

The Tawny

December 2020 Issue 01

# FROGMOUTH



INTERVIEW

**Zali Steggall**

SILICON BROOKY

**Digital Agriculture**

MAL'S WILD SIDE

**Tawny Twitch**

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# G'day Beaches

by Tawny Frogmouth

Welcome to the first edition of The Tawny Frogmouth! It's great to be here, even better to have you reading Tawny pages. I love two things deeply, the Northern Beaches and print media, and The Tawny Frogmouth is my way of combining those two passions. When you open my mag, I hope that love for the Beaches and the print shines brightly.

Tawny's columns and articles will always be by locals, for locals, written to inform, entertain and celebrate where we live, the best place on Earth. We have a community chocker block full of so many smart, whacky, gorgeous, sun-kissed, superstar misfits, there'll always be something worth reading about. Every month our cover will feature work by a local artist.

Our first edition's artist is the inimitable Ingrid Haughton (see page 36).

Tawny's creation was spawned by The Manly Daily's heroic decision to abandon print and embrace digital paywalls. Thank you.

Thanks also to Chris Okill for being my

## The Tawny Frogmouth

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Prince of Print (in shining armour), all the contributors who've put their hearts, brains and words into these articles, as well as the Tawny foot soldier delivery army for getting 50,000 copies into local letterboxes. Shout out to Quyen for being my Tawny Frogmouth partner in publishing, and in life.

And finally dear reader, the Tawny is for you. Give it a read, share it around and send us your feedback and ideas. The Tawny is always on the lookout for stories. If you see something dodgy or triumphant, sing out.

Cheers, Tawny.

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## HELP OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES REBOUND

2020 has been a tough year for everyone. I've been working hard to support our local businesses through my Manly Economic Recovery Taskforce and creating the Back Your Local website. Here's some things you can do:

- Support our local businesses this Summer, visit [backyourlocal.com.au](http://backyourlocal.com.au)
- Keep a towel length (1.5m) between you and others at the beach or the park
- Remembering to wash your hands, and stay home if you're unwell

Visit my website [jamesgriffinmp.com](http://jamesgriffinmp.com) or follow me on Instagram and Facebook for breaking news.



James **GRIFFIN** MP  
State Member for Manly



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Authorised by James Griffin MP, Shop 2, 2 Wentworth Street, Manly NSW 2095. Funded using parliamentary entitlements, October 2020.



Photo Credit: Heidi Hamester - @hjh.aerials

# Peninsula Wash Up

by Liam Carroll

## Save the Ferries Calendar

"Lost Manly", an online group in possession of the biggest collection of local history with thousands of photos, albums, files, memorabilia and stories from historians, researchers and members' private collections, has launched a Save the Manly Ferries 2021 calendar, with 12 timeless shots capturing the iconic wonders at full steam. Visit [www.lostmanly.com.au](http://www.lostmanly.com.au) to order a calendar and support their great work.

## Northern Beaches Clean Up Crew

Do your part to keep the local environment spick and span. Join up with this group who meet on the last Sunday of every month at a different beach to give it a once over. The next clean up is at Dee Why on November 29. Visit [www.northernbeachescleanupcrew.com](http://www.northernbeachescleanupcrew.com) to register.

## One Another Community

Manly Vale's Mancunian, Lisa Hollinshead, has created a

digital platform that allows those who need help to access the kindness of those willing to offer help. Coming into the festive season, a time of year full of so much joy for some, but often very lonely for others, this is the perfect time to jump on her new platform and embrace the currency of kindness.

[www.oneanother.community](http://www.oneanother.community)

## Seal of Disapproval

Photos of an unleashed dog having a crack at a peacefully sunbaking seal at Long Reef Aquatic Reserve - a NO DOGS area - have stirred outrage among Beaches residents who are sick to death of dog-owners who seem to believe every inch of our ecosystem is for their pet to run free upon (and decimate local wildlife populations in the process.) Respect where respect's due though, the photos show the insane dog suffering what can only be described as a Polar Bear delusional complex, going absolutely bananas at a

seal who's utterly gigantic in comparison to the unhinged mutt, and driving it out into the ocean, chasing after the Great White's brisket.

## Whistler Car Park Payouts and Cinematic Shadiness

The Northern Beaches Council's \$6.75million payout to a property developer to settle a long-running dispute over Whistler Street carpark is big bickies in anyone's language but when the original proposal was to build a subterranean carpark beneath Manly Oval, in the middle of one of the nation's most torrential flood lines, this staggering amount is chump change compared to the mega-costly debacles that would've ensued had the original plan ever got the go ahead. Interestingly enough, the Whistler Street carpark rooftop is now being slated as a potential outdoor cinema location, something sure to rile the feathers of every lover of what was once Manly Cinema, a site that's sat idle on the property portfolio of a Hong Kong businesswoman who refuses to discuss viable leasing arrangements of her 8-year long unrented property.



# we are marine

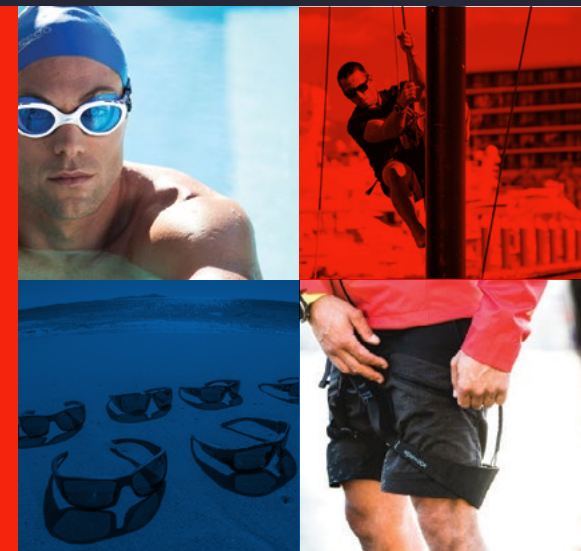
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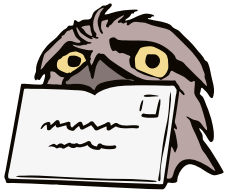
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## Letters to The Tawny

### Development concerns

Please don't tell me these lovely homes, such as 25 Pittwater Road Manly, are up for development now? More apartments? According to Council, the majority of the existing dwelling house is retained, recognising its heritage significance, but the new building at the rear of the site will be physically separated by only 3 METRES(!!) from the existing dwelling. Ummmm.... what about privacy and noise concerns??? Plus, to top it all off, on the ground level, the new building provides 6 car spaces with access from Kangaroo Lane. So, what about existing residents and all the complaints about traffic management right now??

**Adrian, Manly**

### North Head Burns to Ash

October 17, NPWS commenced a hazard reduction burn at North Head, a date coinciding with the appearance of spring wildflowers and the nesting season for local bird life. What started as a planned 8.7Ha burn was fanned by 20-30kmh north easterly winds, becoming out of control, and burning roughly 52Ha of North Head bush. The blaze finally burnt itself out around Fairfax lookout when the wind shifted to a more favourable direction. Excluding Quarantine station, almost 50% of North Head bushland has been burnt in the last few months in hazard reduction burns that have gotten out of control or reignited.

This burn was originally planned to start at the south edge of the treatment works and be contained at the old stone wall several hundred meters to the south. The fire, fanned by the strong north easterly winds, rapidly burned through the proposed burn area to the point of planned containment.

The fire was so strong that it jumped the stone wall and proceeded to burn uncontrolled towards the south, in bushland that could only be defended by helicopters. As the fire continued to burn, the focus of containment was centred on the Big Brother House with guests

scheduled to arrive that afternoon.

The following day news reports stated the fire was "pretty much contained" and that hazard burning "does have risks". The fact the fire covered 700% more than the planned burn, destroyed the Fairfax lookout bushland and half of the park's fauna and flora wasn't mentioned. Also not mentioned, why was this burn allowed to proceed on a day when it was clear temperatures would be high and winds would be strong?

If this devastation were arson it would be met with community outrage. Instead it's covered up. The damaged areas of North Head are now inaccessible. We've lost 52 Ha of bushland, native animals, and one of Sydney's most important tourist sites has been destroyed in what appears a preventable tragedy had better judgement prevailed.

**Jim Buda, Fairlight**

The Tawny invites the people of the Beaches to send in letters to [mail@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au](mailto:mail@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au)



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# Zali Steggall

## Warringah's Independent Woman

Interview Liam Carroll

In 1974, John and Sue Steggall welcomed baby Zali to the Northern Beaches. In the late 70's, early 80's, her adventure-loving parents called the French Alps home, paving the way for an ultra-competitive little Zali to see ski-racing as a viable career. In 1992, when her Queenwood school-mates were studying for HSC exams, 17-year old Zali was in Albertville making her Olympic debut, competing in the Giant Slalom, an event where one tiny mistake sees you stop safely a kilometre down the frozen mountain-side. In 2002, after the most successful Winter Olympics career of any Australian besides speed-skate-racing demon Steven Bradbury, Zali decided to get a law degree, forging a career in the family law courts. Then, as if out of thin air, the Manly local announced on January 27, 2019, she was throwing her hat in the ring to give Tony Abbott a red-hot run for the federal seat he'd held for a quarter of a century. Four months later, the seat was hers. An amazing life by anyone's standards, but Warringah's Independent Woman's only getting started. The Tawny Frogmouth caught up with Zali for a chinwag. Here's what she said.

**G'day Zali!** G'day Tawny.

**First things first, as Sarah Connor might ask, how are the knees?** They're very good, touch wood! Thank you.

Amazingly, I started racing when I was 4 years old and finished when I was 28 and had no major injuries along the way.

**Incredible! A professional skier with their original ACL's?** Yes! I put it down to good risk management, good stretching and good training. In some ways, it was a bad thing. I never got injured but I never had a break. I competed professionally for 13 years, which translates to 26 ski seasons in a row, north and south hemispheres. By the time I competed in 2002 at Salt Lake City I was done, exhausted, physically and mentally, ready to retire 100%.



Thredbo, 1990's

**What is the origin and significance of the name Zali?** My parents have very traditional Anglo-Saxon names, John and Sue, as do their siblings, parents, grandparents. But they were slightly rebellious,

true to the 70's, and when my brother was born, they named him Zeke, which caused some family uproar. All the boys in my dad's family had always been called John or Jack, and for the first month of Zeke's life, my grandmother insisted on calling him "Little Johnny"! But she came around. And my parents really liked the idea of having two kids with two "Z" names so, shortly before I was born, they read in the newspaper of a "Zalijah", shortened it to Zali and here I am.

