

A GOOD LIFE FOR OUR KIDS

Each generation should enjoy a quality of life as good as the preceding generation

"What's going wrong, Dick?", I am asked. We see outrageous extremes all around us. While bank bosses earn \$10 million a year, Aussie workers are sacked and small businesses are being closed down.

The extremely rich build \$30 million mansions, while typical working families are forced into small flats in high-rise buildings, abandoning forever the Aussie dream of owning a home with a backyard for "free-range" kids.

As the gap between rich and poor grows, Aussie truckies and other workers are thrown on the scrap heap and our farmers plough crops they can't sell back into the ground.

Old-style philanthropists seem to be disappearing, as the rich give secretly or not at all.

Meanwhile, the pressure from mainstream media prevents our political leaders from openly discussing that there are limits to growth.

Yes, "what's going wrong?" A very good question.

Surely it's reasonable to expect that each generation should enjoy

a quality of life as good as the preceding generation? Yet our roads are gridlocked, hospital waiting times increase and more of our businesses and productive farmland are sold off to foreign interests.

In my view, our problems are mostly caused by our insatiable and clearly unsustainable growth agenda. However, I have a positive view that they can be solved and we can have a fantastic future.

Above: Dick, age 3, on the swing in the family backyard with father, Herb.

Below: On March 24 2012, Heinz cut its Australian workforce by 346.



"...the mainstream media prevents our political leaders from openly discussing that there are limits to growth."



A FAIR BALANCE

Extraordinary wealth shipped out of Australia

There was a time when Australia grew and produced most of its food. It was a nostalgic time, before the sell-off of our prime farm land and iconic Aussie brands.

At Dick Smith Foods we are fighting for a fair balance of Australian and foreign ownership.

With over 80% of the products in a typical supermarket trolley either imported or coming from foreign-owned companies, the amount of wealth being shipped out of Australia each year is truly extraordinary.

Sure, right now we have tremendous quantities of minerals and coal to sell, so life is okay for many of us. However, minerals and coal are finite and will run out one day.

That's why it's in our own interest to support Aussie-owned and Aussie-grown products and stop selling our food businesses to foreign-owned companies. At Dick Smith Foods we call this, "supporting the home team". It means that profits and wealth stay in Australia – that's just common sense.

For short-term political and economic gain, our Governments have encouraged the sell-off of most of our valuable companies. Now everything from Arnott's Biscuits to Vegemite is in foreign hands. Surely this goes against the longer-term interests of wealth creation in our country.



NOW IN FOREIGN HANDS

Arnott's Biscuits	USA
Vegemite	USA
Golden Circle	USA
Masterfoods	USA
Edgell	USA
Dairy Farmers	Japan
Cottee's Foods	UK
Tip Top Bread	UK
Bushells Tea	UK
Smith's Crisps	USA
Sunbeam	China
Berri	Japan
Safcol	Malaysia
Fosters	UK
Aeroplane Jelly	USA

Those Americans are Smart!

When Rupert Murdoch wanted to expand his media empire in the United States to make more money, the American Government said, 'no way – that's against our national interest. We're patriotic and only allow Americans to control influential companies'. Mr Murdoch quickly dumped Australia and became an American.

In the meantime, the Murdoch press attacks Dick Smith Foods for daring to link Australian ownership with patriotism.

GETTING SMARTER, NOT BIGGER

Never-ending growth is impossible

Since World War II, our economic system has relied on perpetual growth, that is, our capacity to produce more and more goods and services. Its success depends on an ever-growing population that consumes increasing amounts of energy and resources.

It's common sense that perpetual growth in a finite world is impossible. I've benefited from growth more than most, but even so, this doesn't make me believe that it can go on forever. I can see that as we approach the limits of growth, social and environmental problems will increase.

Yet the mainstream media constantly tells us that we have only two choices – growth or recession. Surely there must be an alternative?

I personally believe it's possible to run our economic system without constant growth in the use of resources and energy. It's a case of getting smarter, not bigger. We need a plan to develop a viable system based on improving quality of life by growth in efficiencies, satisfaction and happiness, rather than population and consumption.

