



THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

N.S.W. Address: ~~PO BOX 582~~ Queen Victoria Building, Sydney, 2000
~~LAKEMBA 2195~~

AIM: TO PRESERVE OUR CHRISTIAN BRITISH LINK AND AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE

The Secretariat

Senate Legal & Constitutional Committee

Dear Sir

46 Dennis St.
Lakemba 2195
Sydney

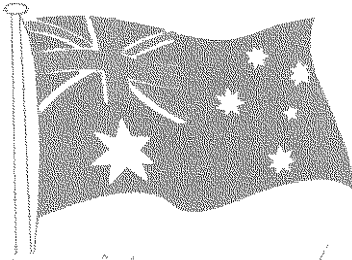
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29/10/2003

I first of all question why this inquiry into a republic for Australia? The people of Australia were asked, after a lot of argument and debate in 1999, to choose between our present system of Govt, Constitutional Monarchy, and a republic. In every State in Australia the answer was 'NO'. So, like every referendum held in Australia, the majority of people, perhaps 95% or more, just forgot all about the issue. It would have been almost the same, I believe, had the vote been 'YES' except for these very day reminders we have in Australia to our present system of Govt, e.g. the names such as Royal, King, Princess, Queen etc. And, had the republicans won, we would have heard no more, or very little about The Monarchy, The Queen, another referendum, and certainly no inquiry about a Constitutional Monarchy for Australia. Except for a few references to royalty overseas on our TV, the matter would have been forgotten. What does all this show? Simply that the republicans are bad losers, with sour grapes, who cannot take 'NO' and 'NO' again for an answer.

Nobody has to be a Monarchist or Royalist, we have always had republicans amongst Australians, probably since Federation, yes and amongst our MP's, Senators, Prime Ministers, perhaps even soon after or at Federation. And nobody has to take an oath of allegiance, as they are not forced into Parliament, but all who do know beforehand this is their duty. It has been so since Federation. So

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Would any of our elected MPs or Senators deny that our beautiful Australia is one of the best countries in the world to live in? Foreigners living here have told me it is a paradise. People who leave here and go overseas often miss the ground when they return. I was overjoyed just to hear the accent. So why on earth would anyone wish to change a system of Govt which for over a hundred years has seen no riots, no civil wars, revolutions, assassinations of Prime Ministers, or indeed, of importance, hardly anyone? My understanding through reading is that Australia has one of the finest Constitutions, if not the finest, in the world, drafted by and written by Australians, voted for and accepted by Australians in 1900 or 1901. Indeed one of the very few in the world where the Australian people have to be asked before changes can be made to their Constitution. It has 36 references to the Monarch or Monarchy and 54 to the Governor general. Without the Crown in our Constitution we have no democracy, indeed no Constitution. It would ^{be} destroyed. And what would a republic offer Australia? We simply don't know. So far there has not been any benefits shown to the average Australian man or woman in the street whatsoever. None at all, simply vague references to changes in how our beautiful country is to be run. No thank you.

Yours sincerely
Ron Barnett

Australian Heritage Society