

The Tawny

Issue 04 April 2021

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G'day Beaches

by Tawny Frogmouth



Welcome to Autumn, and to Issue 4 of The Tawny Frogmouth. This year we waved Summer goodbye with the arrival of our first born, Zosia Carroll, born February 16, healthy, happy and adorable.

This issue marks many Firsts for the magazine. The first time we've been able to show off an abstract cover artwork, with this month's creation by Chilean sensation, Maria Benvenuto. Our first chance to explore Indigenous matters, delving deeper into the origins of the word "Ku-ring-gai" and whether indeed it's fit for purpose. The first time Zosia has been involved in the editing process. The first 'Film and Food' column in which Chris Roberts delivers film and tv reviews coupled with a delicious recipe. Izzy Buda even wrote an article titled 'Firsts'.

As always, I hope you enjoy this month's selection of local stories and photos.

Cheers, Frogmouth

The Tawny Frogmouth

The Tawny Frogmouth Pty Ltd
ABN 95 013 114 772
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Editor liam@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au

Ads ads@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au

Circulation 50,000 copies delivered monthly from Manly to Narrabeen; 47,500 to letterboxes, 2,500 to local businesses.

Letters mail@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au



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Zali Steggall OAM MP

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Photo Credit: Margo Lucas



Jules Lawson, Manly Markets stalwart

Peninsula Wash Up

by Liam Carroll

Calling All Scribblers!

Northern Beaches local, Julie Howard, has the 'write' idea. She calls it Spill the Beans. Every couple of months the Beans team pose a short writing challenge on their website. All you have to do is write a paragraph or two on the selected theme, send it off and see your story published on the website. So, if you want to write but never have enough time visit spillthebeans.net.au The March challenge was, 'What conversation would you have with your younger self?' Check out the website, see what people wrote. And watch out for their next challenge in May.

Bucketty's Brewery Chainsaw Opening

Curl Curl's Nick McDonald has had one life-long dream, to have a pub. With wife and son by his side, that dream became reality with a ceremonial "Chain-sawing of the Branch" at the official opening. Mayor Regan did the honours, tearing through the timber almost as heartily as a thirsty local through a

Bucketty's Lager. The Tawny has previously remarked on the startling advancement of Brookvale to a booze Mecca, and Nick's pub is a perfect addition. The entire bar has been made by hand, using timber milled from the Bucketty's region of the Hunter, as well as timbers salvaged from a burned down bridge in the January fires. Beer is brewed on site, and other local brewer's drops are on tap. Nick's passion of music and old-school arcade games is clear with a 111year old piano occupying a dedicated elevated music stage, while a pristine, stand-up Street Fighter calls out from the corner for you to relive epic childhood battles.



Manly Markets Still Alive and Kicking

Thanks to Covid and various cracks through which stallholders fall without any government assistance, the last 12 months have done their best to exterminate the magic of the local weekend community market where everyone can hang, meet friends, pick up a unique handcrafted gift or impulse buy for the home or wardrobe. And just as things looked set to turn around, the pre-Christmas lockdown, as well as a horror run of summer weather, pushed many stallholders to the brink. Now, without needing Ned Stark's advice, Winter is coming, so Autumn really is a crucial season for everyone to get down to their local markets, enjoy the fresh air, load up on all variety of products and soak up the radiant, smiling faces of stallholders who've proved resilient beyond all imaginable hardships.

The Next Wave Photo Exhibition

Congratulations to photographer Ben Symons on his first ever solo exhibition at North Curl Curl's Creative Space. The Next Wave exhibition captured 14 talented local surfers, dancers, skaters, riders and athletes, in action. Ben's aim was to showcase activities kids can do that keep them happy, healthy and off their screens, and his shots did that and much more. The event also teamed up with Avalon-based charity One Eighty to raise funds towards youth suicide prevention, creating a set of postcards to sell alongside the limited-edition prints, with messages of inspiration and connection to keep kids engaged and enthused.



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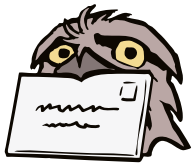
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Letters to The Tawny Frogmouth

Response to Johnny's 'Seal of Disapproval': January edition

Whilst Liam might be referring to one incident, I can assure you it is one of many. Last week whilst walking on an oval that is not off-leash, a large dog came barrelling into me, knocking me flat. The owners just called the dog and kept walking. I was too shocked and in pain from a twisted ankle the dog caused to call after them. Then there are the dogs always on Long Reef Beach and Rock Platform off-leash, areas dogs aren't allowed at all, or off-leash right around Long Reef Headland. Then the dozens of dog droppings to avoid and also the actions of irresponsible owners who collect the poo then throw it in the bush. Or, as I've seen a couple of times, throw the poo bag down the drain. I could go on with so many examples, but hopefully you get the picture that pet owners are by and large irresponsible.

Marie

Tony Abbott

To Kevin Begaud, I just don't think Tony Abbott ever really understood all those Mosman women jokes.

Peter Purcell

Australian Date Formats in The Media

In the last 6 months, most Australian media has started using American date formats. Ten advertises shows starting

Feb 1 or Jan 3, SMH website talks about Australia Day being Jan 26, Fox do the same and the ABC News website puts American dates in articles that talk about Tasmanian rental rule changes being on January 31. Hoyts give February 21 as a release date for an upcoming movie. This is not acceptable and the longer it goes on, the more it will be followed by high school leavers and uni grads as well as the rest of society. This may be deliberate or coming from outsourcing suppliers to overseas companies. Bring back 26 January for Australia Day, accurately report Government changes as 31 January and advertise movies with their Aussie release dates of 21 February. TV shows are released on 1 March or 3 May. Days precede months in Australian dates. I invite others to email these organisations so we can change this going forward.

Gerard Barwell, Collaroy

Yellow Pages

I was surprised to find yellow pages in the post box. Who reads these books any more? Who pays to put an advert in? Seems such a wasteful use of paper.

Nick

The Upside of Negative

The Vote Tony out campaign was negative, says Kevin from Dee Why, and others (letters, Feb '21). Well, what else would it be? The whole point of the

campaign was to rid us of a man who had become an embarrassment and stopped representing us a long time ago. And representing us was his actual job. But we don't have to talk about Tony, so let's not. What the wins by Zali Steggall here, and Kerryn Phelps in Woollahra, showed us is - there's no such thing as a safe seat if you've lost touch with your electorate. And that people power matters. In other words, the last federal election in Warringah was a wonderful example of democracy working exactly the way it's supposed to. And there's hardly anything more positive than that. Cheers.

Janne, Manly

New Transport Timetables

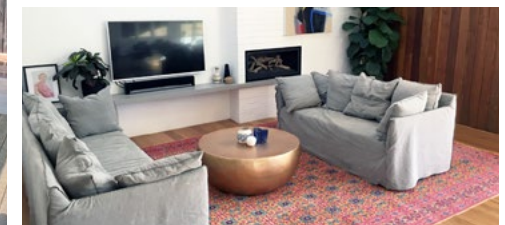
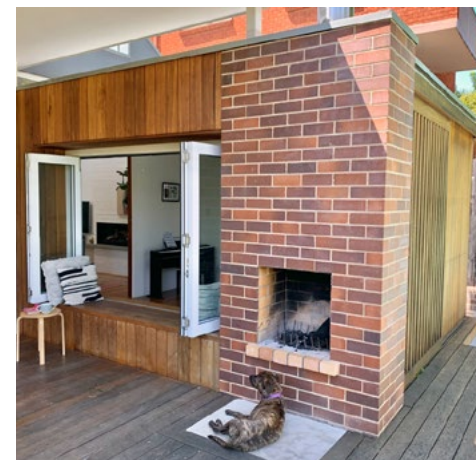
Isn't it amazing just how successfully our Transport Minister, ably assisted by the State Members allegedly representing us on the Northern Beaches, has so changed a bus, ferry and train system which once provided one direct service with perhaps one change and a fairly fast service, for destinations from Narrabeen, Collaroy Plateau or Cromer or any other combination of suburbs within the Northern Beaches, to anywhere else in our region or to the City. Before the light rail commenced building along George Street, City, it was possible to travel on one bus to the Queen Victoria Building or even Central Station, with perhaps one further connection to a further city destination. It now takes three to four modes (buses, trams, trains, ferries), with long walks between connections for services firstly terminated at Wynyard, and now terminated at Warringah Mall. Even a short journey from



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the three named suburbs to Manly, Balgowlah or Seaforth now requires a minimum of two buses.

I used to look forward to two or three weekly visits to the City (before Covid-19) for lunch time organ recitals in City Churches and Town Hall, and/or visits to the Art Gallery, Powerhouse Museum and Maritime Museum. I travelled on one bus (179 or 180) to Wynyard, with one additional service. Occasionally I took the Manly Ferry route. Now it will take three or four services and double the travel time with lengthy walks and standing time between these services. I probably won't go as often now.

I suppose younger people do not care about this, but pensioners, seniors and veterans do, who after all are the majority users of these services, we can now look forward to journeys with multiple service changes in all weathers and wondering whether we will be able to get a seat on the next service. On the plus side we can look forward to the extra exercise as we negotiate between connections. It is clear the Minister and our local Members don't care if our journeys take longer with much added inconvenience.

Arthur, War Vets Village, Narrabeen

Dishonesty in Political Advertising

Mr Begaud (letters, February) is bemoaning 'negative' election campaigns. Fair enough, but I do wonder why he's not calling out the utterly dishonest campaigning which was rife in the Warringah electorate in the lead up to the election in 2019. This dishonesty came entirely from the right wing lobby group Advance

Australia, closely tied to the Liberal Party, which spent \$1.5 million on campaigns, 10 times what Getup spent. The outright lies told via posters, letterbox drops and vehicle signage by this group, aided and abetted by Clive Palmer's ads, should have been a wake-up call to voters and to political parties of all persuasions that truth in political advertising is imperative.

Political ads that are dishonest and misleading interfere with voters' ability to make informed decisions and are designed to deceive and to skew elections. Political parties and lobby groups that produce dishonest advertising material should be fined by an independent body such as The Australian Electoral Commission and The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), and the advertising material immediately removed from circulation. Democracy suffers when voters lose trust in politicians who are apparently driven by dishonesty.

J Hungerford, Curl Curl

A Proposal

I am writing to enquire whether the Frogmouth would consider introducing some fact checking into the Letters section of your newsletter. I am well aware of the role prejudice has in pre-determining people's conclusions about the world around them but would politely suggest the Frogmouth could go some way towards differentiating fact from fiction. Consider, for example, Barbara Beavan, a concerned Australian resident, in your last edition. I think it might relieve her of some of her concern to know that the Emerald Class ferries

are built in Australia (at least for as long as Tasmania is considered part of Australia). Arctic Fellows, a Dee Why bus driver, should rest easy that privatisation won't mean three buses driving randomly around the Northern Beaches when STA is privatised, as bus routes and services are set (whether we like it or not), by Transport for NSW, not STA, using Opal data, not guess work. It may come as a shock to Mark Roberts that Transport for NSW also uses Opal data, rather than his, no doubt very accurate, count from his mother's balcony, to determine how many people use the ferries and when. And as for Annette and Ursula, they clearly have larger handbags than my wife. Many reputable news organisations now have fact checkers - granted, mostly to keep our politicians in line, rather than their readers. It's time the Frogmouth joined the New York Times and CNN.

John "Not my real name" Smith

Nostalgia, Efficiency and the Manly Ferries

Today (22 Feb) the 9am Circular Quay to Manly ferry was delayed 20 minutes while a maintenance issue was attended to. Apart from contemplating the amount of emissions as the diesel engines of the Queenscliff continued to chug away, it was also disturbing to see the prevalence of rust from bow to stern. Once underway an announcement notified passengers that both engines would operate (more emissions) in an attempt to make up some of the lost time. The result, a 4-minute improvement. With the Northern Beaches

becoming an increasingly popular place to live, an efficient public transport system is critical, especially into the CBD. Today's experience would suggest the current ferries can still have a role as an intermittent operator in the tourist space but not as the cornerstone for harbour public transport.