Sadly, our media corporations have become part of the problem, rather than presenting a forum for solutions. Most have a "grow profit at all costs" agenda that prevents journalists from communicating that

"The time has surely arrived when mankind must accept that perpetual growth as a model for the global future is simply unsustainable and that we must adopt a new creed if our descendants, fifty years hence, are to have a world fit to live in".

Peter Austin, The Land Newspaper, 24/05/12

our economic system can't grow forever. When was the last time you read an editorial encouraging our political leaders to develop a sustainable economic plan, one that doesn't rely on an increasing use of resources and energy?

Without such planning, the problems for typical Aussies could become even worse, as big business desperately claws for every last bit of profit.

I believe our economy is moving into a phase that I call, "extreme capitalism". The only way big

business can grow profits is by taking over competitors or ruthlessly beating down a supplier's prices, either sacking workers to reduce costs or shifting operations overseas for cheaper labour. In fact, it's already happening.

Surely this is not the Australia we want, especially when, with proper leadership and planning, we can move to a stabilised system in which wealth is more equitably shared.

Sooner or later we will need to find an alternative to constant growth. Now is the time to prepare for it.



FLYING THE FLAG

It's OK to be proud about Aussie ownership

Ever since I started Dick Smith Foods, the Murdoch press has attacked me when I call for a fair balance of Australian ownership in our food industry. More than ten years ago, Dennis Shanahan, one of its top journalists, claimed that I was, "feeding paranoia" and "jingoism". Just recently, Sydney's *The Sunday Telegraph* described my marketing as "simplistic and ultra-nationalistic" with a "faintly sinister overtone of strident nationalism". It even linked it to the "provocations of the Cronulla race riots". Extraordinary stuff!

I've wondered why some Murdoch journalists get so angry when I explain how important it is to support Aussie-owned businesses, so the profits and jobs stay in Australia.

Could it be that they are embarrassed by the fact that the Murdoch press, which controls about 70 per cent of our print media, is American-owned and each year sends substantial profits out of Australia?

Rupert Murdoch is an amazing businessman, but I wonder if enough will ever be enough for him. He earns an annual salary of more than \$30 million, is personally worth many billions of dollars, and his business recently announced an extraordinary profit increase of 47 per cent. Yes 47 per cent, and this is while many working families, both in the USA and

“ ... this deception and suppression of open discussion stops us from planning for a more stable and sustainable economic system ”

Australia, are struggling to make ends meet in these tough economic times.

Murdoch journalists have even said to me, off the record of course, "Dick you are correct. This growth can't go on forever, but we wouldn't have much of a career here if this was mentioned."

And that is the problem. When media proprietors are obsessed with profit growth, freedom of speech and open debate is stifled. Politicians have told me that they wouldn't dare mention that perpetual growth is unsustainable for fear of being attacked by the Murdoch media and others in big business.

In my view, this deception and suppression of open discussion stops

us from planning for a more stable and sustainable economic system.

Wouldn't it be great if Rupert Murdoch came back to Australia and became our greatest philanthropist. That would be fantastic.



Make sure you get a copy of the Ausbuy Guide – www.ausbuy.com.au. Available in stores that support Australia.

CAN WE SUPPORT 100 MILLION?

Endless population growth will reduce our quality of life

If Australia's population continues to grow at its recent record rate (driven mostly by the highest immigration rate in the world), it will reach more than 100 million by the end of this century and almost one billion a hundred years later. Of course not even the greediest big business and economic growth spruikers believe a population of one billion is sensible in an arid country like Australia. It follows that, between now and then, we'll have to develop an economic system that doesn't rely on perpetual growth.

