

2024-11-29 Graham and John speak with Jason & Lisa Loakes and their work in Sheltered by Grace...

G'day everyone, Monday the 25th of November and club grubbery times rolled around again, another week. John, how are you, buddy?

Couldn't be better, mate. Got the AFA t shirt on today.

Yeah, that's my favorite T shirt, that one. Uh, it's in the wash at the moment. So, uh, yeah, if I'd known, I'd have done it quickly and got it out.

But, uh, AFA still fighting really hard for the fireys in Victoria. Peter Marshall, what a joke. What a joke. Peter Marshall, the head of, uh, the Union for Fire and Rescue Victoria. Uh, a thug who runs the whole state virtually around fire and rescue, um, fire and rescue Victoria dance to his tune. It seems Johnny.

Well, uh, how could you have watched, uh, professor Angus Dalgleish on Rowan Dean's program on Sunday, uh, which has been shared on, uh, on the Facebook page and listen to Angus on, uh, on Ben Fordham. And Peter Marshall, Fed Income, wow, you're obviously a brain

surgeon. Well, you're either a dinosaur or you're corrupted, Peter.

You're more than welcome to come onto our program and tell us why, or what you are, and why you are delaying. Uh, the reinstatement, full reinstatement of those 25 odd firefighters in Victoria, many of whom, uh, have integrity that would leave you in the shade, my friend. But anyway, let's, uh, let's not get too carried away, Johnny.

The misinformation and disinformation bill, the mad bill, um, boy, it got a lot of support in the end, but there's a sheep in wolf's clothing in there somewhere. We

feel. Yeah. I think so, Hoody. Uh, I think people have got to keep their eye on this, uh, under 16 social media, uh, bill because from what I'm hearing that they're trying to slip through the digital identity, uh, requirements through on that bill.

Uh, so that, that should be a real alarm. And it sounds like the coalition, uh, are going to support that bill. So I rang Peter Dutton's office today, uh, to express my concern. And I think everyone should pick up the telephone to whoever they can and just bombard their offices.

That's right. So, uh, we can't rest on our laurels.

It looks like it's all gone away, but it hasn't. Uh, that's, which is probably why they're happy to just pull the bill and, uh, and come at it from another angle, which is what they're prone to do anyway. It just shows you. The kind of, uh, or the lack of integrity that we're dealing with right across the country.

And, uh, I guess to highlight that, uh, because we are, we are supposedly the lucky country, but there's a lot of people in this country that couldn't really, uh, put their hand up to that, uh, that description of Australia anymore. We've had Daniel Cinzio, uh, come on from Beyond Borders, John in the Logan area, who's been driving around the truck, feeding the homeless, sleeping in their cars in and around the Logan Shire now for a number of years since all this happened.

And, uh, You know, that area seems to be a magnet for people in distress. And joining us today, we have Lisa and Jason Lokes, who are from Sheltered by Grace, who have a shelter running in the same area. Guys, it's great to have you on. Thanks for joining us. Thanks

for having us. Thanks, Sodi.

The lucky country, are we, Jason?

Yeah, if we get rid of, um, the uni party, yeah, I think you've got a fighting chance being the lucky country again. Exactly

right. So, uh, Lisa, give us a, a description of what you guys have been doing and how long you've been doing it for and where the needs are.

Um, so Shelter by Grace started in about 2009, so we've been operating for about 15 years now in the Logan area.

Um, we originally wanted to set up affordable housing projects, we'd been speaking with governments and local councils, Logan City Council at the time, um, and wanting to do affordable housing, because God actually put it on our heart many years ago to house the world, and for years we rang going, oh no, no, no, I can't hear what you're saying, that's way too big for us.

No, sorry, sorry. Hell yeah. Um, so as he's want to do, God caught up with us. Um, and so we've been running our site at Logan since 2009. So we actually do, um, emergency and affordable accommodation for single men and women over the age of 25. So a lot of our clients actually do have children, but they don't have custody of said children.

Um, so aside from just accommodation, we actually run, uh, programs as well as social work in case management. Etc for all of our people. So rather than just a band aid approach to homelessness, we actually focus on transforming, changing lives, reuniting people with families. Um, we run a rehab program on site, a six month dedicated rehab program, and then another six month peer support program.

