



Talkin' bout an Evolution

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Future Sense is a podcast edited from the radio show of the same name, broadcast on BayFM in Byron Bay, Australia, at www.bayfm.org. Hosted by Nyck Jeanes and well-known international futurist, Steve McDonald, Future Sense provides a fresh, deep analysis of global trends and emerging technologies. How can we identify the layers of growth personally, socially and globally? What are the signs missed; the truths being denied? Political science, history, politics, psychology, ancient civilisations, alien contact, the new psychedelic revolution, cryptocurrency and other disruptive and distributed technologies, and much more.

This is Future Sense.

Nyck: You're tuned to BayFM. You're tuned to *Future Sense* here with Nyck Jeanes and our special guest co-host Ross Hill in the studio; but also, on the line from Edinburgh in Scotland, we have my normal co-host of the show, Steve McDonald there. How are you going, Mr. McDonald, over there in Scotland? My goodness.

Steve: Hello, Nyck and hello, Ross. I'm doing well, thanks.

Nyck: Good to hear you're on your way home. How are you feeling about that, first of all? Is it looking like you've got a clear path through the various closures and airports back to Australia—to home turf?

Steve: Yes, I'm feeling good about it at the moment. I'm all booked and the airlines have been quite responsive. I've had to change my plans as you know, and every time something has changed, the airlines have very, very quickly advised me that a flight was cancelled, etc. So I'm feeling okay about that.

Nyck: Yes, we mentioned, as you heard, I think, about Dubai International Airport. One minute in the last 24 hours they were completely closed, and they sort of changed that; because you're coming back through Dubai, but clearly, that's not an airport that they can just close *carte blanche* like that, in one fell swoop.

Steve: No, that's right. They must have realised that I was coming through there.

Nyck: Precisely. Now, you've been away for a few weeks. You were in the United States—you were in Austin, Texas, you were in West Virginia, you were in Washington—you've been in Iceland, in Reykjavik, now you are in Scotland. Other than, I guess, the US, which is in a bit of a panic mode at the moment as it's cases seem to be accelerating—'the curve', so to speak—but you've been in some of these places. What's the feeling as you've been travelling generally, as these few weeks that you've been away have transpired?

Steve: It really hasn't been too bad. Most recently in Reykjavik, in Iceland, it was pretty calm there. People were isolating—there weren't many people on the streets—some of the shops were closed, but everything was very sensible and all of the shops still had stock, so I didn't see any evidence of panic buying, which is great. Here in Edinburgh, again, it seems reasonable. It's Sunday here, so I'm not too sure how many shops are normally open on a Sunday in the city, but certainly the cafes were doing takeaway only.

Nyck: Yes, which has just come into effect here in Australia from midday today, or in New South Wales anyway—that same regulation.

Steve: Yes. It was a beautiful, sunny spring day here in Edinburgh. There were a lot of people out catching some sun, which was great. And I was being a responsible, socially distant tourist.

Nyck: Very good.

Well, the line is reasonably good. It's got that sort of long distance noise in it, but it's not too bad, so we'll see how we go. But we wanted to talk with you today, Steve, about the themes that dominate, so to speak, this show over time, and that's really about consciousness change; about change of paradigm on the planet. It would seem, as tragic and as difficult, as crazy as this whole situation is with the coronavirus on the planet right now, that there is also opportunities here—there are windows, there are doorways—there are things that we can talk about, about how this may be. We don't know for sure; we're just hypothesising here as futurists, that there are good pointers and directions here about literally a consciousness change available on the planet, so to speak. Can we expand on that a little bit here today?

Steve: Yes, sure. From the biggest perspective, the main theme here, which, of course, most people are probably not aware of, apart from listeners to our show, is this global consciousness shift from the Scientific-Industrial to the Postmodern or Relativistic—obviously a lot of people realise that there's a shift going on, but most people don't have a map for it; that was my point—which is taking us from a very individualistic way of being human to a new communal way of being human. When we understand that general flow, we can actually start to predict the kind of responses that we would expect from people who are

still living in countries where there's an individual theme dominating, or people who are in countries where there's a communal theme dominating. In reality, there are multiple shifts underway simultaneously, it's not just from Layer 5 to Layer 6 in Graves's model. There are obviously some countries like China, perhaps, where Layer 4 is very, very strong, and that worked in their favour in terms of everybody conforming to the orders of the government and doing their duty.

Nyck: Yes, it's a very important point, isn't it? That in some places, literally, it's much easier for them to do exactly that, than in our sort of individual cultures like our own and the United States, the United Kingdom, most of Europe—or some of Europe—where people are hanging on to their self, their identity; their solo needs and desires are much stronger than in other countries.