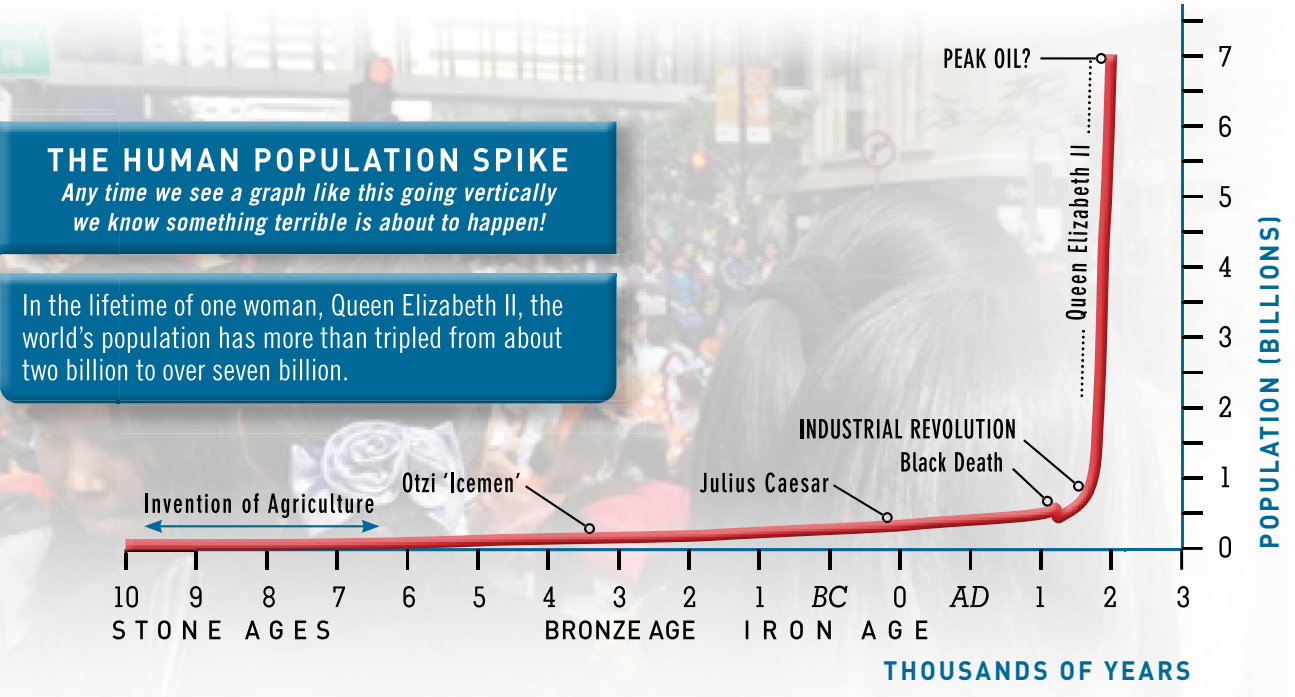
Personally, I am opposed to any form of population control. Some Aussie families may choose to have six or more kids, while others may want one, or none. That's their right. Australian families are sensible. Our present population growth, accounting for births and deaths alone, is almost zero.

If we reduced our net immigration to about 70,000 a year (still very high by world standards) including

a humanitarian intake of about 20,000, Australia's population would stabilise at about 27 million. This sounds sensible to me and to most other Australians I talk to.

While an ever increasing population is great for billionaires as more customers ensure more profit growth, it often means ordinary working Australians have less coming into the kitty. The reason is simple. The wealth of this country – coming primarily from agriculture and mining – has to be divided between more and more people.

Never ending population growth means that we'll always be playing catch-up when it comes to raising extra taxes needed for infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and railways. With a stable population, we can consolidate our wealth and improve existing infrastructure and our quality of life. It just makes sense.



THE CHANGING FACE OF RETAIL

It's amazing that Coles and Woolworths are still Australian Owned

In a recent article, the *Sydney Morning Herald* stated that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) would consider seeking legislation to limit the steady increase in market power of Coles and Woolworths following their continuing acquisition of smaller retailers.

"A great idea" many would say. But hold on, isn't the ACCC a part of

a Government whose policy requires endless economic growth? And isn't the only way that Coles and Woolies can get endless growth by taking over competitors?

That's right. They are doing exactly what the Government and our economic system requires. So don't hold your breath for any legislation. It won't happen.

