



MARGARET IN 1972.

MILLING ABOUT

ving through Braidwood for years and years suddenly went, "Oh, there's a town here," and they started to stop.

The Mill Centre café changed the face of Braidwood. A lot of the shops were closing down and there was nothing in them and then suddenly it started to come to life again. People noticed Braidwood and they started stopping.

We used to have queues going out the door. I don't know why Mum opened a café because she didn't like cooking, but anyway, we went from being a coffee shop to serving meals. My grandmother would come and do the flowers on the tables every week or twice a week. And she made soup.

I worked every holiday in the café. We thought we were slow. We weren't a takeaway place. My grandmother used to go around with a magazine and just before people were about to sit down, she'd put one on their chair so they'd have to pick it up. That was her ploy to make the customers think the food wasn't taking so long. It actually wasn't that bad — we were quite fast.

Margaret: Well, we were. I became a lightning chef — but we didn't have a microwave and we were cooking fresh.

Victoria: In the summer, we'd have queues out the door. There were literally people queuing out the door into the street.

It'd get so busy that some customers would help when they noticed we were frantic.

Granddad would be at the washing up and Sonia would be on a box next to the washing up because she wasn't tall enough. I don't know where the boys were.

People would offer to help. They'd help clean up and put everything away. One day a family arrived at a particularly busy time. The husband and his wife washed up while their two daughters cleared tables. Afterwards we all sat down and had lunch together. My mother asked, "Where do you come from? What do you do?"

"I'm the British High Commissioner to Australia actually," the man replied. It was really fun.

Margaret: You can't imagine that sort of thing happening now.

I think my desire to do things started with my education at school. Our headmistress there said you went out into the world and you did things. You saw something that needed doing, you went out and you did it. When I told her that I'd gone to this terrible place called Braidwood, which had all its shops shut with there was nothing here, no younger people and all the old people retired down the coast, she said, "Well, just go back there Margaret and do something about it." So here we are.



CAPITALISM RAW IS UNPALATABLE

Considering sustainability

Bronwyn Richards leaves the veggie patch this issue to address a serious policy shortcoming

It is great to see and hear an increasing number of people thinking and talking about sustainability.

So what does this term actually mean? In 1987 the United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The three key pillars were determined as economic, environmental and social; or people, planet and profits.

"Sustainable development means balancing local and global efforts to meet basic humans need with the need to preserve the natural environment from degradation and destruction. It means meeting our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs."

Environmental sustainability involves keeping the planets ecosystems diverse and productive through good resource management; social sustainability focuses on social equity, health equity, community development, human rights, labour rights and social justice. Economic sustainability relates to the social and ecological consequences of economic activity."

World Wildlife Fund

As an aside, I am not surprised that Greta Thunberg was emotional when she addressed the United Nations Climate Action Summit recently. Since 1987 the United Nations has made clear the need for significant change in how we manage resources, economies and the environment — however, with very little impact.

It took until December 2015 for the majority of countries in the world to reach agreement on dealing with green house emissions with the goal of keeping global temperature increases to 1.5°C by 2030. Australia's current temperature increase since industrialisation is officially already at 1°, while the government's Annual Climate Statement 2018 states that:

"the 11-year mean temperature for



2008–2018 was the highest on record at 0.77 °C above average

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/aus/>

While Australia looks like it will bust the 2030 1.5°C increase well before the target date:

"the Australian government has turned its back on global climate action dismissing the findings of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming ... and is no longer providing funds to the Green Climate Fund (GCF); It is continuing to subsidise fossil fuel extraction and export, against the need to phase out fossil fuels, in particular coal, globally; Australia's emissions from fossil fuels and industry continue to rise, and are now 7% above 2005 levels. These emissions have increased by around 1% per year on average since 2014, the year in which Australia's national carbon pricing scheme was repealed. Under current polices,

these emissions are headed for an increase of 8% above 2005 levels by 2030, rather than the 14-17% decrease in these emissions required to meet Australia's Paris Agreement target."

<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/australia/>

For us to really achieve sustainable development and to not compromise the ability of younger generations to meet their needs will require not only astute political leadership but also global corporations to significantly change their economic thinking.

We can no longer operate from an ethos of bigger is better and that excessive profitability is the only measure of success.

We need to recognise that free market capitalism where small government is lauded; where social and economic responsibility is considered a minor issue; where individual wealth and user pays outweighs social justice, social equity and social capital — it is then manifestly at odds with sustainable development goals.

"We need to integrate economic and ecological considerations in decision making and this will require a change in attitudes and objectives and in institutional arrangements at every level."

United Nations Brundtland Commission

A step in the right direction would be to consider alternative capitalist ideology such as a social market economy:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_market_economy)

Or for a greater impact, consider alternative economic philosophies. Yes, there are other economic philosophies besides capitalism.

See *Small Is Beautiful: A Study of Economics As If People Mattered* by German born British economist E. F. Schumacher.

What is clear is that we have to make change at both the personal and the structural level. It means that everyone of us must be prepared to need less, seek less and want less and that structural change can only occur when we stop voting for political leaders who mislead, misrepresent and promote self interest and the interests of the super-wealthy rather than the common good.

Talking clean energy for Braidwood

(POWER TALK Number 2)

Benefits of window insulation

Richard Elliott

A low-cost community funding model

Kevin Cox

Q&A and discussion to follow

All welcome

Sunday 13th October 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Life Centre, Araluen Street (Recreation Grounds)

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