

6oct2011

As the consequences of climatic instability gradually begin to manifest themselves in a string of massive floods and undeniably rising ocean-levels, a horrible tendency in human nature also begins to manifest itself in tandem, in the phenomenon of Greens-bashing. John Matthew's opinion piece in yesterday's Age is a case in point. His glib anti-Greens cant is a mask for a deep anger: how dare those dreadlocked sandle-wearing vegetarians be *right*.

Now on the one hand, John Matthews simply doesn't know what he is talking about. Having previously taken democracy no more seriously than merely casting my vote on election day, I decided last year, with both Federal and Victorian State elections occurring, to try to move beyond this superficial level of participation, and to go along to the local meetings of the party I happen to vote for (on the sole basis of their policies), the Greens. I met a very interesting group of people from a diverse range of backgrounds, and none of them had dreadlocks, and none of them wore sandles, and their social events were all barbecues.

But John Matthews is not just ignorant. John Matthews' smug attitude masks a deeply uneasy conscience at the Age newspaper, for they have for years ignored the suppression of geothermal energy in Victoria, and have been unable to comprehend the significance of this issue. The newspaper as a whole is unable to join the dots, retaining no critical edge other than a consistently Greens-skeptic line, giving voice instead to the flawed logic of Ziggy Switkowski, who argues that what we do doesn't really matter, since we are such a minor emitter that it won't actually make any difference to the climate. This of course ignores the fact that establishing a geothermal state would *demonstrate* its very possibility to the world. It ignores that fact that Australia is actually capable of leading the world in this regard (as it also leads in astrophysics, music and sport). It demonstrates fundamental disrespect towards Australia to denigrate this potential. Meanwhile, the oil and coal companies are about to frack the hell out of the country, as the nuclear industry draws up its plans.

And all the Age can do is to mock those who have the initiative and the guts to stand up for justice, peace and sustainability and to try somehow to take democracy seriously in the face of the massive onslaught of the slaving multi-nationals, desperate to prevent the existence of a working model of a geothermal State downunder.

And now it's time for join the dots, boys and girls...

Texas fracking "Oil Boom"

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2011/s3309269.htm>

Texas burns...

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2011/s3311763.htm>

But that's one big picture Tikki Fullerton won't be telling you about on Lateline.

Nor will you be reading about it in the Age. But if you were in Apollo Bay this winter, you could have seen the sea come across the Ocean Road for yourself, leaving a sand-bar right across the bitumen. And Ted Baillieu thinks he can stop this with a few truckloads of fill at Half Moon Bay. It's not the Greens that need a make-over. It's John Matthews and his ilk and their panicked witch-hunt, looking for victims to burn, whipping up Greenophobia and calling people "hippies" - Jesus, is this 1967?? Anything to avoid thinking about reality. But I invite John Matthews to put on sandals and go to his local coastline, and look at the erosion, and remember if he can the past 12 months of massive floods and hurricanes in Queensland, Pakistan, East-Coast USA, South-East China, the UK, etc. etc. Most floods since Noah. And then, if he still can, to actually *think* about it.