We run a life skills 101 program, a working through trauma, overcoming DV. So we, we actually, um, do an awful lot. For people within the confines of their pension. Um, but the only extra funding that we get is through donations and from some grants that we also get as well. Uh, so we actually have the very first and we think the only accommodation for men as victims of domestic violence, because not sure that you know, but there actually is no funding whatsoever for men as victims and the statistics vary, but it's around one in three victims.

is a male and yet apparently it doesn't exist and men shouldn't be subjected to to being victims of DV. So we do house both men and women as victims of DV, but we do have some dedicated space and beds for men. Um, as victims of DV as well. So,

wow. So tell us, paint us a picture of the facility that you've, you've got up and running at the moment.

What does it look like?

Well, it used to look like stepped on sun, but we've been very blessed the last couple of years. Um, we did get some one off, um, sizable donations, so we can really make some good improvements to them. So we've got one 12 bedroom building that I built out of shipping containers. You know, when I was doing that 20 years ago for a business and, um, it's all planted inside and out and it's purpose built so that people can't damage it and it's very hardy.

Um, uh, we've got another, uh, 12 bedroom, um, home that we managed to build for, with a 98,000 grant from the Gambling Community Fund. Um, there's no way in the world you could build it for that price now. That's

about three years old. That's the dedicated one for Man Escaping DV. And I donated my old display unit and I had another developer to donate another tiny home that we've had to renovate completely all the termites were holding hands on that one.

So it looks great now, and we've just finished, we got a lend lease grant. And so we have three little tiny homes now that we're doing respite for people with the NDIS that are homeless on the streets and they have a full package. So we're helping our charity actually make some money through the respite, but we're also, um, helping these clients get off the streets.

It's crazy that they're, they've got 250, 000, 300, 000 packages. And they're still living on the streets. They're still living on the streets.

They're

not

able to access it. The whole, the whole system's upside down. Yeah. But anyway, so. Really a very long topic. Yeah,

there's a lot of, as you would know, there's a lot of issues and complexities with homelessness and it's, it's one of those wicked policy problems that touches on so many different aspects.

of politics and economics and social issues. And it's, unfortunately, the politicians in our government doesn't really have the appetite to solve it. I mean, it is solvable. There's more than enough money in the Australian system, but it's definitely not utilized properly.

It doesn't, doesn't seem to suit the agenda either to actually house homeless men.

We come under a lot of attack and a lot, all our court cases, um, in the early days were all from, um, government agencies. And the only thing that really stuck out was we were, the only thing we were doing different to any other charity with homeless were housing homeless men. Um, there's still nothing. But we don't

just house homeless men.

No, we don't.

We look after men and women. But

equal opportunity.

Yeah. Look, Ronnie, I reckon you'd be chomping at the bit to say something now. I mean, we've just been talking about government waste and fire away, mate.

Yeah, it, this really annoys me. I mean, hoodie and I were only just talking before we went on air about the wastefulness that's going on.

And I, I, I know in, uh, in, in New South Wales, I mean the rural Fire Service, uh, uh, wanting to build hangers for, for, for, uh, for helicopters, you know, to, to put in there for a month, a year. I mean, it is absolutely madness that they'll put \$3.8 million into building a hangar for a helicopter. Uh, when people are, are homeless, I mean, the.

It just seems to me that we've got it all wrong. These grants are so ridiculous. There's a real problem with grants in this country. Everything is just structured around ticking boxes and making bureaucrat happy.

Uh, and

it's all going to the wrong places. I mean, clearly, I mean, they've identified this in the U S as well.

I know Elon Musk has been Coming up with ideas for tiny homes

and

it looks really encouraging what, what, what they're doing on so many levels there. And hopefully that filters down. I mean, because it's so easy to fix. Isn't it?

Yeah. Well, there's a lot of money being spent on affordable housing. Now, obviously our government has actually put money into it because of the election.

But you know, there's millions and millions of dollars. We could actually. Solve the homeless problem in Australia with what they're being given just for, you know, so many 30, 40 beds. Our model is very much based on community living and tiny homes is obviously. part of that because that's kind of what we do.

Um, that's what we used to do. We used to build houses and mining camps out of shipping containers, which look actually quite bespoke and lovely, but you know, our whole concept of everybody needs their own huge space is potentially something that needs to be challenged as well.

There's huge amounts of money being wasted in this industry.

There's, um, the old Queensland government, um, had spent over 5 billion on homelessness initiatives. And they created zero homeless beds for that money. Five billion dollars.

It was all people helping the homeless or being funded to try and help them find beds, which is, you know, as we know, is silly.

We don't get any government funding at all.

And the state company was going out and spending eight, 9 million over the asking price for hotels and put homeless people in the CBD.

They just bought a hotel in the Brisbane CBD and they paid over, and we actually have Someone in an association we're part of who's got the fruit, the rights of information details, and they actually paid eight to 9 billion over asking price.

