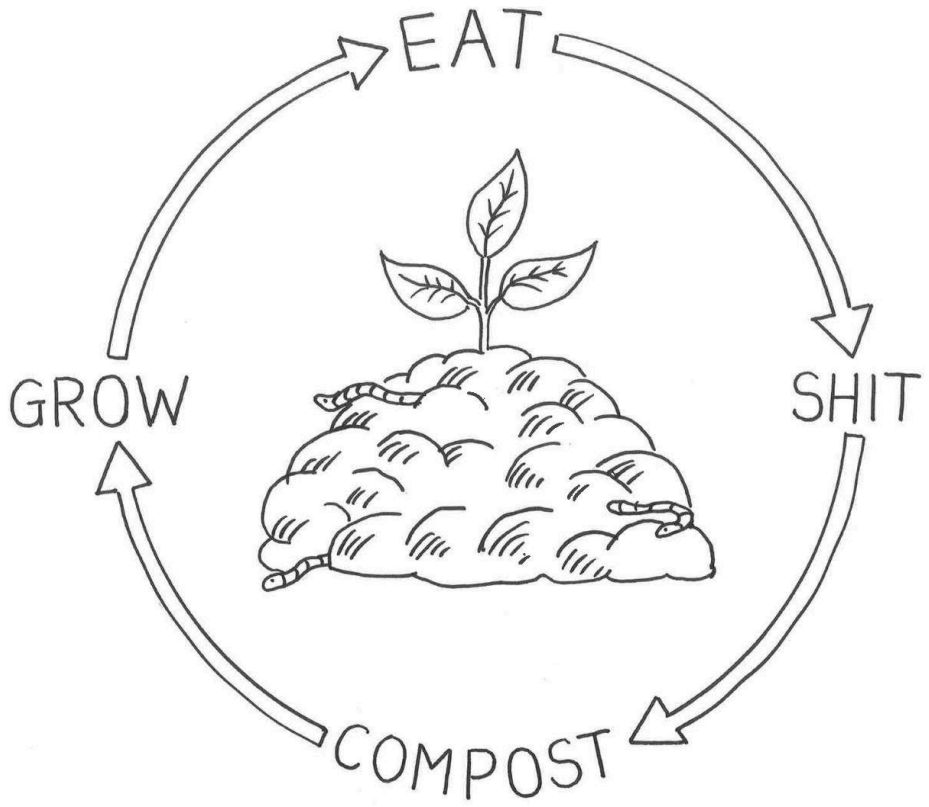

Glimpses of Pootopia

Issue #3

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Editor's Introduction:

Many curly questions surround the topic of human manure composting. Here at *Glimpses of Pootopia*, we frequently receive correspondence from readers asking for advice about relationships, philosophical quandaries, and quantum mechanics. These we fend off deftly, as they sit outside our area of specialist expertise. However, a small and precious corner of our mailbag receives queries specific to the world of humanure. In an attempt to answer these, "once and for all", regular *Glimpses* correspondent Madame Crappington (aka Kim Williams) has kindly composed an earworm, which you are sure to hum while you work on your next number two. We hope you will find Kim's song as educational as it is entertaining. *Glimpses* editor Don Poo-Leone has provided annotations to the song. Due to rising prices in the cost of paper, these have had to be kept brief. As usual, if you require further clarification, simply email the editor (contact details above) and we will address your concerns in Issue #4. Enjoy!

Correspondence, corrections, suggestions for future editions:

Please email the editor Don Poo-Leone, don@pootopia.art

POO AND WEE Kim Williams

When I was a baby I was just like you
All day long it was number ones and twos[1]
And when I grew up I was very cool
In the morning I'd drop the kids off to the pool[2]

CHORUS:
Poo and wee, poo and wee
They're good for the soil but they're bad for the sea[3]
So come on in and sit down mate
Lay a cable[4] and wipe your date[5]

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[1] "*Number ones and twos*": wee and poo. There is some conjecture about why urination is number one and defecation is number two. Some theorists posit that in olden times, in order to make a poo "go down", you needed to flush twice - hence number two.