Mike Kenneally, Manly

Fan Paige

Dear Tawny, I'm loving Paige Turner's book reviews and confess to feeling vicariously enamoured with John "Oggy" Ogden after the February issue's article. Amidst her eye-candied words was a truism that also deserves a shout out: "It behoves all of us to seek a greater awareness of our nation's true history." Yes, indeed!

Admirer from Afar

Hooroo from the Tawny



Edwina Duncan-Sawyer

29th July 1967 - 25th November 2020

My gorgeous friend and partner Edwina left us all late November 2020. She battled hard throughout her life but never let it dull her shine. As many have said, she certainly knew how to make an entrance and fill a room. She fiercely held and protected those she loved, and she knew how to always make you laugh, with that deep belly laugh we all love.

Fly high my friend. You were always loved and will continue to be always loved. My promise to you is to nurture and grow A Better Way Funerals, get it to the place we dreamed of together!

Eddie thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

Dee Why Lagoon Under Siege

This beautiful Lagoon and Wildlife Refuge (created in 1973 in order to protect the lagoon from development) is still under siege from many fronts: sedimentation, water and rubbish pollution via the stormwater drains, dogs, cats, foxes and irresponsible people. The latest occurrence was a motorised paraglider who, on 4 January, flew low over the lagoon terrorising the local birdlife. There is a tension in our society between those who see no value in nature if it is not being used in the service of human beings and those who see natural habitats, and their inhabitants, as having intrinsic worth. Population growth and expanded leisure time add to this tension. Dee Why Lagoon is an amazing accident of history. Visually, the water body

and its immediate surrounds remain very much as Captain Phillip saw them in August 1788. All of the other lagoons on the Northern Beaches have been grossly modified, their wetland surrounds filled and converted to playing fields or real estate.

Dee Why Lagoon also has an important relationship with the nearby rock platform at Long Reef, migratory waders using both locations, with the Lagoon providing protection in periods of large seas. It also interacts with the aquatic reserve which exists at and around Long Reef, and the intertidal protected area that exists to its immediate north and south, at Long Reef and Dee Why Headland. The newest sign erected by the Northern Beaches Council states: NO DOGS, NO FIRES & LAGOON OPENING PRO-



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HIBITED will need updating. There were no motorised paragliders around at the time of its design.

M Lown, President – Friends of Dee Why Lagoon

Controversial DA

Thank goodness we have you as a Public Forum for developments and situations in the Northern Beaches that affect many but may only be known to a few. One such development is the DA lodged for 25 Nield Avenue, Balgowlah. The existing iconic home is over 100 years old, featuring foundations of beautiful local sandstone, and fits into the local streetscapes of old and sympathetically built and renovated Federation, California Bungalow and Edwardian homes. The proposed destruction of this heritage home and replacing it with a box-like, bulky structure is totally out of context with the streetscape, the local community and most of the Northern Beaches. The plan is for a 3 level, two semi-detached townhouses with two raised swimming pools. The property is of enormous bulk, and most of the landscaped pathways and driveways are non-permeable hard services. This results in a block of mostly concrete and other hard surfaces, pushed to the limit on boundaries and over 15% outside of Council restrictions. Local discussion indicates the Rock Outcrop and natural cave structure at the rear of the block may be of significance to local Aboriginal/Indigenous people, appearing to have been a historic meeting site over many thousands of years as it has sightlines to other historic locations around Tania Park and North Head. The plan proposes

the explosive demolition of this natural and historic rock outcrop, which could also impact the stability of the houses backing onto this development. The site is also a natural habitat of Long-Nosed Bandicoot and Bluetongue lizards. This disrespectful and invasive development Does Not, “Protect the Amenity of Existing and Future Residents” as defined by Council and will set yet another precedent in undermining the character of our beautiful streets.

Concerned Local Resident

Tour de Cocky

Perched on my local branch at North Steyne, the precipice of slumber near, I was rudely awakened by a cacophony of noise. I looked to the branch opposite thinking that damn Cockatoo again. A Cocky species for my mind strutting around with that immaculately quaffed yellow crest while firing off that irritating squawk similar to an M60. One could be forgiven for thinking they were a Peacock. Such cavalier behaviour truly ruffles a humble Pelicans feathers. Alas I was wrong, doesn't happen often, there wasn't a Cockatoo in sight. I looked down to the source of the noise. Ding, Ding, Ding firing off like a n M 60 while his verbal abuse landed like grenades scattering the footpath of pedestrians. I thought I was watching a scene from Saving Private Ryan. Still in the haze of pre slumber I thought that perhaps the Cockatoo had taken up cycling. This chap was adorned in bright yellow lycra equally as cocky and

certainly as rude as my feathered nemesis. To be fair to the feathered Cocky I will admit that he is a sight to behold when in full flight. The cycle Cocky on the other hand resembled a Telly Tubby in tight fitting yellow lycra riding to an All YOU CAN EAT CREAM BUN MUNCHING contest. The sight of young children and puppies nearly bowled over at 40 km per hour was horrifying. Their only sin exiting their parked cars and stepping onto the footpath. Horrified by this bellicose behaviour, not to mention the sight of Free Willy in Lycra I asked Pigeon for some advice. Pigeon can usually be found on the windowsill of Council chambers perched like an ASIO listening device ready to report. His debriefing was damning. Shared path apparently means not just for cyclists. Speed limit apparently denotes a numerical number deemed as a safe speed to cycle given you are on a shared path. Rather simple really. I then goggled Cocky Cyclists and exposed the imposter. Mario Cipollini is a world famous tour de France cyclist famous for looking like an Adonis beating everyone in a race while smoking a bungler and stealing dozens of wives and girlfriends at events worldwide. Our local Cocky is just a muppet and a grumpy one at that. You will never be the legendary “Cippo” mate, you're not in the Tour de France and “Cippo” would never behave like that. You might want to check if your wife's got company.

Percy Protest Pelican

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- ✓ Upgraded our local schools at Manly Vale, Harbord and Curl Curl North Public School



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Matt, Dale, Tawny & Kim

What the Zuck?

by Liam Carroll

Australia woke up recently to find Mark Zuckerberg wanted to show the Australian Government who's boss. In the blink of an eye, the Zuck outlawed a whole bevy of news sites from his Facebook platform due to the ongoing stoush over contested advertising revenue tied to his social media behemoth's omnipresence. While it may have been an unmistakable flexing of his digital autocracy muscle, it felt there could be a seismic shift in consensus as to how we all interact with the Facebook platform. We asked three local online news outlets how they'd been impacted by the bans, and what measures they were taking to ensure readers' access to their sites, with or without Zuckerberg's algorithmic paradise.

Dale Cohen, The Northern Beaches Advocate When Facebook unfriend, they don't muck about. The removal of news from Australia was so clumsy it was almost embarrassing. No surprises when the Northern Beaches Advocate was caught in the net, since we are a news website. The intended target of the bomb they dropped. We never asked Facebook for any money, and nor did we plan to. We don't have comments on our articles, Facebook provides a useful place for discussion to happen about the stories we publish. We think it's the right place for that discussion, or we did. Now we'll recommend people join Nextdoor.com.au for community discussion instead of Facebook.

I stopped worrying about Facebook surprisingly quickly. The Northern Beaches Advocate never relied on them and operate from our own website. People found us just fine by coming directly to our website. The

most surprising thing was how many politicians reached out, to see if we were suffering and to see what response was appropriate. My answer, 'I thought we didn't negotiate with terrorists?'

Matt Cleary, The Northern Beaches Sports Tribune

We service local sports. If it's played on the Northern Beaches, we'll put it in The Tribune. By March 2020, seven months from ground zero, we had a thousand readers a day. Then there was the global pandemic. And no more sport. Which made it tough to write about sport. Yet we did! We re-ran stuff. Knocked out op-ed. Lists. Podcasts and video. And we maintained our thousand daily readers.

Then February 2021, Facebook happened. Our journal had leaned heavily upon the platform to virally publicise our stories to the people, but with them cutting us off at the bar, our numbers sky-dived like a stock market crash. From a thousand a day it was closer to 200. Facebook has however since recanted, and with footy season approaching, we're up to a thousand daily readers again. We'll double that in 2021, almost purely because of the viral super-power of the anti-social behemoth. Not the most benevolent god, our man Zuckerberg. But his website is ubiquitous. What you gonna do?

Kim Smee, The Manly Observer

Zuck and I initially had a beautiful marriage. Facebook gave me a free platform to find my local audience and I kept them engaged. Frankly, Manly Observer lifted the tone of the place. But I increasingly felt controlled by the big man. He decided who saw what stories and when, and as a fiercely independent journalist I decided to create a life separate from him at my own website.

I'm mad at Zuck but he's not solely to blame. The proposed laws were too vague and open to interpretation, presenting a major risk to the global giant. The legislation, as I saw it, was never about supporting small, independent publishers, it was about returning a larger portion of pie to Murdoch. But the issue is too nuanced to pick a side.

I still love social media but have also encouraged readers to save our website to their homescreen; to not rely on Facebook to tell them when news is worth reading. Are Zuck and I still married? Let's just say, 'it's complicated.'



Manly Dam panorama. Photo by Chris Drummond

Beaches Link Project: Be Careful What You Wish For!

Mal's Wild Side By Malcolm Fisher

A shiny new tunnel, wide connecting roads, the end of Spit Bridge misery...it all sounds so lovely on paper. Until you grapple with the gruesome details. For a start there'll be unfiltered exhaust stacks belching out toxic fumes close to homes and schools at Seaforth, Cammeray and Balgowlah. For many, there'll be unrelenting noise, dust and traffic disruption for 5 to 7 years. Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation will become twelve lanes, the creek diverted and green space forfeited. Several people will even lose their homes! And some of our most cherished environmental jewels will be sacrificed in this "covenant with the devil".

As Wakehurst Parkway is massively expanded, the rocky bushland scenery between Garigal National Park and the War Memorial Park will be smashed with jack hammers or blown up with explosives. (And this is where Sydney's rarest reptile, the Rosenberg's Goanna, hangs out). Thirty-nine football fields worth of threatened species habitat will be bulldozed, most of it along this stretch of road. This

includes some of the most endangered vegetation on the planet (Duffys Forest Ecological Community).

The entire project will involve the "removal" of 3,500 plus trees - well over 2,000 in this vicinity. Sensitive Aboriginal sites, such as the engravings at Bantry Bay, will also be visually diminished. Projected pollution, erosion and siltation into Manly Dam's fragile creeks will jeopardise the only population of Gondwanan Climbing fish in Sydney - thought to have survived here for over 60 million years. And Manly Dam's status as the only lake in the city where humans can still swim in unpolluted freshwater, will also be threatened.

Sydney Water's bushland site in North Balgowlah was saved, by the community, from a housing development in 2015. This area would now be used as a "construction support site" All native plants and animals will be erased

(before it is belatedly returned to Manly Dam Reserve). There is also significant risk to beautiful Middle Harbour and its marine eco-systems, from drilling and spoil removal on the harbour bed.

Documents reveals that "After the construction phase, heavy industry will be encouraged into the Northern Beaches due to greater access for large articulated trucks". (Seems like more intensive development is coming to a street near you!)

While Paris and London have a "sustainability" vision, we are emulating the Los Angeles blueprint and destroying our unique green lungs for yet more cars. The mass public transport corridor, from Dee Why to Chatswood, continues to be ignored and the Tunnel project doesn't even include a designated bus lane!

Independent transport expert Dr Michelle Zeibots reports that any gains in travel times will eaten up by extra congestion on arterial roads anyway! Only now you'll be paying a toll for your frustration! The last word on this issue should really go to Planning Minister, Rob Stokes: "Building more roads to relieve traffic is like buying bigger trousers to lose weight."



Eastern Pygmy Possum: a threatened species to lose its habitat.

