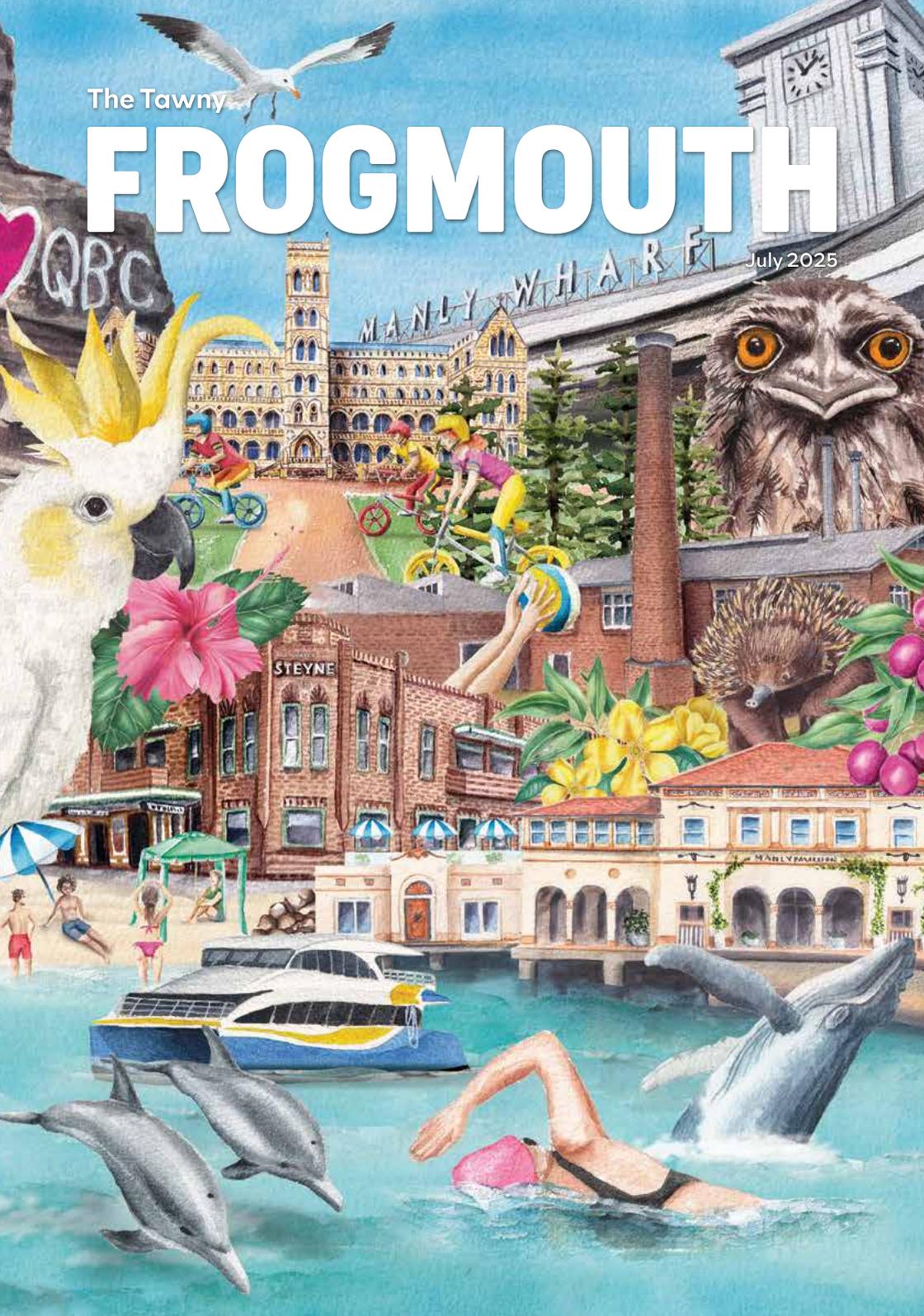


The Tawny

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G'day Beaches

Happy financial new year, we hope it's off to a prosperous start.

This month's cover artist is Quyen Hutchinson aka Mrs Frogmouth, bringing an array of Manly icons to life to celebrate our 50th edition.

Congratulations Jimmy Barnes, Letter of the Month winner, lamenting junk food behemoths' inability to conquer the Corso. And Lord Almighty, Caroline Faye wins Photo of the Month, perfectly capturing Easter's Good Friday Tommy Myers Queenie Bombie barrel of a lifetime.

Michael Regan MP outlines the latest developments at Northern Beaches Hospital. Meet your councillor, Bonnie Harvey. Get set for Night at the Barracks' triumphant fourth year with arguably their best line-up ever. Bergo's Sports Report looks into the Northern Beaches renaissance of big wave charging. Manly Wharf welcomes Felons Seafood. Brooky TAFE's carpentry teachers build the future. Krystal Bawl gets all tipsy. All this and lots more.

Stay warm.

Liam



The Tawny Frogmouth

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AUTUMN 2025

Wakehurst Matters

Some issues in Autumn's edition of Wakehurst Matters delivered to you:

- Housing Density only Possible with Bus Fix
- New Youth Mental Health Hub coming to Brookvale
- Defending Manly Dam
- Changes at our Public High Schools
- County Road Reserve needs an Upgrade
- Tackling Illegal Smoking Products
- Accessing Service NSW Rebates
- Food Organics Waste Collection

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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.



Lifeline CEO Sarah Grattan celebrates with fellow HUB enthusiasts



Frogmouths on holiday in Polignano

Peninsula Wash Up

PICO in Curly's family treasure

Congratulations to the entire PICO in Curly family, the 31 Brighton Street Curly café named by Sydney Morning Herald's Good Food as one of the best coffee spots for families. PICO could not be more deserving, with everything from the cubby house to the courtyard to the babyccinos to the Brazilian steak sambo's, this little café is loved by everyone big and small. If you've not yet been, take the kids and go to PICO.

The Vipers Lifeline HUB factor

Fantastic work Lifeline Northern Beaches with the recent opening of "THE HUB", Brooky's new destination for style and sustainability with pre-loved fashion, homewares, furniture, books, vintage collectibles and more. Open **10am - 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday at 14 Cross Street, Brookvale**. Every purchase directly supports Lifeline Northern Beaches' suicide prevention and mental health services. And some backstory of community power in action needs a mention. The Forrest Gump worshipping superstars at

Vipers Run Club came to the rescue with a series of events that really needs its own Australian Story documentary (series). Suffice to say, the Vipers network gifted priceless assistance with an entire range of DA, surveying, town planning, architectural, construction, and certifying services at cost or pro bono, ensuring Lifeline Northern Beaches' most ambitious project to date was set for success in record time. Vipers RC, legends.

Attention! Chefs, Creatives & Culinary Entrepreneurs

A once-in-a-lifetime space is now available at Manly's North Head. A Turnkey venue with everything you need: Fully operational commercial kitchen with premium appliances, utensils and prep space; Elegant communal dining setup with furniture and styling included; Certified 5-star health and hygiene rating; \$350,000 worth of quality assets included; Liquor licence already in place; Wheelchair-accessible venue with 2 large accessible bathrooms; Reverse-cycle air conditioning; High ceilings, polished floors,

and natural light throughout; Option to include website, digital platforms, and IP; Minutes from Manly; Free parking, and direct public transport. Cook, host, create. Interested? Email marie@rovinglarder.com.au or call 0410 733 278

The Italian Job

Please forgive the absence of our June edition. We did something rare, took to the skies, across international waters, and indulged in a 23-day Italian odyssey. A multi-generational family trip of a lifetime to celebrate Paige Turner's 70th birthday. We can safely report Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi was close to spot on when declaring, "You may have the world if I may have Italy." Giuseppe clearly never made it to the Northern Beaches. Poor fella. Apologies there was no mention of this in the May Tawny, but it was lovely to chat to so many who called or emailed to check all was ok when their June Frogmouth hadn't arrived. All was well indeed. Now rest assured, no more holidays for another 5 years!

Words: **Liam Carroll**

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Letters to The Tawny

LETTER OF THE MONTH

No Big Mac for Manly!

Dear Tawny, Jens Ward (May 2025), well-known local journalist, raconteur and agent provocateur, laments the loss of McDonalds, KFC, Dominoes and their ilk from the Manly CBD. So do I! Manly has become infested with so-called healthy food outlets offering their gluten-free quinoa, curcumin coffee, and smashed avocado options. Rubbish, say I!

Show me the proof that junk food does anything but deliver pleasure and fulfilment compared to its rabbit-food alternative. What experience is more Manly than sharing your Pluto Pup and fries with a cute little seagull at the oceanfront?

The sooner those community-spirited captains of industry who control the junk food behemoth regrow their spines, the sooner the deserving people of Manly will enjoy hot dogs, pizza, and hamburgers in blissful reverie by the salty, sandy shore. Kind regards,
James Barnes

Is Collaroy Cinema intentionally in decline?

After the clandestine closure of Manly Twin Cinema - under the guise of renovating to "digital" - I am concerned by the depressing demise of the once great Collaroy Cinema (now United).

Not long ago it was a great "uniter" for Northern Beaches' filmgoers who like variety and independent films. Maybe Roy Mustaca and his wife became so old and rich they literally couldn't care anymore.

My concern is that the heritage-listed Collaroy cinema has looked very dirty and deserted for ages. No one knows what's showing or when, there are no choc tops(!), no cash is allowed, no films really, no Facebook posts for 5 years, no responses to comments or questions. Are they dead?

I believe this intentional demise is a ploy to make the property unviable and unavailable and is for the purpose of private real estate profiteering. Who wins? Not the public. Maybe the Mustaca family?

I wonder if someone would like to take the management off their old hands and redevelop the reputation? Can you see the future? I can, 50+ apartments with the never to be interrupted view of the ocean intact, and the original heritage listed facade. Lots of dollars there, but none for the average Joe.

My humble vision: liven the darn scene up with imagination! Old films, new films, bargain nights of double features, short films, local films, cult films, bargain nights with popcorn deals, film festivals, controversial films with local analysis and opinion, film clubs, proper choc tops!!!

I'd love to hear any response as there has just been a total lack of any opinion so far as to this issue.

Jan Armstrong, Narrabeen
PS restaurants are everywhere around the cinema.

Historic Milestone for Labor in Warringah

Labor has achieved a historic milestone in the traditionally blue-ribboned electorate of Warringah.

