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26

Friends stars
at war.

CONTENTS
NEW IDEA
PROUDLY AUSSIE
OWNED



52

Stylish trans-
seasonal buys.

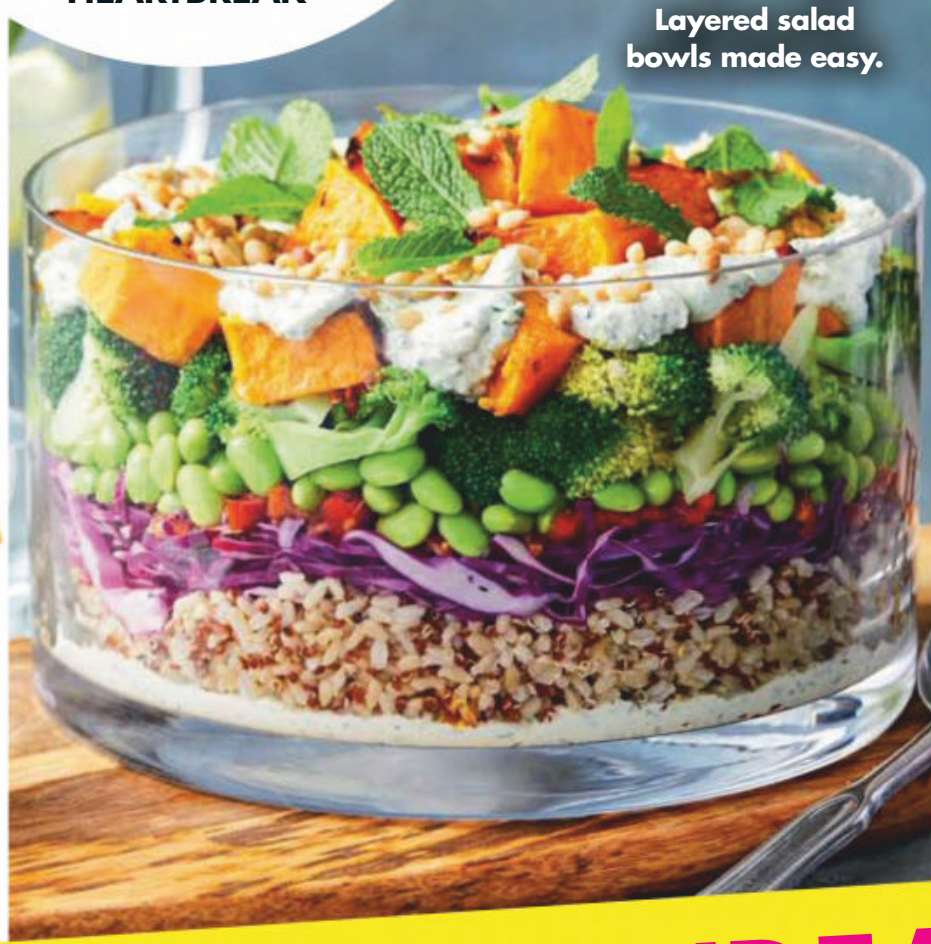
ON THE
COVER
6 NICOLE AND
KEITH'S BLOW-UP
8 QUEEN'S PLEA TO SAVE HARRY
12 KARL AND LISA'S FIGHT
18 MARRIED AT FIRST SIGHT:
SHOCK CLAIMS AND SCANDAL
28 PRINCESS MARY'S
HEARTBREAK

28

Shock news for
Princess Mary
and Frederik.

40

Layered salad
bowls made easy.



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The celebrity fitness trainer feels betrayed by her ex and his new relationship.

Michelle gave up her city apartment for Steve and is now regretting the move.

**NEW IDEA
EXCLUSIVE**

Fitness star Michelle Bridges has been left reeling by the news that her ex Steve 'Commando' Willis has found comfort in the arms of one of his clients just weeks after their sudden split.

Having sold her city apartment to prove to Steve she was willing to make a fresh start with him, she is furious that's no longer an option and is said to have called in the lawyers.

"Steve didn't like living in the city so Michelle took an off-market offer last year to show him she was ready to do whatever it took to keep him happy. Now it's backfired because she has nowhere to live and doesn't know what to do," a close pal has revealed to New Idea.

It was after New Idea exclusively revealed that Steve was dating personal trainer Harika Vancuylenberg, a single mother of two, that Michelle finally found out the truth behind Steve's reluctance to give her a second chance.

"He has been distant and refusing to try and work things out," the friend continues.

"He just seemed over it all so quickly, while she was left to pick up the broken pieces of their relationship – and now she knows why."

Having first met in Tahiti in November during a Travel and Tonic 'Workouts & Warriors' retreat, Steve and Harika wasted no time in posting snaps on social media with their arms wrapped around each other.

Those close to Michelle say she is heartbroken that the father of her child has seemingly moved on quickly and it's left her with no choice but to demand answers.

"Michelle is furious," says the source. "Steve met Harika when he was facilitating a fitness break months before they split and they look pretty cosy in those photos. She just feels betrayed by it."

Confused as to when they actually became an item,

Michelle has been bombarding Steve with phone calls and text messages.

"It's not like it hasn't happened before," says the source. "Steve was in a relationship when he had the affair with Michelle and it was always her worst fear he would do the same to her."

While the couple were not legally married, they spent years building a joint brand and share many assets, meaning things could get messy.

"If Michelle gets wind of an affair it's going to turn bitter, that's for sure," says the source. "She was a much bigger name than him when they met and she has helped him a lot with his business goals and building a successful brand."

But according to Steve's mates, he's happy in his new relationship and won't let Michelle's jealousy spoil it.

"They are in a great place right now," says a friend.

Michelle broke her silence on her drink driving conviction with a candid Instagram post.

"The last month has been the toughest time of my life. What I'd like to say is thank you," she wrote.

MICHELLE'S HEARTACHE: HOMELESS & BETRAYED



Steve's rumoured new flame Harika is a Michelle lookalike.



MEL C:

'WHAT POSH DID TO ME'

Former Spice Girl Melanie Chisholm revealed how a drunken scuffle between her and Victoria Beckham led to depression and an eating disorder. In a shocking admission, Mel C recalled how she told Posh to "f--k off" during a boozy row at the Brit Awards in 1996. This led to the group's manager threatening to sack Mel C.

"I think that is where the start of some of my problems came," she told Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. "I had to be very, very strict with myself. I couldn't allow myself to relax because if I did, I might mess it all up."

As a result, Mel said that she

spiralled into an eating disorder. "I went from being anorexic to having a binge-eating disorder. That's when I went to my GP and I was diagnosed with depression. It was such a weight lifted off my shoulders."

The news comes after Victoria was seen looking bleary-eyed at the BAFTAs afterparty, where she stumbled into her cab. Concerned onlookers wondered if she had gone off the rails a little.



Former Spice Girl Mel C made a shock admission about ex-bandmate Posh Spice.



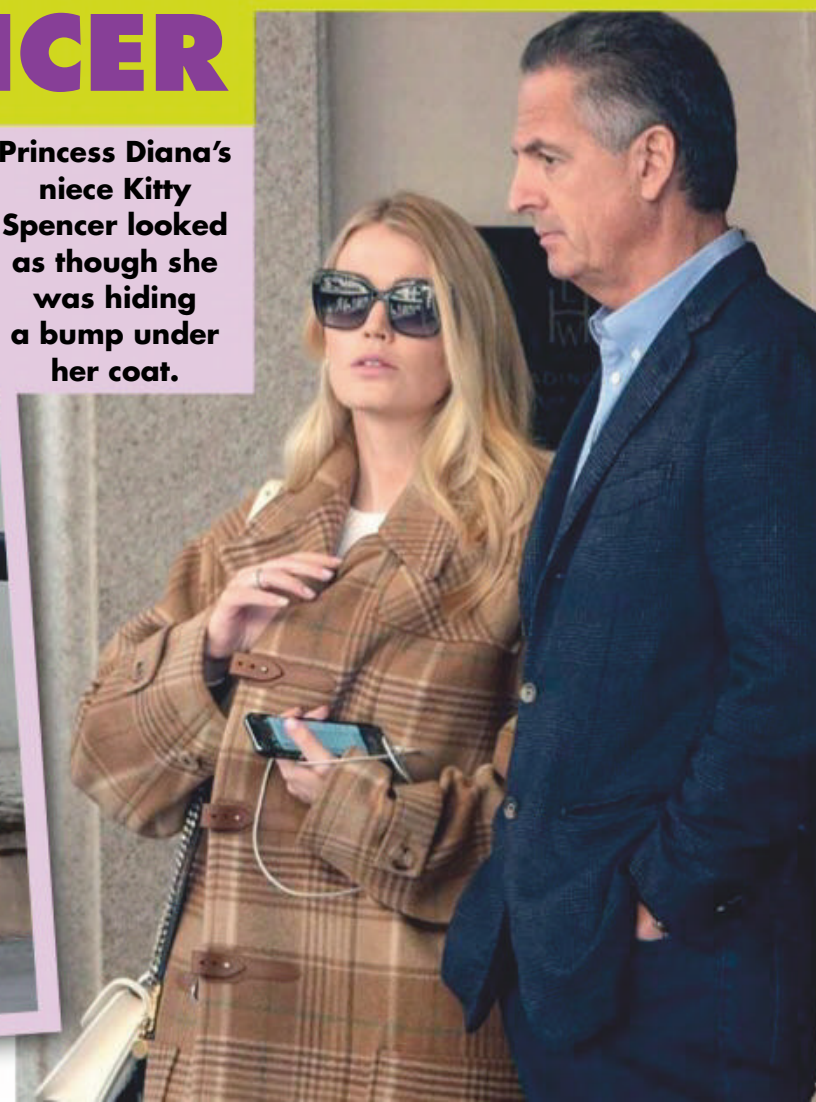
IS LADY KITTY SPENCER PREGNANT?

