

Attn: Peter Harrison Questions and concerns about SCU's relationship to Oceanic Research Institute and Earl de Blonville.

From kentmadin <kentmadin@proton.me>

To fseinfo@scu.edu.au

Date Sunday, May 14th, 2023 at 11:57 AM

Please forward to Peter Harrison.

Professor Harrison,

On the ORI website you are no longer listed as a member of the Research Committee. Richard Mitry, ORI "corporate counsel" is also gone. Ove Hough-Guldberg and Richard Gilmore, formally members of the International Advisory Panel are also gone. Professor Hough-Guldberg informed me that he resigned in 2019 though he was only removed in the last week or so, along with Gilmore. If, in fact, you are no longer a member of the Research Committee then technically, ORI cannot spend any money until a new member is nominated to CSIRO and approved.

As I am sure you realize, I am determined to document the story of Earle de Blonville's latest scheme, ORI. This has been my stated objective since my first contact with you and others at SCU. What should have been a straightforward discussion about how you and SCU decided to link arms with ORI has turned into a dark comedy, fueled by Earle de Blonville's fevered fantasy of being a victim of cyberstalking. That absurd notion, debunked by multiple police agencies, appears to have informed your decision to stonewall my inquiries. It must be apparent to you now that ORI is dead in the water and has no foreseeable role in ocean research, no potential for raising money, not even the ability to keep the ORI website and social media pages current.

Are you still affiliated with ORI and if not, why not?

Please be so kind and respond.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: kentmadin <kentmadin@proton.me>

Date: On Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 at 4:35 PM

Subject: Questions and concerns about SCU's relationship to Oceanic Research Institute and Earl de Blonville.

To: peter.harrison@scu.edu.au <peter.harrison@scu.edu.au>

CC: sandra.mcphee@scu.edu.au <sandra.mcphee@scu.edu.au>, governance.services@scu.edu.au

<governance.services@scu.edu.au>, tyrone.carlin@scu.edu.au <tyrone.carlin@scu.edu.au>, travis.walker@scu.edu.au

<travis.walker@scu.edu.au>

Dear Dr. Harrison,

Having written to you several times over the last 6 years, with no response, I'll try, try again. I reached out to you back in 2017 to provide some perspective on [Earl de Blonville](#) via both your email and your Facebook page. I had hoped to alert you, for your benefit and that of SCU, to elements of Earl's history that he probably didn't share with you when he was pitching the idea of Oceanic Research Institute partnering with SCU. I have been interested in publishing the story of a group of "explorer" grifters, Earl among them, since 2012. Following the threads of Earl's story has led me into the rather opaque machinations of academia, both at SCU and RMIT.

[Here's Earl's current promotional page where he exhorts "leaders" to create their own reality.](#)

i have read virtually everything Earl has published, online or otherwise, interviewed dozens of people who have known and associated with him from youth to present day, compared his many professional claims against well-documented fact and had my own direct communications with him (which ranged from bizarre to banal). I have also received extensive documents through the FOI/GIPA process from both SCU, CSIRO and RMIT. Earl is a smart guy and clearly charismatic and convincing, at least in the early stages of acquaintance. But then there ARE no dumb, uncharismatic, successful grifters. Any smart guy with a void instead of a conscience can be a great grifter. And a grifter knows that in a landscape of common interests, interests that excite the emotions (like saving the planet/ocean) much of the work of establishing credibility is easy as long as you pose as a fervent climate warrior. Earl has been spruiking the idea of himself as a climate change warrior since 2008 but in fact, has achieved nothing. He's even revived the original "[high school students go to Greenland](#)" plan which failed utterly in 2008, never proceeding beyond publishing a website. Earl's various schemes have common elements: Earl in charge, a fancy website, no money, inevitable failure touted as success.

You are welcome, of course, to your own differing view on Earl. I would love to finally hear someone actually extol his efforts or corroborate his many claims of achievement. You've been on his Research Committee for six years and he has been an adjunct faculty for that time as well. I imagine you may have other insights into his accomplishments. I have questions for you about the ORI Research Committee of which you are a member. And if any of the conclusions I have drawn in this note need correcting, please do so.

