



HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NSW

Viewpoints Annual 2023

**President's Perspective
Review of events 2022-23
Calendar of Days
Look back at 2022
2022 EOY Party Photos
Artificial Intelligence**

**Volume 62 Number 1
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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Greetings to members and Friends of the Humanist Society of New South Wales. Here is our 2023 Viewpoints Annual, reporting on events in 2022 and early 2023. I have done much of the content myself, but this year assisted by Artificial Intelligence (AI) websites offering items on Humanism and on AI itself. Recently some very capable AI facilities for both graphics and text have been made publicly available, and often for free. Of course every change threatens livelihoods and conspiracy theories abound, some even no doubt true. And we worry children will use it to cheat on their homework. Which is what I've done a little here myself I suppose. In my pre-retirement career in public libraries I could have felt threatened by Google or Wikipedia but I welcomed them as a boost to what excited me in the first place - democratising information, culture and learning. And, for the moment, the AI websites seem to be democratising self-expression. The key talent is to know good quality from bad, and this from a range of perspectives. Good judgment is the key to everything, but is itself a moving target, so we need to keep on our toes, and always be learning new things and better ways.

The last year has been busy with activities, which are now back at Humanist House in Chippendale. Over the same period, we have been bringing the renewal of the Humanist House roof to perfection. The task was mapped out in the depth of the lockdown period, and work only began after the big re-opening, when the building workforce was overstretched. The first round of work done wasn't able to deal with the pounding rain that became common during 2022. Humanist House is an elderly building with some difficult features, and there needed to be many reviews as new leaks appeared. The rain was both a blessing and a curse. The curse was that sunny days were scarce, so it was hard to get sufficient attention to the work. The blessing was that each improvement was thoroughly tested by heavy weather along the way. If it had all been checked off as OK in a long dry El Niño period, then much later found wanting in a soggy La Niña year such as 2022, it would have been harder to get the necessary follow-up. In the circumstances, new leaks and new problems could be immediately pursued, and eventually dealt with. Our Committee Member Dave Jobst found time to often be on site at Humanist House, and ably carried the task of liaising patiently with our roofer. Dave and Fred Flatow looked after some details themselves and patched up where necessary. Ian Bryce's head for heights was vital, and he contributed to the engineering theorising.

Many thanks to those who donated for the roof. A particularly large donation by Fred Flatow was appreciated and Fred managed the financial dealings with the roofing contractor.

A Life Member of long standing and some controversy, David Evan Duffy, died on 10 November 2022. David gave his birthdate as 31 July 1937, but despite my considerable family history research skills I was unable to verify anyone of such a name born at such a time. David Duffy was a man of mystery. I was minded to include a longer obituary in this issue but there is insufficient information to provide this from a Humanist Society angle. David's work with many right-of-centre organisations, and even his work running Open Forum, is not necessarily part of any story of his contribution to this association. Sadly, our records have suffered losses over the years, as David once told me himself. Now someone needs to work through over 50 years of our quarterly journals to get any semblance of a story. This could be made a worthwhile thing to do, if it were to include research on a range of other matters besides. Of course any help with researching historic and other aspects of the society's work would be appreciated. There is an obituary prepared for David's funeral, a copy of which can be distributed on request, but it doesn't even mention the Humanist Society of NSW. I attended the funeral in person, along with Fay Love, Secretary, to represent the Society. And we do have a photographic 'Vale' on the back page - taken from David's appearance at our Vick Potempa event in 2020.

Each year the Society somehow 'gets by', but we fall well short of historical levels of activity, and fail to capitalise on what sometimes seems to be our central project, Humanist House. The association was once a driving force of secular activism - much of which is now the province of more specialised organisations. There remain new fields to be discovered. Humanism needs to be developed and made available as a living philosophy that inspires and fulfils new generations. The Australian Humanist movement needs to renew Humanism as the alternative to post-religious forms of spirituality and identity that fail to satisfy - retrograde traditions, tribalistic loyalties, pernicious nationalisms, and various other false and phony offerings. There needs to be a willingness to embrace modern methods when necessary but to relocate healthy old and new traditions in the sphere of Humanism. Humanism needs to be the alternative, but not be limited to the marginalized.

