



MID NORTH COAST ^{NSW}

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Dear Rat Race

By Guest Blogger **Paul Martin** | WED 18 APR 2012 | 0



SHOW MAP

I love the sound of heavy traffic on my way to work. I appreciate the clock as I do my daily grind. I enjoy the drive that debt gives to my life. I like the structure of the working week, it makes me appreciate weekends.

I know I will be doing this for 30 years, it keeps me focused. I value my payments to the bank as I end up paying for my house twice, it makes it twice as good! My place in the city, in the 'burbs.

I want to share with you my moment of clarity. An independent thought if you will, there are alternatives to the rat race!

I found something different. It is not so different from the outside, my house looks the same except there is no fence. I have water, power, a house, a car and work to do. It is a place where Kids roam without fear, aren't hooked to the screen. I talk to them about gardening, they give me useful tips. You should see my orchid!

There is no mains power, water or sewerage where I live, it costs more to set up your own services but then there is no bill every month, no connection fee. I had to wait a long time for the proper road to reach me, I had to go to meetings, negotiate and organise, overcome disagreements and find common ground so the group could move forward. We did it. The contractors built the road to my block too.

The best part of leaving the rat race was that I grew as a person, I continue to learn through the process and make better friends, I mastered micro politics. The key is tea, many cups of it with many people. Time to talk things out and find where we agree, develop proposals and ways forward as a group. There is no space for me, mine and only my way. That mentality is safe back in the suburbs.

What sort of a place has these attributes? Where do you build your own place, have to have cups of tea WITH YOUR NEAUGBHOOR! Only pay \$20 000 for an acre of grass, backed onto national park?

Why, it is the land you choose to divide up between a group, it is a Low Cost Rural Land Sharing Co-op!

You can do it too! Research, come and visit, meet new friends, buy the land divide it up. Go on – have an argument, sort things out, raise a road levy, build a dam. Plant more food trees than you ever knew existed. Do your own sub division rather than paying someone else to do it for you.

Why is free-hold land, houses and flats the only way people think of to get out of renting?

I suspect it is not in the interests of developers or real estate agents, actually I know it is not as they miss out on \$100 000+ from you!

So what I am saying is that co-operating with other people on jointly owned land allows you to skip the mortgage on 'dirt'! But don't tell too many people it is not a hippy commune or a weird cult, we can't have too many people leaving the rat race and cooperating, think of the economy!

Goolawah rural land sharing co-op has 5 patches of 'dirt' and a life-style available for couples and families. Come and have a look! Goolawah.org