After recently getting engaged to South African fashion tycoon Michael Lewis, a multimillionaire who is 31 years her senior, Lady Kitty Spencer sparked rumours she's expecting a baby when she stepped out wearing a long coat and clutching her stomach. Onlookers noticed that the niece of Princess Diana, 29, appeared to be concealing a bump.

"Michael proposed to Kitty before Christmas," a source told the *Daily Express*. "She's been in Cape Town for the holidays and told her mother and the rest of the family. Michael is loved by all of them. Despite his wealth, he's very humble and low-key."



Princess Diana's niece Kitty Spencer looked as though she was hiding a bump under her coat.





Nicole and Keith looked tense during his visit to the set of *The Prom*.

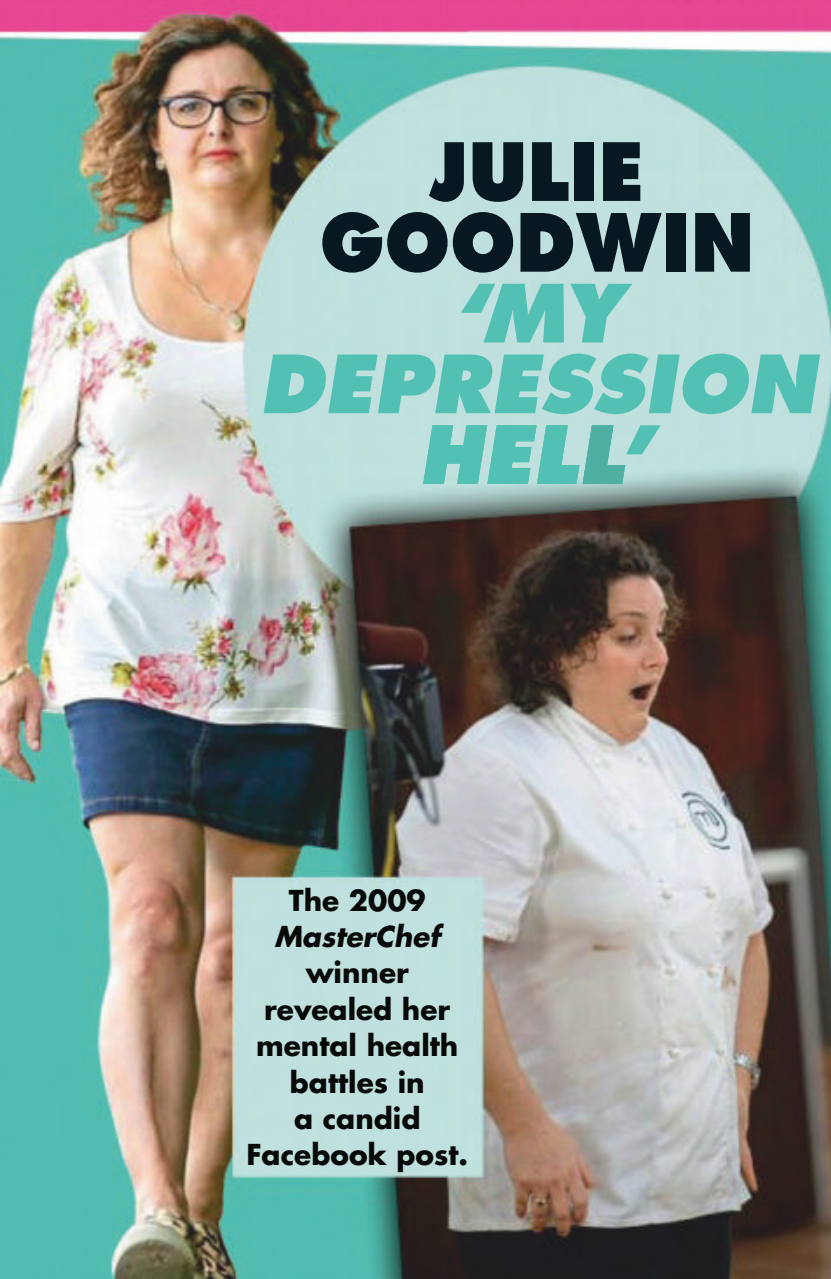
NICOLE AND KEITH: MARRIAGE IN TURMOIL!

Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban may seem blissfully happy in their marriage most of the time, but the famous couple certainly aren't immune to the odd jealous blow-up.

As Keith paid a visit to Nicole while she was on set for the film adaptation of the musical *The Prom* in Los Angeles, the usually loved-up pair appeared less than happy. With a scowl on her face, 52-year-old Nicole trailed after an upset-looking Keith. The *Big Little Lies* star was still in costume as they appeared to have a tense conversation.

With red-carpet PDAs and spending time with their children, Sunday, 11, and 9-year-old Faith, Keith and Nicole always put on a smiling public front. But are things going sour?

Rumours flew that Keith was jealous after Nicole's kiss with co-star



JULIE GOODWIN 'MY DEPRESSION HELL'

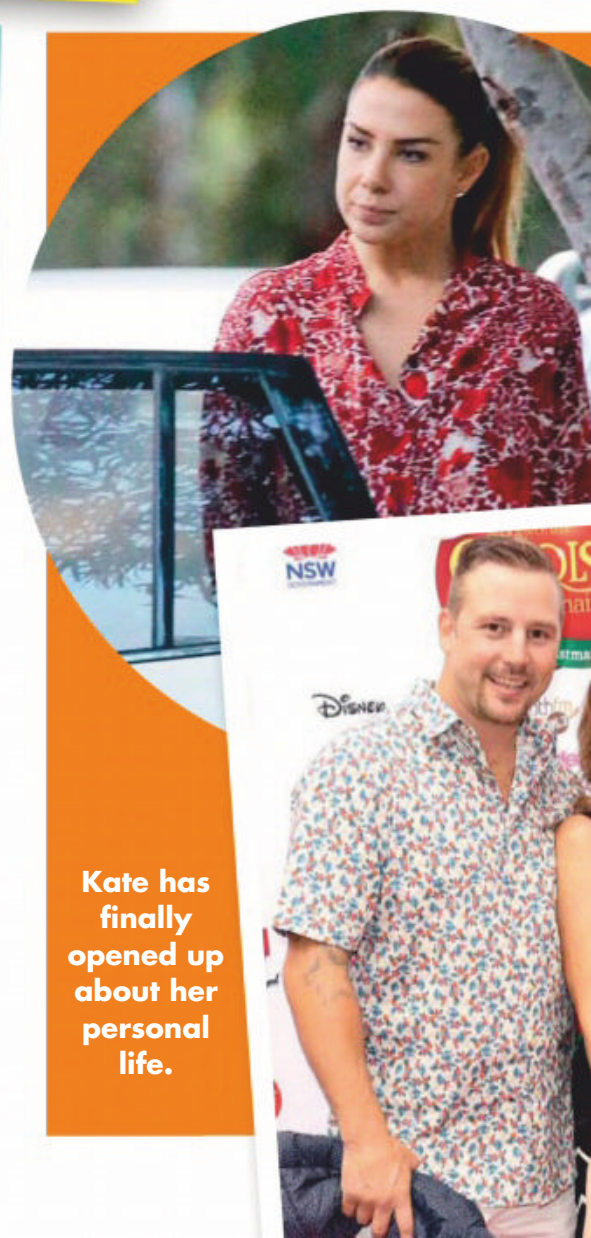
The 2009 *MasterChef* winner revealed her mental health battles in a candid Facebook post.

Julie Goodwin recently opened up on her battle with depression and the devastating reason why she quit radio. In a candid Facebook post, the former *MasterChef* star spoke of her crippling condition and how it left her hospitalised.

"I've had depression and anxiety on and off over many years. On the surface, I know I don't seem to be depressed or anxious. I've denied it to myself for a long time, and certainly put a lot of energy into making sure it wasn't obvious to the people around me," she began. "I have never been one of those brave people who can lay these things out in the open for others to look at and comment on. I've considered it private, even though other people may benefit from knowing that they are not alone."

The celebrity cook said her battle with depression was the reason she decided to quit her hosting gig at Nova's Star 104.5 on the Central Coast.

"Six months ago I reluctantly decided to acknowledge that my mental health wasn't great and I finally allowed myself to be diagnosed with depression and anxiety, and put on medication," she wrote. She revealed her husband took her to the emergency room and she needed in-patient care at a mental health clinic. Julie went on to say that now she feels better, she encourages others to seek help.



