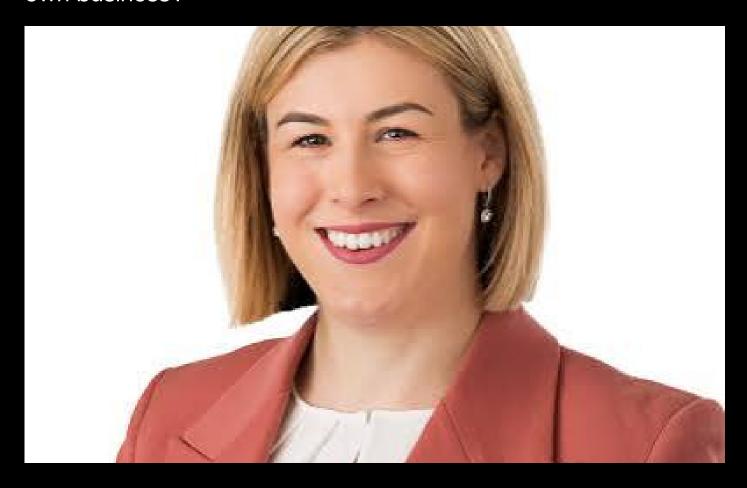
#different

# HOODIES # MAGAZINE

#### **CAN WOMEN SAVE THE LIBERAL PARTY?**



Can you have a work life balance running your own business?



The future of government owned media

Pauline Hanson gets the Burkha out again

The new Mayor of New York on a collision course with Trump Born in the USA turns 41 and still has the fire it did1





#### THIS ISSUE





FEATURES	06
THE POST	16
THE TRUTH	33
THE LIFE	45
THE INSPIRATION	53
THE SOUL	58

**WWW.HOODIESMEDIA.ORG** 

### FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the 27th issue of Hoodies magazine brought to you by Hoodies Media.

When I wrote the original editorial for this Issue of Hoodies magazine it was a little different to the one you're now reading, why? Well for one women are doing it for themselves down at liberal party HQ James Packer is back, Inflation is up again and Albo just got married!

Yes whether it's a master stroke or an actual stroke two state Liberal parties and the federal party are now run by women and who would've thought that was possible a few years ago? In Victoria the Libs ditched Brad Battin for Jess Wilson, in NSW they now have Kellie Sloane as their leader and of course the feds have Susan Ley as the federal leader. Both Wilson and Sloane are first term MP's and I'm not sure either thought they'd end up as leader, but if the Libs are now actually serious about women in leadership they need to back them in long term, but we shall wait and see if the 50 plus white guy makes a comeback

The big news in the last week or so, apart from the Metro tunnel and Albo getting married is the interview done by Joe Aston on his new platform, Rampart, with one James Packer. Packer is not seen in interviews or anywhere else for that matter very often anymore so when the big fella talks he usually takes no prisoners with this interview being a perfect example, why? Because he has absolutely unloaded on one Daniel Andrews, calling him, 'human filth'. It must be said the last remaining members of the I stand wiff Dan clan are saying packer is a crook and a cheat and whatever else, but who cares looking at the replies to Ramparts posts it would seem a good many people agree with the Big fella so welcome back James!

In the US, New York has a new Mayor, Gavin Newsome looks to set to become the Democratic candidate for President, that is if Trump doesn't have him arrested before hand and it appears the full Epstein files will be released? But maybe not...

We look at the future of government backed and so called independent media off the back of the BBC being found guilty of editing for messaging and also how the Australian Broadcasting Corporation got in on the act.

Plus we have all our regular sections of, The Post, Truth, Life, Inspiration and the Soul so please enjoy and share Issue 27 of Hoodies Magazine.

Cheers Ben Logan Editor in Chief



CLARK + DI STASIO



#### **FEATURES**



### LAST ROLL OF THE DICE

Well the move by the Liberal Party of Victoria to ditch Brad Battin and replace him with 34 year old first term MP Jess Wilson will either go down as move of genius or the straw that broke the party's back.

The state liberal party have had 6 leaders in the not too distant past and Wilson despite ticking quite a few political boxes is the least experience of all of them. Yes ok the 50 something white guy era is coming to an end but is Victoria and the Liberal party itself ready for the 34 year old female era? The party of course says yes, but the proof will be, as they say, in the pudding. Wilson has two objectives between now and the next election, 1) Survive and if she does 2) Knock off Jacinta Allan aka Bendigo Barbie.

BUT! If Wilson does make it to the next election as leader, guess what? Victoria will have it's first ever female elected Premier! I digress...

The big difference between Battin and Wilson is that Wilson is Liberal Party blue blood, whereas Brad is not. Wilson is the daughter of a former Liberal party MP, went to private school, did Law and worked for Josh Frydenberg. Battin? Well he was a copper and a possible reason he was ditched (apart from the libs being incapable of unity) was that the whole Pesutto Deeming thing goes back to court soon with Battin expected to be called as a witness.

The Liberal Party in general for sometime now have indeed needed to have more women in senior leadership roles and right now have three. The federal leader and two state leaders, now it could be suggested that this wasn't a plan given the party til now has indeed been lead by the 50 something white male, but accident or good planning the Libs now need to understand that this could be the best idea they've had since, since, well ever!

Conservatism in it's 1950's form and the form many of the boomer generation who vote Liberal still believe in is dead. While the boomer generation have held the liberal party to ransom for years with their conservative views, the new generation of female liberal leadership is now showing itself and they could well be the ones who save it. The libs will of course always be right wing and the criticism from some within the party is that they're too much like Labor. They're progressive, they believe in gender diversity, they support indigenous influence on government and so on, but welcome to the modern world. A world where god, country, white men and women staying home doesn't really fly anymore.

## with the state libs of victoria ditching brad battin they're pretty much on their last chance with new leader, jess wilson



What these new female leaders within the liberal party need to do is forge their own identity and lay down the ground rules for their leadership. If you're a member of the party or you're an MP then we're going this way, you can come with us or leave us to it because we are the future. I remember seeing a clip of John Pesutto at a state liberal party conference giving a speech where he was heckled by some members of the audience. Pesutto paused, waited for the criticism to subside and continued to speak, but for me had Pesutto wanted to draw a line under the whole liberal party division issue he should've had anyone that did heckle thrown out and said this is the way forward, you're in or you're out. Now it's the turn of this new generation of female leaders to say to the party we are here to stay and we will hold labor to account.

The other thing that will be interesting in this whole new Liberal leadership era is what Sky News aka NewsCorp do with it. NewsCorp did have a chance with the appointment of Lachlan Murdoch as Grand PooBah to change the direction of their news service, but despite the change in leadership that's not going to happen. So the question is how does NewsCorp and Sky deal with women in leadership as opposed to the 50 plus white man running the show? Obviously they're all going to say it's a great thing and there should be more of it, but really? What would they do if the Messiah, Josh Frydenberg decided to make a comeback?

Amelia Hamer in recent days has thrown her hat in the ring for the next election as well as she is now the pre-selected candidate for the seat of Malvern where Micheal O'Brien is calling it a day. So could we see yet more liberal party blue blood in the party room and a female to boot?

This whole idea of strong smart women in the Liberal party is indeed the future and the party would be out of its mind not to accept it, but this is the Liberal Party and they have a talent division. The truth remains though, if they lose the next election and don't support the women that are indeed putting their hands up for leadership they are finished and they'll deserve everything they get!





WILL THE LIBS STICK WITH THE WOMEN THAT NOW LEAD THREE PARTIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY OR ARE THEY JUST WAITING FOR THEIR MOMENT TO BRING BACK THE MIDDLE AGED WHITE GUY?



### THE VOICE OF A NEW GENERATION



IN A NEW SERIES FOR HOODIES MAGAZINE WE ARE HEARING FROM GENERATION Z WHO ARE TAKING THEIR PLACES IN THE WORLD AND WANTING THEIR SAY. AS OUR FIRST CONTRIBUTOR WE HAVE A YOUNG WOMAN BY THE NAME OF LANA SCHULENBURG WRITE US A PIECE ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT YOUTH MENTORING WAS TO HER AND HOW IT SHOULD BE PART OF A YOUNG PERSON'S DEVELOP. APART FROM BEING A SUCCESSFUL EQUESTRIAN RIDER LANA HAS ALSO SET UP HER OWN BUSINESS CALLED ELEVATE U THAT AIMS TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO TEACH THEM LIFE SKILLS THEY MAY NOT HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN EXPOSED TO. TO GET IN TOUCH WITH LANA PLEASE HIT HER INSTAGRAM LINK HERE <a href="https://www.instagram.com/elevate\_u\_17?">https://www.instagram.com/elevate\_u\_17?</a> IGSH=MWY3EXNSZG15ZTZX AND WE THANK HER FOR BEING PART OF THE NEW GENERATION OF HOODIES CONTRIBUTORS.



LANA SCHULENBURG

#### Why there needs to be more youth mentors across the world.

Youth mentors are the cornerstone of the support of many youth members across the world. I've learnt just how vital these youth mentors are through being mentored these past 5 years. People often underestimate the significance of having someone in your life that not only understands you and sees things from your perspective but also someone that's willing to help in ways that most can't. I'll never forget the day that I met my mentor Alycia Burton at the age of 13. I clearly remember thinking to myself that I wanted to be just like her in every way, shape and form. She from that moment forward became one of the most significant people in my life, she changed my life. Youth mentors like Alycia change the lives of many, we need more people like her. Because they are the direct role models and influencers of the future generations to come. Not only do we already struggle with a lack of youth mentors, but youth struggle with mental health problems. And those rates have skyrocketed and reached new depletion heights. Without youth mentors, children and teens loose this support and some even loose their lives.

Youth mentors offer support in ways of teaching and guiding children and teens, Support with inspiring them to achieve their goals and dreams with structure and strategies to achieve them. To top it off they also help develop life skills, confidence and direction. Which are all the things that youth desperately seek. The 2024 youth barometer report showed that only 56% felt a sense of belonging when spending time with friends, this highlights the ongoing challenges of social inclusion and engagement. Another statistic showed that Between 40-50 per cent of students reported high levels of disengagement and falling levels of hope, across all ages and genders. Among grade 7-10 students, 5 per cent reported frequent use of vapes and alcohol consumption, rising to 11 and 15 per cent among grade 11 and 12 students, respectively. This data just further emphasizes the struggles, lack of support and guidance that is so deeply needed. It simply isn't fair to expect our next generations to grow and learn in this world when there isn't enough support for them. As I'm sure many parents and teens such as myself know how difficult life can get due to the ever changing dire circumstances, that we live upon hence why we can understand why the support of youth mentors are needed. Youth mentors build people up by teaching them the life skills and giving them the knowledge and resources that they seek. Through working with horses and attending youth retreats I've had so many young girls ask me about how to respond to school dramas or problems. And I feel so privileged to have been able to guide them and suggest solutions that have given them an opportunity to learn and mature. I often think about what would have happened if I weren't in their lives or what would have happened to my life if it weren't for my youth mentor.

