

## HRH PRINCE PHILIP – IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

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### Introduction

In 1956, Prince Philip, a keen observer of industrialization and its effect on individuals, realized that the three main community sectors (industry, trade unions and government) were not 'talking' to each other.

He devised a plan to select 100 potential leaders from each of these three sectors and 'lock them up together' for three weeks — living together, travelling together and learning together.

This way, he felt that life-long bonds would be forged between 'warring parties' and the benefits would become obvious during subsequent years.

The original Duke of Edinburgh Study Conference, in 1956, was a stand-alone event, without any thought of it becoming the first of a series, repeated every six years. Now, in 2017, these conferences have generated over 2,500 well-connected individuals, still vigorously talking and learning from each other.



It has been my pleasure to spend time with Prince Philip, five times, so far. Firstly, in 1968 as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Study Conference (now known as the Commonwealth Study Conference, or CSC), then in 1969 at a follow-up conference at Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent, U.K. . A reunion dinner was held in 2002 and then I was invited to

Buckingham Palace in 2006 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CSC. I also visited Government House in Canberra, along with other CSC alumni, for another reunion meeting with the Prince on October 22, 2011 while HRH was in Australia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Known for his 'zingers', Prince Philip had a way with words. While in Australia with us he marveled at "corri-bloody-gated iron roofs" on houses and enjoyed the notion of "wowers", or people who weren't willing to do their bit. Travelling around Australia with HRH in 1968 we picked up many words of wisdom from the Prince himself. He told us: "the rate of change made it more important to teach people how to think rather than what to know". He saw the problem of obsolete teachers and itinerant teachers. If only our educational system, then and now, followed his advice. He described governments as moving "with the fleet-footedness of a centipede with arthritis of the legs".

He commented that some of our politicians should keep their wisdom to themselves.

In 1968, Prince Philip was ahead of his time with many of his words still ringing true today. He said: "Ideas are coming into Australia from the young people and unfortunately there is a time delay before they permeate through to the old. Don't leave the change too long. Be tolerant but not permissive with our young. They are as much the children of their age as we were of ours."

He taught us how to ask questions by reminding us that, the first time we ask anyone a question, we will only receive a polite answer.\

This is because they are unsure if we really want to know.

The second time we asked that question they will take us slightly more seriously and again give a partial answer.

It's only on the third time when we ask the same question, still being polite, that we will really get inside their mind and once they realize how serious we are they will open up and give us the true story.

Prince Philip said, "That's the answer I want you to bring back to me, fully refined and fully focused."

He recognized that a single approach didn't suit everybody: "We can bring our children up by the book as long as we use a different book for each child."

He asked us to think and speak as individuals and not just be a spokesperson for any organization or government. He told us to get over our great Australian distrust of excellence.

These were the two points that he wanted to leave us with. Firstly, that we should come to our own conclusions and act as an individual to avoid what is now termed 'group-thinking'. He's so focused, on individualism, that when he invited us to the Buckingham Palace 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion he said, "... and you can't bring your wives or partners because I'm not bringing mine."

His secondary message was always, “Don’t be afraid to excel and be the very best person you can possibly be.”

He commented that our grandfathers described themselves as being the last generation of untrained managers but when we meet the managers of the future, we will realise that our grandfathers may have been referring to us.

These comments, and the study tour itself, were behind my inspiration to set up our Mannkal Economic Education Foundation. I enjoyed the experience of being thrown into a pressure-cooker educational trip with 300 people from business, government and trade unions. We had to personally report back to Prince Philip where he proceeded to ‘belt the hell out of us’ by teaching us ‘never to waffle’.

### **The study tour**

Our 1968 Study Conference took a cross-section of 300 “modern people”, today likely known as “movers and shakers”, from 30 British Commonwealth countries and split us into 25 groups of 11. We were then tasked with the job of visiting and researching different Australian states and compiling reports on our findings. Our study group went to Queensland and visited Townsville, Ingham, Mt Isa and Brisbane. We were surprised to see the resigned acceptance towards a poor education system, excessive outside government interference and the inept efforts of an inefficient bureaucracy.

- One highlight of the study group was the town of Ingham. This sugar town had experienced two influxes of migrant labor and there were people of clearly identifiable backgrounds — Greek, Italian, Spanish, German, Finnish, Chinese, Scottish, English and others — completely integrated, all without any ‘enabling legislation’. Without government interference they integrated themselves.

### **Key quotes**

Prince Philip is well known for his quotes and one-liners, often brutally honest. These are some of the insights he shared with us.

His definition of a pessimist was: A pessimist is a man who, if he is confronted by the choice of two evils, he chooses them both.

He told us to beware of carelessness toward the quality of life itself.