Kate has finally opened up about her personal life.



Who are you talking to? Keith took a phone call during his visit.

Alexander Skarsgård during the 2017 Emmys. Insiders say he was less than impressed and now is hesitant to trust Nicole when she films intimate scenes.

"Keith and Nicole are going through some rocky times, that's for sure," a source says. "It's no surprise that tensions bubbled over on the set of her

new movie, they're just not seeing eye to eye at the moment. Keith is finding it really hard to trust Nicole with other men on set. He knows it's just acting, he knows it's all for the camera, but the truth is that he's still scarred from seeing how close Nicole and Alex were."

KATE RITCHIE'S SHOCK CONFESSION

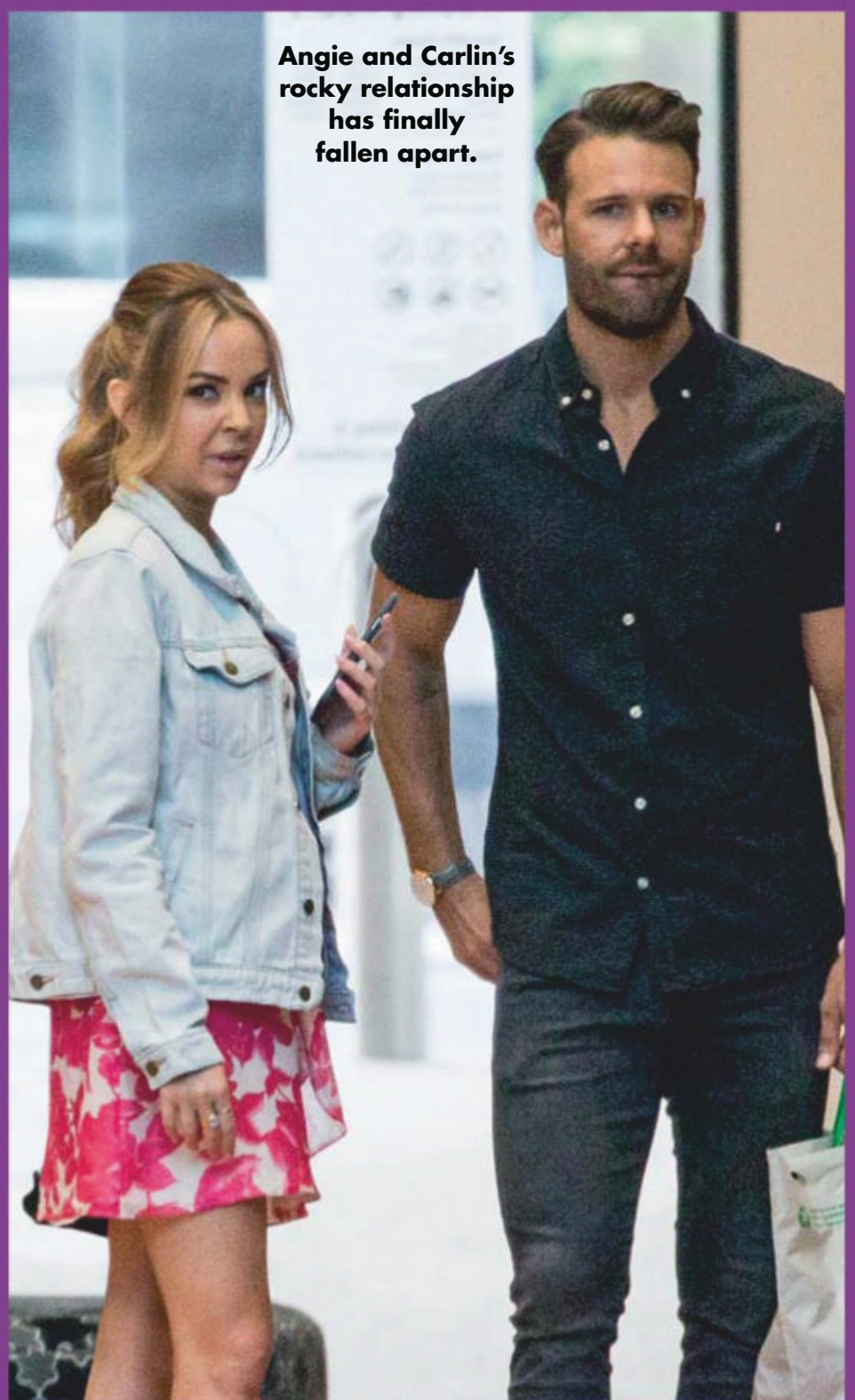
Kate Ritchie has opened up about her personal struggles and the difficulty of living her life in the public eye. The Nova radio host has had a tumultuous few months after her husband, Stuart Webb, faced court over drink driving, and an AVO was issued on her behalf.

The mother of one, who shares daughter Mae, 5, with former NRL star

Stuart, 39, has stayed tight-lipped about her disastrous end to 2019. But in a shock admission while on *The Morning Show*, Kate said it can be uncomfortable to speak about her personal life on air.

"I guess in some ways it is daunting," Kate said. "My life is pretty unglamorous and it's pretty mundane. But it's also pretty wonderful! I think if I was doing breakfast radio, I think that's when you really need to share."

Kate's confession comes after the 41-year-old was spotted on a family holiday in Fiji, reportedly in a bid to mend fences with her husband. Stuart is said to have begged his wife of nine years for a second chance.



Angie and Carlin's rocky relationship has finally fallen apart.

ANGIE KENT'S HEARTBREAK

It seems Angie Kent and her *Bachelorette* beau Carlin Sterritt have already split!

The news comes after the couple sparked engagement rumours last month when they were spotted browsing rings at Michael Arthur jewellers in Paddington, Sydney, but sources tell New Idea that after a devastated Angie was booted off *Dancing with the Stars*, she has been beside herself. She cancelled her interviews with the media so she didn't have to talk about Carlin and reveal the fact they are no longer an item.

"She didn't want to discuss it as she would have had to confess or lie," the source said. "She has gone to ground now."

But it's not the first time the couple have reportedly faced tough times. In January, before

appearing on *DWTS*, Angie insisted they "definitely" hadn't split. "There's been a lot of rumours that we've split or that I've been with someone else or he's back with his ex-wife – it's not true!" she told the *Daily Telegraph*. But in December, Angie admitted that she and Carlin often fought.

"It's a real relationship so I'm not going to pretend that everything is OK all the time when it's not," she told *Outspoken the Podcast*.

"We went through a bloody roller-coaster and we had to hide for three months and then we're just thrown in the public space for everybody to judge the s--t out of us. Of course, there are going to be times when we really, really struggle but we communicate so well."



Princes Charles and William have reached out to Harry and Meghan.



Sources say the Queen will do anything to bring her family together.



QUEEN PLEASE SAY HA

HER MAJESTY HOLDS MEETINGS TO BRING HER GRANDSON HOME FOR GOOD AS HE RETURNS FOR FINAL DUTIES

Prince Harry looked nothing like his once-cheeky and playful self as he touched down in Scotland last week. Arriving in Edinburgh without Meghan or son Archie, Harry appeared downcast while giving a speech at an eco-tourism conference, making clear how the strain of the past few weeks has taken its toll. But now Harry is back on home soil, New Idea has learnt the royal family is making a

last-ditch attempt to convince the prince to reconsider his decision to step back from royal duties, and hope he'll return to the UK permanently. The Queen in particular is hoping to put an end to tensions that descended into back and forth sniping between the Palace and Sussex camps. "The Queen has made it clear that if Harry does change his mind, she will welcome him back with open arms," royal expert Phil Dampier explains. "She has conveyed that to both Charles and William too. They won't want to alienate him even more by telling him he's made a mistake, but they're desperate to not

the 93-year-old monarch. Last week, an unnamed friend of Meghan spoke to the *Daily Mail* and revealed the duchess feels as though she and Harry are being "picked on" and that restrictions placed on their use of the Sussex Royal brand is "payback" for their attempts to carve out a new life. "The Queen will be devastated by it all. [Harry's] giving up a hell of a lot – his family, his military patronages, some of his charity work and, to some extent, his reputation. He's making a big sacrifice, and for what? To presumably make money. It's a great shame," notes Phil. But last week sources told

"IF HARRY DOES CHANGE HIS MIND, SHE WILL WELCOME HIM BACK WITH OPEN ARMS"

