact, but it's only a matter of time.

Likethumb_up24

Replyreply

Reportflag

Robyn

1 DAY AGO

SteveH your description of the gallery in South Australia especially the gallery resembling a bric a brac shop is exactly what the NSW Campbelltown Arts Centre (formerly Campbelltown Art Gallery) has become. The paintings bequeathed to the institution are in “storage” never to be seen again !

Likethumb_up5

Replyreply

Reportflag

Liz

1 DAY AGO

To say nothing of the dead horse

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

SteveH.

1 DAY AGO

Taxidermy isn't my thing, but I didn't object to the dead nag, because dead animals do have an established place in art, and it stands in its own space, it's not sitting on one of the colonial sofas, or something suitably absurd.

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

Thomas

1 DAY AGO

The left's long match through our institutions continues.

But it has happened under the watch of conservative governments so we only have ourselves to blame.

Likethumb_up27

Replyreply

Reportflag

Opinionation

1 DAY AGO

I recently visited the Tate Modern in London and was shocked at the naked activism on display there. The woke are certain calling the shots there too.

Likethumb_up14

Replyreply

Reportflag

Keith

1 DAY AGO

This destruction been going on for years

Melbourne museum is a sick joke,they ditched the terrific arms gallery years ago

Can't have weapons on show can we

Can have boomerangs & spears though

Likethumb_up41

Replyreply

Reportflag

Penny Dreadful

1 DAY AGO

I went recently and half was taken over by bloody Lego!!!!

Likethumb_up10

Replyreply

Reportflag

Chris

1 DAY AGO

Henry Ford once said: "history is bunk". It appears that philosophy has been reincarnated by these curators.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Noel

1 DAY AGO

I recall a comment made a long time ago by former minister for science Barry Jones, "The Minister for sport will always outrank the Minister for Science." I would add to that list the Ministers for Arts and Education.

Noel W

Likethumb_up12

Replyreply

Reportflag

Roger

1 DAY AGO

I am not certain if my comment has any relevance to Henry's wonderful but sobering article- if we want to see just where our national culture has fallen, tune into ANY of our Australia wide breakfast TV entertainment and news programs. Embarrassing and banal, mostly, usually with a political undertone. It is sad to see.

Simon:

1 DAY AGO

Australian Gallery's and Museums have been overrun with excessive reference to the Aboriginal genre, badgering visitors with the *their Country ploy* and *their Country* wall plaques for each display item.
eg. Canberra National Gallery Australia
and
National Museum of Australia . .

Lost.

Likethumb_up37

Replyreply

Reportflag

Vincent

1 DAY AGO

The National Museum in Canberra is an abomination. A poor collection of trite and banal "cultural history" exhibits with woke political overlay. It would embarrass a 10 year old.

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

Everyone's an expert 😏

1 DAY AGO

" ... or should one say 'whyte'?" Well put, Henry.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Quod Vox delenda est

1 DAY AGO

Further evidence of the decline and corruption of our society. Presided over by ignorant zealots and grifters, the destruction of the past and the invention of a fictitious future. With voters in entitlement mode, the decline will be as swift as it

is irreversible. I pity the grandchildren who have to grow up intellectually stunted by this moronic garbage.

[Likedthumb_up38](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Jennifer

1 DAY AGO

Well said.

[Likethumb_up8](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Richard

1 DAY AGO

As a kid the Powerhouse was an amazing inspirational destination. The marxists, soft lefties and the fashionistas have stolen it. It has gone.

[Likedthumb_up50](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Michael

1 DAY AGO

I visited the National Gallery in Canberra last year and found it essentially a collection of primitive Aboriginal artifacts - or at least I thought they were of Aboriginal origin.

The whole place was an embarrassment, actually even worse than the MONA monstrosity in Hobart! I expect that the all pervading influence of wokeism will continue to degrade our culture.

Michael of Sevilla

[Likethumb_up49](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Ann

1 DAY AGO

What is it about Australia that we have become so risk averse and small minded? That we denigrate our entrepreneurs and need to bring down our tall poppies instead of becoming inspired by them? That Science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects are seemingly held in low esteem in the public and political eye? Yet, when I visit the QLD Museum with my granddaughters(6 and 9), they love everything there and the museum is full! Their favourite subject is maths (long May it last)! I can only put it down to the downgrading of our education

systems and a dumbing down of public communications. We need to make rock stars out of our scientists, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs.

[Likethumb_up47](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Neil

1 DAY AGO

The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history. (George Orwell)

[Likedthumb_up112](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Kruel

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

He'd be locked up for most of his astute comments and observations these days. One can't be caught nowadays ridiculing those egos running their own little agendas.