So yeah, yeah, this is what they do. They come up with these garbage programs though, you know, so we're going to put 50 people through TAFE and put them through a world in course at five grand each. And yeah, that might be great, but I mean, it's not much good if you don't have a house to live in, does it?

That's right. It'd be hard

to

get them

to a job if they don't have a roof over their head. And I mean, he's part

of my contention. As everyone says, everyone needs a home. Yes, they need somewhere to stay, but A house is not necessarily the first solution for homelessness. A lot of our chronic homeless are homeless for a reason.

They can't sustain a tenancy. There's chronic mental health. There might be addictions. There's other underlying trauma that needs to be dealt with before they're actually able to sustain a house or, you know, housing. And so what we do is that dedicated, hands on, 24 hour support to assist people deal with the underlying issues before they're actually ready then to move on.

To reconnect with family, get a job, be re skilled.

Just getting someone's mental health stabilised is a huge issue. I've helped

some support constantly for people that have chronic mental health issues. We closed down all our mental health hospitals in Queensland in the late 90s. Um, there's, it, there's a massive gap, um, uh, missing. You have the normal hospitals that'll house them for two to four weeks, bomb them out. Maybe,

if you can get someone to bed at the moment, you can't even get people to bed.

Yeah, well you can get them

into the hospital, that's another whole issue. But anyway, if, if we can get them in, um, then you, you really do, the next step was to put them in a long term mental health hospital. That'll take two or four years to get them well. That's missing. That's just gone. They just go straight back to the street again and then impact on everybody else.

Or inappropriately housed and, you know, that's what we had a lot of trouble setting up because the locals didn't understand what we were trying to do or why, and that people are much better in a supported accommodation environment than being free range out in the public, assuming they're taking their medication, but they're probably not, and being unassisted and unsupported.

So, you know, as you know, the system is broken.

I just want to be in charge of Australia for one day. Just give me one day. It would be Woody,

you'd be Woody, you'd be pretty familiar with all this, with your recovery program. I mean, it doesn't sound dissimilar to what you're doing, but, you know, on a shorter term basis.

It's not easy, is it, looking after these people?

No, look, you know, yeah, as John said, my wife and I have been running a Christ centred 12 step program that we we made up 18 years ago and we do a lot of a lot of recovery work 12 step recovery work. Um, it's, it's a tough space to be in, you know, people need more than just a roof over their head.

They need a support structure. They need to feel secure and they need to feel safe and they need to feel, um, that they're around people who understand them, who can listen to them because most of their issues stem from never being heard and never, never being connected. So, how big is, um, how big a staff have you got?

Or are you going to laugh at me?

No, this, well, actually up until, you know, the manufactured crisis that we've all experienced for the last few years. There was just me on a very tiny salary in the first seven years. There was, um, there was nothing. I was just a hundred percent volunteer working there seven days a week.

Um, but yeah, we have six staff now that no, no one's paid full time. Um, and everyone probably is doing plenty of overtime. Yeah. And we've got volunteers and

volunteer students and volunteers and

yeah,

yeah. Here we go again, Johnny, where the people are doing the work the government is paid to do. You know, you made a comment with, uh, when we launched inform me.

com, um, you know, talking about giving people, uh, you know, advice on vaccinating their children and all that sort of stuff. And we're going to be talking to Katrina again on that subject shortly. And you made a comment that resonated right from that interview, which is why do these people need to do what the government should be doing?

The government's failing at every turn. And today I hear on the news that the, uh, the, uh, housing bill that the federal government was going to bring through. It looks like it's not going to go through now because the greens having a squabble with them. And, uh, and they're arguing over semantics and where are we, uh, in the middle of a bunch of bureaucracy, uh, bureaucracies and, uh, and no man's land and still people cannot afford rent.

Uh, rents have gone through the roof, you've got, you know, rent auctions are happening all over the place. Yes. Nobody can afford rent, uh, nobody can afford to buy housing to rent out to people and nobody can afford to get into their own home. It's an absolute joke. And here we are, I live in a rural area in northern New South Wales.

And if I want to put three or four tiny homes on here now I've run the gauntlet of council saying now you've got to move on you can't have them there for more than you know you can't have more than three months on any one title. There is

a um I know in Queensland government and we've been able to find this there is a state legislation That overrides council, which allows you to actually, and we've been able to use this on our site, which works with domestic violence people, so you can actually not have to go through the whole DA process.

Just order and away you go. And that's how we built the last few homes and the tiny homes as well.