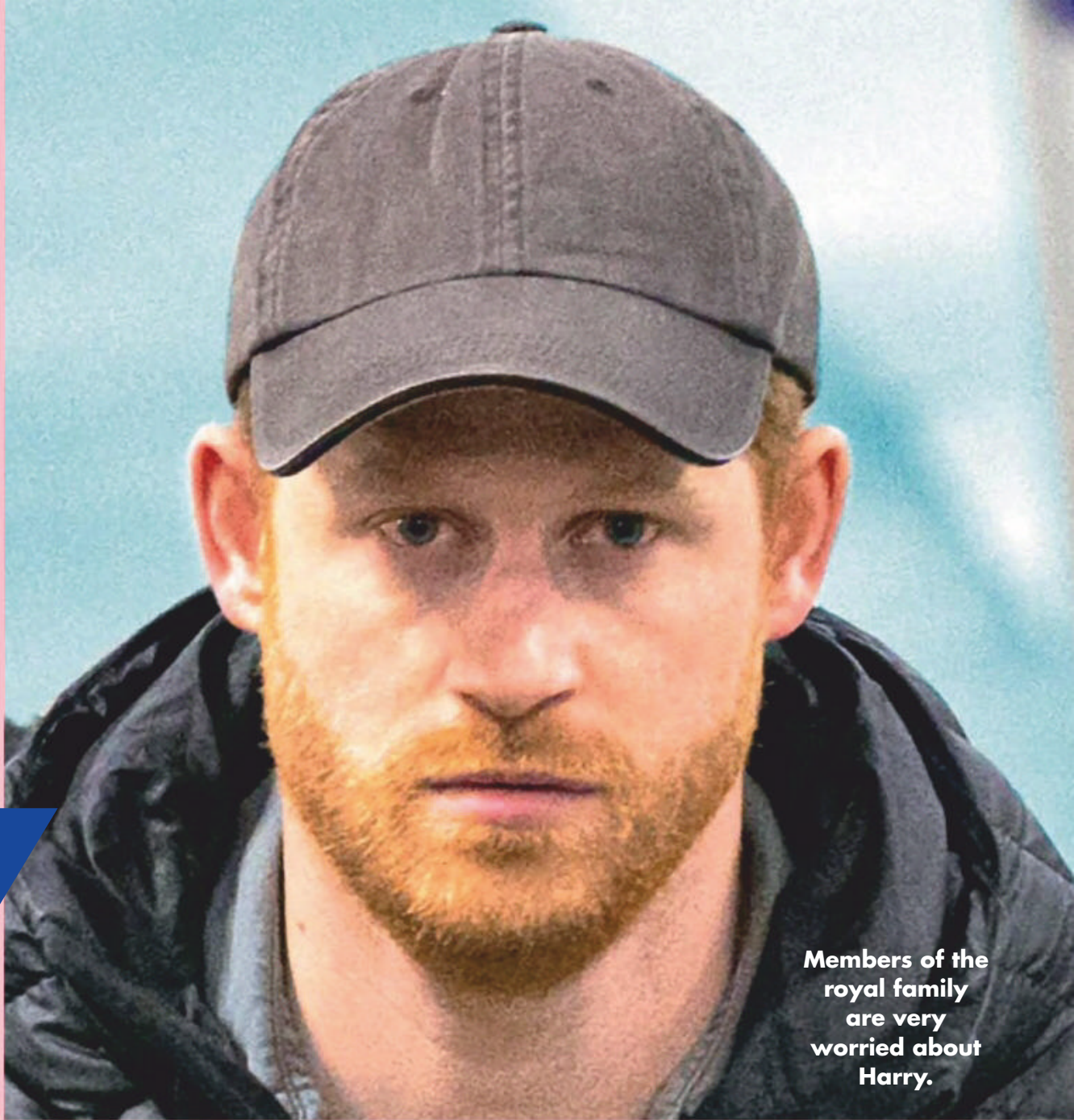


The Queen is said to be devastated by her grandson and his wife's recent behaviour.

make the situation any worse." The Queen has always had a close relationship with her grandson and, according to a *Vanity Fair* source, finds the whole situation "hurtful". Phil agrees that the Megxit drama has taken a toll on

The Sunday Times that Charles and William have been "reaching out" to Meghan and Harry to let them know they're welcome back any time. They added that the family is "very worried" and feel the couple are "vulnerable".

EEN'S A TO WE RRY



Members of the royal family are very worried about Harry.

In fact, the family are taking steps to bring Harry – and, if she wants, Meghan – back to the UK.

“They are making contingency plans,” the insider told the British newspaper, explaining that Harry, Meghan and Archie would be offered some time away from the spotlight in Sandringham or one of the other royal properties.

“They wouldn’t return to royal duties, but they could have a period of rehabilitation and recuperation.”

Earlier last month a source told New Idea that Harry was having “grave doubts” about leaving the UK and abandoning his royal work. His family will likely now be hoping that what the insider described as a “bid to save Harry” will be put into plan.

But in a possible sign that Meghan is less willing than Harry to consider a reconciliation or relocation, she opted out of joining Harry at the beginning of his current trip.

“Meghan wants to spend as little time as possible in the UK,” Phil adds, explaining that

when she does, she will likely be met with “hostility”. “Everyone feels let down by her,” he notes.

Meanwhile, another source says if Meghan is not willing to accept the Queen’s offer to return to the UK, she would be

willing to accept the worse case scenario – a divorce – if that’s what Harry wants.

“The Queen’s tried reasoning with Meghan for the sake of her grandson, but nothing has worked,” the insider explains.

“The Queen knows that helping Harry through a divorce is the only way he will come home to her, the only way he will be happy.”



ROYAL SCARE: GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN CRISIS

Kate Middleton’s biggest fears came true last week when Prince George and Princess Charlotte’s school Thomas’s Battersea found itself on high alert due to coronavirus.

Two children from the school returned from Italy presenting with flu-like symptoms.

A statement was released by

the school explaining the decision. “Like all schools, we are taking very seriously the potential risks related to the spread of Covid-19 and to this end we are following the Government’s instructions to the letter on infection prevention and case management in which it is suspected that some staff member or students [have been]

exposed to the virus or showing any symptoms.”

It continued: “We currently have a very small number of students who have been evaluated and these individuals currently remain in their homes waiting to receive the results of their exams.”

Thirteen people in the UK have been diagnosed with the illness.



MEGHAN AT WAR

WITH FERGIE, BEA & EUGENIE

In the aftermath of the latest bombshell from Prince Harry and Meghan, members of the royal family have been left reeling.

Now royal expert and author Phil Dampier tells *New Idea* that he believes the Queen is “devastated” by recent events.

“No-one can pretend this is a happy family,” he says.

Other members of the royal family are also increasingly angered by the duke and duchess, including Sarah Ferguson, who is concerned that the couple are unfairly targeting her daughters Eugenie and Beatrice.

Last week, Harry and Meghan released a statement explaining how they would no longer use ‘Sussex Royal’ in their branding, after being

banned by Buckingham Palace.

They appeared to make a clear dig at the two princesses by referring to a “precedent for other titled members of the royal family” to earn money privately but keep their HRH titles and royal statuses. The statement appeared to suggest

“HARRY AND MEGHAN’S STATEMENT WAS PETULANT, PAINFUL AND TOTALLY UNNECESSARY”

that a double standard was at play when it added that “for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, a 12-month review period has been put in place”.

Says Phil: “Harry and Meghan’s statement was petulant, painful and totally unnecessary. If their comments about being treated differently

were aimed at Bea and Eugenie, they were unfair.”

He points out: “They don’t receive money from the Sovereign Grant and no longer have police protection.”

Beatrice and Eugenie have full-time jobs but carry out engagements in support of

the Queen and the royal family.

Now a source close to the York family tells *New Idea* that Sarah Ferguson is shocked her daughters have been targeted like this.

“Fergie knows what it’s like to be the black sheep of the family and up until now she’s supported Harry and Meghan

for wanting to follow their own path. But now that they’ve thrown Bea and Eugenie under a bus in this statement, Fergie is taking no prisoners.”

Sarah has reportedly told Andrew to talk to Charles and send a very strong message to his son and daughter-in-law.

“Bea and Eugenie aren’t to be used as pawns in their battle with the Queen. This is supposed to be [the] happiest times of her daughters’ lives – Bea is getting married and Eugenie is trying for a baby – and it’s so upsetting that they’re being dragged into this mess,” says the insider.

A royal source quoted by the *Mirror* newspaper agreed that the Sussexes’ recent statement was a dig at Harry’s cousins.

“It’s pretty clear they are referencing minor royals such



Meghan and Harry appeared to make a dig at Beatrice and Eugenie in their recent statement.

THE ROYALS ARE FURIOUS WITH THE COUPLE

as Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, which is an odd association to make for two people whose associates were once claiming they had single-handedly modernised the monarchy.”

Phil also notes that if the Sussexes are directing their comments at the Yorks or other members of the royal family such as Prince Edward and his wife Sophie, there is little in way of comparison with Meghan and Harry.

“The difference is that they are still based in the UK and are working away quietly performing duties,” says the royal commentator.

He also added that the couple

appeared to be unaware of how they were affecting the monarch with their actions.

“They don’t seem to care about the stress they are causing the Queen and the damage they are doing to the monarchy in general,” he said.

“She does not deserve this treatment at her age and after years of devoted service.”

Last week, a source revealed how the Queen is increasingly unhappy about the situation with Harry and Meghan withdrawing from royal life.

“The Queen has been keen to get this resolved because she sees it is damaging to the monarchy and, on a personal level, I think this has been

rather hurtful for her,” an insider told *Vanity Fair*.

“She has got to the point where she doesn’t want to think about it anymore. She just wants it over and done with.”

With Harry and Meghan set to return to the UK in order to attend events for Commonwealth Day on March 9, all eyes will be on how they and the rest of the royal family handle the reunion.

