

THE TAWNY

MAY 2025

FROGMOUTH



2025 SEASON NOW ON SALE!



DRAMA



1984
BY GEORGE ORWELL
15 - 17 MAY

COMEDY



JEKYLL & HYDE
20 - 21 MAY

COMEDY



THE TROJAN WAR
22 - 23 MAY

FAMILY



YOU ARE A DOUGHNUT
26 - 27 MAY



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SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

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G'day Beaches

The dropping mercury's no match for the electioneering heat filling the air as we march full throttle to 3 May Democracy Sausage Day.

Thank you, Lara Allport, her May cover depicting the BAD girl's dream house. Congratulations Enzo, Letter of the Month exposing undercurrents at the heart of supernormal electricity network profits and subsequent inflationary pressures. And Cal Fawle aka Dr Thrills and Spillz, Photo of the Month winner capturing Deadman's carnage. Enjoy \$200 to splash at the Mona.

Meet your candidates vying for Mackellar and Warringah, and meet your councillor, Manly Ward's Sarah Grattan. Get the facts on the new low to mid rise housing reforms. Freshie Brewing's capital raising. Wild man Mal shows off our native bevy of world record breakers. Lola Adams makes her Junior Theatre Reviewer debut. Vamos turns one. And Newton Bishop sculpts stone to perfection, from iconic Midgets to giant gumnuts.

Happy Mother's Day!

Liam



The Tawny Frogmouth

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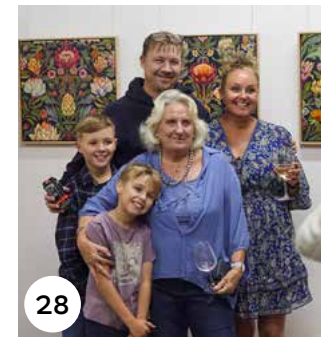
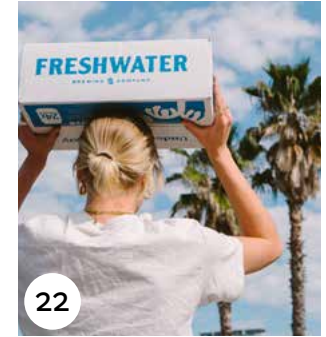
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Spit Bridge to Summer Bay

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Tawny Frogmouth acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, the Gayamaygal and Garigal and their Country on which we Tawnies nest today.

By these words we show our respect to all Aboriginal people. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and the spirits and ancestors of the Clans that lived in this area.

NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into
NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL
– submissions now open

HAVE YOUR SAY!

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Peninsula Wash Up

A century in the making

Think modern cycling, images of sleek gear, high-performance bikes, and cleated wonders sipping lattes comes to mind, but for Royal Far West Clinician, Chris Tynan, the inspiration to join this year's **Ride for Country Kids** came from the desire to support a meaningful cause. And to celebrate 100 years of Manly's Royal Far West supporting children and families in rural areas, Chris' bike is rather bespoke, a 100-year-old bicycle, Ed (pictured right). "He's over 100 years old and was hanging out in Alexandria when I met him." Built by a company called Edworthy, operating in Sydney from the 1880s to 1940s. "Ed was built for a sport called motor-pacing, where cyclists ride in the slipstream behind a motorbike, and even back in the day would hit speeds of 70kph and above." While Ed may never return to his former glory, Chris is applying elbow grease and TLC to have Ed sparkling for this year's 380km Ride for Country Kids, 15-17 May. Support Chris (and Ed!), Royal Far West, and rural kids and families at:

www.rideforcountrykids.com.au/event/rfck

Stony Range Botanical Gardens Day

Saturday 24 May, 1:30-4pm, Dee Why's oasis of native Australian flora, Stony Range, celebrates Botanical Gardens Day, raising awareness and celebrating the importance of Botanic Gardens, especially native gardens. Free entry. Everyone's welcome. Events include fun for the kids with a Children's Craft Table, plant sales (with a free plant for each family attending), a used book table book sale, tea, coffee, biscuits and more. Beaches Mayor Sue Heins will officially open the event at 2pm.

East Coast Invitational

Kicking off in 2024 - and proudly supported by The Mona Vale Hotel - surfing's "Battle of Beaches" sets the stage for local shred lords to duke it out for wave-riding supremacy. This year the tag team event goes up a serious notch, becoming the "**East Coast Invitational**", pitting 8 Northern Beaches Boardriders against 8 clubs from all over the NSW and Qld East Coast. Check the action out at North Narra Saturday 17 May. Intensity sure to be feverish with \$25,000 in cash and prizes on the line, as well as priceless bragging rights. Presentation and after party at The Mona from 6pm.



Ed, Chris Tynan's new oldest mate

Come fly with me

Fasten your seatbelts election night Saturday 3 May at Palm Beach Golf Club and prepare for take-off as 20-piece ensemble **Lionel Robinson & the Beachside Big Band** fly the Swingin' Sinatra songbook sky high, giving Ol' Blue Eye's classics the treatment they deserve. Inspired by the trail-blazing album of the same name, *Come Fly With Me* takes you on a round-the-world trip to London, Paris, Rio, New York, China (on a slow boat of course). They might even Fly You to the Moon. Lionel is joined on vocals by singing sensations Matt Farmer and Hayley Mae. Plus there's a powerhouse rhythm section and a stack of smokin' horns. Put on your dancing shoes or settle back with something from the duty-free trolley and enjoy the in-flight entertainment! Tickets \$37. Book now at palmbeachgolf.com.au

Lombok winter escape

It's nearing that time of year again where the mercury drops, and the astute Tawny traveller with a penchant for warmth in abundance knows it's time to migrate north. If a collapsing UK, EU and USA has you a tad concerned with venturing that far abroad, have you considered a trip to Lombok - the quieter, cleaner, less developed alternative to Bali? With world class surfing, diving, hiking, ecotourism, and a thriving restaurant scene, Lombok offers outstanding value for the refined Tawny traveller. A variety of high-quality villas in southern Lombok are available for short and medium term stays from AUD \$140-300 per villa per night. To find out more, email PinkNusa.lombok@gmail.com or WhatsApp +62 895-3157-7170

Words: **Liam Carroll**



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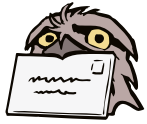
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Letters to The Tawny

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Supernormal electricity network profits

Thank you Johanna Bowyer, whose 25 March article in RenewEconomy.com.au (scan here to read in full) is very timely in the lead up to the Federal election, calculating and reporting on the supernormal profits of the natural monopolies in our energy sector: "IEEFA's research found that there is \$15 billion of supernormal electricity network profits on top of \$17.6 billion of normal, expected profit. Tightening the regulation of network businesses, to bring supernormal profits to reasonable levels could reduce the network component of customer bills."



Most people blame increased power bills on the cost of coal in the wake of the Ukraine invasion, but they don't realise that almost half (48.5%) of the cost of electricity that most of us (households and small businesses) pay for, is in network and distribution charges. On the Northern Beaches, network and distribution charges largely means Ausgrid.

The fact that Ausgrid's largest (49.6%) shareholder is the NSW State Government and that is also its indirect de facto regulator (through the AER) presents an egregious conflict of interest. And there's more... two thirds of the balance of Ausgrid is owned by Australian union/industry super funds. How cosy.

A high cost, inefficient

sector, where rent seeking monopolies are given free rein to plunder the pockets of struggling households and small businesses is good for "high economic turnover". That turnover contributes to "higher (reportable) economic growth" on which more taxes can be charged. Hamster wheel? You decide.

How long will governments and regulatory authorities allow the public to be continually gouged whilst the cost of living and doing business stay unsustainably and uncompetitively high?

No more crocodile tears. Something is rotten in the State of NSW.

Enzo

Nuclear power

Dear Tawny, Richard White (April 2025) seems to be under a serious misconception about nuclear power plants. He compares a nuclear plant to a car - fair enough, and just like a car a nuclear reactor has to be refuelled regularly. 70 years is not when the fuel runs out, it's when the plant wears out. I don't think Richard's car will last that long!

Guy Cox

Citizen's Assembly

I write to express my support for a Citizen's Assembly for the Northern Beaches. As the Northern Beaches will increasingly be asked to deal with modern, thorny questions such as increased housing density and affordability, immediate environmental issues such as bushfires and coastal erosion as well the problems that modern living brings such as pollution (including litter) and traffic snarls (to mention just a fraction of the topics a Citizen's Assembly could be asked to consider), the more information

and evidence is provided to the community, the better the input to the decision making process will be.

Although not everyone will ever be happy with the final decision on any particular topic, the use of a representative group from the whole community to consider all the sides of a topic, supported by evidence and expertise, is more likely to produce acceptable ideas and recommendations and will enable broader input to Council decision making.

Marion Haas, Seaforth

Bikes are the solution, not the problem

Manly's beachfront is one of the most stunning places in Sydney, a haven for locals and visitors alike. Pedestrians have ample space to enjoy their stroll, from the dedicated footpath to the green strip and, of course, the vast sandy beach itself. But when it comes to the shared bike path, it seems like many walkers forget the word shared altogether.

Cyclists, whether commuting or riding for leisure, are often treated as second-rate citizens on this strip of infrastructure. We're not the problem; in fact, we're part of the solution. We reduce road congestion, ease pressure on parking, and cut down on pollution and noise. Yet, we're constantly forced to slam on the brakes as pedestrians - blissfully unaware - wander onto the bike path, eyes glued to their phones, dogs on full-extension leads, prams parked, or groups of people walking abreast and obstructing shared use - all in the one safe space cyclists have.