[Likethumb_up13](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Bill

1 DAY AGO

I worked in the Museum sector for decades. Shocking though it is, on my word of honour I assure you that the prevailing notion among curators and educators in our museums is that "history", "truth" and "facts" are nothing more than a conspiracy by white men to repress everybody else.

They are deliriously happy to play fast and loose with the truth on any matter as long as it puts their own ideology in a good light.

If the truth be known, many of these people, even those with PhD's and Master's degrees, can barely read or write, know nothing of history and have no interest in anything outside of their, invariably, Green, Marxist agenda.

[Likethumb_up158](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Paul

1 DAY AGO

And I can second that, Bill. Eleven years recently spent in an Art History department convinced me that the entire purpose of the arts and academia has been turned over to woke leftist ideologues. I left, finally, in disgust.

Likethumb_up87

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rebecca

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

Incredible, Paul. And, regarding Bill's comment, "even those with PhD's and Master's degrees", the ease of acquiring such post-nominal letters is really very telling. Just another power wielding tactic of the left. Which institutions, cultural or educational have they not invaded? Truly all in this together!

Likethumb_up24

Replyreply

Reportflag

ladybird

1 DAY AGO

Bill, that is both shocking and depressing. I'm grateful for those who have the courage to stand firm and speak out.

Likethumb_up45

Replyreply

Reportflag

the whale

1 DAY AGO

This is an astonishing, important and brave testimony. I hope it will be broadcast far and wide.

Likethumb_up39

Replyreply

Reportflag

Show more replies

Opinionation

1 DAY AGO

If the left really are committed to exciting more women about STEM disciplines and ultimately achieving some kind of employment & pay parity in those sectors, what better way than to showcase our historical scientific and technology achievements.

But no...fashion and first nations indulgences are *so* much cooler.

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

Geoffrey

1 DAY AGO

I visited the Powerhouse Museum many years ago on a visit to Sydney and thought it amazing. Had it been located in Parramatta I doubt I would have made the effort. In its present form, I'm sure I wouldn't.

Lynne D

1 DAY AGO

Our years of silence, our failure to call “nonsense “, our years of inaction while the Woke philosophy was dispersed through our schools and then our universities, we can't now be surprised to see it taking over our public institutions, boards and businesses.

Likethumb_up61

Replyreply

Reportflag

Denis

1 DAY AGO

Right on, except I think it started in the universities.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Nick

1 DAY AGO

Sadly Henry, you speak powerfully but they won't hear.

If they hear, they won't understand.

If they understand, they won't care.

It's Ultimo, how else could it be?

Likethumb_up56

Replyreply

Reportflag

Paul

1 DAY AGO

Yep, like the ABC - Anything But Clarity

Likethumb_up15

Replyreply

Reportflag

Dugga12

1 DAY AGO

Henry, I almost began weeping for the state of science and technology in this country. No better evidence for our decline can be found in the declining performance of our school children in those fields than in the international comparisons of recent years. Our museums apparently aren't 'buzzy' enough for the young, who have now become the administrators of museums so they need to

‘juice up’ the offering to get numbers through the doors. Overcommercialisation has taken over - ‘if it doesn’t sell, get rid of it’ seems to be the mantra.

Likethumb_up41

Replyreply

Reportflag

Joy

1 DAY AGO

Visited the NGA in Canberra last year. Never again! Disgusted at their ‘showcase’ of our supposed ‘national treasures’ and the decision that collection must meet % female and % indigenous criteria

what about art for arts sake ?

Likethumb_up43

Replyreply

Reportflag

Michael

1 DAY AGO

If the rubbish in the NGA is indicative of our 'national treasures' then we really are a stupid country.

Michael of Sevilla

Likethumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

walter

1 DAY AGO

Very depressing, the Barbarians are no longer at the gate, they are now inside doing untold damage.

Likethumb_up49

Replyreply

Reportflag

Roslyn

1 DAY AGO

Some people love to get their name on the bottom of a memo hoping to go down in history themselves

Likethumb_up8

Replyreply

Reportflag

Greg

1 DAY AGO

Almost incomprehensible, seriously the West is losing it. We are desperately throwing out the door much of what made the West a powerhouse of the modern world, that indeed made the modern world. It's like we are doomed to live in a parody of the Time Machine and the Powerhouse represents the monstrous Morlocks, essential, but gross, grubby, to be hidden in the darkness. The big difference, these powerful Elites resemble the childlike Eloi in their camouflage disguises only.

