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SUNDAY HOODIES

ARTEMIS II SHOWS WHAT
HUMANITY IS REALLY
CAPABLE OF





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EDITORIAL

Yesterday morning we at home like so many across the world watched in joy as Artemis II splashed into the Pacific Ocean. The aircraft had traveled more than 600,000 miles in its journey from earth all the way round the moon and home. The craft and its four occupants have now been further away from earth than any other human in history and what a remarkable achievement.

The Artemis II project is part of a NASA plan to get back to the moon, to set up a permanent base there and then to travel to Mars. The plans NASA have are barely understandable to the likes of me, but when the crew of the space craft looked out their window at the earth you couldn't help but think that we looked like a planet limited only by the distance between continents rather than the limitations we seem to impose of ourselves. Welcome home Artemis II.

Well, Trump has said no nukes! Now we take what ever The Don says with a grain of salt but in the no nukes thing I'm going to say I don't think he's going to drop them. Why would he? Wipe out the Middle East for decades? Hang on...

As Trump says no nukes US and Iranian leaders have arrived in Pakistan for peace talks. Do either of them want peace? There are indeed arguments either side of the debate but on the surface of it peace in the Middle East is at least being discussed as a possibility.

While Donald is saying no nukes and working out what a peace deal with Iran looks like Melania Trump, Don's missus, has gone on TV to say she had nothing to do with Jeffery Epstein. Okkkkkkk, thanks for that Melania, now what really happened and who has told you they've got the photos? Who makes a statement like that unless there's something coming down the pipe at them. Get out ahead of it before it blows up?

Remember when you could say, hey Wog! Or, ya poofter! Remember when words weren't so easily manipulated by the stupid? An AFL player is about to be suspended for ten weeks for calling someone on the field a homophobic slur. Are we for real? Ya big poof? Wog? Sheila? Bogan? Twat? Fuckhead? Dipshit? I mean where does it stop? A Woke joke on a stupid level!

And finally why are we still talking about the arsehole that killed two policemen? Yes ok we know that newspapers need eyeballs on content and it's all about clicks etc...but why not write stories about how Victoria police don't get paid enough to put up with morons? Or talk about the lives of Neal Thompson and Vadim de Waart-Hottart? Let's leave the perpetrator of these murders as a foot note in history but make sure we write and talk about the real heroes who will be remembered as Victoria's bravest.

COULD THIS BE TRUMP'S PLAN?

Ok so I read this online so bear with me, but could it be true that Trump actually wants to lose the war in the Middle East?

So far Trump is pissing everyone off, but what if it's all deliberate? He's been talking about Greenland which has upset NATO and then he talked about Canada becoming another state of the US, he told Denmark he could just take Greenland if he wanted and that Mexico was looking at 25% tariffs, that it was responsible for masses of drug manufacturing and that the US was sick of Mexican migrants trying to get into the US.

From upsetting various countries Trump blows up the world economy by making not only petrol expensive, but also fertilisers which in turn has a direct impact on farming. As Trump continues to do things Trumps way what he knows is that the world is heavily reliant on oil out of the Middle East but what if they weren't?

The US and Canada both produce oil and if the Americans can use Mexico for manufacturing and Venezuela for more oil the game changes. The US has trillions of dollars on its debt book and if the US treasury can get the support of China, Europe and China to refinance the debt then it's a new game and a game totally run by the US.

Trump will give all the countries that used the Strait of Homuz oil from the US and possibly start Mexico as a source of manufacturing. See Trump knows that a good portion of the world is reliant on the Strait of Hormuz. If you suspend reality for a moment Trump has cut a main supply chain, he's doing deals with countries outside his normal point of reference and he's basically (possibly) trying to convince the world that the US is the best place on earth to find their resources requirements.

Could it all be true? Is Trump that smart? I have no idea, but it's an interesting story and will remain so for sometime yet.

CHRIS BOWEN

Being energy minister in 2026 isn't an easy job we have to give Chris Bowen that. I mean he's got to walk the line of actual government responsibility but then also pander to the delusional lefty nut bag environmentalists. The same lefty nut bag climate change groups that in the 90's said the Arctic would be gone by 2013, that cities would soon be underwater and that by the 2010's polar bears and snow would be things of the past.

We all know we need to take better care of the planet and that we should look to other forms of energy to support civilisation but not at the cost of people's lives. Bowen has been in the news a lot since the Iran war. He kicked off the fuel crisis by suggesting it was all an opportunity to focus on solar because the sun basically wasn't interested in going to war with anyone. He's since jumped off that bandwagon because he's realised that pushing an agenda for renewables when it's plainly obvious they're not fit for purpose.