The Environmental Impact Statement is on public exhibition until March 1st. Submissions are encouraged. www.caportal.com.au/rms/bi/documents#eisChapters



Warringah Youth Ambassadors

Education By Liam Carroll

North Steyne Surf Club, 3:58pm, Tuesday: Through the windows, surfers rip into fun summer waves all the way from Fairy Bower to Queens-cliff. Inside, Zali Steggall and her team deploy elbow grease to quickly transform the space from a bare yoga studio into a desk-filled conference chamber. Outside, waiting patiently on the salt and sand drenched pavement in the glaring afternoon sun are the 26 school captains of 13 Warringah high schools. They're here in their own time to partake in the 'Youth Ambassadors Program', an initiative established by the Federal Member for Warringah to give schoolkids a voice. 4:01pm: Let's see what they have to say.

The theme of this afternoon's meeting is 'Grit', and while our country may be forever girt by sea, it's firmly founded on grit. So, to kick-start proceedings, everyone completes a questionnaire - 'The Grit Scale'. Not surprisingly, in this room of high achievers, grit's a healthy

companion for most, but Zali veers the conversation to three more crucial qualities, "Regardless of what path you head down, the ability to pivot, persevere, and to be practical, these traits will always hold you in good stead to achieve whatever you set your mind to." Zali continues, "We've set these sessions up because you are the future, and as you go through life there will be issues that we as a community need to address, and it's only with passionate, caring and practical people that meaningful action can take place."

Continuing on from their first session late last year where the kids addressed four key issues of concern after consultation with their schoolmates and teachers - The Environment, Mental Health, Sexuality/Gender, and Community - the task now is for the school captains to split into four groups and come up with a defined request to ask of their federal member to take action on their concerns.

Zali imparts a final piece of advice, "I have meetings with a huge array of people who raise their concerns about all manner of community issues. It helps when there is a clear ask or action that I can take on their behalf. When you present to the group, please make sure to ask for something that is ambitious but achievable, have a clear ask that I can take action on".

The kids get busy, working cohesively with peers from other schools, armed with an hour to arrive at a clear ask, and impressively utilising every moment to prepare for their presentation.

5:31pm: Drum roll...Presentation time.

1. Environment: Linda Zhao (Mosman High School) stands up, looking a tad nervous but there's no reason to be, what she's about to say will blow the room away. "We believe every school should be fitted with solar panels. Not only will this provide electricity so the school can become energy independent, but also when the school's empty in holiday periods, especially in summer, the energy harnessed from the sun can be sold to the

grid and become a valuable revenue source." Wow. Linda for PM! Watch out Zali!

2. Mental Health: Josh Seward (St Augustine's College) is a strapping young lad who looks equally ready to lead a multinational corporation or the Wallabies. "Mental health among young people is an issue that can be very difficult for teachers to address, and we believe the provision of external professionals to run school workshops each year would be a massive benefit, assisting kids and teachers alike to have the skills to better manage mental health issues." Very well said, Josh.

3. Sexuality/Gender: Harry Hadley (St Luke's Grammar) has perhaps the most difficult challenge, speaking articulately about sexuality and

gender to a room of teenagers. "Learning about these issues is extremely complicated and confusing, and often we turn to the internet, something which is not ideal but there are websites with hugely valuable information. What we find though, is that any website related to 'sex' is banned by school servers without closer investigation of what a specific website may have to offer kids in an educational way.

We fully understand censorship is needed for child protection however we are asking for a review of the banned websites, and a clear definition of censorship as it pertains to sexuality and gender." Impressive! I don't know if I'd have been that mature at Harry's age, or even now, in talking so well about such a precarious issue.

4. Community: Eliza Lo Russo (Manly Selective Campus NBSC) is the last to present, and she launches straight in, "Grant us a Chance! We want to create an independent board to assess grant applications and ensure this process is not overseen by vested interests or political parties. We imagine it could be enacted via a Jury Duty type system where residents are called up to a Grants Application Board at random and must decide on how public money is handed out to important causes and foundations." This could be the greatest idea I've ever heard!

6:02pm: Home time. Zali's Youth Ambassadors Program is off to a very strong start for 2021 and if the kids really are our future, we're in great shape.



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4 years of Success with More to Come

State Politics By James Griffin MP, Member for Manly

March marks my 4th year as the Member for Manly (the length of a normal term in state parliament). 4 years since the by-election and I am happy to look back and reflect on what has been an exciting period of time. To put some perspective into what can happen in 4 years; Donald Trump has come and gone as the President of the United States, Opal cards have been rolled out, a new Metro has been built, the Invictus Games rolled into Sydney (and Prince Harry was still a Royal), single use plastic bags were still commonly available in supermarkets, we've had another state-wide election in 2019 and I celebrated the birth of my two children in that time. And that does not even include all that happened last year!

A new MP's inaugural speech is an important manifesto of vision and goals for the local area. It might have been unconventional, but

I set out a variety of policy promises in my speech. These included securing funding for local organisations to support the vulnerable and voiceless, upgrading Brookie Oval, redeveloping the North Head Hospital site, continuing investment in our schools and local groups like Community Northern Beaches, and supporting local families being among some of my commitments from day 1. I also wanted to highlight both veteran welfare and our local environment as key areas at the centre of my focus in parliament.

I'm proud to currently serve as NSW Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans. I've delivered on local promises like cleaning up Cabbage Tree Bay as a marine reserve and improving access to Manly Dam and North Head parklands. It has been an honour to support veterans in our community and across

the state as Parliamentary Secretary and I continue that work with organisations like Soldier On, the Veterans Centre Northern Beaches, and the RSL.

For each of the commitments made in my speech on day one, the NSW Government has:

- Funded and commenced construction of the upgrades at Brookvale Oval,
- Funded the Youth Hospice on the North Head site, providing a space for young people with terminal illness from across NSW to receive respite and care,
- Found a new home for Community Northern Beaches on Raglan Street in Manly,
- And upgraded 3 of our local schools at Manly Vale, Harbord and Curl Curl North Public School.

By far and away, the greatest part of the job has been meeting the thousands of volunteers, community groups and selfless individuals who are the beating heart of our community. Week in week out, our community groups and volunteer organisations do the most amazing work.

I've got a long list of projects to continue delivering. All projects that improve our community. Undoubtedly, there's still more to do locally and over the next few years as we turn a period of adversity in 2020 into an era of opportunity. There are exciting developments we can look forward to as the Youth Hospice is completed, construction of the upgraded Manly Wharf gets underway and we rebuild our local tourism economy.

It's been an honour these last four years to serve as your local member and I'll continue delivering outcomes for Manly.



The Lifeline Book Fair returns 15-18 April at St. Augustine's College, Brookvale

Lifeline Book Fairs Return for 2021

By Alistair Robinson

BROOKVALE – The first Lifeline Book Fair for 2021 on the Northern Beaches is starting in a couple of weeks at St Augustine's College – Sydney. With more than 60,000 books, CDs, games, puzzles, DVDs and vinyl LPs available, there really is something for everyone.

"Book Fairs are an institution at Lifeline," says David Thomas, CEO of Lifeline Northern Beaches. "Our volunteers have been running them for decades and Book Fairs are an integral part of our fundraising. Without our famous Book Fairs, we simply wouldn't be able to deliver the level of service that Lifeline provides."

The Book Fair at St Augustine's College in Brookvale is running for four huge days from 15-18 April. Doors open to the general public on the Thursday at 11am, with queues of bibliophiles expected from early in the morning.

All stock at Lifeline's Book Fairs has been donated by the local community from a diverse range of personal collections. There are more than 50 categories of books, including Military History, Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Cooking, Architecture, Children's and many, many more. There is also a popular section of Collectible books, with a list of titles available published on the Lifeline Northern Beaches website before the Book Fair.

"Over the past couple of years, we've started bringing in new stock on Friday and Saturday," says Mr Thomas. "This means there's always the chance you'll be able to take home something hard-to-find on any day at a Book Fair."

Lifeline has also been



carefully planning how to hold Book Fairs during COVID-19.

"We have worked really hard on making our Book Fairs COVID-Safe," says Book Fair Coordinator, Penny Cervetto. "While we had to postpone some Book Fairs last year when government restrictions were in place, our 2020 Book Fairs ran smoothly with appropriate social-distancing and mindful customers."

Check-in will be mandatory at the St Augustine's College Book Fair and any NSW Health restrictions will be adhered to.

Lifeline's Book Fairs raise essential funds for Lifeline's crisis support and suicide prevention services, including local face-to-face counselling and support groups.

For more information about Lifeline Northern Beaches Book Fairs, visit www.lifelinenb.org.au/book-fairs
If you need immediate support, call Lifeline on **13 11 14** (24/7) or text Lifeline on **0477 13 11 14** (midday-midnight).



Fast, furious and fun – Dragon Boat Racing, Bei Loon style!

Sport: Around the Grounds

by Matt Cleary, Editor of the Northern Beaches Sports Tribune

The January lull is done and dusted, and footy season is in the air. But our cricketers, softball players and dragon boat racers are still in their swinging and splashing.

Cricket

The Beacon Hill Hawks have defeated Manly Rugby League Cricket Club Sea Eagles by six wickets in the grand final of the **Mike Pawley T20 Plate** competition. Set 166 to win in their 20 overs, the Hawks went ballistic from the get-go with **Aarka Saha** (47 off 29 balls), **Robin Singh** (31 off 13) and notably **Gunpreet “Big Gun” Deo** (65 off 27 including 8 sixes and 1 four) cruising past the Sea Eagles’ total with 5.2 overs to spare.

In the grand final of the WG Foster Shield at Campbell Park in Chiswick, Manly Warringah’s U12 Division Two cricket team beat North Shore by four wickets. Chasing North Shore’s 6/125 the Manly boys were in dire straits at 4/12 in the 40-over fixture. Cometh the hour, cometh **Dylan Thompson** (48*) and **Rory Toole** (31), who shared a

match-winning 49-run partnership before **Thomas Walker** scored a quick-fire and valuable 20 runs at the end. Thompson would hit the winning runs in the 36th over with his team six wickets down. Best with the ball for Manly were **Thomas Walker**, **Will Cunningham**, captain **Henry Matthews** and left-arm tweaker **Freddie Schneiderreit**.

Softball

The Peninsula Raiders faced an uphill battle from the start in their match against Warringah Hunters, with star pitchers **Kirra Gilchrist** and **Gracie Tetz** out for the weekend attending U/16 Selection Camps for the NSW state team. On top of that the Raiders’ coach **Kellie Cohen** and youngest player **Talea Tonga** were missing in action because of a clash with the Touch Footy State Championships in Port Macquarie.

That left the Raiders with seven fielders, no pitcher and needing a huge team effort in very hot and trying circumstances. They turned one on. The “Magnificent Seven” of **Jess Fraanje**; **Anna Butler**; **Emily Harrison**; **Kirra Wilkins**; **Carys Thomas-McDonnell**; **Ingrid Frew** and **Izzy Frew** prevailed 9-8 over Warringah in a cliff-hanger.

Dragonboat Racing

Scotland Island has a famous swimming race for dogs and a less famous but more spectacular one for dragons. Well, dragon boats, actually. And on the morning of Saturday, 30 January, they set off from Rowland Reserve, Bayview and lapped the prominent rock, carving through the Pittwater like Vikings from Japan. The race has been going ten years, with nine teams from NSW and the ACT contesting two races this year. Each boat holds up to 20 people which meant there were about 100 competitors smashing their oars into the briny as their brightly-coloured racing boats surge through the spume. “At 9.5km it’s the longest sanctioned race on the annual calendar,” said Bei Loon Dragon Boat Club media official, **Andy Kyiet**. “Normal racing distances are between 200m and 2km. And it’s held at what’s generally agreed to be the most spectacular location for the sport. Visiting clubs relish the opportunity to compete in our unique endurance event, which takes 45 to 55 minutes at racing speed,” said Kyiet.

Scan here to keep up to date with the local sports action in the Northern Beaches Sports Tribune www.northernbeachessportstribune.com.au



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Seabin founder Pete Ceglinski and the team

The Seabin Project: Cleaner Oceans for a Brighter Future

Innovation: Silicon Brooky by Liam Carroll

2015, Palma Mallorca, Spain: Pete Ceglinski and Andrew Turton, Aussie surfers, sailors, boatbuilders and ocean-lovers, were working on boats at a marina in Spain and couldn't believe the amount of plastic in the water. The marina's 'solution' - hiring someone to walk around with a pool scooper, ladling rubbish out only for it to be back again the next day. Pete and Andrew concluded, "If we can have rubbish bins on land then why not have them in the water?"