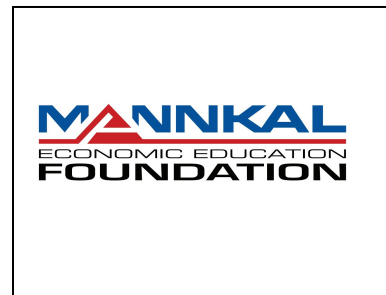
In lighthearted moments he asked if it was true that the Japanese were discouraged from invading Australia because they mistook all our outdoor toilets for sentry boxes. He told us about the two English judges; they tried each other!

He had an incredible sense of style and I’ll just give you one example. The 1969 conference at Keele University was due to commence at 10.00 a.m. on a Saturday morning. We were gathered on the steps of the university, looking out for a chauffeured

car but no sign of it on the long driveway. Then, almost out of nowhere, a helicopter landed in front of us and out leapt Pilot Prince Philip, buttoning up his jacket as he greeted us right on the dot of 10.00 a.m. Real James Bond stuff!

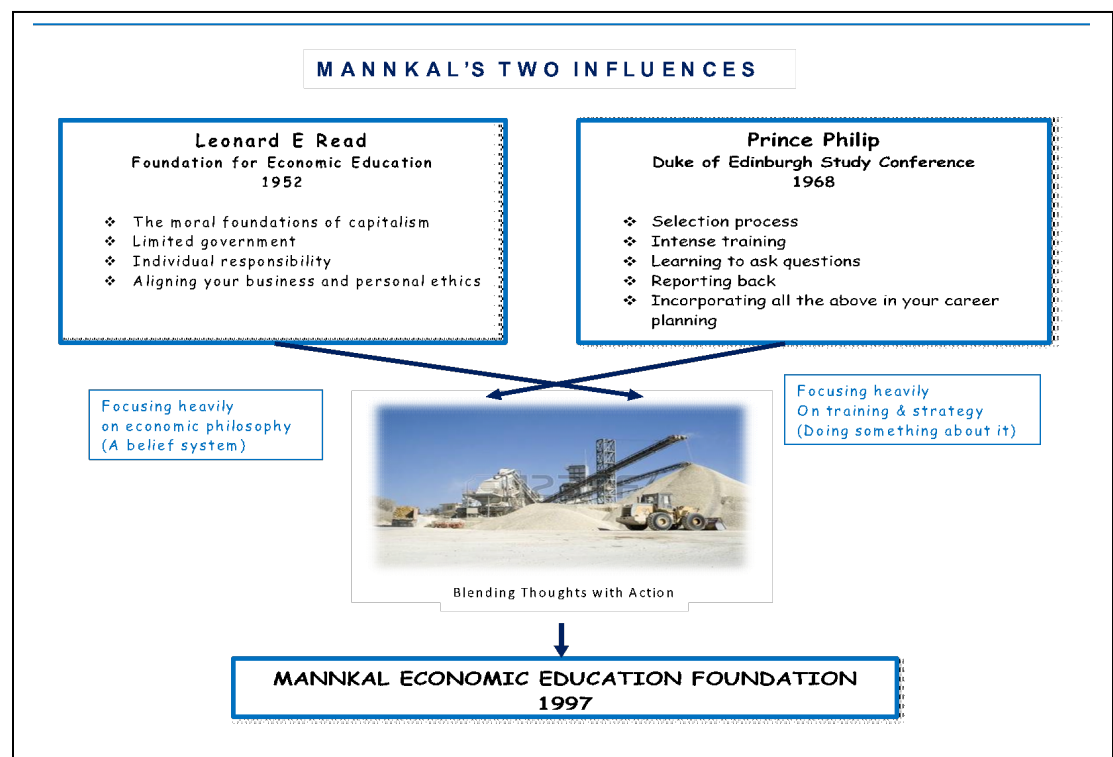
So, that brings us right up to 2017 and I'll be sending a message, from us here tonight, to the 96 y.o. Duke of Edinburgh reminding him that his original 1956 concept has had many major consequences, amongst them, being the creation of our Mannkal Foundation.

The logo, of both our business and our Foundation, feature a conveyor belt containing either material or ideas as part of the crushing, sorting and refining process.



*The above two logos are of our business and our Foundation and feature a conveyor belt containing either material or ideas as part of the blending, sorting and refining process.*

This is Mannkal's strategy document, including elements from two entirely different sources. We have incorporated the economic philosophy of the Foundation for Economic Education. In 1952, when I was



16 y.o., I connected with them. At that time they were appropriately focused on ideas and not strategy.

Then, later in 1968, at age 32 I was thrust into Prince Philip's Study Conference where there was limited focus on philosophy, it was all about training and action.

We have put these thoughts and actions through our 'corporate crushing, screening and refining process' and our 'output' is smart, questioning and useful young West Australians (over 1,000 so far).

Young people are interviewed and selected for events that will expose them (many, for the first time) to economic and political philosophic principles that promote the virtues of individual responsibility (which is difficult) as opposed to the (easier) alternative of 'living off' the efforts of unsuspecting taxpayers, many of whom are less well-off than the recipients of handouts.