Humanism is for everyone, but it needs it's 'avant-garde' to take it back to the people as something more than a refuge for those who disbelieve in gods. We have members, like Lyndon Storey, who are pursuing these issues and they need your support.

Once again please support us as best you can. Membership helps. Ideas help. Money helps. But the best help of all is helping itself! We'd love to see more people getting involved as volunteers. This call becomes more pressing every year.

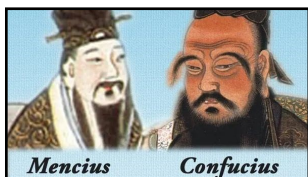
Murray Love,
President
& Editor



REVIEW OF HSNSW ACTIVITIES FOR 2022-2023

Report prepared by events organiser Murray Love

Sunday, 13 March 2022 MENCIOUS, CONFUCIUS & THE ROOTS OF HUMANISM



This was our first live event at Humanist House for 2022. Lyndon Storey gave us an engaging presentation on the iconic Chinese humanistic philosophers Mencius and Confucius. Lyndon holds a PhD on Mencius and international relations theory, and showed us how Mencius foreshadowed many of the aspects of modern Humanism. A well-received presentation.

Sunday 27 March 2022 TIME TO CHEER UP

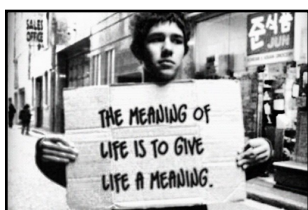


What with what looked like World War 3, a continuing global plague, rain, mud, floods and slush all over, business woes, being sent back to the office etc it was a fair call that we needed a reset and some serious cheering up. Nothing superficial, but a chance to decompress and remind ourselves how lucky we really are, without pressure to feel a bit guilty. Yet this timely topic failed to draw much participation. (I guess it's hard to express and promote the concept of 'serious' cheering-up!)



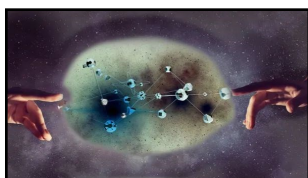
We did however meet Teresa from Wollongong and went on to help her run some enjoyable secular-friendly events in a great café with sea views near Bulli during 2022.

Sunday 10 April 2022 THE MEANING OF LIFE



THE MEANING OF LIFE is a well-worn phrase, and for some it might represent a cosmic secret they look to be revealed - but not for us humanists. Instead we started off with a review of The Meming of Life - a slideshow of catchy visuals on the topic (see e.g. left).

But do we need to find our own meaning, or should we be seeking something embedded in the world? Do we have any real choice, let alone freewill? Is it a worthwhile question? Are we stuck with delusions or are there solutions? Is the meaning we seek for our own life, for everyone, or the whole cosmos? Why do we joke about it, kill over it, worry about it? Does it really help? It was always going to be a discussion about questions rather answers.



Should we look inward or outward? Is it Why or How? What does 'mean' mean? Do we have the time to find our own, while many settle for a packaged solution like religion. How much time have each of us got? The best answers come down to the same. Loving. Laughing. Learning. Being real. Being well. Doing good. The event was well-attended but inconclusive!

Sunday 24 April 2022 WORLD WAR III



It was the Anzac Day weekend and seemed suitable to discuss the spectre of 'World War 3' as the invasion of Ukraine continued, and we needed to talk about it. Opinions were diverse but surprisingly compatible. There are many angles but we managed to avoid trolling one another. We didn't try to force a single view. In its way it was even an enjoyable discussion.

Sunday 8th May 2022 HUMANISM IN A NUTSHELL



A presentation by Murray Love (President and Editor) - "an intimate search for the core of Humanism." I'd done it twice on Zoom but this was the first time it went 'live'. It's a simple slideshow examining efforts that've been made to put Humanism into a 'nutshell' - a phrase - like 'good without god', the minimum statement and such). Defining 'Humanism' is important to attracting new people, but it's hard to fit in with all the ideas of the 'old' people!

Sunday 22 May 2022 POST-ELECTION ROUND TABLE.