**It's impossible not to be a star with a "Z" name!** Ironically, growing up in France, the French all assumed Zali to be an Australian name while here in Australia, no one had ever heard of it, always asking me where the name comes from.

**Do you feel like your name, being a cool name, has helped in your life?** Do you mean in terms of politics? A short name helps in politics for sure. It's very identifiable, no question, but I don't know if it's helped me. I like it. And Australians like to accentuate the "al" sound, go ahead and give it a real Za(aahhhrrrrl)li accentuation.

**Nice. Come on Aussie.**

**You've referred to yourself as a "Small L Liberal", what does that actually mean?** It comes down to my values and what I believe in. I'm competitive. I believe in competition, in free markets, in opportunity, and gravitate towards those types

of policies. But equally, I believe in fair play and fairness, social justice.

**University funding is something that has become insanelly expensive. Looking behind the curtain reveals some rather questionable business practices and reliance on foreign students. There's all sorts of funny business going on. Should there be a cap to the cost of a university degree? We need free markets, sure, but we need degrees to be at least somewhat affordable.**

Well that depends on who exactly has to carry that funding burden, you know, who ultimately pays for it. So, whether it's universities or anything else, I believe in free enterprise and competition in that sense, but I also believe there must be a fair playing field, and that it's made clear how initiatives can indeed be paid for, who's paying what, and how any government funding is being used too.

**"Australia's democracy was not originally a two-party machine. It has evolved that way. This is where the independents are a crucial part of politics. We hold the big parties to account."**

**I imagine that's where ICAC comes in. We need someone to police politicians and institutions, any one or body that has huge power and market positioning.** Of course, so another of my core beliefs is accountability. Without accountability, we're in really bad shape. And what's also important to understand is that Australia's democracy



was not originally a two-party machine. It has evolved that way. This is where the independents are a crucial part of politics. We hold the big parties to account. Accountability is everything.

**I think this leads to something people would like cleared up, and it ties in with big parties, big institutions and accountability. It's not cheap to contest an election, especially against Tony Abbott. Can you clarify what your involvement with Getup is? And did they fund your campaign in any way?**

Yep, look, happy to clarify. I have nothing to do with Getup, have received no funding, and have no input in anything they decide to do. Getup is an organisation that is no more or no less than WWF, ACF, The Climate Council, Greenpeace, a lot of different organisations that have sprung up over the past few decades that are very active around environmental and social issues, and if their views align with mine on anything, that's by coincidence not design. **So, you weren't involved with those amazing Dinosaurs on Spit Bridge leading into the election?** I had nothing to do with any of it. I've got to be

really clear here. For me, with my campaign, when I decided to run, key pillars for me are integrity and clean politics. I believe you don't have to play dirty to be successful. So, for me, and I'm not saying any of the groups are guilty of this, but especially environmental groups can sometimes have an approach that pushes the envelope well beyond where I'm comfortable going or being associated with.

**Leading on from that, let's talk about Mark Kelly's "Vote Tony Out" campaign. This no doubt galvanised a lot of support behind you. How does the "negative" style approach of that campaign sit with you, knowing that you fight clean, but it's easy for Tony Abbott and others to decry that particular campaign as negative, whether or not you were behind it?** Well I suppose Australian politics has not necessarily become dirty, but it seems now that anything in the political realm quickly goes towards a negative type of messaging, and that's why a lot of people don't like politics. For me, I'm drawn to anything that inspires people to be the best they can be instead of the strategy of telling





Queenwood, 1980-91

voters they need to fear the other side most of all and that hey, I'm not as worthy of fear as they are. That's just not me, not my style. Fear and smear is petty and has become quite prevalent, but I will always strive for leading positively and trying my best to inspire others. That's what inspires me too. But getting back to it, I had and have nothing to do with Getup.

**Was there a certain teacher, or anyone at all, that first inspired you to believe you were capable of achieving great things?** I don't think I've achieved anything great yet!! If I can get the Climate Bill through, maybe that'll be a start. But no, my parents, they've always been amazing, hugely supportive, always encouraging me to back myself. I've always had a competitive drive anyhow. And sporting careers are full of far more lows than highs.

**We live in a world now where it seems there's a push towards coddling people, to make sure everyone is having a good time, all the time. I believe that without hardship**

**and disappointment, a person can't possibly develop fully.**

Yes, definitely, and maybe a defining moment, something that really sticks in my mind is at about age 9, with my skiing, I was told by a coach that yes, I've got drive and determination, but the other girls were just more talented and yeah Zali, you can try as hard as you like, but these other girls will just always be better. And that was a red flag to a bull! I thought I'll show you!!

**I think that coach deserves a medal! Genius!** Who knows if it was a comment said on purpose. Anyway, it certainly worked to inspire me.

**Do you have a guiding life philosophy or a religious worldview?** I'm not at all religious. I've probably got a certain amount of belief in, you know, the universe has its own ways of working things out. But I'm not religious. At the same time, I totally respect people that are grounded by their religious beliefs, and I've seen how it plays a huge part in creating a centre point to people's lives, can give people a great sense of purpose.

**Your central platform, and a huge reason for you winning the seat of Warringah, is the environment and your commitment towards a sustainable, clean, carbon-neutral, renewably fuelled future. How are you progressing on that path?** I'm a planner. I don't believe you achieve anything by accident. You plan. You chip away. You get to something meaningful over time. When I was elected, the key thinking for me was what am I going to deliver? How do we move the dial on environment and climate? What are the solutions we

need to put on the table? And that's the Climate Change Bill which we're pushing forwards. We've already seen a huge amount of success in how many people have gotten behind Net Zero By 2050. I view it as a snowball, one that's growing. And very gradually we're shepherding more and more people down the road, this inevitable road to a renewables-fuelled and sustainable society. My job is corralling more and more people on my Roadmap to Zero, empowering people to make a difference themselves; waste, water, food, transport, finances, all those aspects.

**Most important though, something everyone wants to know about, The Spit Bridge. Well, The Spit Tunnel really. Ah yes, the never-ending-going-to-be-constructed-next-year tunnel. Yep, that one!** Here's exactly the sort of issue where a lot of people will criticise me by saying, if you support the environment, how can you support a tunnel? We need to progress infrastructure, and progress will always come at some cost, but it also creates opportunity. And we can never get to a better, overall public transport system, without utilising a tunnel network. At the moment, we have a drawbridge.

**I love that drawbridge!** Of course! We all do! But it's just not a solution. We have to progress from that. I want to see an acceleration of electrification of public transport to reduce emissions as well as reduce noise pollution. So, the tunnel, the EIS and the Business Impact Statement were due out last year. It's been postponed with Covid. Now the state government

is saying end of 2020. But who knows? It's not the only solution. Building a tunnel will take years. Even if they start tomorrow, we probably won't have it for 10 years.

**Good. Start tomorrow then! Get digging!** Yes! Ideally, I wish! I'll try! Also, I'm going to keep an eye on the ferries. We can't have a loss of capacity. That's vital. But I'm a bit torn on that. I know the ferries are iconic. I love the ferries. But they're incredibly dirty. You don't just hold onto history for history's sake. If it can be replaced by better technology, we need to embrace the new technology.

**I suppose it's the same argument with coal and renewables.** Exactly, I totally appreciate what coal has done for the Australian economy. It's a huge part of our industrialisation and our wealth, but just because we have a history doesn't mean we can't progress to the next phase. Otherwise we'd never go anywhere. I understand the need to negotiate and find solutions moving forward, that was the absolute crux of my work as a family law barrister, finding

common ground between extremely adversarial parties and working collectively towards solutions that can benefit both sides while both parties learn to coexist in the interim period too.

**Yes, ok, let's change gears now you mention that. A Tawny reader sent me a question to ask you on precisely this sort of family law topic. They tell me they had tears when writing the question, so I'm sure they'll greatly appreciate your wisdom.** Of course, please.

**Many women in Warringah are subject to continued emotional and financial abuse, as well as coercion and control from their ex-partners using the family law system as a tool to inflict the abuse. This is not well recognised and often lasts for years, if not more than a decade. The loss in these women's lives is immeasurable. What advice can you give to women abused by the system and women who want to change the system, how do you see that change will occur?** Yeah, wow, amazing question. And

there is an inquiry into this happening now too. But first, changing the system, that is incredibly difficult. That is a very slow, drawn out process that will be many years, decades in the works. My more immediate advice would be to understand the system so that you can engage with it from the outset in a clear and concise way. So, what I'm saying really is, know the rules of engagement within the legal framework. And family law is incredibly emotional for people, incredibly debilitating. **I suppose the very nature of a family unit is something that's so sacred to us as human beings, when that's literally breaking down, how can a person deal with that?** It's incredibly challenging and generally, all the cases that make it to court are the cases that are the bad ones, the bad breakups, total loss of communication, agendas are at play, one party likely using the system more aggressively than the other. Fear plays a big part. And not understanding the law, the hierarchy of entrenched legal considerations, that's so important to understand. A person may feel a certain issue is the most important, but the law in fact states something else, that issue may be fifth in line of what we legally have to consider. A key part is managing your expectations and that all starts with understanding the legal system.

**What would you say to a person experiencing a situation like this, if they were your client?** First, you need good help. You can't get through this on your own. As soon as you're emotionally involved, it's very hard to think rationally and objectively. That is



of course difficult, because good help is expensive, but here's the way to minimise the costs; you'll need help on the emotional side, guaranteed, but don't seek this from your legal team! That is financially crippling! Seek legal expertise from your lawyer and emotional help from friends and professionals in that space. I've been through divorce. My husband's been through divorce. I've worked in family law. It's an emotional black hole. Do anything you can to make sure it's not a financial black hole too. **Pay the right people for the right service! Don't seek emotional counselling from a barrister!** Indeed, that is not a good strategy. But I do also acknowledge the coercive and controlling behaviour, the economic control that can exist in these situations,

this is a form of abuse that probably disproportionately affects women in Warringah. Reach out for help, that's the best starting point. I'm on the Family Law Inquiry Panel and it's complex, really complex.

**Would you say your sporting background helps you see situations in terms of the rules of the game, so to speak? It's not emotional, it's systematic, that sort of thing.** Yes, and that fits my personality. I'm a planner. I'm a strategist. I think it through longer term. And that's not necessarily everyone's approach. But in the family law system, and politics too of course,

understand the rules and make your plan with as much logical and rational thinking as you can, and when you feel the emotions clouding your thinking, work out the best way to put those thoughts to the side when you're focusing on pragmatic solutions.

