

EDITOR'S EFFICACY

As a gardener/landcarer, I rejoice in seeing a new lushness in the lawns, and shrubs, and even the carpet of weeds speaks to me that the soil is again alive and plants are once more resuscitated after the summer bake, and blow-dry autumn. However winter is inflicting its own regime of woes literally and figuratively.

Our broader community has copped a frigid wind of bad news lately, and it is as if each of us is turning up the collar and bracing against the cold change and storms of politics and economy.

It is the 'no-go' of BHP's Olympic, damn mine expansion, and Ford Australia's move from Car maker to Car Wrecker, and all the large and small businesses in between which have closed or rationalised operations, all to the sacrifice of jobs, services, and common wealth.

There are lessons to be learned, but no industry, or politics, can survive without consumers and voters. As we expect Governments and companies to be smarter in tough times, so must we be smarter in our personal finances, our lifestyle, and smarter in what we expect of politicians and executives.

During our lives we have been influenced by some bad national traits; but many wonderful Australian attitudes and characteristics. "A fair go", trust, civility and respect and so on. Are they prevailing now? I doubt it.

We have seen the AFL get indignant and righteous about labelling a footy player, but nothing much was said regarding the throwing of a school lunch at the Prime Minister, who graciously joked it off. Where's the respect? OK- criticise, protest, but what next? We don't have the AFL policing this. It is us who administer our own standards.

Constructive attitudes, high values, and common sense are much more preferable than regulations. Nobody likes or wants "the Nanny State", and Heidi rolls her eyes at the next proposed social adjustment that is expected to be taught in Schools.

Our society wants the results but doesn't seem prepared to invest in the propriety, the valued work, the long view, for the qualities of our Aussie way.

But let us HOLD FAST to that which is good, noble and worthy. Where we can, let us personally continue to reinforce the good qualities this nation has developed over the past 60 years, and resist society's acquiesce to self interest, wantonness, and ignorance.

I'm not flying a political banner, but rather, wanting Australians to be more purposeful in modeling social qualities, to admonish "bad form"; to be involved, hold the Media and institutions to account, and to abandon the "she'll be right" attitude. Who will make it right? Not the Media if there is a headline in the way.

To use an analogy; while we are living in the house, we must still have a say in the redecorating, or we will no longer recognise our own home