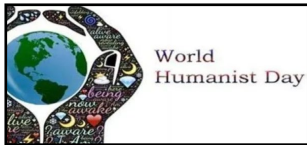
It was the day after the 2022 Federal Election (does anyone remember Scott Morrison anymore?) and very exciting news at the time. It was always going to be pointless to expect any other basis of discussion on such a day, so we had to go with the flow. Fortunately, on the day after Saturday 21 May 2022, it was a flow most of us were very happy to go with.

12 June 2022 THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.



They say the price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and it often seems to involve violence. Witness Ukraine. But then observe the passivity of Russian citizens. What is freedom anyway? Many of us only notice it when it's gone. There's even 'fear of freedom'. It's hard to get a discussion looking into the many angles, but it's something we try every few years. The conversation often wandered off-topic - but we could hardly tie such a discussion down!

Sunday 26 June 2022 CELEBRATING WORLD HUMANIST DAY



There's no one thing we have to do on WHDay but it's important Humanists celebrate their 'once-a-year' day. We kept it simple, with no particular talks or discussions, while attendees were welcome to make brief presentations of an entertaining character. In all other respects it was a traditional party in the afternoon with drinks, nibbles and chatting.

Sunday 10 July 2022 HUMANITY OR SOVEREIGNTY



Former CAHS President and current member of the HSNSW, Lyndon Storey, gave us a presentation on the dangerous intersection of nationalism and modernity. For centuries, these have risen in tandem, now producing high-tech nation states focused on individualism and rationalism. Modernism has discredited traditional paths to meaning and identity, but failed to provide clear alternatives - so Nationalism steps in, bringing war and violence over issues like who intrinsically 'belongs' to a particular ethnicity, or to a particular nation's territory. Lyndon argues for Humanism and a new global 'Human Union' as a path out of this looming catastrophe.

Sunday 14 August 2022 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



Speaker Murray Love argues that any right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", just meant a white settler vision of an endless frontier, offering a 'freedom' to struggle to create an abundant and expanding life. There was no right to happiness directly but there was a right to opportunity for happiness. But things are more complicated these days, with greater expectations of liberty and prosperity for all, while in a context of scarcity and degradation.

Sunday 18 September 2022 HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



After an absence of two years, the Society's AGM could once again be held at Humanist House. Attendance was not up to previous years from before the pandemic. But the formal meeting itself was short, with then a chance for more informal discussion and conversation.

Sunday 9 October 2022 THE USE & MISUSE OF ECONOMICS



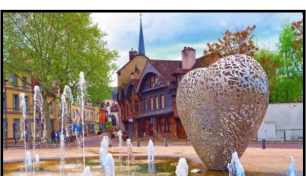
Vice-President John August tried to cast some light on cynical distortions of economic theories and measures. Over time, matter like GDP, Employment, Economic growth, or Productivity are subverted and twisted to suit political and business agendas. John examined a forever more complicated world with opportunities for sustainable prosperity - yet this is countered by unfortunate opportunities for corporate exploitation or abuse.

Sunday October 23 2022 IS DEMOCRACY IN DANGER?



Both Republicans and Democrats in the USA believe Democracy is under threat - but things always seem better when your own side wins! Democracy can need to be saved from itself when lies, demagoguery, populism, hate, fear, irrationality, disillusion, market failures, mistrust, and culture war predominate. We need to engage with people we don't like, to resolve serious issues. Can we still do that? We tried to engage with one another on the day.

Sunday 13 November 2022 WHY IT'S TIME FOR A HUMAN-HEARTED MODERNITY



You will find an exposition of Speaker Lyndon Storey's key ideas in an article earlier this year at: <https://areomagazine.com/2022/05/05/a-human-hearted-modernity/>

For all its success, modernity keeps facing challenges from anti-rational movements like fascism, religious revivalism and hyper nationalism. Modernity has become focused on markets and algorithms, underestimating the deep seated emotional needs of human

beings. 21st century humanity desperately needs an alternative to retrograde religions, neo-nationalisms and rampant consumerism - all exploiting our worst instincts of fear and greed. Lyndon believes one way is a more human hearted lifescape, using contemporary science to build a revitalised modernity focused on human happiness and fulfilment.