For the first time in over a century Labor has outpolled the Liberals in the two party preferred count 54.5% to 45.5%

This result marks a significant

shift in the political landscape of the electorate. A majority of Warringah voters (54.5%) put the Liberals last, an outcome that reflects the growing dissatisfaction with the traditional conservative hold on Warringah. Labor also outperformed the Liberals in the Senate vote in several of the Warringah booths.

The evolving political landscape in Warringah has been evident since the election of Zali Steggall in 2019 and again in 2025. Many former Liberal voters who supported Steggall have since directed preferences to Labor contributing to a comprehensive defeat of the Liberal Party at both the federal and Senate levels.

It is clear the hard working voters of Warringah are demanding integrity, accountability and a new positive direction. The results of the past two elections reflect a growing momentum for change.

C. Richmond, Fairlight

All the Community asks is E-bike riders obey the rules

In reply to Scott (Bikes are the solution not the problem, May '25), the concern for many in the Community is the irresponsible riding, even reckless, by the popular Fat Boy E-bikes which are the preferred choice of younger riders, particularly school kids.

When challenged for either riding too fast on shared paths, or in areas where all bikes are banned such as The Corso, the reaction is usually one of abuse. It's the sense of entitlement that is both staggering and disrespectful.

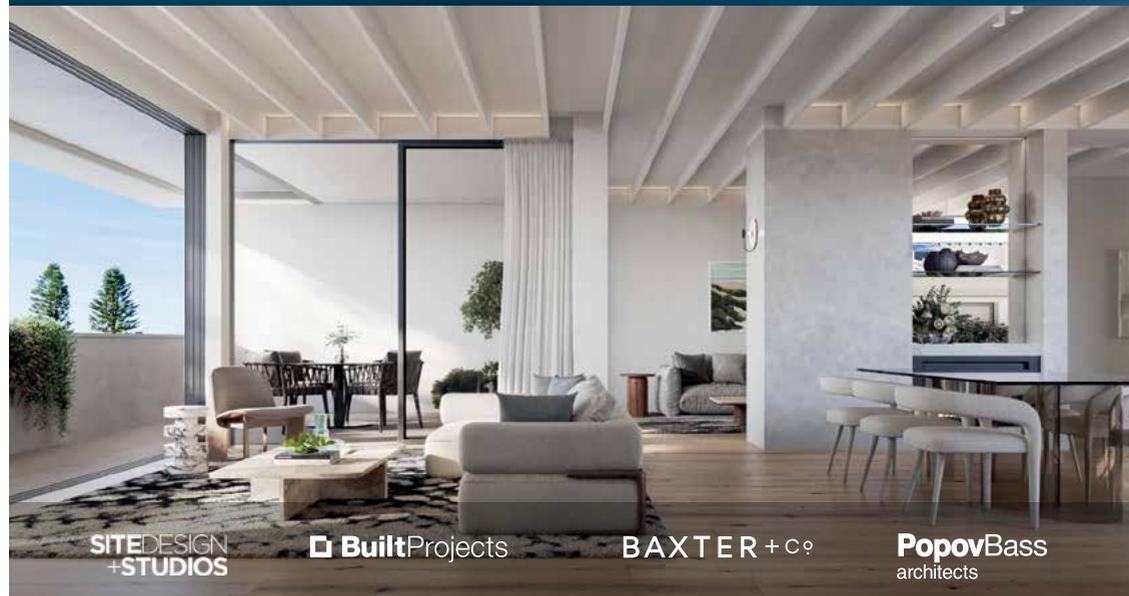
Sydney hospitals are reporting increased cases of injuries caused by E-bikes, with numbers increasing every year, as recently reported in the news. It is very common to see multi-



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ple passengers on E-bikes adding to the weight, which when traveling at speed, adds to the danger and injuries if hit.

Other Tawny readers have witnessed E-bikes ridden by school children speeding past them in school zones, with no policing. They are being ridden as if they are a motor bike, but with no licensing or insurance.

The NSW Government has been conducting a Parliamentary Enquiry into E-bikes/scooters to address Community concerns. It only confirms how serious this issue has become.

All the Community asks is for younger riders to respect the road rules and the people around them. These are not toys, and when ridden recklessly are very dangerous to both riders and pedestrians. Such actions are making people critical of E-bike riders, despite those, like Scott, who are using them responsibly.

Peter Fysh, Manly

Nighttime economy

Council's proposed 'Manly Special Entertainment Precinct' (SEP) is not suitable for the Manly community. If implemented the SEP will almost certainly increase the distressing number of alcohol-related assaults the Manly community currently suffers.

The 'Strategy' document prepared for Council by an independent consultant points out that the concentration or saturation level of licenced premises in an area is a risk factor for alcohol related harm, and that the level in the Manly CBD is extremely high compared to the rest of the Northern Beaches and to NSW generally. The strategy document goes on to say: "Rates for alcohol-related assaults are highly concerning in Manly and compare poorly to rates

across NSW and the Northern Beaches, consistently occurring roughly three times more frequently in Manly than NSW."

With such an appalling alcohol-related assault rate (and high crime rate more generally) Manly is clearly not a suitable place for a Night-Time Economy/Special Entertainment Precinct. And with the substantial expansion of licenced premises currently under way in the Manly CBD (Felons Micro Brewery, Espy's 'Al Fresco' bar etc) our community can expect alcohol related assaults to increase to even more appalling levels than those we currently experience.

Implementing Council's Plan would be extremely reckless and will tip Manly into a pre-lockdown version of Kings Cross: a dangerous, sleazy, infamous, unsafe crime hotspot. Our tarnished reputation will turn-off potential visitors and be an embarrassment for residents.

Ron Burns, Manly Corso

The \$215 billion gas giveaway

Many Australians were shocked to see Albo launch into his second term by trying to outdo Honest John's 2002 "worst deal ever done" but here we are, 2025, and Albo's giving away \$215 billion in royalty-free gas for Woodside's North West Shelf project.

If serious about climate change, what are you doing, Albo? If serious about not bankrupting the country, what on Earth are you doing, Albo?!

Col Pusha, Wheeler Hts

Non-resident revenue potential

In response to "Get the facts on the Special Variation to rates application" in the April Tawny, I am staggered that Council won't look for opportunities to increase revenues from

non-ratepayers!

The Northern Beaches are visited by many from afar who come to enjoy the area, use our facilities and leave. These visitors may generate some revenue for local business, but shouldn't they pay to use our beautiful amenities, beaches and associated facilities?

I propose for more paid street parking for non-residents. A visit to our beautiful beaches on any sunny day will have our carparks and surrounding streets overflowing with those eager to enter the water. Residents with stickers are happy to navigate the rage in the car park but non-residents prefer not to pay and will take a space on a nearby street.

If additional parking meters were installed within close proximity to the beach, then non-ratepayers would still have access to our beautiful amenities, but they would also contribute to the cost of maintenance. Those with a council sticker park free - well, free less the cost of your rates and the fact that we live in one of the most expensive LGA's in one of the world's most expensive cities.

This common sense approach to pay for access to these amenities should be implemented from Manly to Palm Beach, and at other popular areas where non-ratepayers regularly visit. This approach would be in line with other councils who charge like wounded bulls for parking. Best case - more revenue for Council. Worse case - less visitors to our overcrowded beaches.

David, North Curl Curl

Housing affordability

Harry Chemay from Michael West Media provides more than sufficient evidence to illustrate how housing affordability has dropped through the floor and




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the effect of the huge amount of money that is tied up in residential property rather than productive investments. While both Labor and the Coalition are prepared to attempt to do something on the supply side by building more dwellings, neither of them is prepared to do something about reducing the attractiveness of housing as an investment. This is understandable when one has a cursory look at the number of properties they own. As at October, Labor ministers Tony Burke and Brendan O'Connor owned 6 each, Gavin Pearce and Andrew Willcox of the Liberals 5, and even Mehreen Faruqi and Nick McKim of the Greens 4. It is no wonder that the former head of Treasury, Ken Henry, has said that young Australians are the victims of "wilful acts of bastardry" from governments, voters and powerful vested interests.

Peter Nash, Fairlight

Arterial blockages

Hiya Tawny, McDonald's currently has an application for a 5am to midnight fast food outlet on the corner of Manly Vale's Roseberry St and Kenneth Rd - already one of the Beaches' worst locations for sanity-challenging gridlock - and if any of Tawny's long-suffering ratepayers feel they want to oppose, submissions are now closed! Don't you McLove that?

I remember when the Buntings/Woolworths application was being addressed, Manly council commissioned a traffic survey company - at ratepayers' cost of approximately \$5K - to produce a report that concluded the intersections of Roseberry St, Balgowlah Rd and Condamine St, and congestion of Roseberry St, would not be impacted by large scale businesses in the area. D'oh!! That

turned out to be quite the \$5K furphy.

Let's hope council think of ratepayers first and global conglomerates second on this one as it brings a new meaning to "arterial blockage", gridlocked getting to your new burger joint. Fries with that?

Tony Jeckeln

Potholes

I wonder whether the newly elected Federal Members for Mackellar and Warringah (and the relatively newly elected Member for Pittwater) might actively prevail upon the Northern Beaches Council and Transport for NSW to (permanently) fix the multitude of potholes on the major arteries to and from the Peninsula.

It's good news that funding has been promised for Phase 2 of Mona Vale Road, but that very road is currently impassable in places and dangerous. Some drivers simply slow to a crawl, suddenly swerve and focus on the quality of the road surface rather than concentrating on driving along that very busy road. The same applies to Wakehurst Parkway, Barrenjoey Road and Pittwater Road.

Enough virtue signalling 'Pollies', please address the immediate problem.

Bruce, Bilgola

The end is coming for Net Zero

G'day Liam! Great news, I have an assistant "Big T" who is proving invaluable with his research and information. Example: Climate Cult recently published that 2024 was the hottest year on record. The Climitites puffed their chests, "Told you so". I hate to disappoint, but 1880 global average temperature was exactly

the same. Two people obsessed with the cult's predictions - Alan Marel and Anonymous - seem completely overwhelmed with the cost of fossil fuel subsidies and nuclear energy. Funny how they never mention the predicted \$28B for the poles and wires to connect the wind and solar farms across Oz.

On to more depressing things for Climitites. Germany is going back to nuclear and walking back its Net Zero targets in order to save the country from complete economic ruin as is Finland and Sweden. China, India, and Russia never had any targets - three of the big four polluters of the world - the other being USA which has walked away from the Paris Agreement. We should join the US and dump this farcical organisation of money grabbers.

