

Chairman's Report

Do you have character?

Jill, a New York poet friend, wrote these words on her computer bag:

*"Imagine a world,
where people competed,
to have the best character."*

She feels that politicians and business people are generally 'short on' for character these days and this statement is her way of expressing her view.

Coincidentally, another friend, Larry Reed (President of the Foundation for Economic Education in Atlanta, Georgia) has researched 'character' in his free e-book, "Are We Good Enough for Liberty?"¹

Larry introduces his book as follows:-

"This small book conveys a very big message: character makes all the difference in the world. You are personally in charge of your own character and are in a position to have a considerable influence on the character of others by your example. If you have a conscience, this should matter a great deal to you. If you value liberty, you must understand that character is an indispensable ingredient—a necessary pre-condition—for a free society.

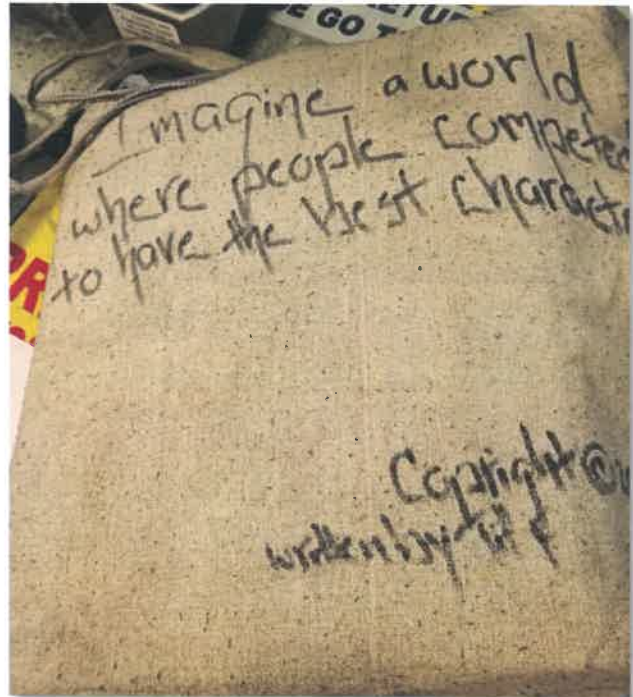
I'll venture one step further and offer this thought, upon which I have elaborated in other places and publications: *no people who lost their character kept their liberties.* That may be the most important lesson from the last five thousand years of human history."

In Mannkal's office last week, we had difficulty in identifying even ten leading business and political identities of 'sufficient character' to match this requirement.

This highlights one of the aims of Mannkal's scholarship program; to assist our future leaders to explore the world of ideas and help each of them reflect upon their own character and values which they will carry with them into the future.

Our Mannkal team has developed the Outgoing Student Program over the past 19 years and we are proud of the way it is constantly evolving and improving.

Like any good joint-venture it involves a shared responsibility between Mannkal, our universities, host organizations and the students themselves. A major asset is our incredible network of think-tanks around the world who act as hosts and mentors to our students. They will continue hosting as long as we can maintain the high quality of students.



Mannkal could adopt many other projects, but we prefer to focus on the Outgoing Student Program. Like any 'business' our process is a fragile balance of relationships that needs strong communication skills between all parties.

We rely on the students to bear this in mind and to act as ambassadors for Mannkal, their university and Australia, at all times.

Local journalist Karalee Katsambanis drew attention to how easily things can turn sour ('Shot WA students get much needed wake-up call'²). This article is required reading for all outgoing students.

So, to celebrate this evolving Student Program, please enjoy the adventures of some of our recently returned Mannkal scholars on the following pages.

Thanks to all concerned.

Ron Manners

**Chairman,
Mannkal Economic Education Foundation**

1. https://fee.org/files/doclib/20130918_arewegoodenoughforlibertyreed.pdf
2. 'Shot WA students get much needed wake-up call': <http://bit.ly/1TOfrbQ>