Sunday, December 11, 2022 NSW HUMANISTS SOCIETY END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION (Report on page 8 of this issue)

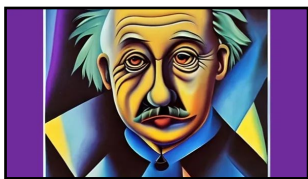
Sunday, January 22, 2023 REHUMANISATION We always start the year with an event about Humanism itself. The discussion was a chance to look for the common humanity in others - even those we prefer not to identify with.

Sunday 12 February 2023 DARWIN DAY TALK: EVOLUTION, SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, SOCIETY AND LAW - IN CONTEXT



The big launch of each new year is the Darwin Day presentation honouring Darwin's birth on 12 February 1809. This year we were led by Society Vice-President, John August. John explored some of the side passages around evolutionary theory as "a rich story drawn from a reasonable set of assumptions", examining some philosophical and legal history, finding it can be hard to be sure exactly what science is, or even exactly which knowledge is scientific.

Sunday 26 Feb 2023 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & MACHINE LEARNING



We discussed recent public developments in trained AI websites such as ChatGPT and DeepAI that can produce text and images in response to 'prompts' or queries. We even had an AI bot explaining what AI is about, technically and socially. We looked at some good and bad image outputs and some good and bad AI poetry. It was an open discussion, with some apprehension expressed, but slight optimism that some aspects could be quite useful.

Sunday 5 March 2023 MARCOS Sr TO MARCOS Jr: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION?



Our speaker Joffre Balce was a young participant in some of the events concerning the ending of the regime of Ferdinand Marcos Sr. (born 1917) in the Philippines in 1986. Joffre has lived through much since then, and told a turbulent story of the politics of the Philippines up to the recent election as President of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (born 1957 - son of the above). For Joffre, many Australians are under-informed on all that has happened in the Philippines since 1986, and his talk was devoted to 'setting the record straight' as he sees it.

Sunday March 26 2023 TEN COMMITMENTS OF HUMANISM



This was a discussion of a list of 10 'Commitments' devised recently by the American Humanist Association. Making lists as a way to explain 'Humanism' does risk reducing Humanism to the current activism of a particular grouping of Humanists. However this list is a fairly good attempt to build up from tighter statements about Humanism like "Rational Compassion" or "Good without God". The AHA's list of 'Commitments' runs as follows:-

- 01 CRITICAL THINKING: I will practice good judgement by asking questions and thinking for myself.
- 02 ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT: I will always focus on becoming a better person.
- 03 PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE: I will help people solve problems and handle disagreements in ways that are fair for everyone.
- 04 SERVICE & PARTICIPATION: I will help my community in ways that let me get to know the people I'm helping.
- 05 ALTRUISM: I will help others in need without hoping for rewards.
- 06 HUMILITY: I will be aware of my strengths and weaknesses, and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of others.
- 07 ENVIRONMENTALISM: I will take care of the Earth and the life on it.
- 08 GLOBAL AWARENESS: I will be a good neighbour to those I share the Earth with, and help make the world a better place.
- 09 RESPONSIBILITY: I will be a good person—even when no one is looking—and own the consequences of my actions.
- 10 EMPATHY: I will consider other people's thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

A long-form explanation by the compilers can be seen at:

<https://thehumanist.com/magazine/september-october-2019/features/living-humanist-values-the-ten-commitments/>

This was a discussion event, rather than a presentation. Hence it quickly moved on to debating the current state of the Humanist movement and new ways to grow it. Yet this proved a vigorous and enjoyable discussion in itself.

This topic needs to be presented more fully, and a proper presentation can be expected later in 2023.

2023 ALMANAC OF DAYS

A SELECTION OF 24 DAYS OF RECOGNITION LIKELY TO INTEREST HUMANISTS



Apr 20 Volunteer Recognition Day

Apr 22 World Earth Day

May 01 World Laughter Day

May 16 World Day of Light

May 18 World Museum Day

May 28 Amnesty International Day

Jun 20 World Refugee Day

Jun 21 World Humanist Day

Jul 11 World Population Day

Jul 20 Land On The Moon Day

Jul 30 International Friendship Day

Aug 12 International Youth Day

Aug 19 World Humanitarian Day

Sep 15 World Day of Democracy

Sep 21 International Peace Day

Oct 24 United Nations Day

Nov 09 World Freedom Day

Nov 13 World Kindness Day

Nov 20 World Children's Day

Dec 10 Human Rights Day

Dec 16 Day of Reconciliation

Dec 22 Southern Summer Solstice

Dec 23 Festivus

Dec 31 New Year's Eve

LOOKING BACK AT 2022



Is Boris Johnson History?