Can you hear me, John? Other people reached out to us for help over the years. We're all trying to help each other that are struggling.

Can you hear me?

Cost benefit analysis. The last one I heard was in WA. It was 1. 1 million dollars. Her homeless person to house them in an emergency housing. That's insane. Yeah. It's just such a waste.

Well, it's interesting. What do you mention about the tiny homes on, on, on, on, you know, rural blocks? I mean, because you know that realistically there isn't, if you've got 10 acres, I mean, what does it matter if you've got half a dozen tiny homes on there, whether they'd be relatives or friends or, you know, people who are struggling for a period of time.

I mean, it shouldn't really make any difference, but I mean, once again, I'm in the councils The councils are a problem, but once again, in Australia we've got this culture of do dabbers, uh Yeah. You know, and the neighbors would be, oh, you know, you on the phone, you know, next council sort forced out there.

Like it's just bad.

Yeah. Yeah. Nimbyism and we had a lot of that setting up, so it's, um, yeah, it's been interesting. Death threats, stalkers from locals. It's been amazing.

Over the years, I've had a couple of situations where neighbours have, uh, have wanted to create havoc, uh, not only here, but other, other places where I live.

And, uh, every time I've dealt with a council officer, they've come and looked at what we're doing. And then they've looked at me and said, look, if you didn't have such lousy neighbours, we wouldn't even be here. If somebody lodges a complaint, we've got to be here. You know, it's just. Right.

That's

like, where, where, where are we, Australia?

Where are we when, when, uh, when we, we can't house people who are desperate for housing? And where are we like Logan City Council running around, turning off taps and, and shutting down shower and, and, uh, toilet facilities so that the homeless sleeping in their cars have got nowhere to go. And where are we?

Moving them so they become somebody else's problem. What a groovy act is that? We've all got land in Logan. They've got so much land in that area.

They've told us that they don't. We've, we've approached them and they've told us that they don't have any that could possibly be used for this purpose.

No, no, no.

Cause nobody wants a community like that in their backyard.

That's right. Yep.

One bad will happen to you.

Look, yeah, every council has this same. mantra. They go, oh, they're not our homeless. They're these people who have been imported from other councils.

It's a state problem. It's not our problem. And I

keep, I keep laughing at them and going, trying to laugh, you know, I'm laughing in my head.

I'm going, but do you realise like you all create that problem? You all get to put them in a bus with security or, you know, um, park rangers and then move them to the other council. All you do is keep moving, moving the chess pieces on the same chess board. How about you actually just help them? Yeah. So look, it's a very frustrating system.

Um, we want to expand and we've, we've got the way to do it in Queensland. We, um, chasing people that, um, share our vision and help us to do it. I want to, I want to build more communities. The best thing that we did by accident was having that shared facility that shared 12 bedroom home and having to force people to do chores and work together.

And it built a community. We have lots of good people that when they're ready to move on. They, we help them find shared accommodation and then two or three or four or five will move out together and take over that home. It's a great exit strategy.

And that's part of our vision is to keep them connected.

So if they do relapse or need assistance, then they know where to come back to for help. And, you know, it creates that bigger, Environment in the bigger community where they always stay connected. Cause as you would know, they've probably lost their family or the other connections. So it's about connections.

That's the only way we can help people out of homelessness is by keeping the connections and keeping them in communication. Um,

and as I say, a lot of, a lot of these, uh, a lot of these people would be veterans. Uh, and I've got to ask the question, where are these weak generals? Uh, that are happy to task these ADF agencies to go out on, uh, on field trips and exercises out in the middle of nowhere.

I mean, if they wanted to do something productive, why don't they set up a soup kitchen? ad hoc in some of these places where they could actually make a difference to these people's lives. Uh, and, and I mean, cause it is, they're in a war zone, these people. I mean, I don't know how else you'd describe it. I mean, it's pretty, uh, pretty shocking what these people are going through every night.

Um, and why the defense force just can't, uh, mount some humanitarian operation just to assist. Yeah,

when we think about the defense force doing that, the one big thing is people in uniform trigger people in that situation, you know, uh, we saw that in Coracai, Johnny, when we were there during the floods, when the military flew in, in helicopters and all of that, there are a lot of people around that didn't know what they were there for and, and, uh, they thought they were going to be moved on and all that.

The big issue for me is. That, um, all we need is for governments of all, of all persuasions just to back off and let the people do what the people want to do for other people, just stop throwing roadblocks in the way. So get out of the way. Yes. Just there are people like you who want to help others are being stymied at every turn by liberals and bureaucracy.