Steve: Yes, that's right. Probably in countries like the US and Australia, there's still going to be a fairly strong individually themed type behaviour, but all of these countries are in transition, so there will be parts of Australia and the US that are happy to fall in line, and other parts where people are still going to go to the beach and do their thing, as we're seeing.

Nyck: Very true.

Steve: And depending upon the mindset of the government, of course, they may dictate, or they may seek to exploit opportunities that arise as a result of this big disturbance from the virus—for example, by passing new laws—and we may also see countries that are just extremely supportive and very humanistic about it, where there's a strong Layer 6 element in government.

Ross: Isn't it interesting that the Relativistic layer that many countries are moving towards was originally described by Clare Graves as 'sacrifice now in order to get acceptance now.' Often when we talk about it, we talk about this, 'willing to change myself to fit into a group or a community (or whatever it is), and I'm changing myself so that I'm accepted by the group', but he also wrote that the alternative theme for this is 'sacrifice now in order for all to get now.' I think that's a quite interesting description, because right now we are looking at various sacrifices of the community, of the country, of ourselves, for the benefit of everyone. But it also strikes me as fascinating that this is also a new space for everyone, and so it doesn't mean that we're necessarily that good, or most accurate, or experienced at it yet, so are we making the right sacrifices? Who knows? I think most people would say we are making sacrifices, but are they measured and do they fit in and are they sustainable? That is a big question.

Steve: Absolutely. Something else that I'm starting to pick up on, which is really, really interesting, is what seems like a convergence of interest between the value systems at this point. Take, for example, the Australian government, which is well known at the moment for its self-interest—all of a sudden it's swapped to being very, very community interested, so some of the things that they're pushing for are probably things that are going to be okay with people from Layer 6 and Layer 4, for example. It's just a question of the mechanisms that they're going to try and use to get those things to happen.

It's very, very interesting. It definitely seems—and I'd be interested in your opinion from an astrological point of view, Nyck—it definitely seems like there's a forcing and accelerating. It's almost like we've been sort of squeezed into a venturi or something to speed things up.

Nyck: Well, certainly those who are interested in the bigger and the deeper levels of astrology as a map—not as a cause, by the way; it's not a causal thing, it's a reflection—it's like reading a book; a sort of multi-dimensional book, perhaps, of the themes and the changes and the energies that are moving through us all. Certainly, at this time, people are saying that it's a once in a 2,000 year occurrence of various conjunctions of planets this particular year—but particularly this week or this month—with the very, very strong Mars, Jupiter, Pluto and Saturn, all in Capricorn, in a sort of wavelike configuration of conjunctions that can only say 'things are falling apart, things are being revealed; a lot of energy is out there, a lot of martial law—martial energy is there—that martian [of Mars] energy that's crossing over as well', saying, 'yes, we're going to put regulations in place for your safety'.

But it's in the context that we are seeing the failure of the systems that underpin our societies. I think this is probably one of the key things that that we're having to face. I know you posted a piece from the BBC the other day about the UK health system, which is regarded as one of the best in the world, and yet it already knows, itself, that it is going to reach its capacity to deal with this virus very quickly, and that pretty well applies to most of our institutions that underpin our industrial era paradigm that we live in. So that revelation is very much shown there in astrology—that the emperor has no clothes, basically, and is scrambling desperately to maintain control ... and try and do the right thing, which I think people generally trying to do now—governments.

Steve: That's great, and I think it's important to remember the overall momentum that we have in this shift towards Layer 6. The old system is failing, so it really doesn't matter how hard they try to make things like they used to be, their efforts are generally not going to succeed.

Nyck: Yes.

We'll take a little break. We're talking to Steve McDonald, our regular co-host of this show, *Future Sense*, over there in Edinburgh, in Scotland; on the way back home.

A couple of texts have come in. I'll just mention them quickly: "Thanks for another great show. Re: essential services"—we'll come back to talk about that with Steve, probably, too, in

a little while—this writer, Sandy said, "I ordered a few things online on 8th of March. Australia Post received them on the 11th of March, then nothing on tracking tools. Nothing. Just a one-liner on Australian Post about delays. Wow. I guess they are busy. Perhaps getting mail moving is essential for people waiting on important deliveries. Mine was not life threatening." That's interesting, given that Australia Post, of course, and all postal services around the world, are becoming less and less relevant. But right now they are relevant again, somehow. Thanks for that.

The other text here is for our information: "Two large black 4WD public order and riot vehicles are parked outside the bar and police station." So there you go. May mean nothing, but yeah, that's good. You were going to say something about the post, Ross.

