

COMMUNITY COMMENT

What I think

Let's pay for our air

Erika Mordek

We need to face the fact that our lungs are burning. Our global lungs. Satellite images show the Amazon and Indonesian forests on fire. No one can deny this. Neither can anyone deny that it is from these forests that the world gets its oxygen.



Economic rationalism, beef and cash crops are reducing our capacity to breathe. So what if we took matters into our own hands?

I understand that these poor nations want a lifestyle equal to ours, but this cannot be allowed to the detriment of everyone else. I say that Australia could start a tax to fund our oxygen. Everyone, poor or rich will be charged \$1 a week. If you are rich you can donate more and get a tax reduction. Let's do the maths. 24.6 million people

live in Australia. Let's say that a quarter of those are children. We don't charge children because we are doing it for them. That leaves 18.45 million people to pay out \$1 a week. That's 221.4 million a quarter for air tax. This money, and all of it, not some taken for admin, is given to Brazil and Indonesia and other countries that have forests, on the proviso that no more burning

occurs and that there is a forest management plan in place.

This is a terrific idea. However, I can already hear the nay sayers. But think about it for a minute; our lifestyle is not that great.

We are introducing plastic beads and bags into the sea, killing our food supply.

We are over utilising our land and the weather is going crazy. We can ignore all this, but if we ignore the mechanism that supplies us with oxygen, we may as well forget about the future.

\$1 is not much to give. And it is taken from you automatically every week. You will not miss a dollar. How much does a cup of coffee cost you? Or that packet of cigarettes? Or that haircut? This plan is something that unites us all. Why don't we start it in Braidwood?

Bring our police to town

Chris Nelson

Community policing is modern policing, and it's not hard to do and it doesn't cost anything. If anything, it saves police budgets massive amounts of money.

What they did in Queensland when I was a policeman was, instead of paying all this money for police stations, they bought a house in town. You live there with your family and the front room is the police office.

You don't have to pay for your tele-

CHRIS AND KAREN AT MALANDA 2010.



phone or electricity and you don't pay rent. But for that, that front room is the police station. So it's costing taxpayers \$400,000 instead of \$16 million. That's a big difference.

You're making the policeman happy. You're making the community that live around him or her happy. It works and it works well.

Malanda in Qld where I was stationed was exactly the same as this town, and I made a lot of trouble for the criminals who soon bolted. But come election time I got voted in as a councillor and even some of the baddies voted for me because they knew who I was. I knew who they were and they knew fair's fair. Malanda was a really good, well-run little town. Not just by the police, but by the whole community. We had a Community Consultative Committee, and that committee was made up of the chemist, three or four of the businesses, the publicans, the local policeman (which was me), the fire brigade guy, a vet, the lady from the doctor's surgery and so on.

We'd sit around and discuss what the town needed from a police perspective. We need more lights down at the park. So I'd write that down, and when I was

at work I'd do a quick report up to my district officer requesting that we get more lighting down at the park.

It's an easy way of policing. It's an old-fashioned way of policing. But it's also the modern way of policing.

Buy a house in town and turn it into a miniature police station.

We can't use the watch houses anymore. We can't lock people up in them anymore. So why are they spending millions of dollars on a new police station for Braidwood? Why?

Nearly all call-outs to police in a small town are solved the minute the police officer arrives. Calm everyone down and the problem's gone. Some of them ended up under arrest, but they would anyway. But more often than not, the issue would not be an issue if police were there.

I'd get a call to attend a domestic disturbance or a traffic accident or something. I'd put my police overalls on and I'd been in the car within three minutes and if the call was within a 10-kilometre radius I was there in 15 minutes or so.

We didn't need a \$5 million police station. I don't understand what they're going to do with that. I don't know why Braidwood needs it.

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THE EDITOR HAS HIS SAY AS USUAL

Making a magazine is a bit like baking a cake. You collect all the ingredients, mix them together and bake them in a PDF.

Until very recently, in fact, I thought baking a cake was harder. Not so. Here is a recipe that anyone can make regardless of your previous experience.

Make two cups of black tea and allow them to cool. Tip into a bowl and add two cups of dried mixed fruit (Black and Gold works well and saves a few dollars). Leave the bowl of fruit and tea overnight.

In the morning, mix in two cups of self raising flour (B&G again for thrift), a beaten egg, a tablespoon of marmalade, a teaspoon of Allspices and another of cinnamon. Butter a piece of greaseproof paper for the base of the (smallish) cake tin, put it in butter side down and smear a bit of butter around the tin's sides.

Of course you've turned the oven on to 190°C and when it's up to temperature bung in your cake and don't just wander off and forget about it. After 1¼ hours, pop a piece of foil over your rising cake and bake for another ten minutes.

Allow to cool and be cool as you amaze your friends especially if you're a bloke. It's really so simple I'm now amazed that I learned to make magazines about half a century before the cakes.

Anyway, back to magazines. All the ingredients are here, mixed and baked for your reading pleasure. Allow to cool, serves the whole family.

Paul



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