Here's the challenge: How many pedestrians are actually hit by bikes each month? You'd think it was a daily crisis based on the complaints, yet statisti-

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VOTE 1



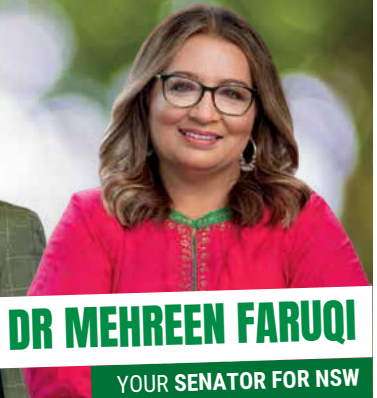
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Authorised by A. Croft, The Greens NSW. 19a/1 Hordern Place Camperdown NSW 2050.



cally, I'd suggest more pedestrians and cyclists are hit by cars than by each other. And yet, it's the cyclists who are vilified.

It's time for a shift in perspective. We don't punish all drivers when one speeds, so why vilify or restrict an entire community of cyclists because of a few negative interactions? Instead, we need inclusive education and enforcement where it counts. Pedestrians need education too. You wouldn't step onto a road without looking, so why do so many think it's acceptable to blindly step onto a shared bike path?

The solution is clear: better infrastructure, clearer education, and accountability for those who ignore the rules and the social practices of sharing. It's time to stop treating cyclists as an inconvenience and start seeing them as a key part of a sustainable future. And to the pedestrians stepping onto the path without looking...Get your head out of the sand. Stay safe. Stay aware. And for everyone's sake, create a dedicated lane.

Scott, Manly (Bike Rider / Walker)

E-bikes

How stupid am I, crawling along in a school zone, trying desperately to keep just below 40K's to avoid a speeding fine of \$225 and points against my licence when all of sudden, a kid on an E bike passes me on the foot-path doing about 50K's. He can't be booked or fined because he's not on the road, and he can't be traced because he has no registration plates. Will it take 2 or 3 deaths for the Government to wake up?

John Roberts, Narrabeen

Ferry etiquette

Dear Tawny, after missing a ferry this morning I drafted this letter in a mild rage: An armada

of bikes capable of carrying three children, a full load of groceries and - if your heart desires - a dismembered kangaroo torso wedge themselves onto our ferries each morning. You know the type: 2.5 metres long, called 'Max Luggers' or 'Fam Carriers', branded as replacement vehicles and armed with two or three seats. If you have the inexplicable urge to park this vehicle on a small, fast ferry at peak hour, please think of the frustration, comfort and sanity of your fellow passengers. Often you displace the ability to park up to 5 regular bikes. Since they can't be hung, when swell hits through the heads, standing passengers must contend with a storm of metal, pedals, and bad vibes. Consider travelling outside of peak commuting hours, taking the slow/larger slow ferry and/or using a regular bike. Thanks!

Chirpy

Future quakes

When will our scientific community accept the cause of climate change and increasing earthquake and volcanic activity is centred on that celestial giant that rises every day in the east and sets in the west. The sun is currently emitting huge amounts of energy as solar and geomagnetic forces, and if a solar flare is powerful enough, it can trigger a geomagnetic storm with the surface layers and iron core of our planet. We are currently seeing the result daily with cyclones, earthquakes and islands sinking.

Tony from Manly

Council ignoring Residents

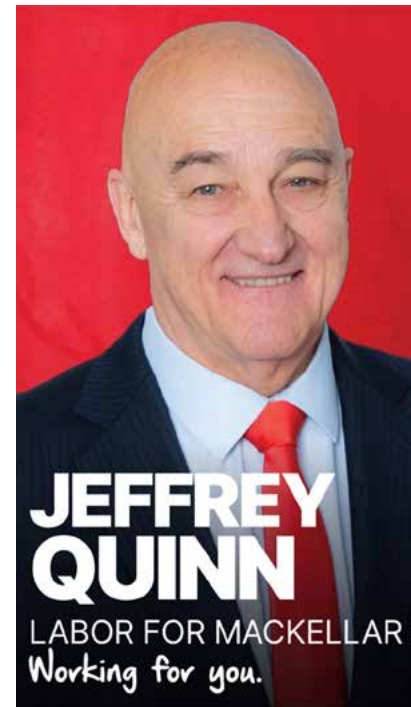
Council recently decided to impose an enormous increase in local rates. Almost simultaneously Council has notified residents around Manly CBD that it would be a wonderful

idea to intensify night-time (defined as 6pm-6am) entertainment and economic activity in and adjoining the Centre via the imposition of a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP). These new SEP controls will reduce operators' costs to allow them "to trade late without the need for new development approvals", which is the current mechanism for supervising and controlling such activities. However, amazingly, the letter fails to ask whether residents think that such intensification is intrinsically a sound or sensible idea.

This is a preposterous situation! The process being followed by Council is rudely contrary to the reasonable rights and expectations of Manly residents. Residents will bear the brunt of any such poorly controlled night-time intensification and its inevitable impacts where alcohol consumption reigns supreme. Residents are justified in being angry at Council's latest gaffe.

Many residents and ratepayers (including myself since 1977) will recall only too well the near anarchy that prevailed after dark in and around the Manly Centre for many years. It was filthy, broken glass littered the streets and beaches, dangerous to be out at night for real fear of drunken assault, drug dealing was rife, gangs vied for dominance (often violently), and our Police struggled with limited success to deal with the anti-social and criminal behaviour infesting the area.

It took the community many years to turn this decline around. However, if Council proceeds with this Policy, the SEP will inevitably defeat those many years of hard work by the Manly community to overcome these historic problems and achieve improvements in the



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Centre. Much work remains to be done. The pressing task now is to ensure that the SEP Entertainment Intensification as proposed by Council does not proceed.

Lindsay and Ingrid Hunt, Manly

Bric-a-brac but no Big Mac
God's country and seven miles from Sydney and thousand miles from care are time-honoured clichés used to describe Manly, and rightly so. Manly is a tourist hub where real estate prices and rents are through the roof so most can't afford to live here. Drove of day trippers, however, jump aboard the Manly Ferry to enjoy a day out in god's country. For all its popularity, Manly town doesn't have one traditional fast-food outlet. We once had Dominoes, Hungry Jacks, McDonalds, KFC etc but no more. With its wonderful pedestrian-only Corso

connecting magnificent Sydney Harbour to the ocean surf front just 300 metres away, Manly was made for selling fast food but any attempt to establish themselves here failed, which I find extraordinary. The big seller here is ice-cream, but please hold the French fries. Where fast food outlets failed to get a foothold in Manly, opportunity shops thrived. We have Vinnies, Lifeline, Red Cross and Anglicare right in the town centre. Does that mean we can afford bric-a-brac but not a Big Mac? The beauty of Manly is that it keeps us all guessing. It doesn't adhere to social norms and that's what makes it an extraordinary place to live and visit.

Jens Ward, Manly

Would you want to join a community garden in Dee Why?

I'm working with Permaculture Northern Beaches (PNB) to see if the community is interested in creating a community garden in Oaks Ave Reserve. Community gardens are a fantastic way for people without a garden to grow food, compost, get to know your local community, get outdoors and active, and create a more sustainable community. PNB are pros at creating gardens and vegie patches which give back to the environment. We're hosting an open day 31 May, 12-2pm with a sausage sizzle and demonstrations. Keep your eye on the Permaculture Northern Beaches website to find out more.

Cr Kristyn Glanville

The Tawny Frogmouth invites the people of the Beaches to send in letters to mail@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au

Meet Your Councillors

Sarah Grattan, Manly Ward

What's your fondest Beaches memory? Returning from a stint in the UK in 1999, my now husband took me for a swim at Manly Beach (there were dolphins) then up to North Head for a picnic to watch the sun set over the Emerald City. I decided I would never leave this amazing place! Nor my hubby! And promptly moved in with him in Manly.

What do you do in the real world? I'm the CEO of Lifeline Northern Beaches. An amazing organisation, deeply rooted in community with over 620 volunteers, helping to prevent suicide and support those suffering with suicidal thoughts.

When did you decide to serve as a councillor? The variety of issues we cover and the

significant impact we can have for our community. I'm passionate about the local issues; youth, mental fitness, affordable housing, transport and traffic, strategic planning, and managing environmental risks such as climate change, while my technical skills and understanding of governance, risk and finance are very important to have as part of the mix on the Council.

What are the biggest challenges? The current special variation to rates application. We must fulfil our obligations for council's financial sustainability whilst balancing the impacts on community during difficult economic times. Sadly, the community was whipped into a frenzy with populist



Sarah with hubby Paul

and often misinformation. Councillors and staff have been spat at, threatened, trolled online, subjected to slanderous commentary. As councillors we make decisions in the best interests of our community. Sometimes they are tough decisions. We want the Northern Beaches to remain a wonderful place for us to live, work and play in our extraordinary natural environment.

What words of wisdom do you live by? Keep B.U.S.Y. Be Brave. Understand yourself. Double down on your Strengths. Say YES to opportunities.

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Multi-dwelling housing, Manly

Northern Beaches Council

Get the facts on the new low to mid rise housing reforms

The NSW Government has released planning reforms that override Council's existing standards to allow for an increase in building heights and multi-dwelling housing within 800m of nine nominated town centres.

These new non-discretionary controls will override Northern Beaches' local planning controls and Council will not be able to refuse applications that comply with the new standards.

Council continues to advocate for a better process rather than a one-size fits all approach that does not address a plan for an investment in infrastructure and services for the area. Traffic, public transport and other community services will be significantly impacted, and the NSW Government needs to provide information about how this will be addressed. Here's what you need to know.

WHERE WILL IT APPLY

On the Northern Beaches, the new controls will apply to all residential zoned land within 800m walking distance of:

- Balgowlah Stockland Shopping Centre
- Dee Why Town Centre
- Forestville Town Centre
- Forestway Shopping Centre
- Frenchs Forest Precinct (Warringah Road)
- Manly Town Centre
- Manly Vale Town Centre
- Mona Vale Town Centre
- Warringah Mall Shopping Centre

Following Council staff submissions, four town centres that had originally been proposed to be included in the Stage 2 Reforms have been excluded: Warriewood, Narrabeen, Newport and Belrose.