Ross: Yes, interesting, the comment about the postal deliveries; also international cargo. There's so many passenger flights that aren't travelling, but we forget that there's cargo in the bottom of a lot of those, and so there's a lot of packages and deliveries that are not happening all of a sudden. So those are being grounded. But just like the discussion with the Internet and the broad discussion of 'it's getting busier, should we just block Netflix?', it's fascinating because it's really a traditional way of looking at things and filtering things. There's not really a discussion yet about which deliveries are important, so you can't really mark your postal delivery as 'urgent' or 'not urgent'. Things will hopefully get more granular over time so that urgent things can be delivered urgently and less urgent things can take the slow route.

Nyck: Yes, good. We'll be back very shortly here on BayFM, on *Future Sense*.

Nyck: You are on *Future Sense* here, with Nyck Jeanes and Ross Hill; and Steve McDonald, who is in Edinburgh in Scotland. We are talking to him about the coronavirus, and particularly more about what it is pointing us to. What are the changes that we can look for? What are the sources of information that might be important to us?

In terms of sources of information, we were just talking offline there about the trusting of source and sources. I've noticed a lot of people in this region, for example, who have normally being relatively politically progressive—green, left wing, if you will, generally on that side of the political spectrum—who are tending to, for the first time, be a little bit more in alignment with the authorities; people who don't normally at all trust politicians, especially of the coalition [right wing] variety in this country, or even health industries, education, all of these institutions which were once upon a time—law, legal institutions—once upon a time were sort of bastions of our culture. For many people, we don't trust these institutions anymore. In fact, probably the trust in these institutions is at an all-time low, but suddenly we're having to trust these institutions and a lot of people are. And that's rather interesting. You've got some interesting pieces there, Ross, about that.

Ross: Yes, there's a report from *Edelman*, from a survey that they did in ten different countries in early March, and it said the most credible source is employer communications (<https://www.edelman.com/sites/g/files/aatuss191/files/2020-03/2020%20Edelman%20Trust%20Barometer%20Brands%20and%20the%20Coronavirus.pdf>) . I thought that was interesting, that the most credible source is employer communications. The most relied upon source of information is mainstream news, and the most trusted spokespeople are scientists and doctors.

So that was quite interesting because 85 percent of the survey respondents said they want to hear more from scientists and less from politicians, and nearly 60 percent of the respondents said that the crisis is being exaggerated for political gain. Again, none of this is surprising, but it's good to have some numbers behind it. I did think that the credible source being employer communications is quite fascinating because there are very different value sets currently running in society, and the people who choose to work with every day are probably of a similar or a supportive mindset and values set to you, so it's interesting that that may be suggesting a sort of gap between some of the leadership in our organisations that we choose to spend our time with day by day, and then the political system which is fixed across the whole country.

Nyck: Yes. Steve, what what's your take on that?

Steve: Quite interesting. Usually when people are put under pressure, they will shift their values to some extent and it can go either way. Some people might go to a more complex set of values, some people might regress to a simpler set of values, but one thing's for sure, when there's a common problem that everyone needs to solve, it does bring people together more than anything else. I guess we saw extreme examples of that in the World Wars, of course, where there was a common enemy that people could all look at and focus their efforts towards. The same thing, I'm sure, is happening to some extent here with this virus. It's a common problem that we all need to solve and that does help us get over some of the values differences, for sure.

Nyck: Yes, that's interesting that we actually transcend those differences when the common good is at play. Also, scientific discoveries, research and development, increase generally in those kind of extreme crisis periods, and you do get some very fast discoveries. I think we're seeing that somewhat in the scientific space regarding COVID-19 as well, although it's a bit hard to know exactly what ... there are claims about vaccines coming online, there are claims about discoveries regarding the DNA. It's a bit hard to know exactly what the truth is there, and we are yet to find applications for that that are obviously online at this point. Have you heard of anything out there, Steve, in the world, on a scientific basis regarding research?

Steve: Nothing concrete. Certainly there's a lot of research going on. I'm sure there's a lot of people who are moving as fast as they can, because whoever comes up with the first vaccine,

if they do ever find one, stands to make a lot of money out of it. So that's definitely going to be a motivator for the big pharmaceutical companies, for sure.

Nyck: Yes.

Let's talk a little bit, while we've got you on the line, about economics. You've made the point, in some communications with us in the last 24 hours or so, regarding economics and money generally, and the notion that with all these incredible bailouts, if you will, or these government handouts (whatever you want to call them) that are coming online, and the incredible volatility of the stock markets around the world, how does that add up financially? And also, as you point out, Steve, in Third World countries, of course, where monetary and fiscal policy breaks down much easier because they're already on an edge, everything is a bit different in those places. You saw that, of course, when you were in the military in Somalia in the in the early 90s, this kind of idea where a lot of our projections onto the way people are going to behave do not apply when it comes to other countries that are not First World.