Why not indeed? The Seabin concept was born - a rubbish bin for the water. However, unlike Terra Firma where you have the luxury of solid ground, the ocean's unique quality, besides being inundated with evermore plastic rubbish, is its propensity for constant motion. How can you actually park a bin in the drink? And why would trash simply fall in when it can so merrily float along clogging up wildlife's vital organs? Pete and Andrew weren't entirely sure, but they had enough confidence in their problem solving abilities to quit their jobs, take their life savings and lease and renovate an old disused furniture restoration factory in Palma Mallorca.

They got straight to work, learning how to weld thanks to YouTube videos, using a 60year old sewing machine to stitch the original catch bags, and deploying brainpower beyond the Tawny's realm of hydrological, self-propelled, oceanic waste management understanding to

ascertain how on earth to get rubbish from the water and into their neophyte Seabin.

The Seabin is a simple concept, it's a cross between a garbage can and a pool skimmer that's put in the water at yacht clubs, ports, waterfronts and foreshores with existing infrastructure. The Seabin has a water pump at the bottom that draws in water from the surface and pumps it out the bottom. And in the middle is a filter that captures the floating plastic pollution. The water drawn in is filtered and released back into the ocean, while particles of floating debris; plastic bottles, plastic bags, polystyrene, microplastics, fuel, oil, detergents, parking tickets, cigarette butts, chocolate wrappers, and everything else you can imagine are captured - even microfibrils like fishing line and plastic threads are captured on a daily basis.

Scan here to see the Seabin at work, turning plastic littered water into clean blue ocean



Seabin was founded in 2016 and they've not stopped working tirelessly to ensure cleaner oceans every minute since. They now operate in 54 countries with 860 Seabins across the globe capturing close to 4tonnes of aquatic-residing garbage every day. Seabins have removed a total of 1,665,781kg of waste from the ocean, a number growing constantly and rapidly. This is serious business. However, the Seabin mission is not to dominate every spare loch with their majestic repository, it is "To live in a world without Seabins."

To achieve this, a huge part of their work is invested in educating schools, politicians, businesses and everyday citizens of what we're all throwing in the ocean. Trash doesn't mythically appear in a Seabin. It comes from somewhere. And data tracking every single item of Seabin-captured trash makes for compelling fact-based arguments when discussing with the big polluters, business leaders, politicians and everyday people alike, what action they need to take if they're serious about living in a clean environment.

Seeing is believing, and Seabin's focus on compelling communication techniques is why they use the 'White Board', an actual white board that every catch is laid upon, filmed, photographed, and catalogued, to both build up a truly comprehensive showcase of the trash flooding our waterways, but to also serve

as an emotive visual catalyst to finally cut through so that everyone witnesses the end game of single-use plastics overconsumption, and the reality of what happens when we treat the ocean as a garbage dump. This crucial component of Seabin's work makes for powerful persuasion, leading more and more people to think twice in their consumer decisions, and work towards a clean-ocean future not reliant on Seabins but fuelled by a plastic-free way of life.

Right now, Seabin's biggest challenge isn't plastic pollution, it's the lack of accountability and governance with decision makers like City of Sydney, where Seabin is running a self-funded Smart Cities Campaign to clean up and prevent plastic pollution in our majestic harbour.

"Whilst we do have some traction with the City officials helping refine our data protocol, at the same time we are also getting a Not-My-Responsibility response from City

spokespeople and this is a slap in the face to everyone who wants a pristine, healthy and cleaner Sydney harbour", says Pete Ceglinski, CEO & Co Founder of Seabin Project.

Seabin are trying to get the City of Sydney inside, yet stay firm with taking them to task for floating pollution making its way from the streets into the waterways. Seabin have invested over \$160,000 of community shareholder money, also with local private businesses financially supporting the clean-up.

Seabin need your help to gain the support of the City of Sydney, as well as State and Federal Governments. A

follow on social media is the best way to assist.

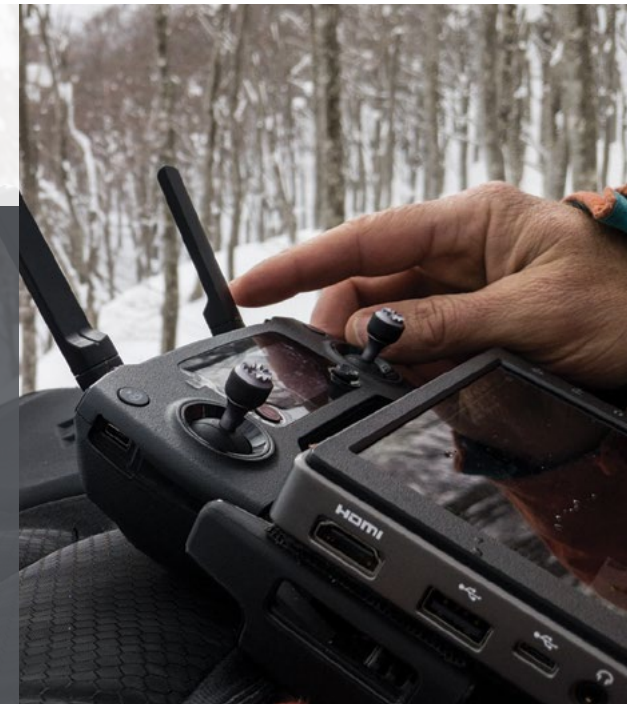
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Jonathan Cramer, Inventor and Founder of Fatmouth Pegs

The Peg Revolution

Featuring Jonathan Cramer Interview Liam Carroll

In the Land Down Under, we take our decks very seriously, and from time to time, when the Hills Hoist is chocker block, we must turn to our ever reliable deck's handrails to bear the damp added brunt of excess dirty washing. Only, there's one small but infuriating problem; how to fasten the wet wash to the wide rails so they don't float off into the ether during the drying process? Luckily, Bilgola's Jonathan Cramer has a Fatmouth solution.

G'day Jonathan. Where'd the inspiration come from to create a thumping massive peg that can wrap its hungry fat mouth around basically everything? I've always been very active and supportive in my kids activities, especially on the sporting field, and this led me to the revered role of Newport Junior Rugby Club (Breakers) laundry man. Surprisingly, I didn't have to compete with anyone for this prestigious position. It was a fairly straightforward task, gathering up the soiled jerseys

at the end of a game, taking them home, washing them, returning the following game and handing them out spick and span. But with a family of 5, the clothesline was constantly full. I had to spread sheets, towels and Breakers jerseys on the handrails to dry, only to find the slightest breeze would waft them into the mud or the tick and leech infested bush below. Scratching around in the leaf litter, I found old towels and swimmers rotting away in the vegetation too. "This is rubbish", literally, but then, "Eureka, I've got it!" I marvelled to myself, "I need a big peg to hold these in place on the rails!" I searched online, as well as in various hardware shops, all to no avail. So, I made my own. **How did you progress from your big peg notion to actually producing these newfangled, girth-accommodating clamps?** The fundamental idea is to be able to attach items to handrails, and railings in general, whatever's needed, grip onto any surface

you want, but first things first, I did some measurements. For my deck, I needed a peg to expand over a 145mm merbau handrail. I then popped round to check my neighbour's measurements. His handrails were 60mm stainless steel tubing. I realised 2 sizes would be perfect, one big peg, and one really, really, really big peg. And after the first few prototypes, I realised Fatmouth isn't a conventional clothes peg, it's much bigger, meaning there's a huge potential customer base; campers, divers, fellow laundry enthusiasts, the elderly, 4WD'ers, horticulturalists, builders, yachties, basically anyone who needs to peg or clip something to something else. **How are you now progressing with transforming your product into a business?** I've done the crash course in setting everything up for online sales. I've also been really lucky to have had great support from local businesses; Mitre10, Road Tech Marine (RTM) and the What's Cooking shops. But it's tough going, doing everything on my own, keeping a tired bloodshot eye on the cash flowing out, staying positive. But when I do make a sale, I celebrate with a little Fatmouth dance, that helps me through, great exercise too. **How can Tawny readers support the Fatmouth Peg Revolution?** Buy the best, biggest, fattest, mouthiest peg on the market, Fatmouth, and help a Newport Breakers laundry man make his mark in this world.

Buy your Fatmouth peg at www.fatmouth.com.au and follow Fatmouth on Facebook @FatmouthPegs



Zen and the Art of... Spirituality

Careers by Rhonda Kelly (pictured)

Editor's Note: On Saturday, 17 April, Rhonda Kelly brings her Ocean Wings Psychic and Spiritual Fair to Dee Why RSL. Here at the Tawny Frogmouth, our knowledge of the spirit world is rather limited, so we asked Rhonda to tell us what her work is all about.

If you told me a decade ago that I would now be working as a Psychic Medium, I would've laughed. Being psychic was an ability I had from childhood. I'd often blurt out premonitions, with childhood innocence and lack of tact, which was usually met with fear and confusion by my teachers and family. However, growing up in a dysfunctional and volatile family environment, I soon realised my spirit guides were there to keep me safe and help me in life. This connection has helped guide me through struggles, adversity, and grief in life.

My scientific career brought me to Sydney, just like it took me to the UK fifteen years ago. I transitioned to a legal career and have practiced in three Australian

jurisdictions. I started doing psychic readings for fun and did not realize how much I would enjoy it and how much of a following I would have. Travel is my other passion in life, and I look forward to being able to do that again. For now, I'm enjoying living on the Northern Beaches, and you'll likely find me sampling local coffee or looking for wildlife.

Psychics come from all walks of life. We are people who can see, hear, smell, feel, know or taste things that others do not. Many, like myself, are well travelled and well educated and have discovered or developed their psychic abilities later in life. To some extent, we are all psychic. Whether we trust our intuition or not is another matter. Perhaps you will be inspired to begin your own journey of psychic development by attending classes with me.

To find out more about Rhonda's Ocean Wings Psychic and Spiritual Fair, visit www.rhondasreadings.com/oceanwings and go along to Dee Why RSL on Saturday 17 April anytime between 9:30 and 4:30, \$10 entry.

I've been with Psychic TV Australia since 2016, and I can't wait to bring my Ocean Wings Psychic & Spiritual Fair to Dee Why. With the theme, 'Let us help you be the best version of you', the fair provides the opportunity to meet some of Australia's leading psychic mediums and enjoy stage presentations of platform mediumship and learn about Angels, Astrology, Past Lives and more, as well as enjoy the range of spiritual products and books available.

Why should you have a psychic reading? A psychic will tune into your energy and help give you clarity and guidance about an area in your life or a question that you have asked, often with validation about something that has happened in your life. A psychic reading is typically a combined reading of past, present, and future. A mediumship reading involves connecting to passed loved ones or pets. You can expect validation of the way they passed or by something specific about their personality or appearance. Not all psychics are mediums, but all mediums are also psychic. **How should I pick a reader? Trust your instincts and pick a reader that you are drawn to.** You may have been referred by someone who had a good reading previously. You may have seen the reader on TV or at another event. Your spirit guides will help direct you to a reader who will give you the best reading.



A sneak peek at Maria's gestural and experimental studio process

Local Artist... Maria Benvenuto

Interview by Quyen Hutchinson

Originally from the mountains of Santiago, Chile, Manly resident Maria provides an abstract interpretation for the cover of our April issue.

How long have you lived on the Northern Beaches? Since December 2018 when I arrived in Australia with my husband. Manly is definitely the best place to live in Australia, and we are looking to stay.

What's your favourite beach? Shelly beach. It is the closest to my studio and home and where I get most of my inspiration from.

Where's your favourite place to eat, drink, hang out? The Boat House at Shelly Beach for brunch. When having a drink and hang out I like The Skiff Club.

What's the best thing about the Northern Beaches? The variety of beaches and their beautiful landscapes.

