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# G'day Beaches

June already? Unbelievable! Woolies on, fires blazing, set up in your warmest perch and enjoy a Frogmouth.

Thank you Darian Woods, our first ever cover artist photographer! Well done Dale Misfeld, Letter of the Month, flattery will get you everywhere. And Jamen Percy's Photo of the Month of Manly's "Ripnado" is extraordinary. \$200 all yours to splash at the Mona.

Michael West Media claims private health insurance is not fit for purpose. Dr Scamps MP pushes to fix our plastics problem. Lime arrives on the Beaches. And Junkyard Surf's All Schools Surftag treats the groms to the best two days of surf comp conditions in 25 years.

Meet your councillor, Miranda Korzy, the proud Pittwater greenie. Warringah Rats' Josh Holmes is a young coach on the rise. Monique Treder explores the curious case of Bower Street - who really owns what? Wild Man Mal celebrates David Attenborough's century. And Elle Townsend makes her Tawny Glen Street Theatre Junior Reviewer debut with kid (and adult) favourite, Mr Snotbottom.

Happy King's Day!

*Liam*



## The Tawny Frogmouth

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### Acknowledgement of Country

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

## Warringah Sustainability Guide

Your essential local resource with practical tips to:

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- 🌿 Unlock rebates and incentives
- 🌿 Future-proof your home or business

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## Peninsula Wash Up

### Shark surveillance drones in honour of Mercury

In early May, the NSW Government officially launched the **Drone Surveillance Program** in loving memory of **Mercury Psillakis**. Every NSW Boardriders Club will now have access to shark surveillance drones and trained pilots to deploy them, with Mercury Psillakis' name to be carried on every drone. "This initiative will be a game changer for surfer safety and beautifully honours the legacy of Mercury Psillakis, and his family's ongoing advocacy," said Jacqui Scruby MP. "It is a practical, community-driven response that will help keep people safer during surfing competitions and help surfers feel more confident when they are in the water".

### Won't Bow(el) Down

Please accept Tawny's sincere apologies if you made it to Brookvale's 7th Day Brewery on 21 May for the Chris Clarke Orange Marathon Bowel Cancer fundraiser only to find crickets, and hopefully some tasty craft beers. We had to postpone shortly after pressing print on the 50,000 May Frogmouths spruiking it. But fear not, we are back on: **Thursday 18 June, 7th Day Brewery from 6pm**, celebrate Clarke's heroic 42km marathon run - in the midst of his chemo treatment! - and watch the world premiere of William Spielberg Somerville's "**Won't Bow(el) Down**" mini-docco capturing the highs and lows of this feat. Let's also raise as much funds as possible for Bowel Cancer Australia, bowel cancer suddenly the most lethal cancer for young Aussie blokes. All details on Instagram @thetawnyfrogmouth

### EISSI? Yes, please

Dee Why's **CMS Surveyors** has been named **Professional Organisation of the Year** (Large Firm) at the national **Excellence in Spatial and Information Services (EISSI) Awards** in Canberra. The award recognises leading organisations across Australia for excellence in surveying, spatial and geospatial services, with CMS acknowledged for its consistent delivery across major infrastructure, commercial and residential projects. "This award reflects the strength of the team, and the culture built within the business over more than two decades," said Director Stuart McEvoy. "We focus on delivering for our clients, supporting each other, and contributing to the industry we're proud to be part of. Being recognised on a national stage is very special."



Manly Boatie's replacement has arrived, the Gopher

### Look! There's a Gopher down there!

Northern Beaches' healthy cohort of basement dwellers who've been lost in a world without Manly Boatshed can breathe a collective sigh of relief. The Boatie's much anticipated replacement has re-opened the Corso's iconic Stairway to Heaven to reveal **The Gopher!** "Descend the stairs and get pulled back to early 1900s Ireland. Worn textures, aged finishes, reclaimed century-old lighting and internationally sourced vintage fixtures create a moody, immersive space worlds away from its above-ground coastal surroundings. The Gopher is built on character, live music and its own brand of hospitality." Indulge.

### Single? Get physical with Flowe

Yes, we know, there's a man drought. Tradie wants a lady. The apps have ruined everything. True, all true. But have you ever thought about going with the Flowe? This is the new community bringing active people together on the Northern Beaches. No screens, no small talk. Just good people, good energy, and great experiences. Flowe brings people together through curated events, pickleball, kayaking adventures, and any activity where you naturally laugh and connect without even trying. And every event wraps up with drinks include - crucial. So there's always time to chat, relax, and get to know each other after the experience. And events are curated with age ranges in mind, so you'll always be surrounded by people at a similar stage of life. Follow @flowe\_australia on socials and visit [flowe.au](http://flowe.au) to get your Flowe on.

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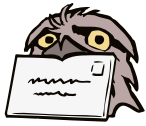


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## Letters to The Tawny

### LETTER OF THE MONTH

#### Bouquets

G'day Liam. As a Northern Beaches resident, I look forward to each edition of 'Frogmouth'. I think it superior to both the 'Peninsula' offerings. It is more 'grassroots' grounded. In the May mag I particularly enjoyed 'Letters 2 ...', as most were relevant, considered and well presented. Michael Sainsbury's detailed comments on 'Card surcharge con' is compelling, opening the eyes of we punters. I think The Love Scout should be ready for Mr President's lawsuit for writing an unauthorised biography of you-know-who; it's him down to a tee.

When Mr T passes, scientists should check his brain to confirm what I and everyone except his supporters have long suspected. Don't think we'd have much trouble raising a couple of billion signatures world-wide for a petition. There, I feel better already.

Congrats to you and staff for your small but mighty publication. May it continue to grow and prosper.

**Dale Misfeld, Narrabeen**

#### Harbord Literary Institute

Run by volunteers. Lovely, lovely ladies. It's an icon, been there forever. Heritage Listed? Not sure. But my elderly neighbour's been borrowing since the 80s. Small budget for new books. I hover. Then pounce!

It's a treasure. If more people go, maybe the book budget will grow? Needs a little revamp. Would not be expensive. Coat of paint. Splendid. See some

parents bring in kids. I registered my eldest granddaughter. \$5. Lifetime rego. No late fees. Ever. Random thought...

Micheal Robotham is a Beaches author. Maybe approach him to attend the library, draw some attention. Even the Mayor might rock up. Score brownie points. Volunteers will be thrilled. That Library is my lifeline to sanity. Love it.  
**The Oracle**

#### Mal's item in May

What a great article from Mal Fisher in the May Tawny about the dire situation with ongoing logging of NSW native forests, a timely reminder of how close we are to removing just about all of our native forests and old trees, which are habitat for so many of our beautiful native wildlife. Despite our Premier saying the Great Koala Park was to be put into action, Forestry NSW continues to be allowed to destroy so many of our native forests. Now another is scheduled for logging - Glenbog State Forest in Southern NSW, home to Koalas, Gliders and so many endangered birds. Forestry NSW is a loss-making business subsidized by taxpayers. It needs to end before we say goodbye to our old growth forests.

How is it that many countries around the world preserve and protect their native forests, yet we in Australia appear to have no respect for forests; anything green destroy it seems to be the motto of both state and federal governments.

**Eira Battaglia**

#### Fishing teens disrespect

A big thumbs down to the fishing teens who thought it would be fun to throw bait at the women swimming in the Clontarf swimming enclosure over Anzac weekend. Unfortu-

nately, their parents had grossly misjudged their maturity in allowing them to fish with mates, and no other adult supervision. Thumbs up to the bystanders who stepped in to stop this childish disrespectful act. The ocean knows respect. I wouldn't be expecting any bites at the end of your line whilst you use your bait as grenades.  
**Danielle, Balgowlah**

#### Re: Bayview Opal (May '26)

I agree with the concerns raised by Jen Vanstone in relation to the proposed development of a 177-bed aged care facility in Annam Road, Bayview. We certainly need a nursing home but not with the proposed height, bulk and scale. The proposal is non-compliant at 10.1 metres. Forget the disturbance of wildlife e.g. Powerful Owl, Gliders and Tawny Frogmouth, this is about height bulk and scale.

