

Transcript of Chris Smith interview with Dr Howard Brady, about Mirrors and Mazes: A guide to the climate debate.

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Chris: We approach a new book and it's called Mirrors and Mazes: A guide through the climate change debate and the author is Dr Howard Brady. There's a website by the way with all the details, which is mirrorsandmazes.com.au. I thought we would find out a bit more and Dr Howard Brady is on the line. Dr Brady, thank you very much for your time.

Howard: Good Morning Chris, yes, it was fun writing that book. It took 5 years, but the idea was to give people a very simple framework, where each chapter was a unit in its own right so they could check say sea level or models because climate science has been on steroids for years as we all know.

Chris: Tell us first about yourself and what qualifies you to write about this issue?

Howard: Chris I was an Antarctic scientist for a decade and in 2011 Northern Illinois University in the United States gave me their Alumnus Scientist of the Year Award for my contributions to climate.

Chris: Right.

Howard: So I've got a Masters Degree and a PHD in Antarctic Environmental Science and Antarctic history, so I'm more than qualified to talk about it. There is no such thing as a climate scientist; there's so many different disciplines, but I am really an historical geologist, and I think that is a good way of approaching climate.

Chris: OK, I suppose the 64 million dollar question is: why is the climate changing and what is causing it to change and how much is it changing?

Howard: Well first of all, the climate always changes, and it was much warmer 8000 years ago, for example, the rainforests were as far south as Moruya, but now are at Byron Bay. So that the climate is always changing and all the reasons for that are complex: there's the sun; there's the galaxies that can affect our cloud formation; there is things on Earth that

can also do it - but its no catastrophic at all, and the whole of the climate models have been on steroids. We know that because we were told that Perth would be a wasteland by now; Hanson told us that New York would be flooded by 2010. Its just over-exaggerated. The climate has been made too sensitive to CO2, when water vapour is the main greenhouse gas. It's a mess.

Chris: CO2...is it the danger that these climate change alarmists say it is?

Howard: Absolutely not! In 1979, the American Academy of Science set what they call a Climate Sensitivity Index, which was CO2, water vapour and clouds. Water vapour and clouds triple the effect of CO2 in that index and that's been the problem and they have got that wrong. if clouds are wrong, everything is wrong! CO2 is only one thing in the whole situation.

Chris: Alright, let's look at man. I was looking at the website of the Worldwide Fund for Nature. It says: "what we now know is that activity such as burning fossils fuels like coal, oil and gas and cutting down forests is polluting our atmosphere and warming our planet causing an increase in extreme weather events, sea level rise and a warming and acidification of the oceans. Our precious wildlife and ecosystems can't adapt fast enough". What do you make of that view?

Howard: What a mess! For example the models are telling us - now this is the problem all these computer freaks - the models are telling us that "storms are getting worse". In this book, we spend a whole chapter on that and look at graphs. In America, the hurricanes hitting they have not increased in 150 years! Tornadoes, the worse year was 1974. In Australia, the cyclones hitting us in Queensland have probably got a little bit less over the last 40 years. The idea that storms are getting worse is rubbish. There is more people around, so there's more damage. They're not worse. The models are predicting everything wrong. They are over-cooked. As I said they're on steroids. And the idea that things are getting worse...agriculture is getting better, and the IPCC tell us that it is not. No, I'm afraid that we are being led down the garden path and that is why I've called the book, Mirrors and Mazes. We have got all these distorted mirrors, and we are being stranded as if in an English maze.

Chris: The World Meteorological Organisation says last year was the earth warmest since records began. Firstly, is that right? And has that got anything to do with climate change?

Howard: It has, and what do they mean "since records began"? We've only been using thermometers in a really disciplined way for 150 years.

Chris: (Laughs).

Howard: So big deal. We know that the Medieval Warm Period was as warm as today. The Roman one was warmer still. The English had vineyards on the Scottish border.

Chris: Yeah.

Howard: You know, so that what do you mean when you say, "the warmest since the records began"? The last 150 years, gosh, that is only a drop in the ocean in terms of human beings and time!

Chris: You write in your book about Wheels within Wheels, about the sort of environment cycles we experience. You talk about ice-ages. But is it possible that what we are experiencing now is just a cyclical event?