To me there simply is no greater problem amongst youth, than the lack of support and youth mentors that aren't able to assist them. Because I've lived long enough to see what it's like for young teens to live recklessly and in states of discomfort, I've seen how certain experiences have shaped them and scared them for life, because they simply didn't know better or weren't taught the ways to communicate or how to navigate their lives. And that truth is the truth for way too many youth members. Which is why I believe that it's my responsibility to share my learning and knowledge with the next generation of youth. It's why I believe that it's parents' responsibility to take initiative for their teens and kids, to find mentors for them. That's going to support their development through life and assist them in times where they can't.

This problem was the exact reason why I created my platform Elevate U. Which is my platform for advocating youth mentorship and life long learning, through hosting events, horse riding retreats and riding lessons. Linking both worlds of nature and nurture together in developing transferable life skills through horse riding and other events.

So the solution that I propose is, if you the reader know of someone that could benefit from having a youth mentor. Then be that person to suggest the idea, because you simply don't know how significant it can be for a young teen or kid to have that one person to rely on when the world seems too hard to fathom. Together with more awareness and my own advocacy, more support can be generated for struggling youth members. Because as a community and society at large it's desperately needed.

### MANDAMI WINS IT IN THE BIG APPLE



NEW YORK HAS A NEW MAYOR AND HE'S ALREADY BEEN TO SEE THE DON...AND IT DIDN'T GO AS BADLY AS EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WOULD



Americas biggest city has a new Mayor and he is not backing away from any kind of fight with one Donald J Trump, well that was until the new mayor went to the White House to meet Trump face to face.

Zohran Mandami is a 34 year old self confessed Socialist democrat, an immigrant and he came to make a difference to New York. Throughout the Mandami campaign he has said he wants to offer minimum wages, free bus travel, increase taxes on the wealthy and big corporations, offer government back childcare and make New York realise that it was in part founded by immigrants. Needless to say the Trump Whitehouse has not been terribly agreeable with Manama's plans with the President suggesting he'd have Mandami arrested if he didn't do what he was told.

In Mandami's speech when he was declared the winner of the Mayoral race, which actually was indeed quite impressive the new mayor of the Big Apple called President Trump out and suggested the President should turn up the volume because basically he wasn't going to be pushed around. Now while Mandami isn't going to be pushed around he is actually a little reliant on the US Treasury for funding so I suspect things in the Big Apple could get quite rocky between the pair, but still it's going to make for quite the showdown.

Despite the fact that the Mandami speech was indeed impressive it was also interpreted as isolating for non immigrants, ie Americans. New York is home to some very wealthy people and a good portion of white people and while it's always true we need to stamp out racism and encourage diversity to only really talk to the migrant population of New York could come back to haunt Mandami. The new Mayor is all in on rights for everyone and everything, he's all about supporting workers, getting them minimum wages, defending their rights, giving people access to free public transport and child care because he is after all the self confessed socialist, but while all of that is on the surface very noble the realities are often quite different.

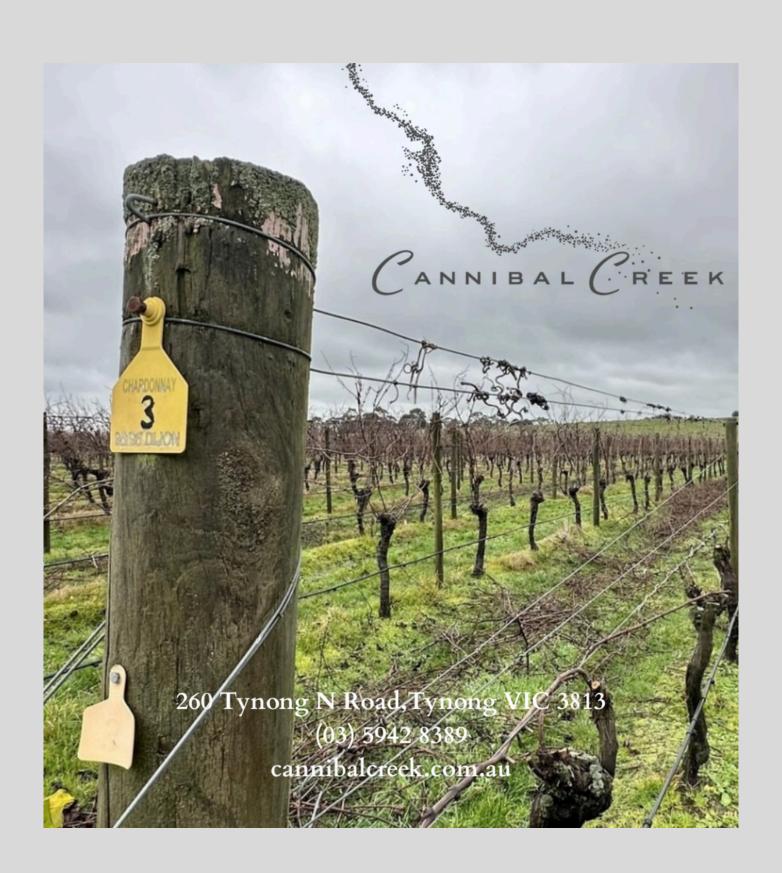


The new Mayor obviously has been given the right to govern and it's hard to see him backing away from anything he said, but the pressure will come when he does get blow back from the city and from the President. Already New York is seeing a good portion of major companies leave the Big Apple for more suitable homes for their Head quarters and if that continues to happen it will see high end jobs leave. If the top paying jobs go it will have the typical knock on effects, small businesses will struggle, costs will go up, staffing will become an issue and on the cycle goes.

What New York needs, like most the world is a balance. Yes the rich and successful need to pay more taxes, but not so much that they stop doing business in the city. Yes people with jobs in the city need better access to childcare, but it cant be so cheap or free that it becomes a cost blow out for the city. Of course low income earners need minimum wages, but not so high that it forces small or medium sized businesses to close. Mandami is I'm sure very smart, but the speech he gave when he won the race to be Mayor probably can't be the bench mark for what lies ahead. As inspiring as it was for all sorts of people the reality of the job ahead must play a major role in his thinking or it'll be curtains in the Big Apple.

Anyone that has been to New York will tell you, me included it is one of the greatest cities on the planet. It is everything and more you see in the movies and right now it stands on the precipice of profound change and we as a society hope it does change for the better and that it doesn't revert back to an era of decay and ruin. Post the Trump Mandami meeting you'd have to say things are looking up for the relationship between the White House and the Big Apple, but this is US politics and we can only hope that the neon lights on Broadway can stay on over the next few years.







## IS IT TIME FOR GOVERNMENT BACKED MEDIA TO GO?

IN RECENT WEEKS UK BASED GLOBAL BROADCASTING GIANT, THE BBC HAS BEEN CALLED OUT ON CONTENT IT'S PUBLISHED THAT TRIED TO DISTORT FACTS AROUND THE US CAPITAL RIOTS ON JANUARY 6TH. THE BBC ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE USED COMMENTS MADE BY DONALD TRUMP OUTSIDE OF THEIR ACTUAL MEANING, IE TO SUIT THEIR NARRATIVE. THE ACTIONS OF THE BBC BEG THE QUESTION, ARE WE SERIOUSLY GOING TO SUGGEST THAT GOVERNMENT BACKED MEDIA IS INDEED INDEPENDENT AND OFFERING NEWS THAT IS REALLY ABOUT GENUINE ACCOUNTABILITY? AND WHY ARE TAX PAYERS FUNDING IT?



You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that the likes of NewsCorp are indeed right wing and then CNN, MSNBC etc...sit to the left. We get that and we make our own choices, or at least we should as to what we watch and believe, but turn towards the BBC and the ABC here and you think, hang on why are our tax dollars funding this? See, while the progressives will scream like a a dude in a dress about 'her' rights to use the female bathroom time and time again we see both the BBC and the ABC moving to the left and even allowing condemnation or ridicule of the right.

In recent interview with yet another expert on climate change the ABC host Patricia Karvelis opened her intro to the expert with a laugh about the Libs abandoning net zero. The interview with said expert wasn't about the pros and cons of the Libs abandoning net zero it was to point out that they were basically a bunch of out of touch muppets who didn't know anything about climate change. Now I'm sorry I thought we were a government backed non biased media organisation that offered viewers and listeners balanced opinions and both sides of the argument? The world does indeed need to make a shift away from fossil fuels but the ABC aren't offering real solutions it is simply backing what Chris Bowen tells them and the Libs well they can go back to their conspiracy theories.

There is no doubt that in times of conflict, crisis etc a national broadcaster is actually needed. We have all listened to the ABC about fire alerts over the summer and watched their news services keep us updated on conflicts overseas, but nowadays while the broadcaster claims to be the middle ground its hard to take them seriously.

In the world of commercial media ratings and advertising revenue are all powerful but the government backed media organisation doesn't have to worry about any of that. Yes they need to make sure they're streaming services are running properly and ratings do indeed matter because thats how they understand what to program, but despite having a charter of operation who is actually holding government backed media to account? A board? The senior management team? The government? It's certainly not us the tax payer, so if advertising costs aren't able to have an impact on the organisation then it comes down to government funding and how do both the ABC and the BBC get more government funding? Well that one doesn't take a rocket scientist to work out.

The doubles standards though of our own ABC are really something to behold. Several ABC women who are very smart, successful and of firm opinions have been heavily (and rightly) criticised for stepping outside the charter of impartiality the ABC holds dear, but when a few men on the town voice theirs via the X platform or PK has a bit of a laugh at the expense of the Libs move on Net Zero where are the voices of impartiality? Where is the criticism? Crickets.

I'm sure it is a nightmare to try and run a government owned media organisation, but while there aren't too many centrist media organisations available these government backed brands need to fill that void. They need to deliver impartial information and news and allow people to make their own decisions, but until we see a shift away from the leftist narrative currently being delivered by government backed media more and more people will turn away and become an ever growing burden on where our tax dollars are spent no matter who's in government.





#### THE POST



**HOODIES MAGAZINE ISSUE 27** 



TEMPORALITY

#### CAN JESS WILSON WIN?



WOMEN ARE DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES, BUT CAN A FIRST TERM MP KNOCK OFF THE LABOR MACHINE AND BECOME THE FIRST FEMALE ELECTED PREMIER IN VICTORIA?



LIBERAL PARTY LEADER JESS WILSON



Well the big question is, can Jess Wilson pull off a win for the Liberal Party next November? A good portion of the state would seem to want her to, but it remains to be seen. Wilson is going to need a lot of things to go her way in the next year, but after a week or so in the top job and despite being a little shaky on day one, she looks like (touch wood) she could do it. The biggest problem she will have isn't the fact that labor are now an out of control bunch of maniacs, but rather that her own party may well knife her before then.