A similar development was proposed in 2013 to build many units on Bayview Golf course. 3 attempts through Land and Environment court the Independent Planning Panel. Rejected in September 2020 stating the plans were inconsistent to the local character of the area. A petition of 88,000 signatures also helped. Opal Healthcare plans fall into same category.

**John Peterson, Annam Rd resident of 40 years**

#### Fighting for community

Dear Sir, I refer to Sophie Scamps' "How I'm fighting for our community" (May '26) in the federal budget. Putting aside her total lack of any leverage with the current government, let me summarise her focus: Increase tax on resources; Increase tax on investors; Increase concessions to small businesses; Increase spending on health care.

She clearly is supporting the

Member for Manly, James Griffin MP warmly invites you to the

# 2026 MANLY HOSPICE GALA DINNER

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current Labor government and its big spending agenda, its pressure raising prices and inflation, and consequently interest rates. A more productive private sector is the only pathway to increasing the wealth of the country. The current pathway is just fighting about how to divide a stagnant economy.

**Geoff Hodgkinson, Palm Beach**

### Wrecking our Nation

Climitites, if you had any sense, you'd leave the Climate Cult immediately. Let me outline some reasons you should call it quits.

According to the Australian Energy Statistics in 2025, 91% of our energy requirements came from fossil fuels - diesel, petrol, aviation fuel, ship bunker fuel, coal, and gas generated electricity. The rest was supplied by a mixture of renewable and hydro energy. How then can you remain obsessed with eliminating fossil fuels and running on 82% renewables? Certain suicide for our nation.

Let's look at other countries: Japan aims for 50% renewables with the balance from coal, gas and nuclear; France 40% renewables, the balance from nuclear; USA 50% renewables, the balance from hydro, gas, coal and nuclear. But "NO", what do you climitites want? Total domination with renewables and Green Hydrogen.

This is the line where I say hand in your Climate Cult membership badges. You are also indirectly responsible for slave labour including children in the Congo and Zambia. If any of you had bothered to watch Liam Bartlett on Spotlight with his exposé on renewables and exotic minerals it was all there for you to see.

How are you indirectly responsible? Through this Labor/Green Government, nearly all

our solar panel production is gone, only 2% manufactured in Australia. Everything else comes from China including the wind turbines which in both productions use these rare earth minerals and guess who owns and runs the mines with slave labour...China

**Mark Robbo Roberts**

### Re: Gaza (May '26)

Peter Fuller's letter requires factual corrections. Don't believe me? Do your own fact-checks. But can you handle the truth?

The term "Palestinian" is modern. In 1922, the League of Nations placed the former Ottoman territory of Palestine under British administration, incorporating the 1917 Balfour Declaration supporting a Jewish national home.

In 1947 the UN proposed two states - one Arab, one Jewish - a plan the Arab states rejected. When the British Mandate ended, Israel declared independence (1948) and was immediately attacked by Arab nations. The following refugee crisis affected Arabs and Jews, though only the Arab displacement is remembered. Note Arab, not Palestinian!

In 1959, Arafat (an Egyptian Arab!) cofounded Fatah. The PLO was created in 1964 by the Arab League. Its original charter explicitly stated it had no claim to the West Bank (then Jordan) or Gaza (then Egypt). Only after the 1967 war did the PLO redefine "Palestine" to include those territories and adopt armed struggle as its doctrine.

From 1970, PLO actions destabilised Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia, triggering civil conflict and expulsions - none initiated by Israel. Israel withdrew from Gaza 20 years ago in 2006. Hamas, after sidelining the corrupt PLO in 2006, was elected to form a government in Gaza.

Gazans have not been permitted to hold elections since. Instead of developing Gaza's economy, civil infrastructure, and hospitals, Hamas invested heavily in arms procurements and an extensive tunnel network - not to protect its civilian population but to facilitate attacks on Israel.

Today's conflict cannot be understood without this history. Ceasefire demands overlook that Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran - like ISIS or alQaeda - are ideological actors, not negotiating partners. Durable peace requires defeating these groups and the regimes that fund them.

Peter also said: Israel has been one dominant aggressor. The history says: 1948 Independence War - started by Arabs; 1956 Suez War - started by Arabs; 1967 6 Day War - Preemptive strike by Israel triggered by Egypt's military mobilisation in Sinai, the expulsion of UN peacekeepers, and Egypt's closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping; 1973 Yom Kippur War - Started by Arabs; Most other major conflicts were initiated by the PLO, Hamas, or Hezbollah, and Houthis through attacks, raids, or rocket fire, which then triggered Israeli military responses.

Lebanese, Gazan, West Bank, Houthis, and Iranian uninvolved citizens, please accept my apology for the suffering. It appears the do-gooders gave up on you.  
**Tom Klein, Manly**

### Re: Gaza (April '26)

It is quite understandable how distraught one must feel at the irresponsible killing of 1,000 Israelis and abduction of 250, but some perspective is needed. There have been some 73,188 Palestinians killed during the current Israel/Palestinian conflict which included 28,000

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women and children (Israel has acknowledged 70,000 Palestinians killed) while there have been some 2,021 Israelis killed.

Hamas was the first democratically elected Arabic Government - much to the consternation of both Israel and the United States. The UN report noted that only 24% of the agreed aid has been allowed into Gaza by Israel. Albanese has shown considerable restraint in handling the Gaza conflict considering the number of hospitals, schools and aid convoys targeted by the IDF bombing - including aid workers, hospital staff and journalists (242 by 2025). Bob Hawke would certainly have turned in his grave at the extent of the indiscriminate killings in Gaza as he demonstrated when China had killed innocent civilians in the Tiananmen Square massacre. The Harbour Bridge Gaza war demonstration was an example of the freedom of speech in Australia. Australia is a democracy where we are still free to express our views. Sadly this may not be the case at our universities in the near future.

Where did it start? Probably around 1948 during the Palestinian Nakba when half the Palestinian population was forced to flee with no right of return. When will it end? When the Palestinians are given a state of their own. In a two-state solution, which Netanyahu has no intention of allowing, the conflict will never end. There will be periods of peace, but the aggression will always reappear.

There are 9,400 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons without charge, but relief is on the way...the Knesset has just passed a law approving the death penalty for Palestinians accused of killing Israelis - certain to reduce the number of

Palestinians held in prison.

**Mario**

#### **Housing solution**

I am writing to express my outrage at the absurd rumour to convert Balgowlah Golf Course into housing and public parkland. I have been a member for 47 years and I will not stand for it. I am told there are eight other golf courses on the Beaches. But why on earth should I be expected to drive an extra 4 minutes for my weekly round of golf? The inconvenience alone could finish me off.

Now, I understand there is also a pressing need for new housing in our area. And while I fully support solving Sydney's housing crisis, I must be clear: apartments near my street would be absolutely atrocious. The traffic, the noise, the unfamiliar people, it doesn't bear thinking about. Might I suggest a sensible compromise?

Several of our local school playgrounds are sitting largely idle between the hours of 3pm and 8am, all weekend, and for twelve weeks of holidays each year. The children are frankly too loud anyway. Surely a modest residential tower or two could be accommodated there. Those towers should, of course, be the luxury kind, so as not to attract the wrong element. We must protect what matters most: tranquillity, property values and the status quo. Yours in perpetual grievance,

**Bert Grumbles, Balgowlah**

#### **Credit card charges (May '26)**

Quite a few years ago, filling up at the sole garage in a country town, things were quiet so I could chat with the owner.

"Do you charge extra for credit card payments?"

"Why on earth should I? The bank charges me more for cash deposits."

I guess most private customers do not realize that all business accounts cost money - there are different packages but I'm sure my petrol station owner had picked the best one for him. But what happened when bank-issued credit cards first appeared some 40 years ago was that retailers realised that this was new, and they could profit from it. They couldn't exactly surcharge cash payments, but this new thing gave them the chance of extra profits.

In other words, credit charge surcharges were a rip-off from day one.