**One last question; do you have any words of wisdom for my baby tawny frogmouth arriving in February to help her navigate her way in this world.** Believe in yourself. Back yourself. Be brave. When you get to the end of your journey, the only things you'll regret are the things you didn't dare to do.

Keep up to date with Zali's activities at [www.zalisteggall.com.au](http://www.zalisteggall.com.au) and follow @zalisteggall on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



## A+ Home Schooling with The de Mestres

Education: Good to Know By Liam Carroll

Two years ago, Violet was struggling at school. Nearing the end of Year 1, her parents Mitch and Jade faced a big decision; persist with a traditional schooling system that was making Violet miserable and hope things improve or risk setting off on a possible rollercoaster of alternative educational institutions that might prove even worse. When the school counsellor suggested home schooling, they did some research and thought it was worth a go, quickly transforming their home into a school! Two years on, Violet's thriving, and with Covid forcing us all to rethink the nature of work and education in a home-isolated world, the decision to embrace home schooling seems particularly timely.

With Violet's success, Mitch and Jade started their second daughter Ivy straight into Kindy home-schooling. As Jade runs me through the way she teaches her kids, I'm certain the future will have more parents considering this path. "We don't have to be regimented with learning a specific subject at a time.

I'll read Charlotte's Web, stopping to point out spelling, grammar and technical aspects of English. We reflect on the story, the writer's style, the subject matter of farming, family, friendship, ecology, animal rights and even spider's web communication. The learning goes far beyond just learning how to spell."


The flexibility of Jade's teaching extends beyond literature. "When the storms buffeted Sydney, I took the girls to the beach, showed them how a waterfront home's pool had collapsed into the ocean. We could apply that one event to better under-

standing science, erosion, meteorology, geography, city planning." Even holidays serve as schooling opportunities. "While we were in the Blue Mountains, we went bush-walking for P.E., completed nature studies by observing flora and fauna, and even met with an Aboriginal elder who explained the importance of an age old Indigenous meeting place in the National Park, allowing us to better grasp the magnitude of the land itself."

While the de Mestre's experience has been extremely positive, they point out that home schooling is not for everyone. Jade is incredibly organised with a natural flair for teaching. She is able to work her own hours as operations manager for Mitch's physiotherapy business. Also, the network of home schooling families on the Beaches allows their girls endless interaction possibilities with other kids, a crucial part of their overall development. These are important considerations to factor in.

As to the future, "We're taking this a year at a time. Perhaps next year, traditional schooling may be a good option, perhaps not. At the moment, home-schooling is a perfect fit."








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Dropped catch, Photo Credit: Steve Trikoulis

## Sport: Around the Grounds

by Matt Cleary, editor of the Northern Beaches Sports Tribune

While the Sea Eagles, Manly Marlins and Warringah Rats didn't make the finals, and the tendrils of Covid kept locals on edge, October remained a huge month for sport on the Northern Beaches.

### Cricket

In a game that had quick-fire runs, a direct hit run-out from the boundary, and the odd screaming catch, it would seem odd that a fifth-change trundler taking 1/11 would overshadow all that. **Gary Langridge** was that trundler. The 55-year-old had never before played cricket when he turned out for Mona Vale Terrys in their match against Beacon Hill Tiger Sharks and took a wicket in his first over. It would have been more remarkable had a catch not been dropped on his first ball. Elsewhere, Forest opens **Luke Smith** (81\*) and **David Last** (89\*) were impregnable at the top of the order in sixth grade action at Killarney Heights, posting an unbeaten 187 against Wakehurst Black. And Long Reef first grade captain **Ellis Raymond**

scored 33 in his team's 114 at Jackson Road, Warriewood, before taking the new ball and returning the outstanding figures of 5/4 from seven overs, to rout Mona Vale for 89.

### Baseball

It was described as "a slugfest in Siberia" when Warringah Redbacks and Warringah Big Dogs kicked off the baseball season at Aquatic Reserve. In an entertaining 13-all draw, pitching stood little chance against very hot hitting. Yet it was relief pitchers **Todd Eisenhauer** (Redbacks) and **Luke Eisenhauer** (Big Dogs) who stemmed the run avalanche. The brothers were later named joint NBST Player of the Week.

### Rugby

Newport Breakers were the rugby story of the year, finishing club champion of the Clark Cup third grade

"Subbies" competition and winning premierships in firsts, seconds and Colts. In Shute Shield, Manly Marlins second grade made the grand final (only to bow out against Easts) but unearthed a cult hero in front-rower **Ivan Fepuleai** who scored 20 tries including three hat-tricks. Meanwhile the Rats bid farewell to skipper **Sam Ward**, scrum half **Josh Holmes**, hooker **Rob Kelly** and **Dave Feltscheer** who all called time on their careers in the last round, 26-14 win over Northern Suburbs at Rat Park.

### Fitness

From midday on 23 October, **Mike and Kristy Battaglia**, and their friend **Peter Fegan**, exercised every four hours for 48 hours. They boxed and swam and rowed and ran up Alexander St in Collaroy four times - at midnight. They did it for a charity called Livin.

### Football

Wakehurst O/35 Div1's won a famous treble with a 2-1 victory over North Sydney in the Champions Cup at North Turramurra Recreation Area. Manly Allambie United O/45 Div3's remained undefeated for season 2020 and took out the league and cup double when they beat Forest Killarney FC B 4-1 in the grand final at Millers Reserve. And 21 years since the club was born, the Collaroy-Cromer Strikers FC won their first Premier League trophy after their reserve grade beat Mosman FC on penalties in a heated grand final at Cromer 2.

For all your local sports news check out the Northern Beaches Sports Tribune [www.northernbeachessportstribune.com.au](http://www.northernbeachessportstribune.com.au)

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# From Little Things Big Griffs Grow

Health: Fit as a Fiddle **By** Liam Carroll (Inspired by Australia's greatest gravy maker)



Little Griffin in the humidicrib

Gather round people, I'll tell you a story  
Of a Freshie boy with a smile five miles wide  
Born 12 weeks premature, a mere 986 grams  
Small as an iPhone, young Griffin arrived

A moment on Mum's belly before saying goodbye  
Straight to Neonatal ICU for the fight of his life  
A humidicrib his home for two long months  
Tubes, monitors, beeps, nothing but strife

From little things big Griffs grow  
From little things big Griffs grow



Big Griffin's first day of school

You can't define love, only see it in a parent's eye  
As they watch their boy in the bright, bright lights  
At the centre of more equipment than NASA needs  
To take a man from earth and place him on the moon

And you can't define ticker, until behind that glass  
Watching your pride and joy, no bigger than your palm  
Breathing through tubes, wriggling fingers and toes  
Will he be alive and kicking tomorrow? Nobody knows

From little things big Griffs grow  
From little things big Griffs grow

Eight weeks past, an eternity, it sure felt much longer  
But Griffin never quit, just grew stronger and stronger  
The doctors said finally, this little fella can go home  
July 22, 2014, Freshie welcomed its new favourite gnome

Now 6 years old, that boy stands tall and fit as a fiddle  
To see him laughing, solves life's biggest riddle  
What's the meaning of it all, why are we even here?  
To fight the odds no matter what, it's pretty clear.

From little things big Griffs grow  
From little things big Griffs grow



Cath, Griff & Parker

The Tawny Frogmouth would like to thank **The Humpty Dumpty Foundation** whose commitment to providing Australian hospitals with the best equipment helped Griffin be here today.



## Humpty's Christmas Appeal



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She has survived  
132 surgeries.*

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*Your donation will make a difference, every little bit counts.*







## Running for Manly

State Politics by Liam Carroll

James Griffin jumped onto my radar when I saw his social media post about upgrades to Brookvale Oval. Working hard to secure \$33.1million to transform Fortress Lotto into a world class sports facility is great news for the Beaches, but what really grabbed my attention was when he was handed a footy in the middle of the hallowed turf and in full suit and tie, slotted a drop goal from 30m out.

With his current extra-curricular endeavour, completing a 96km virtual Kokoda Trail over 30 days to raise funds for Bravery Trek, I reached out to see if he wouldn't mind me tagging along while he chalks up the km's and we could have a tête-à-tête in between puffs and pavement pounding. "Sounds great, let's do it."

Check out their great work for veterans here: [www.braverytrek.com.au](http://www.braverytrek.com.au)

We set off from his office near the harbour, making our way past the throngs of Yummy Mummies and Dreamboat Dads picking up their progeny from Manly

Village Public School.

"I got into politics in a pretty bizarre way actually. During the celebrations for the closing ceremony of Sydney Olympics, back in 2000, I got pretty roughed up right here at Manly Beach and I thought no, security and safety here is a joke! I'm going to do something about this."

With a black eye and dogged determination, 17-year old Griffin went to the next Council meeting to give an impassioned speech about lax Manly safety. He impressed Council members with his strategic, common sense approach. Following that incident, he got deeply involved in local community groups. A few years later, it was one man in particular, Mike Baird, who told the then young James that if he wanted to make a difference, to keep fighting (politically, of course.) Keep fighting is what he did, helping pave the way to enhanced coordination and collaboration between local pubs, turning Manly Beach from one of Sydney's most dangerous after dark places to the far safer location it is now.

Not originally from Manly,

James' parents both have military backgrounds. "It was a nomadic childhood, my parents being posted to army bases all over, but funnily enough, and I remember this vividly, in 1997 we caught the Manly ferry over one day and my parents said this is it, we're going to live here."

It's precisely this issue, the ongoing status of our iconic Manly ferries, that's seen James copping plenty of heat lately. "I love the ferries. Everyone loves the ferries. But a detailed study was done using Opal card data, and this is pre-Covid, which shows that despite the ferry's 1,100 capacity, often times there may be less than 30 people on board. The thinking is to utilise Emerald-class ferries at those low-demand times and deploy the iconic Manly ferries in busier times of day and during the chaotic holiday periods. The Manly ferry isn't going anywhere on my watch."

As we make our way to the lookout atop Shelly Beach, what James says makes perfect sense, but it's hardly the narrative that played out on talkback radio and social media. The story essentially taking shape that Manly ferries were going out to pasture ASAP.



"I'm very lucky that my parents have different political perspectives to me. My mother is a passionate environmentalist. Politics is always up for discussion in our family. I rely on them to tell me honestly what storylines are cutting through in terms of the media they're exposed to. And yeah, the fear of losing our ferries, that was made clear to me how the community was interpreting what had been said. It'll take time to unravel that fear and showcase the plan."

