

Media information overload does not help unpaid subbies

WHAT to believe in these troubled times, where we have media saturation on everything with the biggest noise made for the biggest debacles.

There aren't usually massive headlines screaming good news.

Those headlines are usually saved for bad news stories and there are plenty of them, depending of course on the interpretation or who is telling the story.

For instance, in the past few weeks there has been plenty of controversy and disappointment and, as usual, we are fed the usual stuff from politicians and their spin doctors.

The slant in their rhetoric depends on what side of the fence we are sitting on.

But even worse is what they expect us to believe about the simplest things such as fuel or milk for instance.

If we were local operators price fixing, the ACCC would come down on us like a tonne of bricks.

But because it is the multinationals doing the manipulating, they just make a few noises and expect us to forget it. And most of us do.

Closer to home and building companies are going broke and taking the poor old subbies with them and people in authority make a few noises, but nothing seems to happen.

Unless we are directly affected, life just goes on.

A shake of the head, "the poor buggers", and it is quickly forgotten.

Why aren't our politicians doing something about this?

Seriously, there are few industries left on the Sunshine Coast.

Shouldn't our local politicians, who are getting fed off the public purse, be doing something to help these people and make their governing bodies accountable?

Then there are the Premier's flood relief funds.

What will happen with them and how much federally is being put in compared to what is going into foreign aid?

Now it depends on which one is telling the story on what facts and figures are to be believed, and the other side responds with all the scare mongering.

A prime example is the funeral for those poor boat people last week and what it cost the taxpayer for relatives attending the funeral.

It depends on what side of politics is telling the story, rather than the facts and whether Australians are caring



human beings or not.

What we all fail to understand is that, unlike many countries overseas, in this great nation of ours there is help for those who want to be helped.

At the very least, no one in this country will starve to death unless they want to.

In among all of that doom and gloom though, I have found a good news story last week that restores my faith in people.

Three young local blokes have started a clothing business that will help underprivileged kids, initially in Indonesia and Cambodia, but they have plans for remote Australia and Asia once they get rolling.

The idea is simple, as is the name, Smile Clothing. The premise is that with every item of clothing sold, they will donate a T-shirt to a child that at the least keeps them warm and at best enables them to go to school for one more day.

Now if you are thinking that the problem is too big, in my opinion you are wrong.

Surely if you can help one kid in a Third World country so simply, it has to be better than doing nothing and for your trouble you get a unique piece of clothing.

For instance, instead of at that usual awkward moment

when you run into someone with the same shirt on, in this case for the price of a good T-shirt I could think of nothing better than seeing someone else with one on, knowing they did it for the same reason.

Check the website out, www.smileclothing.com.

It is impressive and a great thing these young blokes are doing.

Their target is to sell 2000 garments this year and help 2000 kids. The best part is the company catchcry, "Give First - Wear Second".

That even makes me smile.

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