Well at least we can remember it as fortunately not only did we visit it with our grandchildren but for our own interest when we lived for a while in Sydney. But then our grandchildren and us enjoy technology.

Wasn't Lucy Turnbull a big player in the Paramatta second city and the shifting of the Powerhouse.

Likethumb_up30

Replyreply

Reportflag

Roslyn

1 DAY AGO

I loved the power house museum

Likethumb_up14

Replyreply

Reportflag

Mike

1 DAY AGO

Thank you Henry a great piece and a very telling and unfortunate outcome for Australia. This country is fast becoming unrecognisable, driven by superficiality, woke ideas and poor political leadership. Gone are values of work ethics, family first and respect for the country - it's all been replaced by an attitude and an outcome that is 'what's in it for me'? It's destroying our country and so sad.

Likethumb_up55

Replyreply

Reportflag

ODLX

1 DAY AGO

One can imagine Ben Franklin the former Arts minister going to the Smithsonian and burning it to the ground and replacing it with something "fashionable". If he finds a time machine, we know who was responsible for burning the library of Alexandria.

Russell

1 DAY AGO

My Grandfather who served during the first world war, survived Gallipoli and the western front would often take me, when I was a child, to the Melbourne Museum. It was filled with glorious exhibits and fascinating history. I was enthralled by the war history especially as I was standing by some one who had been there although he was some what mute on his role in the conflict. The woke warriors have long time removed these important relics and sterilised history. Not worth going there anymore.

Likethumb_up32

Replyreply

Reportflag

Alexander Dumbass

1 DAY AGO

If you're in Melbourne go to the military museum under the Shrine of Remembrance, it's brilliant!

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

Scott

48 MINUTES AGO

Don't worry, it will soon be targeted for a mandatory inclusion of "The Frontier War"...

Likethumb_up

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

1 DAY AGO

Big loss for society in general. This madness has to stop.

Likethumb_up20

Replyreply

Reportflag

Vicki

1 DAY AGO

I understand the Oodnagalabie First Nation was fortnight shy of a moon mission when Cook invaded.

Can we please put that on display?

The other Vicki's husb

Likethumb_up61

Replyreply

Reportflag
Michael
1 DAY AGO

Don't give Bruce Pascoe any more ideas!!

Michael of Sevilla

Likethumb_up34
Replyreply
Reportflag

Jo-nathan
1 DAY AGO

Modern progressivism in all its narcissistic glory.

Likethumb_up42
Replyreply
Reportflag

Finnegan
1 DAY AGO

Excellent article Henry, I fear the Mona themed tactics seeping their way into every art institution will end in sub quality offering for the public.

The more curators embrace the cultural cringe and pretend it's art, the more the public will stay away.

Think about that a little more.

Likethumb_up45
Replyreply
Reportflag

Philip
1 DAY AGO

the hip CEO boasts of her willingness to “ignore the weight of history, language and architecture”.

Just the kind of attitude you want in someone running a museum - not.
I will never set foot in there again.

Likedthumb_up46
Replyreply
Reportflag

Macbeth
1 DAY AGO

"Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past," repeated Winston obediently. "Who controls the present controls the

past," said O'Brien, nodding his head with slow approval."

We live in Orwellian times.

Come to Perth and see the WA Museum, sorry, Boola Bardip, and appreciate that like cordyceps, Orwell's dystopia has become reality: and it is infecting the whole of Australia, destroying the intelligence of those infected, leaving them obsessed only with spreading the infection to others.

Sort of like our education system.

Likethumb_up45

Replyreply

Reportflag

Katrina

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

Yes. Completely destroyed it. Will never visit again

Likethumb_up10

Replyreply

Reportflag

angela

1 DAY AGO

The people entrusted with running our museums and cultural institutions are cultural vandals, intent on destroying the evidence of our magnificent heritage in science and technology driven by dumb political activism. The promo video for the new powerhouse museum at Parramatta (\$ 89 billion according to this newspaper) suggests it will be no more than a glitzy, fashionable centre for woke fashionable showmanship and fundraising parties. We need knowledgeable curators running theses centres not ignorant woke political hipsters.

Other half

Likedthumb_up97

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rebecca

23 HOURS AGO

Sounds like the new gallery at the AGNSW!

Likethumb_up5

Replyreply

Reportflag

Justin

1 DAY AGO

Thank you Henry. It is a reflection of that other great dumbing down - Australian "education".