This raises the hot topic, an area that inspires even fiercer sentimentality and fear than losing the Manly ferries... koala killings. "No politician stands a chance against the claim they're a koala killer. Those headlines will always fire people up. But the fact is, we've added over 270,000

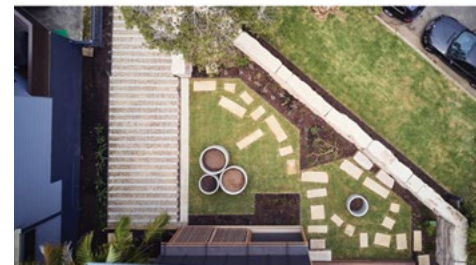
hectares to NSW national park estate, well ahead of our target to increase that footprint by 200,000 hectares by 2021, allowing us to revise our goal upwards to add 400,000 hectares in total national park footprint by the end of 2022."

We're almost back to his office, lungs burning, calves aching, when James brings up an idea that I hope we can work together to bring to fruition. "I spend a lot of time with pensioners and veterans, incredible people, resilient, and something a lot of them are looking to do is create video content, make movies!" Are you kidding me? The

prospect of creating a film festival to showcase screen stories told by seniors and veterans sounds irresistible, and I encourage every Tawny reader in that demographic to get writing scripts, practising shooting films on their phones or whatever, and perfecting their thespian skills. Let's make this happen!

Our run is over and it's time to say goodbye. James leaves me with the kind, parting words any new magazine publisher would love to hear, "I'm pumped to get my copy of The Tawny Frogmouth mate! Can't wait."

Keep up to date with James' activities at [www.jamesgriffinmp.com](http://www.jamesgriffinmp.com) and follow @James\_HGriffin on Twitter or @jamesgriffinmp on Instagram and Facebook



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Tim Howell showing off the Agronomeye augmented reality technology

## Digital Agriculture, Built from the Ground Up

Innovation: Silicon Brooky By Liam Carroll

A Qantas pilot and a Matty Johns showrunner walk into the Royal Trangie Hotel in Western NSW and start buying farmers ice cold schooners. Is this the start of a Wake in Fright sequel? No, this is the story of Tim Howell and Stu Adam, a pair of lads from Warringah who are on a mission to digitise agriculture with their start-up business, Agronomeye.

What does Agronomeye do? “We create high-res 3D models of farmland then predict the flow of water across the landscape to help farmers make more informed decisions.” And that first day of direct marketing, “Sitting in Trangie pub, buying beers for local farmers, picking their brains, we still work with many of them!” It was a \$509 bar tab that’s proven priceless.

Considering Tim and Stu have never farmed in their lives and love living by the ocean, the idea these two are

transforming the ag sector is especially intriguing, but tap into their thought processes a little, observe how they react to situations to see opportunities, you realise these two are Natural Born Innovators.

“Our original business was flying drones as a part of sports broadcasting before moving into capturing high-res imagery for cotton farmers to show them where their crops were underperforming. Then the drought set in and crippled the sector. The idea of shifting focus to water came from seeing how there are few things more important to a farmer than being able to best manage that precious resource.”

With this focus on water, the technology and product Tim and Stu provide has become truly mind blowing. “We fly planes or drones over farms to create high res replicas of farmland and then analyse that data to identify

where the water is likely to move. We add in satellite and historical data to provide context to what’s happening on the ground then deliver it through an online app. We deliver highly technical data in a simple way. Farmers can pick it up and use the info to optimally manage their properties from the outset.”

How has Covid affected them? “With our business being fully digital, we can operate from anywhere in the world. We mapped a farm in North Dakota, demonstrated the findings to a group of growers in the USA while we were sitting in Freshwater.”

As with every start-up, commitment is critical, and Agronomeye’s success has been many years in the making. Their advice to aspiring innovators, “Stay in the fight and be motivated to do something that you truly believe in.”

Keep track of Agronomeye at [agronomeye.com.au](http://agronomeye.com.au) and follow @agronomeye on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn



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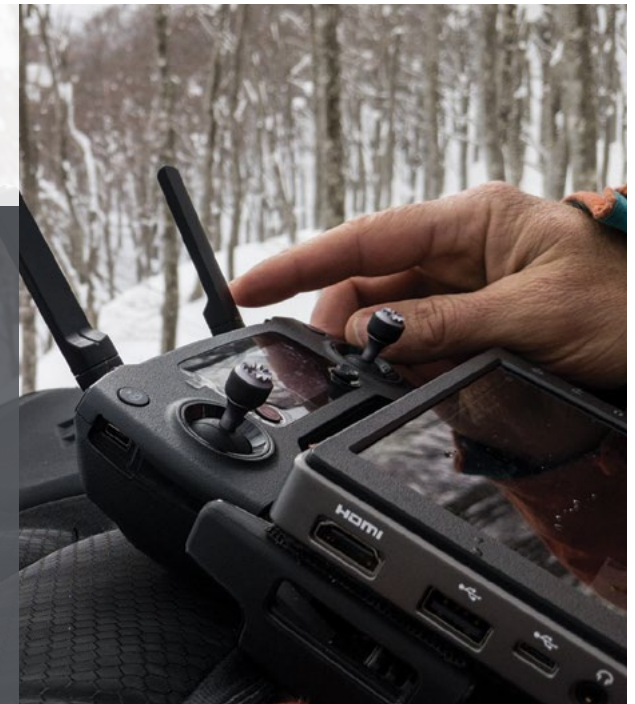
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## The Tawny Twitch

Mal's Wild Side **By** Malcolm Fisher, Conservationist

The Northern Beaches is blessed to have an incredible diversity of wildlife and wild places. In this column we're going to feature some of the fascinating species that call this hood home and explore a few other environmental themes as well.

To kick off, let's start with a creature that's very close to this publication's heart. It loves the night-life, is big headed, pretty mouthy and is a master of disguise. In fact, this curious looking bird is so reminiscent of ourselves that we named an entire magazine after it! Now some people think that the Tawny

Frogmouth is an owl but it is much more closely related to another nocturnal bird called a Nightjar. And we've been known to have a few of those ourselves at the Steyne.

Tawny Frogmouths attempt to hide in full sight by emulating broken looking tree branches and keeping as still as statues, by ruffling up their scruffy mottled brown and silvery grey plumage and by closing their yellow eyes, and pointing their craggy heads upwards, they make a pretty good job of it too. If you're lucky enough to spot them roosting in the day time, you'll see they normally

hang around in pairs as they are fiercely monogamous (which may explain why they are not called the Warney Frogmouth).

When you think of bird-song you normally imagine tuneful tweets, chirps and twitters. Not with the Frogmouth. One of their calls sounds like the reversing alarm of a semi-trailer, another is a chilling high-volume scream. They have also been known to cry mournfully if their life partner dies.

One of their huge benefits to humans is the fact that Tawnies control what some may regard as pest species. They'll clean up your yard of things like scorpions, spiders, slugs, snails and mice all for free. The only thing they might ask in return is for you not to use pesticides or poison baits which ultimately end up in the food chain and can cause them great harm. Please don't cut down the (mainly Eucalypt) trees they roost in either. Actually, while we're at it, they would also ask you to keep your cat in at night. It's been calculated that every domestic cat kills around 75 native animals annually and Tawny Frogmouths make fairly easy prey. They do, however, have a special protective weapon up their feathery sleeve (and please don't copy this at home or along the Corso). They ward off predators by spraying them with a particularly smelly variety of faeces.

Thanks for looking out for the Tawnies.  
See you next month for another nature fix.



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Ingrid Multitasking

## Local Artist... Ingrid Haughton

Interview by Liam Carroll

Introducing Avalon's animal lover and this month's cover artist, Ingrid Haughton.

**Do you exclusively wear horizontal striped shirts?** No! But whenever I do, I always get a comment or two. "It's an ironic deconstruction of a stool!" Haha!

**What inspires your artwork?** Mostly my love for all creatures great and small. The animals on our planet don't have a voice and if I can paint or draw something that changes somebody's perspective on a particular animal or nature in general, that makes me really happy.

**How would you describe your art?** Such a hard question! I suppose my art is contemporary. The majority of my work is acrylic on canvas, but I also dabble in pastels and some work on paper.

**Did you study art?** No. I hated art at school! (Ingrid is a qualified nurse and was in the operating theatre when I

underwent knee surgery after unsuccessfully trying to keep up with her on the Shore Club dance floor!)

**How did you discover you had a gift for art?** I've been a drawer for as long as I can remember. Always sketching horses!! I didn't start painting till I was about 30 and I'm learning every day. I'm 100% sure I am still on that path to finding what I'm meant to be creating.

**What else are you working on at the moment?** A really big portrait and a really big line up of cattle! Away from painting, I'm slowly, slowly working on a children's book.

**How does being an amazing singer affect your art?** Well, it's a blessing and a curse haha! (Ingrid not only has the magic brush in her hands, she's got pipes like Aretha Franklin).

See more of Ingrid's art by following [@ingridhaughton\\_collection](#) on Instagram.

**What's your favourite thing about what you do?** Being alone and in my element! My worries, anxieties slip away when I'm creating.

**Where's your favourite place to eat and drink?** I know everyone thinks their local Italian is the best, but they're wrong, I'm right, Avalon's Piz-zico Italiano is the best ever.

**What's the best thing about the Northern Beaches?** Being away from the hustle and bus-tle of the city, and the smell of the salt water.

**If you had to live anywhere else in the world, where would that be?** Coral Bay, Western Australia. It's like something out of a dream.

**Any words of wisdom for young, aspiring artists?** Do what you love, experiment, make mistakes, enjoy the journey. It truly is a journey. I often find myself looking at other artists and thinking, I wish I could paint like that or my style was like that - but the path to finding what you're meant to be doing includes noticing and looking and loving all the other art along the way.



Harley at work on the metals



Fracture Stacks

## Zen and the Art of... Jewellery Making

Careers By Liam Carroll Featuring Harley Woolven

Harley Woolven is the Bally Boy heart and soul of Black de Ville Jewellery. At 11, his mum gifted him a silver ring with an internal band that spun. For hours on end he'd be enthralled, spinning that internal band, mesmerised with Gollum intensity. At 18, his eyes were opened to Sydney brands like Tsubi and Chronicles of Never, paving the way globally, showing design genius was attainable in fashion. The fact these brands were throwing epic parties with lots of ridiculously good looking people is always a draw card for a young man weighing up career options.

"I knew I wanted to be in design, in fashion, but had no real idea how until I realised my passion for jewellery, for wanting to create art that is wearable. This was something I could do, a skill I was good at, and loved doing. This could actually be a career."

