

## Happy & Useful (A Festive Poem)

Aristotle, it has been said,  
left us a touch of wisdom.

"Happiness is the meaning  
and purpose of life,  
the whole aim and end  
of human existence."

What did he miss,  
what things unsaid?

Emerson later filled in the gap;  
"The purpose of life is not to be happy,  
it is to be useful, to be honorable,  
to be compassionate, to have it make a difference,  
that you have lived and lived well."

If we sat Aristotle and Emerson under a gum tree,  
would an argument emerge?  
No, as each would clearly see,  
that happiness is merely a by-product of usefulness.

To be useful  
Is to be happy.

Another certain secret  
to happiness  
is to do just  
these two things.

**Reduce** your expectations of  
what government can do for you and others  
and **increase** your expectations  
of what you can do for yourself and others.

Blend these themes together with your own.  
Let courage conquer fear,  
as we move forward to  
another bloody great year!



Ron Manners

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# 2018 - 2019

## Mannwest Group & Mannkal Foundation

Hayek on Hood  
Unit 3 / 31 Hood Street  
Subiaco (Perth) Western Australia, 6008  
Tel: +61 8 9382 1288  
Ron's Mobile: 0419 312 222  
Email: [mannwest@mannkal.org](mailto:mannwest@mannkal.org)  
[ron.manners@mannkal.org](mailto:ron.manners@mannkal.org)

Websites: [www.mannwest.com](http://www.mannwest.com) (Ron's Blog)  
[www.mannkal.org](http://www.mannkal.org)

## BOOKS

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## Home, Jenny & Zug the poodle:

1 Edinburgh Street,  
South Perth WA 6151  
Tel: *Note – No landline*  
Work: West Perth Settlements  
+61 8 9481 2444  
Mob: 0407 770 688  
Jenny's Email: [jenny.manners@mannkal.org](mailto:jenny.manners@mannkal.org)

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**Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy Christmas & New Year.**