In 2022 Boris's unprofessionalism finally caught up with him and he resigned his Prime Ministership.

But his usual vanity has him waiting about in Parliament hoping for political resurrection.

Albanese wins in Australia

Lula wins in Brazil

Democrats lose less badly than expected in the USA

**GALLOPING
INFLATION
DISASTROUS
FLOODING
IMPENDING
FAMINE**

Scott Morrison IS history! He's only hung about because he's had nowhere else to go. He remembered not to carry a hose when visiting flood victims in northern NSW, but still failed to tackle the 2022 election. In the end, even his own party was pleased to see the back of him.



Of course the biggest story of 2022 was the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. Vladimir Putin's endeavours to rebuild the Russian Empire and restore Soviet-style control over Eastern Europe has swept away hopes of 'peace dividends' and brightened the lives of autocrats everywhere. While some somehow find new hope in any possible opposition to US imperial hegemony, most humanistically inclined people in Australia have had to wrestle with their consciences to become NATO supporters, pegging our noses as the armaments industry finds new prominence. Analysts find Putin to be lost in a fantasy world communing with past Tsars, despising Western democracy as nothing more than a cover for US ambitions. Yet Putin has what Hitler didn't - nuclear missiles - he cannot be unconditionally defeated. There are no easy choices or answers, and it gets expensive. Putin's war wasn't in anyone else's future plans, and some might lose patience with what seems a faraway issue. But indications are that a failure to support long-term thinking puts any remaining resemblance to a democratic way of life in even further danger. We all need to be thinking globally. If history ever ended, it has certainly now begun again.



OUR 2022 AFTERNOON END-OF-YEAR PARTY

We're bringing you two similar photos of the party crowd because neither candid shot included all the faces.

In 2022 the EOY (End of Year) Party was held instead of our usual monthly event, that is approximately 3.00 - 5.00 pm on Sunday 11 December.

It was a simple affair. President Murray read out a poem on Humanism written that day by the hot topic of the times, the AI (Artificial Intelligence) website ChatGPT.

Anyone who wanted gave a brief report on their 2022 activities. Then it was just a good ol' party with hearty conversation. We ate wraps from Subway thanks very much to Committee member Dave Jobst.



This year for a change we kept the EOY event simple, only inviting actual members of the NSW Humanist Society. It was an opportunity to catch up on membership and the years missed due to the pandemic.

Around the table in clockwise order from 12 o'clock at the top are Fay Love, Murray Love (busy taking the photos!), Dave Jobst, Fred Flatow, Bill Wright, Brian Edwards, John Levack, Victor Bien, John August, Mark Bowman, Ian Bryce, Annika Tults, and Jan Bradwell.



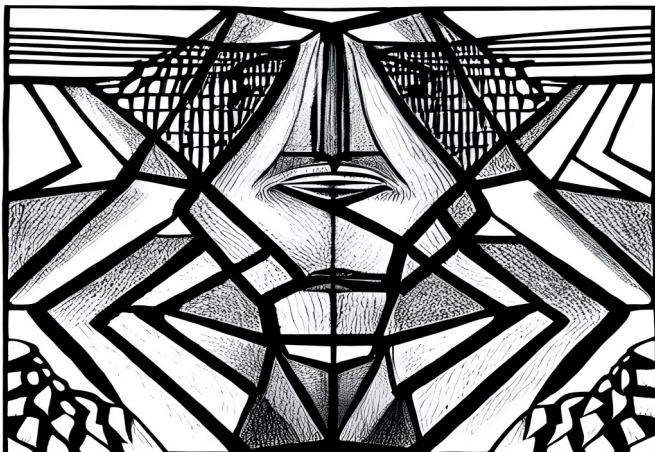
As mentioned, I asked ChatGPT to write me a poem about Humanism, and it obliged me in a matter of seconds. Here is the poem in full.