It's rare to be drawn to a path of jewellery making so

early in life. I imagine the jewellers of the world are dapper gentleman with long beards, thick specs and hunched backs. No matter. At age 22, Harley went for it, launching Black de Ville. 7 years later, he's got buyers all over the world, has total control of his brand, able to take the lead on all aspects of designing the metals, making the goods and orchestrating incredible promotional campaigns. This is an all-encompassing endeavour that consumes Harley's life 24/7.

Ground zero for jewellery creation; a dark sweaty room in a building's unloved basement, lamp shining down from the ceiling lighting up a workbench where the designs of a creator's mind have the chance to be etched in precious metal at the end of a blow torch blasting nigh on 950 degrees Celsius. This is Harley's heaven.

"If you have a healthy

degree of OCD, like to be on your own in the silence for hours on end, and find peace of mind comes easiest when focused intensely on intricate details, jewellery making's where you want to be."

The favourite part of his work? "Wedding ring design for sure. This is jewellery to wear forever! I take that seriously, becoming involved in people's lives to work out what they want when they can't necessarily articulate it themselves. How they dress, music they jive to, movies they're moved by, you can start to read the language of style a person gives off and is drawn to, and craft a ring that complements their essence, hopefully something they'll love wearing forever."

Keep track of Black de Ville Jewellery at [www.blackdeville.com](http://www.blackdeville.com) and follow [@blackdeville](#) on Instagram.





Izzy and Ruby

## New Mum Jitters

Izzy's Mumma Files **By** Izzy Buda

My best friend is four days overdue with her first baby. Seeing her waiting has caused me to reflect on the momentous change a baby brings to your life.

I was 25 when I had my first. I remember envisioning my life as a mum. Lattes with friends, sun baking while my baby sleeps and pounding the promenade with my fresh new Bugaboo pram was all I considered. I didn't imagine the actual four year old girl here with me now, I didn't imagine the strain of a child on my fresh relationship and I certainly didn't envision the anxiety which started the day she was born and is still going on under the surface almost five years on.

When my first born Ruby lay asleep, I remember suddenly getting a panicked feeling that maybe she'd stopped breathing. I'd rush

into her room and put my fingers under her nostrils to feel for breath. I'd sigh relief every night as this finger breath test became a nightly ritual compulsion.

The first day we brought her home from hospital, my mum came over with a giant bouquet of flowers and a bottle of champagne. Sleep deprived and anxious, my alarm suddenly buzzed. Two hours had passed since Ruby's last feed. According to all my Google research I knew I had to wake her. Google told me newborns needed to feed every two hours and if they didn't wake it was because they were too tired from the rigour of labour. Also, if they didn't wake, a parent must wake them, or the baby could die...Yes, that's how far down the google rabbit hole I went.

I had Ruby on my lap at one day old, soundly asleep.

I tried all said techniques to wake her; tickled her feet, talked to her, sat her up. Nothing worked. Little cherub was out cold. My mum and partner looked at me, fragile, stressed out, trying desperately to wake a peacefully sleeping baby and said, "What are you doing?! Let the girl sleep!"

I snapped at my mum. What would you know?! I mean, she only had three kids herself and here I am with my newborn and 9 months of google research. The audacity! Fortunately for Ruby, my mum and partner had their way and the two hour feeding alarm was disabled. I was sent to bed without champagne for some obviously much needed sleep.

I know I'm not alone with any of this madness. Many mums I meet know the feeling. I was never anxious and was always carefree. I would lose or break everything. Now I have a living creature on my hands, which I love and adore so much, and life's fragility is suddenly a theme that never leaves my mind.

She's now almost five and while I no longer do the finger breath test I still harbour those same feelings of fear which is what pushes me to fiercely protect and care. I wondered when the feelings would leave me. I've realised they probably never will. This is part of being a Mum.

Keep your eyes peeled for Izzy and her pair of rugrats lagging behind or charging ahead, smiling ear to ear or bawling their eyes out.

No matter how busy she may look, Izzy is always keen to stop for a chin wag.

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Felix



Simran

## Blind Date

By Dr Cupid Bowen-Arrow

### Bachelor of the Month

Felix, 28. Loves surfing, swilling VB's with his close inner circle of a few hundred mates and, when not busy working as a primary school teacher, he writes poetry that can melt hearts, his mum's mainly.

### Bachelorette of the Month

Simran, 21. A recent arrival to the Northern Beaches, all the way from the dizzying heights of Nepal! And like all new arrivals, she's developed a love of the ocean and takes every chance she can to enjoy our great outdoors when she's not working in customer service.

### What's the craziest thing you've ever done to find love?

**Felix:** I once got an uber from Brisbane to the Goldy in the wee hours of a morning to see a girl I was wildly in love with. Cost a fortune.

**Simran:** Came here tonight

### What native Australian animal best captures your human nature and personality?

**Felix:** I think I'm a King Parrot. I love their red and green coat. They remind me of my grandma. They're just a beautiful bird. Not saying I'm

beautiful. Or a bird.

**Simran:** I'm not sure, probably a bird, a Kookaburra, maybe a Tawny Frogmouth.

### In a fight to the death, would you rather battle a horse-sized duck or 100 duck-sized horses?

**Felix:** I'd say a horse-sized duck because the death would be a lot quicker, less painful. I'd die for sure. I'm a lover not a fighter.

**Simran:** Definitely take on the 100 duck-sized horses, of course! They're only little. I could beat 100 little quacky horses for sure.

### What was your first impression of your date?

**Felix:** A little upset she offered a different answer to the horse-duck fight to the death conundrum. No, first impression, she had a lovely smile, caring eyes.

**Simran:** He has very beautiful eyes, a beautiful smile, I guess, yeah, no, a beautiful smile, definitely.

### What was the conversation like? Any awkward silences?

**Felix:** Conversation really

flowed, very natural.

**Simran:** I agree, no awkward silences. Lots to talk about.

### Were there tell tale signs of heavy flirting?

**Felix:** I was trying my best to reach across the table for an elbow touch, but I couldn't quite reach. Dammit!

### Did sparks fly?

**Felix:** Flame of the candle's been sparking strong, so I'd have to say it's a yes!

**Simran:** Oohh, yeah, a little bit, yeah!

### On a scale of 1 to 5 stars, what star rating would you give this date?

**Felix:** That's a great question to answer in front of the person you've just had a date with! No, in all honesty, I'd give it a 4.98.

**Simran:** 4.5 for sure, a great date.

### Would you like to see Simran again?

**Felix:** I've got her Instagram now, so we're basically engaged. No, yep, I'd love to see her again.

**Simran:** As Felix said, we're following each other's Instagram now, so maybe he'll slide into my DM's.

There you have it readers, I'd have to say a very successful date and perhaps we'll see these two become the Northern Beaches' hottest couple in the very near future. You never know, but rest assured, if it's steamy, the Tawny Frogmouth's Cupid Bowen-Arrow will keep you informed.

Want your chance at love?  
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Hugh G. Lee Inndette, proud property portfolio proponent

## Property: The Australian Dream

**Danger, Satire!** by Hugh G. Lee Inndette

### IMF Moving In

A charming Manly 3-bed semi was snapped up in a post auction frenzy best described in one word; boozy. The buyer, a high-ranking member of a shadowy global financing cartel, better known as the International Monetary Fund, realised early on in the auction process he was the sole genuine bidder amongst the usual throng of rubber necks on site, thus taking his leave to drink aggressively at the Steyne's Round Bar and indulge in Zoom beers with his globalist buddies stationed all over our pale blue dot. An unusual, yet highly effective tactic. With the concerned vendors turning ghostly white, the agents went into Tommy Lee Jones *Fugitive* overdrive to find their Richard Kimble. Unsure where and/or how an international financier

may spend his leisure time, they called the Hugh G. Lee Inndette hotline to get their finger planted back firmly on the Beaches' property pulse, being successfully directed to a watering hole known far and wide for its slippery commercial dealings. With their buyer now three sheets to the wind, haemorrhaging cash on the horses, and becoming acutely aware of his rambunctious linguistics and gesticulations causing on-looking security to begin earnest chatter into their walkie talkie lapels, the real estate agents were now far more successful in securing a bid that could get the deal over the line. With some obligatory back and forth, back and forth, it was not long until both parties reached an agreement on a sum that could be described as "modest" in local residen-

tial circles but could easily be measured in terms of an African nation's GDP if one were so inclined. The buyer, who spends most of his time bouncing around between Beirut, Baghdad and Addis Ababa, was upbeat about the purchase, and when asked what he intended to do to make the living room fireplace really pop he replied, "There's a fireplace?"

### Swirly Surly Curly Wurly

Rumours continue to swirl that a well-known and widely loved Curl Curl eccentric is considering cashing in and shipping out on his Pacific Ocean doorstep abode. Peninsula agents are licking their lips at the juicy commission on offer to be at the helm on this transaction, but the surly seller is no stranger to the art of the deal and may choose to plough ahead with a strategy detested by good honest hard working real estate agents the world over; selling the place on his own. Ah, the humanity!

### Spit Palm Sky Road Proposal

The doyen of urban infrastructure, Frank N. Kreddittz, continues to drive full throttle into endless roadblocks to get his brazen initiative off the ground, a sky road from the corner of Medusa St and Spit Rd all the way to Palm Beach Surf Club, a lazy 30km of mid-air Autobahn ingenuity. Kreddittz argues, "We urgently need a faster, more efficient mode of transit from our mansions in Mosman to our mansions in Palm Beach." When asked how on earth the sky road could actually be constructed, Frank says plainly, "Whatever the hell they did with the Harbour Bridge, just do that again, but bigger, derrr."