If you had to live anywhere else in the world, where would it be? Somewhere similar to the Northern Beaches!
What inspired the cover art? The view of the ocean from a lookout near my studio in North Head.

What else inspires your art? The ocean, the green vegetation, flowers and cliffs in contrast with the majestic and beautiful city. Also, experimentation in the studio is very important. I like to research different materials, surfaces and mediums. 'Errors' or 'mistakes' in the research process can be used to create a good result in the final painting.

How would you describe your art? Abstract art inspired by the landscape. I like the freedom that comes with creating abstract pieces.

What are your favourite materials to work with? Acrylics and different mediums on paper and linen. It is very important to me that the brushstrokes have different characteristics, such as contrast, transparency and layers.

Has your art or inspiration changed since moving to Australia from Chile? I started painting calmer, more contemplative painting because of the feelings and the daily life I have here. I was used to city life, surrounded by high and steep mountains while here I have the ocean with its waves, cliffs with amazing views to

the city, and green valleys with deep tree foliage.

How did you discover you had a gift for art? Since I was a child, I was surprised by most of the paintings I saw. Every time I had the chance to analyse an art piece, I felt an internal connection with the painting that is hard to explain. It is very unique how colours, shapes and gestures capture my attention. I had special admiration towards the abstract pieces. I always feel comfortable and happy making art.

Did you study art? I studied Visual Arts in Chile.

What else are you currently working on? I am preparing a solo exhibition for the Gallery that represents me in NSW, M. Contemporary Gallery.

How can people buy and support your work? They can buy directly from M. Contemporary Gallery.

Any words of wisdom for aspiring artists? It is important to be persistent and put a lot of effort on what you love to achieve your goals. For me, creating a social media profile and website has become key in connecting me with people interested in my process and work across the globe, with no limits. Experimenting with different materials and techniques is an important part of the creative process. Trust the process since after every stroke there may be a unique and creative result.

What is your favourite thing about what you do? I have fun while I work and feel free to express my feelings on canvas.

Do you have a suitably pretentious quote to share with our readers? Viva la vida.

Follow Maria on social
[@mariajosebenvenuto](https://www.instagram.com/mariajosebenvenuto)



How to: Communicate Better

The Love Scout by Scout Smith-O'Leary

We can all agree that tension, arguments and fights bring unwanted stress to relationships. If they are swept under the rug, over time they can erode our connection to the people we love most. From a cold shoulder to a passive aggressive comment, there are many verbal and non-verbal communications that can really get your back up. Effective communication builds intimacy, trust and happiness, so you can love more and fight less. Here are our top tips for becoming a communication boss.

Make space to talk. It's really important that you and your partner schedule time (once a month should do it) to go over all the aspects of the relationship. From money to health, family, work, travel, projects, kids and sex, you must do your relationship maintenance. If you have an issue, you don't want to bring it up when things are good; who would want to ruin the good times? On the contrary, you don't want to bring it up when things are unsteady because it might put you further

in the hole. Make intentional space so that nothing gets swept under the rug.

Clarify the communication. Nothing is more annoying than when you just want to share how you feel and your partner comes up with a long list of solutions to fix your problems! Before you make assumptions, ask yourself and your partner this question: what is the intention of this communication? Do I want to share my thoughts, feelings or ideas? Do I need to get something off my chest? Am I looking for advice, help or solutions? Know the answer, that way you won't get pissed off they have a different intention.

Check in. No one likes to be constantly dumped on. Instead of thinking purely about yourself, ask your partner if they have the emotional capacity for the conversation. After a stressful

work week, nagging kids and painful in-laws to visit, it's not always the ideal time for a relationship chat. Be strategic and optimize the best possible outcome for you both. Re-schedule your chat if you don't have the energy.

Actively listen. You know that feeling of wanting to pull your hair out because someone isn't really listening to you in a conversation? Well it's not very nice, so make sure you show up. Give eye contact, mental presence, paraphrase, ask questions, clarify and reflect body language. This will make your partner feel valued, appreciated and respected.

Validate. When sharing our thoughts and feelings, most of the time we just want to be validated. This is hugely re-assuring and shows empathy. Instead of cutting off, ignoring, judging or changing the subject, try comments like: "It makes sense that you feel..." or "I can see why you think that way" or "I would feel that way too in your situation".

Instead of allowing emotions to dictate communication, it is much more effective to go into them strategically, especially the important ones. None of us went to relationship school, so this is your cheat sheet of communication essentials. If you want the best possible outcome, implement the best procedure.

"I'm so willing to listen to you and be empathetic to your perspective while you're yelling at me" – said no one ever.

Scout is a matchmaker and relationship educator.
To learn more about her upcoming dating workshops visit
www.schoolofconnectionsydney.com



Mark Kelly's Vote Tony Out campaign in full swing on Manly Corso, 2019

Converting Dissatisfaction into People Power

by Liam Carroll

In December 2017, moments after Tony Abbott abstained from casting a yes vote in the same-sex marriage plebiscite, Mark Kelly's frustration reached its limit. "I'd just had enough. Here was a politician brazen enough to openly not care about the wishes of the people he represented. I emailed a bunch of friends in the community asking what are we going to do about Tony Abbott?"

The rest is history. Mark worked non-stop, drawing on every ounce of his marketing and merchandising expertise to create and oversee the Vote Tony Out campaign. Over the course of the 18 months leading to May 2019's federal election, VTO took on a life of unbeatable proportions, amassing huge support from passionate local residents sick and tired of the status quo. The momentum Mark generated paved the way for Zali Steggall to arrive perfectly in time for an electorate whose appetite for change had been whet for a year.

Jump ahead to 2021, and

with the Australian political landscape in as close to a complete shambles as anyone can imagine, residents fervent for change all over Australia have begun reaching out to Mark, eager to apply the VTO principles that proved so effective in toppling a former PM to their own electorates. "I've been working with 7 electorates, all preparing for whenever the next federal election is called, setting the stage for a groundswell of support for change to lead the wave, and the for the best possible candidate to step forward when the time is right and have an extremely powerful platform for success."

Mark's ground up model of political campaigning, starting first with building a movement for change that people want to be a part of then worrying about finding a perfect candidate later, goes against all the usual machinations of contemporary politics where an individual is tasked with creating the buzz from the top down. And while Tony Abbott may have been able to

shrug off the VTO's growing popularity throughout 2018, when Zali Steggall stepped up to the contest in January 2019, Mark's 12 months of non-stop groundwork proved priceless, and no doubt played a very important role in the ultimate success of Zali's race.

"My strategy to encourage engagement is to simply start the conversation with as many people as possible, and with two straightforward questions; Why is your member for parliament in power? Do they represent you? The ability of that conversation starter, to not actively promote a certain candidate, but for people to question the sitting member's fitness for office in the first place, helps move people to think more deeply about why someone is in power, and whether or not their actions truly represent the needs and wishes of the people. If a voter is unable to draw strong answers to these questions, if you've listened to them intently and not forced an alternate candidate down their throat, they're far more likely to become passionate advocates for change themselves, fed up with the status quo they've been lumped with."

The seven electorates where Mark's VTO principles are set to be applied are all occupied by 'moderate liberals' whose representation of their constituents seems regularly to be in stark contrast with their commitment to LNP donors. These include Mackellar, North Sydney, Wentworth and Hume, where the Vote Angus Out (VAO) movement is up and running. If the Warringah example is a harbinger of things to come, seven incumbents should be very nervous about their political future right now.



Will, Ross and the next generation of Office lovers

Who First Called it 'The Office'?

by Zena Condell

There's many an urban legend about the origins of the name 'The Office' - the selfie worthy grassy harbourside patch - but the endearing beginnings of how these now iconic two words were born is a story deserving proper clarification.

It will shock some Tawny readers to learn "The Office" was once a rather empty stretch of grass and sand. A sad fact perhaps best attributed to Sydney Water's sewerage management being rather ghastly through the 80's and 90's when our urban coastlines and harbourside coves were known for their effluence, not their affluence. However, in 2001, with Sydney Water learning the joys of sifting our sewerage miles out to sea, a pair of Manly lads with a penchant for outdoor swilling, Ross and Will, did exactly

that...outdoor swilled.

Ross would get off the mighty Manly JetCat after a long hard day at his city desk jockey job and Will would finish his shift as a visual merchandiser at Levi's. They'd meet at the sweetest patch of emerald buffalo on the Northern Beaches and enjoy the divinely bromantic sunset grog o'clocks now routinely celebrated by thousands of enthusiastic booze hound revellers. After many months of week-nightly frothies, and the usual pulse of commuters getting off the ferries starting to think perhaps these two brew devourers could do well with a night off the lash, Ross and Will encountered a John Doe type passer-by. This nameless local, who noticed the consistent commitment of these lads to the task, asked rhetorically without breaking

stride, "Is this your office guys?" and continued on his way, chuckling at his own wit, blissfully unaware of the ripple effect this off-the-cuff comment would have. 'The Office' was born.

Armed now with a delightfully pompous appellation for their patch of beer-soaked grass, Ross and Will were joined by a growing throng of local mates realising 'The Office' was heaven on Earth. One of these was an aspiring rapper (but mostly a sunbaking, tanned, sea dog), The P.O.G., a man who knew the power of words. Another was Cy, a keen fish-keeper who used a tank as bait to lure unsuspecting lasses and a key member of the Victor Locos (a rat pack bunch of partygoers who lived at 'The Office' end of Victoria Pde). With this unique combination of people, time and place, the ripples grew, so much so that by 2008 'The Office' had its own geotag and had spread throughout social media. People flocked like bin chickens at Taronga. It became a Millennial's playground, a slackliner's dream and the perfect place for a 2nd birthday party - a multimillion-dollar brewing company has taken its name from the beauty of her pines for God's sake!

So, what do the founding Godfathers make of all this? Resoundingly they absolutely love it! They have since drifted to all ends of the world, from Sweden to King Island, WA to Lombok and yet they still dream of fresh frothies, watching the peachy sunsets over the most beautiful harbour in the world, and seeing John Doe stroll past once more to repeat the greatest question of all time, "Is this your office guys?"



Jack Mulingat "Lightning" Cook (second from left) and family on Guringai Country, 1881

Where did the Name "Ku-ring-gai" Come From?

Indigenous Matters Featuring Robert Syron Interview Liam Carroll

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned the accompanying photos contain images of deceased persons.

On the Northern Beaches, our eastern border is clearly signposted by the South Pacific's azure blue, our southern fringe marked with a huge rocky head, resplendent Sydney Harbour and medieval drawbridge, but it's the name of our north-western National Park frontier that has come under close scrutiny thanks to Robert Syron, an Australian Rwandan War veteran, recipient of the ANZAC Peace Prize, registered Aboriginal owner of Worimai/Guringai Lands in Port Stephens, Dungog and Gloucester, and a Guringai Biripai Worimai warrior. We sat down with Bob to learn where the word "Ku-ring-

gai" came from and what its meaning actually is.

G'day Bob! G'day Tawny. You've dedicated thousands of hours to researching the word "Ku-ring-gai". Why? In 2017 I saw a story published in the Newcastle Herald, "Guringai and Awabakal Native Title claim from Sydney to Newcastle". The claim being made was that Guringai People had Native Title rights from north of Newcastle, in Maitland, all the way to the Northern Beaches, down to Mona Vale and across to Hornsby. That instantly rang alarm bells because it's simply not correct. I thought, where are they getting "Guringai" from? My Country is Guringai and we are very much north of the Hunter River. What's going on here? I started researching what might have led to

all this confusion, and this is where the word "Ku-ring-gai" started to show up as a piece of the puzzle.

What did you find? The misunderstandings and misnomers can all be traced back to two things; 1. John Fraser, an influential man in late 19th century Sydney who fancied himself a cunning linguist; 2. Speed and Sound – First Australians spoke far too quickly for the boat people arrivals to keep up, and they had great difficulty picking up the subtle, nuanced differences between C, G, and K sounds. **You've lost me.** Well, it goes like this. There were lots of early white settlers with extreme dedication to accurately recording the array of First Australian languages, tribal groups, clans, regions, and they did an amazing job. In many ways it's thanks to them

that my very own Guringai history can be traced back to 1826, to Port Stephens, and to my great, great, great grandfather, Jack Mulingat ('Lightning') Cook (Pictured top left back row). If you check the record books though, there are all manner of individual tribes, languages, regions, and NONE of them have the name "Ku-ring-gai."