WHAT WILL BE ALLOWED

Increase to building heights
Residential flat buildings (up to 22m) and shop-top apartments (up to 24m) - both up to 6 storeys - will be permissible in R3 Medium Density Residential zones within 400m of each nominated town centre.

For land zoned R3 that is between 400m-800m from each town centre, apartments up to 4 storeys (17.5m) will be permitted.

For land zoned R1 General Residential and R2 Low Density Residential within 800m of each town centre, residential flat buildings up to 9.5m (2-3 storeys) will be permitted on sites with a minimum lot size of 500sqm.

Increase in multi-dwelling housing

Multi-dwelling housing (town-houses, terraces, and manor houses) up to 9.5m high (2-3 storeys) will be permitted in R1 General Residential and R2 Low Density Residential areas within 800m of each nominated town centre.

This will be a significant change for these areas in the former Pittwater and Warringah local government areas as these kinds of dwellings are not permitted under current rules.

Find out more

Northern Beaches Council has a NSW Government housing reforms explainer page. Visit northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Further details including maps and FAQs can also be found on the NSW Planning website planning.nsw.gov.au or scan here to find out more.



Photo: © 2022 Northern Beaches Council

Q1: 2025

How has the Northern Beaches property market fared?

Scan the QR code below to find out in detail.

Here's what we achieved at Cunninghams in Quarter 1:

Properties Sold	129
Properties Leased	131
Buyers Met	7,155
Appraisals done	557



Cunninghams

AN EVENING WITH BEN NOIR

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Q STATION





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Federal Politics

Standing up for integrity in politics

With the federal election just around the corner, incumbent politicians and new candidates are promoting their policies and vision for their electorates and Australia. When democracy is at its best, we see a strong and vocal contest of ideas – and the best of the best are ultimately decided at the ballot box. But the reality is a little murkier – with fear, smear and misinformation providing an unhelpful diversion from a sensible debate on how to truly take Australia forward.

You've probably already seen a flyer in your letterbox twisting the facts, or a social media ad designed to mislead and discredit. With AI tools now being used to generate fake content, the threat is growing fast. These are coming from many sources, often the old parties trying to hold on to power through misinformation but also third-party organisations, mostly backed by oil and gas with Liberal

members at their helm, like Advance Australia, Australians for Prosperity and Australians for Natural Gas.

This term, for every piece of legislation that I have voted on, I've considered each on its merits and sought to represent Warringah. This means I have voted with Labor 51% of the time, the Coalition 52% of the time and the Greens 55% of the time. However, the Liberal Party's promotional material misleadingly cherry picks the votes it includes. Also, I attend 91% of votes compared to Peter Dutton's 41%.

Right now, Australia has no federal laws to stop political advertising from being deceptive or misleading. The Government had the opportunity to fix this, in fact it was a 2022 election promise. Yet they lacked the political will to make it happen and preferred to do a deal with the Coalition to shelf political advertising reform in exchange for donation reform that seeks

to embed old party advantage and limit competition.

We know it is possible to outlaw misleading political advertising because South Australia has done it for over forty years – and they enjoy a better quality of political debate because of it.

As your Independent MP, I've been working to strengthen our democracy, ensuring truth and accountability are at the heart of political debate. I introduced Voter Protections Bills which would ban misleading political advertising. We protect consumers from being scammed by misleading and deceptive advertising, we need to protect voters.

In the face of the old parties voting to keep lying in their ads, I have also launched the voluntary Ethical Political Advertising Code. EPAC calls on all political candidates and campaigners to commit that political advertising material must be:

1. **Accurate, not misleading or deceptive**
2. **Precise and substantiated**
3. **Credible endorsements (including clearly labelling any AI generated or manipulated content)**

At a time when trust in politics is low, I believe we can raise the standard. So, if you see something that doesn't look right this election season, ask questions, seek facts and visit trusted sources. And know that I'll keep fighting to ensure truth in political advertising isn't the exception – it's the rule.

Keep up to date with all of Zali's policy updates and initiatives online at www.zalisteggall.com.au

Words: **Zali Steggall OAM MP**



Zali Steggall OAM MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WARRINGAH

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Dr Sophie launches campaign with Election Beats at Mona Vale

Federal Politics

Delivering for Mackellar

Since being elected to Parliament in an historic win in 2022, Dr Sophie's collaborative and constructive approach has delivered meaningful change for Mackellar.

I've worked hard to be an MP who is well-respected by parliamentary colleagues and trusted by our community here on the Northern Beaches. That approach has delivered significant results - the most recent being \$250 million in new federal funding to finish the Mona Vale Road upgrade. A key priority during my first term, I worked closely with both the federal and state governments to secure this funding in order for roadworks to restart as soon as possible.

Easing cost of living pressures for families and small businesses has also been a key priority. During my first term, I've actively advocated for and supported all government measures to improve housing affordability, provide energy bill relief and reduce health-care costs.

Another big victory during this term is the decade-long community battle to stop

oil and gas drilling off our coastline. I stood up for the Northern Beaches community in Canberra, powerfully advocating to protect our local environment and way of life on the Beaches and end this threat once and for all. At the national level, I also negotiated stronger environment laws to protect our waterways from toxic gas fracking.

As a former emergency doctor and GP, another key focus of my first term has been improving healthcare services in Mackellar. I've collaborated with fellow Northern Beaches MPs and Health Ministers at both the federal and state levels and delivered real results, including a free Urgent Care Clinic for Dee Why, a new Northern Beaches Youth Mental Health Hub and expanded drug and alcohol services for our community.

As well as this, as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of

GPs, I helped make it cheaper to see your GP by boosting bulk billing rates and reduce the cost of medicines. I'm also calling for a ban on gambling advertising due to the devastating impact it is having on individuals and families.

Critically for our community, I'm leading the charge for Northern Beaches Hospital to be returned to public hands. Our local hospital remains the only privately run public hospital in the state. I've worked with independent state MPs to secure an independent performance audit of the hospital and my advocacy on the failure of the public private partnership to deliver for our community has led to the Minns Government legislating to rule out future public private partnerships at the state's acute hospitals. A NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the safety and quality of services at Northern Beaches Hospital is also currently underway.

I believe in genuine, constructive representation that focuses on real solutions now and for future generations. I'm running for re-election to continue my work to deliver what's important to the people of Mackellar, including cost of living relief, lower taxes for individuals and small business, cleaner energy to reduce power bills and accessible and affordable healthcare. Mackellar deserves a local voice with local values.

Keep up to date with Dr Sophie Scamps MP's announcements and initiatives online at www.sophiescamps.com.au

Words: **Dr Sophie Scamps**, Independent MP for Mackellar

Dr Sophie DELIVERS

- ✓ **\$250M to finish Mona Vale Rd**
- ✓ **Ended drilling for oil & gas off our coast**
- ✓ **Fighting to make our hospital public again**

Vote 1



DR sophie scamps MP

YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

Freshie Brewing's crowdfunding capital raise

If you follow the booze business closely, which the Tawny certainly does, you will have seen recently that Freshwater Brewing Co is currently raising capital, offering investors the chance to own a slice of the growing local brewer. I caught up with Jonny Bucknall, Freshie Brewing Co's director, to find out what's what with this craft beer investment opportunity.

You launched in 2021, established your brewery in 2022, and have grown steadily since despite a challenging economic environment. What have been the biggest lessons? From the outset, and ongoing, our business plan is very simple: Create balanced, delicious beers to enhance good times, and offer everyone a brewery that blends a relaxed vibe with exceptional, easy-drinking beers. In terms of valuable lessons, it was crucial to quickly establish our Brookvale brewery in 2022 and have a great taproom that generates revenue. If we'd stayed purely selling beer cans to bottle shops, it would have been lights out very quickly. The taproom itself too, we made sure to offer more than just great beers. We set up a fantastic kitchen and a backyard bbq-inspired menu, have a selection of natural wines, the brewery is family-friendly, dog-friendly, we host all manner of live music & DJ events, trivia nights, politics in the pub gatherings, we're dedicated to offering a genuine community hub that caters to all. We've even started showing the footy games on our TV because people kept on asking for us to show them.

How tough is it as a venue to compete with the larger clubs and pubs, and as a brewer to compete with the beer duopolies? Those larger venues have a perceived advantage with the revenue poker machines bring in. We don't have that income, but that frees us to focus on events and activations that are more community minded, family-friendly, promote local artists, musicians, be more proactive in sparking a buzz for genuine fun and creativity which has languished at the pubs and clubs. And with the beer duopolies and various tactics playing out on bottle shop shelves, at the end of the day, if bigger players are not focused on creating great beers but are effectively working to trick their customers, that actually helps local brewers like



Freshie Brewers: Tom, Jonny, and Brett

Freshie and our Brookvale brewing comrades, customers know we're the real deal, and we're seeing that with continued increased sales. You can't beat the freshness of local beer at a brewery, and our community knows that.

In raising capital now, what opportunities are you're looking to take advantage of? We will expand the tap room to better service the growing population and visitors onsite. We will invest in a canning machine to improve the economics of our distribution and offer contract brewing end-to-end services to better cater that market. And we will use the capital to really lean into growing the brand and making it even stronger. Freshwater is a globally iconic destination, and the nature of our beers to bring fun and sunshine into every drop, we see real potential in tapping into overseas markets, be that Tokyo, London, San Diego, wherever the Freshwater vibes are lying dormant but ready to thrive. Even local small bars. We don't want Fosters having all the galivanting fun and see Freshwater Brewing Co as a global brand being a very exciting opportunity.