Wilson has been round the Liberal party her whole life with her father being a Lib MP with many of the grey haired party members remembering her as a child. Armed with liberal party values Wilson did law at Uni and then went to work for a consulting firm before landing a job with former federal treasurer Josh Frydenberg. A first term MP and despite Wilson obviously being ear marked for leadership at some stage, I'm not sure even she was thinking she'd be the party leader before the end her first term in opposition! Regardless though it's been pretty clear since she took over that even if the party didn't think she'd lead the party this quickly they have been training her to do it in the background for a while.



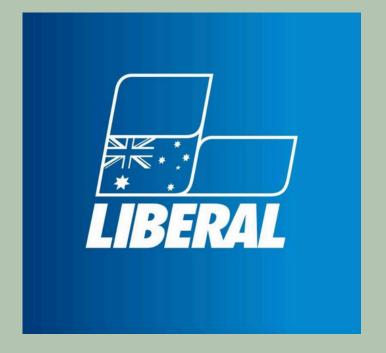
Jacinta Allan congratulates Jess Wilson on becoming Liberal Party leader in Victoria.

When Wilson did take over seeing off Brad Battin I was indeed one of the people who thought well that's it the Libs are fried. They sacked a former copper who was getting traction and doing what he could to hold Allan to account, but then whacko in comes Wilson. Now I still think Battin could've won in November next year, but while Wilson does have a long road ahead of her, she actually represents the future of the party. Did the Libs realise this? I'm not sure, but the party of the white middle aged male now has three women in leadership roles and even if it was a mistake they now need to stick with it because women is how they bounce back.

What Wilson doesn't need is help from the likes of Abbot, Frydenberg, Kroger, Kennett et al, what she needs to do is to press on the strong women in leadership button, the same button the Teals have pressed. See a good portion of Teal voters used to vote Liberal, but when the likes of Scomo and those previously mentioned were at the height of their misoginistic powers women abandoned the party in their droves, but with women now being in major leadership roles throughout the country this really is their chance to bring back voters to the party.

Did they mean to haver these women in these roles is a question to ask, but regardless it's time to understand that these women are the future and the worst thing they could do is sack any of them! Can you imagine if the state Libs bring in another 50 something whiter male before the election next year? It would be over. So please, to the Victorian Liberal Party, put away the infighting, put away the gossip, put away the back stabbing and unite behind Jess Wilson. Why? Because it's not just about getting rid of Allan it's also about restoring some democratic accountability in the state. It's about having an opposition that is united in their dealings with labor and it's about at least trying to offer the state some hope in the post covid Andrews and Allan lead apocalypse!

It wouldn't surprise me if the Libs do blow themselves up before next November, but as the song goes...this is the moment!



#### **MIGRATION 2.0**

MIGRATION IS A HOT TOPIC AND WILL DOMINATE POLITICAL DEBATE FOR SOME TIME TO COME





I was talking to someone recently who was of Italian origin and he said he remembers a time in Australia when his parents were spat on because of their Italian heritage. They were migrants in a white mans world that wasn't very supportive of anyone that didn't tick the box of what it was to be an Australian. Jump forward 70 or so years and have things changed? Well yes they have, well yes and no.

Australia today wouldn't be what it is without migration. The Greeks and Italians that came here in the post Second World War era worked their butts off to give their families a life they couldn't have had in their own countries. They gave us a culture of food, wine creativity and soul we wouldn't have had otherwise and we should indeed be grateful for all of it. In 2025 migration is again a hot topic and while we do welcome migrants from across the world there is a profound difference between welcoming migrants of the 1950's and today.

Migration is a hot topic and with the Trump administration weighing into the debate it's being played as an issue about pressure on social services and cohesion rather than one of racism etc...although criticise migration and guess what? A racist you are! The days of spitting at migrants is for the most part gone, although there is always prejudice and as we say we understand how much migrants have added to the cultural heritage of Australia, but despite numbers falling in the past few years we having major issues with housing, with social services and finding jobs for migrants. Plus we are still having to deal with those who come here illegally or stay past the dates of their visas.



auline Hanson has now been banned by the senate for seven sitting days because she was deemed to be almost inciting racism by wearing a burqa in the Senate. While Hanson was suggesting the Burqa should be banned because it was a potential national security threat the reality for it is that it is a form of oppression of women so why do we have it and or allow it here? No one is suggesting and neither is Trump that cultural heritage shouldn't be encouraged in the countries migrants go to, but what people are saying is that there is a responsibility of migrants to understand that they can't go to a new country and think they're still in theirs. It's not a case of assimilate or die, it's a case of we don't oppress women, we don't think it's ok to use a machete to solve problems, we do think that being able to speak fluent English in a service job is not an unreasonable requirement and we do think that being proud of the country you live in, ie Australia is a good thing.

Migration is of course a political football and the migrants that do come to Australia and end up staying permanently become the target of politicians wanting their vote. How many times have we seen MP's grabbing selfies with people of diverse ethnicity? Who did Jacinta Allan have show her around the metro tunnel project? Who did former leader of the Libs, Brad Battin have photos with during Chinese New Year celebrations? They all do it but while it's all well and good to grab a selfie to get people of varying cultural heritage to vote for you, the issues around migration aren't going away anytime soon. If we don't have some open, honest and common sense discussions about how Australia maintains its own identity we will become a country that forgot who it actually was.





# IS GAVIN NEWSOM THE MAN TO WIN BACK THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE DEMOCRATS?



Depending on which coast you live on, Gavin Newsom is either the slick face of polished West Coast progressivism or the guy who shows up in your social feed every six weeks delivering a monologue about national politics despite technically being the governor of just one state. Either way, he's carved out something rare in American politics: he feels like a national figure even when he isn't running for national office. And that, more than anything, explains why so many people keep asking the same question—could Gavin Newsom become a future president of the United States?

Whatever the answer, the more interesting story is how he's positioning himself.

Newsom is a politician built for the HD era: camera-ready, unflinchingly composed, and allergic to the folksy awkwardness that dominated early-2000s politics. He appears on television sets with the poise of a brand ambassador and the cadence of someone announcing the next iPhone. That matters. Modern political persuasion is increasingly indistinguishable from brand marketing. Newsom, consciously or not, is playing in that lane.

He's been rehearsing for the national stage for years. Not through traditional "I'm running" methods, but through cultural saturation. He shows up on red-state talk shows. He spars with conservative hosts. He travels across the country defending California like it's a misunderstood but brilliant sibling. He's essentially beta-testing his national message in environments where most Democrats fear to tread. And in a hyper-polarized country, that willingness to enter rival echo chambers marks him as both gladiator and brand manager.

Newsom's political biography gives him an unusual edge: he is at once a product of elite coastal liberalism and someone who presents as more charismatic and combative than the stereotype implies. He is a governor who speaks like a commentator, a policy technocrat who dresses like a Netflix producer, a politician who delivers progressive arguments at the pace of a startup CEO unveiling a Series B. In other words, he feels like the Democratic Party's attempt at producing a candidate who can survive—and thrive—in America's ever-accelerating attention economy.







But the real engine behind Newsom's ascent is the shift in what voters perceive as leadership. In an era of permanent crisis—climate, economic volatility, culture war theatrics—voters gravitate toward figures who look unflappable. Newsom's carefully maintained composure, sometimes mocked as over-calibrated, plays differently in a country exhausted by chaos. Whether he's on a debate stage, a wildfire site, or a Fox News studio, he seems built for turbulence.

Then there's California itself. For decades, the state has been the ideological Rorschach test of American politics—admired, resented, mythologized, misunderstood. Newsom has mastered using it as political theater. Supporters see him as steward of the country's most ambitious progressive laboratory. Critics see him as the avatar of liberal excess. Either way, he draws attention, and attention is the currency that buys political relevance.

His national profile surged further when he began directly confronting Republican governors—not with press releases but with full-blown narrative counter-programming. He didn't just critique their policies; he challenged them on their home turf. Billboards, interviews, call-outs, state-versus-state clashes. It was the kind of political pugilism Democrats rarely deploy, and it sent a clear signal: Newsom is willing to be the fighter many in his party say they want.

But ambition alone does not make a president. The path ahead—for anyone —requires timing, coalition-building, and the luck of historical moment. What Newsom does have, undeniably, is a national persona already shaped to fit a future that rewards polish, media fluency, and ideological clarity. He understands the camera as battlefield. He understands political identity as narrative design. He understands that governing is only half the job; the other half is projecting the idea of leadership into the consciousness of a country that consumes its politics like entertainment.

The question isn't whether Gavin Newsom is running for president right now. The question is whether he is constructing the scaffolding for a moment when national opportunity intersects with national appetite. And on that front, he's doing something few politicians are disciplined enough—or audacious enough—to attempt: he is acting like a national figure long before the country decides whether it wants him to be one.

If American politics is increasingly a contest of brand architectures, media dexterity, and cultural resonance, Newsom is already operating on that level. And whether or not he ever occupies the Oval Office, he's shaping the blueprint of what a future Democratic contender might look like—cameraready, ideologically assertive, and unafraid to treat politics not as a hometown gig but as a full national tour.

That alone ensures his name will hover around the edges of presidential speculation for years to come.

# IS JORDAN BARDELLA THE FUTURE OF FRANCE?

In an age when political brands fracture faster than phone screens and trust in institutions seems to evaporate by the week, one of the most surprising resurgences is happening on the right flank of European politics—and it wears the face of a 29-year-old in a perfectly tailored suit. Jordan Bardella, the youthful president of France's National Rally, represents a new species of right-wing figure: polished, digitally fluent, and constructed for an era that rewards aesthetic sharpness as much as ideological commitment.

For years, the mainstream framed the far right as a fading inheritance—angry uncles, dusty slogans, and parties that thrived mostly on protest votes. But Bardella's ascent suggests something far more durable is in motion. Young conservatives across Europe—and increasingly beyond it—are beginning to see themselves not as rebels but as rightful heirs to a movement that's rebranding itself for the 21st century. Bardella, with his calm composure and Instagram-ready persona, is not just riding that wave. He is defining it.

Raised in Seine-Saint-Denis, a working-class suburb long written off by the Paris establishment, Bardella has turned biography into narrative weaponry. His story—half grit, half reinvention—helps him speak the language of both grievance and aspiration. He is the polished product of a generation raised between economic precarity and algorithmic dopamine hits, acutely aware that any modern political movement must perform as much as persuade.





That's the shift that older conservative leaders never fully mastered. Their speeches were built for broadcast television; their worldview for a postwar generation. Bardella and his cohort grew up on YouTube debates, ideological infographics, and political micro-dramas staged on TikTok. They understand that youth isn't a liability anymore—it's a market advantage. And make no mistake: there is a market for what Bardella is selling.

Across Europe, right-wing youth groups are expanding, not shrinking. Membership on university campuses—long considered left-wing strongholds—is trickling back to conservative societies. Polls show that the "Zoomer right" is not a fringe curiosity but a demographic reality. Although their reasons vary—from immigration anxieties to anti-elite sentiment to a generational desire for order in chaotic times—the result is the same: a new right not built on nostalgia but on a platform of sharpened modernity.