[Likethumb_up54](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Anthony

1 DAY AGO

Be trendy, reduce culture to levels no before seen even in the clubhouses with bikes outside, pose as only poseurs can, write reports as only a committed narcissist can. But whatever you do, make sure that you get hold of the government's chequebook. That will be the only memorable thing after the millisecond of attention has passed.

Vernon

1 DAY AGO

the museum commissioning, at a reported cost of \$18,000, gold-plated tableware for the Powerhouse Trust's annual dinner.

How did Orwell put it?

The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which

[Likedthumb_up92](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Not in QLD

1 DAY AGO

Powerhouse now a shadow of its former self in the woke mediocrity of Australia.

The golds standard we should aspire to are the likes of the Technik museum in Speyer, Germany, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and the Smithsonian. Other than the Smithsonian, they are funded privately from endowments and admissions thereby keeping them focused on what the public wants. The Smithsonian gets US federal funding but also relies on endowments.

Make the funding dependent on lefty public officials this is what you get.

[Likethumb_up43](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Vernon

1 DAY AGO

It all comes down to an outright preference for selecting people in leadership roles without direct relevant expertise. The mobile public service philosophy.

The public services are being destroyed through corporatism where promotion is based on your firstly your political alignment, then gender, then ancestry etc and actual relevant knowledge actively discounted as a threat to the other executives.

Likethumb_up27

Replyreply

Reportflag

Paul

1 DAY AGO

Totally agree Vernon, plus I would NOT restrict your comments to the public service - same is applying to the private sector.

Likethumb_up7

Replyreply

Reportflag

Andrew

1 DAY AGO

The cultural vandalism and desecration of icons of scientific advancement and their technical application nicely illustrates the nature of the future citizen that our leaders would like to create - not someone with the critical faculties and judgement to question and explore novel ideas, but rather a mindless consumer living in an eternal present, flitting from whim to whim. No wonder our education system is a slow motion car crash, nor why our society idolises vapid 'influencers' over those who achieve and have merit.

Likethumb_up32

Replyreply

Reportflag

Broadsword calling Danny Boy.

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

" The wasteland of the Australian mind"...

I couldn't have put it better myself.

My family emigrated from the UK in the 1830's...pioneers....People who are now looked down upon by modern Australians and seen as wreckers and invaders.

I look at Australians these days and all I see is a wasteland of shallow , indulgent wokeism full of "uneducated" university graduates.

I now relate to the land...the countryside... and not barren Australian society.

Likethumb_up46

Replyreply

Reportflag

Adam

1 DAY AGO

The NSW government was a coalition. The LNP is a party based in QLD.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Spraydrift

1 DAY AGO

Too late, Henry. Former minister for the yarts, the archetypal Liberal 'moderate' Don Harwin, had a vision that aligns with the prevailing zeitgeist. Pleasure palaces, emotion and luxe trump intellectual rigour and the empirical. A day of reckoning will surely come.

Likethumb_up25

Replyreply

Reportflag

Sylvia

1 DAY AGO

Not one of our greatest politicians. A good party organiser (as in balloons and cake not politics)

Likethumb_up7

Replyreply

Reportflag

Vernon

1 DAY AGO

Ah, Harwin. That explains it.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Sylvia

1 DAY AGO

This was one of the greatest mistakes by the Berijikian government and has been continued on. The building in Western Sydney on floodland and in the process destroying an historic house, of which we have very few left was very questionable and the new museum looks more like an iced cake than a building in it's design.

The woke have certainly taken over. They seem to want to wipe out history and respect for previous generations. Almost criminal that the old plane has been

damaged. The Powerhouse building makes such a statement of strength. Too sad and will not reflect well on the people who pushed this forward.

[Likedthumb_up28](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Melanie

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

So much of 'art' these days is driven by the critics and sale houses. Few paintings are truly valued for their aesthetic - look at the 'devaluing' of indigenous art if it has been assisted/guided by white staff. That the value of many artists' works jump when they pass away suggests a value on the artist, not the stand alone beauty of the art. College Humor did a parody skit on art pricing/values.

A non-rigorous assessment, but in my experience, science and technical museums, and then other museums seem to be busier and more vibrant than Art galleries generally. Smithsonian Air and Space and Natural history Museums seem eternally popular; London's Science Museum and the V and A always seem to be busier than the National Gallery for example.

Perhaps it is time for galleries to be self sustaining, not needing subsidies from government. Any savings would likely be consumed quickly elsewhere - but perhaps be more productive.