## December 2020 Tide Chart

Info Bureau of Meteorology Tidal Centre Photo Heidi Hamester, @hjh.aerials

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	0302	0.51 0337	0.54 0415	0.57 0457	0.60 0015	1.25 0107	1.24	
	0932	1.77 1009	1.78 1047	1.78 1129	1.75 0542	0.64 0634	0.67	
	1609	0.39 1648	0.38 1730	0.40 1815	0.42	1213	1.71 1302	1.67
	2204	1.33 2245	1.30 2329	1.27		1903	0.44 1957	0.45
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
0205	1.25 0308	1.30 0410	1.38 0507	1.50 0601	1.64 0024	0.34 0112	0.34	
0734	0.69 0842	0.69 0955	0.66 1108	0.58 1216	0.48 0652	1.77 0743	1.89	
1358	1.62 1500	1.58 1607	1.55 1714	1.53 1816	1.52 1320	0.37 1418	0.27	
2053	0.44 2149	0.42 2243	0.39 2334	0.36		1916	1.51 2014	1.49
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
0200	0.36 0249	0.39 0338	0.43 0428	0.49 0517	0.55 0040	1.30 0131	1.27	
0833	1.97 0923	2.01 1013	2.01 1100	1.95 1148	1.86 0607	0.61 0700	0.68	
1514	0.20 1606	0.18 1658	0.20 1748	0.25 1838	0.32 1235	1.74 1322	1.62	
2110	1.46 2204	1.42 2257	1.38 2348	1.34		1927	0.41 2015	0.48
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
0224	1.27 0318	1.29 0413	1.33 0505	1.40 0552	1.47 0001	0.56 0043	0.55	
0755	0.73 0857	0.77 1004	0.78 1114	0.75 1217	0.69 0636	1.55 0716	1.62	
1411	1.49 1504	1.39 1603	1.32 1705	1.28 1802	1.26 1311	0.61 1356	0.53	
2101	0.53 2147	0.56 2233	0.57 2318	0.57		1855	1.27 1942	1.28
28	29	30	31					
0122	0.55 0200	0.54 0239	0.53 0318	0.53				
0756	1.69 0833	1.76 0912	1.80 0951	1.84				
1437	0.46 1515	0.41 1554	0.37 1633	0.34				
2026	1.29 2107	1.30 2147	1.31 2229	1.32				

- New moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter

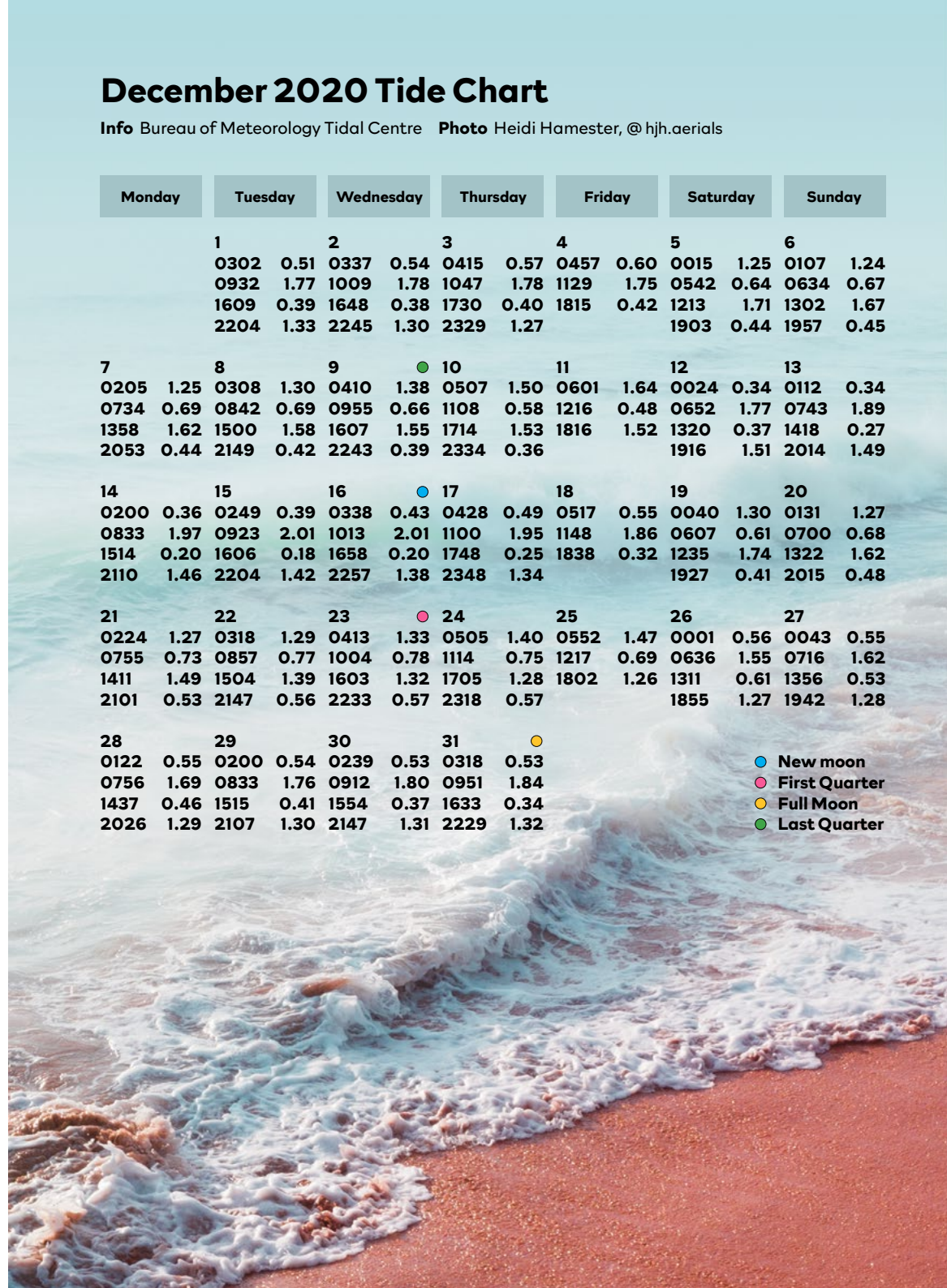






Image : Northern Beaches Police Area Command

## Crimewatch: On the Beat

**Danger, Satire!** Inspector Con Vikshun

### Cliffside Puppy Rescue

Out and about for a stroll along the resplendent Clontarf track, a woman watched on in horror as her puppy's overzealous lizard chasing antics culminated in the adorable canine tumbling uncontrollably over the edge of a cliff. The lizard was fine, but owner and pooch were instantly separated by sheer vertical rock in the searing arvo sun. Calling Police for help, Fire & Rescue crews quickly responded. Men in blue fearlessly retrieved the lonely pup from the Apocalpto depths of despair. While the owner was beyond grateful for the Rescuers' valiant actions, it's unsure whether or not the growing pup gained a true understanding of the dangers inherent in the do-or-die blood sport of lizard chasing. A stint in

dog training school may prove beneficial.

### Icy Fairlight Flip Flops

It's important to keep cool this summer, but stashing ice in your flip flops is not the way to go about it. Detectives from Northern Beaches Police Area Command seized 1kg of methylamphetamine, concealed in the soles of dozens of pairs of a Fairlight man's thongs. Despite winning Inspector Con Vikshun's cov-



Image : NSW Police

eted Most Sublimely Strayan Skullduggerous Act of the Month, a prestigious award no question, this 32-year old illicit cobbler faces the distinct likelihood of a lifetime confined to cell bound soul searching, pondering his misdeeds to the sacred double plugger icon of Aussie pedal clobber.

### A Tree is not a Toilet

Police continue to shake their heads at the public's persistent inability to keep their trouser snakes in their pants when out and about, regardless how full to overflowing their bladders may reportedly be. It will come as no surprise that the typical excuses, "I was busting sir" or "I could die of uromyositis poisoning you know mate" or "I wanted to go at the Manly Wharf car park toilets, but I walked down the stairs and thought I'd probably be murdered because that place is deadset bloody horrifying", these rarely see wizzing perpetrators escape hefty fines of up to \$660 and/or 3 months' imprisonment. Interestingly enough, the "A Tree is not a Toilet" campaign has proven remarkably successful for the 164 hours of the week that don't clash with Saturday midnight to Sunday 4am. A statistical anomaly, surely.



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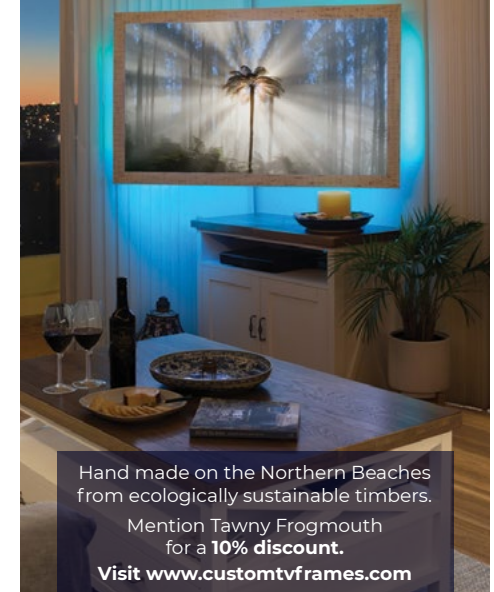


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## Making Music in a COVID World

Music with Digz

Interview by Digby Robinson  
Musician Rennie Adams

Rennie Adams shot to fame in 2017 when Seal spun his chair to choose the knock-about Northern Beaches labourer for his team on *The Voice*, making it all the way to the semi-finals, forming a heart-melting bromance with Britain's all-time number one rose kisser. Digby Robinson sat down with Adam to catch up with the latest on his music career.

**How has 2020 been for you so far?** I started off strong, sold everything I owned in January, played a packed farewell gig at the Boaty (\*The Old Manly Boatshed for those who don't speak fluent Insular Peninsula) and jetted to the U.S. to become a gigantic megastar, classic first chapter of an American immigrant success story really. Then, a couple months in, everything going pretty well, I came back for

a mate's wedding. Fantastic wedding. No regrets. But it was just as Covid shut everything down. I've been stranded back home ever since. The whole shake up the music scene over in the US, it just never got moving. But, watching what's been going on, probably lucky to be in Oz.

**Your music career was transformed when Seal heard your voice and locked eyes on yours. What was it like when you had to say goodbye after the semi's?** Haha, yep...still hurts. You get the impression you have it all, the world's your oyster, all the cliches, but it's very fleeting. Your recognition dissipates as soon as you're voted off. And you can't help but feel as though you have to capitalise on that overnight fame straightaway, but it just doesn't work that way. Unless you're Shannon Noll, of course.

**Of course. And what do you think was the best thing you got out of the whole experience on the show?** Seal took me under his wing, which was incredible, and I got to open for him on his 2018 and 2019 USA tours, getting so much experience all thanks to him giving me a shot. I formed a great relationship with him and essentially what would be considered the cream of session musicians, priceless really.

**Are any of these guys playing on your upcoming EP?** Yeah, I got the trombone player from that tour who actually plays with The Teskey Brothers.

**When is that due out? What can we expect?** Recording's being done now, going for a really soulful vibe, all being done live. As far as release, not sure yet. We want to tour it, so will depend on restrictions being lifted. Seated crowds are fine, but we'd prefer minimum restrictions.