**Guy Cox, Dee Why**

#### **Re: Protecting Long Reef (May)**

I completely agree. On Anzac Day weekend, I walked the Reserve. 6 dogs roaming the rock platform, none on leads, plus two people taking shells. I spoke to one. "Oh, I didn't know". She didn't put them back. I spoke to 3 of the 6 dog owners. One said, "I didn't know". I explained it was an Aquatic Reserve. "I didn't realise. I thought they could walk on the beach". I explained there are signs everywhere. "I didn't see any". They didn't leave or control their dog. Another one humphed and continued to the Reserve. Another, definitely a local, simply ignored me. Next day, 3 dogs on the Reserve, 7 wandering the headland, all off lead.

I regularly walk the reserve and headland and never a day do I not see dogs off lead. There is also always poo to avoid on the paths. Never do I see a Council Ranger and when I have contacted them, the irresponsible owners have left before the Ranger arrives. I suspect most people know the rules but like many dog owners, they think the rules don't apply to them.

**Concerned citizen, Collaroy**

THE *Mona*

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**Shark net bycatch**

Mike Psillakis, in March, asked for science to overrule ideology in shaping policy for protection of ocean lovers against shark attack. Yet in May, in the increasingly respected Tawny, we read again the nonsense claim that shark net bycatch increases risk to humans by bringing sharks closer to shore. Bycatch entrée, human main course. The evidence makes nonsense of this:

1. Bycatch has been a feature of shark nets since their inception at Sydney ocean beaches in 1937. And yet there were no fatal attacks at a netted beach in the 88 years before the tragic death of Mercury Psillakis last September at Long Reef - which shares a net with Dee Why that had been installed for just 5 days after 5 months out of the water.

2. Each shark net enmeshes

fewer than 5 marine animals across an eight-month period or one every 50 days - the likelihood of the Dee Why net having bycatch in 5 days is extremely small.

3. Little Bay Beach, where a fatal attack occurred in 2022 was not netted, with the nearest nets at Wanda to the south and Maroubra to the north, a span of more than 15 kilometres.

4. There are 51 shark nets protecting 129 beaches along the 200 km coast between Newcastle and Wollongong. In the 2023 study by Hueveneers and colleagues, there was no difference in shark incidents between the 51 beaches they designated as netted and the 78 they called unnetted; the bene-

fit from nets is across the entire 200km zone where the drum-line catch data show a dramatic drop compared to beaches to the north and south.

These are facts, not opinions - based on science, not ideology as Mike Psillakis rightly asks of us all. The science is irrefutable that nets protect human life. For more than 100 years, the major risk at NSW ocean beaches has been great white sharks with the greatest risk in inland waters being bull sharks. The recent spate of ocean beach attacks by bull sharks, likely driven by global warming, needs a new approach for which all options must be on the table.

**Graeme, Avalon**

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

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Sophie sounding out the markets for her policy to reduce plastics and drive better packaging design

### Federal Politics

## Dr Scamps' push to fix our plastics problem

Australia produces more than 1.3 million tonnes of plastic packaging each year. With only 12% of plastic waste recycled, around a million tonnes ends up in landfill or as litter in our waterways and landscape. Recycling rates have stalled, and we are on track to miss every national packaging target we set for ourselves.

On the Northern Beaches, the impact is impossible to ignore. Plastic washes up along our coastline, entangles wildlife, and breaks down into microplastics now being found in our oceans, on our beaches, and even in our bodies. Dee Why Lagoon has one of the highest concentrations of microplastic pollution in the country.

This is no longer just an environmental issue; it's a health issue, and one our community is increasingly concerned about.

Right now, individuals, households and local councils are carrying the burden of a system that simply isn't working. Ratepayers are footing the bill for collection and recycling programs, while dealing with packaging that was never designed to be reused or recycled in the first place. The current system is costly for households and ultimately inefficient and ineffective.

There is a better way. A national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme would shift responsibility onto the companies producing and using plastic packaging. It's a practical, proven model used across Europe that would fund recycling at scale, reduce pressure on councils, and drive better packaging design from the outset.

In June, I will launch a policy paper to introduce a

mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme in Australia. Communities, corporations, environmental groups and recyclers are all calling for this change.

Voluntary approaches have failed, businesses want certainty and a level playing field, and individuals should not be responsible for managing the mountains of plastic waste produced by corporations. It's time for Australia to get serious about reducing plastic pollution at the source.

To launch my policy position, my office is hosting a free, family-friendly community event with expert panels, workshops, music, games and more.

Come along to learn more: **Waves Without Waste Expo** Warriewood Community Centre, **Saturday 13 June, 10am-1pm**

Words: **Dr Sophie Scamps MP**

Keep up to date with Dr Scamps MP online at [sophiescamps.com.au](https://sophiescamps.com.au) and socials @[drsophie4mackellar](https://twitter.com/drsophie4mackellar)

HOSTED BY DR SOPHIE SCAMPS

# WAVES WITHOUT WASTE EXPO

A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL AGES

FIXING OUR PLASTIC PROBLEM

**13 JUNE**  
**WARRIEWOOD**  
**COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**10AM - 1PM**



AUTHORISED BY DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP, NARRABEEN

# Private health insurance is unfit for purpose

A \$6.9B annual subsidy supports a private health insurance model that's losing consumer confidence, but there's a proven alternative.

Bupa CEO Nick Stone described private health insurance as "discretionary spend" while revealing almost one in ten customers have downgraded in two years. Former Deputy Chief Medical Officer Nick Coatsworth reinforced the assessment: PHI is "not always good value for many families." The data supports this.

Despite February's reported 4.41% "average" premium increase, CHOICE Magazine research shows Gold premiums rose 45% over four years. One-in-seven Australians are expected to abandon coverage in 2026. Meanwhile, the infrastructure PHI supposedly supports is collapsing. 82 private hospitals have closed since 2020. Healthscope, Australia's second-largest hospital operator with 37 facilities and 19,000 staff, entered receivership in May 2025. Medical Journal of Australia research predicts private maternity care will be extinct by the end of the decade.

## The model is not working

PHI applies a framework designed for unpredictable catastrophes to scheduled, known expenses. Traditional insurance, protecting against house fires or car accidents, pools risk for rare events. Australian PHI does the opposite: it funds predictable procedures like hip replacements and cataract surgery that people know they'll eventually need.

This creates structural tensions. Community rating regulations prevent risk-based pricing, meaning healthy members subsidise higher claimants' needs rather than building reserves for their own future care. Government penalties, such as Medicare Levy Surcharge and Lifetime Health Cover loading, enforce participation regardless of value delivered.

## The Singaporean way

Singapore took a different path forty years ago. Rather than subsidising insurance premiums, the city-state enables citizens to accumulate personal healthcare funds through mandatory savings accounts. The result: 84.9-year life expectancy while spending 4.5% of GDP on healthcare, compared to Australia's 10.7%.

The model encourages consumer discipline:



Private health insurance needs urgent assessment

Individuals make cost-conscious decisions knowing they're spending their own funds. Price competition emerges. Providers know patients are comparing value. Healthcare inflation in Singapore has remained substantially below Australia's, despite higher economic growth.

## Australian implementation

Australia manages \$3.5 trillion in superannuation. The infrastructure for accumulating and investing long-term savings exists and functions well. A transition pathway could mirror superannuation's evolution. Allow funds to accumulate and compound. Current PHI participants could transition gradually, building savings while existing coverage continues. Younger Australians could start accumulating healthcare funds early. The shift would occur over decades, not overnight.

## Fiscal and political rationale

For a government focused on budget repair, the economics are straightforward. Current policy delivers \$6.9B in annual subsidies. The ten-year forward cost exceeds \$69B. A savings-based alternative redirects that investment toward personal wealth accumulation rather than insurance company revenue.

Singapore's experience demonstrates personal healthcare savings can deliver superior outcomes at lower system cost. The status quo is unsustainable. The question isn't whether to reform, but when and who will lead it.

Words: **Claudia Weisenberger**, Michael West Media

Photo: The New York Public Library - Unsplash

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## It's time to Lime

Lime has arrived on the Beaches, on a mission to build a future where transportation is shared, affordable and carbon free.

**What is LimeBike?** A shared electric-assist bike you unlock with the Lime app for short trips around your neighbourhood. Lime is the largest global shared micromobility company, operating in close to 30 countries across five continents and powering more than a billion rides to date. LimeBike is our latest, most comfortable and accessible ebike. On the Northern Beaches, you'll soon see Lime's distinctive green bikes in Manly, Fairlight, Balgowlah, Manly Vale, Queenscliff, Freshwater, Curl Curl, Brookvale, and Dee Why linking beaches, villages, transport hubs and local shops.