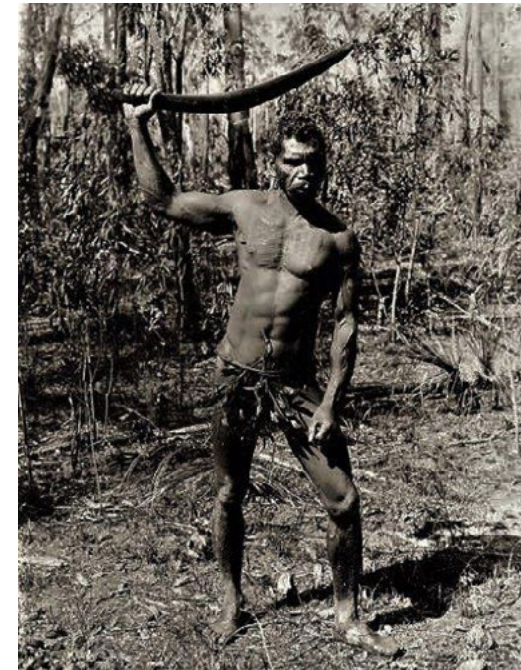
So, what does Ku-ring-gai mean then? It can mean, "a good camping place for the Koories" (Ref: J.F. Mann 1884-1907). It can describe, "the Senior Man of an Initiation Ceremony of the Yuin People, south of Sydney" (Ref: Native Tribes of South East Australia). Or, alternatively, in the Kutthung language it means "black duck."

How then did this name become associated with the vast expanse of north-west Sydney? John Fraser was determined to name the region and he felt a self-ordained authority on correct language use, writing to the Sydney Morning Herald in 1890, "When the municipalities of the North Shore combine and adopt the native name of their district" He goes on to give an etymological masterclass "The C should give place to K, for C in English is a redundant letter, representing the sound either of K or of S, and should not be used here in our native words."

The fact these "words" represent tribes and people

who'd lived here for tens of thousands of years doesn't strike John as important?

It doesn't seem to, which is bizarre because his writings show he was very much aware of local tribe and language names, writing specifically, "I know the Guringai tribe occupy the whole of the east coast from the Hastings and the Manning down to the Hunter." But then, knowing specifically



A Guringai Warrior from Port Stephens area

Guringai people are nowhere near north-western Sydney, he perhaps just liked the sound of it, so he threw a K in front, instead of a G, hoped no one would notice and here we are, the name stuck for over a century, despite having no connection to the region and to the unique, individual groups of people who've lived here for thousands of years. **He just made the name up?** He just made it up.

Why is this so important for you to set straight? Because it changes and affects everything of what the true Guringai have always known regarding our culture, language, location and teaching. **What's the latest in terms of proper name recognition for your People?** 7 Aboriginal Land Councils from Sydney to Port Stephens are in support of my findings, and

many Councils from Sydney to Newcastle have corrected their council websites, as well as many schools, private business educators, and government departments also making changes to acknowledge Guringai are north of the Hunter River NSW.

How do you feel now knowing your research has played such a crucial role in correcting this historical, linguistic mistake?

It's a great feeling that people are reading the evidence and research I have collected over many hours of reading old transcripts, but it's also great to see real change

being made, the truth being acknowledged, and the 19th century mistake indeed being corrected.

Scan here to learn more about the Guringai People





Artist impression of Hugo's submarine expansion

Property: The Australian Dream

Danger, Satire! by Hugh G. Lee Inndette

Hugo's Expansion Prowess

With its sultry lighting, gobsmacking menu, unrivalled service and impeccable views, Sydney's numero uno eatery for agents residential, commercial, and undercover, is, and always will be, Hugo's. But property experts of all walks of life, while perpetually blown away by the underlying gastronomic prowess, are most in awe of Hugo's ability to take an existing piece of prime maritime real estate and uncover myriad innovative ways to increase the dining space open to willing patrons who'd otherwise be turned away. The transformation of previously empty decking into much-needed dining space has been outstanding, and with the imminent decline in Manly Ferries likely, and their subsequent giant wash into the underwater wharf zone a thing of the past, Hugh G. Lee Inndette is drawing up his own Hugo's proposal to take the dining experience underwater, a natural progression in the iconic restaurant's evolution. Drawing on submarine culinary delight inspiration from all over the world, and incorporating the aqua flows, ocean wildlife and sand-bottom textures Manly Cove is world renowned for, I'm quietly confident of getting the green light from Hugo himself.

Mona Basin Monster Sale

Beaches property experts are basking in their supreme skill for understanding residential housing market pricing levels with razor sharp precision after a Mona Vale unit sold at auction a mere 63% above reserve, snaffled up for a sumptuous \$2.6million. \$1.01million above reserve. The boutique, ground-floor, two bedroom, one-garaged, original-kitchened, sole-bathroomed, absolute beachfront, (creatively named) Surfview Rd abode's luscious front lawn flows uninterrupted onto the golden sands of Mona Vale Beach, the perfect viewing platform to watch maniacal body surfers and boarders engage in Waimea Bay-esque, death-defying antics anytime the swell's up. Thanks to the Basin's ultra-deep to ultra-shallow ocean floor architecture, shorebreak slabs are served up remorselessly, keeping the lunatic frothers pitted, the spinal trauma unit of Northern Beaches Hospital on red alert, and local residents highly entertained. It's uncertain whether this unique factor of the property's positioning helped push prices north. What is certain however, everyone else in the block and surrounds is eyeing off coastal properties outside the Sydney metropolitan area, all the way along the eastern seaboard and up into neighbouring idyllic Asian locations, areas where a similar sale and the arrival of well over \$2million into the bank account can go a long, long way.

Sky's the Limit for Sold Sign Longevity

The entrenched proclivity for real estate agents to skimp on marketing spend by engaging in the highly practical endeavour of stoically leaving their SOLD signs up on properties' front gates for as long as possible after the actual selling event has expired is set to go into overdrive with CSIRO boffins announcing a breakthrough in durability of materials tailor made to endure the rain, hail and shine barrage of Great Southern Land elements these humble placards are required to stand up to. Despite widespread protestations from residents who decry the lingering sold signs for shouting out to the streetscape with an undeniable plea of quiet "Oh, look at me, I sold a house" desperation, there's no denying the ability of this form of infuriating advertising to flawlessly enter the priceless inner cortex of would-be buyers and sellers means agents will persist with this timeless strategy. Crazy not to. And now, thanks to science, their signs may outlive us all.

April 2021 Tide Chart

Info Bureau of Meteorology Tidal Centre Photo Craig Fallshaw, @wickhamlane

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
			0558 0.32 1203 1.58 1757 0.45	0022 1.85 0659 0.38 1300 1.44 1845 0.57	0116 1.79 0806 0.46 1405 1.31 1940 0.68	0218 1.72 0822 0.51 1422 1.24 1948 0.75
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0231 1.66 0938 0.53 1546 1.24 2109 0.78	0347 1.63 1045 0.52 1655 1.29 2225 0.74	0454 1.64 1140 0.49 1748 1.37 2329 0.68	0548 1.66 1225 0.46 1831 1.45	0021 0.61 0634 1.67 1302 0.45 1909 1.53	0105 0.56 0715 1.66 1335 0.44 1944 1.59	0145 0.52 0752 1.63 1404 0.45 2016 1.63
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
0221 0.50 0827 1.59 1432 0.47 2047 1.67	0258 0.50 0901 1.54 1500 0.51 2118 1.70	0334 0.50 0937 1.48 1528 0.55 2149 1.71	0413 0.52 1014 1.42 1557 0.61 2223 1.70	0454 0.56 1052 1.35 1629 0.67 2259 1.67	0538 0.60 1135 1.28 1705 0.73 2340 1.62	0629 0.65 1225 1.22 1749 0.79
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
0028 1.57 0729 0.68 1325 1.18 1846 0.84	0128 1.54 0836 0.68 1439 1.19 2000 0.86	0237 1.54 0942 0.63 1553 1.24 2118 0.82	0345 1.58 1037 0.55 1651 1.34 2227 0.74	0445 1.66 1125 0.46 1738 1.47 2326 0.62	0539 1.73 1208 0.38 1822 1.61	0019 0.50 0629 1.79 1250 0.32 1906 1.75
26	27	28	29	30		
0112 0.39 0719 1.80 1332 0.30 1950 1.87	0204 0.31 0810 1.77 1415 0.31 2035 1.97	0258 0.26 0902 1.70 1459 0.36 2123 2.02	0353 0.26 0958 1.60 1544 0.45 2212 2.02	0451 0.29 1054 1.49 1632 0.55 2303 1.97		

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



Can you help us find this car..



Image: Northern Beaches Police Area Command

Crimewatch: On the Beat

Danger, Satire! Inspector Con Vikshun

Hot Property: Low Income Single Dad Cars

Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the world's propensity toward unbearable overuse of the word 'unprecedented', but also on the unprecedented upward surge in used car prices. However, with the increase in value across the full automobile spectrum of what were collectively referred to pre-Covid as "absolute sh*tboxes" comes the inevitable scourge of Gone in Sixty Seconds high stakes skullduggery, being cited as a likely factor in the mysterious disappearance of this (pictured) 1988 VL model Commodore, taken from an address at Forestville. For nigh on three decades, owners of 1980's mass-produced Holdens, Fords, Nissans and Toyotas could rest easy, knowing their A to B wagon with the dinky clutch, sagging carpet ceiling and thigh-munching synthetic trim was as safe to leave unlocked anywhere as its owner was of being approached by a top notch sheila in a singles bar. How times have changed. If you can help with information as to the whereabouts of the pictured car, rapidly rising in value as we speak, please call Dee Why Police.

Corso Harry, Turbo Hammy, Bathroom Slippy

When Irish film director Neil Patrick Jordan was making casting decisions for his seminal film sensation, Interview with the Vampire, he first scoured the Manly Sea Eagles First Grade squad for potential thespian talent, having

heard tell from Bunnies devotee Rusty Crowe that the Seagz superstar first-graders were overwhelmed by an unshakeable all-night-magnetism to Manly Corso, and would be perfectly equipped to cinematically portray sunlight-circumventing blood-imbibers with lengthy fangs and wondrously permed follicles. Alas, the roles went to Hollywood insiders, but the fact remains, Sea Eagles players can't help but be frightfully exposed to the dusk till dawn allure of the Manly Corso arena, a scientific fact exposed most recently by unknown speed freak "Harry" who challenged local hero Tommy Turbo on an impromptu midnight Stawell Gift foot race shuffle on the world famous Harbour to Surf promenade. Unperturbed by a horror run of gammy hammy career concerns, Turbo proceeded to get flogged by Harry. As we all know now, Tommy Second Gear fronted the media soon after to claim an embarrassing slip in the bathroom was the culprit for his re-strained posterior thigh musculature. Yeah mate. What's critical to be asked now however, who is Harry?! Why doesn't Dezzzy have him running out proudly in the number 1 Jersey onto Lottoland when the season kicks off? If you know Harry, please call Sea Eagles top brass immediately. Be warned, the suspect is fast as lightning.

From Brooky with Love: Pam 007

Scam artists are drawn to the Insular Peninsula like seagulls to hot chips, newborns to nipples and real estate agents to down-sizing Boomers, intensely, and one of the incoming scam artists' preferred modes of swindling is to call up random punters, launching straight into an authoritative spray like, "This is Gavin from the Australian Taxation Office. We've found some serious anomalies with your tax files". Obviously a very effective strategy with no shortage of Insular residents housing rhinoceros-sized skeletons in their BAS closets. I digress. Back on topic. Pamela, of Brooky, found herself recently on the receiving end of precisely this sort of scam operation, a caller claiming Pam's TFN was associated with criminal activity and her best course of action to ensure clemency was to provide the caller with all sorts of personal information. Pam turned the tables, speaking seductively with a sultry voice no scammer could resist, obtaining the man's name and number on the promise of an imminent rendezvous of consenting adults in a relaxed setting. Stay tuned for more juicy crime-stopping details.