What do Tawny readers need to do right now if they are keen to know more and potentially invest? Email hello@freshwaterbrewing.com.au or pop into the taproom at 4 Powells Rd Brookvale, our HQ, see if you like what we're doing, and we can get chatting more from there.

Interview: **Liam Carroll**

Photo: Milly Mead Photography



Own a piece of Freshie Brewing Co.

Freshie is growing and we're seeking passionate local investors keen to help us build a community brand, beer and venue.

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Head Coach Tim Hill puts his development squad through their paces

Bergo's Sport Report

Hoop dreams alive in Brookie

Basketball's soaring popularity continues to rise in Australia and it's no surprise when you consider the number of high-profile Australian players now featuring in the NBA like Josh Giddey, Ben Simmons and Patty Mills.

Domestically the NBL is enjoying record crowd attendances as well as an increasing TV audience. Australia is the NBA's biggest market outside of the US in terms of league pass subscriptions and merchandise sales. It is now the 2nd most popular team sport in the nation and alongside soccer is the most popular sport for 15-24 year olds.

Northern Beaches basketball enthusiast, coach and owner of privately operated 'Hoops House' in Brookvale, Tim Hill, says Basketball has a unique appeal.

"I think as a sport it has got the best balance of individuality and teamwork. For that reason, I think it is still one of the most expressive sports there is. It's also probably the best sport to practice by yourself, you can easily shoot

around for an hour and not get bored so in that sense it's really approachable. Everyone gets a level of enjoyment from just shooting hoops."

Hill has been a long-time advocate for Basketball on the Northern Beaches having coached various youth, senior and representative basketball for both men and women. Not surprisingly, the biggest challenge for basketball is available court space which was one of the driving factors in opening up his own facility 'Hoops House' in the bustling Brookvale Arts District.

"It's no secret that basketball infrastructure is expensive, so I think basketball needs to lean towards more of a privatised model. There is a lack of availability of facilities on the beaches that are owned by non-for-profit organisations like the Department of Education where you simply can't access these facilities for most of the day".

'Hoops House' offer members a fully equipped gymnasium and six ball machines that can get you shooting around



"The Gun", 600 shots in 40 minutes

600 shots in 40 minutes. Perhaps the biggest feature of the complex however is the full-size basketball court, which is available for training, competition and the odd social shoot-around. 'Hoops House' caters for all ages and experience, there is a popular introductory program 'Hoop Start' for juniors who are new to the game.

"This is what this place is built for essentially, not so much purely high performance, which of course we offer but we are more based on the wider community. It's a place where we encourage Mum and Dad to come along with their son or daughter and engage, or just to come down as a member and come find a pickup game on the weekend, it's important that anyone feels welcome, that community vibe is essentially the 'Hoops House' business model.

Open for casual shooters and pro's alike, check out Hoops House at hoopshouse.com.au and pop into 10 Short Street Brookvale to see for yourself.

Words: **Anthony Bergelin**

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My kids are too young for equal time



Children form their attachments in their first 5 years of life. Severing those attachments can have long term, damaging consequences.

While most children are bonded and attached to both of their parents, their primary attachment figure – usually the parent who does most of the caring – is the person from whom your child draws comfort. That parent provides a safety net, so kids feel comfortable to test boundaries, try new things and so on.

Understandably, following the breakdown of a relationship both parents want to maximise time with their children and believe this should be achieved by an "equal time" arrangement.

But for very young children, this type of parenting regime is not in their best interests. While your kids may not exhibit signs of anxiety when they are with their other parent, on returning to their primary attachment figure they might be unusually clingy, refuse to separate at daycare/pre-school or begin wetting the bed if this hasn't previously been a problem. These are signs that your child may not be coping with the time away from their primary attachment parent.



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Zali Steggall - Independent



Since 2019, I've proudly represented Warringah in Parliament, delivering smart solutions to key challenges like cost of living, housing and climate risks. I'm committed

to building a strong Australia where everyone has the opportunity to thrive - by supporting small businesses, driving down household costs, protecting communities from climate impacts, and upholding integrity in politics.

As your Independent MP, I've responded to over 41,000 community enquiries, helped secure more than \$300 million in local grants, fought to stop PEP11 and championed over 190 legislative amendments including on scams, job security and affordable education.

I'll continue to fight for Warringah, to relieve transport, housing and cost of living pressures, to support small business, climate action and community resilience to climate risks, truth in political advertising, a stronger National Anti-corruption Commission, public spending oversight, and safety at home, work and online.

Celine Varghese-Fell - Australian Labor Party



Hard work, integrity, and a sense of public duty are my core values. As your Labor candidate, I will work tirelessly to deliver good outcomes and a better future for all.

Cost of living issues are our top priority, so reducing household bills is crucial. We will ensure Medicare is bulk billed for everyone and the Cheaper Medicines program is ongoing. We will provide continued funding for hospitals and healthcare in general, delivering Medicare Urgent Care Clinics like the one in Dee Why. We will lower energy bills for every household and review the costs of food and other products sold by the big supermarkets to ensure they are not overpricing customers.

We will ensure consistent investment in public schools and TAFE colleges, making it easier for students to obtain effective, constructive education, and we will slash HECS debt by 20 percent, encouraging more students to continue with their studies.

Jaimee Rogers - Liberal Party



I love our community in Warringah. I feel privileged to be raising my two boys locally with my husband. Before entering politics, I enjoyed a successful career

as a broadcast journalist.

Sky high living costs are putting a tremendous burden on so many. Australia's current problems are down to Anthony Albanese, an ineffective and weak Prime Minister. Voting for a Teal 'independent' ensures a minority Labor government, propped up by the Greens, delivering further declines in living standards.

If elected, I'll get the Beaches Link Tunnel back on the agenda to ease traffic congestion. We can only do this with a Liberal MP in a Liberal Government. The Liberals have a plan to deliver low inflation, affordable homes and cheaper energy, fuel, and medicines.

I want to be part of the Liberal team in our Federal Parliament that gets Warringah and Australia back on track.

Bonnie Harvey - The Greens



Hi, I'm Bon! I value truth-telling, uniting the community and hope. Warringah is ready for climate-forward representation that prioritises people over profit. We are all

witnessing the consequences of our current system; more frequent natural disasters, the politicisation of human rights and rising cost of living. Yet, the major parties treat these issues as separate crises and continually fail to address the elephant in the room: rampant inequality and greed.

I am an artist, student, small business owner and the youngest woman to ever be elected to the Northern Beaches Council. I am running in this election to offer Warringah a candidate who is committed to proactively treating the disease in our democracy, rather than toying with isolated symptoms. A vote for the Greens is a vote for energetic leadership in areas that matter; climate justice, housing affordability and making billionaires pay their fair share.

Dr Sophie Scamps - Independent



It's been an incredible privilege to represent our community in federal parliament. It's the community I love, where I've lived for more than two decades, raised my family, and

cared for patients as your local GP.

Now, I get to take your voice to Canberra.

I'm so proud of what we've achieved together, including: \$250 million to finish Mona Vale Road; A new, free Urgent Care Clinic in Dee Why; A new Youth Mental Health Hub in Brookvale.

As your community independent, my focus is and always will be Mackellar. I understand our challenges and share our values.

I've voted 100% of the time for our community, not for a party agenda. My Liberal opponent can't offer that. Like any party politician, he's bound to vote with his party - not this community.

If re-elected, I will continue to fight for lower taxes, a cleaner climate and a healthier Mackellar.

Jeffrey Quinn - Australian Labor Party



I'm a fifth-generation Northern Beaches resident, educator and small business owner. I've taught in schools, operated a learning centre, and supported families from all walks of life.

I'm running for Labor because Mackellar deserves someone who listens and acts. My values are those of fairness, integrity and community. I believe in a robust public health system, affordable and social housing, quality education, and infrastructure that meets our needs.

We must act on climate change. I'll fight for public health, electrification, sustainable waste systems, and funding for efficient transport. I'll advocate for better sporting facilities, support for young entrepreneurs, local arts programs, and initiatives to support youth. I'll ensure more local aged care and veterans' support.

This election presents a clear choice. Peter Dutton will cut health and education, and slash public service jobs. As a member of the Albanese government, I won't just speak for Mackellar - I'll get things done.

James Brown, Liberal Party



This election is about ensuring Australia can remain strong, fair, and free in an increasingly uncertain world.

I grew up in Collaroy, went to school in Dee Why, and

now live on the Pittwater with my two young children.

My life has been about service to Australia and our community. In the Australian Army, and more recently as a leader in our veteran's community through my roles as State President of the RSL and founder of the charity Invictus Australia.

We've got work to do to fix our economy, get the cost of living back under control, and keep our community safe. I'm an advocate for small business, and was proud to speak for small business owners against recent proposals to put up Northern Beaches council rates by 40%.

As a next generation member of the Liberal team, I know I can deliver for our community and be an effective voice in Canberra.

Ethan Hrnjak - The Greens



As the youngest Northern Beaches Councillor, I know all too well the difficulties faced by our community, namely, the cost of living, housing and climate crises.

This election, I'm the only candidate offering genuine, concrete and visionary solutions to these issues. Instead of marching to the neoliberal drumbeat of business tax cuts and deductible corporate lunches, I know we need to make real, progressive policy in this country again if we want to counter the rise of the far-right.

In a wealthy country like ours, everyone deserves access to the healthcare they need, housing they deserve and education that benefits the whole community. We will build hundreds of thousands of public, affordable and accessible homes, include mental and dental in Medicare, invest in publicly-owned renewable energy and make education free for all.

By taxing the billionaires and making large corporations pay their fair share, real change is possible. We just have to vote for it.

Cover Artist

Lara Allport

How long have you lived on the Beaches?