Howard: Absolutely! And all this exaggeration, for example, the NASA Goddard Space Centre reported on Antarctica last year that the extra snowfall from a little bit of warming is more than compensating for the ice-loss, and Antarctica is in balance.

Chris: Could you repeat that again, that is so important!

Howard: What the NASA Goddard Space Centre reported last year that, because of a little bit of extra warming, the Antarctic ice-sheet is getting some more snowfall and that is balancing any loss from ice-bergs. So Antarctica is in balance, and they don't expect any increase in sea-level from Antarctica this century.

Chris: You argue that modern day temperatures are well within the temperature bands of warming periods from the last 4000 years and can't be described as unprecedented, but boy-o-boy the media love to talk about unprecedented weather this month, don't they?

Howard: Oh, they really love it. And did you know in 1886 the NSW Government arranged trains to get people out of Perth because they were dying in a heatwave that's worse than anything we have ever had.

Chris: Yeah, yeah.

Howard: No, the whole thing is a mess I'm afraid Chris.

Chris: Now we talk about bush fires and a lot of the alarmists point to the fact we have had these terrible bush fires and more people die in bush fires. The major change to bush fires has been that many more humans live in bush fire prone areas than ever before.

Howard: Oh absolutely, yeah, that's in the book on weather, which is a whole chapter.

Chris: And the same applies to floods. You talk about people in Brisbane, "oh, they are more affected by floods now"...because they're more people in the flood zone!

Howard: That's right. You know Florida in 1960 had 5 million people. Now there is 25 million. So if there is a hurricane or whatever we call it, there is going to be more damage, just you are totally right Chris. There is more people, more infrastructure, more damage - that's all.

Chris: I get a feeling, and I get rather concerned about how teachers have been sold a pup on this as well, and they have fallen for the exaggeration and the alarmist principles, and they're passing that on to kids who emerge from school with one thought about climate change.

Howard: Yes, all the arguments are too simplistic. I do that in the last chapter of the book. I had an argument at a debate in the NSW legislative assembly on a Global Parliamentarian Day a couple of years ago with a Professor Harmer from NSW, and all he was saying, look, "CO2 is going up, temperatures are going up"...how simple is that; what an oversimplification. And that has been the trouble in the whole thing, and teachers don't have the background, really, to handle those simple arguments and that is one of the reasons I wrote the book because we wanted something that was short, not too long, and was easy to read for everyone, not just scientists and that was the whole idea of the book.

Chris: And in terms of some of this rubbish propaganda. I was just looking at some of the television stations this morning, and they have all done it. In response to the story about Donald Trump signing off from the Paris Climate Change Treaty, they show film vision, you know, file vision, and they show some of the biggest factories in Australia with pollutants pouring out of the chimneys. CO2 is clear, and it is not officially regarded as a pollutant, is it?

Howard: Well it is not a pollutant at all. Our life depends on CO2. As a matter of fact, if it went up a little bit, it wouldn't really hurt us at all. It will help to compensate for the rise in the population of the world.

Chris: And is it true that it is better that we are warming than cooling.

Howard: Absolutely. And the scary thing is that the Russians have got an experiment on the International Space Station. They are worried, looking at their sunspot data, that the world could cool in 20 years time and that will effect the wheat belt in Belarus and Ukraine and that's from the Russian academy of science, and they've been predicting that since the mid-90s. And they've been very good scientists, the Russians, in this particular area.

Chris: There's a classic underestimation about what the sun and sunspots do to the climate on earth.

Howard: Well, the whole relationship we don't properly understand, but we know that in the 1650s, for example, there was no sunspots, and we had the coldest climate in the last 300 years. We know also that the last three sunspot cycles - the numbers have been dropping - and that's why the Russians are saying, "look out, we are not just dependent on CO2; there are other things happening".

Chris: Yeah.

Howard: And in the book, on the chapter on the sun, what I say: the sun in like an illusionist on a stage in Las Vegas: "I can trick you in many ways, and you don't know just how I 'm going to do it.

Chris: Yeah, very very true. Fascinating reading, great book, Mirrors and Mazes: A guide through the climate change debate – Dr Howard Brady, I have run out of time, but I can refer people to your website, mirrorsandmazes.com.au.

Howard: That correct. Thank you very much Chris, and its great to talk to you.

Chris: We will speak again no doubt. Thank you for your time.

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