

David Suzuki at the Willunga Farmers Market.

THANKYOU. I have followed Mike Rann for many many years since he was a minister in a previous government. Then I, of course, was shocked to see that that government was tossed out and good old Mike hung in there and now he comes back as your premier and I have great hope because I think that Mike Rann is a very unusual politician. I wish we had more like him in Canada and I expect great things from him. Yesterday I met him and he spoke very, very highly of John Hill and that's a good enough recommendation for me, John, and I am going to be following you with great interest.



I am absolutely thrilled to have had the opportunity to come here. I know that the market has been running. I'm not here to open it. It's already been running and is doing very, very well.

We are living in a world now made very, very small by globalised communication, transportation and the global economy. One of the consequences of globalisation is an increasing homogenization of the planet. I travel to many parts of the world and it doesn't matter whether you land in Beijing, Moscow or Paris or Rio - you get out of a plane and go into the airport and it looks the same, it doesn't really matter.

There's Kentucky fried chicken. There's McDonalds. All the same products are out there. That is the consequence of globalisation. And what globalisation does, I think, is that it disconnects you from a place.

The reason we like to travel to different places is that we love to see the variety of the human experience and the expression of human thought in our cultures. And yet, I come to Adelaide and your buildings could be found in Vancouver or Paris. We have become so similar and we seem to downplay the diversity; the difference that is so exciting and interesting about human beings.

Food is something that ought to be a reminder. A fundamental reminder of our localness, that we are local creatures dependent on local communities and local ecosystems.

Food today, in North America, travels an average of 2000 miles from where it is grown to where its consumed. That's not the way it's been for 99.9% of human existence. We were always local creatures who depended on our food from local merchants who were seasonal.

We have changed and I think we have changed not for the better. If anything food should remind us of our biological nature and many people try to deny that we are animals | especially in the United States.

Sometimes when I travel in the United States I tell children "Don't forget now that we are animals." And man! their parents get pissed off at me. "Don't tell my Mary and Johnny that they're animals. We are human beings!"

We think that we are somehow different and special. You can see that in the way that we use language. If you call someone a "snake" or a "worm" or an "ape" or an "ox" or a "monkey" we use these words as insults because we think that we are better and different.

In fact sometimes I go into a shopping center and there will be a big sign saying "No animals allowed." Well, if you ever tried to enforce that you wouldn't have any shoppers, because we are animals and as animals our food is a constant reminder of our biological nature and our dependence on the natural world. And that is why I love what this market symbolizes.

It symbolizes an opportunity to remind yourselves again of our biological nature not just because we need food but also that we are local creatures and that our food should reflect our locality, our place here on earth. I have been adopted by a native peoples who live off the north-west coast of Canada. A place we call the Queen Charlotte Islands. And my mother, who adopted me, once said to me

"David the reason why it's so important for us to eat our traditional food is because our food is our medicine" And I thought about that. And I thought "Absolutely, food is about good health. Unlike our drugs which we may take once a day for a week if we are sick"

Food is something that we consume three to four times a day every day of our lives. Food is what we take into our bodies and we incorporate it into our own being and every bit of our food was once alive. Children today in our cities are often shocked at that fact.

"What I you mean it's not made in factories."

Everybit of the food that we need for our survival to make our bodies strong and healthy was once a living plant or animal.

So we have an intimate relationship with the rest of life on earth through the very food that we eat. And if that food itself is nutritious and clean that is an indication of what our surroundings are. And if our food is laced with chemicals we are going to ultimately incorporate that into ourselves.

Our food is our medicine and food makes us confront our biological nature and our relationship with the rest of life on earth. When I travel to different places on earth, the first thing I want to see is the market. Because the market is such a wonderful place to see.

"What do these people on earth live on? What is their community like?" And what I see coming here and in just the little half hour I have been here is a vibrant community. I see people who are celebrating your place in this world and the food that comes from this area.

What is going on here is incredibly subversive.

Mark my words this is subversive. And this, I hope, is a kind of thing that we will celebrate all over the world as a counter; as an antidote to this globalisation of homogenized food and homogenized goods that are being rammed down our throats. So I am happy here to celebrate your community. To celebrate your place on earth and I am happy to retroactively open this market.

Thankyou for being part of it.