“They will stand alongside the Queen and the rest of the royals at the Commonwealth Day event in Westminster Abbey but we all know that behind the scenes there are massive tensions and problems,” notes Phil.

THOMAS MARKLE SLAMS MEGHAN: ‘I’M HOMELESS’

Meghan Markle’s brother Tom has lashed out at his sister after revealing he’s homeless and has split up with his fiancé.

“Being associated with Meghan has nearly destroyed me,” the 53-year-old tells *New Idea*.

He claims he has lost jobs and can’t get a new one because of the notoriety of being related to the duchess, and says he is considering changing his surname to escape its ‘curse’.

Glazier Tom reveals that over the past year he’s been suffering from depression. In the past he has also admitted to having an alcohol problem and has been arrested on domestic violence charges after threatening partner Darlene Blount, 39, with a gun.

Tom is now living with his mum Roslyn at her small apartment in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“I am homeless and could have been under a bridge with a cardboard sign begging for money but thankfully my mum has taken me in.”

He believes his royal relative should step in. “Meghan could have helped me or got someone else at the palace to do so.”

He says it’s unfair that he and other family members have been accused of cashing in on their royal connection.

“With everything going on currently, with them leaving the palace and doing things for money, it makes them hypocrites because we, the family, have all been blamed for making money and now they’re doing the same thing. The only difference is, we’re all broke.”

Tom Markle: Meghan’s a hypocrite.





Lisa is furious Karl had controversial One Nation leader Pauline Hanson on the *Today* show.



They've said very little publicly about their relationship and what went wrong since departing the *Today* show.

But just days after Lisa Wilkinson and Karl Stefanovic were said to have taken part in top-secret negotiations to return to the breakfast program, along with entertainment reporter Richard Wilkins and newsreader Sylvia Jeffreys, all hell has broken loose.

According to an industry insider, Lisa is now considering

pulling out of the highly anticipated reunion after *Today* aired an interview with controversial politician Pauline Hanson, following the murder of Brisbane's Hannah Clarke and her three children at the hands of their father and Hannah's estranged husband, Rowan Baxter.

"Lisa is absolutely furious and appalled," the well-placed source tells *New Idea*.

Speaking to *Today* hosts Karl and Allison Langdon, Pauline called the murder-suicide "treacherous" but called on

Australians not to demonise all men in reaction to the horrific crime.

"Don't bastardise all men out there, or women for that matter, because these things happen," she said.

"A lot of people are driven to this, to do these acts for one reason or another."

Lisa, who has always tried to keep private her opinions on the now-failing breakfast program she fronted for more than 10 years, is said to have been livid when she watched the interview.

And it wasn't long before she took to social media to express her disgust.

"Why oh why does breakfast TV continue to give this woman a regular weekly platform?" she wrote on Twitter, alongside a picture of the One Nation leader.

"She is dangerous. Worse, she is taking these attitudes to her role as deputy chair of the Family Law inquiry."

Shortly after, fans were quick

to hit back at Lisa for her scathing comments, with one posing the question: "Was she on *Today* regularly during your tenure Lisa? If so, were your concerns heard by 9 management and the producers?"

Lisa simply tweeted back, "No she wasn't."

Insiders say Lisa was particularly frustrated with Karl, whom she was looking forward to reconnecting with, and feels he should have opposed the interview going to air at such a sensitive time, even if it was a publicity stunt to spike ratings.

"Lisa had a go [at Karl] because even in her days when they needed a publicity spike, they would roll in Pauline, which she used to fight against," dishes our source.

"But Karl and the Nine

KARL & LISA'S SHOCK SHOCK

THEIR PLANS TO REUNITE ON TODAY ARE PUT ON HOLD



boys club always won.

"She really hated that and would walk out of production meetings. But more importantly, bringing in Pauline to discuss this tragedy would have upset her 100 times more.

"Lisa used to hate when she was at *Today* and Karl would tell producers to ring Pauline – she would just roll her eyes."

So, it comes as no surprise that it wasn't just a producer's decision to bring Pauline on to the program.

"Karl and Pauline are on speed dial," the source continues. "Let's face it, they both knew it was mutually beneficial [for Pauline to be on the show]."

"At the end of the day, they both got the headlines."

As a result of Lisa's

frustrations over the Pauline interview, New Idea understands negotiations to get the fab four back on air have now ground to a halt.

It comes as ratings for *Today* continue to nose-dive.

"Lisa and Karl have always had a love-hate relationship," a well-placed insider reveals.

"Having said that, Lisa would be loving the *Today* show ratings. She can read Karl like a book and knows she needs to keep her name and *The Project* in the press – hence her public swipe at Karl."

Nine's head of news and current affairs, Darren Wick, insists he's not concerned about *Today's* dire ratings, telling *The Australian* Karl and current co-host Allison Langdon are "absolutely the right team".

DICKIE'S SURPRISE WEDDING

Love was certainly in the air when Richard 'Dickie' Wilkins and his girlfriend Virginia Burmeister were recently spotted celebrating at a lunch in Sydney.

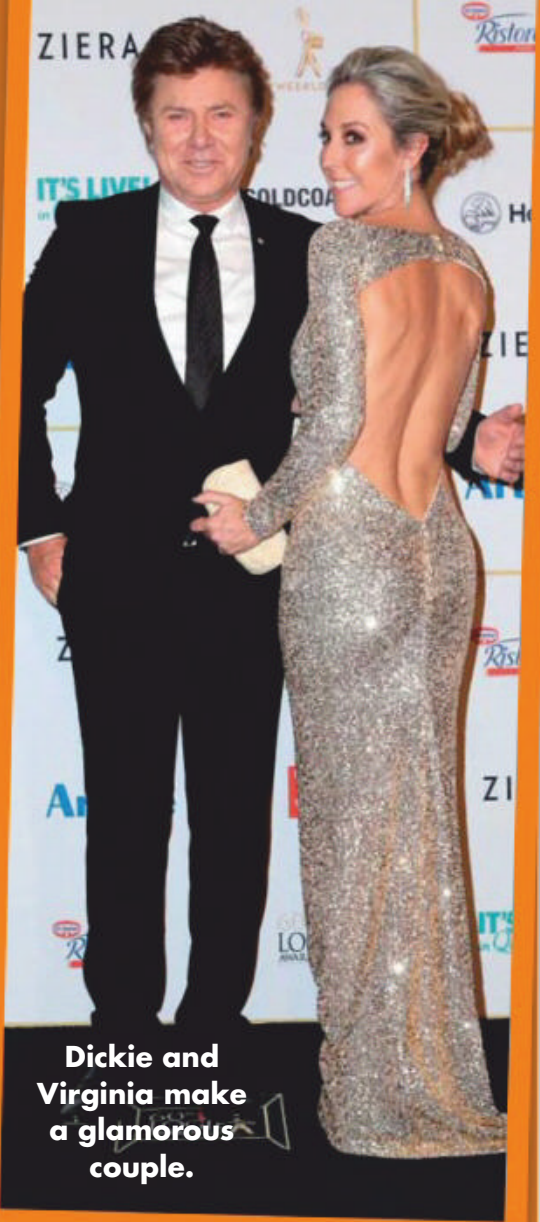
Just days earlier, some of the couple's closest friends and family flew in from London and New York, with Virginia taking to social media – sparking rumours that perhaps Dickie and his ladylove are set to throw a surprise wedding.

"Living our best lives," Virginia captioned an Instagram snap of her and her pals making a toast.

News of a wedding first surfaced last year when Dickie's son Christian revealed his father would most likely tie the knot.

"Maybe [they will marry], they are very happy together," he said at the David Jones spring summer 2019 event.

"I love Virginia and me and my dad are best friends," the



Dickie and Virginia make a glamorous couple.

Dancing with the Stars contestant added.

It is believed Dickie popped the question back in July after he posted a picture of his soon-to-be bride outside a luxurious jewellery store on the romantic Italian island of Capri.

Dickie and Virginia went public with their relationship in October 2017.



Virginia posted pictures with friends and family who had flown in from overseas.

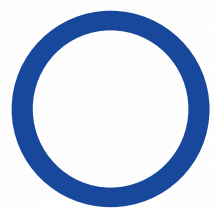


OWDOWN!!



GEORGE'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN BEG

**GEORGE AND AMAL ARE PLANNING
A SECRET RETURN TO THE US**



**One of the
world's most
powerful
couples might
be headed back**

**to Hollywood! New Idea can
exclusively reveal that
George Clooney is planning
a multimillion-dollar
expansion of his mansion
in Los Angeles.**

The news comes just after his UK home, which he shares with wife Amal and 2-year-old twins Ella and Alexander, became surrounded by floodwater in the wake of Storm Dennis.

The two-time Oscar winner is set to spend a staggering \$1.6 million on upgrading his Studio City pad, with an extra three buildings being added to the property.

Building plans show George is installing a pizza oven, funicular and a "proposed play cottage", causing speculation he and Amal are planning to raise their twins – who turn 3 in June – in the United States.

Neighbours of the Hollywood property reveal construction is well under way and that George appears to be rushing to complete the works

in a short period of time. One of his neighbours, Tanya, tells New Idea: "George was granted those permits lightning fast."