The Bowen messaging on renewables and on the governments ludicrous usage targets for them by 2030 has been dictatorial and the old Labor idea of, if you're not on board then you obviously don't care about your fellow man. The same one Andrews had during Covid, you're obviously selfish and don't care, when really people do care but can't afford not to work or live the way Labor wants them to.

A few weeks after the fuel crisis arrived on our door step Bowen's language did ease a little on the whole renewable energy issue but he wasn't really answering questions properly nor was he willing to go very in depth about the crisis. This was shown up when veteran journalist Liam Bartlett showed up at a Bowen press conference asking the energy minister why he wouldn't ask deep dive questions and also why he wouldn't go on Bartlett's show? The energy minister slipped his way through questions suggesting it was selfish of Bartlett to prevent his colleagues from asking questions but the truth remains, his come Bowen can't answer in depth questions?

The reality is that Chris Bowen is a politician and they don't like answering questions which is why we all detest them, but it's also why journos like Bartlett have had enough. We've had enough of the utter bullshit spin that does absolutely zero to help people with cost of living and sees them with zero accountability.

While Bowen is an annoying little twat he's not the first energy minister to paint a picture of doom and gloom but here's hoping with journalists starting to ask real questions and people turning away from the major parties that he's the last!

A NEW SPRINT ERA

Can I say I used to be a sprinter and not being that good I often saw the backs of other runners as they disappeared down the track ahead of me, but regardless of my own talents I have always loved the 100, 200 and 400. Being a man of 50 plus I remember an era of Carl Lewis, Linford Christie, Micheal Johnson and the fallen Ben Johnson. Lewis had the greatest technique in the history of sprinting. Me and everyone I trained with wanted to have technique like Carl.

The arrival of Usain Bolt and his Jamaican counterparts, Powell and Blake saw the 100 and the 200 go to levels we'd never seen and may never see again in our lifetime, but while Australia may not have the speeds of the Jamaicans just yet we are about to enter a golden age of Aussie sprinting.

Australia has always out performed itself on the global sports scene and while we've had great sprinters in the past, we've never had two young men who have run as fast over 100 and 200. Last night at the National athletic championships Lachie Kennedy ran a legal 9.96! The National record held by Patrick Johnson is 9.93 and Kennedy is only 22! That National record will go and it'll be broken by Kennedy or the other bloke who we all now know as Gout Gout.

Gout is 17 and has a PB of 10.0 for the 100 and 20.04 for the 200. He's 17! When we ran local races as 18 or 19 year olds we were running 11.3 for the 100 and 22.5 for the 200! He would kick our arses to the moon! But it's not just that Gout is fast as a 17 year old when you look at him run even the average person can see how much development he has to go. The boy hasn't fitted into his lanky body yet. Once Gout stops growing and that frame gets in tune with his body and mind my god, he could be anything!

Kennedy has probably a three or four year window to start running regular sub 9.90 that will get him into world and Olympic finals and possibly even medals. Gout on the other hand has what is ten years or so to go from running 10 dead to possibly running sub 9.5.

The 200 final is on tonight at the Australian championships and at the moment it's Kennedy v Gout and while Kennedy should win tonight's race could be one for the ages if they both go as fast as they are capable of.

Ultimately I think it will be Gout that resets the record books of Aussie sprinting but don't count out Kennedy he's showing why he's a brilliant talent but whatever the long term success of either athlete Australia is in for one hell of a sprinting ride over the next few years

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CULTURE

Puccini & Music theatre

Without Puccini modern music theatre would not exist. Yes that's a big statement but it's true. Puccini in his day was the populist composer. His operas were about emotions and things that people could relate to. Ok people themselves don't often jump off towers after killing their nemesis nor do they run around trying to finding out the name of a Prince so they can chop his head off, but it's the idea of love, of rage, of jealousy and of lust that engages people with Puccini's music.

Puccini was part of a group of composers called the Verismo composers. Verismo means real life and that the operas are indeed about real world experiences and emotions. Leoncavallo, Mascagni, Cilea, Giordano and of course Puccini were all part of the genre and all had a hand in the future development of Music theatre.

When Puccini died in 1924 opera as a popular drama died with him. The advent of jazz, of blues gave people new styles of music to enjoy which then lead to rock n roll, to the Beatles and to pop music as it is today. Classical music after 1924 divided into the likes Minotti and also into film score type music. Lush orchestrations and crooners but also into a new style of theatrical music. The likes of Rogers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe established themselves as the new popular operas or music theatre.

By the 1960's Steven Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein were well known composers and giving the ground work for possibly the greatest music theatre composer in music history, Andrew Lloyd Webber. Music theatre by Lloyd Webber's era had become big business generating billions of dollars and presenting shows that became legendary.

Modern music theatre is alive today because of Puccini and his Verismo colleagues and while Puccini is a very different thing to the likes of Lloyd Webber western music is better off thanks to all of them.