[Likethumb_up6](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Sylvia

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

The V and A is a wonderful place. Only been there once but if I can would love to go again ,

[Likethumb_up6](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Ross

1 DAY AGO

The V & A is great but go over the road to the other museum, Science and Natural History. The whole precinct draws me there to spend some extra days whenever I get to London.

The Power House, last went in 2002. Could not be bothered going back again. It

had already lost its mojo. Nothing like the fascinating complex when it was up the top of Harris St in the old tech college buildings.

Likethumb_up5

Replyreply

Reportflag

Scott

1 DAY AGO

One of the saddest articles I have read this year.

The woke folk seem intent on wilfully trashing our past, rewriting our history, and now ensuring the loss of the artefacts that provide the evidence.

Likethumb_up90

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rebecca

23 HOURS AGO

And just generally destroying all that is good, which is the overwhelming majority of, Western civilisation.

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply

Reportflag

[View more comments](#)

Jeffrey

1 DAY AGO

We recently drove down from Coffs to specifically visit the NSW Art Gallery. We won't be in a hurry to go to the same trouble and expense again. We have also decided not to renew our membership subscription. The gallery is now a shadow of its former self.

Likethumb_up22

Replyreply

Reportflag

John

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

Henry Ergas, you identify - correctly - 'the wasteland of the Australian mind'.

Indefensible, tragic, loopy left mediocrity replacing the painstaking celebration and recording of humanity's great achievements.

Pity our nation and its children.

Mrs J

[Likedthumb_up136](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Melanie

1 DAY AGO

A great article, but Mrs J, it is a stretch to blame loopy left - all of the Powerhouse changes and issues have been generated by a Liberal government.

[Likethumb_up17](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Elisabeth

1 DAY AGO

Well lately the liberals have been loopy left too.

[Likethumb_up79](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

John

1 DAY AGO

Melanie - the Libs have joined the loopy left.

[Likethumb_up43](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Vernon

1 DAY AGO

The NSW coalition were to the left of the ALP. Hence they lost the election.

[Likethumb_up48](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

[Show more replies](#)

Rick

1 DAY AGO

As noted in the article, the destruction of the Powerhouse museum was the work of the NSW **Liberals**.

Loopy left mediocrity is an accurate descriptor of them.

[Likethumb_up25](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Hector

21 HOURS AGO

I remember the 'old' Museum of Arts and Science when it was in Harris st.
An amazing array of displays, many of the mechanical ones that operated when you pushed the button on the display case.

It must have had an impact as I went on to study and become an engineer.
If the country want more technology versed people - get back to encouraging
STEM with displays of physics in action.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Andrew

1 DAY AGO

Go to any art gallery and there is childish, third rate woke rubbish on display.

Likethumb_up41

Replyreply

Reportflag

P

1 DAY AGO

Powerhouse Museum

...has long had problems.

Sometime ago I was co-writing a paper on Australian industry & military firearm
production.

Somehow, just about everything on submachine production (not to mention much
experimental small arms work) ended up at Powerhouse.

Powerhouse seemed to regard it all as an embarrassment & locked it all
away...refusing reveal catalogues (assuming they had them) let alone access to two
established authors.

Apparently they felt any such text would be against the Museum "policy of
glorifying & celebrating guns" & "we don't do death"

Hopefully now they have fully turned their back on STEM & become just another
irrelevant shrine to wokers* they transferred their archival STEM material to a
genuine museum of applied arts and sciences rather than destroy it.

*There has to be a good acronym lurking here...

Likethumb_up29

Replyreply

Reportflag

Not in QLD

1 DAY AGO

Looks like if you want to know about how we defended ourselves in WWII with weapons like the Owen gun (an Aussie battler story too), you had better go to google and YouTube rather than our so called museums.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Vernon

1 DAY AGO

Well there is the armoury and artillery museum in Cairns. Field guns, personnel carriers and tanks, and downstairs a few cases of rifles. It even has an indoor range to fire a few.

it could be expanded with another shed.

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply

Reportflag

Philip

1 DAY AGO

I'll add the Darwin Military Museum to the list, Vernon. The "Defence of Darwin Experience" is an incredibly moving audio visual interactive display that recreates the bombing of Darwin and features video commentary of ordinary Australians who survived the bombing and others who actively participated in Darwin's defence.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

P

1 DAY AGO

@Not in QLD

1 hour ago Looks like if you want to know about how we defended ourselves in WWII with weapons like the Owen gun (an Aussie battler story too)

I heartily recommend 'The Owen Gun Files': a fact based account based on the actual documentation rather than the propaganda from the manufacturer & SMH.