With George spending over \$50,000 to obtain the permits, Tanya says, "If he was a regular person they would have eaten his liver for two years just to get that kind of permit."

Locals in the area have also been whispering about the real reason George may have worked so hard to get the permits approved. "He is upgrading the house because he's getting ready to run for office," Tanya says.

"He's always expressed a lot of interest in politics."

"My guess is that he wants to run for mayor of Los Angeles when [current mayor] Eric Garcetti's term ends," she says.

"George held a fundraiser for Obama on the tennis court here and another for Hillary Clinton where it was [\$1500] a plate. He's big in the Democratic Party."

Mayor Garcetti must step down at the end of 2022,

**Could the
couple end
up living in
the White
House?**





Aerial pics show that construction is already under way on the property. "The workers start at around 7.30am," says the neighbour.

"They are putting up three or four little cottages for help, nannies and live-in help, that kind of thing."

around the same time the twins will start school.

In 2017, George joked about becoming president of the United States during the Venice Film Festival. George, whose father Nick Clooney ran for congress in 2004, said, "Would I like to be the next president? Oh, that sounds like fun."

But will their rumoured move back to the US cause tension between George and Amal, who have lived in the UK since 2015? The majority of Amal's barrister work is undertaken from their Sonning-on-Thames home, 60km west of London. Amal's mum, Baria Alamuddin, and her father, Ramzi, both live within driving distance of the Clooney home.

In fact, Amal's entire family is located in the UK, after they fled Lebanon during the civil war when Amal was just a child. The potential separation of Amal and her twins from her family will no doubt be a source of conflict for her and George, who are said to be spending less and less time together.

George has been busy directing Netflix's upcoming film *The Midnight Sky* – which just wrapped production.

However, a move to the United States and George's rumoured political future could work well for the human rights lawyer, who has always strived to make the world a better place. Being a political wife in the US would no doubt give Amal more power to influence policies and laws, especially if George were to run as a candidate in the next presidential election.

Amal would likely cease her work as a barrister to support her husband's ambitious political career, but would be able to provide valuable advice for George's decision making.

Regardless, the couple are devoted to providing the best life for Ella and Alexander, and George has already spoken about his plans for his young children's future. "They're really funny and really smart," he told *Hello!* last year.

"We've decided, because we spend a lot of time in Italy and they're going to spend a lot of time growing up there, that Italian is going to be one of the languages they learn."

And with a strong Italian community in the US, they won't be short of practice.

BRAD PITT'S MOVE TO WIN KIDS BACK

After dedicating his Oscar to his kids, it appears that Brad Pitt is slowing winning them back.

Sources say that he's been very patient and following all of his ex-wife Angelina Jolie's rules, and now he's ready to swoop in and get joint custody.

He's determined to do whatever it takes.

Insiders also say his children were really happy for him when he dedicated the award to them and know how lucky they are to have him as their dad.

"Brad's kids aren't usually interested in the awards or much to do with his industry, but an Oscar is a big deal and they know he won and they all messaged him to congratulate him," an insider told the *Mirror*.

"They loved that he gave them a shout out, that was a sweet moment for everyone. The older they get the more they appreciate what incredible talents their parents are. They know they are blessed and lucky to

have Brad as their dad," the source added.

"When Brad is with his kids his mind is on them, not himself and not his career. He is solely focused on them and connecting with them where they're at."

Brad is planning to get joint custody of the kids.





Loved-up Robert and Elisha were laughing and flirting.

NEW IDEA
EXCLUSIVE



ROBERT A FAN

Now that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have left the royal family, it seems Australia may have just found its very own fab four!

Bindi Irwin and fiancé Chandler Powell were recently spotted on a double date with little brother Robert Irwin and his new girlfriend Elisha Jackson.

The young lovebirds stopped off for lunch together before heading to

a nearby forest for a bush-walking adventure.

Robert and Elisha seemed very happy in each other's company, laughing and joking while they hung out with Bindi and Chandler.

The couple are said to have met on Instagram after Elisha, who has had a crush on Robert for some time, spent a day at Australia Zoo.

After her visit, the bubbly blonde captioned a snap: "Yesterday I went to Australia Zoo and told @robertirwinphotography how I felt."

Robert replied: "Thanks for visiting."

Since then, the pair have had a few flirty exchanges which



Bindi and Chandler became engaged in July last year.



Bindi held Chandler's hand with Robert and Elisha following.



TERRI & RUSSELL'S SECRET MEETING!

Terri Irwin and Russell Crowe have been quashing rumours of a romance for years, but it appears the two are closer than ever.

The *Gladiator* star shared a sneaky Instagram post of himself paying a visit to the John Oliver Koala Chlamydia Ward, at Australia Zoo, the home of the Irwin family.

Captioning the snap with "Where am I now?", Russell, 55, sent tongues wagging at the idea he was secretly meeting up with his long-time pal Terri.

Russell's visit coincided with what would have been the 58th birthday of the late Steve Irwin, so perhaps the Aussie actor was providing a shoulder to cry on during a tough time.

Terri has previously gushed about her close bond with Russell.

"I do really, really think the world of him," Terri said on *The Project* in 2018. "He loves wildlife, he is very considerate about helping what we are doing and is a good guy."



Russell and Terri are old friends.

IT'S DATING

WILL SHE GET BINDI'S APPROVAL?

appear to have resulted in this double date.

And while Robert appears completely smitten by Elisha, there's no doubt protective Bindi will want to make sure her little brother doesn't get his heart broken.

She previously shared how Robert, 16, is "one of the best parts" of her life.

"Thanks for being such a great brother. You always remind me to look on the bright side of life," Bindi shared on Instagram.

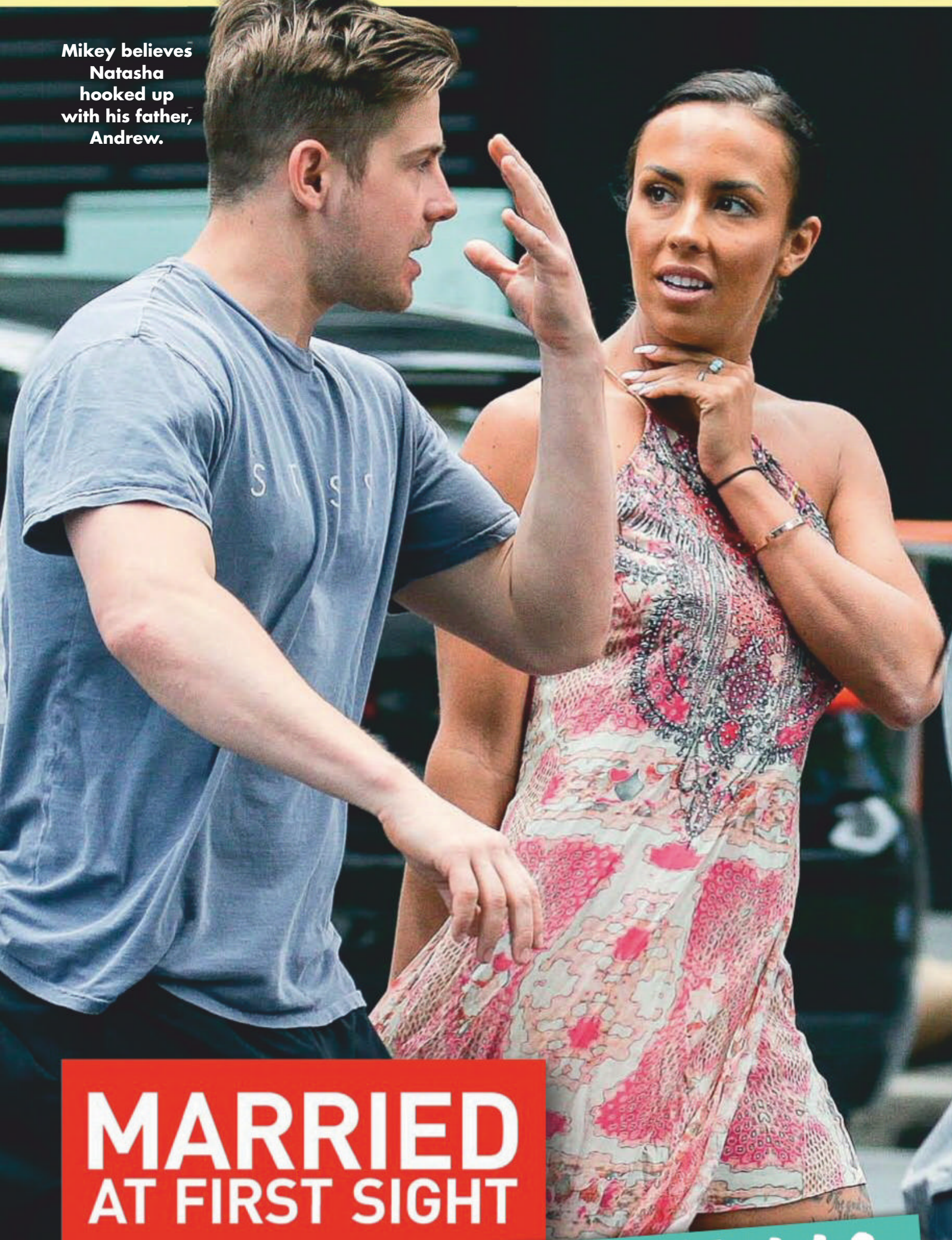
Last year Robert was rumoured to be dating *Glee* actress Emma Perry, while *Stranger Things* star Millie Bobby Brown also took a keen interest in him.



