

on the Hinterland



Acting Leaders

Representational politics has many serious, even terminal, psychological and moral pathologies embedded in its make up, not the least being the appalling contradiction between the cognitive and moral equipment required to manage the affairs of the country, contrasted with the black arts of getting preselected, elected and clawing one's way through the party machinery.

The serious self interest, animal cunning, manipulation, competitiveness and theatrical skills required to lever one's way into party preselection, then to win the constituency into getting elected would appear to be completely incompatible with the compassion, integrity, insight, intelligence and honesty needed to effectively manage meeting the people's needs.

So how do politicians manage to get away with being two people at the same time? The answer is of course that they are simply acting one part while "being" the other. Unfortunately honesty and integrity can't really pretend to be cunning, manipulative and competitive, but the cunning person can certainly act as though they had integrity. I guess that's why actors do so well in say- US politics?

Our elected so called "representatives" now appear to have the licence to shamelessly integrate the politics of re-election with the production of legislation and the management of the nation's business. Politicians have become so blatant about playing this bizarre game, hoping that the voter is being totally mesmerised by their hammy performances and their competitive antics that they have been completely distracted from looking at the real issues of governance.

Now that the voting public have become aware and yet tolerant of this sinister performance art, then we are really in trouble as a nation. When politicians become even more devious that they legislate and connive to suffocate the freedom of the press and oppress any means of exposing their fakery, excesses and errors, then we know that they really trust in the fact that the voter is more focussed on their acting performance than they are to the truth.

The Machiavellian machinery of politics has no place in the running of a country. It cynically treats its constituency as nothing more than sheep to be tricked, manipulated, herded, shorn and consumed. The competition and the subsequent suspension of morality required to survive in the political arena are not in the least bit democratic in its true sense, and they are certainly not compatible with the dynamics and values needed to establish and operate an equitable and peaceful world.

Fakes and actors belong in movies and other entertainment and not in making decisions which seriously affect the lives of billions of people. A scenario concocted by some wily politicians is not reality. Just watching them become drunk with their own importance and power while they think of little else but their political entrenchment makes us realise we are in dangerous territory.

There are huge costs to pay for the fakery of so called "representational" politics:- massive economic extravagances and wastes that everyone is so used to because they have no real comparisons, but the biggest losses have been the future, the environment and the moral integrity of a culture.

Care to comment? We welcome discussion, please email your thoughts to hinterlandmuse@westnet.com.au

Montville Coffee

When Karen and Richard Barnett first started selling organic coffee in late 2000, it was not uncommon for people to say, "I don't want organic coffee, I'll just have a real coffee thanks."

Seven years later, Montville Coffee is still the only Queensland coffee business roasting only certified organic and fairtrade coffee, but coffee drinkers now know much more about organics and fairtrade.

Karen and Richard relocated to Montville from Canada in 2000. They wanted to start a business that could make a difference in the world and enable them to live and work close to their family in Montville.

They decided that educating people about the environmental and social costs of coffee farming while producing a premium fairtrade and organic roasted coffee would be the focus of their business.

They also decided to focus on the wholesale side of the business, which gives them time during the day to participate actively in their children's lives at Montville State School and dedicate themselves to the P&C and school community.

The business has grown steadily and is now a well-known and well-loved Sunshine Coast product with many of their Baristas also training in 'latte art' - just to top it off!

Montville Coffee is available locally at the Montville IGA, the Mapleton Supa IGA and the Mapleton General Store, and by the cup at The Edge Restaurant and The Montville Coffee Pot.

Linda Marin and Heidi Slockee, two of the dedicated baristas at The Edge Restaurant, Montville



The Noble's Avocados

Ten acres of avocados, house renovations, three children, a full time job each and volunteer work all add up to a very busy life for Geoff and Ali Noble. They still manage to keep a smile on their faces however, and produce some of the best avocados in the district. They have, in fact, recently won prizes for them in the Nambour Show.

Some of the trees on their 10 acre property on Mapleton Falls Road are 40 years old and still producing. They concentrate on five different varieties of avocados so they produce all year round. The Fuerte variety produces fruit from April to June, Sharwill from June or July, Hass from August to September, Reeds in October and Wurtz will come into season in December.

"There is always something that needs doing," said Ali. "Avocados are prone to fruit fly, anthracnose (Black spot) and fruit spotting bug, so they need constant attention. After we pick from the trees, they need to be pruned back as the fruit only grows on the new wood. Mowing is constant through summer and the trees require a good dose of fertilizer, although we are very lucky here with the deep volcanic soil - anything grows."

Most of their fruit goes to the Mapleton IGA and the Brisbane Markets, while a considerable amount of 'seconds' are sold from the stall outside the property. The weekends are spent picking, as the truck for the markets comes on Sunday afternoon. Geoff maintains that avocados should not be kept in cold storage because of the moisture content and are therefore best eaten fresh.

The packing shed is then a hive of activity as the picked fruit is graded into 1st, 2nd and rejects. They are then polished and sorted into size by a machine and packed into their boxes ready for market. It is continuous hard work but the Nobles just love farming and hope to expand and concentrate fully on their land in the future.

You can try their delicious avocados by dropping by their stall at 41 Mapleton Falls Road or by phoning Pencil Creek Orchard on 5445 7319.



Geoff Noble

THE CANDLE SHOPPE

Fragrance of the month

Vanilla & White Peach

Mayfield Centre
Main Street
Montville
Ph 5478 5966



AMAZINK

Maleny's original boutique print shop....

NEW location.....Same Great Service

COLOUR COPYING

Business Cards, Business Stationery, Flyers, Speciality Papers, Rubber Stamps, Badges, Invitations, Calligraphy & much more

Shelley has over 10 years experience in the print industry and will personally help you design your stationery

2 doors up - 39 Maple Street Maleny

Phone 5494 2410