This is why Bardella resonates. He speaks "future tense." While the older right often communicates in the language of restoration, Bardella communicates in the language of redesign. He does not promise to return France to some romanticized past; instead, he frames himself as the architect of a controlled and coherent tomorrow. In political terms, that's a pivot with enormous gravitational pull.

But Bardella's real innovation isn't policy—few young voters memorize position papers. His advantage is symbolism. He looks like the kind of person who might appear in a streetwear advert or a fintech launch video. He pairs nationalist messaging with the branding instincts of a lifestyle influencer. That's not an accident, nor is it superficial. In a landscape where politics feels like identity shopping, Bardella has built a brand with shelf appeal.

This aesthetic edge matters because youth culture no longer regards ideology as purely intellectual. It is aesthetic, tribal, and broadcast through feeds. Bardella's team understands this. His visual language—clean lines, monochrome palettes, geometric stage designs—speaks to an audience trained in the semiotics of hype-culture and tech minimalism. He is, in effect, the conservative movement's first leader who feels algorithmically optimized.

Of course, critics warn that repackaging the far right in modern branding doesn't soften its historical concerns. They argue that Bardella's sleek presentation masks policies that still root themselves in exclusionary nationalism. But whether one sees him as reformer or repackager, the political landscape has changed: the right's newest leaders are no longer disheveled outsiders shouting at the gates. They are self-produced, camera-ready, and comfortable in the corridors of power.

And that brings us to the broader point: Bardella is not an isolated phenomenon. Italy's younger right-wing influencers, Germany's rising conservative youth blocs, Austria's sharp-suited Identitarian-adjacent figures—all part of a continental pattern. The conservative movement is undergoing a generational shift from rumpled populism to curated modernism.

What emerges is a right wing that is, paradoxically, more professional and more rebellious at the same time. Its leaders speak fluent establishment—policy briefings, diplomatic polish—yet posture as disruptors. They promise to clean house while promising to color outside the traditional lines. For many young Europeans exhausted by political stagnation, that combination feels less like radicalism and more like relief.

Jordan Bardella's rise, then, is not simply the story of a young man leading an old party. It is the story of a political brand evolving with the velocity of youth culture. It signals a future in which the right's battlefield is not just ideology but image—where leadership is less about inheriting a movement and more about crafting its mood board.

Whether one embraces or fears that future, one truth stands out: the right-wing movement of tomorrow will be shaped not by the gray-templed statesmen of yesterday but by the Bardellas of today—young, media-savvy, stylistically strategic, and ready to frame conservatism as the next sleek product in the marketplace of modern politics.



SUPA-ITALIA



## WHERE IS THE MIDDLE GROUND IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA?

WE KNOW WHO THE RIGHT WING MEDIA OUTLETS ARE, WE KNOW WHO SITS ON THE LEFT, BUT IT'S THE MIDDLE GROUND THAT IS THE NEW BATTLE GROUND FOR ADVERTISING REVENUE AND COMMON SENSE



Where is the middle ground in the media? All well known media organisations will tell you that they are the ones who will give it to you straight and are themselves the arbiters of the truth, but really? We all know that NewsCorp is right wing, that the ABC is left and that the rest are beholden to corporate and government backed narratives, but isn't the role of media to offer real accountability and not the opinions of a) the people that work at each organisation and b) of government agenda?

I am convinced that there is the opportunity to build the middle ground in the media world. A modern legacy media company that redefines all the aspects of what used to make a media company.

In the past a legacy media company was, printed newspapers and magazines, it was TV, it was radio and cable TV networks, but while some of that is still relevant newspapers are now online, magazines can be interactive again online and TV is now all about streaming services. Radio is now podcasting and cable TV is also about streaming...everything is online. Add in social media and online broadcasting the media company that can give legacy media a modern spin and find the middle ground of common sense will fill the void being left by the last remnants of old school legacy media.

The world and billionaires are of course evolving and with the likes of the Ellison family buying networks, studios etc...are facilitating the shift away from the old school, but right now their content hasn't. If you look at the Ellison's in particular they now own Paramount/Skydance which has the CBS network under its control. Are the Ellison's shifting away from left wing content? Are they taking to the middle ground with CBS? Both highly unlikely. Over at NewsCorp who are one of the last remaining 'old school' legacy media companies even they are evolving into online platforms but like Ellison aren't shifting away from their core revenue model of right wing opinions and content so again what of the middle ground?

If you have been in restaurants or worked in the right ones you see politicians and media people talking together, you see them laugh and joke and you see them knowing that there is agenda. Yes media outlets need politicians to sometimes come on various TV programs to discuss policy and decisions but the media organisation should in now way be beholden to the politician. Money and power are powerful things but neither should impede a media organisation from offering genuine accountability.

This isn't to suggest there isn't accountability in the media, there absolutely is. Journalism is full of the brave exploits of journos who write, investigate and take massive risks to bring about truth, accountability and change but it's their bosses who make the decisions about how to frame content and who they're answerable to. This is the changes need to be made. Yes a good CEO will look at all sides of the argument to get generate share holder returns and yes they will bow to government pressure but a new media organisation can take the bones of legacy and traditional media and turn it into whatever they want.

The internet has obviously changed the game completely and it's true that anyone with a smart phone can be a reporter, but we need to get past all of that. We need a media company that produces content that talks straight to the issues and offers a common sense take on them. We still need online newspapers and magazines, but from there we need to create short form content that talks to this issues that matter and get people to question what we are being fed by government and society. We need online programs that discuss issues without the fear of being cancelled or standing accused of crimes against morality. We need documentaries made by serious film makers and journalists who want to make a difference and we must never forget that we need to bring people joy. We need to produce content that not only holds the world to account, but also inspires it, encourages it to be better, makes it laugh and reminds all of us that being human is the greatest gift we have.

We can't let Ai and tech take over our lives, we have to stop mainstream media pretending they are the arbiters of all truth and we absolutely have to demand real accountability from governments. Now whether anyone believes me or not I cannot begin to describe how much I believe all of it. I am convinced there is a future for a centrist global media organisation that bows down to no one and I will never stop working towards Hoodies Media being it.

## JAMES PACKER IS BACK, BRIEFLY





one of australia's richest people talked recently to joe aston on his new platform 'rampart' and big jim hold back...

Well there's no doubt that James Packers interview with Joe Aston has got the big fella back in the headlines and well it's good to have him back. Before we get onto what has really made headlines James Packer has managed to over come all sorts of mental health and addiction issues and take the plunge on putting himself back out on the media stage.

It's easy to pass off all the things that go wrong in a billionaires life as their own fault, but mental health and addiction don't care if you've got 5 bucks or 5 billion they will crush you like a bug. Ultimately it's up to you to make the changes you need to to get back in your feet again and yes having the money for psychological support, classes etc helps but you are still the only one that can do it! So welcome back big fella! I'm sure the old man would be proud. But while it's great to see James back what made the real headlines from the Aston interview was Packers comments about one Daniel Andrews.

Packer had major issues with Andrews during the sale of Crown which saw the state government stick out their hands for some more coin and nearly blow up the deal, but Packer also suggested the former Premier had destroyed Victoria and called him 'Human filth' Packer like a good many of us believe that the draconian lockdowns in Victoria lead to the crippling debt we now face, something Packer thinks we will never get out from under. Again like many of us Packer doesn't mention how Andrews could ever face any kind of consequences for the decisions that have lead us to where we are, but I can't see them catching up at Christmas when James comes back to Australia.

Love or loathe the Packers both Kerry and James were never shy from telling people what they thought. The famous hearing in which Kerry told a bunch of MP's and bureaucrats that of course he was minimising tax is the stuff of legend, but we don't get honesty much anymore. We don't get opinions from people of influence about the things that matter to average people. Yes ok we hear from Twiggy Forest about how we need to be heading to renewables and not using Russian oil, but that's all about Twiggy, the Packer comment was all about honesty, it wasn't about an agenda. Yes Packer was impacted financially by certain circumstances but he was honest and for that I say thanks big fella, it's about time people started calling things the way they are not how they think they should be!



So after 30 years Barnaby Joyce has left the Nationals to quite possibly join One Nation. If you read a good portion of the media stories about Barnaby leaving the Nats it all seemed to paint a picture of a sad ending to a sad career, when was it really? And I'm not sure it's over.

The sad faces in the chamber weren't really listening and no matter what you think of Joyce he is someone that has been in the political game for 30 years and yet no heart felt thank you from anyone? It was indeed a sad ending but not because Joyce was leaving the Nats but because Parliament House is a toxic mess of nasty people who couldn't give a compliment to juggling giraffe on a unicycle. Joyce has indeed had his moments and done quite a few things I'm sure he regrets but didn't he at least deserve some kind of thanks? If he does end up at One Nation then he and Pauline could well be a force to be reckoned with. It's obvious that they would be about as subtle as a sledgehammer when it came to making their points, but as Joyce said in his farewell speech times are changing and who knows what One Nation could do.

We have Malcolm Turnbull get a painting unveiled by the PM only for Turnbull to have a massive swing at the Libs for not understanding who they are and Barnaby? Barnaby got hammered from pretty much every section of the media and no love fest from the PM like Turnbull at the unveiling. Turnbull in his speech about the Libs was actually right as was Joyce in what he had to say , but it obviously makes a difference who your friends with up in Canberra because it would seem right now Barnaby's only friend is pauline Hanson.

#### BARNABY SAYS GOODBYE TO THE NATS



#### THE TRUTH

(+)



# ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE CLIMATE DEBATE? YOU'RE NOT ALONE.



BY RAGINI PRASAD

RAGINI PRASAD IS, AMONG MANY THINGS, A MOTHER, PARTNER ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, EXISTENTIAL DETECTIVE, AND REGENERATIVE CHANGEMAKER.

SHE IS ON A PATH OF CONSCIOUS EXPANSION, AND HER WORK IS AN EXTENSION OF THAT JOURNEY. AS A REGENERATIVE CHANGEMAKER COACH SHE SUPPORTS LEADERS AND CHANGEMAKERS TO REALIGN WITH THEIR TRUE NATURE SO THEY CAN RECLAIM CLARITY, COURAGE, AND INTEGRITY IN HOW THEY LIVE AND LEAD - BECOMING FORCES FOR MEANINGFUL, REGENERATIVE CHANGE IN A WORLD THAT URGENTLY NEEDS THEM.

YOU CAN FOLLOW HER ON LINKEDIN

If you're struggling to make sense of the climate debate, then you are in good company. Infact I'd go as far as to argue that confusion is now the entire strategy. What should have been a shared human challenge that could help us co-evolve and a moment to realign ourselves with the places we live, the food we grow, the water we drink, and the air we breathe — has somehow become one of the most vicious cultural battlegrounds of our time.

Somewhere along the way, we lost the plot and now we're all paying for it.