SOUL

Artemis II

With the Artemis Astronauts back on earth we don't need to be NASA geniuses to suggest that this space mission was equally about humanity as it was about technological advancement.

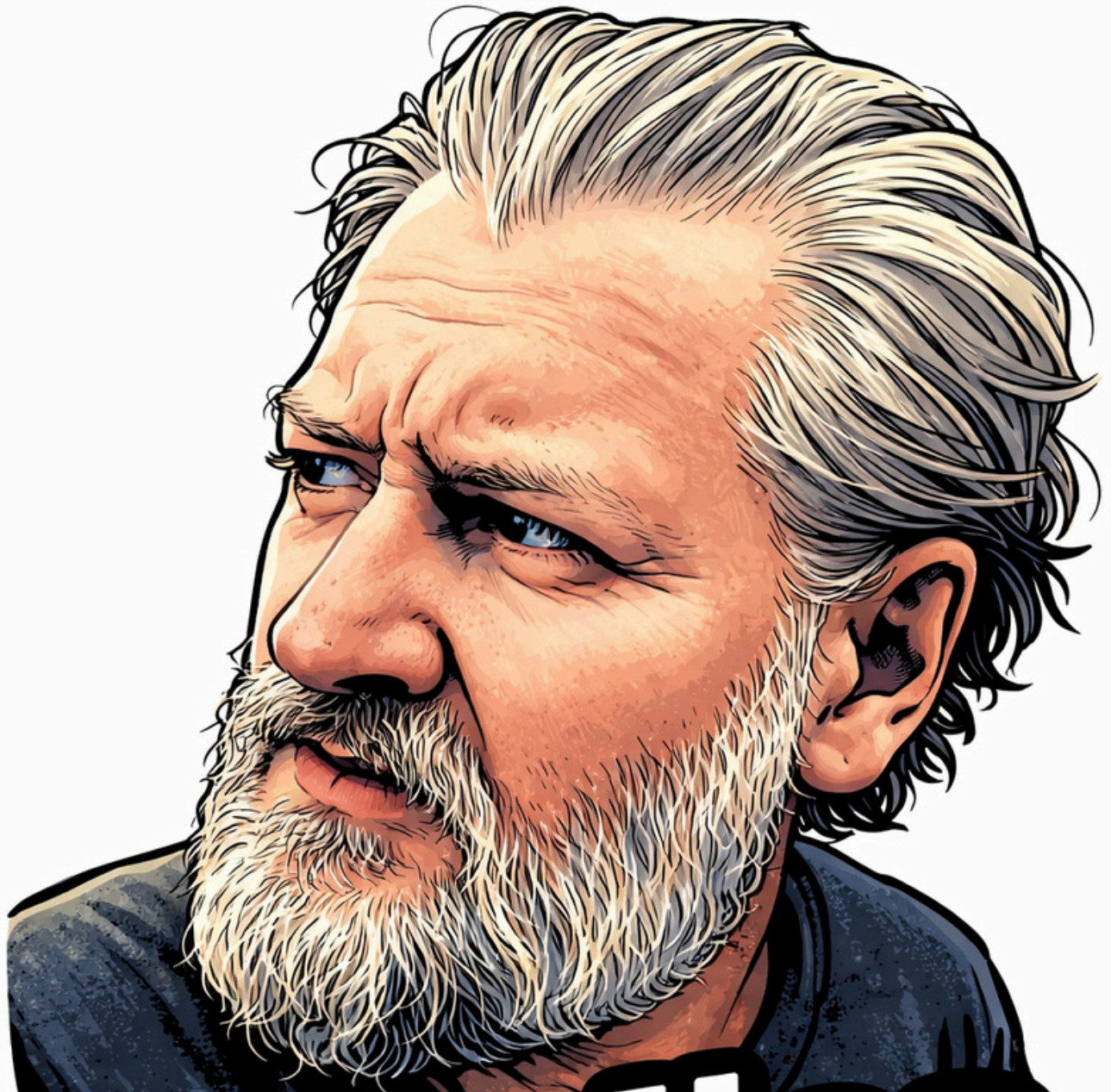
I think what Artemis shows us is that even if politicians and corporations can divide us humanity is capable of so much more than petty and self serving wars or the chase of money, greed and power. We have the opportunity to heal, to find cures for incurable illnesses, to unite rather than fight and to offer hope than fear.

I make a conscious effort to stay off social media now because it has become so hate filled and so vacuous it serves no other purpose than to ridicule and to insult. It is indeed full of misinformation and while your algorithm can present you with things you do enjoy it is for the most part awful. We need to get away from the awful and get to the great! Get to the beauty, the joy, the opportunities life and the world have to offer us.

Hope, joy and the opportunity for profound change that's what we should be talking about and ditching the pain and negativity the world seems obsessed with.

Welcome home Artemis and thank god for all of you.





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