

Author's Reflections on Futures for the Third Millennium: Enabling the Forward View

This book contains 22 papers most of which were published in futures journals over a ten-year period. I took the idea to Oliver Freeman, then publisher and CEO at Prospect Media in Sydney. I'd worked with Oliver as editor of *The ABN Report* for a couple of years and had greatly enjoyed working with him and his team. When we first discussed the matter in 1998 I mentioned that all the papers would need to be re-edited for the book since the earlier versions were indeed intended for professional journals. Oliver subsequently introduced me to an editor, James -, and we worked on the various chapters for an extended period. I am grateful to both of them for turning this material into a publishable item.

As it happened, much of this time was also another period of domestic upheaval. I clearly remember working on the paper about 'professional standards in FS' in short bursts on those days when I could muster sufficient clarity. (Indeed, it took me back to the time when I was working on my PhD thesis as the father of two small, and very lively, boys. That, however, was a pleasure by comparison.) Yet the period proved, once again, that one can indeed work, and be productive, even though the sky is falling...

As the book neared completion other members of Oliver's team began work on the layout and cover. We chose one that showed a partly dissected human head and also a rugged landscape of hills and valleys metaphorically stretching out into the distant future. It is a striking combination of images that speak to our humanity and also to the vast landscapes of imagination and deep time.

I could not know at the time that the book was destined to be used as a course reader at the Australian Foresight Institute, yet to be created. Yet within a couple of years it became a 'standard text' for those beginning their careers in a new tradition within FS. It is one that welcomed and included critical futures work and also opened to what would later be known as integral futures.