I moved to Australia just before the Sydney Olympic Games, but it wasn't until 2005 that I discovered the Northern Beaches. I started in Fairlight, moved all over Manly and am now living in Cromer.

What inspired your cover? I illustrated this for BAD POSTER – an interactive art exhibition currently showing in various spots across Brookvale Arts District. I wanted to feature a Bennett's surfboard in the composition, to honour the rich and important surf heritage here in Brookvale, but I basically just drew my dream house.

How would you describe your art? I have three very different things going on really. My illustrations (for the most part produced using Adobe CS Illustrator) are what I'd call 'vector clean'. When being commissioned commercially to deliver to a brief, I can adapt to any style required. I recently did some digital watercolour illustrations for a collaboration between HBO's launch of The White Lotus season 3, and dusk Australia's new collection. My oil paintings and portraits are a lot more expressive and usually carry hidden meanings and iconography.

When did you discover you had a gift for art?

I won my first Art Prize in Dubai, where I was living at the time, aged 8, with a depiction of an Emirate crossing the desert with his camel.

Is your art inspired by certain themes or ideas?

This changes all the time. I went through a phase of illustrating gorgeous women going about daily domestic tasks, like cooking or hanging up the washing, a tribute to just how amazing women are, and how we somehow manage to 'do it all'. More recently, I did a series of William Morris like symmetrical paintings made up of beautiful Australian native flowers, wildflowers, and leaves (some of which were weeds, because even the weeds are beautiful in Australia). It was an exercise of mental discipline trying to paint something symmetrical, I really enjoyed that. Last year I entered the Archibald with a portrait of Michael Rodrigues, the inaugural NSW 24-hour Economy Commissioner. For over a decade Mike has championed



Lara at her "Blow In" exhibition opening night

initiatives to unlock the potential of night-time industries of hospitality, creative arts, entertainment and beyond.

You're also a champion of the arts... During the last two decades, I have dedicated my life to creating opportunities for Artists and Illustrators through my companies: The National Grid and The Drawing Arm. The Michael Rodrigues portrait was a catalyst for my return to the portraiture work I undertook during my time at Art College in London. This year I hope to paint Oliver and Louis Liembach from Lime Cordiale! Let's hope they say yes.

Being a BAD girl (a Brookvale Arts District co-founder), what's in store for BAD for the rest of 2025? OMG so many exciting things. Not all of which I can talk about yet, but what I can tell you is that plans for BAD POSTER 3.0 (which will feature a first nations story-telling angle) and BAD WALLs are underway. We hope to deliver many large-scale murals across our district in 2025, starting with a huge wall (the side of my studio at 24 Chard Road). We just need to wait for the neighbours to sell, so we can start. They thought the mural might compromise the sale, so it's on hold right now.

How can people buy and support your artwork?

To commission an illustration, please get in touch via www.thedrawingarm.com.au and for original oils and prints, visit Northern Beaches Gallery (5/161 S Creek Rd, Cromer) or online at larahorsley.com.au

Follow Lara on Instagram @laraallport and to purchase the poster of Lara's cover, scan here



Photo: Neil Thompson Rees - IG @monocaptus

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The Creative Engineer

As a significant centre of expertise and innovation across a diverse range of industries, Brookvale is also serving as an important incubator for creative and technical talent. One shining example is Christophe Perfetti, a creative innovator in the engineering, design and manufacturing sectors, spanning industries such as medical, mining, defence, renewables, agriculture, and robotics.

Chris began his career as an apprentice toolmaker at Rolex, where he discovered his love for metal manufacturing. He then joined Brookvale-based Sorensen Engineering as a CNC machinist. In 2019, he was appointed Head of Prototyping at Sorensen's Product Lab, leading a team of designers and programmers to manufacture prototypes for a broad range of new products and his impressive body of work was acknowledged in 2021 when Sorensen/Product Lab was listed as one of Australia's top 100 innovators.

His passion for innovation and industrial design, coupled with a dedication to fostering cultures of creativity and collaboration, has been evident throughout Chris's career. It is a commitment he brought to his crucial role in the redesign and manufacture of the UNSW Sunswift Racing vehicle, which broke the world speed record for a solar-powered electric vehicle in 2022.

Recently, Chris was invited to join automation specialists Corematic who are working with companies operating in industries from food production and biopharmaceutical to renewable energy and defence. In this new role he is helping companies to develop and execute a strategic road map as they embrace new technologies particularly innovations in computer visioning, machine learning and robotics with a focus on efficiency, costs and safety.

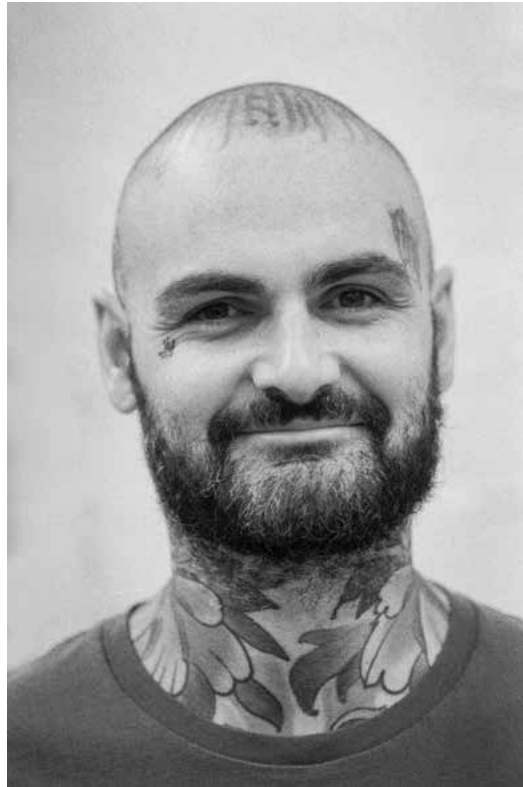


Photo: Renate Riemmueller

Chris has become an important resource for the Australian manufacturing sector which he laments 'is currently facing significant challenges due to a shortage of skilled labour and rising costs from inflation...in this highly competitive environment, many esteemed companies are already closing their doors. I transitioned to automation because I firmly believe it is the key to economic sustainability'.

With his many years of experience in manufacturing and a dedication to leveraging his expertise to help other businesses achieve their long-term success, Chris is an example of Brookvale's role as a source of inventive creativity and its support for Australia's economy.

You can check out Corematic at: corematic.com.au

Words: John Meredith



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Each month we print 50,000 full colour magazines, with 47,500 delivered directly to residential letterboxes, and 2,500 placed in highly frequented public places from Manly to Palm Beach.

Contact Liam to find out how you can showcase your business, service, or initiative, and fully engage with the Tawny Frogmouth's Northern Beaches community.

0414 556 038 | liam@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au

May 2025 Tide Chart

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
			0514 0.35 1115 1.39 1643 0.65 2316 1.95	0616 0.43 1217 1.31 1738 0.73	0013 1.84 0723 0.51 1325 1.27 1842 0.80	0116 1.72 0828 0.57 1435 1.27 1953 0.84
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- New moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter

Info: Bureau of Meteorology Tidal Centre Photo: Leigh Binskin

Housing affordability: The crisis the major parties are too scared to fix

You know the housing market is in crisis when a high-flying investment banker and the CEO of an industry super fund make the same observations to the nation's premier business publication. Yet here they were, just days apart, with remarkably similar and profoundly disturbing insights into the woeful state of housing affordability in Australia today.

In early March, the CEO of Melbourne-based AustralianSuper, Paul Schroder, took to the stage at the AFR Business Summit and said this: "I think the big, burning productivity and cost of living problem is housing. I think we keep underestimating how worrying housing is. This is the crisis that is facing Australia.

"All we've done is pour all this money into houses, which has deprived the economy of heaps and heaps of productive capital. So, to me, all our pants should be on fire about housing...Because, if our kids can't live safely and securely, how can you be freed up to think positively about productivity or the future, if you don't know where you're going to live?"

Two weeks later, Jonathan Mott, a senior banking analyst at Sydney-based Barrenjoey Investment Bank, was on stage at the AFR Banking Summit and dropped more housing truth-bombs: "Over the last three years, since we've started seeing rates go up, the lending to owner-occupier [households] who earn less than \$120,000 per year (which is 60% of society) has fallen 66%. Only 8% of credit goes to owner-occupiers earning less than this. At the same time, lending to investors earning more than \$500,000 per annum is up 166%.

"This one percent of society is getting more credit [9% of mortgage lending] than the 60% who are owner-occupiers. This is not sustainable. If it doesn't change and you live in Sydney, you'll never know your grandkids, because they won't be able to afford a house. They won't live here."

Both Schroder and Mott are experienced senior financial executives who can see today's housing market for what it is: a brutal competition in which generally lower-to-middle income Australians are pitted against each other in a 'housing hunger games', either to rent from



The Lucky Country has \$11 trillion of bricks and mortar

high-income investors or to buy from owner-occupiers (with the constant threat of being out-competed by better-funded investors).

A banker's lament

Jonathan Mott is one of Australia's most experienced banking analysts. He knows the role that mortgage lending plays in rocketing property prices, mortgage debt now sitting at some \$3 trillion outstanding across homeowners and investors. He would also undoubtedly be familiar with the current stats. The national average mortgage for a first-time home buyer is now around \$520,000, while for existing owner-occupiers, it's around \$670,000 nationally and \$811,000 in his home state of NSW.

Try servicing a 30-year \$800,000 principal and interest mortgage at 6.25% pa on the median NSW household income of around \$140,000. It's little wonder that mortgaged households were caught out by the 2022-23 spike in official rates from 0.1% to 4.35% (before last month's 0.25% cut). **The proportion of household income needed to service a mortgage rose from under 30% in 2020 to now accounting for more than 50% of a typical mortgaged household's budget.**

That's been a key cost-of-living drain for many of Australia's roughly 3.7 million mortgaged households, who collectively owe around \$1.5 trillion, particularly lower-income and younger borrowers.