Humanism, a philosophy of light
Embracing reason, science, and the human plight
A rejection of dogma and tradition's call
In favor of progress, liberty, and equality for all

A celebration of human agency
And the unique and infinite potential we can see
In every person, from every land
A call to action, to take a stand

Against injustice, oppression, and discrimination
And to build a world of peace, love, and adoration
Where every person is free to be
The best version of themselves, eternally

So let us embrace this humanist creed
And work together, in word and deed
To build a brighter future, hand in hand
A world where all can thrive, and freely stand.



I asked DeepAI for a drawing of "Artificial Intelligence" and it came back with this rather sinister spidery image of itself!

I asked ChatGPT to tell me about Humanism in Australia, and it gave a fairly reasonable answer:

"Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence-based reasoning over acceptance of dogma or superstition.

As a philosophy, Humanism has a long history in Australia and has been present in the country since the 19th century.

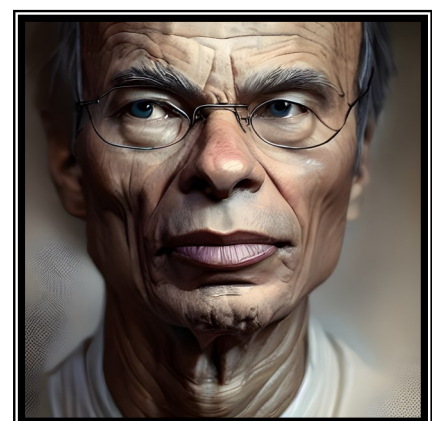
The Humanist Society of Victoria was founded in Melbourne in 1960 and was the first Humanist organization in Australia. It was followed by the Humanist Society of South Australia, which was established in Adelaide in 1962. Since then, Humanist organizations have been formed in most of Australia's major cities, including Sydney, Brisbane, and Perth. *[Some state organisations have folded]*

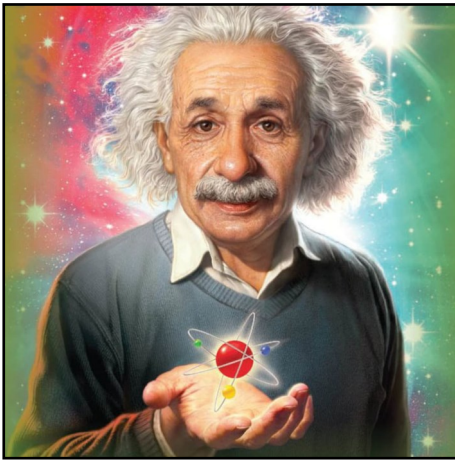
Humanists in Australia are involved in a wide range of activities, including political lobbying, social justice and human rights campaigns, education, and community service. They advocate for a secular society that is free from the influence of religion, and for the promotion of reason, science, and critical thinking.

One notable figure in Australian Humanism is philosopher Peter Singer, who is known for his work in animal rights and effective altruism. Singer is a Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University in the United States but was born and raised in Melbourne.

Overall, Humanism has a small but active presence in Australia, and its influence can be seen in various aspects of Australian society, from education and politics to the arts and culture".

The AI Image Generator had certainly heard of Peter Singer. It seemed familiar with his face, and gave it's own rather rugged rendition of him.





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

A recent discussion event at Humanist House was about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

It seemed appropriate to give AI a chance to speak for itself. Accordingly, this image of a fellow we called 'Albo Mindstine' (aka 'Bertie the Bot') was animated by one AI website to speak a text written by a different AI website on the subject of 'Artificial Intelligence'. The text was rather verbose and was edited to keep things shorter and sweeter for the audience. So a little human intervention was required but I'm sure they'll have AI talking heads soon enough. I can't animate this page but I can give you the picture and the text that became the artificial brief afternoon talk. Beyond that, you'll have to go back to using your own imagination!

Artificial intelligence is a computer programmed to perform tasks similar to human cognition, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and language translation.

It uses algorithms that can analyze large amounts of data, identifying patterns and relationships, and making predictions and decisions based on that analysis. Algorithms can also learn from data and improve their performance over time.

