

The treatment of our Australian Indigenous Peoples needs to be reconciled. We need to hear their wisdom. The Indigenous Peoples of Australia have the answers to a balanced humanity. We need to listen and learn from their wisdom to care for Country. Indigenous cultures in Australia are of the highest civilisation known to humanity, the Balanda (or non-Aboriginal peoples) were not advanced enough yet to learn from this wisdom. The non-Indigenous peoples were in fact the savages. We must understand Country, Dreaming and harmony if we are to reach balance in humanity. I fear too much damage has already been done. Indigenous elders believe they can turn it around and save Country. We need to ask them for help. They have already given us so much but we don't take it seriously. I have met Indigenous Australians while living in North East Arnhem land and learned more from the time I shared with them than I have any institution.

Recently we have been watching documentaries on Cold Seam Gas, rivers are burning, this is very scary and the fact that the farmers whose land it is being implemented on have absolutely no control our Government is letting this happen, why are we not protesting about this why is not front page of the paper and headlining on the news.

The environment is in need of our help, we have through selfish, greedy, destruction destroyed our home it is time to make things right.

Our world is definitely becoming warmer, we have extreme weather patterns

I am very concerned about the ongoing plight of asylum seekers in detention and in the community on temporary visas. Inhumane government policies for many years now have been supported by dehumanising and discriminatory media coverage, which in turn has strongly influenced negative social attitudes and indifference to this issue.

Third world countries and inequitable resources

Unless we make a difference as individuals, we will not have a planet to live on.

The continual loss of habitat for animals and birds. Over exploitation of the worlds resources, especially fossil fuels.

Lots of poor people who don't have the options to make choices or changes, who can't escape their situation of environmental damage or disaster

In her book Silent Spring published in 1962, Rachel Carson identified the problems our planet was starting to face due to our reliance on toxic chemicals and showed us how our health and well-being was being changed forever by the contamination of our planet by those chemicals. Over 50 years on we have started to take steps towards cleaning up our act but it is really too little too late. Our way of life needs to radically change in order to protect what we have left for future generations. As a family we take as many steps as we can to live an eco-friendly, toxin-free, sustainable life. This has been documented in my book, Living Green, published in 2008 by New Holland Publishers (NZ) and in my blog <https://52weeksoflivinggreen.wordpress.com>

People living 'comfortably' in today's modern society typically can meet their 'needs' easily; in fact our lives are often focussed on meeting our 'wants'. Our 'wants' are heavily influenced by clever marketing from local to global companies espousing their product to be essential and critical in projecting 'the' desirable image that we are told we must have. Flowing from this comes excessive consumerism and a 'throw-away' culture. We constantly 'upgrade' to the latest model which is faster/smarter/attractive/bigger/smaller etc. We seek to be instantly gratified through technology, transport and convenience foods and drinks. We are happy to outsource jobs we are either too lazy, or don't want, to do ourselves. We behave as if we are entitled -- selfishness and rudeness are not unusual traits: the only person that matters is 'me' and 'mine'.

Consequently, outrageous consumerism and pollution from millions of vehicles and factories guzzling fossil-fuels are hallmarks of 'civilised' societies. Whilst huge international companies create products that are 'incompatible' with others and measure their success in terms of profits then this trend will continue. Renewable energies are definitely an area all governments need to develop to become a viable way forward. As for image ... we have much to learn from the smiling, barefoot peoples of undeveloped nations who still treasure the notion of 'family', gratitude and 'enough'.

Australia's policy on asylum seekers is inhumane and short-sighted, ALL people regardless of faith, colour, sexual orientation, country of origin or mode of transport here, deserve to be

treated with dignity and respect. Turning our backs on people the way we are at the moment is heartbreaking.

the world is seeing many more natural disasters, we are having dryer conditions with limited rain fall

Fear of other cultures. Our community has little exposure to cultural diversity but little tolerance of minority groups. This is evident in social media, mainstream media and political policy.

I hope that we can look after our environment and clean up the waterways and stop clearing forests and animals home for future generations

The documentary Conspiracy gives examples of polluting the water ways and seas with the run off from concentrated cow farming.

Television programs frequently inform the general public of the starving poor in many undeveloped countries.

The cry of the poor. I work in our poorest suburb in the Ballarat region, and every day I see children coming to school unfed, without proper care and hygiene, with no food for the day. These families are living below the poverty line, and are seen by many people as a scourge on our society. We are no better than these people, we have just been born into a different way of life and have better opportunities. I do believe at some point it becomes a choice for people to choose their lifestyle, but children are born into these families as innocent little beings, and they deserve our help and our compassion.

The cry of the earth! What upsets me so much is the human race is using our planet Earth and destroying her as if we have another one to move to when this one is broken. We cut, dig, burn, blow up, and destroy the earth and its natural creatures without regard for the past or the future. What makes us humans think we have the right to alter the state of the earth so much that species of plants and animals are dying off to extinction? We are caretakers of the earth, as our souls are caretakers of our bodies. We should be looking after and nurturing them both for the next generations.

On a totally different note, our justice system is up the creek. Whilst I agree we should be merciful, we should also be fair. Fair to the victims, fair to the rest of society who carries the financial burden of crime. We are living in fear, not just of terrorists and ISIS, but of local drug addicts who turn to theft and robbery to fund their habits, who if provoked could hurt (or worse), or who just go on drug fuelled rampages. Our children are not safe, I don't feel safe. It makes me very sad.

And another: let us show mercy to refugees and asylum seekers. But let's do it in our own country. Stop sending money overseas to fix problems that are often created by corrupt governments, and let's fix the problems in Australia and offer these refugees a safe haven and show that Australia really is the lucky country. I bet the homeless don't think Australia is very lucky.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to vent.

I hope for a society that embraces renewable energy. We have the most incredible energy source available to us, right there in the sky. It's as if God made this plan for us by putting this bright sun right up there for us to use it!