Lime launched in the Beaches with a First Ride Academy

**How does LimeBike fit into life on the Northern Beaches?** Most trips on the Beaches are just a couple of kilometres - to the shops, the ferry, school or a doctor's appointment - but they're often done by car because it's very hilly. LimeBike gives people an easy, affordable alternative for those short, local journeys so they can leave the car at home, avoid parking headaches and still get where they're going without arriving sweaty at the top (or bottom) of a hill. They also help connect people into public transport by making that "first and last kilometre" to the bus or ferry much simpler.

**How do you charge the bikes when they're out in the community?** LimeBike is powered by swappable batteries. Our local operations team uses electric vans and eCargo bikes to collect bikes or batteries from around the Northern Beaches, bring the batteries back to our warehouse to charge, then redeploy them into the fleet.

**What have been the biggest challenges with the roll out on the Northern Beaches?** Any new service has a settling in period. On the Northern Beaches, the main challenges have been balancing strong early demand with making sure bikes are always parked considerately in a landscape that's both very popular with visitors and quite constrained along the foreshore. We've worked closely with the Northern Beaches Council to introduce mandatory parking zones in the busiest areas, no-go zones in sensitive spots,

and daily patrols so we can respond quickly to any issues residents raise.

**And the biggest triumphs?** Hearing from people who previously felt "stranded" between home and the nearest village, the Corso or the ferry because buses were infrequent, and the hills made walking hard. With Lime, a 1-2 km slog up or down a steep hill becomes a quick, easy ride. Suddenly those everyday trips to the shops, the doctor or the beach are doable without needing to drive. We've also seen strong uptake around transport hubs and beaches, showing that Lime is already becoming part of how locals stitch together their day.

**How do Tawny readers get riding?** Download the Lime app and create an account. Open the map to find a LimeBike near you, walk over, check the helmet, scan the QR code and start riding. When you're done, end your ride in one of the marked parking zones shown in the app, lock the bike and you're finished. New riders can also come along to our First Ride Academy sessions, try the bikes for free, get a safety briefing and ask questions directly to the Lime team.

**What does the future hold for Lime?** Lime will keep working with the Northern Beaches community to run a safe, well managed service that makes it easier to leave the car at home for short trips.

Interview: **The Tawny Frogmouth**

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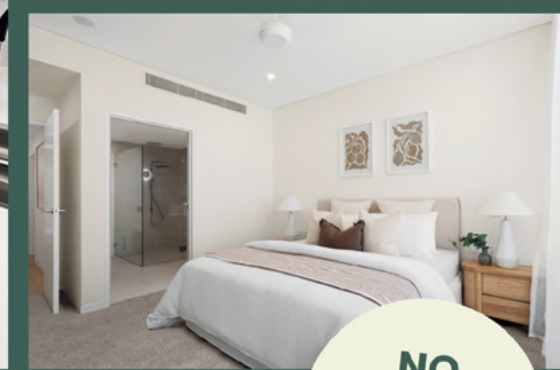
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## Darian Woods

**How long have you lived on the Beaches?** I'm lucky to have lived here for 16 years now.

**What's your favourite beach?** Has to be Curl Curl. It's where my family and I would always go, there's a lot of sentimental value there. It's got amazing textures, rock formations and moods depending on the conditions. Plus, it's usually a bit quieter than other beaches, which I love.

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

The South Island of New Zealand, a photographer's dream, insane landscapes everywhere you look. And Canada. Massive mountains, forests, wildlife and coastlines, hard to beat.

**What inspired your cover art/photograph?**

This image was shot on a summer afternoon at Freshwater Beach and was part of my 'TIDES' exhibition last year. It was taken during a pretty reflective period in my life where I was spending a lot of time in the water. Being in and around the ocean is one of the few things that completely clears my head. It blocks out all the noise and lets me be fully present in the moment. I had this idea of capturing a wave with the sunset glowing in the background as the sun dropped lower. I ended up getting lucky with some offshore winds blowing the spray back into the lens, which created this golden splash effect through the light.

**How's it feel to be Tawny's first ever cover artist photographer?!** Just pure gratitude. There are so many talented artists on the Beaches, so to be the first photographer featured as a cover artist is pretty special. And honestly, why not mix it up a bit right? It's nice to see photography included alongside other creative art forms.

**What inspires your work?** I love creating, especially images of natural landscapes, and usually where animals are found within them. Whether that's in the ocean, up in the mountains, underwater or from the air, I'm always trying to find new and exciting perspectives. To be able to make a living from photography and filmmaking honestly makes life a hell of a lot easier, and at times I feel pretty overwhelmed by how fortunate I am to be doing what I love.



Darian takes a breather during a busy day in the office

**How would you describe your photography?**

There are two different sides to my photography work. One is the commercial side, where a client has a specific brief. The other is my passion work, where all my prints and the images you see across my socials come from. That side of my work is driven by capturing places and moments that inspire me, and hopefully inspire other people too. A lot of it centres around the ocean and the wildlife within it, because I've always had a massive love for the ocean and its creatures. I hope that by sharing these environments through my work, it encourages people to appreciate them a little more and hopefully do what they can to help protect them and make them flourish.

**Which inspiring people, dead or alive, would you most like to have dinner with?** Sir David Attenborough, especially now after just having his 100th birthday. I've been a fan for a very, very long time, watching all his documentaries and following his work over the years. The places he's been, the things he's seen, and the work he's done to help educate people about the planet is beyond inspiring to me.

**What advice do you have for young or aspiring photographers?** Get out there and shoot. The act of constantly shooting, experimenting and learning different techniques is what taught me the most over the years. Then the more time you spend creating, the more naturally your own style and eye will develop.

**How can people buy and support your work?** You can find me on Instagram @darianwoodsss and @surf2summitmedia or through my websites [darianwoods.com.au](http://darianwoods.com.au) for my art prints and [surf2summit.com.au](http://surf2summit.com.au) for commercial work.

## Meet Your Councillors

### Miranda Korzy, Pittwater ward

**What's your earliest memory of the Beaches?** I grew up in Sydney's south so as a child, my first memories of Pittwater were visiting Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, with its breathtaking views across to Barrenjoey Headland and the wider landscape. I always thought I'd love to live there!  
**Who inspires you?** My parents, who were both very compassionate. My schoolteachers. We sang "I Am Woman" in assembly each week. That had an impact! And my uni lecturers who showed me the way to a fairer world.  
**When did you decide to run for Council?** In 2017. I missed out by about 100 votes so I was pretty determined to win a seat in 2021.

**What motivated you to run?** Since I was a student, I've been involved in a range of community and political groups. After council amalgamation I was one of the founders of Protect Pittwater - fighting for a council demerger. However, I realised we needed to be represented on the current council to protect what we have in the meantime.  
**What have been the biggest challenges?** Topping the list, environmental degradation. I'm heartbroken and angry every time a resident tells me about the latest trees that have been illegally or thoughtlessly felled. Similarly, ongoing issues with coastal management - which will only increase as sea level rise continues.



**What have been your greatest triumphs?** Heading off the council proposal to rezone 3,613 Pittwater properties from Conservation Zonings to Residential. These properties are the ones with bushland and wildlife in our backyards. They would have been open to the state government's push for increased density.  
**What words of wisdom do you live by?** My father, who grew up in Poland, had a saying he translated into English as: "The worst truth is better than the best lie."

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# BROOKVALE ARTS DISTRICT



## Coastal Community Hub

The McTavish store on Harbord Road is a reflection of Brookvale's deep roots in Australian surf culture. The store opened in 2023, and is an extension of the McTavish headquarters and factory in Byron Bay. It showcases the full McTavish surfboard and apparel range, from shortboards through to longboards as well as boardshorts, jackets, shirts and denim – all in one place. Most of what happens here is conversation and connection whether it be about boards, waves or design. The store is essentially a community hub for people who love well-crafted things and coastal living.