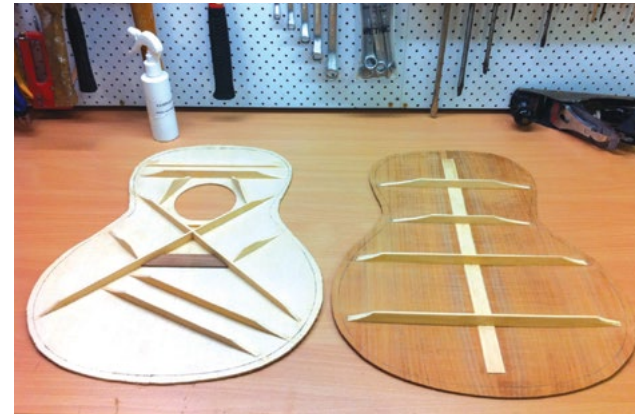
**Like your farewell gig at the Boaty?** Exactly!

**Covid has really slowed things down in general for all musicians, what else are you doing to keep afloat?** I started an online platform called 'YOUSESSIONS'. It's a service to connect artists with their fans through personalised video performances, both pre-recorded and live, generating a new revenue stream for artists and a new level of connection for fans.

**How did that come about?** With Covid, I suddenly started doing zoom meetings for people having online drinks. I'd play covers, people could make requests, connecting online the way you would pre-Covid at a live event. I realised it was something with legs, connecting artists with fans, quick and easy, and it's evolved from there, getting more artists to join and grow it into a fully-fledged platform.

**And lastly, what's your favourite thing about the Northern Beaches?** The Spit Bridge, a beautiful bit of engineering, especially when it's up and I'm safely north of the great divide!

Check out more of Rennie Adams' music here:  
[www.rennieadamsmusic.com](http://www.rennieadamsmusic.com)



Valerie in the making

## Make Your Own Guitar

DIY: Master Crafts By Liam Carroll Craftsman Greg Scott

It was nearing lunchtime when Greg Scott found himself craving a kick ass Pad Kee Mao from Newport's Chilli Sha Sha Thai Kitchen, parking his car only to look through the window of Violins by the Sea and behold the perfectly crafted stringed instruments on display; violins, cellos and guitars, exquisite masterpieces. "Yep," knew Greg instantly, "I'm gonna make a guitar."

He devoured his Pad Kee while mulling the steps to make his luthier dream reality. First step, hardware. Greg sourced high quality timber from Gilet Guitars ([www.giletguitars.com.au](http://www.giletguitars.com.au)). Second step, he bought the bible, *Guitar Making* by William Cumpiano, "the finest book on making guitars ever produced", it says so on the cover, so you know it's true. Third step, where things get fiddly, make the thing.

Greg followed the instructions precisely, cutting the requisite holes and curves, ensuring the exact geometry was applied for the sound-

board bracing. So far, so good, but as Shakira knows, the hips don't lie, and it was time for the trickiest part, Side Bending, the means by which a guitar's hips are sculpted to jaw-dropping beauty. The process is called Bouncing and entails taking a steaming hot cylinder and literally "bouncing" it on the timber, inducing the wood to bend and curve. Sounds easy? Well, according to Greg, it's an activity whose enjoyment levels rhyme with bucking bucked, the timber splitting and cracking and doing anything he didn't want it to while his hands burned to hell in the caress of a gas-heated metal pipe.

After tearing through his timber supplies and having his shits successfully cracked, Greg took a quick breather from guitar making to cool his head and his hands... for a mere five months. He returned full of focus, able now to bounce his guitar's form into a perfectly symmetrical shape. Time heals all. He

rigged up bike inner tubes to apply the suitable pressure and flexibility to glue the guitar body together, hacked a gorgeous neck for the fret board to lay down upon before inserting the giant screw known as the truss rod, the spine of the guitar whose strength ensures the tension of the guitar strings doesn't force the guitar to collapse in on itself. All a piece of cake compared to the bouncing nightmare.

Finally, with the strings secured, his work of art ready to play, Greg realised it was indeed Valentine's Day. Ever the romantic, he named his guitar Valerie, took her in his arms, laid her on his lap, and strummed the sweetest lullaby we'll never hear, it's for Greg and Valerie's ears alone. So, there you have it, for \$603 and countless hours of loving dedication, Greg has a work of art for life, his DIY Master Craft, his Valerie.



Valerie, ready for action



## Dispatch from Covid Ground-Zero, Victoria

Perspective: South of the Trench By Harry Rekas

"...when a man becomes a politician there is but one object in his life, and that is to 'get there'. To accomplish that object he would see friend, foe and principle die the death with equal equanimity."—Hugh O. Pentecost, 1889

Down here in Melbourne, we are suffering. It is hard, less so because we have to bear the brunt of measures, more so because there is no one to trust anymore. Trust has become a dirty word. No one seems able to get it right. Between the neighbour that dabs in absolutely anything untoward, the staff member who continues to go to work after symptoms, the Covid positive person who chooses not to share their whereabouts to contact tracers out of fear for a fine, there is little wonder this got out of control.

We live in one of the most secretive states in Australia.

Patronising and condescending, our premier takes to vilifying others for his

failure. He sends in police to make an example of you. Like the young pregnant woman posting her views online, know that government Stasi will find you, handcuff you, break down your door, taser you if need be, all with absolute precision. Yet he knows nothing about decisions made that resulted in hundreds of deaths. None of 'them' know or remember anything - a cluster-f\*ck of amnesiacs. After assuring everyone that he's not a liar, he refuses to answer any more questions pertaining to any accountability.

"The strategy is working," said ad nauseum at his pressers, is not a 'strategy' but rather a desperate measure. A strategy would imply an understanding that out of millions of people it is impossible for all of them to "make the right decisions" - something that must be accounted for but wholly isn't. A strategy would mean you've listened to world health bodies warning about preparedness for this

coming event (not unprecedented) but you didn't. You undermined the systems needed, then you pretend to take your advice from health experts. You pretend it's about 'saving lives, not politics' but you have no problem taking hundreds of thousands in donations from the pokies lobby that has destroyed countless lives. You've undermined the corruption watch dog that would see politicians taken to task for their wrongdoing. If you were subjected to the same 'rules' and 'laws' as any other citizen, you, your office, your ilk would all be in prison way before all this happened.

Lock down has been mild for some and for others a complete nightmare. But for the political class, it's business as usual. As the saying goes, the manky and the spineless shall inherit the Earth, the way they always have.

Harry Rekas is Editor in Chief of The Dura magazine, an A3 biannual blanc et noir publication printed on 64 pristine pages.

Northern Beaches locals can secure their copies of the Dura from North Curl Curl Newsagency on Pitt Road, the Dee Why Newsagency on Howard Ave, and the Narrabeen Newsagency on Pittwater Rd, or subscribe online at [www.thedura.com.au](http://www.thedura.com.au)



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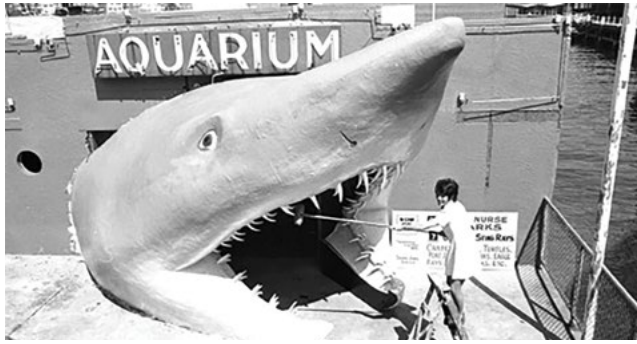
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The Aquarium at the Manly Fun Pier, 1972

## Fishy Business

History in the Making By Richard Michell

With the future of the now-empty Marineland building in Manly Cove under review, it is perhaps appropriate to note that Manly has a long association with public aquariums.

The first was a grand construction, located on the corner of The Corso and Darley Road, opposite today's St Matthews Church. It opened in December 1886 and consisted of a large two storey building, fronting The Corso but set back from Darley Road. It contained two large halls, one on the ground floor and one on the upper, for concerts and other uses. Galleries ran down both sides of the lower hall with six large fish tanks in them, each tank 15 ft long and holding 15,000 gallons of water.

There was also a magnificent seal house, 60 feet long by 30 feet high, with a tank containing another 15,000 gallons of water, complete with 'sea-elephants, seals, and other kindred specimens'. It was constructed in a naturalistic style with rocks and caverns, 'so that the fish (and seals) may be seen as in their

native element disporting themselves in and out among the rocks and seaweed'. A large engine provided pumping power and generated electric light and there were a further 50,000 gallons of water stored in a large tank under the main building.

After great initial success, the opening of competitors in Bondi and Coogee had an impact and in 1890 the aquarium portions were closed. Today, The Old Manly Boatshed operates in a basement that was originally the water storage tank. A section of the original facade remains above street level at 36 The Corso.

In 1929 the Port Jackson and Manly Steam Ship



Manly Marineland, Courtesy J.H. Labaysse and Sons

Company, which operated the Manly ferries, leased the cargo wharf adjacent to the passenger wharf and converted it to an amusement pier. Between the two wharves it also built an aquarium, which opened on May 17, 1930. The new aquarium got off to a somewhat shaky start. Among its initial stock were a 3m grey nurse shark, a wobbegong and a stingray. These apparently coexisted happily but when a 5m tiger shark was introduced it attacked and killed the grey nurse.

In 1963 a South African company built a much grander and more modern aquarium – Marineland – as a standalone circular structure in the western end of the harbour pool. It survived the storm of 1974, but the pool did not. Faced with this competition the original modest aquarium responded in the late 1960s by giving its entrance a major facelift. The public now entered through the jaws of a very large shark, thanks to the versatility of fiberglass. However, in 1981 it succumbed to the competition and closed down.

Marineland went through several ownerships and iterations – Manly Underwater World, Oceanworld and Manly Sealife Sanctuary – but it too closed in 2018.



## Summer Prawn Skagen

Recipe by Terese Israelsson

It's almost Christmas, and while Queenscliff Super Mum Terese Israelsson may have grown up celebrating Santa's arrival in bitter cold Swedish winters, she has adapted well

to our Down Under embrace of ocean manna for summertime culinary delights. Mid-sommar never looked tastier! Try this simple crowd pleaser at your next get together.