Steve: That's very true, and it counts for a lot more than just economics, of course. A lot of the discussions that are going on right at the moment are still separated by that sort of First World/Second World/Third World gap that we have.

Let's just talk about economics for a second. The fact is that the world has been headed for a major economic collapse for a long time, and this year was flagged years ago as being a critical turning point, particularly by Martin Armstrong and his computer algorithm, and that has proved to be accurate once again—his computer is pretty reliable, actually. So even though it looks like this virus has disrupted the economy, actually the economy was already tipping over, and this has just been the last straw, I guess. From what I've read, most economists are really scratching their head and trying to figure out what happens next, because there's money being promised and spent that basically isn't there, but of course, governments can just print money these days whenever they want to. Then what are the downstream effects of that?—usually inflation and those sorts of things—so it's going to be very interesting to watch. I don't think anybody has the answers.

What I can say is that Martin Armstrong has been predicting the kind of obstacles that have been showing up over the last couple of years in relation to economic collapse, and particularly the problems in Europe, and he has come out and said that some of the major obstacles he saw and couldn't figure out how they would be removed in terms of progressing our economic system, have actually shifted as a result of this virus, and that is going to have major, major implications on how we come out the other side of it. I don't think anybody's got a really clear picture yet, but all we can say for sure is that it's not going to be the same as it was.

Nyck: He also claims, on www.armstrongeconomics.com, that numerous political people apparently sold their stocks on insider information in the US and Europe—high level elites, tipped off about what was going to happen; and they were sold on the ECM, which is his

Economic Confidence Model that we talk about here on the show quite often, and that there was a curious fact that the sales took place just two days after his Confidence Model predictions, suggesting that some people out there with the money—some of the elites—knew what was happening, more so than most people did. But that's kind of obvious in one sense, isn't it? Or is there something in this? What do you think about this?

Steve: I really can't say that there's anything in it for sure. The fact is that he forecast the 18th of January as an economic turning point and it certainly has turned out that way. With his ECM turning points, the action doesn't always happen on the day, but usually it follows soon after the date, and we saw that happen. Whether these people were simply acting on his advice or not, he doesn't seem to think that's the case. One thing he did say was most unusual is, normally when people are going to respond to some economic turning point like that, there's a limit to the kinds of commodities that they will get out of, or investments that they'll get out of, and it broke the normal rule this time around. So people were doing things that they don't normally do. But again, in terms of being able to say for sure what was going on, we just don't have any confirmed information around that right now.

I mean, as I've been saying right from the start on our show, there are a lot of things that don't add up about this virus outbreak in the first place; and also, secondly, what seemed to be a very heavy-handed response to the virus. Even though this situation is not good, and I would urge anybody listening to follow all of the instructions that we're getting because we really need to get it under control, but still, I think when we look back on it in some years' time, and we have more information, we're going to find that things weren't exactly as they seemed.

Nyck: Yes, I think that's quite likely. Ross, anything to add there?

Ross: Yes, it is interesting, looking forward, and more into the hypothetical spaces. If we are responding to the virus in such a big way, will we also start responding to other major issues and health issues in a similar fashion? I find it fascinating that each day, on average, 3,000 people die in car crashes. It's a number that most people don't know about, but it's a huge number. What if we did put this many resources into a different issue? What if we did put this many resources into other forms of health as well? The Italian statistics from the government there have said that the most virus fatalities come from people with pre-existing conditions, and I think that's also an interesting space because in the Western society, I don't think we talk about pre-existing conditions or hidden conditions that you can't see on the surface as much. This may actually give us a bit of reflection and insight into how much we do value health, so I'd expect to see a huge burst into more wellness activities and different types of health on the other side of this.

Nyck: Mmm. Very good.

Steve: Yes. One thing that I have figured out is that the critical factor in terms of our response, really, is our capacity to handle emergency cases or critical care cases, and that relies on having the staff, the hospital beds, and, in the case of COVID-19, ventilators to help people breathe. I was working as a rescue helicopter pilot back in the 90s and there were no pandemics going on at the time—nothing unusual, it was all pretty much business as normal—and I would, from time to time, get told not to fly to a hospital because they were out of beds, but to take a patient to a different hospital in a different town. I think that's a pretty good measure of what the Scientific-Industrial mindset—the Layer 5 mindset—has done to our health system, because that mindset is all about efficiency and it's all about profit, and you don't want to spend money on things that aren't necessary, so the efficiency has become so efficient that we've actually got no fat in the system whatsoever; and then it doesn't take very much at all to actually make the system fall over.