If you engineer a system where homeowners are forced to take on ever-increasing levels of

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debt relative to their household incomes, they invariably face more interest rate risk. Alas, such is life in the mortgage nation that is Australia today.

Productivity and housing affordability

Paul Schroder's focus at the AFR Business Summit was on productivity, that magical economic quantity said to drive our living standards. Productivity is one of the 'Three P's' in Treasury's long-term GDP forecasting, alongside population and labour participation levels. Except productivity has essentially flatlined since 2016 and has actually been going backwards more recently.

The AustralianSuper CEO identified a very likely contributor to the problem when he noted that our love affair with property sees Australia with a \$11 trillion housing market and a \$3 trillion GDP (almost 4X), versus a \$50 trillion US housing market relative to its \$29 trillion economy (about 1.7X).

You can take the entire Australian economy, add both the value of the ASX and the superan-

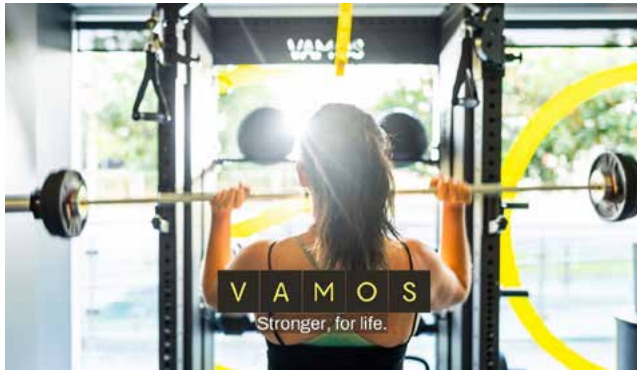
uation system, and still be \$1.6 trillion short of the wealth tied up in residential property. That's wealth currently held in non-productive land and buildings that could be used by Australian businesses to create Australian products and services, employ more Australians, and drive that elusive productivity lift.

Being leveraged up to the eyeballs to own property might provide the illusion of wealth (the RBA itself accepts that a 'wealth effect' exists here), but it won't do much to raise long-term living standards for working Australians. And approaching retirement with mortgage debt, as one in two households aged between 55 and 64 now do, won't help living standards thereafter either. That's the legacy of real mortgage debt for those over 55 increasing by more than 600% between 1987 and 2015.

It's a game of property snakes and ladders that Australia has played over the last 25 years. A game that, as Mott correctly asserts, is patently unsustainable.

Words: **Harry Chemay**, Michael West Media





The first 365 days around the sun for VAMOS

Health & Fitness

Ground breaking gym turns one

And members are 60% stronger for it!

If you've been stuck in traffic on Roseberry Street in the last year - you might've noticed some bold yellow letters shouting "VAMOS" beneath Aldi. Behind those cheerful windows lies a quiet revolution in how people over 40 are discovering strength, energy, and confidence like never before.

VAMOS Strength Training just celebrated its first birthday, and the results are turning heads. In just 12 months, this Northern Beaches-born concept has helped hundreds of locals - affectionately called "VAMOSers" - get Stronger. People who have trained twice a week consistently over the 12 months have all achieved at least 60% strength gains. Not to mention, on average, they've also gained about 1kg of muscle, lost 2.5kg of body fat, and share countless stories of real-life transformation.

But let's back up a step. Why strength training? And why now? "It's simple science," explains founder and Curl Curl resident, Scott Hood.

"From around age 40, we

naturally start to lose muscle mass - a condition called sarcopenia. You can lose up to 5% per decade and this leads to increased weakness unless you regularly and effectively strength train. It's much more important than aesthetics, it's about your independence, your vitality, and doing all the things you love for your whole life."

Scott would know. With over two decades in the fitness industry, including a long global career at Virgin Active, he launched VAMOS with one clear mission: to help people get stronger for life.

"Strength training isn't just for young people, athletes or bodybuilders anymore and I just don't think the traditional gym industry is helping much" Scott says. "It's now one of the most important things we can do to age well, stay mobile, and live fully, especially for people in their 60's and 70's and also for women managing menopause."

Walk into VAMOS, you immediately feel the difference.

Gone is the sea of equipment and strutting peacocks. Instead, you'll find a series of private workout cubes: each kitted out with premium equipment, a touchscreen workout guide, and most importantly, a wonderful human coach always nearby to offer support, encouragement, and proper technique guidance. It's all about personalising strength training and making it feel safe, supportive, and totally do-able.

"Strength training can be intimidating, especially for beginners or people returning to exercise," says Scott. "That's why we created VAMOS - to take the fear out of it, and make it feel achievable for everyone."

Clearly, it's working. The VAMOS Google reviews read like love letters, members calling it "life-changing", "welcoming", "inspiring" and "the first time I've actually stuck with a gym". And it's not just about strength. VAMOSers report better energy, improved sleep, less joint pain, and more confidence doing everyday things - like surfing, playing with kids, or carrying heavy groceries with ease.

As VAMOS marks its first year, the focus remains steady: build a strong, inclusive community that helps people not just work out, but truly level up their lives. And judging by those early results, they're just getting warmed up.

Need to get stronger for life? Then as the name says, VAMOS! Visit vamosstrength.com or pop into Balgowlah's Roseberry Street VAMOS HQ (directly under Aldi)

Words: **Liam Carroll**

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Learn more

Northern Beaches' stone sculptor



Newton's Gumnuts Project - Granville NSW

For more than twenty years Newton Bishop has created beautiful residential stone walls and unique sandstone sculptures easily recognised on many Northern Beaches properties and as important features in parks, playgrounds and commercial developments in Sydney, greater NSW, and as far as the Northern Territory.

How did you become interested and learn about stone masonry and stone sculpture? Working with stone was part of my TAFE Landscaping course but travelling overseas soon after graduation and seeing Portugal's amazing sandstone cathedrals and associated sculptures, convinced me that that was what I wanted to do. Then, always interested in landscaping and distinctive gardening, I met Chris Bennetts whose creativity with Japanese and Indonesian artistic gardens, which was very popular at the time, inspired my interest in wanting to do stone sculpture. Chris took me on, showed me the way, and I worked with him for 16 years.

What do you see when you look at a big piece of stone? For major pieces I go and select the stone that I like directly from the quarry. I first have to carefully examine its shape, colours and grain, and visualise the final object I intend it to become. I then work out the proportions and look for cracks, or irregularities and determine if it is potentially the right fit for the subject matter. This takes time because it turns out that many are unsuitable.

Once selected, I cut the overall shape out roughly so as to discover any flaws in the stone

early. Then, before I get so far into the project that I might have to start again, I either adjust for them, or else select another piece of stone.

Can it be the other way, the piece of stone is better than you expected, and it just has the right grain and colours? I plan the round shapes for all those beautiful spirals and circles, yet variations of colour are uncertain but happily sometimes, yes, they turn out better than expected.

Is there a certain project or sandstone artwork that you are most proud of? I have many favourites but the signs we did on each entrance to the Palm Beach Governor Phillip Park were the biggest and most detailed signs we had ever done, and they are still there twenty years later, and still look fantastic. And I am proud of another I just did last year that was different - the Midget Farrelly Memorial, a 'relief' cut into the black rock close by to those signs above.

What are the biggest challenges with creative stonework? I've first got to design the subject matter and then get the right stone. Then, when doing the whole piece, I will sometimes make a mistake, after which the challenge is correcting it without compromising the project's ambition and still get through the entire process successfully.

What should readers know if they are thinking about adding stonework to their home or business premises or a sculptural object? Sandstone appeals because it is a natural product in the Sydney region. It is appropriate to be used as a big impact sculpture focal point; a wall or structural component; paving or other complements to the landscape of one's garden.

What's next for Newton Stone Design? I love working on Northern Beaches properties because owners have good creative vision and appreciate quality design. I am pleased with my many playground sculptural installations here, but I want to expand and offer my expertise to greater Sydney and regional councils throughout NSW.



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Beryl with Patrick during one of his visits

Lifeline Northern Beaches

The power of volunteering

For many, a friendly chat over coffee or a stroll in the garden is a simple pleasure. But for residents in aged care, these moments of companionship can mean the world. That's exactly what Patrick brings to Beryl's life through the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) delivered by Lifeline Northern Beaches.

A Life-Changing Opportunity

Patrick discovered ACVVS through a surf lifesaving newsletter. Having always enjoyed interacting with older generations, he felt drawn to the opportunity. "Why not give it a try?" he thought. That simple decision led him to meet Beryl in July 2023.

A Bond from Day One

Their first meeting was filled with excitement and a little nervousness. "It turns out Beryl was feeling the same, so that definitely helped with our first encounter," Patrick recalls. From that moment on, their visits became a cherished part of their week.

"It makes all the difference in the world having a visitor," Beryl says. "I don't know what I would do without him."

A Friendship That Grows

Over the past 18 months, Patrick and Beryl have built a close friendship, sharing conversations about their families, interests, and global affairs. They enjoy a simple routine: tea or coffee, sitting in the garden, and sometimes venturing out to Narrabeen Lake or Long Reef Golf Club.

Patrick also helps Beryl with practical tasks, like setting up her Kindle or purchasing books online. He has become part of the retirement home community, always up for a friendly chat with residents and staff.

The Impact of Volunteering

Patrick finds the experience deeply rewarding. "I enjoy how relaxed and uncomplicated it is," he shares. "I like that I am able to make a difference to Beryl's life by offering my companionship."

For Beryl, Patrick's visits are more than just company; they reaffirm her sense of self. "It makes me feel like a person," she explains. "Having someone who listens, who understands me, and who genuinely cares—that means everything." She encourages other residents to take part in ACVVS, knowing the joy it brings.