The environmental movement that I grew up in was built on clarity, groundedness and genuine care for the planet at its core. However what we see today is a swirling vortex of ideology, fearmongering, moral grandstanding, corporate opportunism, media theatrics, performative activism, and political ego. And as someone who has been deeply embedded in the environmental sector, with an engineering degree, I find myself increasingly stunned that so few people inside the system are willing to speak plainly about it.

Because, let's be honest: a lot of this isn't making sense anymore.

Instead of honest conversations about stewardship, resilience, or the real work needed to heal and regenerate ecological systems, we're being served a steady diet of apocalyptic headlines, celebrity virtue signalling and hypocrisy. Lets not forget the little junket to the Amazon for COP 30 that over 450 Australians got to go to on the tax payer dime.

Meanwhile, the everyday person - the one actually funding these excesses through their taxes, paying bills, building families while keep the lights on and maintaining a shred of sanity - is left poorer, more exhausted, and more overwhelmed. And then, just for good measure, they're told that unless they make the "correct" sacrifices, the planet will implode and it will all be their fault.

Perhaps you can see why this messaging is falling on deaf ears and those working in this space are increasingly speaking to themselves.

Something has gone very, very wrong.

Why Confusion Is the Strategy

Here's the uncomfortable bit that nobody wants to articulate - the confusion is not accidental - it's the strategy. Fear and confusion make for the perfect psychological fog and this fog keeps people disorientated and compliant.

Put the two together and you get a population that stops trusting its own instincts - a population that becomes easier to shame, easier to manage, and easier to morally bash. When people don't know what's real, they default to authority. And when that authority is captured by political, corporate, or ideological interests, well it becomes pretty easy to pull the wool over your eyes. And so a confused public is a compliant public.

Because while we're arguing, panicking, catastrophising or numbing out, the same elites lecturing us about "saving the planet" are quietly expanding their portfolios while posturing their virtuousness. It's the same old tired pattern that has birthed the medical industrial complex, the military industrial complex and now the climate industrial complex (and don't get me started on the gender industrial complex).

Fear + confusion => control.

And it's working remarkably well don't you think??

The Collapse of Dialogue

This fog has turned the climate debate into performance that is starting to ring pretty hollow. Infact I would go as far as to say that what we have now is a religion right with believers and non-believers.

There's almost no space left for the sane middle - the space where complexity, nuance, and real-world solutions actually live. And when you remove the middle, you remove most of us - the public. Nobody likes being shouted at by extremists. People aren't switching off because they don't care - they're switching off because they can't cope with being endlessly lectured, blamed, and shamed by people who seem completely detached from their daily reality.

A Word on the Science

Lets get it out of the way - is climate change real. I'm not disputing that the climate isn't changing - but who knows how much is natural and how much is man-made?

I'm personally not convinced we can predict this with any real accuracy - I mean come on - we can't even predict the weather accurately. Nor am I convinced that anyone should pretend it's that simple.

To claim the science is "settled" on something as complex, chaotic, and multi-layered as planetary climate systems is about as daft as saying you fully understand human consciousness and God because you had a plant medicine experience.

What we need now is a level of humility and a recognition that the "The science is never settled" - because science at its heart is inquiry - not dogma.

#### What This Series Will Explore

This article is the first in a larger series unpacking the climate debate from a more grounded, regenerative, human-centred perspective. I'll be exploring:

- · energy security and what responsible energy supply looks like
- · environmental greenwashing
- · the corporate climate circus
- · what authentic environmentalism actually looks like
- · regenerative principles that reconnect humans and nature
- · practical ways people can take part without going broke or losing their minds

Because the truth is, most the environmental narratives that we are being subject to are built on fear, simplicity, and political incentives - not on technical knowledge combined with wisdom.

And we can do better and must.

Before Solutions, We Must Name the Dysfunction

Before we talk about energy systems, land stewardship, or circular economies, we need to name the dysfunction of what is taking place and also explore how we got here - the source of the metacrisis.

If we don't name this dysfunction - this deep fracture in trust - anything we build on top of it will only ever be superficial. And what we see is that the bandaids applied to date are like playing whack a mole - they bypass the systemic failures - create perverse outcomes and meanwhile create haves and have nots.

True environmental stewardship requires everyone and we need to shift the message away from guilt and move toward agency. Not "get on board with climate change," but rather "get on board with the idea that we can live far smarter with the planet." Not "humans are the problem," but that we were born for these times and "humans are an integral part of the solution." Not "nature is separate," but "we are nature - and we choose whether we align with it or act against it."

This is not woo woo but systems thinking, philosophy and reality.

#### A Different Path Forward

Strip away the hysteria and something hopeful emerges: we can redesign our relationship with nature in ways that are local, intelligent, and empowering — without bankrupting ourselves or drowning in existential dread.

#### We can:

- · restore ecosystems
- · regenerate soils
- · green our cities
- · remove pollution
- · redesign food systems
- · strengthen local manufacturing
- · use energy wisely
- · build circular economies
- support biodiversity
- · create resilient communities

These are tangible, grounded, human-centred acts of stewardship. No panic required and no ideological purity tests. Just plain Wisdom + Action => Real Change

This is where my skills and experience have led me and I hope that readers join me on a path grounded in clarity, not confusion; agency, not fear; regeneration, not nihilism. Because the truth is: We are not doomed but simply lost in the noise and it is only through clarity that the noise can being to fade. And this is how we build agency and birth real change.

## THANK YOU CANVA!





I remember when I used Microsoft word for the first time I thought it was amazing, but then I got into Macs and my world came alive...sorry but its true. Mac had programs that could help you build all sorts of presentations, it had slides you could move around and you could use an amazing array of fonts. You could insert pictures, change their shapes and move them wherever you wanted. Now yes this is all fairly basic but I'm talking about this from the perspective of a mere minion, not a trained pro, Macs made it possible for us minions to create documents that came off a page and then Canva came along.

Business consultant Oshi Kirk who helped me with some of the ideas for Hoodies, read Issue 4 of what used to be called; Hoodies, hats and no BS and suggest I use Canva to help me with design of the magazine. Being the mere minion I was and still am when it comes to high end design I thought it would be all too hard, but it wasn't.

Yes you have to have some kind of eye for detail when you use Canva but fir the most part it is pure genius for those of us that are far from being one. Canva was and still is a revolution, but the revolution didn't come from Silicon Valley, it came from Perth Australia. Perth — a place better known for surfers, FIFO workers, and heat that melts thongs to pavement — where Melanie Perkins had this deceptively simple idea: design shouldn't require a PhD and a decade of hand cramps. She teamed up with Cliff Obrecht and Cameron Adams, and together they built one of the slickest, most addictive pieces of tech Australia has ever exported. Three people who basically looked at the design world and said, "Why is this so hard?" Then fixed it.

It's always been relatively easy to create presentations on a computer but to create ones that look like a pro did them either takes a pro and lots of dollars you don't have or you use Canva. Yes ok they probably need to get a few more templates but with the incorporation of Ai there is really no limit to what Canva will be able to do when it comes to designing your next project.

Thank you Canva!

## TASSIE AND THE STADIUM





Tasmania or Tassie as it's known to many of us desperately wants its own footy team. To be called the Tassie Devils the AFL boys club have said yep you can have your own team, but only if you build a billion dollar stadium.

Now Tassie already has a state debt of around \$13 billion and with another billion set to be added to the state debt if the stadium gets approved you can't help but ask, how are they paying off the debt exactly? Those that want the stadium will tell you that it will pay for itself with events, the footy etc...but anyone else will tell you they'd rather the money be spent on fixing education, roads and housing. Not unreasonable really...

The issue of the stadium in Tasmania has already seen the Liberal government forced to the polls as it didn't have the numbers in the parliament to get the approval through. The issue though is that the Libs won that election and the numbers are about the same so right now it looks as if the stadium won't get through and then what? Well the AFL boys club says that's it, the deals off, but really?

The AFL are this woke lefty (but only for the media) piss head male wank fest of bullshit. The modern AFL board have pretty much killed off old school footy. They charge so much to go to a game and to eat at it only the strongest clubs and supporters survive. They tolerate the astonishingly poor behaviours of some modern players but refuse to support retired players who suffer from CTE and are such a closed shop of misogyny you can't help but applaud Caroline Wilson and women of her ilk every time you see them. They are an unaccountable force of sport in this country and are now basically saying to Tassie build the stadium or bye bye, well if the AFL are truly wanting to be an organisation that supports footy across the country it's time they stepped up and actually build something themselves based on the old school foundations of footy.

Build the stadium in Tassie AFL because if you don't then what is the point of you?

### THE REALITIES OF BUSINESS

A couple of weeks I had an absolutely shithouse week. Apart from the ever pressing issue of cash flow the emotional toll it took on me was bloody awful. Unbelievably the week culminated in a meth headed chef abusing me on the phone last night that he didn't get the job he wanted!

Dealing with people who don't have the same motivations as you or don't understand how much work things take is astonishingly stressful and frustrating! It must be said at this point my wife has taught me so much about being more patient and indeed understanding but it still doesn't make things any easier.

The unfortunate reality of running your own business is that is extremely lonely and isolating. You have to work when others are doing things not related to work, you are constantly juggling all manner of things, you are stressed beyond comprehension and you feel guilty when you're not focused on generating that extra bit of income you need to get through the week! But the thing that keeps you going, the thing that you have to have and the thing that will give you the strength to push beyond the boundaries you never thought possible is mindset.

Prior to running my own businesses and not being focused I always thought mindset was for wankers who went to Pilates, ate Keto diets and had too much Botox. Now some of that might be true but the power of your brain and how you use it is one of the two things I think are vital when you do your run your own race. The other? Persistence.

The power of being able to reset, refocus and go again is key to staring down the terrors you face when running your own business. No one cares. No one believes you. No one thinks you can do it. No one believes you'll pay them back the money you've asked them to invest. No one understands your vision. No one, as they say is coming to save you! It's all on you and if you can't rise above all the doubt, the hurt, the lack of money, the desperation, the stress, the fear and the loneliness then it's over.

I am not driving round in a Super Charged Range Rover or wearing a watch worth more than the average family home I am juggling the balls, I am stressed, I am anxious, I am tired, I am basically working for free, I am in debt and I am working 24/7 but I am not giving up...I am taking deep breaths, I am relentless in my pursuit of what it is I want for both my businesses and I have adopted the mindset of overcoming everything that comes along.

It is a lonely thing to run your own business, but as much as it hurts sometimes, well most of the time, it's hard to imagine doing anything else. Yeah ok you might need to pick groceries, clean floors or wash dishes while you build your thing, but we all need to avoid living with regret.

Yes this writing this is a little cathartic for me after what was a truly awful week, but I hope it helps those out there that need to hear the confirmation that you've got it and you'll get it done! Never give up, keep going and make sure you keep your head in the game no matter what!

Now fuck off back to work!