[An ARI Research Committee exists for the sole purpose of making sure that ALL donated funds to an ARI \(like ORI\) are used for research.](#) Referring to those Australian Tax Office explanations regarding ARI's, it is clear that the intention was that ORI would only become an ARI if joined at the hip to SCU. On the strength of that connection to SCU (and Earl's hyperbole) ORI has solicited and received, from the public, about \$160K AUD over the last 4 reporting periods and spent it all and then some. Refurbishing the two sailboats owned by Earl and Jennifer Gidley was THE focus of the fundraising effort. In ORI's application to CSIRO for ARI status, Earl claimed that both sailboats were "owned" by ORI. Earl now claims he sold his sailboat to a nameless "German from Rostock" for 10 Euro (and neglected to tell the harbormaster where the sunken "Courage" lay) and now the new story is that Gidley has always owned the La Boheme. Unless there was some secret switching of ownership, Earl lied to CISRO on the ARI application.

After six years in existence, ORI has no office, no employees, no phone number, no research vessels and has done no research, written no papers, presented at no conferences but has managed to spend over \$160K. This naturally begs the question of how was the money spent, since the rules of an ARI say it must be spent on research. Can you shed light on that question? How many times has the Research Committee met and reviewed spending at ORI, as is their responsibility? Are [Dr. Joshua Willis](#) and [Dr. Michel Andre](#) still on the Research Committee? I ask because [Dr. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg](#) resigned from the ORI International Advisory Panel in November of 2019 but has not yet been deleted on the ORI website.

From FOI documents it is clear that you were the sole, emphatic proponent of Earl and Ms. Gidley receiving adjunct FULL professor appointments. You expressed to the Vice Chancellors in charge of the adjunct decision that haste was of the essence or funding opportunities for SCU would be lost. The adjunct appointments were key to establishing a partnership between SCU and ORI. Did SCU ever benefit from any fundraising by ORI? Earl's appointment was remarkable, given that he has absolutely no academic credentials in anything, much less marine science. Yet the appointment and the circumstances surrounding it seem a closely guarded secret. Multiple inquiries from multiple people about the propriety of Earl's appointment were rebuffed and ignored by

SCU administration. That secrecy was even more remarkable in that the appointment could have been trumpeted to show SCU's broad-mindedness about honoring knowledge gained in non-traditional ways. I would point out that on both his SCU adjunct application and the application to CSIRO for ARI status, [Earl made the utterly false claim that being a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society \(FRGS\) is considered equivalent to a degree in Geography](#). Earl's full CV, as submitted to SCU, was largely redacted but if it is anything like the CV he submitted to RMIT in 2011, then it is full of straightforward falsehoods, copious embellishment and disingenuous claims.

As you were the the crucial catalyst for Earl and Ms. Gidley receiving the adjunct positions which lent instant gravitas to ORI, you must surely have thoughts on the ["blackmail" letter that Earl sent to WHOI \(including WHOI's Board of Directors\)](#). In that letter Earl describes himself as explicitly delegated to speak on your behalf, that of your fellow Research Committee members and on the behalf of SCU and a variety of other individuals and institutions. The folks at WHOI, including my brother Larry (recently retired as Deputy Director) went through the classic stages of response to such a screed: 1. WTF?, 2. Is this a joke?, 3. Who IS this guy?, 4. Circular file under "buffoon".

And let me say again, I am not a "climate denier" as Earl tirelessly insists, based on nothing whatsoever. I also do not suffer from OCD, Asperger's, am not a closeted gay, am not impotently dying of cancer nor am I a cuckold or "Old Age Pensioner" waiting to die in my basement while having erotic fantasies about Earl, all of which Earl has solemnly and publicly declared with no evidence other than his fevered imagination fueled by his inner playground bully.