[2] "*Drop the kids off to the pool":* do a poo. Note how this euphemism makes reference to water-flushing toilets (hence, *pool*). NB: toilets which use fresh drinking water to flush away poo and wee are *bad.* See also note 17.

[3] "*They're good for the soil but they're bad for the sea*": to clarify (and possibly head off litigation) poo and wee are good for the soil *only* when properly composted. Many awful episodes of sub-soil pollution have been reported as a result of dysfunctional septic tanks. For more on "bad for the sea", see note 18.

[4] "*Lay a cable*": to do a poo (the reader is invited to imagine the act of lowering a long heavy rope to the ground - note how this cable coils and settles due to gravity. In canine circles a good cable is known as a "three coiler").

[5] "*Wipe your date*": clean your pooey bottom with the assistance of toilet paper (or via some other method involving wiping). "Date" is an Australianism (popularised by Rampaging Roy Slaven and H.G. Nelson). According to www.slang.com.au: "The puckering of the anus gives it a *date-like* appearance. Broadly, date refers to the bum as a whole. See also *freckle* and *clacker*".

Now we know what the world can be
Compost can be made from poo and wee[6]
Worms and fungi will have a ball[7]
When you make your deposit to the bank of healthy soil[8]

CHORUS:
Poo and wee, poo and wee
They're good for the soil but they're bad for the sea
So come on in and sit down mate
Lay a cable and wipe your date

Bridge:
Just say the word for a perfect turd[9]

---

[6] "*Compost can be made from poo and wee*": the central premise of the song. For more detailed instructions on *how* to actually do this, see Joseph Jenkins' indispensable *Humanure Handbook*.

[7] "*Worms and fungi will have a ball*": composting human manure increases soil biodiversity, creating a living healthy underground ecosystem. One can imagine the denizens of such an ecosystem writhing in pleasure as they gorge themselves on our poo and wee.

[8] "*Make your deposit to the bank of healthy soil*": a sophisticated metaphor based on economics. Rather than mining soil for its fertility by growing monocultures with chemical fertilisers, the use of composted humanure contributes to increasing the natural capital (or "bank balance") of the soil. Social ecologist Stuart Hill urges humans to live off the "interest" of our ecosystems rather than depleting the "capital". "*Make your deposit*" is, of course, yet another euphemism for doing a poo.

[9] "*Perfect turd*": the etymology of *turd* is venerable, deriving from Middle English *toord*, *tord*, from Old English *tord* ("piece of dung, excrement, filth"), from Proto-West Germanic **tord*, from Proto-Germanic **turdą* ("manure, mud"), from Proto-Indo-European **der-* ("to split, flay"). Cognate with Old English *tyrdel* ("dropping, small piece of excrement"), Old High German *zort* ("dung, excrement"), Old Norse *torð-* ("dung-", in compounds), Middle Dutch *tord* ("lump of excrement").

Excuse me miss while I take a piss[10]
I'm a big ol' fool for a healthy stool[11]
I have recourse to see a man about a horse[12]
Release the kraken[13], hang a slash[14]
Defecate[15], micturate[16]
Cos there is no reason to flush your poos and wees[17]
We'll say ta-ta to the Bondi cigar[18]

