

We The People  
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We the People 378 Floating Petri Dishes



**Good day to you.** These dreadful times run the agenda at the moment in all our lives and the current economic pressure will remain for many years long after the Covid-19 virus is dealt with. As I've said before the spread is thanks to the evil Chinese communist government and its lying and cheating. Today however and contemplating the Covid-19 virus, let's look at man's folly in terms of the gigantic and environmentally destructive cruise liner and how it helped spread the virus. These massive ships have no real purpose for the most part except to take people on peculiar closeted crowded holidays and burn millions of tons of low grade high sulphur fuel and act as floating Petri Dishes breeding disease. Even without the corona virus these huge human container ships are a place where disease breeds and spreads like wild fire because of the confined space. Cabins provide no escape as they are mostly very small if not claustrophobic. Food poisoning is common as well as an array of serious crimes, sexual assaults, brawls, prostitution and drug abuse which should not be expected on a holiday cruise. Then there's the serious matter of pollution which in this day and age is unforgiveable. The world's largest cruise line company Carnival were fined \$28m after dumping rubbish in the ocean. Carnival, agreed to pay because its ships continued to pollute the oceans despite a previous criminal conviction aimed at curbing similar conduct. Further, Carnival's offenses became a public embarrassment when a court-appointed monitor discovered the company dumped food waste mixed with plastic into Bahamian waters in 2018. Further another ship, the Harmony, owned by Royal Caribbean, has two four-storey high 16-cylinder Wartsila engines which would, at full power, each burn 1,377 US gallons of fuel an hour, or about **66,000 gallons a day** of some of the most polluting diesel fuel in the world. Like a communist government they do as they please if we let them.

Cruise ships are like small towns with no police on board. One voyage, nicknamed the "cruise from hell", came to a resounding end in Melbourne. Dozens of brawls had broken out on board the Carnival Legend, a ship owned by the world's largest cruise firm, many of which had apparently been instigated by a family group of 23. But this is far from an isolated incident. In fact, recently another ship heading out of Sydney operated by the same firm reportedly had to turn around after a fight broke out among a group of passengers celebrating a stag party. There have also been more serious crimes, including the notorious case of a man accused of killing his wife on an Emerald Princess cruise because she was laughing at **him**. I am also amazed that some people treat themselves to a cruise because the cabin has free wifi or because they get free gambling chips. Some larger liners have rides and games right out of a second rate regional show and display the veneer thin veil of human frivolity. So forget all the manufactured glossy brochures and go camping or see Australia or New Zealand and be safer and far more environmentally responsible because your life may well depend on it.

To the Gold Coast and Mayor Tom Tate who keeps pushing for a cruise liner jetty into the Pacific ocean off the Spit to welcome these floating dreadnoughts. It appears he has no serious evidence to support his mantra of "**build it and they will come**". That's a well known line out of a sci-fi movie aptly called **Field of Dreams** and how does this relate to the real world. I cannot for the life of me understand why he or anyone wants these unsafe and environmentally destructive cruise liners anywhere near the Gold Coast. Council have ear marked another million dollars of our rate payers money for more CLT investigation. In the post Covid-19 virus era no sane person or company will want to risk investment in this superficial dangerous glitz and may I say the Mayor's **terminal is indeed terminal**.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**

acknowledgment The Guardian John Vidal, Michael Goldstein Forbes, Gulliver the Economist.