That's why, you know, the whole libertarian movement, John, uh, I, I really support that whole nation of, um, you know, when we were talking to Crystal Mitchell the other night in Victoria, we, we. I was listening to ABC today. Here we have a parliament that's just about to wind up for the year and they're distressed because they've only passed a few bits of legislation and they're saying that the Senate's bored.

The Senate's sitting there with nothing to pass. Why don't they put in action a reversal of some of these ridiculous bills that have been passed over the years? Why don't we start extracting them from our legal books and getting rid of the whole thing so we free this nation up so its people can be free?

It's not part of the plan. Yeah, I agree with you 100%. Yeah, look, it's taken us what, 12 years to find a way through this, this way that we can not have to, I don't have to deal with any bureaucracy to go build another shelter. I just need to find some people that can help us donate the land and find the cost to build a massive village.

I want to build a massive village. 150 tiny homes and on, on at least, you know, like 20 to preferably like a hundred acre lots and just do one after the other. And you have all ages of the community working together. You'll have the elderly looking after the mums and dads that have to go to work.

Everybody works together. You'll have your market guns. You have everything sitting there. It'd be like utopia compared to what we do now with, you know, sitting on small blocks and not knowing our neighbours.

What would you say, Jason, to those people watching this who'd say, Ah, you're just going to create another ghetto.

It's going to be a drug hub. People, you know, you hear this all the time, you know, all you're doing is creating another ghetto. You're just moving the same movie to a different cinema. What do you say to them?

Why don't you come to the shelter first and do, just do one, one day, just do a one 24 hour shift.

Right. Just live what we live and see the people that we look after and help. Right. They, they're, they're all somebody's mother, father, son, or daughter. Right. It, it, it, we shouldn't be turning our backs on, on human beings in this country. Dogs get looked after better. Yeah. And are better funded. Yes. Right.

Um, uh, homeless dogs are better funded and better looked after than our homeless men and women on the streets. and our homeless kids. It's just,

but it's also about support. Like we've got to provide the support to people so that yes, even though drugs and alcohol are there, we've got support to help them to actually overcome and, you know, work through it.

Exactly. So yeah, it would never happen like that. As long as you have onsite, um, onsite work. 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We've always got carers, we've always got social workers, we've always got people there that they can turn to. Um, we're a drug and alcohol free site, uh, shuttled by grass. We've got another model that'll work really well and having some people, they can at least have a roof over their head.

It's going to be a very ugly roof until they want to choose to get well and to get off all the gear. And, and there's a lot of addicted to prescription drugs too. But once you get rid of that drug addiction, then you get to the real problem and it's usually family, the breakdown of family. You know, um, it makes a world of difference when you can get, get people good sleep and get them off their gear.

Broken connections.

At the day, I still don't understand why this wouldn't be considered an humanitarian crisis that the military could assist with. I mean, you, you see them deploy overseas and they set up, they set up tents for thousands of people in, in hours. I mean, with, with, with makeshift hospitals, with food tents, all this stuff, you know, I think the military could play a real role.

here. Um, and, and look, uh, it may be confronting for them saying, saying, um, military in, in, in uniform, but I, you know, I think the majority of serving military personnel would be, uh, you know, they're compassionate. empathetic. They're beautiful people that would be willing to, um, to serve in that capacity.

And, you know, I, I just can't understand why it continually gets overlooked. It's a massive resource on our doorstep that could be deployed tomorrow. Um, and I mean, these people are not going to improve unless they're getting, good nutrition, their health care is, is being looked at. And you know, they've got somebody on the ground to talk to,

uh,

and, and, and a shelter over their head.

I mean, those difficulties you're talking about, I mean, they're very complex problems that are not going to be sorted out in a tent.

They're not going to be sorted in a motel room, which is where they're being put at the moment, put up for one or two nights and then back to the street. It's a vicious cycle.

Yeah. Look, for 300, 400 bucks a night they're spending that, that's basically what we charge the client for a week, uh, including food and utilities and all the care and the social

work, social workers, programs, but

I hear stories all the time. I don't know whether I don't know the veracity of what I've been told, but look at the end of the day, I hear when people come from overseas, they've got nowhere to put these people.

And when they. Defining whether they're, you know, whether they're illegally here or not. Um, they're put into five star hotels. They've got hire cars picking them up. They're given vouchers. They're given meal things. They're given money.

It's hap I've noticed for the last 12 months it's happening in every Western country.