In that piece that I sent around between us earlier in the week, which was an interview with an A&E doctor from the U.K. here, you could hear the alarm in his voice—that they weren't coping; he was worried about getting to the point where he had more patients than ventilators and then having to decide which patients actually get the ventilators and live, and which patients die. It hasn't got that bad here yet, and let's hope it doesn't, but it just goes to show how fragile our systems are. The opposite of that is to have sustainable systems, and of course, that theme applies right across the board in terms of this values shift from Layer 5 to Layer 6. We're going from profit-focused efficiency to long-term sustainability and regeneration, and that has to happen right across the board, including our health system.

Nyck: Very good. Beautiful.

We'll take a break there, here on the *Future Sense*. We're talking to Steve McDonald over there in Edinburgh, in Scotland, and Ross Hill, here in the studio with me in BayFM in Byron Bay, in Byron Shire in New South Wales, Australia. If you're tuning in via podcast, g'day to you, hello, thanks for joining us here. Podcasts are available usually within about 24 hours of this show via www.futuresense.it or any other of your platforms for podcast listening.

Nyck: You're on *Future Sense* here with myself, Nyck Jeanes; Ross Hill is in the studio and Steve McDonald, my normal co-host, is over there in Edinburgh in Scotland. We're just going to talk a bit more to Steve about a couple of these issues.

We were talking there about the medical system and the breakdown of that, or the likelihood, and the relationship of that to the current paradigm of efficacy and efficiency and getting things delivered at the lowest possible cost to most people as quickly as possible, but what we're seeing now is immediately a strain on all of these systems. The critical point, medically ... you were suggesting, Steve, off air just before, that the way that governments around the world are responding is because they are aware that public unrest—and we certainly don't want to put any fear anybody's hearts here—but public unrest regarding the failure of medical systems could be fairly intense going forward. What do you make of that?

Steve: If we think about the global paradigm shift and the values moving from Scientific-Industrial to what's next, which is Layer 6 Relativistic Postmodern, going back to the 60s in particular, we saw a wave of public demonstrations—people disagreeing with government policy, protesting against the Vietnam War, those sorts of things—and that was a little warning flag for the mainstream thinkers at the time. And they did a lot. They introduced the War on Drugs and a whole bunch of other things to try and manage that—to smash it down again—and they did quite successfully to some extent. And here it is again, starting to rise. If you think back to last year, we had the *Extinction Rebellion* protests, particularly here in the UK; and Hong Kong was going off, and those sorts of things.

Nyck: *Yellow Vests* in France.

Steve: Exactly, yes, in many places. So it's a very tense time for government. You've got to remember that these governments are operating according to the old paradigm and they're trying to figure out how to fix this which appears as a problem to them, and all they've got in their toolkit are the old ways of doing things. So they'll keep trying the old ways which are inevitably not working so well.

In the context of that, you can understand why there's been such a sudden global reaction to this problem, because the last thing that governments want is to have their own systems overwhelmed, as well as this general murmur that's happening within the global population saying that things need to change. Really, the critical point, as we were just saying before the break, is the health system, because our health system has no excess capacity. On a normal day in most hospitals—in Western countries, at least—they're struggling to find extra beds, and they're struggling for staff. Then you throw a pandemic in the pot and it can very quickly overwhelm the system.

I also just want to mention that this is a very, very First World issue—the idea of panicking in a hospital because we've run out of ventilators. I mean, there are places around the world that don't have ventilators. We need to remember that, and that's part of the issue here, too: is, in bringing the world together, we have to try as best we can to bring the world up to some kind of a level playing field; and that's very much the theme of Layer 6. There are places in the world where they have what we in the First World would call a terrible, terrible crisis, and that's just operations-normal for them. They don't have the medical facilities, the hospitals or the trained doctors that we have, and it's important to remember that.

Nyck: Yes, indeed. You used the wonderful analogy before that we've got this kind of on/off switch with all of this going at the moment—it's either this or that—whereas really we need a much more sophisticated way of responding. What would it look like in a prospective future of a different kind of medical system, a health system, for example? What would it look like in response to this kind of situation we're now in?

Steve: Well, I'm thinking back to my time in the military. The military is all about handling chaos and responding to chaotic situations, and the way that it does that is it prepares and trained people and it keeps stockpiles of equipment that might be used, for example. We really need to try and extend that mindset into civilian society in terms of understanding what our major threats are now. We're moving into a time where the world is going to be more peaceful—that's one of the main themes of Layer 6 consciousness, is that we're actually moving beyond wanting to kill each other. So how can we take advantage of the things that we've done in the past and the experience we have, to bring some of that increased management capacity to issues like public health, for example? What that would look like is having a very, very focused health intelligence system so that we keep track of future threats that we might need to face, putting resources—maybe resources that we would normally spend on bombs and warships—into public health to make sure that we have an excess of people available on a regular basis.