## THE ODDS OF SUCCESS

BY PAUL BREEN



A few years ago at a seminar I heard some startling statistics about the likelihood you will achieve financial successful in your life by the age of 65:

- · One person will be wealthy.
- · Four more will be financially independent.
- · Fifteen will still be working full time.
- · Another thirty five or so will be flat broke.
- · The remainder will be making ends meet through part time work and pension payments.

#### Interesting statistics.

I think most of us would like to be financially independent by the time we reach 65 (or at least be close to it). We'd also like to choose whether we work or not. And relying on a pension to fund our retirement is unlikely to be anyone's ideal way to spend their golden years.

#### But why does it happen?

I think people just get stuck. Stuck in repetitive patterns of behaviour that produces the exact same results every time. The outcome is predictable because the behaviour is predictable. And this causes, in so many cases, for people to fall short of their dreams and aspirations.

Some do a bit better and have moderate success. But only a minority of people 'behave' successfully and become successful.

There's no doubt it's just easier and more convenient to conform. Keep your head down and try and fit in. Get on the treadmill and keep pedalling. Don't rock the boat. Stay in your comfort zone and keep doing what you've always done. Get up. Go to work. Come home. Have dinner. Watch TV. Go to bed. Dine out every week or two. Take a holiday once a year. Then repeat this cycle year in, year out.

It's not a bad life.

But it will produce predictable results that you may not like.

If you want more than this, you'll need to do more. And it's not just about working hard either (although that is important). It's about working smart too. And taking risks and making your own luck. In my experience, the people that achieve success are usually not the smartest or most talented people around. But they are hugely determined. At every stage they have forced themselves to do things that were uncomfortable and scary. They stepped into the unknown, sucked up their fear and focused on making the best possible decisions, every time. Along the way they learnt new skills, overcame their weaknesses and expanded their capabilities.

#### But how do you get started?

First: Find a major purpose in your life. What do you want to achieve? Look for challenges that stimulate you and you're passionate about.



Can you write your major purpose in a sentence or two?

Steve Jobs wanted to leave a dent in the universe. Martin Luther King wanted to create equality for black people. It doesn't have to be as grand as that. But it does need to be important (and worthwhile). Richard Branson came at it from a different angle but it is equally powerful, especially in the context of his life story - "To have fun in my journey through life and learn from mistakes." Mine is that I want to push myself to do hard, difficult things. To find out how much I am capable of. To never stop learning and not to settle for 'good enough' in my life.

What is yours?

If it is not immediately obvious, then spend some time figuring it out. It will eventually come to you.

Second: take risks to achieve your major purpose. Many people start something, but few finish it. Be resilient. Don't quit. Your major purpose won't be easy. You will hit problems and suffer set-backs. They're temporary. Keep going. Fail your way to success through sheer bloody-mindedness, if need be

Those who succeed are those who endure.

Third: keep the faith. Passionate people attract others. Tell your story. Live and breathe it. Don't listen to people who try to put you or your ideas down. Believe in yourself and sooner or later others will believe in you too.

Without passion it will be hard to start and even harder to keep going, especially when the times get tough (and they will). You can't do that unless you're 100% committed and engaged. And if you don't love what you're doing then it will be no fun and any passion you have will dissipate quickly.

Finally: audit your progress annually. Measure your forward progress and satisfaction levels. I do this because I don't want to perpetuate things that make me unhappy or disillusioned. It helps me to avoid missing opportunities or heading down the wrong road. It's highly cathartic and it has kept my life on track. It also forces me to ask these two hard questions - Am I happy? Am I living the life I want?

While sometimes difficult, I always try to answer honestly. Then I tune things up and move forward again.

Perhaps Mark Twain summed it up best when he said - "twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

There are boundless opportunities out there. But they only come to the people who actually go looking for them.

Will you be one of them?



Shepherd Engineering Consulting Services

Global Expertize in Underground Conztruction

#### Shepherd Engineering Consulting

#### Services

Shepherd Engineering Consulting Services Pty Ltd offers professional specialist engineering and constructability consulting services for tunnelling, trenchless works and underground construction.

- Over 25 years hands-on key delivery experience across national and international benchmark setting projects
- Concept planning, tendering, construction, technical and operations management from utility microtunnels to infrastructure mega-projects
- Providing value-added, risk mitigated solutions tailored to our Client's exacting needs.

Talk to us about your requirements and project goals.

Shepherd Engineering Consulting Services Pty Ltd ABN 63 629 075 289 Melbiourne, Victoria, Australia M +61 458 025 796

E justin.shepherd11@outlook.com







#### THE LIFE



**HOODIES MAGAZINE ISSUE 27** 

#### CATERINA BORSATO





Well what a month it has been!

Caterina's Cucina e Bar celebrated 30 years of business on October  $25^{th}$  2025.

I can't believe we made it. In fact, all of Melbourne made us feel that they were relieved that we made it.

I have been thinking about what it is that makes a place so unique to a customer.

Perhaps the familiarity of a place and knowing exactly where you will sit and the vibe of the room can assist any lunch, be it social or business. People who are in particular doing business don't like surprises. So many customers want to sit with their backs against the wall rather than sit in the middle of a room. Is it a security thing or simply that sound and noise is more muted when you are not totally surrounded by others. If a customer comes often enough, regardless of the spend, they have earnt the right to have their preferred table. Often, we go so far as to guarantee the regulars, the same waiter time and time again, where one goes beyond the service of food and wine and the interaction becomes part of familial rapport. Often vulnerabilities are revealed but of course the trust has already been set in stone.

Then one must place importance on the actual menu, with no unknown surprises such as cream in the carbonara or the baccalà being cut with potatoes .. (by the way, that is the Spanish way & not the Italian way), or a tiramisù being bastardized with Philadelphia cream cheese rather than a good quality mascarpone. And don't get me started when the cocoa dusting isn't a good dark bitter chocolate. Recipes can be expanded upon but leave the traditional stuff alone. Of course, one of the things that has changed in the dining revolution here in Melbourne is shared platters. No longer is it the obligatory three course lunch. Part of the Caterina experience has always focused on the theatre of delivery of daily specials and from that initial interaction the waiter is usually able to deduce what the client wants to eat. Is it some salumi with the spritz or are they willing to be talked into tasting tiny morsels of squid ink risotto balls, sea urchin cream, fried artichokes etc etc. Strangely we had to put tagliatelle alla Bolognese back on the menu as it is considered comfort food and sometimes that is all that one wants. We make sure that the we provide the staples but we do not shy away from the latest trends as we always strive be in the moment and remain relevant.



Is it the fact that we have enough staff that can converse in Italian & keep the whole Italian experience authentic. Is it the romanticism of being called Signora or Signore. Ciao or buondi with a drool sounds so much more memorable than a simple hello or welcome. My sommelier has a thick Milanese accent and people just gravitate towards him. I mean, it is the language of love!

Now let's talk about the wine. I have trained my team to never assume what a client will spend. What will it be today? A big ticket wine to seal the deal or are they doing an express lunch and just want a glass of vino. I teach the team to always run their fingers down the list and over the price so that a client's nod becomes clear and we are not embarrassing them by asking ... how much do you want to spend? Once an elderly gentleman ordered a Sassicaia, a prized wine with a hefty price tag. The wine was brilliant but the bill wasn't. He had misread the price and was shocked at the \$1000 price tag. He paid the account as he accepted it was his fault and not that of the waiter, but he never came back. Sadly, I was only informed after the fact and could not appease the situation. It is our duty of care to never assume and reaffirm the choice, vintage and the price.

Oh, and there is one other little fact. We have just been awarded two chef's hats by the AGFG.

I must say that I am truly thankful and proud of this achievement, especially for my team. Nothing has really changed and we have been plying our trade for a very long time, so it just feels great to be recognized. Recently I listened to an interview with a journalist/reviewer about the awarding of hats and it basically went like this. There is no blueprint for what one, two or three hats looks like but there has to be a level of consistency, ambition and polish. One must deliver on the one's objectives irrespective of whether you are a bar, cafe or restaurant.

I am proud that the team and I have done that and will continue to do so. Hospitality is more than a job. It is a lifestyle choice!

Alla prossima

Caterina xx



## SOME FREE JOB ADVICE



Hospitality is a tough game and the industry unquestionably needs good people of which there is shortage, but if you are going to work in the industry you still have to work at pace and be someone venues and employers want to keep.

The hospitality industry has more migrant workers than at any other time I've seen in the last 35 years. The days of finding the 25 years old chef that has done their dues, has a passion for cooking, can actually cook, can lead, doesn't have issues with their visas and will stay wth you for more than 2 months are pretty much over. These chefs still do exist but they go where they can learn and are appreciated. The reality though nowadays is possibly offering sponsorship to chefs, training staff already in the building to step up and understanding that you could have totally different crew in your venue every six months, which may or may not be your fault.

Employers need lawyers to be checking work contracts and they need a payroll person to make sure no one is going over their allowed work hours, they need managers to make sure staff don't go without breaks and now need HR policies about how to handle all sorts of issues that may come up for the employee. Now that's all great and workers rights are great, but if you as a job seeker want to work in the hospitality sector you have to give something of yourself to the employer by taking it all seriously and doing the work at the speed required.

The hospitality industry has unquestionably changed some for good some for the ruin of it, but while it is give and take from both the employer and employee perspective people who want to work in it actually need some passion for it. Its great to get breaks, to get time in lieu, have support services for broken nails, but if you get a job work your arse off to keep it and impress the people paying you!

Recruiters, jobs boards, social media sites can all find you a job, but if you really want a job start by showing up for your first interview! If you can't make it then text and say so or if you're not interested text and say I'm out. If you go through the interview process be honest about your experience and visa status if that's an issue. Don't pretend to be something you're not and simply be honest. In a trial show the manager what you can do, head down and work, hard. Yes I'm sorry to get money you have to work for it, but if you don't want to work for it go and talk to centre link.

If you're a passionate and committed hospitality worker in back or front of house operations then you'll never have any issue getting a job, but if you're not passionate or committed, at least be committed, then you're wasting your time and the time of the employer.



## IT'S ONLY FOOD & BOOZE

TAKEN FROM THE NEAR COMPLETED BOOK; 'IT'S ONLY FOOD AND BOOZE' BY BEN LOGAN IT GOES THROUGH EACH ELEMENT OF THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY VIA THE EYES OF SOMEONE THAT HAS WORKED IN THE INDUSTRY FOR 25 PLUS YEARS. IN THIS EXTRACT WE HEAR ABOUT THE CHEF. REVERED BY SOME, LOATHED BY OTHERS BUT ACCORDING TO THEM VITAL!



#### The Chef.

Ah, the Chef. All of them will tell you restaurants can't survive without them and yes that's true, but their roles have changed and so have their kitchens. See, I've never been a chef nor did I want to be, I was a front of house person and to be honest have never really understood the whole public fascination with Chefs. That whole yelling thing in kitchens is from a bygone era and while kitchens need discipline and are indeed stressful throw a knife at a CDP or swear at the kitchen hand you'll end up at

Fair work faster than you can boil an egg. Chefs for the most part come in, set up, cook, sweat, swear, pack up, order for the next day and go home. Sorry to spoil the illusion the TV chef has brought you, but kitchens for the most part are not that glamorous.

