

Mudjimba QLD 4564

Mobile:
Email:

Saturday, 6 November 2021

Dear Everybody ,

Thanks

Thank you for your kind words. They are most welcome.

I hope you understand that I'm possibly the most fortunate person on the planet. I'm surrounded by a wonderfully supportive family and friends, like you. I also have the best access to excellent medical care.

Over the past few weeks, I've spoken to so many people; friends from across the planet and across the street, school mates and work colleagues from decades ago, even video conferences with relatives. There have been many visits from close friends, and I'm regularly surrounded by my loving family.

To be honest, I'm not entirely sure *who* I have told *what* to. Some folks politely didn't ask everything; others, I may have glossed over details. So, I'm putting all the important stuff here in one place; no secrets, no guesses, no misinformation, no rumours.

Family

Did I tell you I was fortunate?

I was born at the right time, on the best continent, with the correct colour skin, to a wonderful family, with every opportunity in front of me.

But then it stepped up a notch when I was allowed to put an engagement ring on this wonderful lady's finger in 1975.

Maureen and I celebrated our joyful 45th Wedding Anniversary earlier this year.



How it started...



and how it's going.

Since 1975, we have built an excellent family home and, better still, a family with three wonderful sons who are intelligent and, we are proud to say, are very **kind**.

I haven't been easy. But Maureen has, in many ways, kept me fed, clothed, housed, widely travelled ^[1] and on multiple occasions, *alive* ^[2]. She's the one that I love. ❤️

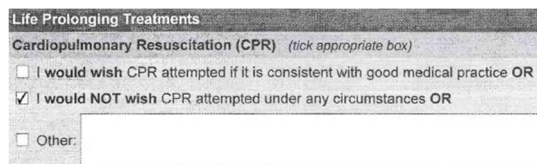
Medical

In case you are worried about the medical stuff, I've been dealing with metastatic pancreatic cancer for four years, chasing it around the body with radiation and chemotherapy and batting way above average in terms of expected survival.

But it has recently spread to the brain, with neurological symptoms, (decreasing dexterity, odd visual effects, loss of balance, weakness) with "cognitive decline" next on the list. Certain decisions, that other people might find hard to make, have had to be made now. I've decided to not undertake full-head radiation which might prolong life by a few weeks but would hasten "cognitive decline". There is also a moderate probability of either a brain bleed or "coning", a highly adverse event, at any time.

Again, I'm fortunate. Not many people get this "warning shot" to "get their affairs in order".

I'm also fortunate to have had some experience with decision-making processes; evaluating probabilities and consequences to calculate risk. I'm happy with the decisions I have made, and I have put these in writing.



I have recently ticked the "NO CPR" box.

The Future

Finally, I'm quite calm about the state I am currently in and about my future. But I do hold grave fears for my grandchildren's future. My generation is casually condemning them to a future over 1.5°C Global Heating; a future of rising sea levels, melted roads, buckled rail lines, failed agriculture, environmental refugees, species extinction, civil unrest, even human extinction.

And all the while, corrupt politicians, billionaires, fossil-fuel lobbyists, and company decision-makers use their power and privilege to increase global CO₂ and profit now from the pain to be borne by future generations.

When I stop going on about this, my dear wife (and my attorneys) will know that the aforementioned "cognitive decline" will have kicked in. 😊

In the meantime, you could help kick the LNP government out, vote Greens, or at least help spread my simple message...

*"Be kind to each other,
and to this planet we all share."*

I love you all! ❤️❤️ -- Mike Fitzsimon



[1] **Widely travelled.** About 120 countries since my major surgery in 2001; every continent, including three weeks in Antarctica.

[2] **Alive:** With her skill at observing symptoms, it was Maureen alone who detected the spread to the spine and other bones, leading to significant pain-relieving radiation treatment.