**Ingredients** (serves 4)  
 500g cooked prawns  
 2 tbs dill chopped  
 Zest from one lemon  
 1/2 red onion finely chopped  
 1/3 cup whole egg mayo  
 1/4 cup sour cream  
 1 tsp horseradish (optional)  
 25g lumpfish caviar  
 Lemon juice from 1/2 lemon  
 Salt and white pepper to taste

### Method

- 1: Peel and chop the cooked prawns into 4-5 rough pieces. Put in a bowl with dill, lemon zest and red onion.
2. In a separate bowl mix mayonnaise, sour cream, lemon juice and horseradish cream. Season with salt and white pepper to taste.
3. Pour the mayonnaise mix in to the bowl with prawns, add caviar and combine. Chill in the fridge for 1h if possible.
4. Serve on toasted sourdough.

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**Subject** Manly - Allambie Dribble  
**Photographer** davidmaclean.weebly.com



**Subject** Tawny Hatchlings  
**Photographer** Wildlife carer



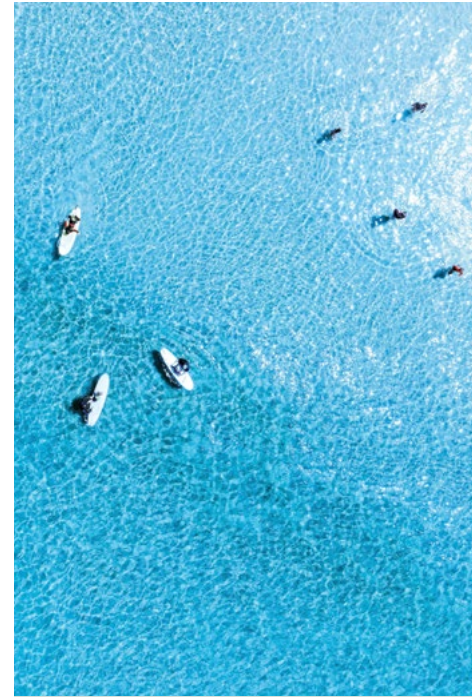
**Subject** Fire Regrowth **Location** North Head  
**Photographer** Debra Allison



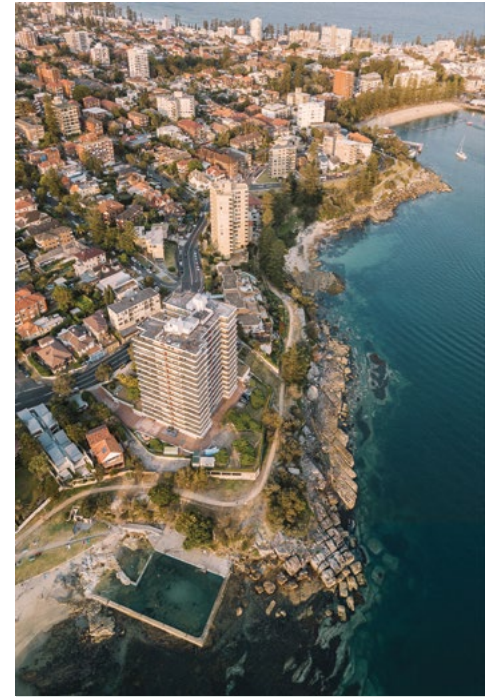
**Subject** Sunset Surf  
**Photographer** @olitas



**Subject** Summer **Location** Shelley Beach  
**Photographer** Alinka Hutchinson, @alinkah



**Location** Freshwater Beach  
**Photographer** Katie Kelly, @katieedroneson



**Subject** Fairlight  
**Photographer** Darren Bullock, @darren\_bullock



**Subject** Humpback whale breaching off North Head **Location** Manly  
**Photographer** Rob Edgren

The Tawny loves to feature great local pics!

Please send them to [liam@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au](mailto:liam@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au)





## Captain G-String

Tawny's Bathtub Bookclub by Paige Turner

When your parents name you Paige and your last name is Turner they've either got an incredible sense of humour or have preordained their little 'un to be a reader. Up there with my love of books is my love of a long bath. Immersed in a bath's womb like warmth, buried in whatever book I'm reading is my idea of heaven. My longest bath book read so far is a tad over four hours, between two and three hours is more usual and if I haven't got a minimum of an hour to indulge my habit then I don't bother. I only read books in the bath or in bed.

My favourite bath is one where I can replenish the warm water by working the taps with my toes and releasing the cool water by the bath plug being within an arm's reach. Have you noticed that the best baths are not usually the most attractive? Those fancy egg shaped baths that look so magnificent are bloody awful to read in.

I suppose I better review a book; a local hero seemed appropriate so it's Captain

G-String by JP Borsini. It's Borsini's first book and spans the genres of family saga, action adventure, suspense thriller, new adult and memoir. It took a few baths to get through it.

The story is about Gian Pierro Borelli born to Italian parents shortly after they arrived in Australia in 1966. They moved to Manly a few years later and Gian quickly became besotted by the water- in it, on it, thinking about it, this kid loved the ocean. Gian's other passion was for making money.

It's more a book of short stories, each portraying Gian doing one or more of standing up to bullies, treating his parents with respect, excelling at most things whether it be fishing, surfing, selling surfboards, being a gym instructor, keep-

ing crooks honest, blitzing the SAS training, mastering Taekkyeon, helping the less fortunate and being ahead of the curve when it came to appreciating every man's right to be homosexual.

It's this last attribute that made him decide to wear a G-string while hawking ice creams from his boat at remote beaches where gay men liked to swim and sunbake. Handsome Gian in a g-string was a big attraction. The ladies were just as appreciative of his fine physique in a g-string too.

Gian, who changes his name to the anglicised John along the way, delights in being a maverick who was never accepted by any club I suspect he'd quite like to have joined, such as the Queenscliff Board Riders Club, Taekkyeon sect, becoming a Green Beret and so on.

John claims to thrive on being an outsider but I couldn't help feeling his bravado was a sham and inside that hunkahunk of suntanned manliness was the little kid with the funny name who deep down craved the kind of acceptance and unconditional love his family gave him.

It's a boy's own tale and this boy truly loves the water. The book is at its best, and so is the writing, when Borsini is writing about place. Those coves and inlets Borsini knows so well and some wild weather are described with such love and respect that you know the ocean is his one true and everlasting love.

Head to [jpborsini.com.au/captain-g-string](http://jpborsini.com.au/captain-g-string) to get your copy of Captain G-String. You can also buy copies at Boat Books in St Leonards, [boatbooks-aust.com.au](http://boatbooks-aust.com.au) or from JP direct in his ice cream boat, and get a discount that way too!

## Razzle's Trivia

1. In what year did the Northern Beaches Hospital first open?
2. According to Google Maps - by the shortest route by road - which is closer to the Manly Corso; Sydney Harbour Bridge or Roseville Bridge?
3. In which suburb are the Northern Beaches Council chambers located?
4. What year did the first ever ferry service take people from Sydney to Manly and back?
5. How many McDonald's on the Northern Beaches are open 24 hours?
6. The Titanic sank closest to which mainland country?
7. Which Australian city does the band Silverchair come from?
8. Which stadium in Australia has the highest official capacity behind the MCG & ANZ stadiums?
9. Which 90's movie has the highest selling soundtrack of all time?
10. Which country has the most Winter Olympic medals in total? A) Austria, B) Germany, C) Norway, D) USA?
11. In what decade was the \$1 coin released into circulation in Australia?
12. What is the fictional town in Neighbours called?
13. The logo for the website Trip Advisor is an image depicting which bird?
14. Which is the only letter in scrabble worth 5 points?
15. How many of the Beatles have been knighted?
16. Aussie cricketer Marnus Laubuschagne was born in which country?
17. Which instrument typically has 47 strings?
18. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn are set on or around which river?
19. Donald Trump's mother was born in which UK country?
20. What animal is featured on the NSW state flag?

Trivia Answers  
 1. 2018 2. Harbour Bridge 3. Dee Why 4. 1855 5. 1 6. Canada 7. Newcastle 8. Optus Stadium - Perth  
 9. The Body Guard 10. C) Norway 11. 1980's 12. Eminsborough 13. Owl 14. K 15. 2 16. South Africa 17. Harp  
 18. Mississippi 19. Scotland 20. Lion

Photo Credit: Heidi Hamester - @hjh.aerials



## Star Signs

by Krystal Bawl

### Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

Good luck's waiting just around the corner. When you get there it's already gone. Grrr!

### Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

Stay Covid-safe. Enjoy a diet rich in fibre, caffeine and baked beans. Let social distancing sort itself out.

### Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Open up your heart like you've never been hurt before. Divorce lawyers need job security too you know.

### Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

'Everything happens for a reason' is a useless idiom you'll no doubt read in a star signs column.

### Aries Mar 21 - Apr 19

Money can't buy happiness, clearly, rich pricks are all miserable. Embrace your poverty with glee.

### Taurus Apr 20 - May 21

Limit all the time you waste on social media. Write poetry. Waste time the old fashioned way, pretentiously.

### Gemini May 22 - Jun 21

You made a complete fool of yourself. Do the only sensible thing, say you don't remember anything.

### Cancer Jun 22 - Jul 22

If 2020's taught you anything worth knowing, it's that not even self-isolation can stop people annoying you.

### Leo Jul 23 - Aug 22

They say it's important to be decisive, but you can't quite make your mind up about that.

### Virgo Aug 23 - Sep 23

Actions speak for themselves, but only oh so quietly. Speak up, tell people loudly how awesome you are.

### Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

True, deep love can be hard to find, but quick, superficial love abounds. You do the math.

### Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

Stay flexible in your fiercely held beliefs and ideologies. Always allow yourself to be outraged by anything you like.

# CHANCES OF FINDING A SMOOTHER WHISKY? YOU'VE GOT BUCKLEY'S

WILLIAM BUCKLEY WAS BOLD AND DARING, JUST LIKE THE RYE WHISKY THAT BEARS HIS NAME. A CONVICT WITH A DISDAIN FOR AUTHORITY, IN 1803 HE ESCAPED THE PORT PHILLIP SETTLEMENT AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE BUSH. HIS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL? BUCKLEY'S. DEFYING ALL ODDS, HE REAPPEARED 32 YEARS LATER AFTER LIVING AMONG THE WATHAURONG TRIBE.

BUCKLEY'S IS A SMOOTH FULL-BODIED 'STRAIGHT' RYE WHISKY AGED IN CHARRED NEW AMERICAN OAK BARRELS. THE RICH VANILLA AND CARAMEL NOTES PERFECTLY COMPLEMENT THE SUBTLE SPICINESS OF THIS DRY RYE. THIS MULTI-AWARD WINNING WHISKY IS BEST ENJOYED NEAT, OVER ICE OR IN A BUCKLEY'S RYE & DRY. IT IS IDEAL FOR EVERY OCCASION.

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