In the military, they do that kind of thing through training Reserves. I had people who were not as well trained as—let's put it in a health context—they're not as well trained as a fulltime emergency doctor, but they might just have specialist training on how to help intubate a patient who needs to be on a ventilator, for example. So we could have people like that who are trained. Maybe that's not their regular day job, but in times of need, when we need to call on extra people, they're there, they're already trained, they know how to help a doctor and ventilate a patient. Then, of course, stockpiles of the equipment that we would need. With the world changing the way it is, we're likely to be seeing more pandemics in the future. A lot of people have been saying this for a long time. It's just that no-one's been actually acting on the advice.

Nyck: Well, as you said, of course, when the world is dominated by, in Graves's model, by Layer 5, those resources for future possibilities like that are not usually likely to be allocated in that way, are they? And that's a really big change that we're literally being forced to address, and hopefully some real changes will be made as you're suggesting there.

Steve: Yes, absolutely. When you don't have options to solve a problem, you end up having to think like an on/off switch: you either do what you can or you do nothing, and that's really what we're seeing globally at the moment from most countries now. It's like, 'OK, we don't have any options apart from let's just throw everything at this and let's shut everything down.' There's no real measured response going on in most countries, although in some countries there has been. I think Singapore probably stands out as a good example from what I've been reading, because they did a lot of intensive testing, they put a lot of measure into their response that we just haven't seen in other countries.

Ross: Singapore can do that because they have such incredible surveillance. It's a pretty small place, but they have some of the best tracking in the world, whereas other countries have been a bit more, maybe secretive in some respects about it. We have the metadata collection here with all of the ISPs, but it's not something that's really discussed in how it's

being used, whereas Singapore just went straight to it and said, we're going to track everyone.

Steve: Yes, that's a really good point, Ross. We should remember that we do have the capacity to do it in Australia. We've been tracking mobile phones for a long time, but it's a secret, and the government doesn't want to get everybody to think that they're doing it all the time to our citizens, but if we really had to, we could. We have the capability.

Ross: Yes. Singapore have been doing it, China have been doing it.

Nyck: But of course, those are societies which are more regimented, more strict, more rigorous in their control of their population anyway, so it's much more receptive already in those populations for these kind of strategies.

Steve: Yes, so in terms of response, ideally you don't want an on/off switch.

I'm thinking back again to my military experience where there were cases in history where military forces had to try and control populations of civilians who might be rioting or threatening the government or whatever, but they weren't armed. What can the military do? I mean, in the old days, all they had was a rifle and it was either shoot or don't shoot, you know? And of course, there were some terrible occasions that have gone down in history where soldiers did shoot unarmed civilians because they had no other choice. What the military did over time was they learnt to actually equip themselves to be able to do things other than shoot people, like to have riot gear and behave like police and those sorts of things. That kind of general concept needs to be transferred across to this problem that we're facing now. So it's not just 'OK, everything or nothing.' Instead an on/off switch, we have a volume knob and we can adjust the volume; and as things get a little bit worse, if needs be, we can adjust the volume a little bit more.

Nyck: Up to 11.

Steve: Exactly. There is data coming through now, so we can learn from what we know has been the experience in other countries—China and Italy in particular—that there are certain parts of the population who are way more vulnerable than other parts of the population. If, from the very start, we could focus on the more vulnerable and protect them and make sure that they were looked after, that would be an example of a moderated response rather than just hitting the on switch and hitting everybody. It's unfortunate, but that's what happens when you don't prepare for things.

Ross: Also, the shift in how much information we have now is really profound and incredible, just in the last few years. The iPhone is only 11 years old now, so things are rapidly changing. I think, Steve, you mentioned something about the trucks at the police station being a usual thing as well.

Nyck: Oh, yes, because we had a text in about a couple of black 4WD public order riot vehicles outside the Byron police station. We don't want to get you fearful about that, because they do turn up, apparently, as Steve said, at school holidays. But it ain't school holidays quite yet here. They are in Victoria, but, yeah, they're there, so there you go.

Ross: But if the school holidays are coming, it is normal.

Nyck: The school holidays are coming. They may be preparing before. That's good.

Steve: Yes, I've often scratched my head in the past, wondering why the Riot Squad is in Byron Bay. It's usually *Schoolies Week* in particular. That's when they come, around the end of the year. It's overkill, but they do it.

Nyck: Well, they're scary, those kind of vehicles—black 4WD vehicles like that. Just their very presence can do something to some people.

Steve: Yes, I think that's the idea, Nyck.

Nyck: Oh really? You think? Engendering more fear.