It appears Elisha (pictured) has always been a fan of the Irwins.

tishjacksonn Yesterday I went to Australia Zoo and told @robertirwinphotography how I felt 🥰🥰🥰

Mikey believes
Natasha
hooked up
with his father,
Andrew.



MARRIED AT FIRST SIGHT

STACEY TELLS:

'SHE SLE MIKEY'

Married at
First Sight is
no stranger
to explosive
controversy
— and the 2020 season
has already proven more
scandalous than ever before.

Now, in what could possibly be the most explosive claim ever made by a *MAFS* star, Stacey Hampton has alleged her arch nemesis and fellow bride Natasha Spencer secretly “hooked up” with her TV husband Mikey Pembroke’s dad, Andrew, during filming.

Speaking to *New Idea*, Stacey explains the moment Mikey told her about the alleged dalliance.

“Mikey said, ‘I’m pretty sure [Natasha] hooked up with my dad (or at least) I’m pretty sure she’s hooking up with my dad,’” Stacey says.

“He was pretty certain,” she continues. “It wasn’t a joke.”

Stacey also claims she confronted Natasha about Mikey’s claims in front of the entire cast and crew during filming of the reunion special, causing a dramatic showdown between the brides.

“When Natasha started coming at me, I said ‘hold on a minute ... [Mikey] told me you slept with his dad’.”

Meanwhile, Natasha, who has previously admitted to being attracted to older men, strongly denies the allegations.

It is not known whether the drama will play out on screen or if producers have decided to cut it entirely from the show.



Natasha is said to have met Mikey's father, Andrew, an anaesthetist, on the couple's wedding day.

Insiders say she was instantly attracted to the successful doctor and it wasn't long before she began flirting with him.

When recently asked about the supposed "hook up", Natasha says there is no truth whatsoever.

"Stacey's made fake allegations and I understand she's deflecting but that doesn't give her the right to say I f--ked Mikey's dad," Natasha is heard saying in a video obtained by New Idea.

"She's just a gross individual."

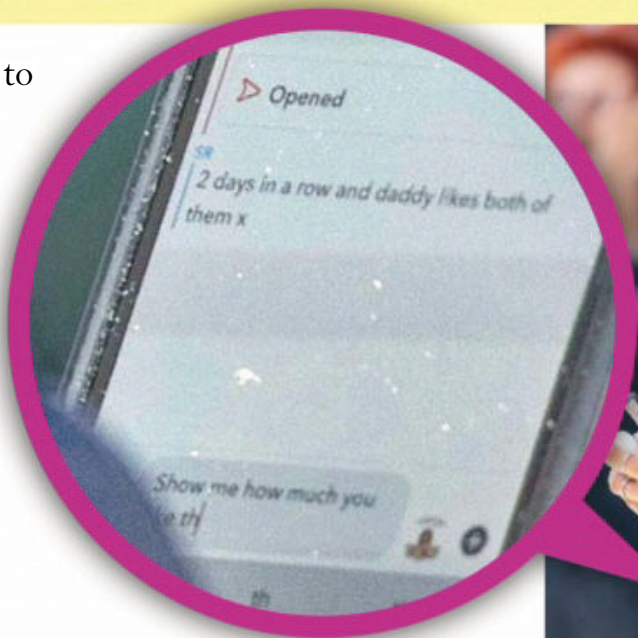
In his original audition tape, Mikey revealed that his parents had separated when he was 10.

"But they're best friends," he said, describing his family as "functionally dysfunctional."

The 29-year-old also joked about his mother, Mary, describing her as a "cradle snatcher".

"And he's [Andrew] 10 years younger than her [Mary] – yeah, she's a cougar! Cradle snatcher!" Mikey said.

Natasha sends a text message (above). Mikey's dad, Andrew (right).

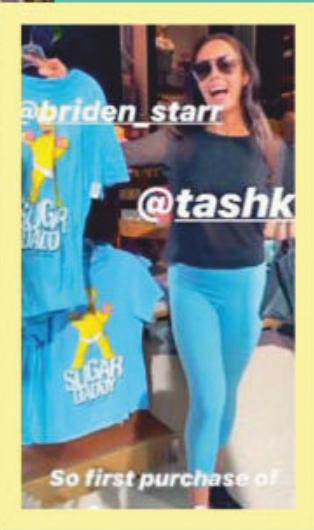


NATASHA CAUGHT WITH SUGAR DADDY!

Meanwhile ... Natasha was spotted spending time in Los Angeles with a mystery – and much older – man earlier this year.

In pictures obtained by New Idea, the *MAFS* star, who describes herself on social media as "effervescent, loyal and tenacious", is seen walking side-by-side with the man, who is wearing a novelty T-shirt with the words 'Sugar Daddy' on the front.

While the man's identity isn't known, Natasha was seen buying the shirt earlier that day.



NEW IDEA
EXCLUSIVE

CEPT WITH S DAD!!

SHOCK CLAIM:
NATASHA'S
ONE-NIGHT
STAND WITH
'TV' FATHER-
IN-LAW

MARRIED AT FIRST SIGHT

Uh-oh! According to onlookers, Connie and Steve looked very much like an item as they met for a coffee and a chat recently.

NEW IDEA
EXCLUSIVE

CONNIE DUMPS JONETHEN... FOR STEVE!

THE UNLIKELY PAIR COULDN'T KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF EACH OTHER

Resting her head gently on his shoulder, *Married at First Sight*'s Connie Crayden has been caught in the arms of another man. The brunette, who was

she dislikes about her TV husband.

This isn't the first time Steve has been busted romancing a much younger woman.

In fact, the British barbershop owner has a history

Steve are more than just friends, on-set insiders say the pair have a lot more in common with each other than with their own 'spouses', and an older man might be just what the aspiring marine biologist needs.

In her *MAFS* audition tape, Connie revealed she wanted a man who could make her laugh.

"Humour goes a really long way – I just love it," she said. "If someone can make me laugh," Connie revealed, "I've always been really attracted to that."

"AT ONE POINT STEVE PUT HIS ARM AROUND CONNIE – THEY SEEMED VERY COSY"

matched by the experts with Jonethen Musulin, was recently snapped spending quality time with fellow *MAFS* star Steve Burley – and making matters worse, his bride Mishel Karen was nowhere to be seen. "They looked very comfortable together," reveals an onlooker. "They were laughing and at one point Steve put his arm around Connie – they seemed very cosy."

The pair's recent coffee date, comes as shy bride Connie, 27, continues to question the motives of her onscreen husband, Jonethen, suggesting he's only on the popular reality show for fame.

And if these photos are anything to go by, it appears Connie may have found what she's really looking for in 52-year-old Steve.

Meanwhile, Steve and his bride Mishel's relationship hasn't been smooth sailing. After an explosive dinner party fight, Mishel went to the commitment ceremony with an eight-page list of everything

of dating younger women. He was previously in a relationship with former *MasterChef* winner, 32-year-old Diana Chan, before being matched with a younger woman on Channel Seven's reality show, *First Dates*.

Meanwhile, adding further fuel to rumours Connie and

Jonethen has been wary of Steve's relationship with Connie.



Steve and Mishel haven't been seeing eye-to-eye.



**MARRIED
AT FIRST SIGHT**

**THE BODY
BUILDER IS
NOW
PREPARING
FOR A BABY**

HAYLEY PREGNANT SHOCK

The experiment was rocked to its core when claims of a drunken hook-up between

Hayley Vernon and Michael Goonan surfaced, despite both still being in committed marriages with their onscreen partners.

So much so, Hayley was unexpectedly booted from the show by the experts, who deemed her relationship with truck driver David Cannon, 31, had become “too toxic” to continue after her brief affair with Michael was exposed.

However, on returning home to Melbourne, Hayley was met with more unexpected news. It seems her late-night rendezvous with Michael, 28, may have cooked up more than just drama on the show, with friends now claiming that Hayley, 31, thought

she was pregnant.

“Hayley came home from filming and was extremely sick; she was vomiting every day,” a close friend tells *New Idea*.

“She just put it down to the stress taking its toll, but when she was still sick two weeks later, she started to think that she could be pregnant.”

Hayley was unemployed when she arrived home and eventually picked up some work as a labourer for a concreting company.

However, her pregnancy symptoms made it almost impossible for her to carry out the strenuous manual labour, and she was forced to quit after just a few weeks.

Friends initially assumed the child she could be expecting was Michael’s – given their history, but Hayley denies the pair had sex.

“She started to panic, but in the end, she realised it didn’t really matter because, either way, she knew she would get through it,” our insider spills.

Thankfully, a pregnancy test went on to confirm that Hayley was not in fact pregnant but not before she had told her closest pals how excited she was at a

possible pregnancy and that she would be a committed and caring mother.

“She told us that she wants a baby 110 per cent,” her friend dishes.