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James Partington, Staple Bread and Necessities

Mid-loaf Crisis

by Liam Carroll **Featuring** James Partington

Nestled on Seaforth's Montauban Avenue, at the western end of a tranquil row of shops where you can safely add the certainty of a deluxe parking spot to life's assuredness checklist of death and taxes, your olfactory senses will guide you to the sourdough and pastry wonderland of James Partington's Staple Bakery. And while his delectable array of loaves, baguettes and croissants are supreme by every measure, this knockabout, displaced Yorkshireman's consummate baking talent is a relatively newly discovered phenomenon, both for James and his lucky customers.

In 2012 James was bounding through life, a marketing wiz at the helm of his own bustling agency, managing strategic campaigns for whopper-fee-paying clients, and blissfully unaware of his preternatural penchant for baking, as well as the ticking congenital defect time bomb in his bicuspid aortic valve. Were it not for a pesky chest infection garnered from an unwavering commitment to swimming Bold and the Beautiful dawn patrols to Shelly Beach 365 days a year, James may never have needed to front up for the cardiothoracic X-ray that ultimately saved him from residing six feet under before his 38th birthday.

"Luckily enough, a friend of mine is up there as the best heart surgeon in the country. When he told me how serious it was, I knew to pay attention." Following the X-ray, and some further immediate tests, James was instructed to go straight home, do nothing, rest, and await open heart surgery to correct the mortality

confirming anomaly. As you can imagine, it was a piece of cake to chill out for the following 10 weeks. "On top of the heart issue, they told me I had an aortic arch aneurysm which could escalate any second, my family were in the middle of moving house, our third child had just been born and I still had a marketing agency with 18 staff to oversee and demanding clients to keep happy."

Well, James is here today, so his resourcefulness and coolness under pressure has been proven beyond doubt, but in a quirk of fate during the early days of rehabilitation in late 2012, it was remarked by a doctor that to build the chest muscles back up post-op, the process of baking bread was ideal for regaining full function, for providing the best functional exercise to strengthen the muscles around the rib cage and upper chest. "I don't know why that advice grabbed me so powerfully, but I was transfixed. I kneaded dough desperately. Baking became my obsession. Something I'd never even contemplated now ruled my life."

James did return to his marketing role, but in his mind's eye, all he could see was grain, flour and bread, gripped by a mid-loaf crisis well and truly. "We lived at 138 Queenscliff Road" which became known as 'Baked at 138', "and every Friday I'd race home from work, so excited, ready to bake! I'd park my woodfire oven in the driveway, do the mixing in the laundry, and 7am Saturday morning, neighbours came round to buy their freshly baked loaves." James even had pre-orders from the Bold and Beautiful crowd, riding his bike down to hand out the goods.

For the next five years James kept a foot in the marketing world, despite losing interest in the business he'd created, and eventually committed full throttle to his baking destiny in 2018 with the sale of his agency and the securing of the Seaforth premises, which has already expanded to a wholesale bakery in Cromer and a soon-to-be unveiled Manly Staple hub.

"Open heart surgery, for me, it gave me absolute clarity around my own mortality, how precious this life is. And I'm not going to waste a single moment doing anything I don't love." In a stroke of gargantuan good fortune for Beaches gluten devourers, James loves to bake! Something we should all be very thankful for.

Follow [@staple_bread](#) on Instagram & pop into the Seaforth Bakery on Montauban Ave



A happy Co-op customer

The Manly Food Co-op

Local Business by Liam Carroll

Perched halfway between Manly Wharf and South Steyne Surf Club, forming the Google Maps apex of an isosceles triangle based with one corner in the Manly Village Public School handball courts, the other at the futuristic, vertical-timber-slat-adorned façade of Royal Far West rural kids' charity, and a mere hop, skip and heels-together jump from one of Manly's Coles twin sisters, you'll find a treasure trove of fresh local produce, The Manly Food Co-operative.

Formed in 1997, the Manly Co-op is a not-for-profit, community-owned, organic-produce-stocked, plastic free, zero waste, grocery store. Quite a mouthful. When Keelah Lam, one of the original Manly Co-op founders, was piecing together the initial building blocks of the concept 24 years ago, a community newsletter was instrumental in getting the store up and running. Long live print! Is there anything it

can't do? Of course not. Now with almost 2,500 members, and over 4,000 newsletter subscribers, The Manly Co-op is owned and operated by its community of members, and open to everyone.

Selling organic and package free products at the cheapest possible price - a task made easier thanks to the store being largely run by volunteers, always fantastic for the bottom line, who perform tasks like ordering stock, accounting, recycling, newsletter writing, taking out compost and laundry, liaising with the Tawny, anything and everything that's needed. The Board of Directors are also all volunteers who work part-time to make the Co-op a viable business. Membership costs \$5 per year and for that you receive a 10% discount on all purchases. Volunteers receive additional discounts.

Sourcing as many plastic free products as possible, Manly Co-op gives you the opportunity to buy in bulk,

in whatever quantities suit best. They also source locally wherever possible and straight from the farmer's barn, serving up scrumptious sourdough from Northern Beaches' Staple and Berkeley bakeries, wild honey from Duffy's Creek, IdleWilde Farm Eggs from the foot of Dingo Forest, organic macadamias from Waterfall Road's Hand 'N' Hoe, and palate-enlightening blueberries from Oberon's Highland Blues, all available plastic free.

It's crucial to make this point clear, and something that's in everyone's best hip-pocket interests, you can load up on all manner of Manly Co-op's fruit, veg, dairy and legumes, penne, tofu, grains ancient and new, beverages, tonics, teas and cashews, chocolates, sweets, yoghurts, and all natural shampoo, all this and much, much more, but still have plenty of shekels left in the organic canvas kitty when compared to dollars doled out when partaking in the supermarket duopoly system. Not bad. What's more; the more people who shop at the Co-op, the cheaper the goods become. Spread the word and save, save, save!

It will always be attractive to our stifled inner hippy to knock off, ship out, and join a commune in Crescent Head, Woy Woy, Wagga Wagga or Timbuktu, but The Manly Food Co-operative allows us Northern Beaches faithful to still reside in the saltwater, beating heart of The Emerald City and enjoy access to farm fresh, plastic free goodness 7 days a week, Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. Pop in next time you're waltzing down Manly's Wentworth Street and see for yourself.



Firsts

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

So, the school year is now in full swing hey? 2021, the year my five year old started kindergarten. The first day started with a bang. If I had have allowed her to sleep in her uniform, hat socks and shoes, she would have.

The excitement was real. 6am my eyelids were already being pried open by her chubby little fingers. "Muuuum, wake up! I start school!" I was excited too, so I bounded out of bed to commence the school day ritual. Day one. The lunches were prepped, permanent marker labelled every possession, the hair had been plaited in a school-girlsque fashion and the uniform was donned in full, including a checkered blue and yellow school headband.

Day one thrills hey. If only it last past day one. By day three she was waking up telling me she wanted a day off. Day eight she woke groaning asking me how long until the school holidays. Now let's get something straight here, she actually loves school. She has a fantastic

teacher who in my opinion couldn't be more of a perfect fit for Ruby. She comes home reciting all the things she did in her day with glee.

The formation of a new routine is a big transition though. For the first time in her life, she has a commitment that she can't get out of. All January when her little brother was at daycare, she was home with me leisurely going about her day as she pleased. TV, snacks, beach, toys - AKA whatever Ruby wants. What a momentous change that has happened to her in a matter of days!

This is a transition we all make in our lives. We all have had or will have that very first day of school. There is a first time and last time for everything in life. I think especially when you have small children you become hyper aware of 'firsts'. First feed, first steps, first birthday, first day of daycare, first day of school and we keep on going through all the days of our lives living all of our firsts and eventually all of our lasts until the day we die.

The day you become a parent is when you begin the journey of reflection. Reflection on your own childhood as you navigate the way with your child. Comparing and noticing the way you parent, the way you react, the way your child is, compared to the way you were as a child.

I'm blown away at how much history can repeat itself. As I entered Ruby's kindergarten classroom for parent teacher night, I was taken straight back to 1997 to my first time at Manly West. I was taught in her exact classroom! Twenty something years later Ruby is sitting there. Each day that goes on in the life of Ruby I reflect on myself. Who I am today and who I was at the same age as Ruby.

I was extremely shy as a kid. I found it very hard to make firsts in anything. But that's the interesting thing. Today, I'm not shy at all. I'm loud, I'm opinionated, I often overshare. And how exactly did that come to change? It changed all because of 'firsts'. The first time speaking in front of a school assembly. The first time dancing with a boy at the Bounce school dance. The first time kissing a boy at a school Bounce dance. OMG that poor boy. I read in Dolly magazine the day before the dance that you needed to do the ABC with your tongue. I wondered why he detached so quickly and walked off! Anyway, my point is 'firsts' are what make you brave. Firsts are challenging, but once you've done it the first time, every other time after that is easier.

So, as I was sad to see her nervous little face go off to school, I know it's only gonna make her tough to handle the next thing thrown her way.

If It's Trending, Manly Drones Will be Descending

Danger, Satire! **By Johnny Baylis @billysclicks**



Photo: Matt Connor@manly_drone

5, 4, 3, 2, 1... @manly_drone are GO! Tucked away on a secret island off the coast of Manly, lies the hidden base of the secretive Manly Drones, or as they're known in photography circles, 'Photography Rescue'.

Formed by the Tracey Family in 2020, Manly Drones

exists for two reasons. Firstly, rescuing photographers trapped at the base of waterfalls and alike. And secondly, providing the multitude of emerging 'Online News Sites' product to accompany their stories. The head of this mysterious organisation is no puppet and Mr Tracey assured me he's the 'Brain' behind its success.

Aided by technological-ly-advanced land, sea and air drones, aptly named Thunderbirds 1 through 5, these rotary angels are called into action whenever conventional photography methods prove ineffective. "In a world where

photographers are pushing the limits and fast dissemination of product is vital, our Thunderbirds are your safety net," say Mr Tracey. "We can be on scene anywhere and shooting frames quicker than the barista pumping out your half strength activated soy latte at Girdlers."

The Shutter Priority knows Manly Drones are the best. Whether it's saving our native animals from a North Head bushfire, confirming the existence of the Weedy Sea Dragon (now apparently the chief pilot of the submarine Thunderbird 4) or protecting the Manly Ferries from its mortal enemy, Manly Drones are F.A.B!

"No one's pulling our strings," continued Mr Tracey. "But if it's trending on the Northern Beaches, Mum's Facebook page we'll be descending for sure."



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Duan & Only: Pretty in pink and performing at The Steyne

Sounds Like Manly, Duan & Only

Music with Digz by Digby Robinson

All the way from NZ's South Wairarapa, Duan & Only has become hot music property on the Northern Beaches.

When did you move to Manly? Late 2010

Did you start performing in Manly immediately? I was pretty lucky, moving in with a chick who ran Insitu. She knew I played guitar and had a PA, but I hadn't really been gigging. She took me to meet the owners. I played them a few songs and they gave me a weekly Thursday spot off the bat.

Was that the only place you played? I played Murray's as well. That place used to go off on Sundays.

I remember that place being awesome until they got hit with all the noise complaints. Was great while it lasted though. What was your gear set up like back then?

I had a loop pedal and just a couple of guitar fx for solos. I didn't have a drum so I'd

use the body of the guitar for the beat and percussive stuff and loop that, then loop the rhythm and go from there.

Were you always doing solo stuff, or did you have a band too? Around 2012 I put together a band called Mana Lion and we got our start here in Manly at Moonshine Bar.

When's it looking like they might have some more music to release? No solid timeline at the moment, but last year I released a lot of solo stuff that fell flat because I had no promo, but that'll change this time, so keep an eye out later in the year.