Likethumb_up2

Replyreply

Reportflag

Jan

1 DAY AGO

I would think you could make a Freedom of Information request to get your material

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Lawrence

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

I think this is just another example of how the 'dumbing' down of the education system is slowly destroying western civilisation.

I shake my head in dismay.

Likethumb_up95

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rick

1 DAY AGO

. . . and delivered by the NSW Liberals.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rebecca

23 HOURS AGO

Or not so slowly!

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

John Kerr

1 DAY AGO

the museum commissioning, at a reported cost of \$18,000, gold-plated tableware for the Powerhouse Trust's annual dinner.

Elites dining out, funded by taxpayers.

Likethumb_up33

Replyreply

Reportflag

PLATO27

1 DAY AGO

The Barbarians are no longer outside the gates they are *in* them.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Roger

1 DAY AGO

There are no conservative governments in Australia, not either side of the political spectrum, although there is no spectrum, just soft left and hard left. Socialists want to erase the past and rewrite it, just as Orwell predicted, not so long ago.

Likethumb_up43

Replyreply

Reportflag

Philip

1 DAY AGO

Those in the driver's seat have viewed Orwell's work as a guide book, rather than a warning, Roger and they weaponised it under the guidance of Saul Alinsky.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ian

1 DAY AGO

I've recently seen the Deutsches Technisches Museum in Munich and the Technisches Museum in Vienna. Both are superb historical but modernised examples of what the Powerhouse was and could have become. What a woke corruption of thinking and planning by government and planners!

Likedthumb_up66

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ed

1 DAY AGO

Museums most crowded with children I have seen were the Air and space museum in Washington and the science museum in San Francisco. Their faces were filled with joy and wonder. I would hope we replicate this in Australia.

Likedthumb_up67

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

1 DAY AGO

The Power House used to be like that with children agape at the exhibits. I just had a look at what it is now (2015) on google earth street view, where it takes you inside floor by floor, and there are an awful lot of female fashion on display. I doubt the children will learn much from those displays.

Likethumb_up12

Replyreply

Reportflag

Nick

20 HOURS AGO

It is 'private' museums, historical societies or similar, that replicate that here if you want to see Aircraft, vehicle or Railway history. The ones that struggle for funding and they are most often run by dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers.

Many of them haven't been infested with the woke mind virus... yet.

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

Michael

1 DAY AGO

I loved that science Museum as a kid - another terrible decision which will dumb down Australia to third world status.

Likethumb_up58

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rick

1 DAY AGO

Brought to you by the NSW Liberals.

Labor will be worse, but thank goodness they are out of power.

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

[View more comments](#)

Ian

1 DAY AGO

It did not require Henry Ergus' great intellect to see this disaster coming; I also believe that the Australian War Memorial has suffered a decline as well.

Likethumb_up79

Replyreply

Reportflag

Janifer

1 DAY AGO

Yes it has and that has broken my heart.

Likethumb_up28

Replyreply

Reportflag

Fran

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

One only has to see the "Air" exhibition at GOMA in Brisbane to witness a perfect example of visual Woke.

What a waste of less than half an hour and dollars

Likethumb_up17

Replyreply

Reportflag

Ed

1 DAY AGO

It had pretty/pleasingly aesthetic aspects but it is irritating to be lectured to the point of hectoring on a day out.

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Charles

1 DAY AGO

Oh Henry I am sad

Likethumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

Maurice

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

And yet it seems it was brought to us by the idiots in the LNP. And yet the elites still talk about STEM.

Likethumb_up21

Replyreply

Reportflag

Sophie

1 DAY AGO

Well said! Why are these custodians of our public treasures so poorly chosen? They are not fit for the role. As any employer knows, if you select the wrong person for the job, you risk a great deal.

Likethumb_up23

Replyreply

Reportflag

Chris

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

I think in this case we can lay the blame fairly and squarely at the feet of our publicly elected officials. They decided and then employed those who would do their bidding.

Likethumb_up8

Replyreply

Reportflag

Macs

1 DAY AGO

I really enjoyed the Powerhouse museum - stupid wokies.

Likethumb_up15

Replyreply

Reportflag

Bruce

1 DAY AGO

As usual, Henry Ergas - spot on!

The wasteland of the Australian mind has been concerning me for some time.

Many institutions which should be engaged in expanding and nurturing our collective minds simply are not fit for purpose.

They are intellectually bereft.