The exact same issues. Then we've got this housing, manufactured housing crisis, as I call it. Um, you can't, you can't bring in 100, 000 immigrants in one month. And that month, the whole building industry of Australia only manufactures 14, 500 homes and units. Right? Um, it's just maths. It's supply and demand.

Rent and property are going to go through the roof. So, and that's the same thing in Canada, same thing in the U. S. with the illegal immigrants. It's the same thing in the U. K. at the moment. They've had two million immigrants move in in I think less than two years. Um, it's no accident that this looks very much orchestrated plan if you're sitting back from any distance at all.

Of course it is. The whole, the whole aim is to create crises so that they can bring in the solution they want, which is one world, one world everything.

Yeah.

And, and, and so Jason, you said if you were, um, you'd love to run this country for a day, tell me what you'd do. What's the first thing you'd do? Well, before I

do anything, I would actually get every best awake leader that I know of in a room and we'd be planning out all different strategies of what government departments to get rid of, just like they're doing over in the States.

Definitely be following a lot of that model, for sure. Um, definitely be making sure there's no laundering money overseas, you know, to dodgy charities and stuff like that, that are huge. I'd be spending money on, on local grassroots charities here. Cause they're the ones that are on the front line and they usually way more cost effective than any government or quango agency that I've ever come across.

I would definitely, uh, reform Queensland government. We desperately need an upper house. We don't have a Senate here in Queensland. Um, I'd put a lot of strategies in place where you can't, um, you cannot get a job, um, leaving, um, parliament house, any level, three levels of government and working for the people that you've been signing off on giving them, um, uh, friendly, friendly grant, um, friendly money.

You know, you can't just work for the, you know, tobacco lobbyist company straight away, all that type of stuff. You gotta get rid of the corruption. You gotta actually have proper watchdogs that are actually independent. You know, you've got to shine the light. If we could shine the light on the trees, we wouldn't, none of us would be in this situation at the moment.

Elon Lokes. Yeah. Yeah. Give it to me. I'll do it. Yeah. I'd have a go. I think my wife knows I would.

Yeah. Well, as we said at the beginning, this is the lucky country.

Yeah.

Yeah.

You ask those people now, what you're doing, what you're doing is doing what, what you're doing is you're replacing a system that worked well for centuries.

You're bringing back the village.

Yeah.

You're bringing back the village and, um, and that's been the one big thing that's needed. It, you know, it's been said by many, it takes a village to raise a child.

It does. It

takes a village to connect. And the biggest problem we see, uh, people coming to our recovery program, they all feel like they are too far gone to be helped.

They're too far gone to be saved. There's no way that God would be interested in them, so why would other people be interested in them? And we spend most of our time, as you guys would know, telling them that we're all a work in progress. Each day we are a work in progress, and all we've got to do every day is turn up for work.

That's right. And I

don't mean go and clock on at your job at the warehouse or whatever. Just turn up to enable your character to be developed through the trauma that you're living through because there's a million people out there waiting to see how you climb out of the hole that you're in because they're in a hole too and they want to climb out.

And,

and what people like you do, what people like you do and Daniel Cingio and a great many others. They don't look down on anybody unless they're helping them up.

Yeah.

And we've got to get Australia back to that notion again. We shouldn't be looking down on anybody unless we're helping them

up.

You know, Johnny, Johnny's whole life is about service.

He's, he's, he was a paramedic. He's been involved in local government as a shire council. He's been mayor, deputy mayor. He's on, he's on, he's been in, he's in the RFS, he's in the SES. The whole thing is all about serving people and that it, that's what we've got to come back to. We've all become too selfish.

Yeah, that's right.

We're too interested in bagging our neighbor rather than we should be looking for the good in people and ignoring the garbage. But no, no, we're too busy fighting for garbage. We've got a lot of changes to go through in this country.

Let's say you keep us divided. You know, you make sure that we're always arguing amongst ourselves.

And so we're not arguing against who really is ruling us. Because man, they just laugh. They just laugh at us. We need to be a one voice and one nation again. Really do.

Yeah, we do. We do. And you know, look, um, there's a lot going on. There's the pendulum starting to swing, John. I mean, it's been a pretty, um, amazing week.

Uh, we've started to see a lot of things shift and a lot of, uh, the narratives really starting to crumble. Uh, but you know, we've still got a long way to go, mate, we've still got a long way to go.

We're a long way from, uh, winning this, unfortunately, and, uh, uh, these people need to be held to account.

There's no, no question about that, but yeah, I wasn't in the RFS hoodie.

I

thought

you were

in everything.