In the modern world of hospitality there aren't that many characters left in kitchens. The 457 visa enabled people to stay in the country if they got a trade and in a lot of cases that trade was cooking. Some of the best people I've worked with have been Indian, Nepalese or Mauritian and all of them can cook, but some others used the Visa to get residency and have zero passion for cooking. While some of them have zero passion for cooking they have in a lot of cases stayed in kitchens which has lead to venues becoming cookie cutter places to eat where things a dropped in a deep fryer or a microwave thrown on a plate and called food. Those of us old enough to remember the era of the true chef are less tolerant of the modern era and really why should we be?

Once upon a time Kitchens were indeed places of war! Fuck you! Get the fuck out of here you stupid cunt, Your mum says hello wanker, where's my weed, how did you fuck that table up, don't come back in here or I'll rip your throat out...they were brutal places to be in. Drugs, sex, booze and food thrown in some where as well, I did love being in them. The head chef would indeed be the one who could make or break a service, but as much as they would argue a good front of house manager is the chefs eyes and ears in the dining room. Sorry Chef but without a manager that can run a service your food isn't leaving the kitchen. Yes we know you used to yell and screamand call us cunts, but we need you and need us! And if for nothing else it's to bring you beer or cut up your coke into lines after service.

Restaurants used to be where all the broken people went. If you could cook you'd be a chef, if you could hold a conversation with people you'd be out the front. Some of best chefs I've ever worked with were absolute lunatics. Knife throwing maniacs, but they could cook fish like no one else on the planet, they could design plate that would make you cry, but be on a crack pipe in the bathroom in-between orders. But in all the crazy of it, it worked and we loved it. The reality for a chef though is once you hit your mid 50's it's probably time to hand over the reins to someone who can run it better than you. Yes be part of it, design dishes, call the pass sometimes, but you lose the ability to run a busy service, sad but true.

Despite my misgivings about Chefs sometimes the good ones who love what they do give you love on a plate. They're feeders, they want you to love what you give them, they put untold work into that plate of food and they want it to be memorable for the person that eats it. The work for that dish to appear on the table can go back to their childhoods when their grandmother made them something and they wanted to replicate it for their diners. They could've come up with it themselves but no matter what they put on the table it is them in all their faults.

To be a good chef you need to be able to deal with pressure, understand ordering, build a team, deliver for the restaurant and offer people something they want to come back for. To be a great chef you need to give yourself to the plate and show who you are inside even if you are a knife throwing crack head.

We need good chefs, we need people who are passionate about food and hospitality, we can maybe do without the knife throwing and the drugs, but we unquestionably need the ones who are passionate and love what they do because without them sales of deep fryers will go through the roof!

Yes Chef!







#### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

www.stafffinder.org





## THE INSPIRATION





## MEN STILL NEED TO BE MEN!

#### in a world of excuses not to do things or be stuck doomscrolling men still need to be men!



Ok look mental health is important. We all need to be mindful of where we're at and to give ourselves a break from time to time, but men, we still need to be men! We still need to be decent hard work empathetic people who can look after and be a major contributing factor in our families, in our friendships, in our work places and in society as a whole.

Men being men today seems about toxic masculinity. It's about those utter flogs who think women are basically hookers with fake tits, botox and wear bikinis everywhere when really being a real man is absolutely none of that. Being a man is standing up for those you love and care about. It's about responsibility, it's about being there for people and it's about being the main your grand mother would be proud of.

Nowadays it's pretty easy to pull the mental health card or to take a day off because you're feeling overwhelmed, I'm sorry are you four? Life isn't about an easy road, if you're happy staying wit the downtrodden who whinge and moan for ever about their lives and working conditions then enjoy that, but if you aspire to be something else, something better then shove your mental health days and get your arse moving.

I'm not a massive UFC fan but I do like how it's founder Dana White has built it into such a successful global brand. When White was asked about what Gen Z was like he said they were the biggest bunch of pussies to walk the planet and he was right. Today, yes times are tough economically but right now if you're prepared to push yourself beyond what the current generation are prepared to do you'll be a great success.

While we absolutely want people to feel supported and while we accept work places need to have all sorts of support workers for staff and whatever the fuck else employers have to have nowadays maybe try and not be a complete sook? Maybe try and go to work even on the days when you're feeling overwhelmed? Maybe go that extra mile? Maybe push yourself beyond your comfort level? Maybe surpass expectations because you want to get ahead? Maybe don't bitch and moan? Maybe find some inner strength and don't pick up the phone to HR when you think your being bullied when really someone just told you to do your job?

Men! Be men for fuck sake! Don't be so easily lead, don't cry foul when it's you who can't keep up! Yes of course depression is real, yes of course we all have issues to deal with, but you have carry on and do what need to be done.

We are entering a dangerous period in the history of humanity where we are watching our identity as humans taken away. We cannot lose who we are and we cannot allow social media and online content to tell us what a man is and how he should act. We need to take back masculinity and be men again. It's not rocket science fellas, being a man has been going on for a while now, but right now many men have lost their way and it is well past time men made a comeback!

## WRITE IT DOWN





#### in an era of smart phones and iPads we need to remember the importance of writing things down

If I have learnt anything since running my own businesses and having goals for them or myself it is to write everything down

In an era defined by digital convenience, where notes vanish into the cloud and tasks live behind screens, the simple act of putting pen to paper might seem outdated. Yet physically writing things down remains one of the most powerful tools for shaping goals, sharpening focus, and turning aspirations into reality. The tactile process of writing is more than a nostalgic habit—it is a cognitive strategy that anchors intention, organises thought, and gives structure to ambition. When paired with a clear and actionable plan, it becomes one of the most reliable paths toward achieving what you truly want.

Writing by hand engages the brain in ways typing does not. Numerous cognitive studies have shown that when we physically write something down, we activate deeper neural pathways involved in memory, comprehension, and conceptual processing. The movements of forming letters and words create a kind of mental engraving, making the information more meaningful and memorable. A plan that is typed into a phone can be forgotten with a swipe; a plan written in a notebook becomes an active part of your thinking. It is the difference between fleeting intent and deliberate commitment. When you write, you slow down, think more clearly, and convert vague ideas into concrete language.



There is also an emotional dimension to physical writing. A handwritten plan feels personal and tangible. It reflects effort, attention, and ownership. When you write a goal, you make a promise to yourself in your own handwriting—there is a subtle psychological weight in that. Crossing off completed tasks delivers a small but significant sense of satisfaction, reinforcing progress and discipline. These small emotional rewards accumulate, strengthening motivation over time. Planning becomes not just a logistical exercise, but a ritual of self-direction.

But writing alone is not enough; it gains its real power when it forms the backbone of a structured plan. Goals without plans are dreams, and plans without action are placeholders. A good plan breaks ambitions into achievable steps, timelines, and milestones. It transforms the overwhelming into the manageable. Asking yourself what you want is the first step; writing it down is the second; mapping out how to get there is the step that turns intention into momentum. A written plan creates clarity and accountability. It forces you to confront what needs doing, anticipate obstacles, and commit to a pathway forward.

Moreover, having a physical written plan helps reduce stress. Unwritten goals hover in mental space, contributing to cognitive clutter and anxiety. When tasks remain floating in your head, they feel larger and more chaotic than they truly are. Writing them down externalises them, freeing mental bandwidth and providing reassurance that nothing will be forgotten. The plan becomes a mental anchor—a stable reference point you can return to when life becomes busy or overwhelming.

Ultimately, physically writing things down and creating a plan is an act of self-respect. It says that your goals matter enough to be documented and organised. It reaffirms that what you want is not accidental or optional but worth pursuing with clarity and intention. In a world full of digital noise and constant distraction, the notebook and pen remain steadfast allies in achieving meaningful progress. By writing your goals and planning your path, you set the foundation for real, sustained achievement.



# IN WAVES OF WAR...A NEW NETFLIX DOCO ABOUT HELPING NAVY SEALS OVERCOME PTSD IN MEXICO



When a highly decorated US Navy SEAL finally gives active combat away he begins to suffer the almost immeasurable effects of PTSD. Marcus Capone is built like a brick shit house and you can only imagine the kind of fearless warrior he was. As people who have never seen war and it's horror we can barely imagine what these special forces soldiers have seen and had to deal with. As a result it's hardly surprising they end up with having to deal with what they have done and seen when the guns get put away and the realities of life take hold.

In a new Netflix Documentary called 'In waves and War' we get to follow the experiences of three formal Navy SEALS that go to Mexico to be part of a therapy and drug program aimed at helping them deal with the horror of war.

As with many service men and women across the world when they do finish their military careers they are often left to their own devices when it comes to PTSD, which is itself staggering but in Capone's case it was actually his wife who said enough is enough! Amber Capone, fearing Marcus could end his life the couple decided to investigate a radical new treatment for veterans that combined two powerful psychedelics banned in the US. They headed for Mexico where Marcus began what turned out to be a life saving program of psychedelics and deeply supportive therapy that helped him deal with the horrors and experiences he had carried with him for far too long.

The drugs used in the Mexican program are illegal in the US hence the trip to Mexico and the best way to understand the effects the drugs have on these men is to listen to them explain what they do to their unconscious but very conscious mind as well. They talk about how the drugs give them the clarity and then the ability to unlock their pasts thus enabling them to deal with their issues. As one SEAL described it it's kind of like the drugs gave them the keys to the box they had had locked for too long and then once the box had been unlocked they were able to deal with the issues via therapy and their conscious minds.

The effects of the program are now being studied at the Stanford University Brain Stimulation Lab where even a numpty like me can see the differences on a brain scan pre and post the drug treatment program. The Capone's once they realised the benefits encouraged more ex SEALS to try the program and as we watch the progression of several other participants we see them go from absolute space cadets to getting signs of life back in their eyes.

It is a staggering program and the documentary gives these men the opportunity to show how the drug program is making a difference, but as yet still unavailable in the US. With Stanford involved that may well change in the future especially given the results they are seeing, but for now at least some of the brave and fearless soldiers that have given so much to their country can now find some peace.

'In waves of War' on Netflix now



#### THE SOUL

**HOODIES MAGAZINE ISSUE 27** 



#### THE HERALD SUN ARIA FINAL 2025



Several weeks ago I was lucky enough to attend the final of the 2025 Herald Sun Aria thanks to Agostino Giramondo at NewsCorp and it was great to see young singers getting the opportunity to sing in such a great space as the Melbourne Recital Centre with a full Orchestra.

As with everything when you are young you think you can do anything and that anyone over the age of 40 is almost dead, but it's not til we get older that we think ah yeah maybe that person did know what they were talking about. Young singers are no different especially when it comes to repertoire they are some time off singing. I personally rocked up to a Royal Opera House audition with Verdi's Aida and Berlioz, needless to say I choked on both!

