Funding the Future

What did happen yesterday?

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I read all the news reports this morning, as I also did last night, and felt that there was nothing I had to say about them.

I commented on the viciousness of the US midterm elections yesterday.

There is nothing to add about the fact that Australia has increased its base interest rates for the fifth time in a year, and that its inflation is still rising because there is no link between the two.

And was there anything to really say about the fact that the Nasdaq 100 index in the USA, which reflects the valuation of tech stocks, fell a further 1.4% yesterday, indicating the jitters that exist about the valuation of AI and all related issues? On reflection, I thought not very much.

I did then wonder whether I had any article to write this morning before realising that the story is, as it so often will be when the news is filtered through the perspective of the neoliberal media, what is not being reported rather than what is.

The world got warmer yesterday. Nobody noticed. In itself, the change was very small, but it’s part of a trend that is the biggest threat we face.

Many young people sat in many bedrooms yesterday, most probably in their parents’ homes when they wished to be anywhere else, waiting for anyone to reply to a job application they had made, and their inbox was empty, at least of offers of an interview.

Many people were racially abused yesterday.

Women were harassed for doing nothing more than being.

Neurodivergent people struggled through another day of maintaining the mask of normality.

Crime happened. Victims were created. The police had so few resources available that they could do no more than allocate the event a number.

People juggled debt. Some gave up the struggle.

Babies were born in maternity units where there were too few staff, whilst the pressure on those who were at work became increasingly intolerable.

Teachers and their pupils, back after half term, faced another useless day of learning facts that imparted nothing approaching understanding or the ability to think.

Halloween tat was cleared off shelves, to be replaced by other tat intended to create a superficial air of celebration amidst a sea of desperation.

Countless sedatives, licit and illicit, were consumed to help people survive life in a world which they find alien.

Too few people showed that they cared, because we are not allowed the time to do so in a world where stopping to appreciate, and to say that we do, is not permitted.

And yes, some good things happened too. Let’s not pretend otherwise.

Some people did okay.

Others got a promotion.

Some might have got married to the person they hope they will live with for life.

And against all the odds, some did get jobs, or a thank you that made a difference.

Others took note of the beauty of the world around them and decided to care about it.

These were the real stories of yesterday.

Some should inform our actions, our concerns, and a politics of care.

Others require celebration, even if only for a moment, because if we do not recognise what is good, what is the point of achievement?

None of this got reported in the media, though. And that is my point. The news that is reported to us is, by a very long way, not the news at all. Too often, it is a filtered message of control designed to intimidate, frighten, regulate and provoke.

To see the real world, we need to look out the window, go for a walk, talk to people, share experiences, and say thank you to those who help us.

I will start. Thank you for reading this. I appreciate it.