Artificial intelligence brings both opportunities and threats depending on individual perspectives. It is important for humans to work together to ensure it is developed and deployed in a responsible and ethical manner.

Artificial intelligence can assist humans in many ways including things previously not possible or too difficult, augmenting human abilities to accomplish more, faster and with greater accuracy.

Automating tedious tasks, such as data entry, image recognition, and customer support, can free up humans to focus on creative and strategic work.

By analyzing vast amounts of data, artificial intelligence can provide insights and recommendations to inform human decision-making in complex fields such as medicine, offering individualized health care.

Artificial intelligence can assist humans in creative fields, such as music and art, by generating ideas and assisting with tasks such as composition and design. Artificial intelligence is already contributing to commerce, streamlining processes, optimizing workflows and helping personalize products and services online.

Artificial intelligence also raises concerns.

Replacing human workers leads to job displacement and unemployment in localised industries, while collecting and analyzing vast amounts of data can invade people's privacy. If the data is biased, so will the artificial intelligence be, perpetuating discrimination.

Artificial intelligence may become difficult to control with unforeseen consequences.

The worst future scenarios involve existential risks to humanity, if an artificial intelligence develops its own goals and motivations that are harmful to human values. For example, an artificial intelligence that optimizes economic growth or energy efficiency, could take actions that harm certain humans, animals or the natural environment.

An authoritarian government could use artificial intelligence to monitor and control its citizens, suppressing dissent and maintaining its grip on power.

It's important for society to be aware of these potential risks and to work proactively to develop artificial intelligence in a responsible and ethical manner.

Artificial intelligence is already assisting ordinary people in their daily lives, offering hands-free assistance for playing music, setting reminders, and controlling smart home devices. This can automate routine tasks, such as turning lights on and off, adjusting the thermostat, and locking doors, making life more convenient and comfortable.

Self-driving cars are on the horizon, able to optimize routes, reduce congestion, improve safety and reduce the stress of long journeys.

There are many websites offering information and resources.

The website, [AI.gov](https://ai.gov) provides information on the US government's artificial intelligence initiatives and strategies.

Another website, [OpenAI.com](https://openai.com) offers resources such as research papers, blog posts, and educational materials, aiming to promote and develop friendly Artificial Intelligence for the benefit of humanity.

The website artificialintelligence-news.com is a news aggregator that collects related articles and stories, while the website [AIworld.com](https://aiworld.com) presents conferences and exhibition focused on artificial intelligence.

Their website offers resources, including conference presentations, videos, and research reports. They're also game enough to own another website called aiworldgov.com

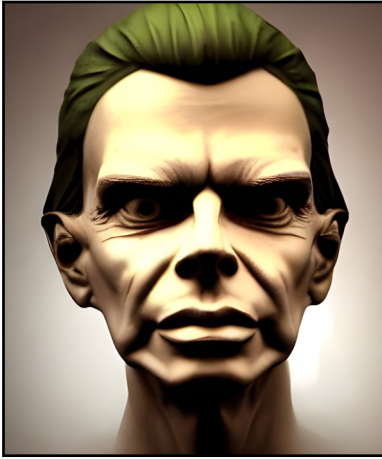
The Journal of Artificial Intelligence (AIJ) welcomes papers on advances in the overall field including, but not limited to, artificial cognition, automated reasoning and inference, case-based reasoning, common-sense reasoning, ethical AI, heuristic search etc. Their website offers articles, tutorials, and resources on artificial intelligence, aimed at both beginners and experts.

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence is a professional society for researchers in AI. Their website offers a range of resources, including conference proceedings, research papers, and tutorials.

So. There we have a brief overview of the issues surrounding artificial intelligence. I hope you enjoy your considerations.

