

Sunshine on the Horizon

By Steven R. Miller

Where is life heading? Where am I going? I haven't a clue. I don't always know what to do. But what not is usually clear.

I shed a tear from time to time for friends not here, but always on my mind.

Memories are like coats. Warm in a storm. Words wrote, never forgotten.

What does my road hold next? So far it's not what I expected. But what the heck, it won't be the first time life selected the unexpected.

I have a job that does include Rob I, II, III. I never thought I'd see that.

Paying taxes, getting faxes, emails & texting... Hell I might even consider sexting, politicians do.

Speaking of... I've even registered to vote.

My morning's no longer end when the sun begins. Nor do servers send me into a panic.

I shop in stores, no longer do I buy from shoplifters and boosters.

So much has changed I sometimes have to do a double take to make sure it's still me inside.

This ride so far has left permanent scars, on flesh and heart. I guess a part of who I am.

My morals and values are pretty much the same, even though I'm out of the game.

Bop takes the credit; they've said it will be a long stretch in the pen if I commit a crime again. A deterrent it's not. I'm just tired of the same ole rot.

So I begin each day like I ended the last, in awe and wonder at the present and past.



REUTERS/DAVID GRAY

Traditionally dressed representatives from South Pacific nations paddle their canoe towards a ship as they participate in a protest of ships leaving the Newcastle coal port, located north of Sydney, Australia.

'Climate warriors' take on shipping vessels

BY SUGANTHI SINGARAYAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Newcastle, Australia —

An October blockade of ships entering the world's largest coal port in Newcastle, Australia, has ignited widespread online attention to the negative impacts of the fossil fuel industry on global climate patterns.

Thirty "climate warriors" from 12 Pacific Island nations paddled traditional canoes into the sea, joined by scores of supporters in kayaks and on surfboards, to prevent the passage of eight of some 12 ships scheduled to move through the Newcastle port that day.

The blockade lasted nine hours, with photos and videos of the bold action going viral online.

The warriors hailed from a range of small island states including Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Solomon Islands and Samoa — countries where the results of a hotter climate are painfully evident on a daily basis.

Coastline erosion, sea level rise, floods, storms, relocation of coastal communities, contamination of freshwater sources and

destruction of crops and agricultural lands are only the tip of the iceberg of hardships facing some 10 million Pacific Islanders, more than 50 percent of whom reside within 1.5 km of the coastline.

For these populations, the fossil fuel industry poses one of the gravest threats to their existence.

Coal production alone is responsible for 44 percent of global CO2 emissions worldwide, according to the Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions. However, none of the small island nations is responsible for this dirty industry. That responsibility lies with Australia, the fifth-largest coal producing country in the world after China, the United States, India and Indonesia.

Arianne Kassman, a climate warrior from PNG, said, "The expansion of the fossil fuel industry means the destruction of the whole of the Pacific."

"The impact of climate change is something that we see every day back home. While people read about it and hear about it and watch videos we see how much the sea level has risen," Kassman added.

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