You weren't in the RFS? I don't think they'd have me. Remember the RFS was pretty staunch. They wanted you to have 50,000 vaccines. Remember? Oh yeah. But I thought you'd have been in there a long time ago. I thought you were in everything.

No, I wasn't in the

RFS. Hey,

do you remember when we were in Korokai and they were looking for our green tick before they'd let us do anything?

And we told them all to get Nick because the people who didn't have green ticks outnumbered the people who did. And they just had to put up with us still being there. We told them all to

get Nick.

They

weren't

even on the ground, were they?

It was hard.

We even kicked the Salvation Army out because all they were doing was running interference.

It was just unbelievable.

Thank God for the Army. Uh, actually, uh, I mean, they were, uh, they were magnificent, weren't they, when they came in?

They were great. They were great. But you know, here was the thing again, bureaucracy, they were marching around keeping exercised in pristine uniforms with clean boots for three days.

And when we went up to the commanding officer and said, why aren't you guys getting in there and getting dirty? They said, we're hanging out too, but we haven't had our orders issued from Canberra yet. It took them three days to get their orders. But when they got their orders, man, they were great, weren't

they?

Oh yeah, that one. Full of mattresses out, full of mud. It was, it was unbelievable. Unbelievable.

Anyway,

so

you've got one village at the moment, right?

One, yes.

Yeah. Have you got another one on the drawing board or you just, is that a pipe dream?

Um, it's not a pipe dream. But, um, yeah, we do need the finances first or someone to donate the land.

We've been close before. We've had several times. We've been close in Harvey Bay and in Kingaroy, but they haven't quite come off. So another potential one up around the Bundaberg area shortly. So there's a few around the edges, but nothing's kind of come through just yet.

Surely there must be government buildings that are, you know, doing nothing out there.

I find this hard to believe that there's not old nurses quarters somewhere or there's some, uh, quarantine camp that they built for us but didn't put us in. Yes. There's got to be something. I

hope people don't want to live in

that though. Have you tried penetrating the bureaucracy just to get a list? No one can give me a list.

We've been trying for years and years and years. Just to

start there. Yeah. Oh, look, I'm hoping that, The new government in Queensland is going to be a little bit more helpful. One of the federal senators, liberal guy, he was pretty switched on and actually keen to help us. So we've got to write up a proposal for him.

Um, but yeah, look, just one day at a time, but, uh, some will have the perfect block of land and, and, um, some will have the funds. And I, I know that that'll happen. We were some, we had no funds and no nothing, but we managed to buy the land, build. Do everything in three months.

Yeah, there's a whole story behind our startup that we won't bore you with today, but I am writing a book.

Yeah, we got 800, 000 fine. So that's a short of it to set up a temporary homeless shelter. And then we built a permanent one all in three months and avoided the fines. And then got a whole heap of other crap, but anyway, there's nobody wanted us near them.

Yeah. Why should you even have to go through that?

I mean, look, you talk about quarantine camps and everything. The first thing they'd have to do is tear down the walls around those things. None of the homes there?

You're right. You're right. They'll never live in that with three, um, three fences and razor wire. They'll never go in there for love of money.

Why

would anyone want to? Why would you?

What is

the purpose of these things now? Yeah. Dan, that saw to Melbourne. Dan Andrews built a monument to himself. It's a massive, it's like a prison.

Yeah.

You know, 10, 000 walls.

How is, uh, on the background of what Angus had to say yesterday about Moderna and Pfizer, I mean, how are these two factories, That are earmarked, one in Melbourne, one in Brisbane, not being turned into housing.

Well, they've never cared for us. And we just need to wake up as many Aussies as we can, that they never have. And they don't, they don't have our best interest at heart.

I don't hold my breath that government's ever going to solve this problem. I think most of them are only in it to get re elected. It's just to be seen to be doing something.

I don't think any of them have the appetite to actually sit back and look at the problems. I

The best thing they can do to help us is to get out of our way.

100%.

That would be a good start.

Yeah.

Get out of our way and let the people do it. Look at them all. Johnny, they're all there. We're ready to do their thing.

These were front, a lot of them are frontline workers, people from all walks of life, everyday mums and dads. That's other people, some other, uh, Notable Australians are happy to call cooks. I mean, it's just, it beggars belief. It absolutely beggars belief. Do you know that you two are cooks?

Yeah. Proud, proud and proud.

Oh

yeah, I got

a conspiracy theory shirt last year.