We've got a text in, Steve, before we maybe let you go. We're moving through with time here, but I got a text in which is an interesting one about science. We were talking about technological developments here, and this is from our listener, Dudley, who's always listening to us. Hi, Dudley: "Your comments regarding the double-edged-sword nature of much of technology developments, which can potentially be of great value or of great threat to public wellbeing, getting the great benefits of technological development without the need to fear and resist it will only be achieved when we know we can trust all involved. This might sound fanciful, but it is not impossible, and realising this can focus us on the great potential of developing the understanding that we all belong to the one human family and all are part of the one living planet." So the question there being: How do we discern between positive technological use and other?

Ross: And also a question for Steve: as we usually expect a slingshot effect and a regressive step before going forward to the new layer, what should we keep an eye out for in terms of

the distinctions between a rigid one-right-way, and maybe a more forward-looking Relativistic response?

Steve: That's good, because it's the same answer to both questions. Essentially, the double-edged sword thing is really about human values: which human, with what values, is using the technology? You can break that down to: is it self-serving or is it serving the greater good? It's as simple as that. So what we should look for as we're moving forward is decentralisation of authority, away from centralised government and empowering communities. That's a really, really strong theme of the emerging Layer 6, so when we see that kind of stuff happening, that's a very, very positive sign.

Nyck: Yes, very good. Another text, just come in: "We are learning that 'we' truly does matter first and foremost, before 'I'. Win-win for all is not optional. So sadly painful for me, this win-loss paradigm", says the writer, "It has to end. Care and love, Nyck and Steve and Ross. The change is too late for myself, but wonderful to know future we's and my child will enjoy the better world to come." That's a positive take. Thank you for that.

Steve: That's great. That, again, is very representative of this paradigm shift that we're in at the moment, and somewhere down the track, when we see this great leap into Second Tier consciousness, we'll get to the point where we can apply individual values to problems that require that kind of solution and collective values to problems that require a collective solution, so it'll be more balanced.

Nyck: Nice. Lovely. We'll leave you there, Steve. We'll let you go. Thanks for joining us from Edinburgh and we'll see you back sometime in the next short period of time, and back live in this region. It will be good to have you home, and travel safely as you do so.

Steve: Thanks Nyck, and Ross, for holding the show there while I'm away. Much appreciated.

Nyck: Greatly appreciated, too. Thanks, Steve. Talk to you soon.

Steve: Cheers.

Nyck: And your tuned still to *Future Sense* with Nyck Jeanes and Ross Hill here, and we've been talking about all things that are going on around the planet.

As I said to you off air, Ross, it's interesting as I do research, I come across all sorts of things. This fell into my lap yesterday, and I thought it was kind of interesting, just hypothesising, or

just thinking about it for myself. Thirty years ago in November was the date of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and that is pretty interesting in itself, but back in 1973, "East German psychiatrist Dietfried Müller-Hegemann observed that his patients who lived close to the Berlin Wall showed higher rates of psychosis, schizophrenia, and phobias. Those East Germans who lived in the shadow of the Wall suffered rage, dejection, and alcoholism—and were more likely to kill themselves. And the closer to the physical wall his patients lived, the more acute their disorders" (<https://marcellocicintio.com/2014/11/03/the-berlin-wall-disease/>). When the wall came down, it was an it was an incredible "emotional climax", it was observed, of "the unloading and the cathartic breaking through of the unconscious after those years of repression behind the wall." This writer has also witnessed that sufferers of the disease exist in Palestine, in Cyprus, in Belfast and along the US Mexico border, where there's supposedly a wall going up; and "our contemporary walls and barriers continue to inflict psychic pain on those that live in their shadows".

'The psychic walls and barriers'—there are two sides to this that I want to just bring up very briefly as a sort of philosophical discussion. At this time, with this social isolation and social distancing—forced quarantining, if you will—one way or the other, it's creating a certain set of walls. But it is also an opportunity to *not* find yourself in a sort of psychosis behind that wall. There's an opportunity there for a different kind of response, I think, offered here.

Ross: Yes. I think it's particularly noticeable because the values set that we're moving into is really driven by human connection, and so we're looking for human connection more than ever and yet there are these walls. At the same time, the walls are getting more subtle. The Berlin Wall was a physical brick wall that you could walk up to and you could see it and it was pretty obvious, whereas these are, you know, a few metres around us in isolation. They're kind of moving walls and we carry them everywhere. You can't see them, but you *can* see them because you do have this response. It's a fascinating thing.

I was just chatting with my friend, an online teacher, Will, and he said that he's noticing that the teachers he's working with having a difficult time about working online because there was this underlying stress already, and people aren't used to dealing with situations where there's no plan at all. So a lot of these responses that we have are being made up on the spot, which does force some level of creativity. It is interesting because we usually spend quite a bit of energy avoiding the unknown, and yet here it is as a great wall—unavoidable, and so we're going to have to deal with it.