In my view, the problems created

by our perpetual growth agenda could result in Australian-owned Coles and Woolworths being taken over by foreign entities. Eventually we'll end up with just two gigantic retailers across the world. We're already heading in that direction,

Below: The first Coles store opened at Collingwood, Melbourne, in 1914.



Advertisement



WILLIAM WILDERFORCE

**\$5,000
REWARD**

For the first journalist under 30 who can get definitive coverage of the Wilderforce Award in the Murdoch Press.

Coverage to include the fact that we can't always have perpetual growth in the use of resources and energy in a finite world and we must start planning now before the limits are reached.

See
www.wilderforceaward.com.au

We attempted to place this paid announcement in the Murdoch press but they refused to run it unless we deleted any mention of the Murdoch press.

Right: The Woolworths Fremantle store opened in 1929.

**AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services) only tests 5% of food imports into Australia.
95% of imported food into Australia is untested!!!**

with the US retail giant Walmart's turnover more than the whole gross domestic product of Denmark.

Driving our two retail giants' new ruthlessness is the arrival of German-owned Aldi and US-owned Costco. They are changing the face of Australian retailing with their very low staff levels and up to 90 per cent home brand models. Coles and Woolworths must match these models or go broke. We are seeing it happening with more self-checkouts and the loss of our freedom of choice as Coles and Woolworths substantially increase home brands.

I think it's amazing that Coles, Woolworths, IGA and the independents are still Australian-owned, when just about every successful company in our food industry has been taken over by foreign multinationals. What's even more amazing is they are owned by typical Australian families through direct share ownership, superannuation and pension funds, meaning that the wealth they create stays here in Australia.

Referring to companies like Coles and Woolworths, *The Economist* magazine says, "public companies give ordinary people a chance to invest directly in capitalism's most important wealth-creating machines – they have brought transparency to business life and opportunities to small investors."

Let's hope we can keep them in Australian ownership. If they are split up, it's likely that the new companies will very quickly become overseas-owned.



Welcome to Garry's

**FRIENDLY
GROCER**



We are open for you...

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7.30pm
Saturday 8.30am - 7.00pm
Sunday 8.30am - 6.00pm
Public Holidays 8.30am - 6.00pm

I love my Independent Grocer

This is my 'Friendly Grocer', Garry Mills, at Terrey Hills, who I have shopped with for over twenty years. My wife and I love the personal service and are happy to pay a little extra knowing we are supporting an 'endangered species', i.e. an Australian-owned small family business. I recommend wherever possible that Aussies support independent grocers and independent small businesses in general.

Independent grocers:
To obtain our products contact Metcash/IGA Distribution.

“ ... just about every successful company in our food industry has been taken over by foreign multinationals.”

SHORT SIGHTED LAND SALE

Let's not sell off Australia for short-term gain



Not long ago, the Country Women's Association of New South Wales (CWA) met to discuss the sell-off of our farm land to foreign entities. The CWA pointed out that in the USA, many States forbid non-resident ownership of farm land. How sensible, I thought.

Personally, I am concerned about foreign governments buying our productive farms and food companies. Recently, at Dick Smith Foods, we were about to launch a *Young Adventurer Range* of Sunbeam sultanas – the sultanas that fortified me during my world adventure flights. Just as negotiations were about to begin, we learned that Sunbeam had been sold to Bright Food Group – a company controlled by the Chinese Government.

I believe we should consider the

idea of a residency requirement. If overseas people wish to buy our farm land, or businesses, it's better if they come to Australia with their families (if they bring investment

“ I commend the Chinese Government for its foresight...”

capital, they earn points to immigrate) and become part of our community.

Australia has become successful, thanks to immigrants from all around the world, who have started and grown businesses here. This is very

different to foreign governments owning our productive land. New immigrants regularly join community organisations like sporting clubs and the Scouts, enrol their kids in our schools and become part of our fantastic democracy. This is what we want.

I understand that I'm not permitted to buy farm land in China. I commend the Chinese Government for its foresight. I believe we should do the same here.

If you, too, are concerned about the sell-off of our farm land, why not **sign the petition on Page 20** of this magazine? You can send it to us with your Cash Giveaway contest form and we will forward it to Parliament House. Or you can send it directly.