McTavish has been building high-quality, handcrafted surfboards since 1962. It was established by Bob McTavish, a surf-obsessed teenager who first picked up his first blank and began shaping over 60 years ago. Bob has a long relationship with Brookvale – he spent significant stretches of time working out of the very building that is now the McTavish store, alongside Bennett Surfboards through the 1960s and 70s.

Bonnie and Banjo are the two people you will meet behind the counter at McTavish Brookvale; both absolute water people and surfing is second nature. Bonnie grew up on the Northern Beaches in Manly, spending a lot of time surfing the Bower. That smooth, considered approach to surfing carries through into how she approaches and manages the Brookvale space. Banjo hails from the coast a few hours north of Sydney, and comes from a background in surfboard factories, with a genuine focus on board and fin design. He's spent a lot of time around the shaping bay, so he understands the details and how things should feel under your feet.

McTavish Brookvale is a space for community and connection, centred around surfing. Surf Commons, is its monthly surf meet, which has become a key part in making connections. Bonnie describes it as, "a simple way to bring people together in the water and then back through the space, continuing something that started in the surf." The store has also established The Laneway Market, bringing together local brands, makers, and the broader community. Alongside these activities, McTavish Brookvale runs demo days, film nights, and in-store gatherings. To hear more or be a part of these events, pop in store or check out the store's social channels.

[mctavish.com.au](http://mctavish.com.au)  
[@mctavishsurf](https://www.instagram.com/mctavishsurf)

Words: Doug Clark  
Photograph: Bonnie Hall



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### About Us

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

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

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## June 2026 Tide Chart

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
1	0300 0.53	2	0339 0.53	3	0418 0.55	4	0459 0.57	5	0542 0.59	6	0627 0.60	7	0015 1.66
	0851 1.35		0931 1.33		1012 1.32		1054 1.30		1138 1.29		1227 1.30		0713 0.60
	1415 0.69		1452 0.70		1531 0.72		1613 0.75		1657 0.78		1747 0.80		1320 1.33
	2054 1.84		2130 1.83		2208 1.80		2247 1.76		2330 1.71				1845 0.83
8	0106 1.60	9	0203 1.56	10	0306 1.52	11	0410 1.50	12	0513 1.48	13	0022 0.49	14	0120 0.38
	0800 0.59		0846 0.57		0933 0.55		1021 0.53		1109 0.51		0614 1.48		0714 1.47
	1415 1.39		1510 1.48		1602 1.60		1654 1.73		1745 1.87		1200 0.51		1252 0.51
	1950 0.83		2101 0.79		2213 0.72		2320 0.61				1836 1.99		1930 2.08
15	0216 0.29	16	0312 0.25	17	0406 0.25	18	0500 0.29	19	0554 0.35	20	0645 0.43	21	0049 1.72
	0813 1.46		0910 1.45		1006 1.44		1102 1.43		1158 1.43		1254 1.44		0734 0.50
	1345 0.51		1441 0.52		1537 0.54		1633 0.57		1731 0.63		1831 0.69		1349 1.46
	2023 2.14		2116 2.15		2210 2.10		2302 2.01		2355 1.87				1935 0.75
22	0145 1.57	23	0242 1.43	24	0342 1.34	25	0441 1.28	26	0001 0.69	27	0048 0.63	28	0129 0.57
	0819 0.57		0903 0.62		0946 0.65		1030 0.67		0536 1.27		0627 1.27		0712 1.29
	1445 1.49		1538 1.54		1629 1.59		1716 1.65		1113 0.68		1155 0.68		1236 0.67
	2045 0.78		2157 0.78		2304 0.75				1800 1.70		1841 1.75		1919 1.79
29	0207 0.53	30	0243 0.50										
	0753 1.31		0832 1.32										
	1316 0.66		1356 0.65										
	1958 1.82		2034 1.83										

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

Photo: A-L Takes Flight - IG@altakesflight





St Luke's victorious: O'Sullivan, Stubbs, Grainger, Pinnuck, Tague (L to R)

## Sport

# Classic conditions for Junkyard Surf's All Schools Surftag

The school student surfing community has dirty water to thank for the March postponement of the 2026 Junkyard All Schools Surftag, setting the stage to reconvene at Queenscliff in early May and be treated by what Surftag Contest Director Steve Harrison has called: "The best surf conditions for a contest I've seen in 25 years, classic 4-5 foot offshore waves all day for two days."

Narrabeen Sports High won the Junior Boys Division on Tuesday with Eli Clarke revelling in the solid conditions posting a 9.50 PowerWave in the Final. Narrabeen finished ahead of NBSC Balgowlah Boys with St Lukes Grammar finishing third and St Paul's Manly fourth.

The Narrabeen Sports High team of Taj Ameudo (12.57), Eli Clarke (25.67), Finn O'Rourke (6.3), Xavier Caunt (8.63) and Ryder Northey (3.84) held off a strong finish from the Balgowlah Boys team with twins Benson and Jai Wineera pushing the Narrabeen team to

the very last wave.

### Junior Boys Results

- 1st Narrabeen Sports High (67.58)
- 2nd NBSC Balgowlah Boys (54.65)
- 3rd St Luke's Grammar (42.79)
- 4th St Paul's Manly (39.29)

The large and powerful conditions continued for the Girls Division Final with Mila Grainger (21.84) the standout for St Luke's and Jesse Silver (22.01) the highest scorer for Mackellar. St Luke's finished the Final on top with Grainger posting a 9.67 PowerWave, their winning team consisting of Olive Stubbs (3.33), Lexie Tague (2.07), Holly Pinnuck (3.23), Piper O'Sullivan (3.07) and Mila Grainger.

### Girls Results

- 1st St Luke's Grammar (37.54)
- 2nd NBSC Mackellar Girls (31.07)
- 3rd Oxford Falls Grammar (19.96)

This year marked the inaugural Primary Schools Division. Eleven teams lined up and

battled multiple rounds before Avalon Public School absolutely dominated the Final. Maverick Macgugan (23.16) and Nixon Carroll (8.67) both locked in big scores to put Avalon twenty points clear of their rivals. Oli Van Takach (4.60), Ruby Buchan (1.10) and Ace Roberts (1.83) added to the massive Avalon total of 43.36. Neighbouring Public School Newport finished in second position with Harbord Public A and Harbord Public C teams finishing third and fourth.

### Primary Schools Results

- 1st Avalon Public School (43.36)
- 2nd Newport Public School (23.67)
- 3rd Harbord Public School A (17.35)
- 4th Harbord Public School C (17.18)

Held in March, Scots College won the Senior Boys Division ahead of St Augustine's, NBSC Freshwater and Narrabeen Sports High.

### Senior Boys Results

- 1st The Scots College (63.25)
- 2nd St Augustine's (55.75)
- 3rd NBSC Freshwater (42.73)
- 4th Narrabeen Sports High (42.17)

The 2026 Junkyard Surf All Schools Surftag is proudly supported by Dripping Wet Surf Shop, Manly Surf School, Surfers Compass, Jaecoo Brookvale, Black Flies Eyewear Australia, Swellnet, Tawny Frogmouth and Sydney Surf Daily.

Visit [surftag.au](http://surftag.au) for all info and follow on socials @surftagseries and @sydneyurfdaily

Words: **Wyatt Wash**



## South Steyne Medical Centre

# Get to know Dr Mindy Da

Dr Mindy Da is a dedicated and highly skilled General Practitioner at South Steyne Medical Centre, known for her warm, down-to-earth approach to patient care.

Dr Da has a particular interest in screen addiction and video game addiction, an increasingly important area of health - especially for children, teenagers, and young adults. She works closely with patients and families to understand patterns of use, address associated mental health concerns such as anxiety and low mood, and develop practical, sustainable strategies to improve balance and wellbeing. Her approach is thoughtful and non-judgemental, with a strong focus on building trust - particularly with younger patients.

In addition, Dr Da has a strong clinical interest in gut health, including the management of IBS, bloating, and constipation. She takes a comprehensive, personalised approach, considering diet, lifestyle, stress, and underlying medical factors. Her approach is aimed at helping patients better understand and manage their symptoms over the long term.