Likethumb_up41

Replyreply

Reportflag

a

1 DAY AGO

Very sad and very sick. Thank you for exposing our national tendency to descend into madness Henry. Boola Bardip in Perth strives to take us back to a moonscape era prior to the most basic of inventions. Somehow this is worthy of upside down celebration. Modernity is an imposition on an idyllic hunter/ gatherer prior occupation. Disgruntled eco-Marxists have unloaded their disturbed minds as a way of getting revenge against intelligent successful contributors, whose existence causes their own shame, aware as they are at being perpetual failures.

Likethumb_up25

Replyreply

Reportflag

Neil

1 DAY AGO

Again and erudite and insightful piece from Henry Ergas, but it makes me despair for the decaying culture of this nation. Poor fellow my country.....

Likethumb_up20

Replyreply

Reportflag

Texas Jack

1 DAY AGO

All that is, of course, being done at Pharaonic cost – in the order of \$1.5bn – although a sixth of that amount would have sufficed to upgrade the Ultimo complex.

Brought to you by the same government that convinced itself that taking us back to the tram age at a cost per kilometre of a quarter of a billion dollars was remotely sustainable.

Cleisthenes

1 DAY AGO

Thank you for illustrating once again the demise of quality institutions, trampled underfoot by the hubris of the so-called elite.

Likethumb_up20

Replyreply

Reportflag

Settler Jack, The Coloniser

1 DAY AGO

We have become a nation of fools!

Likethumb_up12

Replyreply

Reportflag

Sky Pilot

1 DAY AGO

The 'Australian mind' is no more Henry. What prevails now is the Australian emotion. The past - and it's treasures - offend.

Likethumb_up16

Replyreply

Reportflag

William

1 DAY AGO

Brilliant, as always, Henry E. Indeed, superlative, particularly your concluding sentence.

Likethumb_up15

Replyreply

Reportflag

Karate-ka

1 DAY AGO

Thank you Henry. You've put into words what I have been thinking about for some time now. The question is where is this all going end? Such a scary thought!

Likethumb_up10

Replyreply

Reportflag

Bnine

1 DAY AGO

It never ends, it just becomes the new normal

Likethumb_up3

Replyreply

Reportflag

Kit

1 DAY AGO

Hear Hear.

The Woke arrogance of how we got here is appalling.

Likethumb_up22

Replyreply

Reportflag

chris

1 DAY AGO

Pandering to the dollar

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

JohnnY

1 DAY AGO

Shocking

Likethumb_up6

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

Fashion and food seem to be the pursuit of many 'modern Australians'. Our art, literary and technology history and culture has been hollowed out by weak leaders and the intelligencia running our educational institutions and 'art festivals'. The dumbing down of Australia I have seen in past decades is creating a cultural desert of Netflix, food tourism, food fadism, binge drinking, gender activism, credit card debt, recreational complaining, alarmism, green dreaming, ugly shopping malls, victim mentality, uninspired architecture, Twitter, increased bureaucracy and people sitting in cafes obsessed with their phones.

Likethumb_up17

Replyreply

Reportflag

Robert the Epithetless

1 DAY AGO

This has got to be one of the saddest columns I have ever read in this paper.

It really makes me wonder just what we want this country to be.

Lynne H.

1 DAY AGO

I had some time to kill recently in that Darling Harbour area and thought I would take the opportunity to view a Gucci garden exhibition which was on at The

Powerhouse. It was very popular and people were guided here and there like sheep to view all the glitz and glamour of what I was disappointed to discover was a heap of ridiculous clutter. I had thought those concerned for the planet were wanting to dampen down consumerism. No ... celebrated were shelf after shelf of almost identical plastic handbagture. Artificial gardens of dried arrangement which were supposed to be an arousal of the senses and mirrored surfaces displaying endless identical cuckoo clocks. The hustle and bustle around such a novelty, comprised mostly young people and I was amused to see they were taking it all very seriously.

Likethumb_up10

Replyreply

Reportflag

Fng

1 DAY AGO

O yes. Went there last year this part of the exhibition was packed with young people. Took a train to Paramatta and saw the hole in the ground. Standing there it felt "shopping mall".

Likethumb_up1

Replyreply

Reportflag

Boris

1 DAY AGO

The voice will fix this

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Michael

1 DAY AGO

And this, at a time when the imperative to encourage our kids to take up STEM vocations could not be higher. That it was in the hands of a coalition government makes it the more shameful.

Likethumb_up20

Replyreply

Reportflag

Mary

1 DAY AGO

It's staggering. Beyond belief.

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply

Reportflag

Novocastrian

1 DAY AGO

This whole notion Re the move was allowed by Gladys because of the weird erratic and unnecessary approaches of Don Harwin one of the worst Ministers the state has had only surpassed by Ed Obeid!