That's great to hear as that is something so many artists won't do in the beginning and the release falls flat. Always put the money into promo as much as you do the release.

So, 2020 was tough in the music scene, did you manage to work much? My flatmate, who does live web casting and streaming, had lost a bunch of work like myself, so we set

up a studio in our living room and started doing live shows. We planned on having guests but unfortunately everyone ended up flaking, so we did it as a solo show.

Did it go well? Yeah man, we planned on doing one a week and that suddenly turned into every other day due to popular demand. Then we did a lot of online corporates for people like CANVA and AMEX. Then started doing collaborations with Four Pines.

Speaking of Four Pines, I saw you all over TV last year during the Bledisloe Cup in the Four Pines Beer commercial. How did that come about?

I was still doing online shows and one of the reps called me, wondered if I wanted to be involved. I obviously said yes, and the pay was pretty good. I was just there for the day and they dressed me up as the "Vibe Lord" and made me look like I was floating on a cloud with heavenly lighting, when I was actually sitting on a table on a dolly. They'd push me towards the camera and it was all green-screened, pretty incredible.

Where can fans see you play? I play the Steyne on Sundays, Harbord Hilton Fridays and the Diggers on Saturday/Sundays. I also do a lot of weddings, performing at the ceremonies and during dinner or canapes as well. My style's basically a soul/rnb/pop/hip hop thing with mash ups, very chilled. People can hire me for that too.

Awesome Duan, good luck for 2021. I'm sure we'll see you around.

Listen to Duan & Only on **Spotify**
For bookings email duan.and.only@gmail.com

Film & Food

by Christopher Roberts

Family. At first glance my choices seem a mixed bag, but look deeper and you'll see they all capture the joys, struggles and special moments of family life.

Minari - A Korean family striving for the American Dream. Perfectly performed by a terrific cast, the family moves to an Arkansas farm desperate to make it big - the challenge is to try and stick together. It's their eccentric and passionate grandma who forces the family to look beyond their troubles and embrace what they already have in each other. Dreamlike and immersive. In select theatres now.

My Neighbour Totoro - An almost spiritual prequel to *Minari*, *Totoro* also features a family moving to a new house surrounded by natural beauty. Childlike wonder and joy are captured beautifully, with a supportive loving father and a collection of cute, mystical creatures who comfort and delight. Pure cinematic bliss, this film will encourage you to cling tighter to those you love! Available on Netflix now.

Derry Girls - Quirky and outrageously funny, this show perfectly captures the feeling of being a teenager and how family can be found in our closest friends. Set to the backdrop of political and religious tension in 1990's Northern Ireland the show is surprisingly warm and chock full of heart. This is addictive viewing with a cracking soundtrack that you'll finish too quickly! Both seasons available on Netflix now.

Inspired by *Derry Girls*, I have a recipe for healthy one-tray fish and chips which will satisfy any cravings you have while watching. Or you could just pop down to the local fish and chip shop for the fried stuff - your choice!

Ingredients (serves 2)

2 barramundi fillets
1 kg potatoes
2 tbsps olive oil
1 tbsps ghee
2 tbsps chives, chopped (or any other green herb like tarragon or parsley)
2 cloves of garlic, crushed
2 tbsps melted butter



One-tray fish & chips

Plant Power Twist

Use a variety of root veg instead of just the potatoes and add green veggies of your choice at the same time as the fish.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Add olive oil and ghee to a large baking tray and heat in the oven for 5 min.
2. Peel potatoes and chop into thick chips. Place in a large bowl and pour the hot oil/ghee mixture onto the potatoes and stir with a large spoon to evenly coat uncooked chips in oil (this makes them extra crunchy!)
3. Arrange chips in a single layer on the tray and bake for 45 min.
4. Add the chopped chives and crushed garlic to the melted butter.
5. When the 45 min is up, take the tray out the oven and use a spatula to shift the chips to one side allowing you to place the fish and any extra veggies you might like on the hot tray. Evenly spoon the butter/herb mixture onto the barramundi fillets. Bake for another 15 min.
6. Serve your beautiful herb butter barramundi with a good helping of crunchy chips and a wedge of lemon and enjoy!

Visit www.filmandfoodpodcast.com for the recipe, full reviews and Film & Food podcast episodes!



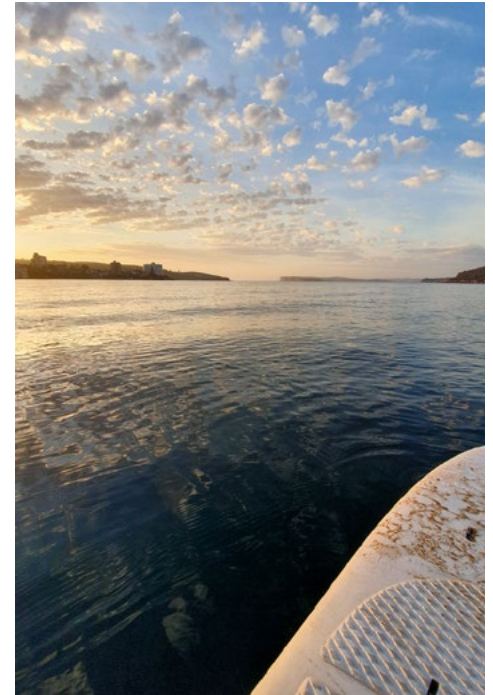
Subject Tawny family time in the nest
Photographer Wendy Newbury



Subject Freshie rights looking tasty
Photographer Rob Edgren, @robedgren



Subject Cocky destroying peg
Photographer Suzanne Lawson



Subject Sunrise
Photographer Chloe Brant



Subject Ferry from drone
Photographer @katesbytheocean



Subject A perfect day for it
Location Manly Market



Subject Ruby Trew, shred lord
Photographer Ben Symons, @bensymonsphoto



Subject Cute Little Pyjama Squid, Manly Cove
Photographer Matt Connor @manly_drone



Subject Nankeen Kestrel at South Curl
Photographer Chris Hudson



Subject 'Spill The Beans' writing group members - Jane Cameron, Julie Howard and Gara Baldwin

The Tawny loves to feature great local pics!

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Paige Turner with 93 year old up-and-coming author, Jacques Horrynga

Balgowlah's Writing Nonagenarian

Tawny's Bathtub Bookclub by Paige Turner

Nonagenarian Jacques Horrynga got in touch and sent us two of his books – *Saskia* and *Like Another Woman*. Knowing the author lived nearby I couldn't resist the urge to meet him and when I did, I was struck by his calm presence. Born in the Netherlands in 1927, the same year Roger Moore (the best Bond for my money) and Sidney Poitier (what a performance in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*), Jacques exudes a similar charm, vitality and gentlemanly gravitas touched with a hint of mischief.

Jacques came to Australia in 1955 and he's been calling Australia home ever since. Jacques has always been a scribbler. He doesn't know where he gets his inspiration from, it comes from everywhere and nowhere. It can be a waitress who sparks an idea or overhearing conversations or delving back into the vault of his alert brain. Like all true writers he's never without his notebook. He's never conquered a computer

and isn't interested in doing so now. He writes in his beautiful longhand, which is as stylish and elegant as the man himself.

Enough about the author, onto the books. *Saskia* is a murder-mystery set in Sydney and where the women take centre stage. Ingrid the always stylishly dressed and perfectly coiffed Mosman type matriarch who has the required cultural preferences of this breed, and Alice who is thrown in Ingrid's path through happenstance but is never comfortable with being befriended by Ingrid, are both stand-outs and keep you guessing to the end. There's the caricature of a man, Alan, successful businessman who loves his wife but enjoys the lusty sex and lightweight conversation he enjoys with his former call-girl lover so much that he's missing in action for his sweet wife who is a much stronger woman than Alan realises. It's a twisting and turning plot right to the end and unlike some murder-mysteries it's

a satisfying and plausible ending. *Saskia* is a rollicking read, perfect escapism and at 168 pages it's the right length for readers who like to get into a book and get on with it quickly.

Like *Another Woman* is a different read to *Saskia* but no less enjoyable. The title is a reference to the main character Clive's obsessive devotion to his rural property which is akin being "like another woman" and is at the root of the tension in his marriage to Jane, who deserves a medal for her patience. It's hard to like Clive. His dialogues with himself give an insight into what a tortured soul he is, even so, I was glad when his new stockman, Robert turned up and appreciated Jane. There's issues of race, loyalty and integrity. You can feel Clive's mental stability unravelling as he succumbs to his inner demons and to a horrific accident which is written with such authenticity that you wince with his pain and applaud his grit, but I still couldn't bring myself to like him.

Knowing the author worked as a stockman in Queensland before settling in Tawny territory is evident in the way he has conjured up memories of that unique landscape and the weather which are captured with great authenticity and beauty.

Jacques is working on another novel and looking at this spritely nonagenarian I have no doubt he could be writing well into his next century.

Both books are available at Manly's Desire Books, Berkelouw, and online at Dymocks and Amazon.

Razzle's Trivia

1. Approximately how wide is Sydney Heads? 1km, 2km, 3km?
2. In which suburb do Manly United Football Club play their NSW Premier League home matches?
3. How many tennis courts are there next to Manly Oval?
4. Northern Beaches Mayor Michael Regan is a keen cricketer – Is he a top order batsman, a spin bowler, or a pace bowler?
5. The Pub to Pub Fun Run traditionally finishes at which Northern Beaches pub?
6. Which world city is spanned across 2 continents?
7. On a roulette wheel what colour is number 1?
8. Which country's flag is a green, white, green triband?
9. Who spent more time as Prime Minister – Kevin Rudd or Julia Gillard?
10. What is Australia's 2nd largest inland city behind Canberra?
11. Which British city did the Titanic depart at the beginning of her only voyage?
12. What colour Wiggle is the only one not to have changed performer?
13. What is the name of the bird from the Twitter logo – Blue, Larry, or Tweety?
14. On the current flag of the United Nations, which country is shown closest to the top of the flag? New Zealand, Norway, Chile, or Iceland?
15. In an Australian Greyhound Race – Predominantly what colour is the #6 dog?
16. In 2008 Rhianna banned fans from bringing what item to her concerts?
17. The ad campaign involving the famous "Not Happy Jan" was advertising which company?
18. As you look at the Australian Coat of Arms – which animal is on the righthand side?
19. What letter represents 500 in roman numerals?
20. What occupation do Nintendo's Mario Brothers hold?

Sudoku

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9



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Star Signs

by Krystal Bawl

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 19

Treat yourself to something special. Your birthday presents from others are woeful and tokenistic.

Taurus Apr 20 - May 21

If you can dream it, you can do it. Stop wasting your time with study and hard work. Take a nap instead.

Gemini May 22 - Jun 21

Better late than never, better safe than sorry. Be better by being so late and so safe you stay right where you are.

Cancer Jun 22 - Jul 22

People are both demanding and irrational. Give an inch, they'll take a mile. But give a mile, they'll take an inch.

Leo Jul 23 - Aug 22

Less is more, but how can less be more if more can't be less? I guess it's best to think less about this more.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sep 23

You can't cross a chasm in two small steps. With one giant leap you can't cross it either, but at least it looks cool.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

Open confession is good for the soul but invites legal ramifications. Forget the soul and focus on freedom.

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

Good things happen to bad people. Stay disciplined. Live true to yourself. You'll keep enjoying the good life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

You're never too old to learn but luckily, you're nearing that wonderful age where you're too old to care.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

History repeats so there's no use getting upset about the past. You'll make the exact same blunders soon.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Give lots of men fish, wine, bread too, and watch out for blokes called Judas.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Rules were made to be broken, so were they even rules at all? A better strategy is to do what you want.



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Trivia Answers

1. Ktm
2. Cromer
3. 6
4. Pace Bowler
5. The Newport
6. Istanbul
7. Red
8. Nigeria
9. Julia Gillard
10. Toowoomba
11. Southampton
12. Blue
13. Larry
14. New Zealand
15. Green
16. Umbrella's
17. Yellow Pages
18. Emu
19. D
20. Plumbers

3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2

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