When it comes to aria competitions it's great to give the judges a taste of what you could do in ten years time but you have to balance that with what you can do now and thus give yourself the best chance to win. On winning, let's not kid ourselves here with air kisses, hand shakes and smiles everyone wants to win and if they say it's just about hanging out with the other finalists and getting to sing with a band, they're lying!

The 2025 final was made up of

Livia Brash - Soprano James Young - Bass-baritone Breanna Stuart - Soprano Molly Ryan - Soprano Jake Bigwood - Bass-baritone Bailey Montgomerie - Baritone

The final was won by James Young who did a good job of his Bizet and Lortzig arias, but if it had been me I would've had the three women in first second and third with Brenna Stuart winning it. Livia Brash was great in her Puccini and Verdi, but it wasn't quite there just like 23 year old Molly Ryan who sang La Boheme and Carmen, both women will one day sing the roles they picked arias from but both need a few more years. This is the thing about aria competitions, some of it is about potential but it's also about what you can sing now especially if you have someone from a major opera company in the audience.

I was of course disappointed not to see a tenor in the final but while the women I think dominated the men were a bit just ok. Yes James Young won it, but Brash and Stuart in particular put themselves out there more which I think is again part of the whole ethos of the competition. Young was a safe choice as winner, he sang arias he knew inside and out and that gave him a chance to shine. He showed no real nerves and gave a command performance, but it was safe. Brash on the other hand sang her Manon Lescaut and Macbeth arias as a woman possessed showing why she will one day be a great Lady Macbeth and Manon.

Molly Ryan who at 23 to be singing the way she did was also putting herself out there. Boheme and Carmen are not things many 23 year old sops walk on stage and sing but again she was out there doing it and doing it with soul.

The other two lads were sadly not in the game and with Bailey saw myself in his shoes being attacked by those dreaded nerves that can cripple a singer mid performance. Both lads have great voices and will I'm sure have good careers but they like everyone on that stage need to understand that this is only the start.

Age ranges of the finalists was between 23 and 34 and while they could all sing they all now need to understand that singing is like every other thing that you want to succeed at, obsession and persistence. Staying fit, keeping up their musicianship, learning roles that they can sing now, reading everything about and listening to older singers, understanding music history, understanding the business of singing, being real about where they're at, singing lessons, rep coaching, languages, stage craft, understanding how the global opera scene works, visas, passports, who to have lessons with overseas, overseas vocal coaches...obsessive!

The Herald Sun Aria has had some amazing winners over the years and all of them will say that even though it was a great moment it was only just the beginning because for all of the finalists now the real work begins. It won't be pretty and it won't be easy but when they're standing on the stage at the Met, or La Scala or Covent Garden then all the work, the sacrifice and hardship will have been worth it.

Thank you to Agostino Giramondo and NewsCorp for the invite.

## A WIN FOR THE AGES



THE 2025 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES WAS UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAME. AFTER SEVEN GAMES OF SHEER BRILLIANCE BETWEEN THE BLUE JAYS AND DODGERS, THE DODGERS WON IT ALL AND THEY DID IT IN REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.



The 2025 Major League Baseball World Series will be remembered as an instant classic—a dramatic, emotionally charged clash between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Toronto Blue Jays that delivered seven games of tension, resilience, and unforgettable storylines. Among the many stars who shaped the spectacle, none loomed larger—literally or symbolically—than Shohei Ohtani, whose presence and performance added yet another layer of intrigue to a series already bursting with narrative weight.

From the opening pitch, it was clear that this Fall Classic was destined to be something special. Toronto stormed into Game 1 with an explosive 11–4 victory, flexing the power and confidence that had carried them through the postseason. The Dodgers countered in Game 2, stabilizing the series with disciplined pitching and strategic offense. Yet the true tone of the series emerged in Game 3: an 18-inning marathon that tested every fiber of endurance both teams possessed. It was a game that transcended sport, the kind that fans speak of in awe years later—and throughout those exhausting hours, Ohtani's presence at the plate delivered both intimidation and electricity, even as he remained limited to hitting after his 2024 pitching injury. His ability to remain a force in the lineup under such circumstances added to the legend he has become.

As the series moved forward, momentum swung wildly. Toronto's young stars launched timely barrages of offense, while the Dodgers relied on a deep roster, calm execution, and the poise that defines baseball dynasties. In several crucial moments, Ohtani's contributions were felt—not always in towering home runs, but in disciplined at-bats, runs created, and the magnetic pressure he placed on Toronto pitchers. His mere presence in the order reshaped how the Blue Jays approached late-inning strategy, a testament to the unique dual-threat mystique he carries even when functioning solely as a designated hitter.

By the time Game 7 arrived, the stage was set for a showdown worthy of baseball mythology. Toronto controlled much of the early going, riding the energy of their rising stars toward what seemed like a breakthrough championship. But the Dodgers refused to yield. Shohei Ohtani reached base multiple times, sparking rallies and forcing the Blue Jays' bullpen into uncomfortable matchups. Even when he wasn't swinging aggressively, pitchers nibbled the edges of the strike zone, unwilling to let him be the postseason hero who ripped the game open.

Down 4–3 in the ninth inning, the Dodgers were a swing away from heartbreak. With the stakes at their absolute peak, Miguel Rojas delivered a stunning, game-tying home run that blew the tension wide open. The series marched into extra innings yet again, the weight of history pressing down on every pitch. And then, in the eleventh, Will Smith blasted a go-ahead homer that finally gave the Dodgers their first lead of the night—a lead they would not relinquish.

The final act belonged to Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who, astonishingly, took the mound on zero days' rest after a 96-pitch outing in Game 6. His calmness, resolve, and precision delivered a game-ending double play that secured the title. As he and his teammates rushed the field, Ohtani was among the first to embrace him—an image that instantly became one of the defining photographs of the 2025 season. For Ohtani, long criticized for joining the Dodgers to "buy" a ring, the moment served as an emphatic rebuttal: he had been instrumental, integral, and unmistakably part of the championship fabric.

What made this World Series unforgettable wasn't just the drama, the marathon games, or the historic performances. It was the convergence of baseball's brightest stars—Ohtani, Yamamoto, Toronto's emerging talents—all pushing one another to the edge of their limits. It was a reminder that baseball, at its purest, is a theatre of heart, failure, redemption, and brilliance.

In the end, the 2025 World Series was not merely a Dodgers triumph—it was a masterpiece of modern baseball, an iconic chapter in Ohtani's growing legend, and a Fall Classic that fans will recount for decades.



THE MIGHTY BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN ALBUM, 'BORN IN THE USA', TURNS 41 THIS YEAR AND IT IS STILL AS BRILLIANT AND EPIC AS IT WAS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO



When Bruce Springsteen released Born in the U.S.A. in 1984, he didn't just drop an album — he detonated a cultural moment. It was loud, it was raw, it was stadium-shaking, and yet underneath all the big drums and fist-pumping choruses beat a conflicted, bruised American heart. What makes the album so significant isn't just its commercial success — though selling over 30 million copies and dominating the world for years certainly helps. Its real power lies in its duality: the way it captures both the triumph and the disillusionment of the American experience, wrapped in music so catchy it could shake the rust off a factory floor.

At its surface, Born in the U.S.A. is a collection of anthems. Songs built for highways, barbecues, and crowded arenas packed with denim-clad fans who believed every chorus was written for them. But listen closer and Springsteen is doing something far more sophisticated. He's telling the story of a country struggling to live up to its own mythology. The title track, famously misinterpreted as patriotic bombast, is actually a lament — a howl from a Vietnam veteran discarded by the very nation he served. Springsteen delivers the song with such explosive musical energy that the contradiction becomes part of its genius. It's a party with a hidden panic attack inside it.

That tension runs through the entire album. Behind the bright keyboards and Max Weinberg's thunderous drums lie stories of factory closures, broken relationships, economic insecurity, and the quiet erosion of small-town dreams. "Downbound Train" is heartbreak set to a chugging rhythm. "My Hometown" captures the slow, painful decline of American manufacturing communities long before politicians turned it into a talking point. "Working on the Highway" and "Darlington County" bring a sense of reckless adventure, but always with an undertow — the feeling that everyone is running, but not everyone knows where to.

Part of the album's significance also comes from how perfectly it captured the 1980s moment. America was deep into the Reagan era — a time of patriotic revival, economic upheaval, and a widening gap between the myth of prosperity and the lived reality of many working-class Americans. Springsteen, with his working-class New Jersey roots and relentless touring ethic, had become a kind of blue-collar folk hero. But Born in the U.S.A. didn't endorse Reagan's America. It challenged it, questioned it, exposed its cracks — all while being embraced by the very mainstream it critiqued.

This paradox — protest music disguised as pop thunder — is part of why the album endures. It's rare for a record to soundtrack both political rallies and late-night drives, both barroom jukeboxes and academic discussions about American identity. Springsteen managed to create something universal without sanding down the rough edges.

The album was also a turning point in Springsteen's career as a global icon. Before 1984, he was already a respected songwriter and a cult hero in rock circles. But Born in the U.S.A. turned him into a world-conquering superstar. The album produced seven Top 10 singles — something almost unheard of at the time — and his marathon tours became legendary. More importantly, it established Springsteen as a storyteller with national importance, someone who could articulate the struggles of everyday people in a way that was both poetic and accessible.

Four decades later, the album still resonates because its themes remain painfully relevant. Veterans returning to uncertain futures. Towns hollowed out by economic change. Workers pushed to the margins. People trying to hold onto dignity while the world shifts beneath them. The sound may be unmistakably '80s, but the stories are timeless.

Born in the U.S.A. isn't just a great album. It's a document of American contradictions — bold and wounded, proud and disappointed, loud and deeply reflective. Its cultural weight comes from that friction. And that's why it continues to matter, long after the synthesizers fade and the echo of Springsteen's voice rolls into the night like one last highway prayer.



## NDEPENDENI

In case you missed it INDEPENDENT MEDIA MATTERS!

Hoodies Media, my organisation, the one I created is stepping into the world and spotlight of bringing people independent reporting not affected by corporations or by government!

To get to where we want to be, we need more advertising revenue and more supporters...so if you or anyone you know would like to advertise with us please email news@hoodiesmedia.org and to just support us financially hit the link here

https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/MQ37BHGGYWR4Q

\$1, \$100, \$1,000 it doesn't matter we are grateful for anything!

We now have a daily newspaper, our regular Hoodies Magazine, podcast and social media feeds all pushing the concept of Common sense, authenticity and accountability!

So get onboard with Hoodies Media because INDEPENDENT MEDIA MATTERS and we are only just beginning!

hoodiesmedia.org

## THE HOODIES MAGAZINE DOCCAST

WITH BEN LOGAN

NOW AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY

**HOODIESMEDIA.ORG** 

HM

#### hoodies MEDIA.

hoodiesmedia.org