We've been called worse.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I just, it, it, you know, I, you know, I look at some of these groups that are, uh, you know, doing all this, Andy cook a stuff. And I've realized that they cook themselves. They're more cooked than anyone else's. They don't realize it that we've got to stop getting, getting, going down these stupid, uh, laneways and come together on a big freeway of people in Australia and actually do things to help our country get back on its feet.

Because we've elected representatives and we're paying bureaucrats that just aren't capable of doing it.

Yep. Well, I used to be a government employee. Don't hold that against me in the Queensland government. And then I consulted to them. So I saw. quite a bit through COVID as well. So I was doing recruitment.

So that was very interesting, but I actually feel that a lot of bureaucrats in our Queensland government have actually been, um, escalated to levels of their incompetence. And so they're either off on sick leave or they're just shuffling deck chairs. And a lot of them have absolutely no clue what they're doing.

Wow. And that's a good day, I think.

And that's, that's where we're at.

Yeah.

The good people have all left their private sector, they're working for themselves.

The ones that can critically think, yeah, left the sector three or four years ago. Yeah. I, when I was in Canberra two years ago for the peaceful protests, I was, it's almost three years, yep.

Um, it was mind blowing how many doctors and nurses and fireys and everybody. And employees like John, yeah.

And they were homeless for the first time and they had no idea what to do or where to get help. I spent a lot of my time trying to guide them on where they can actually get help, get free food, get free accommodation and trying to get a fighting chance to get back on their feet again.

But without them, with them still being gainfully employed, you know, without pay, it was virtually impossible with the Centrelink system to get them any funds. It was a real nightmare and I pray to God we never end up in that situation again.

I think we're perpetually in it.

Yeah.

The level varies.

The level varies.

It's only the depth that varies, Johnny. Well, I don't know what you can say. What do you, I mean, it's just madness. The whole, whole thing. Once again, you know, I, I think thankfully, um, once again, COVID has sort of opened up her eyes to all this going on. Um, you know, everyone else just thought homelessness was a few people that were being helped by CEOs on one night a year.

Uh, . Don't

start me on that one. . Anyway. Yeah,

yeah,

yeah.

Now, Lisa, straighten up your shirt because there's a website on there, isn't there? Show us what your website is. There

is sbg.org.au,

right, so that's sugar by grace s spg.org au. There's, there's, there's a way you can help. And, uh, I'm sure, look, there are a lot of people who watch this program who are very well healed.

Um, money's not their issue. Yeah. Um, it's it, you know, they want to help behind the scenes and do other things. So there's a few people I know who watch this. There's one for you. Shelter by grace, um, sbg. org. au and keep us in the loop. Let us know when the next one's about to start. And yeah, yeah. So we'll, we'll bring this one to a halt now, but, um, Look, this, we've just got to do what we can to get Australia back on its feet again.

And we've got to, we've got to come back to the village mentality where we all look after each other. If everybody on the planet looked after the man on his right, we wouldn't need law enforcement. We wouldn't need police. We wouldn't need, we wouldn't need

self governance. Yep. Absolutely.

Imagine the world without Canberra.

Amazing. What

a lovely world of freedom. I, if you ever get to travel, years ago I got to travel to Philippines and that's what it was like, freedom. There was no, um, signs to tell you what speed to do on the road. There was just nothing. It was, it was such a mind blow for me living, born and bred in Australia to experience freedom.

That would be really nice. I'd like that for

Australia. I really would. Maybe one day, maybe one day.

Maybe. Let's bring

it to a close with a prayer. Dear Lord, Father in Heaven, please grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

In one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is and not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right. If I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next.

We pray in Jesus name, Amen. Thank you. Johnny, you've often been heard to say. You just couldn't make this stuff up. You couldn't make this stuff up, as you say. Look, there's so many resources in this country, John, that can be utilised. And, you know, even the whole military thing can be done in a way that's not confronting to other people, you know.

You just, you don't have to turn up in tanks and uniforms. You just, you know. Put the gear out there. The resources are there. How much time expired gear gets thrown away anyway? I mean, it's just craziness, but anyway, God bless you both. And, um, I'd love to pop up there. I'd love to pop up and have a look. We pass through that area quite a bit.

So I'd like to Yep. Sounds great. Yeah. I'd love to come and talk to some of the people up there. It'd be awesome.

Yeah.

Absolutely. I'd love that. All right. Well, standard agrees, everyone. And don't forget if you love somebody and you haven't told them, give them a call and let them know you may just save their life.

Sheltered by grace. What a great thing because we've all been saved by grace and by grace we're saved to serve. So let's get on with it. Yeah. And get this country back on its feet. God bless you guys. We'll see you next

time. See

ya.

Bye.