This leads these young people to studies into the (often unintended) long-term consequences of many of today's short-term legislative solutions and policy proposals.

'Ideas have consequences', particularly when applied to the study of 'liberty'.

Liberty. It's a simple idea, but it's also the linchpin of a complex system of values and practices: justice, prosperity, responsibility, toleration, co-operation and peace. Many people believe that liberty is the core political value of modern civilization itself, the one that gives substance and form to all the other values of social life.

In this year of Mannkal Foundation's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the momentum is building to the point where it is taking me away from my life-long involvement in mining and management and I look forward to writing a similar letter to that written in 2006 to Study Conference attendees by HRH Prince Philip. I'll write that letter, in 30 years' time, requesting that Mannkal Foundation scholars might like to contribute to a 50 year commemorative book. Just as we did, with this book, to mark the significant achievements of the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conferences.

I think it is appropriate to drink a toast to the continued good health of HRH Prince Philip (see Appendix for brief bio).

## SELECTED STUDY CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

**1956** (pre-history)

<b>1962</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sir Arvi Parbo (Chairman, WMC / BHP / Alcoa)</li> <li>❖ Charles Copeman (Robe River – rescued iron ore industry)</li> <li>❖ Bob Hawke (Union Leader / Prime Minister / businessman)</li> <li>❖ Sir Philip Lynch (Deputy Leader of Liberal Party, replaced Malcolm Fraser as Minister for the Army, was Treasurer, before handing over to John Howard, handed over Liberal Dep. Leadership to John Howard) – started his public role as President of the Jaycees in Australia – connection with Ron.</li> <li>❖ Ron Davies (Union Official / Leader of State Opposition W.A., deposed by Brian Burke / Agent General – London.</li> </ul>	<b>1986</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Peter R Kenyon</li> <li>❖ Warwick L. Smith</li> </ul>
<b>1968</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ John Gough (Leading businessman and one of the founders of the Menzies Institute, strong interest in Public Policy).</li> <li>❖ Lloyd Graham (Perth Town Planner)</li> <li>❖ Sir Eric Neal (Leading businessman / Governor of South Australia / graduated as an engineer from the South Australian School of Mines, visited our gold operations in Kalgoorlie).</li> <li>❖ Baillieu (Bails) Myer</li> <li>❖ Don Vernon (Mining leader / CRA – Rio Tinto / Normandy)</li> <li>❖ Ron Manners</li> </ul>	<b>1992</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Meredith Hellicar</li> <li>❖ Rosie A. Moroz</li> <li>❖ Dermot Ryan</li> </ul>
<b>1974</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Barry Unsworth (Premier of NSW)</b></li> </ul>	<b>1998</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Heather Ridout (Business leader / Reserve Bank Board memb</li> </ul>
<b>1980</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mal Bryce (Deputy Premier of W.A.)</li> <li>❖ Anthony (Tony) J. Palmer (Mining leader)</li> </ul>	<b>2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Dr Vanessa Guthrie</li> <li>❖ Neil Smithson</li> <li>❖ Ian Satchwell</li> </ul>
		<b>Thereafter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Severe mission drift.</li> </ul>

## **Appendix**

### **A brief bio on the man**

Rural Australia was a long way from his birthplace in Greece. He and his parents, Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg, fled the country in the aftermath of the Greco-Turkish War in 1922. As a child Philip lived in France and later the United Kingdom, attending a number of prestigious schools including Cheam School in Hampshire UK, Schule Schloss Salem in Germany and Gordonstoun in Moray, Scotland.

After the outbreak of World War II in 1939 Philip, now a young man, enlisted in the British Royal Navy. His training commenced at Royal Naval College in Dartmouth and after graduating as the top cadet in his class he was assigned to the battleship HMS Ramillies as a midshipsman in 1940. Over the next six years he continued to serve under a number of vessels including the HMS Kent, the HMS Shropshire, the HMS Valiant, the RMS Empress of Russia, the HMS Wallace and the HMS Whelp.

Once the war ended in 1945 Philip carried out the rest of his commitments in the Navy and returned to Britain, where he took up a position as an instructor at the HSM Royal Arthur Naval School in Wiltshire, England. It was during this time he asked King George VI for his daughter Elizabeth's hand in marriage, the two having kept in contact since their first meeting in 1939. The King accepted and the two were married in 1947.

Since then, Philip served the Queen faithfully in marriage for 70 years and as her consort for 64 years before retiring from his royal duties in 2017. Aside from his role as consort he has also spread his influence over a number of different organizations and expansive personal interests, including polo, carriage driving, sailing, piloting, oil painting and art appraisal.

Those who knew Prince Phillip regarded him as a down to earth man who, despite his background and heritage, was known to be humble and possesses a no-nonsense yet caring attitude to those around him. I can attest to that description.

### **The Prince by numbers**

- He was patron, president or member of more than 780 organizations and the longest serving royal consort in British history.
- He had 22,191 solo engagements and made 5493 speeches.