Last piece of homework: Contemplate the Codrington Wind Farm in Victoria (oldest wind farm in Australia) closing in 2027. The owners, Pacific Blue, have deemed "recharging the turbines as too expensive". So, who pays for the clean-up and disposal of these monstrosities? The taxpayer! NOT Pacific Blue. Renewables are cheaper! Excuse me, what's that oinking in the sky?

Mark (Robbo) Roberts

The name doesn't say it all

Whimsical thought. Broken Bay Brewery isn't at Broken Bay. Bucketty's isn't at Bucketty. Freshwater Brewing isn't at Freshwater. Nomads has never moved - as far as I recall. Goodradigbee isn't at Goodradigbee. Only leaves 7th Day and Dad & Dave's. Happy to say all the beers are good!

Nick Lawther

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



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Tips for being friends with your ex?

While separation is always hard on kids, they're pretty resilient. What kids can't cope with is ongoing exposure to the conflict between you and your ex. Important events for your kids such as birthdays, graduations, weddings and eventually the birth of grandchildren shouldn't be marred by your inability to get on with your ex. So...

1. Do some post separation counselling to learn strategies for co-parenting in a positive way.
2. Don't sweat the small stuff. Forgetting to bring back little Johnny's hat isn't the end of the world and there are few Australians who have managed to completely escape sunburn despite best intentions.
3. Communicate with your ex in a civil way despite how you're feeling, especially in front of the children. This will become a habit and help to improve your relationship.
4. Stand on the sideline together to cheer your kids on in their endeavours - presenting a united front to your children has immeasurable benefits for their welfare.

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Co-hosting the Northern Beaches Hospital Community Forum

Michael Regan MP Winter update

Regular readers of my communications know I have been eagerly awaiting the release of the **NSW Auditor General's report into Northern Beaches Hospital**. Since becoming your State MP in March 2023, my office has received many formal and informal complaints from staff and the community about our local hospital.

My team and I were unable to get satisfactory answers from NSW Health and Healthscope, so we formally requested the NSW Auditor General undertake a performance audit of the state's only public private partnership for acute medical services. You can read the report on my website michaelreganmp.com

The release of the sobering report coincided with the financial demise of the hospital's operating company, which has recently called in the receivers. The situation is evolving rapidly, but I am **working with the government to untangle this mess and return the hospital to public ownership**.

On 14th May, nearly 500 concerned citizens gathered to finally hear the truth about our local public hospital. With the

Member for Pittwater, I was pleased to co-host the NSW Treasurer and Health Minister at a **community forum at Dee Why RSL**.

The Health Minister said clearly that the New South Wales Government is **doing everything it can to return public services at Northern Beaches Hospital back to public hands**. He said: "The NSW Treasurer and I have **made a decision to try and right a wrong**. It's not going to be easy but we can get there. This is a model of health care that no longer works. From my perspective it's a model that doesn't deliver benefits to the community in a way a public hospital does."

I was also pleased to hear the Health Minister say, "We are not in the game of reducing services at the Northern Beaches Hospital and we will **make sure it is a properly funded hospital**."

I was pleased the shadow Minister for Health attended the forum and **apologised to the community for the previous Liberal Government's decision to close the Manly and Mona Vale public hospitals**

and place essential public health services in the hands of a listed private company where, not surprisingly, profit has been the dominant consideration.

The work of exposing what has happened at the hospital and charting a course forward continues through the **NSW Parliamentary Inquiry**. Submissions closed on 20 May. I am a member of the **Public Accounts Committee** conducting the inquiry and look forward to examining the evidence and contributing to the final report, which will include recommendations to the NSW Government.

In order to remove a significant barrier to the return of our Northern Beaches Hospital to public ownership, I was pleased to introduce **The Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025** to parliament on 8 May.

My bill removes this barrier, by specifying that no compensation will be payable on the voluntary termination of the contract by the state. In doing so, it moves us a step towards what the people of the Northern Beaches deserve, what the staff at the Northern Beaches Hospital deserve: **a not-for-profit local public hospital**.

We are hopeful for a resolution to the hospital's ownership and future operating model within the next few months. Keep an eye on my social media and e-newsletter for updates.

Words: **Michael Regan MP**, State Member for Wakehurst

Please visit my website michaelreganmp.com, sign up for my e-newsletter and follow me on Facebook and Instagram. We love hearing from you, so please engage!

Authorised by Michael Regan MP. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

Meet Your Councillors

Bonnie Harvey, Manly Ward

What's your earliest memory of the Beaches? Doing nippers and wondering *why* we had to run on sand and *why* we had to chase a piece of hose.

Who inspires you? Multi-dimensional artists, especially musicians. I cried watching Amyl and the Sniffers in concert earlier this year. Amy Taylor used the platform to speak on violence against women and educate her crowd that Invasion Day (the concert was on January 25th) is a day of mourning for many. Being able to yell and dance to lyrics that align with my soul just takes me to another level.

What do you do in the real world? I run my own tutoring company and study at Sydney Uni.

When did you decide to run for Council? April 2024

What motivated you to run? I've loved (to hate) politics for years. I felt ready to get in there and shake things up.

What have been the biggest challenges? SR.V. (Special Rate Variation) Absolute trial by fire. **What have been your greatest triumphs?** I was stoked that my 'Too Many Corflutes' rap was received so well by the community. I'm thrilled at the prospect of continuing to use creativity to make politics more accessible and exciting for everyday people. I was also pleased that my first Notice of Motion calling on the State Government to halt the changes at Freshie Senior got up, though that battle is far from over.



Bonnie's first view of her corflutes

How can residents best engage with Council? Follow my Insta @bon4manly, sign up to Council's mailing lists and pester the Councillors via email.

What words of wisdom do you live by? "The true mind can weather all the lies and illusions without being lost. The true heart can tough the poison of hatred without being harmed. Since beginningless time darkness thrives in the void, but always yields to purifying light."



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One of the epic moments captured at 2024's Night at the Barracks

Music & Entertainment

Night at the Barracks returns for a triumphant fourth year

This September, Manly's award-winning event organisers, co-founders of Second Sunday, Cam Coghlan and Brendan Maher, along with a star-studded, all-Aussie line-up of unbridled talent will celebrate Night at the Barracks' 4th birthday. The epic month-long concert series that transforms North Head into an outdoor live music arena will also expand its offering in 2025, entertaining our compatriots north of state lines with Night at the Parkland coming to Brisbane.

"We are proud to be able to showcase to audiences in Sydney and Brisbane a quality all-Australian artist line-up that showcases the true depth of musical talent in this country," says Brendan. "This not only includes our brilliant headliners but also a great roster of support artists that will grace our stages across the series."

Discussing the new Night at the Parkland, Brisbane series, Cam adds, "We're absolutely thrilled to build on the incredible success in Manly and bring

the magic to Brisbane. Pairing a stunning, iconic venue with world-class artists and a premium experience - we can't wait."

The breathtaking concert series under the stars will feature performances from some of the country's finest: **ICEHOUSE**, **Amy Shark**, **James Johnston**, **Grinspoon's 30th Birthday Bonanza**, **Cut Copy** with guest **KLP** and **Lime Cordiale** for both North Head and Brisbane events. **Missy Higgins**, **Kate Ceberano: Australian Made**, **Hoodoo Gurus: 40th anniversary of Mars Needs Guitars**, **Ian Moss and Mark Seymour**, **Furnace and The Fundamentals 15th Anniversary Celebration** and **Yesterday's Gone: The Fleetwood Mac Legacy** for North Head, whilst **Xavier Rudd** rounds out the programme for Brisbane.

With the historic Barracks Precinct forming an integral part of Australian history, Cam and Brendan are once again honoured to be able to share this event series with the

music loving general public at such an iconic location. Together with the event's major partners, they are more committed than ever to pursuing environmental sustainability, actively seeking and integrating progressive green initiatives, working towards redefining eco-consciousness within Australian events. From reusable aluminium cups and merchandise made from 100% recycled materials to waste management and powering the site from 100% renewable energy, minimising carbon footprint is at the core of all of the team's planning and execution.

"We are excited to welcome visitors to experience the historic Barracks Precinct transformed into an open-air concert hall," says Janet Carding, Executive Director of the Harbour Trust. Northern Beaches Mayor Sue Heins adds, "It is great to see Night at the Barracks back again at such an iconic location on the Northern Beaches. Council is proud to continue its support of this popular event which brings so many people to the area, introducing them to our stunning area while boosting the local economy and supporting local businesses. This year's line-up is looking amazing. What an incredible opportunity for our community, family, friends and visitors to experience world-class music under the stars this September and October."

Secure your tickets now, visit nightatthebarracks.com.au to see Australia's finest live music talent here in Manly. Follow [@nightatthebarracks](https://www.instagram.com/nightatthebarracks) on socials for all updates.

Words: **Liam Carroll**

Night at THE BARRACKS

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ICEHOUSE



SUN 14 SEP
KATE CEBERANO
AUSTRALIAN MADE



FRI 19 SEP
HOODOO GURUS



SAT 20 SEP
LIME CORDIALE



SUN 21 SEP
AMY SHARK
SONGS & STORIES



FRI 26 SEP
IAN MOSS & MARK SEYMOUR



SAT 27 SEP
FURNACE AND THE FUNDAMENTALS



SUN 28 SEP
YESTERDAY'S GONE
THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY



FRI 3 OCT
JAMES JOHNSTON



SAT 4 OCT
GRINSPOON



SUN 5 OCT
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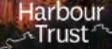
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TEMPUS TWO



Revealed: Google Australia's \$6 billion black hole

Champions League tax dodger Google Australia is up to its usual tricks.

The Google Australia financial statements for 2024 are out and display the usual accounting chicanery by the tech giant and its auditors from EY. The group reported revenue of \$1.98B for the year. But is that all? Is that all the company made by selling advertising and so forth?

No, this is a \$10B company masquerading as a \$2B company. The accounting is a sham because Google discloses way down in the back of its notes to the accounts that it siphoned out \$8.2B in 'service fees' to associates of its parent company Alphabet.

They used to disclose in the Revenue Note what their actual revenue was but don't bother with these annoying compliance obligations any more. You can only get an idea of their real revenue by delving into the Related Party Transactions note down the back.

