Rust never sleeps in the industrial home

New Year resolutions need all-year actions

Live simply for a more peaceful world, writes Philip Wilson.

As we begin a new year it’s natural for us to take a few moments to make some resolutions about what we might do to make our world a better place this year. Perhaps your resolution involves addressing an issue of importance to your own life – losing weight, quitting smoking, for example. A resolution to live more peacefully could be one of the most important you make.

What is peace? To me it is a sense of good fortune, though, Meyer suggests, it is a sense of good fortune that many of us have lost. Peace means living in communities that lack the full 52 cards of a deck. A full deck meaning three basic things: First, that a community should be structured around a mix of people across all ages, and from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. Second, that a community should be supported by a diverse local economy capable of supplying enough quality jobs. And third, that the mood of a town as a whole, and the people in it, should be one of optimism, where people reckon things are going to turn out all right for just about everyone.

The book shows how tough it is on young people who live in communities that lack the full 52 cards of a deck. In Meyer's novel, though, industrial workers are able to live a better life because they are able to sell their skills to different companies.

In America, the industrial home is dying as American factory workers took home much less than they did in the past.

The imminent threat to island nations such as Parvati and Kiribati requires a genuine and serious commitment. Like Pope Benedict, I hope all people may hear and heed the dangerous and devastating impact of excessive consumption and lack of regard for our environment.

Professor Philip O'Neill is director of the Urban Research Centre, University of Western Sydney.

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