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[10] "*Take a piss*": do a wee. Distinct from *taking the piss*, which, while an important Australian tradition, has no known benefit for fertile soil production.
[11] "*Healthy stool*": doctors recommend about a #4 on the Bristol Stool Chart.
[12] "*To see a man about a horse*": to go to the toilet - can be used for poo and / or wee. Also used as an excuse for politely exiting an awkward conversation for any other undisclosed reason.
[13] "*Release the kraken*": do a poo. Traditionally, the Kraken is an enormous and incredibly dangerous mythical sea monster of undisclosed appearance, perhaps akin to a cephalopod. The young people attribute this "meme" to the movie *Clash of the Titans* but we wouldn't have a clue about that.
[14] "*Hang a slash*": do a wee - used mainly in Australia and England.
[15] "*Defecate*": (medical) do a poo.
[16] "Micturate": (medical) do a wee. But really, who ever says "micturate"?
[17] "*There is no reason to flush your poos and wees*": some poetic license is used here. As the song advocates, no-flush toilet systems are the gold standard for the production of healthy soil. However, we acknowledge that flushing holds an aesthetic pleasure, as it removes a source of shame in one's own filth. Further, in high density urban environments, flushing is preferable to some other methods of faecal sludge management, such as "open defecation" (pooing in the street or the local river). However, flushing needs to be combined with sophisticated sewerage treatment plants - which are expensive and consume vast quantities of energy and chemicals. A famous historic example of *poor* faecal management leading to public health catastrophe is The Great Stink of London - (July-August 1858) in which the unbearable smell of untreated human waste flowing into the River Thames was exacerbated by extremely hot weather. The problem had been mounting for some years, with an ageing and inadequate sewer system that emptied directly into the Thames.
[18] "*Bondi cigar*": a turd floating in the surf. Back in the day, it was said that untreated sewerage was emptied out (via a long pipe, but evidently not long enough) "out the back" of the breakers at Bondi. A "cigar" = an evocative visual

When it comes to faecal matter[19] we know a bit
Add a cup of sawdust[20], transmute that shit
It's a circular economy[21] in compost town
Where everybody's happy when they say Code Brown[22]

CHORUS:
Poo and wee, poo and wee
They're good for the soil but they're bad for the sea
So come on in and sit down mate
Lay a cable and wipe your date
So come on in and sit down mate
Lay a cable and remember to wipe your date!

---

rhyme for a poo. Also the name of an award-winning Aussie blues and roots band.

[19] "*Faecal matter*": poo. Surely by now you don't really need this to be explained in a footnote.

[20] "Add a cup of sawdust": in the low-tech humanure composting system advocated by Joseph Jenkins (see note 6) - a small handful of (eg) sawdust is sprinkled on top of the poo and wee. The chemical balance between carbon-rich sawdust and nitrogen/phosphorus-rich poo and wee is neutralising, and the decomposition process begins immediately, with surprisingly little odour.

[21] "*Circular economy*": imagine a never ending cycle - "*... eat -> shit -> compost -> grow food -> eat -> shit …*". In such a system, there is no such thing as "human waste". Hence: Pootopia!

[22] "*Code Brown!*": sure to cause dismay at the local swimming pool, the declaration "Code Brown!" denotes the discovery of a rogue poo in the water (usually caused by a baby with a faulty swim nappy. Code Brown requires all swimmers leave the pool, which shuts down for several hours until all the water has cycled through a filtration system to remove pathogens. (On March 25, 2026, the ABC reported that the Bluewater Lagoon swimming pool in Mackay, Queensland, had been shut down ten times in the previous six months by code browns, at a cost to the local council of $50,000).

BONUS! Now you can sing along to *Poo and Wee* in the comfort of your own home, with Mme Crappington's brand new, entirely free, karaoke video. Thanks to WayWard Films for the animation magic.

Simply scan the QR code below and you'll be mesmerised by the bouncing poo emoji, faster than you can blurt out "micturate"!

…on the off-chance that your QR code scanner malfunctions, or if you find this dog-eared journal in a post-apocalyptic rubbish dump in the distant future when QR codes no longer work, then simply type the following URL into your internet browser of choice: https://bit.ly/3PiDNjD

HUMANURE
~brown gold~

POO & WEE
+ DRINKING WATER

= TOXIC SLUDGE

... but ...

POO & WEE
+ SAWDUST

= SOIL

www.pootopia.art