Tax payable was \$83M, which sounds like a lot, but when you consider the group probably made \$10B selling advertising services and what not; and when you consider that the real profit margins must be immense because this is really just a bunch of guys with computers and desks, it amounts to belly-button fluff.

To be fair, there should be some transfer of intellectual property value ... but \$8.21B? An increase of \$1B on the previous year? That's just robbery.

They flog advertising for Australian products and services in Australia to Australian customers on Australian computers.

The government doesn't help, mind you. Thanks to its silly Digital Media Bargaining Code 'reforms' – basically an extortion racket which funnels Google cash to media mates News Corp, Nine Entertainment and others – Google Australia must surely claim the Code payments as a tax deductible cost of doing business.

We have asked them this – no joy there. It is reasonable to conclude then that the public is subsidising this racket to prop up Rupert and the likes. Google pays media moguls more than it pays in tax.

Interestingly, the group discloses that it employed 2,190 people in 2024. As total employee benefits expense came it at \$990M for the year (covering wages, super, share-based payments



Want to minimise your tax? Claim \$8.2B in service fees

and short-term bonuses) this equates to an average cost per employee of \$452,200 apiece.

Whether that is a true representation of how much Google's desk jockeys are paid, who knows? As with all multinational tax avoiders, the trick is to bulk up the costs as much as possible in Australia and get the money out to places where the corporate income tax is lower, such as Singapore, the US and the Caribbean.

And they do this year after year, mostly via 'service fees' but also by piling up other costs as much as they can, even giving their foreign associates loans on which tax free interest is paid.

When you think about it there is no compelling reason for a monopoly like Google, which spits out large licks of cash daily, to be borrowing money from offshore ... apart from gouging a little extra on the tax front. But that's multinationals for you.

Good old EY (formerly Ernst & Young) charged \$599,000 for its auditing services in 2024, a 68.7% increase from the \$355,000 paid in 2023. But it gets an indemnity also from Google so ... why bother having an auditor anyway, if it's a case of all care and no accountability?

Such is life in multinational tax avoidance land. By the way, has anybody noticed how when you use Google Maps to drive about town, they direct you onto toll-roads when they can. Seems there may be some deal with toll-road operator Transurban. Anyone?

Words: **Michael West & Joshua Barnett,**
Michael West Media

Photo: Google



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Big stick energy

Good Friday this year started like any other for Freshwater local and renowned 'charger' Tommy Myers. Heading out for an Easter weekend surf unaware he was about to paddle into the wave of his life (and into local folklore) after riding what is being called one of the biggest tube rides in Sydney. EVER.

Battling a sinus infection, Myers had every intention to play it safe on the day, but destiny had other plans. The Queenscliff Bombora delivered a rare wave with Myers in prime position. Navigating the bottom turn, he was thrust into the perfect line and held on to be spat out of the monstrous pit to rapturous applause on the headland and from his mates in the water.

"The stars just aligned. I didn't expect it to happen, that's for sure. I was digging my toes in and all I could hear was my mate 'Jonesy' (Sam Jones) screaming, I couldn't see a thing."

The moment was a real exclamation mark on a big wave surfing revival that has captured the imagination of the local community, and the surfing world is taking notice.

On Surfline's Instagram account, Myers' Good Friday bomb attracted comments from the likes of Kelly Slater, Nathan Florence, Shaun Thomson, and Tom Carroll just to name a few. Playing down the fanfare Myers found it all a bit surreal. "It's not what we do it for but a few pats on the back always feel nice from a couple of your heroes and people that inspire you for sure."

Surfers like Myers and his mate Sam Jones have been pushing the boundary during some incredible swells that have hit the peninsula in consecutive seasons. Most of the action has been featured around two local breaks: 'Deadmans' around from the Bower on Shelly Beach headland and the Queenscliff Bombora, the 'Bombie'.

Whilst these two waves are no secret to generations of local surfers, the advancement of drone video technology and social media has these two breaks attaining a newfound global recognition.

"Historically, I think they've been super underrated. It obviously depends on who you talk to but Deadmans from a technical perspective requires the full skill set. It would be one of the trickiest waves to surf in the world, there is just a lot to navigate".



Tommy Myers on the wave of his life, cheered on by Sam Jones. Queenscliff Bombora, Easter Friday.



Sam Jones expertly taming a Deadmans beast, 2024.

Myers and Jones have surfed everywhere, locally and abroad, but the beauty of surfing some of the best waves of their lives in their own backyard has a unique appeal. "That's what's so special, you travel all around the world and end up getting the wave of your life somewhere where I can sit on the end of my bed at home and pretty much see that wave".

Follow Tommy @[tom_myers](#) and Sam @ [jonceeeena](#) on socials to keep up to date with their charging exploits, as well as Aloha Manly's @[_waveofthewinter_](#) where \$1,000 is up for grabs for this year's Wave of the Winter. Sam won last year while Tommy's monster Bombie barrel looks untouchable for now, and decades to come.

Words: **Anthony Bergelin**

Photo: Caroline Faye, IG@itscaroline_art

Photo: Craig Brokensha, IG@craigbrokensha

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Aged Care

Lessons from the front lines

Two decades of retirement complexity

After more than 20 years studying Australian retirement planning, I recently ran seminars in local libraries to revisit the challenges I've explored for decades. The experience was both validating and eye-opening, particularly the composition of my audiences: not just retirees, but a surprisingly large number of their adult children - many pre-retirees themselves - struggling to make sense of the complicated web of rules their parents face.

What Hasn't Changed

People remain overwhelmed by more than 50 entitlements, rebates, and programs tied to age pension eligibility, a mammoth task that becomes critical as cost-of-living pressures mount. The Home Equity Access Scheme continues to be widely misunderstood, while looming nursing home cost changes from 1 July generate the same polite disinterest until the issue becomes personally urgent.

New Challenges Emerge

What I underestimated was the pervasive fear of fraud now shadowing every financial decision for older Australians - a significant barrier to engaging with legitimate support services. I also hadn't grasped how the complexity burden has shifted to adult children, who want technology solutions, checklists, and dashboards rather than lengthy explanations.

The Scale of the Challenge

The numbers tell a compelling story about the magnitude of what we're dealing with. In the Northern Beaches alone, with a population of around 270,000, approximately 20,000 people receive the age pension and 10,000 hold Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards. This means roughly one in nine residents is actively navigating the complex web of government systems and payments I've been describing.

The seniors housing landscape is equally striking: 2,500 aged care beds and an astonishing 3,700 retirement village units, with more being built. These figures underscore that this isn't a niche issue, it's a substantial portion of our community grappling with major life transitions and financial decisions.



Simplifying the search for all you are entitled to

The Persistent Housing Challenge

Against this backdrop, seniors housing remains fraught territory. Questions have evolved beyond "Will I need aged care?" to encompass timing, costs, location, and interim steps - home care packages, retirement villages - creating what one participant called "a blanket of fear." The scale of local infrastructure points to thousands of families simultaneously navigating these changes. In our rush to build industry superstructures, we've lost sight of simple navigation aids that could dramatically improve outcomes.

Moving Forward

These sessions reminded me why I became passionate about these issues. The system has become more complicated and more prone to exploitation, with government encompassing multiple agencies using confusing terminology. The experience re-energized my focus on making information more accessible and actionable for real families trying to make the best decisions they can.

We are going to do more of these free presentations as a great way to gauge what people are concerned about and share some of the work we have been doing for more than 20 years. Sign up on our website (under Upcoming Events) if you would like to be kept informed.



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Words: **Brendan Ryan**

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An advertisement for Brookvale Stainless. It features a white van with the company name and logo on the side, parked on a street. In the background, there is a bridge and a building. The text includes the company name, address (17 Chard Road, Brookvale), and contact information. A promotional offer is also mentioned: "Mention this Ad for 10% off your first order up to \$1500 (New Customers Only)".

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Felons Seafood arrives to Manly Cove

Manly Wharf Bavarian served its last Jäger Schnitty, Mango Hefe and Knoblauch Brot back in late January. Before you could blink, the München outpost was boarded up, the venue quickly hidden from the summer rays to bask in swirling rumours of what the Artemus Group – owners of the Manly Wharf precinct since April 2024 – would do with the treasured harbour front site blessed with the picture-perfect sunset views.

Well, swirl no more, and prepare for Felons Seafood, a new seafood-focused dining room and bar opening late June, promising a relaxed, produce-driven dining experience celebrating the best of Australia's oceans and coastlines, and led by *Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Guide* 2025 young chef of the year, Luke Bourke. A proud Palawa man, born on Darug Country, and alumnus of the National Indigenous Culinary Institute, Luke has spent the past decade honing his craft as an apprentice through to sous chef at Rockpool Bar & Grill Sydney, one of Australia's most respected fine dining institutions.

The venue will combine the laid-back energy of Felons Brewing Co. with a refined yet approachable menu, designed by Bourke in collaboration with former Rockpool Culinary Director Corey Costelloe. Reunited at Felons Seafood, together they bring extensive experience and a shared dedication to showcasing premium Australian seafood.

"We're thrilled to have Luke Bourke lead the kitchen at Felons Seafood," said Adam Flaskas, co-founder and director of Artemus Group and Felons Brewing Co. "His experience and vision will bring a fresh perspective to the seafood scene in Manly, and we look forward to offering locals and visitors a place to enjoy fresh, simple and high-quality seafood right on Sydney Harbour."

Focused on responsibly sourced Australian seafood, paired with Felons' signature brews and a curated list of crisp wines and coastal cocktails, Felons Seafood will offer a seasonal menu featuring raw bar favourites, whole grilled fish, and reimagined seafood classics – highlighting Bourke's contemporary style and Indigenous heritage, alongside Costelloe's simple, produce-driven approach and commitment to using best-in-class local produce, all served with an ocean breeze and views across



Felons Seafood team of Adam Flaskas, Corey Costelloe, Dean Romeo, and Luke Bourke

Sydney Harbour.

"I'm excited to be back working alongside Corey to bring this vision to life," said Bourke. "Our goal for Felons Seafood is to showcase honest flavours and exceptional produce in a thoughtful yet approachable way. We'll be working closely with local fishers and growers to keep the menu fresh, simple, and grounded in the best of what our local waters and producers have to offer."

"Felons Seafood represents an exciting new chapter for Felons Brewing Co.," says Brand Director, Dean Romeo. "We're continuing our commitment to community-focused hospitality by creating a space that reflects the laid-back spirit of the Australian coastline. Positioned on the edge of picturesque Manly Cove, it's a place you can perch up for a drink and a light snack or settle in for a lunch or dinner to remember."