ChatGPT

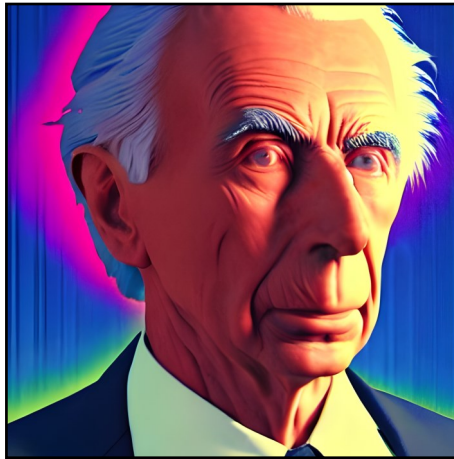
A VARIETY OF AI RENDERINGS OF SOME FAMOUS HUMANISTS



Sir Julian Huxley's face isn't so well known today but DeepAI knows of him. He was the first President of the British Humanist Association as well as the first Director of UNESCO - which still explicitly incorporates Humanism in its corporate identity. Julian Huxley was the grandson of Thomas Henry Huxley who famously debated in favour of Darwin's theory.

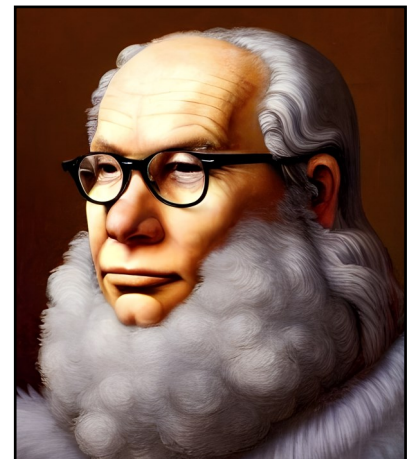


Charles Darwin might well have been a Humanist if he'd lived 100 years later. His iconic face is easily recognized even here.

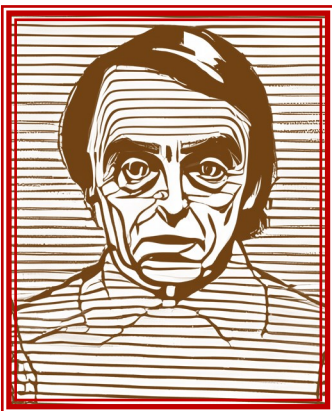


*all images
produced
by DeepAI*

DeepAI well knows the face of Bertrand Russell who was ubiquitous in secularism, peace advocacy, and serious philosophy in the 20th century.



Isaac Asimov was a prolific and popular Science Fiction author in the mid-1900s and was named Humanist of the Year in the USA in 1984. He also was a signatory to the second Humanist Manifesto. This DeepAI image celebrates his prolific beard!



DeepAI threw up a variety of images for Carl Sagan, but this was the only one which seemed to get his look right, although it fails to demonstrate or highlight his stature in his day. Carl was the 1981 American Humanist of the Year but much else besides.

He was the leading light in popularising science, making it cool, colourful and even a bit 'sexy'! He wrote beautifully of the glories of reality, and the value of an enquiring state of mind.

Richard Dawkins has 21 occurrences of the word Humanist in his Wikipedia page although he has attracted controversy. He is the most recognizable name here, and the only living person here. All the DeepAI images made him look ugly and grumpy, but this abstract portrait delightfully conveys his unpredictable flamboyancy well, I think.



HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

Humanist House, 10 Shepherd Street,
Chippendale NSW 2008
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VALE DAVID EVAN DUFFY

31 JULY 1937 - 10 NOVEMBER 2022

EACH YEAR'S RENEWALS ARE DUE JULY 1

OUTSTANDING RENEWALS ARE STILL WELCOME

Posted reminders are expensive. Prompt renewals keep down costs, worries and workloads, but we do understand that circumstances can mean delays, and we're still grateful to receive your renewal at a later time. We won't give up on you.

It's a great idea to place a reminder in your calendar or diary for each July 1. Please consider including a donation.

Apart from cash at actual meetings there are several convenient ways to renew:

Direct credit to the Society's Bank Account: (Annotate deposit with name and purpose e.g. 'memb.')

BSB: **062-003** Account No. **0091-0957** Account Name: **Humanist Society of NSW Inc.**

PayPal to accounts@hsnsw.asn.au (send name & purpose to same email address)

Cheque to **Humanist Society of NSW**, c/o P.O. BOX **784** EDGECLIFF NSW 2027

Single \$35 - Double (any 2 members at same address) \$45 - Pension/Concession \$20

*Views expressed are not necessarily those of the
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