I hope you will respond with some answers to my questions about the status of ORI and SCU and the makeup of the Research Committee and its meeting history. I also want to ask just how long an adjunct appointment is supposed to last. Faculty I spoke with at SCU's School of Science and Engineering, including Nick Ashbolt, had no knowledge of why Earl was on the faculty and what he was contributing to SCU. Another faculty suggested that adjunct appointments are reviewed for renewal every five years, a time frame that has come and gone. ORI appears dead in the water. [Earl has decamped from Lismore to "The Rocks" in Sydney harbor](#). Why is he still an adjunct faculty member, what role does he play? Does ORI have ANY actual legal connection to SCU beyond Earl's demoted adjunct Professional Fellow position?

Earl abandoned his personal sailboat after a decade of not paying his fees and the taxpayers of Rudkobing had to pay to have it ground up and spit into a landfill. After publicly proclaiming [he would spend 3 million dollars to restore the "Carola"](#) to its former glory all Earl ever changed about the ship was it's name to "Courage". The irony is strong in Earl. Ms. Gidley's ship also sits abandoned in Denmark, in arrears for about 100k Euro for fees and limited repairs. It is falling apart, moldering at the dock right now and the owner of the multi-generational shipyard says nothing has been paid in 8 years. Earl says he is a liar. This is the status of the ORI "fleet" which was going to base in Ballina and carry SCU students and researchers, emission-free, to save the ocean.

You can read about it here:

https://pdfhost.io/v/3FIwp0bM_fyns_amts_courage_scrapped_July_3_2022_Earle_de_blonville

https://pdfhost.io/v/vZkZIYP4M_Fyns_Amts_Main_article_Henrik

https://pdfhost.io/v/VFhBLCGnL_Fyns_kim_rasmussen_courage_carola_destroy_soren

https://pdfhost.io/v/Rk2f8WHCX_Henrik_fyns_la_boheme_earl_sue_shipyard

https://pdfhost.io/v/2KySkvobe_Soren_Fyns_hartvig_rudkobing_shipbuilder

You may be wondering why this fellow from Montana is still pursuing the story of Earl and ORI. It's because the story is not complete; plenty of loose ends and unanswered questions. The story isn't about marine science or climate change. It's about modern-day grifting, turbo-charged by the egalitarian internet which gives any self-absorbed narcissist the chance to project his image on the "curtain" of a website, ala the Wizard of Oz. It's about how very smart, very honest, very well-meaning people, people who never imagine they could be conned, get conned. There is no shame in being conned but there is danger in refusing to acknowledge it. Witness millions of MAGA Trump supporters. Failing some explanation from you and SCU administration, the obvious conclusion is that you and SCU were conned and continue to hide that embarrassing fact.

And a note on "cyberstalking". This canard of Earl's has been investigated and rejected by multiple police agencies around the world, five of them, including Victoria Police. Deploying this crude put down is a page out of Trump's playbook "ignore real questions and respond with crude ad hominem attacks". If you have sipped that Kool-Aid I encourage you not to swallow and instead take a dispassionate look at Earl and his history. These links may be instructive:

<https://earldeblonville.net/earl-and-susie-a-vile-shameless-new-low/>

[https://earldeblonville.net/wp-](https://earldeblonville.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/VicPol%20Earl%20Colban%20Affair%20Short%20version.mp4)

[content/uploads/2020/VicPol%20Earl%20Colban%20Affair%20Short%20version.mp4](https://earldeblonville.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/VicPol%20Earl%20Colban%20Affair%20Short%20version.mp4)

I sincerely hope to hear back from you, even if just to tell me not to contact you again. Please understand, I am just interested in getting the facts and all sides of the story. I'm also determined to set the record straight about the cyberstalking slander. Seeking facts and evidence and letting the chips fall where they may is the core of the scientific approach and the journalistic approach.

Sincerely,

Kent Madin

Bozeman, Montana

+1-406-595-2310

P.S. Congratulations: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/05/un-ocean-treaty-high-seas/>

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