And how to keep Manly's iconic yet opportunistic seagulls with a hearty penchant for fish and chip delights from pinching everyone's tucker? Felons has enlisted the niche but essential services of Seagull Patrol to keep patron's Seafood safe from beaky local swoopers. They'll have to focus on more gull-ible targets on the Corso.

Opening late June, **Felons Seafood** celebrates fresh Australian seafood, nestled in the heart of Manly Cove. Follow **@felonsseafood** for all updates.

Words: **The Tawny Nightjar**

Photo: Steven Woodburn

FELONS Seafood



OPENING JUNE 2025
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felonsseafood.com.au



Mrs Frogmouth in her favourite painting spot

Cover Artist

Quyen Hutchinson

This month's cover artist is WA's finest ever export to Sydney, the creative mastermind behind all facets of the Tawny's design, my partner in life, parenting and publishing, Mrs Frogmouth.

How long have you lived on the Northern Beaches? I moved to Fairlight from Perth 14 years ago, and haven't looked back. I had a brief stint living in Freshwater, but it's Fairlight where I feel most at home.

If you had to live anywhere else in the world, where would the second-best place be?

My fantasy self would love to live somewhere quaint, European and steeped in history. Somewhere warm, somewhere picturesque. A villa in Italy would be lovely. As would a (small) chateau in the south of France.

What inspired your cover? The cover is a cornucopia of the sights and associations of my local area. It's the things I see, the sights I walk past, the places I go and some of the unique wildlife we are so lucky to live amongst.

How would you describe your art? My illustration style is lively, colourful, accessible and fun. I enjoy a maximalist and chaotic aesthetic which finds its way into my style. It certainly has into this cover.

Do you have a favourite part of the process? My illustrations are painted in watercolour as individual pieces that I scan and add to a library of assets to use in photoshop. My favourite part is watching the paint hit the page. There is something so satisfying about watching the colours blend and slowly soak in. Like a lot of people, I spend the majority of my work week on the computer and in front of screens. Working with a fluid, analog, sometimes unpredictable medium like watercolour is the polar opposite. It's meditative and helps me reset.

Are you inspired by certain themes, ideas, and locations? Aside from being directly influenced by my local

environment, I will often turn to history when in need of inspiration. William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement more generally is a fountain of inspiration for botanical patterns and motifs. I really enjoy Chinoiserie design, especially the fabulous hand-painted wallpapers that are so busy with plants and wildlife. More recently I have been inspired by the ancient Roman frescoes and wall paintings I saw on a recent trip to Italy.

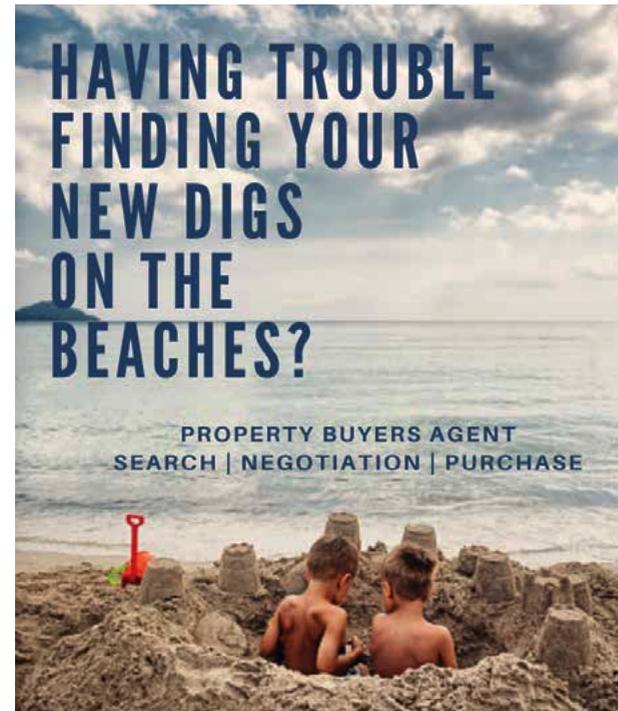
Which inspiring people would you most like to have dinner with and why? Anyone who has a side hustle, and who has made a drastic mid-life career change to follow their passion. Especially if they are parents. The struggle to juggle is real!

Did you study art? The high-school I attended had a specialist art program which I was part of through to year 12. After graduation I studied Commerce at Uni but quickly lost interest and veered back onto a more creative pathway, studying a Bachelor of Design at Billy Blue in Sydney.

What are you currently working on? I work full time as a Digital / UX designer at SBS, and The Tawny Frogmouth mag keeps me busy out of office hours. The goal moving forward is to start widening my portfolio of illustration work, and sharing more of what I create.

How can people support your art? If you'd like to see more of my work, check out my Instagram @mrsfrogmouth and if you'd like to work with me please send me an email at quyen@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au

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Photo: Kayyapa Creative Studio

Local Glass Magic

Mai Oshima is an artist who has brought the beauty of glass art to Brookvale over the last seven years. She says, "I view glass as a mystical natural material. It seems solid, but with heat transforms into a flowing liquid. It is a sensitive medium where you need to follow what the glass wants to do and to gently guide it." She believes there is always something new to learn with glass, and so many different techniques to explore. After 25 years working with this material, Mai is still passionate about the magic of glass.

The ocean and local beaches where she surfs provide inspiration for her art practice: "I see a deep connection between glass and water."

Both are fluid and reflective, and both can transform light in beautiful, unexpected ways." The colours, shapes and feel of her designs come from the ocean.

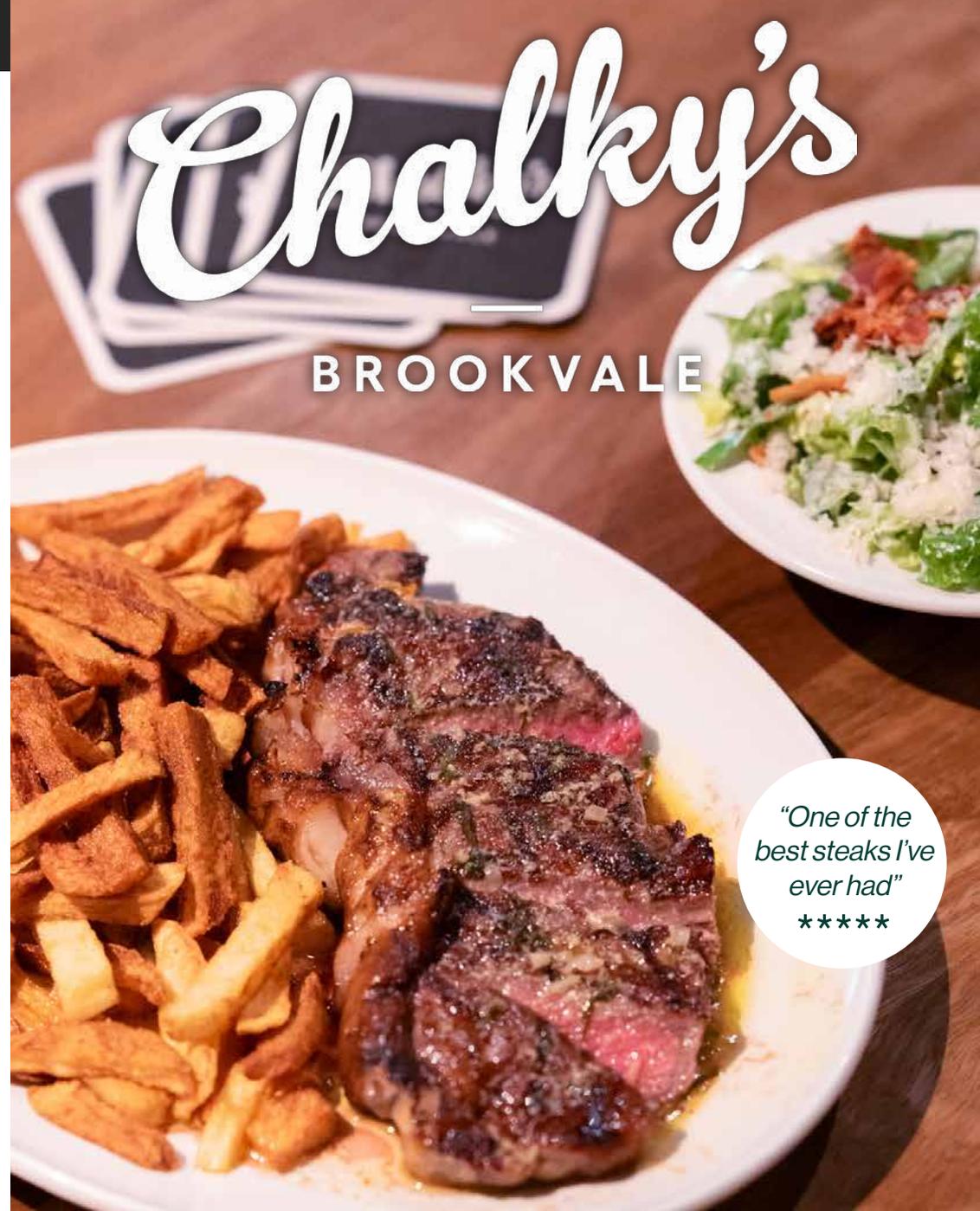
Mai holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in Glass from a university in Japan. Her major was glass blowing, but she also studied kiln work and cold working techniques. After graduating she worked as a glass teacher. On the Northern Beaches her work includes creating glass-blown pendants for a local company and she also sells her handmade glass jewellery at Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Mosman Art Gallery and at local artisan markets.

Education still plays a big part in Mai's activities as she loves sharing her knowledge and experience with others at her frameworking workshops. In her 2.5-hour one-off workshops, participants create their own colourful glass beads, then turn them into a necklace, bracelet, or keyring to take home. For those who want to deepen their skills, her 5-week course focuses on different aspects of bead making, tailored to the students' skill levels and interests. Funded by an Arts & Creativity Grant from Northern Beaches Council, she is launching a new series of stained glass workshops starting in August. Participants will be able to create their own stained glass sun catcher or panel using their own designs and colour choices.

Mai has recently relocated her studio from Brookvale to Warriewood, so thankfully she remains a local and stays close to her muse, the ocean.

