

THE FUTURE

ATEM Conference

October 4th, 2010

Present

**That part of eternity dividing
the domain of disappointment
from the realm of hope.**

Past and Future

The Past is the region of sobs, the Future is the realm of song. In one crouches Memory, clad in sackcloth and ashes, mumbling penitential prayer; in the sunshine of the other Hope flies with free wing, beckoning to temples of success and bowers of ease.

Demographic trends

- ▣ **numbers of students to be accommodated**
- ▣ **location, size, type & number of institutions**

Economic & workforce considerations

- ▣ investment in education
- ▣ enrolments by study area
- ▣ enrolment inducements
- ▣ public/private allocation of costs
- ▣ efficiency & effectiveness

Social considerations

- ▣ values placed on contents and kinds of education
- ▣ levels of participation
- ▣ means of support

Bradley Report Definition

Higher education is defined in this report as Australian Qualifications Framework qualifications at associate degree and above and diplomas and advanced diplomas accredited in the higher education system.

The future

1. **What Australia will be like in 2060**
2. **How education will serve to make the country what it then is**
3. **The ways in which education will reflect then prevailing social and economic conditions**

Letter to a friend....

Dear Fred,

... It is the same with human history as with palaeontology. Even the best minds fail to see ... things which lie in front of their noses. Later, when the moment has arrived, one is surprised to find traces everywhere of what one has failed to see ...

Consequences...

- ▣ **consolidations rarely deliver all the promised economies**
- ▣ **they are accomplished at great social cost (closures, redundancies, unemployment)**
- ▣ **the larger the operation the greater is the potential for built-in inefficiencies**
- ▣ **they are liable to collapse under their own weight**
- ▣ **there are further social dislocations**
- ▣ **overall, the socio-economic system under which we live is shaky at best and gives signs of terminal decline**

Liquid modernity

- ▣ dispersion of power and central authority
- ▣ porosity of previously fixed boundaries
- ▣ ease of social incorporation in other communities
- ▣ appearance of a larger number of smaller institutions and political entities than exist at present

Education in 2060

- **divides between primary, secondary and tertiary education will have become blurred or be non-existent**
- **likewise for distinctions between higher, further and vocational education as 'sector' becomes a misnomer**
- **electronic technology will have been put in its proper box as an adjunct to rather than as a salvation for the education enterprise**
- **large organisations called Universities and Technical and Further Education Institutes will no longer exist**

Instead....

- ▣ **there will be a multitude of free-standing academies, schools and colleges**
- ▣ **most of them will have no more than 5 000 students and will concentrate on face-to-face teaching**
- ▣ **each of them will be specialist in character while guaranteeing easy transfer between them**
- ▣ **consequently, a student might expect to attend two or three such places before or during work**
- ▣ **they will enter joint servicing agreements, other forms of partnership but will rarely or ever coalesce**

Brave New World revisited..

The most distressing thing that can happen to a prophet is to be proved wrong; the next most distressing thing is to be proved right.

THE WIZARD OF ID

by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



Source: The Age Sept 18, 2010, A2, p45