Nyck: Yes, that's true. Also, on one hand, not to fall behind the wall into a depression or psychosis, or addictions or compulsions that are not health-full for you; but also on the other side of that, I'm thinking, too, the paradox being that to some degree, we probably all do need to find our own selves within our own boundaries, more so than we have. In this independent, I-centred era that we been in: yes! Nevertheless, everything's sort of leaking from one thing to the other: fake news—we don't know what the truth is; we're overwhelmed, we're confused, we don't know where to go for our sources, and so forth. So in some ways, to retreat into your own space, potentially could be very good. And as you say,

it can be creative. It can be that, but not to go too far that way and to lose yourself in being isolated. And that, as we said earlier in the show, is about the tone of our response now.

What's the tone of your response? How do you find a place to be measured but not fearful; to follow instructions, but to be realistic about them, too, etc, etc?

Ross: Yes, and it's probably good to be conscious of not being too isolated, but also not running away from the isolation.

Nyck: Exactly.

Ross: It is a great reset that's happening, and we've got these reminders everywhere of rethinking some of our fixed habits because they're right in front of our face. It's very easy, and I think it happens every hour that we're looking around, doing something that we usually do, and then you have that fear and panic that rises, of like, hang on, I can't do that. What about this and what about that? It's very easy to get carried away with that, and it's pretty important to remember that step one is to breathe. Step two, breathe again, and then just carry on.

Nyck: And if you stop breathing, then you've definitely got problems.

Ross: And chuckle. Always throw in a chuckle.

Nyck: And chuckle. Chuckling's good. A bit of laughter. There's some funny stuff out there. I was almost going to play a couple of funny things that have crossed over my screen regarding the coronavirus, but they're almost a little bit too edgy here and there. You don't know how people are going to respond. I played that track before from Björk, called *Virus*, and some people might not like that.

Ross: Well, there's a lot of paradox, and I think it's probably healthy not to jump to quick conclusions, as well. I just saw a note from *Tinder*, which is all about hooking up and swiping left and right.

Nyck: Oh what did they say? No more swiping. You've got to wipe and then swipe!

Ross: Wipe and then swipe. But also, don't necessarily go out and hook up tonight.

Nyck: Yeah, because you might end up with that person for the next two weeks.

Ross: You may indeed. What's interesting is that their response has been to unlock a feature called 'Passport', where you can pretend to be anywhere in the world, and so you can start swiping from different places in the world, keep chatting with people, keep swiping, but don't necessarily meet tonight, for a little while.

Nyck: Good point. It does make me think also, about some of the social media we've been talking about today, and some of the platforms, and some of the use of the Net that Ross was talking about, particularly earlier in the show today. I did notice a local group—I think it's a local group—called *The Kindness Pandemic*, which has an incredible number, very quickly, of people who have joined up, and a lot of interaction: a lot of chatting going on, a lot of comments going on there. It just goes to show that in this space we can focus on the things that matter. We can actually create kindness with each other, care for each other. There's been quite a lot of social groups online too, I believe, social media platforms where people set up little groups locally, in neighbourhoods and so forth, to offer services to take some food to an elderly neighbour up the road, these kind of things. So we're seeing this real sort of return to a tribalism, in a sense—a better sense of local community and tribalism; of localisation, of resilience locally—but actually created by the availability of our technological platforms that exist, that we can use to facilitate that. So interesting times, to say the least.

Ross: Certainly is, and it's a good point to make that we think of all these websites as distinct websites a lot of the time, but most of them are actually just fancy messaging apps. So you might be on a knitting website, but you can message people directly. You might be on a grocery page and you can message someone; on *Tinder*, you can message people. Every app's a messaging app.

Nyck: That reminds me of that person at the cafe yesterday with a ball of wool tattooed on her arm with two knitting needles through the ball of wool. I found that a very interesting tattoo. I don't know what that means.

Ross: There's a lot of knitting opportunities at the moment.

Nyck: A lot of knitting opportunities.

We've got to go. Thanks very much for joining us here on *Future Sense*. As we've been saying, if you want to tune in later to the podcast, within 24 hours, usually: www.futuresense.it. That's the podcast, which is usually added in two or three sections. We do take out the music (which is great) that we play, but nevertheless we take the music out and we take out sponsorship announcements and so forth and just leave it with the meat in

the sandwich. But if you do want to listen to the music and the rest of the show, you can also go on to the BayFM website, to the programme page of *Future Sense*, and you can listen to any other full shows there.

Thanks for joining us. Thanks very much, Ross, for being here. You may also be here next week, we don't know yet; or none of us will be here next week. We'll be here somehow because BayFM will keep broadcasting something.

Ross: We'll be online somewhere.

Nyck: We'll be online somewhere. Thanks for being with us.

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