Dr Da continues to provide care across a broad range of general practice areas, including women's health, mental health, sexual health, travel medicine, and paediatrics. She is experienced in managing common childhood illnesses and is known for her thorough, reassuring approach when caring for families.

Dr Da understands Mandarin, which offers accessible, culturally sensitive care for Mandarin-speaking patients and families within the Manly community. Outside the clinic, Dr Da enjoys staying active and creative and has two much-loved dogs who keep her busy at home.

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Photo : Jeremy Denham - IG@jeremydenham870



Josh with Rats' Captain Ben Marr before 2025's Shute Shield victory

Sport

## Warringah Rats' Josh Holmes, a young coach on the rise

In last year's Shute Shield Grand Final at Leichhardt Oval, Warringah overcame Easts 37-24 to lift the Shield, sealing victory with a late runaway try by No.8 Chlayton Frans.

"As a coach you have the belief in the players for so much and you know what they're capable of doing. I had this massive belief we could win," Holmes recalled when we spoke to him. "To see them go out there and just play and not be scared. To sit back and watch that was a really proud moment."

Holmes said the Rats' achievement was particularly fulfilling as a coach given the time invested and stress involved. In 2017, with Holmes at No.9, Warringah defeated Norths in the Grand Final.

Ecstatic Rats fans poured onto North Sydney Oval at fulltime.

"To win the Grand Final was a really special moment and one I'll never forget. It was a bit of a relief - I've done it, I've finally got my Premiership, this is awesome," Holmes said.

Many in the team, including brother Luke, had been at the club a long time and "bled green and white".

Holmes is focused on the defending Premiers having another big season in 2026. Results have been impressive so far highlighted by an extra sweet victory over the Manly Marlins on Anzac Day.

"As a club, the success of First Grade last year has really energised the club," Holmes explained.

"The boys definitely aren't training like they've won a competition. They're all ripping in and they're all wanting to be better. I think there is a whole bunch of boys who want to go to the next level, and they know that team success will bring individual success."

Playmaker Coby Miln has moved on to North Harbour in New Zealand and Byron Smith has joined the club. "He plays a way different sort of game to Coby which is good and is exciting and will change us as a team as well," Holmes said.

Inspirational fullback Ben Marr is again captaining the Rats and Holmes rates No.9 Ben Fuhuniu as super impressive.

"Definitely we want to move the ball around, we want to play attacking footy, but we do put a big emphasis on our defence as well. We've got so much talent at this club, we want them to back themselves," Holmes said.

Showcasing the club's strength, the men's and women's (Ratettes) teams took on Bond University in the Australian Club Championship at Rat Park in March - the men emerging victorious.

Holmes views club rugby as increasingly professional and a springboard to Super Rugby. "People are now seeing the Shute Shield as a place to land and get exposure. I definitely think it's attracting a lot more players and quality players as well," he said.

After a successful playing career Holmes put away his boots in 2020 before coaching Warringah Colts to a Premiership in 2023 and stepping up to Grade in 2024. He said he is still learning as a coach with aspirations to go further and be tested at a higher level. As Head Coach he has to have honest, sometimes difficult, conversations with players.

Are you a good communicator Josh? "My wife would say I'm not the best communicator, but I think I'm a pretty good communicator down here."

Follow [@warringahrats](https://twitter.com/warringahrats) on socials for all updates and get to Rat Park Saturday 20 June for the Anzac Day local derby rematch, Rats v Marlins.

Words: **Greg McHugh**

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A view everyone loves - but is it yours, or just borrowed?

Property

## The curious case of Bower Street

Front-row Pacific views, but you don't own the dirt

If you've spent time around Bower Street in Manly, you already know the appeal. The ocean's right there, the houses sit naturally into the headland and the whole area has that relaxed Northern Beaches feel. What surprises many locals, though, is that a number of these homes are leasehold, not freehold. People hear the term but don't always know what it actually means, and as a Buyer's Agent on the Beaches, it comes up often.

The leasehold structure dates back to 1914, when the Catholic Church subdivided St Patrick's Estate and offered 99-year leases instead of selling the land. The same approach was later used on Macmillan Street in Seaforth to protect the character and long-term stewardship of the headland.

Today, the main leasehold pockets include Bower Street, Spring Cove and the elevated streets around Cerretti Cres and Montpelier Place. Buyers purchase the remaining years

of the 99-year lease, not the land. Most properties have 50-60 years left, with many extended out to 2081. Ground rent is paid annually, and while leases are secure and transferable, the buying process does involve a few extra steps.

Some banks apply stricter lending criteria, but it doesn't stop buyers getting finance - plenty do - but you need the right lender and a broker who understands leasehold. Expect more paperwork, and sometimes fewer lender options, but once you know that upfront, the process is straightforward.

Despite the structure, the market hasn't slowed. Bower Street homes regularly sell in the \$10M to \$25M+ range and often outperform nearby freehold streets. Spring Cove attracts downsizers and prestige buyers wanting privacy and water access. Macmillan Street remains a highly sought-after, family-friendly location. These homes sell because of demand and scarcity, not because

of the title. People buy here because the lifestyle outweighs the technicalities.

On Bower Street, you wake up to the Pacific and watch surfers on the Bower break. In Spring Cove, you have direct access to Little Manly and bush tracks. On Macmillan St, you get greenery, harbour glimpses and a strong community feel. For most, a 50 or 60-year lease is more than enough runway.

Will the structure change? Unlikely. The Church has held this land for over a century and shows no intention of selling. They do offer lease extensions, which is why many properties run into the late 2070s and early 2080s.

Does leasehold deter buyers? Occasionally, but usually only those unfamiliar with the area. Once people understand how the leases work and see the sales history, the hesitation fades. The demand, the lifestyle and the scarcity tend to win.

These leasehold pockets have also helped preserve the character of the Northern Beaches. Because the Church retained ownership, development has stayed respectful of the coastline. That's why the Manly headland still feels low-rise and natural, why the Fairy Bower to Shelly Beach corridor hasn't been overbuilt, and why Seaforth's ridgelines still feel green and established.

For those who live on Bower Street, in Spring Cove or within the surrounding estate, the value is felt every morning in the breeze, the light and the sense of place. Leasehold or not, these remain some of the most admired and tightly held addresses on the Beaches - and that isn't changing.

Words: **Monique Treder**,  
Northern Beaches Buyer's Agent



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## Clearing the air: a blueprint for conflict repair

Have you ever had a fight with your partner? Sure. Was it enjoyable? Probably not. Did it hurt? Most likely. Were you able to properly repair it? I don't know. What I do know is that ruptures are inevitable in relationships. The question isn't whether you'll wound each other. You will. The real question is whether you know how to clean it up. Unprocessed conflict doesn't just disappear, it compounds as resentment, and over time, it can quietly dismantle everything you've built together.

Resentment is a complex, slow-burning emotion: a cocktail of anger, bitterness, and frustration, usually born from a perceived injustice or a need that went unmet and sometimes, was not communicated. Sometimes, subconsciously, people keep a file of all the wrong-doings of their spouse, and when the time is right, BANG, they'll whip out the list and hurl past hurts like hand grenades across the relationship battlefield. This is an attempt to get one's feelings seen and heard, but sadly does further damage and leaves the other partner feeling unsafe and emotionally attacked.

Or you can think about resentment in medical terms. Relationship hurts are like lumps on your body. If you went to the doctor early to have them assessed, you could understand the issues and have a wider variety of treatment options and interventions. The sooner you identify and act, the better the prognosis. But what if the resentment is cancer? Left alone, resentment metastasises and has the ability to poison healthy parts of the body. Resentment can seep into the everyday, kill desire, dampen connection, and quietly rewrite the story you tell yourself about the person you love.

Resentment may not necessarily kill the relationship (not everyone will separate or divorce), but they will kill how you feel in the relationship. The more resentful you feel towards your partner, the less able you will be to feel joy, love and connection, and that's a hefty price to pay.

### So how do we learn basic emotional first aid?

How do we take care of our emotional wounds? Apply the **REPAIR** framework:

- 1. Reflect.** Look inward. Where could you have shown up better? How was your tone? Were you calm and regulated? This isn't self-flagellation; it's accountability.