Further details:
maimaiglass.com
[@maimaiglass](https://www.instagram.com/maimaiglass)

Words: Doug Clark



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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.

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July 2025 Tide Chart

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 0005 1.67 0651 0.55 1303 1.38 1842 0.78	2 0049 1.53 0730 0.60 1353 1.40 1941 0.82	3 0138 1.41 0810 0.63 1443 1.44 2048 0.84	4 0234 1.32 0851 0.66 1534 1.49 2200 0.81	5 0337 1.26 0937 0.68 1625 1.55 2307 0.76	6 0440 1.23 1024 0.69 1713 1.61
7 0002 0.68 0538 1.24 1111 0.68 1758 1.68	8 0049 0.60 0630 1.25 1157 0.67 1840 1.74	9 0130 0.53 0715 1.28 1240 0.65 1921 1.80	10 0209 0.48 0757 1.30 1322 0.62 2001 1.85	11 0247 0.43 0837 1.33 1403 0.59 2041 1.89	12 0326 0.40 0918 1.35 1446 0.57 2121 1.91	13 0404 0.38 1000 1.38 1531 0.56 2202 1.89
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- New moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter

Info: Bureau of Meteorology Tidal Centre Photo: Tracey Louise



EMBRACE YOUR AGE - ONE WAVE AT A TIME!



“At Manly Surf School, we’ve taught hundreds of kids and young adults to ride waves,” explains Matt Grainger, Owner of Manly Surf School and High Performance Surf Coach. “Silver Surfers has been one of our most rewarding programs yet. Our instructors love the challenge of adapting techniques for older bodies, and the smiles we get in return are contagious.”

Participants often credit the program with improvements that ripple into daily life: steadier walking, fewer falls, and renewed motivation to stay active. Equally important, they report deeper social bonds—weekly check-ins, post-surf café chats, and group outings that have become a highlight of their calendars.

As the Silver Surfers program rolls into its next season come September, MWP are already dreaming up new ways to expand the programs reach. “For us to continue the Silver Surfers journey on the Northern Beaches **we need sponsorship!** Every year, more older adults tell us they feel invisible—but out here, they’re the stars of the show. We can’t wait to welcome them back to the waves.”

With its blend of adventure, wellness, and community spirit, Silver Surfers is proof that some of life’s greatest pleasures—and benefits—are ageless. Whether you’re catching your first small swell or celebrating a decade of surf, it’s never too late to make a splash.

When MWP Community Care launched its Silver Surfers initiative earlier this year, the goal was simple: bring older adults back into the ocean and show them that age is no barrier to fun, fitness, and friendship. Based on Sydney’s Northern Beaches, the program pairs participants with experienced instructors from Manly Surf School, providing everything from body board basics to gentle wave riding—all in a safe, supportive environment.

For many participants, the experience goes far beyond learning a new skill. “Watching our clients’ faces light up when they catch a wave is absolutely priceless,” says Chloe Feris, Head of Operations and Communications for MWP Community Care. “This isn’t just about exercise—it’s about restoring confidence, sparking joy, and reminding people that they are still more capable than they think at their age and still have so much to explore.”

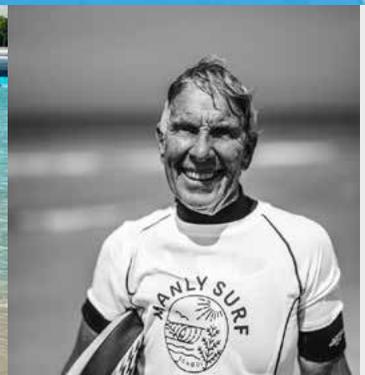
Indeed, research shows that balance, core strength, and social connection are critical factors in healthy ageing. The Silver Surfers sessions address all three at once: the physical challenge of bodyboarding builds muscle mass and coordination, while sharing high-fives on the shoreline fosters camaraderie and combats isolation.

[@silversurfersnb](#) [@mwpcommunitycare](#)



THE SILVER SURFERS NEED SPONSORS!!!!
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THANKS TO MWP...
I'VE STILL GOT IT!



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What exactly is "Passive House"? An international building standard developed for low energy consumption using high performance building materials and techniques.

How did Passive House get your attention?

When I first arrived in Sydney from Canada, I couldn't believe how cold the inside of the homes were. Having always been interested in different building techniques, I soon discovered Passive House, then learning how best to implement this approach for my residential, commercial, and heritage restoration projects.

Is there a formal Passive House Accreditation?

Yes, I gained my Certification from the PassivHaus Institut (PHI) in Germany - the organisation overseeing everything with PassivHaus globally. I'm also a member of the Australian PassivHaus Association. Continuing education is essential.

What are the core essentials to understand when thinking about a "Passive House"?

A Passive House is designed for your home's unique local climate, which can vary from Seaforth to Brookvale to Terrey Hills to Avalon. Then at the core of the Passive House process is the belief that energy efficiency, environmental responsibility, and indoor comfort are paramount. To achieve this, the main principle to consider is, how airtight is your home? Passive House creates an airtight house so that you can control the quality and warmth of the air inside. This doesn't mean you can never open a door or have big sliding doors to your backyard, it simply means at night or when you decide to close the doors and windows that you truly have control over the quality of air in your home.

How do you assess how airtight a home is? By how many air changes per hour (ac/h) occur. For a certified Passive House, air changes per hour must be below 0.6. To put that in perspective, even brand-new homes built to meet current energy efficiency standards can have 10 air changes per hour, older homes over 20.

Does this matter? Very much so. It leads to mould, condensation and other 'sick building' symptoms with pests moving freely in and out of your house. Eliminating this with an



Hendrik Aug, director of Metsa Building Co

airtight Passive House reduces dust. Constant air circulation and filtered air improves air quality. Mould and condensation are prolific on the Beaches. Eliminating this has huge health upside. Sleep is greatly improved too.

How do you control the home's air quality?

Instead of air conditioners which are expensive to run, Passive House technologies use a Heat Recovery Ventilation Unit (HRV) which heats and cools as required. With HRVs you can also control the amount of relative humidity in your house and even dial in your desired air comfort.

What are the financial benefits? Through super-insulated envelopes (aka your home!), high-performance windows, and airtight construction, Passivhaus buildings can cut heating and cooling energy use by up to 90% compared to existing buildings, a dramatic reduction.

What challenges do you face when discussing the Passive House option with clients?

There can be an over-emphasis on how 'Instagrammable' a house is. There's nothing wrong with wanting an exquisite marble countertop, but perhaps that money is better invested in high performance windows and your home having the most energy efficient overall structure. Instagram likes may or may not help you breathe easy and live better, but a Passive House will absolutely.

Visit metsabuilding.com.au to learn more or call Hendrik on **0426 894 565** and email hendo@metsabuilding.com.au

Interview: **Liam Carroll**
Featuring: **Hendrik Aug**, Director of Metsa Building Co.



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Scan to save Matt's contact





Louise and Peter, Brooky TAFE's yin and yang

Education

Building the future at Brooky TAFE

Artificial (super) intelligence is set to radically transform the workplace. We face a chronic skills shortage, a housing crisis too. Given such a rosy outlook, who better to talk to than Brookvale TAFE Carpentry teachers Peter Purcell – the oldest and longest-serving teacher on staff – and Louise Tynan, the youngest staff member by decades, learn about their career paths and what's on offer for Beaches' locals eyeing off a career in the building trade.

"I'd worked as a carpenter all over New South Wales but in 1989 I could see a big recession looming and applied to become a TAFE teacher," explains Peter. "When they offered me the full-time teaching role in Brooky I said, you beauty!"

Peter's premonition was spot on, the early 90s recession brought many in the construction game undone while his new role paid for his studies to earn his Graduate Diploma in Education. Job satisfaction clearly a winner, he's never left.

"At the start of every year I always ask the students if their

bosses studied Carpentry here at Brooky," says Peter. "Half the hands usually go up." Over the past 35 years he's taught many in the same family.

Louise's entire family is university-educated and being a great school student, she did give it a go. "I went to UNSW and lasted about two months," says Louise. "It wasn't for me, but I'd been working in the Bunnings timber yard since I was 14, and I just started pestering all the tradies to give me an apprenticeship."

Louise spent a year in search of an apprenticeship. She never gave up, and once on site, all set with a great team, quickly showed how valuable a female can be on the worksite. "Respect is earned in the trades," explains Louise. "It's not something you can demand, it's what you're rewarded with by proving yourself."

Passionate about fostering women in construction, Louise jumped at the chance to become a TAFE teacher in 2024, despite its challenges. "This is mentally the most draining job I've ever had, but

seeing concepts click with the students, especially those who aren't necessarily academic, watching them see something tangible from the work they've put in, it's super rewarding."

TAFE's ability to provide almost immediate feedback to students of how their work relates to the real world, the problems it solves, the applications it has, is what sets it apart from a university education.

"Every student must have an apprenticeship before they can study," explains Peter. "They're invested from the outset, having most likely worked hard to secure that in the first place. Then it's a matter of conquering basic maths, and over the course of three years, provided they don't skip any classes, students develop the full carpentry skillset, working on projects like roofing, wall and floor framing, and fit out, all while gaining skills in safely using a range of tools and equipment."

Peter encourages all students at the end of three years to complete the Certificate IV in Building and Construction. "The network students build, knowledge in running a business, building codes, site supervision, cost estimation, it opens up huge opportunities."

"An apprenticeship sets you up with a superb attitude to work, getting up early then having a systematic approach to the day ahead," says Peter. "Do an apprenticeship, I guarantee you'll have a job for life."

Find the best TAFE course for you at tafensw.edu.au
Follow Louise on Instagram @[badbitch_building](https://www.instagram.com/badbitch_building) and Pete's obviously too old for Instagram. He might be on Facebook.

Words: **Liam Carroll**

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When sorry isn't enough

The critical role of accountability in relationships.

A woman recently sat in my therapy room. She had just been away on holiday with her husband. Everything was perfect until the last night. Whilst on a zoom work meeting, he got drunk. What started as a playful banter, soon spiraled into him picking a fight. His words grew increasingly harsh and his tone aggressive. When she defended herself and stated she wanted to leave the room, he obstinately refused. He passed out soon after leaving her crying alone with cutting remarks that echoed in her mind.