I encourage you to do so, as this is a very important issue.



“ ...we'll need blocks of flats 60-storeys high – similar to those in the big cities of China and India.”

At 7 years of age, I had enough room in our backyard for my lizard collection – I was a “free-range” kid.

FREE-RANGE KIDS

– are better off than battery kids!

When I was young, I was definitely a “free-range” kid. My Dad was a salesman, my Mum a homemaker, and they were able to afford a house with a backyard in Sydney's northern suburbs. They paid off our home over about 30 years.

Nowadays I'm told that the population of Sydney, my home town, must go from 4 million to 7 million people to keep our economic system growing. We'll have to forget individual houses. In fact, to house such a staggeringly huge population we'll need blocks of flats 60-storeys high – similar to those in the big cities of China and India. In effect, our kids who live in backyards (I call them “free-range” kids) will become “battery” kids who live like termites.

But hold on a minute! The human race descended from small groups on the African plains, not from termites!

If we stop our ridiculous addiction to population growth, houses will have reasonable prices and young couples will once again be able to afford a house with a backyard to raise free-range kids. After all, I'm told that we spend over

\$50 million a year buying free-range eggs. We're happy to pay, knowing the chooks aren't caged up like battery hens – but what about our own children? Isn't their health and accommodation just as important?

Are they joking?

“ ... applying the GST to food, health and education, increasing the participation of women in the workplace, and extending the retirement age to 70 have been identified as three key measures to keep the economy growing”

From a recent report by the Melbourne-based Grattan Institute on how Government can maintain economic growth.

SUCCESS BRINGS RESPONSIBILITY

Isn't philanthropy an obligation?

When I was a kid, wealthy business people were also known as philanthropists – Macpherson Robertson (the wonderful inventor of Cherry Ripe and Freddo Frogs), Sidney Myer of Myer Department store fame, Edward Hallstrom of Silent Knight Refrigerators and Vincent Fairfax, to name a few.

It's very different today.

Although a substantial number of wealthy people still fulfil their responsibility to help others through generous donations, there seem to be many who don't.

While typical Australian wage-and-salary earners are some of the most generous people in the world, our very wealthy don't seem to be. In the United States, wealthy Americans devote around 15 per cent of their net worth to philanthropy. In Australia, it's less than one per cent – imagine that!

It really worries me that our wealthy have hit a new low of greed and selfishness. At the very least, it introduces doubts and conflicts about our free enterprise system, generating frustration, anger and fear. At its worst, we get "occupy" riots and more gated communities.

Globalisation could be at the heart of this change. In the past, successful business people who owned and operated businesses here in Australia, lived in Australia. Today, products such as MacRobertson's Cherry Ripe



Philanthropist Sidney Myer, born Simcha Baerski in Russia in 1878, founded the Myer stores empire in Australia.

If you would like to be motivated by the American Code of Philanthropy, click on the names of generous Americans on this site and read about their giving pledge – see www.givingpledge.org

and Freddo Frogs are owned by the giant company, Kraft, with its head office in America. Its chief executive, Irene Rosenfeld, is paid \$26 million a year and makes donations to Cornell University and various medical causes in the United States.

It's a similar story with the Murdoch empire. I understand that Rupert's father was a generous philanthropist. But recently, when the Murdoch press in Adelaide was asked to help a young family who had lost their mother in a terrible car accident and were about to lose their house because they couldn't pay the mortgage, the family received no answer at all. Could it be, because Rupert Murdoch is now living in New York as an American citizen, his

philanthropy is directed primarily within his new home country? This highlights the downside of globalisation for Australia.

Unless something is done to curb extreme capitalism, more Australian businesses will be bought-out, head offices will be moved to the northern hemisphere and philanthropic donations from wealthy executives – if any – will follow suit.

I was taught by my parents, who never had much money, that with wealth comes obligation. They called it 'noblesse oblige' – the obligation of the better-off to openly help others. It looks to me as if some of Australia's millionaires and billionaires have never learned this lesson.

What a pity.