Riders of the storm know the value of a good REPAIR kit

- 2. Engage.** Open the conversation. Don't wait for the other person to come to you. Name your part in exchange that wasn't optimal.
- 3. Peace offering and genuine apology.** A real amends isn't "sorry you felt that way." It's "I care that I hurt you, and I'm sorry. I'll do my best to not let this happen again" A small peace offering doesn't go astray either. "Wanna hug?"
- 4. Ask deeper.** Explore what was really going on underneath the escalation. Triggers rarely have much to do with the dishes. Did this feeling remind you of something from the past?
- 5. Identify what helps next time.** What would be helpful? What made it worse? Build a better roadmap together.
- 6. Reconnect and release.** Once it's cleared, it's cleared. Stockpiling past hurts as future ammunition is one of the fastest ways to erode safety in a relationship. None of us will do this perfectly. The goal isn't perfection; it's repair. It takes patience, humility, grace, and the willingness to be a little vulnerable. Couples who know how to come back to each other aren't the ones who never fight. They're the ones who catch the lump early and treat it before it spreads.

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

Scout offers relationship counselling for couples, individuals, and families in Manly, Narrabeen & online.

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Photo: Everton Vila - Unsplash

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David devotion at the Tramshed

### Mal's Wild Side

## An old white bloke to be cherished

Let's face it, Aussies don't have much time for Poms, they're not that fussed with the environment and aging white men seem to be on the nose, but one Englishman has somehow bucked all of those trends.

Sir David Attenborough, through his BBC docs such as "Life on Earth" and "The Blue Planet", has endeared himself to us all. On 8 May the great man turned 100 years of age, prompting the National Parks Association (Northern Beaches branch) to hold a celebratory party. As you can imagine every tree hugging, basket weaving, greenie on the Peninsula was drawn to this knees up at Narrabeen. It was an evening of joyful music, jubilant dance and a cornucopia of cup-cakes. There were even personal recollections of his time here filming red back spiders at French Forest.

In London, the BBC celebrated David's birthday at the Royal Albert Hall with a special event that took the audience on a wildlife journey through the prism of his extraordinary life. Meanwhile music legends Pete Townsend and Brian

Eno collaborated with choirs around the world to create a song called "Natural World" as a special tribute.

David joined the BBC in 1952 as a trainee TV producer (he didn't even own a TV at the time). He was discouraged from appearing in front of the camera due to his prominent teeth! Yet he went on to become the first person to bring the intrigue of the animal kingdom to audiences around the world. He's since written, produced and featured in over 100 documentaries - rising through the BBC ranks in the process.

He's thought to be one of the most travelled people in history. For his "Life of Birds" documentary, he journeyed 412,000 kms - equivalent of ten times around the world - unusual for someone that has never owned a car or passed their driving test!

David's accolades aren't limited to the natural world. As Director of Programmes in 1969 he commissioned "Monty Python's Flying Circus". As controller of BBC 2, he introduced colour television

to the UK (before any other European country). After televising Wimbledon in this new medium, he brought us TV snooker in colour which became an unexpected hit. He's the only person to have won BAFTAs in black and white, colour, HD and 3D.

In 2020 he broke Jennifer Anniston's record by reaching a million Instagram followers in the shortest time - 4 hours, 44 minutes. His Guinness world record for having the longest career as a TV presenter will be hard to beat as will his 32 honorary university degrees. He also holds the record for the deepest ever dive on the Barrier Reef (1,000ft in a submersible).

Sir David was once asked if he could be one other species what would it be? He replied, "a bird of paradise, so I could dance all day looking beautiful." Forty animal and plant species are named after him, including his favourite...a dinosaur called Attenborosaurus conybeari.

At 100 plus he is still creating new programmes. The "Making of Life on Earth" will be on our screens soon with new interviews and interesting "behind the scenes" insights.

**In recent years Sir David has campaigned for urgent action on climate change as seen in his Netflix Docu "Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet".**

Congratulations on your amazing centennial Sir David and great news if you're feeling playful...Lego has updated the age rating on their boxes from 4-99 years to 4- 100+ in honour of your achievement.

Words: **Mal Fisher**

For Wild Man Mal's latest updates follow **@thegreenmanly** on IG

Photo: Mal Fisher - IG@thegreenmanly



Darius Gillett with a ripper from the stones

### Fishing

## Casting for a new generation of anglers

Has anyone noticed how many youngsters are getting around with fishing rods of late? Little Huckleberry Finns creating their own adventures and memories away from screens and the burdens of the world. How good.

As they grow older and life becomes more complicated, this connection with the outdoors will give them a way to switch off and reconnect with the value of the simpler things in life.

My son and his mates make up part of the revolution. I've watched them develop their passion along the local rivers and estuaries catching Bonito, Bream and Flathead with nothing more than a humble servo Pilchard.

More recently, they've graduated - somewhat nervously - to the local rock platforms where things have become infinitely more complicated. Now they're learning how to read conditions, understand safety, and refine their rigs and tackle to take on larger, more powerful species like Kingfish.

Hard lessons have already been experienced with tales of lost fish and big hours for no result. But that won't stop them, the hard lessons and mistakes are already getting fewer as they gain experience.

Darius Gillett (pictured) has been leading the pack, landing 90cm and 74cm Kingfish recently from the rocks. Great job Darius.

Words: **Clint Harwood**

If you catch anything weird, wonderful or extraordinary, DM me on Instagram **@clintfishsyd**

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Three big reads demanding more than just time

## Paige Turner Reviews

### Slow burn reads

**Fox**, the latest novel by **Joyce Carol Oates**, a prolific American writer, takes its time to reel you in. At around page 200 two things become clear: you're hooked—and you're going to be here a while.

Set in the closed world of an elite boarding school, the book follows the arrival—and eventual unravelling—of a charismatic English teacher whose charm masks something far darker. Oates builds the story through multiple perspectives, circling her central figure with a kind of moral dread. Critics have called it “engrossing” and “unsettling,” and both are true: this is a novel that wants you to keep turning pages even as it makes you uncomfortable.

**Fox** is undeniably long. It's also gripping and unsettling. Oates gives us a fox in name, and a novel that sometimes behaves like one—elusive, watchful, and harder to pin down than it first appears.

Another long read is **The Sisters** by Swedish Tunisian author **Jonas Hassen Khemiri**. It was named one of The New York Times's 10 Best Books of 2025.

I can't tell you what The

**Sisters** is about because my overwhelming memory is of endless repetition. It's as if the real story is repetition itself. Scenes return, details echo, time folds back on itself until you start to wonder whether anything is progressing or simply being rephrased. It's like you're meant to inhabit the world more than track events.

The story is about three sisters, a disappearing act, and a narrator who may or may not be reliable; just working out who the narrator is took me a long time and many, many pages. It's hypnotic in its own way. It feels like a study in memory and the slippery business of telling the truth about other people.

**The Sisters** feels long because of structural repetition and recursion, you're revisiting emotional and narrative ground deliberately.

**Fox** feels long because of accumulation and multi-perspective layering, you're being steadily saturated with viewpoint and implication.

#### Where to buy

Shop local, support independent book shops. Berkelouw Books Balgowlah and Mona Vale, Harry Hartog at the Mall and Humphreys on Manly Corso.

### Was It Worth Becoming Human?

David Lucas, a semi-retired solicitor living on Sydney's beautiful Northern Beaches, has assembled an extraordinary collection of perspectives on the theme posed in the book's title, **Was It Worth Becoming Human?**

Don't expect a definitive answer to this perennial question, although the book does offer a thought-experiment framework to help you find perspectives from which to shape your response. As with many anthologies, individual contributions will resonate differently with each of us, but that variety is part of the book's appeal.

Perhaps because I read the book not long after watching *The Stranger*, the film adaptation of the book by Albert Camus, I found moments that echoed Camus' existential undercurrents, inviting reflection on identity, consciousness and connection. The tone here, however, is more accessible than Camus, encouraging contemplation rather than demanding it.

One of the book's more unusual qualities is its deeply conversational tone, which makes complex ideas feel unexpectedly accessible. It is a thoughtful, open-ended work that lingers less as a set of conclusions than as a series of questions that stay with you long after reading, and resurface without notice in those all too rare quiet moments life presents.