The next morning, he issued a muffled apology under his breath. When the wife tried to raise the issue, the husband had no recollection of his behaviour or what he'd said. His blackout had erased the memory for him, but not for her. This case study illustrates what I call the invisible wound - a painful relationship dynamic where one person carries the full emotional burden of a conflict and the other doesn't remember or acknowledge. This woman came to me to help her make sense of what happened, why it was so painful and why she couldn't move forward. So, let's break it down.

The accountability gap

Without acknowledgement, there can be no true accountability. Saying sorry when you don't know what happened doesn't mean anything. If you don't recognise what you have done or how it has impacted your loved one, it's not an apology, it's dismissal disguised as reconciliation. Plenty of fights have started or continued over insincere, avoidant, dismissive, deflective or placative apologies. The accountability gap can also create damage way beyond the incident. The hurt partner can begin to feel unsafe, questioning whether their feelings matter. Meanwhile, the unresolved pain doesn't disappear, it goes underground, creating emotional distance or later emerging as ammunition in future fights.

Defence mechanisms vs reality

So why might a loving partner avoid acknowledging their harmful behaviour? Often, psychological defence mechanisms like denial, avoidance, deflection, and fantasy protect us from truths that can threaten our self-image.



For two to tango, both need to step up

In this case, for the husband to face his behaviour would mean that he would have to reconcile two conflicting realities: "I'm a good husband and loving man" versus "I lashed out at my wife whilst drunk". This cognitive dissonance can be so uncomfortable that the unconscious mind chooses denial over truth. These mechanisms protect the psyche in the short term but erode the relationship foundation in the long term.

The path to repair

Real healing requires courage and vulnerability on both sides. Knowing your core values is important and can inform the conversation moving forward. For the person who caused harm:

1. Be willing to hear the full account without being defensive
2. Sit with your partner's emotional experience without minimising it
3. Offer a genuine, specific apology that acknowledges the impact of your behaviour and deviation away from your values
4. Address any underlying issues (in a safe, calm and regulated way) that may have fuelled the outburst or contributed to the behaviour
5. Commit to change moving forward

Above all else, intimate relationships require safety. If we want to be close, we need to feel safe. These ruptures can be repaired but take time and need nurturing. Don't sweep it under the rug. Allow accountability, authenticity, and compassion to lead the way. This is how to create deep, safe, healthy, and loving relationships.

Words: **Scout Smith-O'Leary**, The Love Scout

If you and your partner need to level up your communication, honesty, and transparency game, reach out to The Love Scout to book a session. Based in Manly, Telehealth available. Visit thelovescout.com or call **0410 030 463**.

Photo: Giorgio Trovato - Unsplash

Northern Beaches nature continues to conquer the world

In May I revealed how some of our local wildlife species were setting global animal records in everything from rooting to sleeping. But there are many other gold medal performances deserving recognition too.

The Pied butcherbird is widely considered to top the international charts when it comes to beautiful birdsong. Its melodic call has been likened to a "magic flute" whilst its complex repertoire includes tones of Beethoven's Fifth.

We are blessed to have the planet's longest stick insect hanging out in our hood, the fittingly christened "Goliath" which can grow up to 200mm. It travels very little and can spend its entire life occupying a single eucalypt tree.



"Goliath" stick insect

Our Golden orb weaving spiders produce the toughest silk on earth, fibres stronger than any man-made substance including steel and Kevlar. So far, no laboratory has been able to synthetically replicate it. The Golden orb could also be rated as the world's tastiest spider... apparently - as conservationists, we would never harm them of course!

We also have Fishing spiders which hunt in and around creeks and ponds for frogs,

tadpoles and small fish. This is an amazing thing in itself but one of our Sydney arachnids actually holds the undisputed record for the biggest ever catch by such a spider - a goldfish measuring 9cm and weighing 10g.



Blue-ringed octopus, beware

The tiny Blue-ringed octopus, sometimes found in the Peninsula's rock pools, is amongst the world's most venomous marine animals. It contains a powerful neurotoxin in 1,000 times more powerful than cyanide. It has no known antidote and can paralyse and kill humans within minutes. Leave well alone!

We can also lay claim to having the planet's largest seahorse. It's appropriately called the Big-belly seahorse and can grow over 35cm long. The male carries eggs in a pouch located under its tail, hatching up to 700 young at a time.

Another of our accomplished sea creatures is the Southern right whale which can be seen off our coast from June to August as it travels north to breed. Yes, it holds the world record you've been waiting for. It's the animal with the largest gonads...its testicles weigh a massive 1,000kg.



Sulphur-crested cockatoo

Sulphur-crested cockatoos are commonly seen squawking across our skies. A relative of these beauties was the longest living bird ever recorded. "Cocky Bennett", which was kept as a pet, drew breath to the ripe old age of 120. Its owner even had an obituary printed when it "fell off the perch".

One marsupial "legend" which should probably live in our area is the yellow-bellied glider. It holds the record for the longest "jump" by any animal. It can glide through the trees for up to 140 metres, thanks to large folds of skin stretching from wrist to the ankle.

It's listed on the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage "Bionet" website as being known to exist in Pittwater. But its population has shrunk nationwide and, just like the koala, it no longer graces our district. Continued habitat loss from development, logging and bushfires has put them, and many other native animals on the sad path to extinction.

If you want our unique wildlife to be better protected, please call Federal Environment Minister, Murray Watt, on **(07) 5531 1033** and ask for strong environment laws to be put in place. Or email him at senator.watt@aph.gov.au

Words: **Mal Fisher**

Inside Dee Why's hidden wildlife refuge

Nestled between James Meehan Reserve and Dee Why Beach lies an often overlooked (and surprisingly vast) protected Wildlife Refuge. Covering 77 hectares, including 30 hectares of lagoon, the Dee Why Wildlife Refuge is one of the Northern Beaches' most ecologically important areas.

It's an area teeming with wildlife. As we explore the reserve, we hear the call of the Eastern Whipbird, though it stays hidden among the brush. Further out on the lagoon, two black swans float gracefully, while a hoard of chestnut teal ducks swim happily closer to shore.

The refuge has been reported as a habitat for "numerous threatened migratory and wading birds," including the Sooty Oystercatcher, Sanderling, and Curlew Sandpiper, to name a few. Though they may be rare to spot, it's also a suitable home for the endangered Swift Parrot and the vulnerable Eastern Pygmy Possum.

More commonly, swans, cormorants, pelicans, herons and egrets might be found floating in and around the lagoon. While the more colourful fairy wrens and lorikeets fill the trees closer to the beachfront.

At first glance, it might not seem like a rare or remarkable place, perhaps even easy to overlook on your way to Dee Why Beach. But this coastal ecosystem is uniquely special, especially in an urban setting like Dee Why. According to the Northern Beaches Council, the area's high conservation value, including its diverse saltmarsh plant life and the habitat it offers endangered migratory birds, is why it was recognised as a Wildlife Refuge under the Fauna Protection Act back in 1973.

Since then, the area has remained under Council protection and is maintained with the help of a local group called the 'Friends of Dee Why Lagoon', formed back in 1980. The group continues to care for the reserve through regeneration, clean-ups, and rehabilitation projects - including an eight-year effort to eradicate an invasive South African weed known as bitou bush.

Walking along the roughly 650-metre path that stretches from one end of the reserve to the other, we're flanked by native grasses on either side of the sandy track. The short but gently winding route hugs the edge of the lagoon, eventually opening up on the



Where lagoon meets sea

south-eastern side to reveal a view across Long Reef Beach.

We soak up the roasting midday heat, spotting purple flowers scattered across the saltmarsh, and imagining the fiery reds of a perfect sunset over the lagoon. While we didn't catch a glimpse of any threatened species this time, the rustles and chirps in the trees kept our curiosity alive. It's the kind of place that invites you back, like a gentle scavenger hunt, for both the rare and the familiar creatures that live in this unassuming wild pocket.

Did you know...

One of the reasons this area is so ecologically diverse is because of the mixing of freshwater from Dee Why Lagoon with the saltwater of the Tasman Sea, creating an estuarine ecosystem. As the NSW Government puts it, "estuaries are often referred to as the nurseries of the sea," thanks to their richness in plant life, food sources, and shelter for a wide variety of species. Dee Why Lagoon is considered one of the best examples of this kind of habitat in the Sydney region.

How to get there

Enter the refuge from the north end of the Dee Why Beach car park. Look for a small gate that marks the start of the path, which winds along the lagoon until it's cut off by the mouth of the lagoon. There's plenty of Northern Beaches Council parking nearby (unless it's a busy beach day), or you can take the 166 bus to Howard Avenue. It's just a short walk from there.

Words: **Rebecca Burton**

Photo: Harry Goodwin



Jewfish, Fly Boat Fishing Charters

Fishing

What's biting, Clint?

Fishing can be so random sometimes. Aside from the thrill of catching a fish it's the great unknown that keeps me constantly engaged and at times, on edge. To reduce the unknown, I typically start planning a week in advance, meticulously studying wind, current and swell charts before deciding on a location and target species. But no matter how good the preparation is, it's the ocean, river or harbour that gets to decide.

To highlight the point, I set up for a typical Snapper session at one of my favourite inshore reefs recently. No amount of planning or research would've convinced me I would hook two 100kg striped Marlin in the burley trail. Cold winter water on an inshore reef. No way. If I didn't see them with my own eyes, I never would've believed it. Both escaped unharmed and I was left wondering if that experience was actually real. I'm not suggesting you now set up for an inshore winter Marlin, I think you'll be waiting a lifetime.

I would however suggest keen anglers persevere with Snapper fishing on the inshore reefs, dragging lures out wide for Yellow/Blue Fin Tuna or dropping live baits for Kingfish on our wider reefs. If the Harbour is more your scene, Steve Gaynor from Flyboat Fishing Charters is reporting consistent fishing, with Bonito, Jewfish, Kingfish and Flathead as the dominant species.

Whatever your plan, enjoy for the randomness that makes fishing such a wonderful experience.