Likethumb_up9

Replyreply

Reportflag

JANET

1 DAY AGO

The way things are going, Australian cities will soon be little more than a collection of mega shopping centres in a sea of congested suburbs.

Likethumb_up13

Replyreply

Reportflag

Peter

1 DAY AGO

Another indication of what is happening in many museums across Australia. I used to love going into a museum and perusing all the items enclosed in glass cases. Nowadays one is left with a feeling of emptiness and frustration when instead of a multitude of actual items displaying a topic in “3D” there is a film or video or similar techo imagery or a pile of wood blocks for “interactive” interaction! Lets get back to what museums/collections are all about, showing things and stuff! Less isn’t necessarily likeable. I reckoned the Powerhouse “Museum” was terrific. Plenty of “stuff”.

Likethumb_up17

Replyreply

Reportflag

James

1 DAY AGO

Victoria's museum is a case in point. I used to love wandering around the echoing halls peering at the ancient objects and the historic aircraft, boats and cars.

Yet now it's just another shrine to interactive woke with a twist of noble savage...

Likethumb_up14

Replyreply

Reportflag

David

1 DAY AGO

(Edited)

If further proof was needed that “woke” has infested and infected every corner of the arts community, the touring exhibition of the 2022 Archibald finalists, which was recently on display at the Lake Macquarie Museum of Art and Culture,

provides it in spades.

The woke bingo card was literally overflowing. The winner was a painting of an indigenous woman by an indigenous climate activist, there were portraits of a non-binary aboriginal activist, a scientist specialising in renewable energy, a self-portrait by a Kurdish refugee, a portrait of a rap group by an anti-Colonialist, a portrait of a woman by an anti-Colonialist, a portrait of ACTU boss Sally McManus, a portrait of a schoolgirl climate activist, Ahn Do's portrait of Peter Garrett, a portrait of an indigenous artist/activist woman, a portrait of an indigenous artist/activist man, a portrait of a disability inclusion consultant and activist, a portrait of drag artist Courtney Act, a self-portrait by indigenous "artist" Vincent Namatjira, and of course a portrait of ABC-TV presenter Laura Tingle. Interspersed among these was a selection of the most inanely childish "portraits", perfectly symbolised by a ceramic portrait of a woman with a foot on her nose ("I like to paint people's nose as a foot or a finger to make people laugh. It makes me laugh."). Hilarious.

Thankfully, Robert Hannaford's self-portrait was a breath of fresh air, being neither woke nor childish nor naive but just a magnificent work of art from a hugely talented white male baby-boomer who has entered the Archibald no fewer than 26 times and never won.

The Archibald is now officially a joke.

Likethumb_up77

Replyreply

Reportflag

Hamamas

1 DAY AGO

Disagree, the Archibald officially became a joke five years ago.

Likethumb_up11

Replyreply

Reportflag

Rebecca

23 HOURS AGO

Which is why I do not any longer, after years of doing so annually, attend that exhibition.

Likethumb_up4

Replyreply

Reportflag

Lone Wolf

1 DAY AGO

What a sad, sad story. I had no idea the Powerhouse has effectively been obliterated to such a degree - it seems all that remains is the name, no authenticity or integrity. Shame on those responsible.

I find this extra bizarre :

... the Powerhouse's chief executive, Lisa Havilah... boasts of her willingness to "ignore the weight of history, language and architecture.

Surely this is a joke - if not the tenure of Ms Havilah should be immediately examined. The Powerhouse was a great museum to be proud of - if Henry is right (isn't he always?) then we lost ourselves, and in the process lost a national treasure.

[Likedthumb_up47](#)

[Replyreply](#)

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Mary AU

1 DAY AGO

Alas Henry, I feel your warning is too late. The wasteland of the Australian mind is upon us.

Unless your Irish.

Mary T

1 DAY AGO

Henry, your wisdom is desperately needed and I fear is irreplaceable, and prophetic. As regards shopping centres replacing Museums, especially the Powerhouse. It is simply vandalism.

[Likethumb_up9](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

John

1 DAY AGO

Brilliant article! The Powerhouse museum, Questacon in Canberra and the machinery displays at the Geelong Show all inspired me towards a career in engineering. Australia will be poorer for diminishing museums like The Powerhouse in pursuit of blak, fashion and consumerism.

[Likethumb_up15](#)

[Replyreply](#)

[Reportflag](#)

Katie

1 DAY AGO

Welcome to our brave new world of intellectual and cultural vandalism!