#### Where to buy

Visit [www.xlibris.com.au](http://www.xlibris.com.au) to get your copy.

Words: **Paige Turner**

## Art & Culture

### Mr Snotbottom

Would you volunteer to get snot from Mr Snotbottom's butt on top of your head? I wouldn't! And Mr Snotbottom had a choice of wearing an “I pick my nose” or an “I heart dog poo” shirt - what would you choose?

What a hilarious show. It starts in Mr Snotbottom's bedroom where he was in his undies! The crowd had to stamp, clap and cheer to help him get into his pants and jacket. Mr Snotbottom's breath smelt like elephant and dog poo! And what better way to brush these smelly teeth than with a toilet brush! Many audience members were also given the chance to have a go scrubbing their teeth. Watch out, this was the start of

involving the audience.

A grandad was pulled on stage to fart fluorescent green snot with accompanying fart noises. A lady's bag was used as a baby. There was a name guessing activity where Mr Snotbottom created songs with mentions of “spaghetti sandwich guts”, “broccoli pants” and “lady goo goo gaga”. Everyone sang along to a haunted toilet seat song and were all super soaked after a group sneeze.

Glen Street Theatre was full of energy, excitement and anticipation from little kids, bigger kids, grandparents and mums and dads. Going to Glen St Theatre allowed us to experience the fart noises live, feel group sneezes together, possibly get undies and snot on your head and get up and move your body to the beat of Mr Snotbottom and his



audience band playing the feather duster trombone and garbage bin drums.

This was the funniest show I have ever been to. A must see for all who love talking about snot, farts, and butts!

Words: **Elle Townsend**, 2026 Junior Theatre Reviewer



### Was It Worth Becoming Human?

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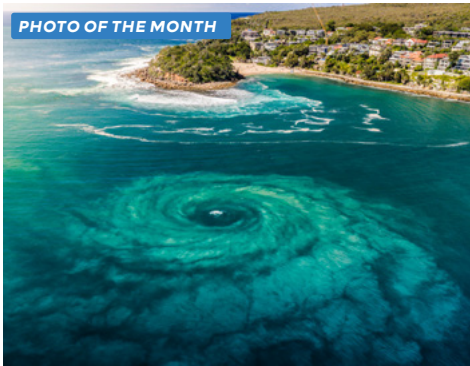
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**PHOTO OF THE MONTH**  
**Subject** The Manly RipNado  
**Photographer** Jamen Percy IG @bombora.days



**Subject** Collaroy Pool from up above  
**Photographer** Daniel Jones



**Subject** Soaring over Longy headland  
**Photographer** Leah Djakou



**Subject** Manly Dam's spectacular Rustgill fungi  
**Photographer** Bruce Wilson IG @bowralboy2



**Subject** Enjoying a North Head slither  
**Photographer** Peter Fysh



**Subject** A bigger splash  
**Photographer** Sheila Mirczuk



**Subject** Photo bombing at Long Reef  
**Photographer** Ross Smiles



**Subject** Where does this go?  
**Photographer** Robert Morley



**Subject** Someone say, Surfboards on Sale?!  
**Photographer** Victor Andrade



**Subject** Av's Mav Macgugan ripping at Surftag  
**Photo** Bernadette Johnson IG @bernadette2097

RAZZLE DAZZLE  
**Trivia**

- Which Beaches café was recently on A Current Affair related to a dog poo scandal: North Steyne Emporio, La Loca Freshwater, or McCafe Brookie?
- What is the name of Warringah Rats' female rugby team?
- And the name of Manly Marlins' female rugby team?
- In what year did the Newport Arms first open: 1870, 1880, or 1890?
- In what year did the Spit Bridge officially open: 1918, 1924, or 1930?
- What Aussie denomination of money is nicknamed a pineapple?
- Brooklyn 99 is a TV show based on which occupation?
- As opposed to female bees, which are known as workers, what are male honeybees called?
- Predominantly, what colour is Sponge Bob Square Pants?
- What animal is featured on the Australian \$1 coin?
- In retail, what does BOGOF stand for?
- What type of animal does a Farrier work on?
- To the closest week, how long does the Tour De France generally go for: 2, 3, or 4?
- How many strings does a standard guitar have?
- Which is faster: the current Men's 400m Freestyle World Record or the current Women's 4 x 100m Freestyle World record?
- Other than Moscow, which European capital city ends in W?
- What 2 letter name did Kanye West change his name to in 2021?
- Which American city has the highest population of people claiming Irish ancestry?
- The musical Book of Mormon is based mostly in which African country?
- Which is the only ABBA song to reach #1 in both USA & UK?

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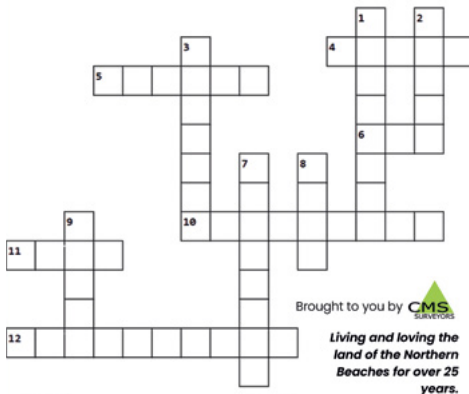
**Sudoku** Medium difficulty

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

**RUMOUR HAS IT**

The welcome return of pumping waves and rich sandbank deposits at Queenscliff are due entirely to the Boardriders' petition calling upon Council to strategically fix the dire situation.

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- Across\***
- Prada-wearing fiend (5)
  - Change, swap, replace, toggle (6)
  - The colour of outback dirt (3)
  - Common plastic used in clothing (9)
  - Sink or? (4)
  - Iconic 70s blended TV family (10)
- Down\***
- Ingredient that turns your burger Aussie (8)
  - The festival will light you up (5)
  - Comedy show routine (7)
  - Midwinter marker, shortest day (8)
  - Winter one-pot wonder, to ruminant (4)
  - Turtles that say cowabunga (5)

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## Star Signs

by Krystal Bawl

### Gemini May 22 - Jun 21

When did your life get so overly complicated? You know the answer to that question. And it's time to fix it. Now!

### Cancer Jun 22 - Jul 22

Never say never has always been your life's mantra, and with good reason, great things are coming...Next month.

### Leo Jul 23 - Aug 22

You were once down and out on the Beaches, but not any more. Life is good, getting better, defying the pundits.

### Virgo Aug 23 - Sep 23

It's lucky that dogs are a man's best friend because this month your pooch needs to make room for you in the doghouse.

### Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

Winter is not your favourite time of year but it's your best time for hatching clever plans that will bloom in the spring.

### Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

Very rarely is it best for you to say nothing. And now would be one of those ideal times. Play it safe. Keep the trap shut.

### Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

Time heals everything. Keep that in mind as you recover from your Pilates-induced spinal enlightenment.

### Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

You never admit the severity of your hangovers, but your body is quietly plotting its revenge. You've been warned.

### Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

You make losing your dream job sound like just a minor optimisation setback. It is. The next role will be even better.

### Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? Whoops. You're perfect. Don't worry, age will fix that.

### Aries Mar 21 - Apr 19

You're your own harshest critic. Lucky. Eeveryone has learned that honesty with you is a high risk strategy.

### Taurus Apr 20 - May 21

Diplomacy isn't your usual strong suit but you're excelling lately and look how well it's working. Peace be with you.



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**8. Stew 9. Ninja**  
**DOWN:** 1. Beetroot 2. Vind 3. Standup 7. Solstice  
11. Swim 12. Brady Bunch

**Crossword Answers**  
**ACROSS:** 4. Devil 5. Switch 6. Red 10. Polyester

**Trivia Answers**  
1. La Loca 2. Rotates 3. Mermaids 4. 1880 5. 1924  
6. \$50 7. Police Officer (NYPD) 8. Drones  
9. Yellow 10. Kangaroos 11. Buy One Get One Free  
12. Horse 13. 3 weeks 14. 6 strings 15. Women's 4x  
100m Freestyle (12 seconds quicker) 16. Warsaw  
17. Ye 18. Boston 19. Uganda 20. Dancing Queen

**Sudoku Solution**

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

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