Why You Should Get Involved

For those considering becoming a volunteer visitor, Patrick offers simple advice: "Just give it a try. You'll soon find out if it's for you or not. It's just a couple of hours every week or two, and it's such a rewarding experience."

Programs like ACVVS provide vital social connections for aged care residents while giving volunteers the chance to make a real difference. As National Volunteer Week approaches, why not take the first step? Lifeline Northern Beaches offers many volunteering opportunities. You never know—you might just change a life, including your own.

Someone You Know Might Be Waiting for a Visitor

Do you have a loved one in aged care who could use more company? Perhaps a parent, grandparent, or friend who would love a regular visitor to chat with and share stories? The ACVVS program connects caring volunteers with residents who need companionship, bringing joy, connection, and a sense of belonging. Don't let someone you care about feel alone - reach out today to find out how they can be matched with a friendly visitor.

Art & Culture

Josephine Wants to Dance

Hi! My name is Lola, and I am very excited to be Tawny's Junior Glen Street Theatre Reviewer for 2025, starting with my first review for **"Josephine Wants to Dance"**.

Josephine is a kangaroo who wants to dance. Her brother, Joey, tries to tell her that kangaroos aren't supposed to dance, but Josephine doesn't want to listen. She first meets brologas who teach her how to move her neck and her knees (although Josephine isn't quite sure what knees are as she is a kangaroo and kangaroos don't have knees!). She then meets 2 lyrebirds. They teach her how to dance gracefully. Joey keeps telling her she shouldn't be dancing but should hop around like a normal kangaroo.

Josephine finds out Swan Lake is being performed at the Shaggy Gully town hall. The prima ballerina twists her ankle. The understudy gets a splinter in her foot. Josephine comes to the rescue, proving everyone wrong by dancing amazingly as the Swan in Swan Lake. The moral of the story is that you can be anything you put your mind to and that you should not let anyone tell you that you can't do something.

I really loved this production. The costumes were amazing, especially the lyrebird costumes, very sparkly with beautiful patterns. The lyrebirds were hilarious, and I loved their dance moves. Josephine was my favourite character, and she has been



since I was a little kid when I read the book. The actor playing Josephine was very enjoyable to watch.

Lola will be back in July to review, **"You Are a Doughnut"**, playing at Glen Street 26 and 27 May. For tickets visit glenstreet.com.au

Words: **Lola Adams**, Junior Theatre Reviewer

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The Northern Beaches' incredible record breakers

It's weird how Australia's "tall poppy syndrome" even extends to nature.

Have you noticed how Aussies seem to be in awe of wild animals overseas but don't appear "that fussed" by the awesome creatures from back home? Here's some remarkable biodiversity from our "hood" which warrant special recognition for high attainment. They've made their mark on the global stage, so think of them as nature's equivalent of Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie, Rusty Crowe, Cate Blanchett or the Hemsworth clan.



Cutest Animal on earth (photo Cassie Thompson).

The tiny eastern pygmy possum (pictured) is surely the cutest animal on the planet, but it also holds the world record for sleeping! In 2007, under laboratory conditions, one curled up and dozed for a record-breaking 367 days. Grizzly bears are light weights compared to our own icon of hibernation.

The southern brown bandicoot is listed as "critically endangered" on the Insular Peninsula. That's just the kind of situation where it's beneficial to hold a world record for the shortest gestation period of any mammal. Just 11 days!

One local resident that you won't want to mess with is the Sydney funnel-web spider. It's actually the most venomous spider in the world. So, stick that where the sun don't shine tarantula!

Talking of dangerous creatures...we can also claim to have several of the world's deadliest snakes living amongst us in Tawny Frogmouth country. We're talking tiger, eastern brown, death adder and red-bellied blacks here. Remember, these snakes are generally much

more afraid of you, than you are of them, rarely venturing into backyards - but they can be very useful in scaring off encroaching Poms!

Let's not forget that we also have the world's most dangerous ant (the bull ant) residing in "God's Country". Not only has it got a venomous bite, but it also has a poisonous sting. Apparently, this little charmer has actually killed three people since 1936.

The "critically endangered" swift parrot may not be a permanent Peninsula resident, but it regularly drops by in summer. This is the fastest flying parrot in the world. The Australian public voted it "Bird of the Year" in 2023 but the Tasmanian forests, where it breeds, continue to be logged. (Ironically the Tawny Frogmouth was voted second!)

We also have the smallest penguin in the world right here on the Beaches. This is the little (or fairy penguin) which is only circa 33cm tall. The declining population, living in rocky coves near Manly, is actually the only breeding colony on the NSW mainland.



World's greatest mimic

One of our proudest local achievers must surely be the brown antechinus (colloquially called a marsupial mouse) holder of the world record for rooting. It goes at it, non-stop, for up to 14 hours at a time and this involves numerous partners. The only downside is that the male of the species has so much frenetic sex that his body ultimately disintegrates, and he'll die before his first birth day.

The greatest mimic in the animal kingdom is the lyrebird - an illustrious member of our avian community. They can authentically reproduce



Fastest animal in the world, the peregrine falcon

almost any sound, including other bird calls, human voices, alarms, chain saws, even trains!

The bar-tailed godwit holds the world record for the longest non-stop flight of any bird. In 2022, one was recorded migrating 13,560 kms from Alaska to Australia, taking over 11 days. They can occasionally be spotted at Careel Bay.

The humpback whale, a regular visitor along our coastline, holds the world record for the longest documented mammal migration. They typically travel up to 25,000 km a year.

One bird, often seen flying over local cliff tops, actually holds one of the most prestigious titles of them all. The peregrine falcon is the

fastest animal in the world. It's been recorded diving, in flight, at 386 km/h.

You'll also be pleased to know that our green-grocer cicada hasn't caused you sleepless nights for nothing. It auspiciously holds the world record for the loudest insect - producing noise, in excess of 120 decibels, that can be heard from an impressive 2.4kms away. Take a bow all of our truly accomplished animal species.

Sadly, Australia holds another world record... Our nation is the global leader in mammal extinction. Thirty-eight species have been driven to oblivion since colonisation. A further fifty-two are classified as endangered (and rising).

If you want to see change, please ring our Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek's office, on 9379 0700 and ask for our environment protection laws to be urgently strengthened, as was promised.

Can you think of any other native Northern Beaches animals that might qualify for world record status? If so, email liam@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au for a chance to win a six pack of Bucketty's beer.

Words: Mal Fisher

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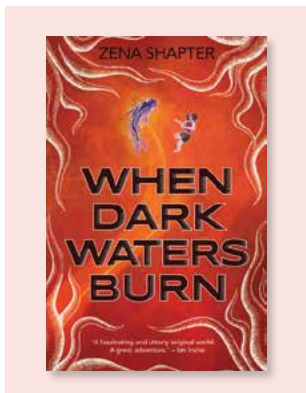
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Get ready for crumbling politics, sci-fi romance, and mongrel reincarnations

Paige Turner Reviews

Dare you to emerge unscathed from these strange worlds

When *Dark Waters Burn* is Zena Shapter's follow-up to *When Dark Roots Hunt*. Some call it speculative fiction for young adults. To me it's got serious adult bite and cements Shapter's reputation as a master of immersive worlds.

We are plunged back into the vividly realised world of Sala, a fiercely independent young woman who's hiding on an alien ship beneath a toxic lake and grappling with everything from forbidden love to social collapse.

Sala's story unfolds against a backdrop of crumbling politics, environmental decay, and high-stakes tech with a sci-fi romance simmering under the surface. Sala's world, Palude, has everything from keei fish oil fuelling the planet to trees that spear prey with their roots. This ecosystem is lush and lethal. Sala's ship isn't just a hiding place – it's a character. So is the lake and every pulse-pounding scene where water-ants clack their mandibles a little too close.



gence, kindness and generosity. To find out more about Zena, her services or community work visit:

www.zenashapter.com

Where to buy

When *Dark Waters Burn* is available from 1 June 2025 – find it at Harry Hartog and Berkelouw Books Balgowlah or your favourite local bookstore and online if you must.

My Name is Gucci, written by Sun Jung, a Korean writer living in Darlinghurst, is another book that made me feel I had entered a strange world. Gucci is a dog, a mongrel with some Dalmation genes. He's lived many re-incarnated lives. In his current reincarnation Gucci spent five years in a shelter in Singapore before being rescued by a young woman, a Korean writer living in Kings Cross, called "she".

"She" and Gucci have met in previous lives, they are in a 'perpetual-inyeon' which in Korean culture ties their life-forms to each other for eternity.

The use of Korean language for a non-Korean speaker is tough, the 7-page glossary of Korean words does help, a bit.

It's not an easy read as it switches from Kings Cross and back to the childhood of "she" in Korea. I found it hard to keep up and keep up you must if you are to unravel the secrets of "she" and Gucci's past reincarnations.

I enjoyed Gucci's extensive literary knowledge regularly cited throughout the narrative. He's one very well-read pooch.

Where to buy

Everywhere...but shop local.

Words: Paige Turner



Allambie's Josh Luchetti with a nice Mahi Mahi

Fishing

What's biting, Clint?

What a tremendous time of year, a time when you can think of a fish you'd like to catch and have a realistic chance of achieving that goal. From Whiting to Marlin and everything in between, it's time to hit the go button.

The water temperature is incredible at the moment. With warm water continuing to filter down our coastline I expect Pelagic species to continue to tempt anglers into wetting a line. Case in point, Cobia or Black Kingfish have showed up in better numbers this year along our inshore reefs. Cobia are not just limited to those with boats, the rock hoppers up at Whale Beach have caught and lost a few in that 10kg range. Live baits and a reliable gaff man are the key.