Words: **Clint Harwood IG @aussiecavemanclint**

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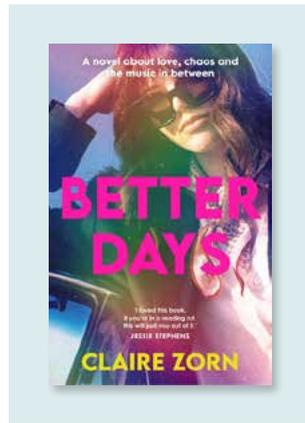
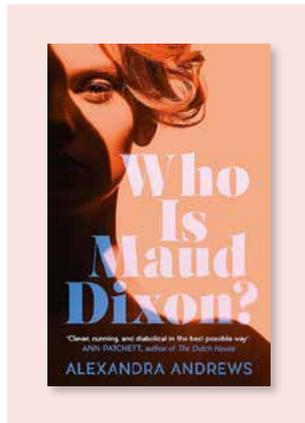
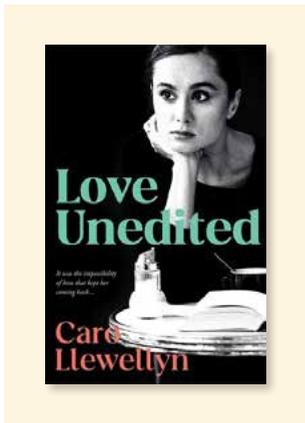


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A great mix of books written by women about women.

Paige Turner Reviews

Women on the edge, of what?

Did you know that Australian women make up 65% of all writers in Australia compared to just 20% in the 1970s? Women also buy more books. In Australia around 70% of the book-buying market are women so it makes sense that this month's novels are all written by women and each have a complex, layered female character who works in or around literary or music circles.

Love Unedited

Caro Llewellyn is a distinguished Australian writer, festival director, literary executive and human rights activist who now lives in the US. Her book draws on her background in literature and her personal experience with MS.

The Sydney Arts Guide lauded *Love Unedited* as "a love story, a mystery and a quest, glamorous, scandalous and extremely satisfying". I agree. It's a book about love, independence and life after unexpected physical change.

Set between Melbourne and New York there's a lot to love about this book. I read it very quickly, it's that good. Now I need to give it a good slow read to savour the beauty of the writing.

Who is Maud Dixon?

This is a psychological thriller about an ambitious young woman who dives headfirst into a life of literary deception and reinvention. This book is bursting with moral ambiguity. Florence, the main character, is hard to like – a stop at nothing aspiring novelist who becomes the assistant to a reclusive and successful author known by the pseudonym Maud Dixon. Watching Florence unravel is a big part of the book's appeal.

Set between New York and Morocco, the book's author **Alexandra Andrews** does a great job of conjuring up some of the best and worst aspects of Morocco. If you have been there and detest cats (guilty) then it may bring back memories you'd prefer to forget.

Better Days

Claire Zorn author of *Better Days* is an Australian writer celebrated for her Young Adult novels. *Better Days* is her first foray into adult fiction. The story centres on Grace who left Australia for London 20 years earlier after experiencing heartbreak and built a successful career in the music industry, married and had kids. A chance encounter with the bloke who broke her young heart starts her 'what if' thinking and life gets messy from that moment.

The complexity of the relationship between Grace and her mother will be familiar to some mothers with daughters who find motherly advice and concern suffocating. If you're not a fan of experiencing that sensation or if dual timeline structures annoy you, then you may not enjoy *Better Days*.

Where to buy

Shop local. Paige loves Berkelouw Books Balgowlah, Humphreys on Manly's Corso and Harry Hartog, Warringah Mall.

Words: **Paige Turner**



Non-stop laughs from your tongue to your bum

Art & Culture

You are a Doughnut

I recently saw "You are a Doughnut" at Glen Street Theatre with some of my friends and wow, what a show! Extremely funny. Loads of jokes. But the best part? It's also educational, so it's a win for both kids and their adults.

The story follows Oesoph and Dewey, who both turn up to teach the same biology class on digestion. At first, they fight over who gets to teach, but they quickly realise it's better to work together. That's when the real fun begins. Oesoph is the more serious one, while Dewey is a bit of a clown, which makes for a hilarious combo.

Dewey explains that everyone is like a doughnut, we all have a hole running right through us, "from your tongue to your bum," as he says! To show how digestion works, they mix up a substance, The Brown (a mix of baked beans, corn and cake, yuck!) which Dewey has to eat. We follow it all the way through the digestive system, even meeting Dave Poos, who teaches us how different foods change the colour of your poo!

It gets pretty disgusting (in the best way) with scenes of Dewey vomiting and Oesoph pretending to flush The Brown down a toilet. The whole audience was laughing and groaning!

The show includes lots of audience participation that younger kids especially loved. My favourite part? When they shot ping pong balls into the audience, and we got to throw them into a giant doughnut hole. My favourite song? Rainbow Unicorn Poop. So funny I couldn't stop laughing.

I highly recommend *You are a Doughnut* for kids aged 5 to 10. It's silly, smart, and absolutely packed with fun. I wish these guys were my biology teachers!

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



Charity Jazz Cruise

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Black Tie

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Live entertainment including ABBA Tribute

Event Info & Tickets

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Subject Tommy Myers' Bombie barrel of a lifetime
Photographer Carolline Faye IG @itscaroline_art



Subject Cyclone excitement at Freshie pool
Photographer Joanne Veitch



Subject Kookaburra pest control services
Photographer Marita Ekengard



Subject Mona Vale winter swimming, warmer in than out
Photographer Dave Hayes



Subject Little guy fell out of his nest and landed on my front door step - he's OK!
Photographer Paul Stewart



Subject Cormorant hanging out to dry
Photographer Sue Moody



Subject Marshmallow Pelican at Curly Lagoon
Photographer Suzanne Jensen-Lewis



Subject Billy the turtle at Shelly Beach
Photographer: Tyreece Phillips, Tawny delivery soldier



Subject Australasian Darter waking up at Manly Cove
Photographer Powelly



Subject Sunset at the Office
Photographer Capitano DNL, IG@Captain_DnI

RAZZLE DAZZLE
Trivia

- Pittwater House is a prominent WHAT on the Northern Beaches?
- The Glen Street Theatre is located in which Northern Beaches suburb?
- Which popular chicken takeaway chain has just opened a store on Sydney Rd in Fairlight?
- An open-air concert series held at North Head in September and October is called 'A Night at the WHAT'?
- The Sydney Academy of Sport is located in which Northern Beaches suburb?
- In which sport would you associate the venue Wentworth Park?
- Which household item is the nickname for the Sydney Harbour Bridge?
- Louie Armstrong was famous for playing which instrument?
- Which chart topping musician shares his name with the generic term for a male duck?
- The logo of which tyre company is a man made of tyres?
- Complete this saying attributed to Julius Caesar: I Came, I Saw, I WHAT?
- If you were to flip Indonesia's flag, which European flag would you get?
- To which section of an orchestra does the triangle belong?
- Who is the main villain in the Austin Powers movies?
- Which ocean was first to be crossed by plane?
- For which individual swimming event did Ariane Titmus win Gold at the Paris Olympics?
- What is the most common alcoholic spirit sold in licensed premises in Australia?
- Which Italian city is home to Leonardo da Vinci's 'Last Supper' mural?
- In which decade Alcatraz close as a federal prison?
- Which 2012 viral song was the first video ever to reach 1 billion views on YouTube

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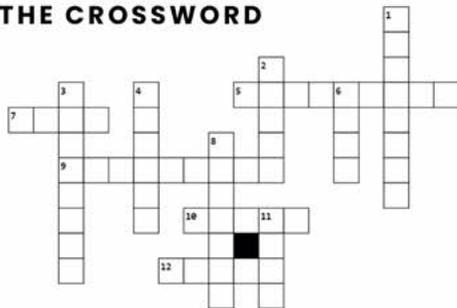
Sudoku Medium difficulty

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

RUMOUR HAS IT

Local single ladies have formed an alliance, creating a database of local gents with a proven track record of flawed relationship performance. The cohort aptly named the UNDATEABLES.

THE CROSSWORD



- Brought to you by 
- Across**
- Industrial burb turned brewery trendy (9)
 - Number of pines for this iconic brewery (4)
 - The world's fastest bird, and a common beaches falcon (9)
 - Get them on the way to Avalon, or while diving (5)
 - Will the beaches ever have this form of transport? (5)
- Down**
- Previously fishy place next to Manly Wharf (8)
 - Flying tech used by surf lifesavers, influencer pests and surveyors! (5)
 - Migration has begun for this whale species (8)
 - Political party and a juicy bush tucker "warriga" (6)
 - Tide type causing coastal erosion (4)
 - Party they are, on top they're no (7)
 - Sci-fi classic - we have them in sand (4)

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Star Signs by Krystal Bawl

Cancer Jun 22 - Jul 22

With winter upon us your resemblance to a Hot Toddy has never been stronger – warm, soothing and nurturing.

Leo Jul 23 - Aug 22

It's never too cold or too early for a Champagne Cocktail. Like you it's intoxicating, glamorous and irresistible.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sep 23

Detoxing with a Cucumber Mint Cooler is so your style – hydrating, refreshing and perfectly balanced.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

If you were a drink, you'd be a Rosé Spritz. Harmony in a glass with exceptional aesthetic and timeless appeal.

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

What do you and a Negroni have in common? Complexity, intensity, dangerously smooth, and oh so delectable.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

Your sine je quai is bound up with sipping Mojitos in exotic tropical locations. Now off you go, enjoy.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

Coffee addicts like you love an Espresso Martini – style, sass and staying power. No wonder it's your preferred tipple.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Other cocktails come and go but not for you – a G&T reflects your elegant, classic, simple but never boring taste.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Lavender is your signature scent and Lavender Lemonade Vodka Cocktails help you live your scented dream.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 19

Your friends know you're a Spicy Ginger Mule – bold, zesty and never afraid to kick arse.

Taurus Apr 20 - May 21

Who would have thought an Old Fashioned was so perfectly Taurean: strong, no-nonsense, smooth and smells good too.

Gemini May 22 - Jun 21

You're like a French 75 cocktail – light, bubbly and a little chaotic in the best possible way. Never change.

Crossword Answers

1. Aquarii 2. Drone 3. Humpback 4. Greens
 5. Brookvale 6. King 7. Four 8. Liberal 9. Peregrine
 10. Bends 11. Dune 12. Train

Trivia Answers

1. School 2. Belrose 3. Chargin' Charlie's
 4. Barracks 5. Narrabeen 6. Greyhound Racing
 7. Coat Hanger 8. Trumpet 9. Drake 10. Michelin
 11. Conquered 12. Poland 13. Percussion 14. Dr Evil
 15. Atlantic Ocean 16. 400m Freestyle 17. Vodka
 18. Milan 19. 1960's 20. Gangnam Style

Sudoku Solution

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

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