Further afield, Dolphin Fish, Wahoo, Marlin and Yellow Fin Tuna are providing plenty of entertainment for our game fishing contingent. They should hang about as long as the warm water stays here.

Kingfish are showing up in much better numbers and size in our Harbours and Bays now. Fish the structures and channel makers that plague these areas until you find a school of feeding fish. If you don't get a bite in the first 20minutes, move onto the next one. The Kingfish are side by side with masses of Bonito Tuna, they are much less fussy and will provide great entertainment for those that want to hear their reels sing.

As always, get out there and experience our wonderful waterways.

Words: Clint Harwood IG @aussiecavemanclint

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Subject Manly Sailability on North Harbour
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Subject A backyard visitor
Photographer Jools Farrell, Avalon Beach



Subject Long Reef cloud feather
Photographer Ross Smiles



Subject Important to have all your ducks lined up
Photographer Malou Atayde, NarrabeenLagoon



Subject Magic Narrabeen sunrise
Photographer Debra Allison



Subject World's Best Commute (after a day at the races)
Photographer/Location: @backoftheferry



Subject Two birds, one head
Photographer Branco Kipic, Dee Why

RAZZLE DAZZLE
Trivia

- Which former Prime Minister resides on the Northern Beaches?
- Name either of the two Northern Beaches suburbs that has a 'Service New South Wales' centre?
- As well as the rugby league side, the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles play in which state competition: AFL, basketball, or ice hockey?
- In which Northern Beaches suburb is the Glen Street Theatre located?
- A Northern Beaches brewery is called Dad & 'What'?
- In which TV show is there a bar called Moe's tavern?
- What is the first prime number after 80?
- Which current Australian coin is the smallest in diameter?
- According to the title of the film, what was the occupation of Ace Ventura?
- In feet, how high should a tennis net be at the centre?
- "At first, I was afraid, I was petrified" is the first line of which classic song?
- Users of the Tinder app perform what action to reject a potential match?
- Which New Zealand town/city is known as the Adventure Capital of the World?
- Scurvy is a disease due to a severe lack of what in your body?
- The TV show "10 Pound Poms" portrays a family's move to which country?
- The island of Komodo, home of the Komodo Dragons, is in which country?
- Belarus and which other country end in the letters 'rus'?
- Shane Warne has taken the most Test Wickets for Australia. Who has taken the second most?
- "Better Call Saul" is a spinoff TV show from which other TV show?
- Lindt Chocolate hails from which country?

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Sudoku Medium difficulty

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

RUMOUR HAS IT

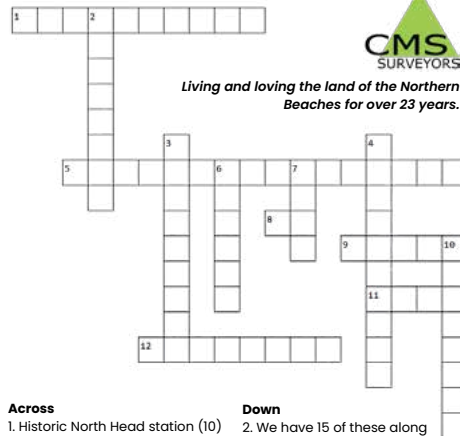
The odds of property developers carefully considering Peninsula infrastructure constraints before plowing headlong into maximising the state's new housing reforms is sub zero.

THE CROSSWORD

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Across

- Historic North Head station (10)
- Pink-capped Manly swim group (4, 3, 9)
- You'll need one of these if you want to build (2)
- Upstairs at the front - best seats on what? (5)
- Popular licence on the beaches (4)
- Pittwater camping spot (3,5)

Down

- We have 15 of these along the beaches (8)
- Road, mall, freeway etc (9)
- The beaches is the Aussie capital of this new-ish sport (10)
- Council HQ location (3,3)
- Healthy bowl wars in recent years (4)
- Last stop on the Palmy ferry (8)

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Star Signs by Krystal Bawl

Taurus Apr 20 – May 21

Alright already, you keep talking about the book you want to write. Either write it or stop talking about it. Ok

Gemini May 22 – Jun 21

Life is too short to waste on what doesn't matter. Decide what matters then waste your time telling everyone about it.

Cancer Jun 22 – Jul 22

Your outsized optimism is one of your most endearing traits, never change, the world needs more optimists, especially now.

Leo Jul 23 – Aug 22

Your gift of the gab makes for a nice change from people who barely speak but we're not all deaf so tone it down a decibel.

Virgo Aug 23 – Sep 23

You're smart and successful and now you've mastered AI so can work half the time for twice as much, how dare you!

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 23

May is M month: stay the magical muse you are, remember magnificence is your middle name and make mayhem.

Scorpio Oct 24 – Nov 22

Your avoidance of comments that could be perceived as offensive is admirable, but boring. We want the old you back.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 21

Winter is when you make your fashion statement, rocking those Ugg boots and trackie pants like a true celebrity.

Capricorn Dec 22 – Jan 20

Your loquaciousness is charming so remember when people criticise you for talking too much, they're just jealous.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

If you're going to keep banging your head against that brick wall, could you at least wear a helmet?

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

You're a perfectionist, but near enough is often good enough, most people can't tell the difference. Go easy on yourself.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 19

Taking the easy way out is not your style but sometimes it really is the only way out. Give it a go.

Trivia Answers

1. Tony Abbott
2. Brookvale/Warriewood
3. Basketball
4. Dave
5. Dave
6. The Simpsons
7. 83
8. 5 cent coin
9. Pet Detective
10. 3 Feet
11. I Will Survive
12. Swipe Left
13. Queenstown
14. Vitamin C
15. Australia
16. Indonesia
17. Cyprus
18. Glenn McGrath
19. Breaking Bad
20. Switzerland

Crossword Answers

Across: 1. Quarantine 5. Bold and Beautiful

Down: 2. Rockpool 3. Warrigah 4. Pickleball 6. Dee Why 7. Acai 10. Ettalong

8. DA 9. B-line 11. Boat 12. The Basin

Sudoku Solution

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

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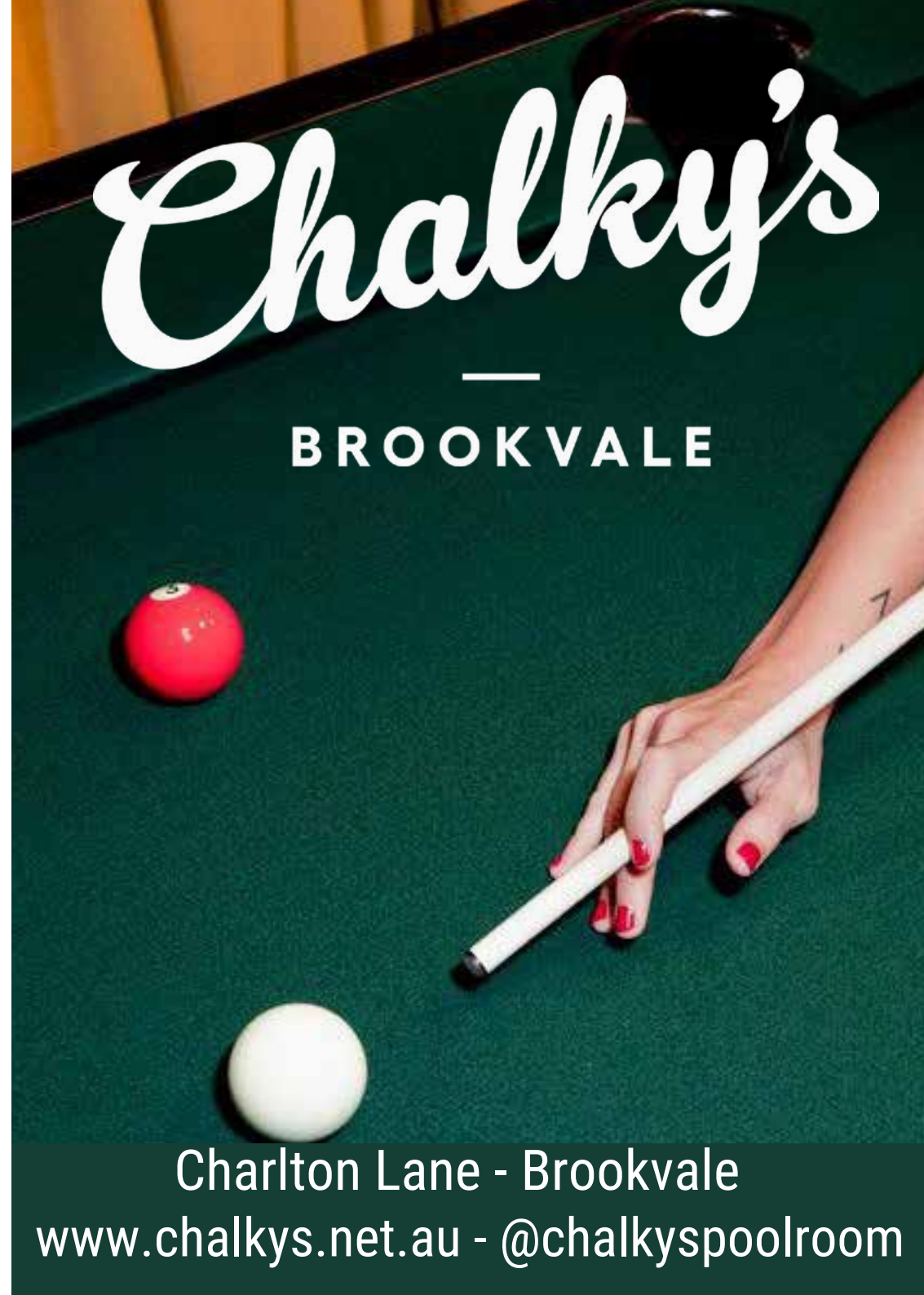
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