“Hayley has wanted to be a mother for a very long time. Given

According to friends, Hayley was “freaking out” that she could be pregnant.

**NEW IDEA
EXCLUSIVE**



HEY'S NANCY K

her relationship with her own mother is so fragmented, she wants nothing more than to start a family of her own."

And friends say that being a single mother in the future isn't a concern for Hayley either.

"She is a very strong woman and being a single mother would be just another challenge she would take on head-first and smash," her friend exclaims.

"She can do anything she sets her mind to."

It seems the idea of pregnancy is not new to Hayley, who previously told *New Idea* she would love to have kids one day.

"One hundred per cent I want a little army," she said when asked about having children in the future. "More than anything."

She continued: "I just think that if you have babies and you have a family – like my mum wasn't the wealthiest of single mothers but she made it work – you always put your kids above yourself and I'd love to have three."

News of Hayley's pregnancy scare comes after she told fellow brides that she and Dave had consummated their marriage during filming.

David is said to have boasted to producers and the rest of the grooms in the experiment about the pair's "insane" bedroom antics. "We both aren't into vanilla sex. And last night was certainly not vanilla," he confessed.



Grooms Dave and Michael both spent intimate evenings with *MAFS* bride Hayley.

LIZZIE & AMANDA: 'YES, IT'S TRUE!'

Since appearing on the show, Amanda and Lizzie have convinced some viewers they have been secretly hooking up. And now Amanda has finally come clean about the rumours. "Liz and I are just good friends, but she's not into women!" Amanda tells *New Idea*.

"We have lots in common but there's definitely nothing romantic going on. She's attractive, don't get me wrong. But she's just not into birds!"

The rumour surfaced after Lizzie teased fans by hinting she was "one half of a lesbian couple", then Amanda uploaded a picture of Lizzie's hands.

"All that glitters is not always gold, but when you and your girl's nails and rings are on fleek, who gives a damn," Amanda wrote.

Amanda insists there's nothing to the rumours of their romance. "That picture of the hands and the comments is not a sexual thing," she says. "We were just close because we're good mates."



MY \$20,000 SURGERY SECRETS



KC Osborne may be entering the *Married at First Sight* experiment this week as an intruder bride, but it appears she will fit right in with the other contestants.

A shocking older picture of the new *MAFS* star KC reveals just how much plastic surgery and cosmetic work she has had done. Leading Sydney plastic surgeon Dr Laith Barnouti exclusively tells *New Idea* the 32-year-old has likely spent a lot of time and money augmenting her looks.

"With respect to her face, she



appears to have had lip and cheek fillers," Dr Barnouti says.

"You can see a fuller and higher cheekbone. This look can be achieved with either fat injection or dermal fillers."

Dr Barnouti also estimates the *MAFS* star has enhanced her cleavage with expensive breast implants.

"It's quite likely that she had breast implants surgery as she appears to have a sharp cleavage," he says.

"The breast also seems to be projecting out; a sign of breast implant surgery."



**NEW IDEA
EXCLUSIVE**

THE MOTHER OF THREE AND CO-HOST OF THE NEW *DIVORCE STORY* PODCAST IS EMBRACING HER LATEST CHAPTER

As Cass Thorburn knows all too well, “There’s no rulebook, no manual and, chances are, you have no idea what to do” when a marriage ends.

But for the Sydney mother of three – who found herself unexpectedly thrust into the spotlight when her 21-year marriage to *Today* show

co-host Karl Stefanovic ended in 2016 – starting over has ultimately been a time of self-discovery, resilience and, surprisingly, joy.

“I think anyone who goes through a divorce starts to realise that they’re much stronger than they ever thought they were,” says Cass. “Being on your own and embracing independence is empowering.”

Cass starred on *Dancing With the Stars* last year.



Certainly, too, Cass could not be more excited about her latest project, co-hosting the engaging and informative podcast *Divorce Story* with writer-broadcaster Annaliese Dent.

It’s a show, she says simply, “about how to survive and hopefully thrive after separation”.

New Idea sat down with Cass to find out more.

Tell us about *Divorce Story*.

The podcast is advice from experts and professionals on how to separate successfully. When we say ‘separate successfully’, everybody has a different divorce story – both for men and women. We hear their stories during each podcast and what they learnt during the process that might

help others. I’m really excited about it.

Why do you believe it’s such an important podcast?

It’s about a topic that is fairly taboo – and it shouldn’t be. The focus was to get people talking about it – to get men and women, who both get devastated by divorce, to think positively about it and to take action.

You talk in the podcast about the ‘grief’ of divorce ...

I believe, having been through a divorce, that the biggest grief to deal with is the end of the marriage – not getting over the person that you’re divorcing. For me, [the marriage] was the

CASS THORBURN

‘WHAT I WISH I KNEW THEN’

majority of my adult life. So you have to grieve that, and that's what we're encouraging people to do as well.

Your story has been an extremely public one. Did you have any reservations about the podcast?

A lot of what has been reported about 'my story' isn't my story. So there were no reservations for me. I'm taking control of this chapter now, rather than having things written that just aren't right. This is an opportunity for me to talk to experts and other people who

have been through divorce, and to provide information about the actual reality of it. Am I talking about myself in the podcast? No, but some of the questions that I ask no doubt come from the experience that I had going through it.

How important it is to look after your mental health?

I think it's extremely important. You have to look after yourself. You have to remember there's not just the divorce; there's not just the children; there's also you. And if you're not feeling well, then how can anyone else?

How is life now?

It's exciting. It's self-exploration and it's personal goal-setting. I've tried to stay focused on what's important to me and ignore all the noise, which is what was misrepresented.

On a lighter note, one of the episodes

is titled 'Online Dating 101 and Getting Back on the Horse'. Have you begun dating again?

I think you'll have to listen to the podcast on dating to get the answer to that! [Laughs]

Another episode is called 'What I know now, I wish I knew then'. What's your personal take on this?

I guess I would have shown my ex-husband how to get grass stains out of the boys' cricket whites, because that would have been handy! [Laughs]

But, seriously though, I would tell myself when I was devastated by the separation that it's an opportunity to write your own new life chapter.

I'd also tell myself that I'm enough – we're all enough.

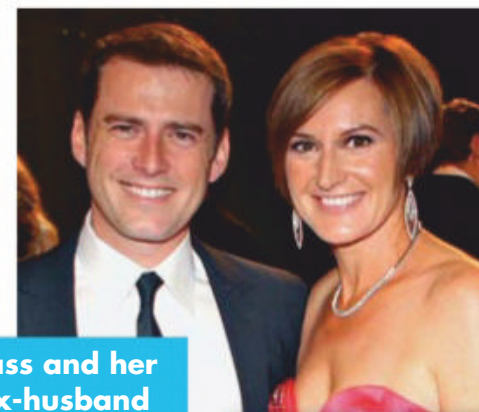
Don't expend energy wondering why something happened. Focus your energy on what you can control in your life.

Above all else, the message is an overwhelmingly positive one then ...

Yes, the podcast is focused on the fact that divorce may be a

chapter you didn't foresee, but don't see it as a complete negative. See it also as an opportunity to take control of the next chapter of your life. Marriage is a new chapter, starting a family is another chapter, and divorce is just another chapter.

By Jackie Brygel



Cass and her ex-husband Karl Stefanovic at the 2011 Logies.



Divorce Story – Surviving Separation with Cass Thorburn and Annaliese Dent launches on Mar. 4 in all podcast apps.



I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU ...
BUT ONLY IF THERE'S MONEY!

FRIENDS AT WAR

Friends co-stars Jen and Matt both initially opposed filming a reunion special due to tensions between them.

The cast of beloved sitcom *Friends* put on a united front when announcing the sensational news of a reunion episode.

But it appears the actors are not as friendly as their characters were on the hit 1990s show.

Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Perry, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer had rubbished rumours of a reunion for years before making the shock announcement they would reunite for a one-off special to air on US network, HBO.

Sources say it was the fat pay cheques waved in their faces that finally convinced them to take part in a 2020 reunion, 16 years after the finale aired.

"There's still a ton of drama involving this reunion and plenty of issues to resolve before they can go ahead with anything long-term," an insider tells *New Idea* exclusively.

"At the end of the day, money has talked and the one-off is a go, but that doesn't mean everyone is on board and fully comfortable with a new series."

According to an insider, Matt – who played loveable playboy Joey – had to be talked around for months due to

tensions between him and Jen. Rumours flew that Jen and Matt had a steamy affair during filming – but 51-year-old Jen has long denied any romance with her co-star.

"Jen and Matt have an uneasy friendship, mainly because he perceives Jen as being kind of snobby and above it all," the source says.

Insiders say Jen, who is arguably the biggest name and highest paid out of the cast, was also defiantly against filming a reunion due to her long-running feud with show co-creator Marta Kauffman.

"There are some serious issues at play, with tensions lingering between some of the characters, and the big elephant in the room being Jen's awkwardness with Marta," the source says.

When the six stars renegotiated their contracts in

2002 and earned more than \$US1million an episode, Marta was unhappy with their big pay cheques.

"A million dollars an episode is kinda ridiculous," she said in 2015.

"Let's be honest, that's a lot of money."

And money appears to be the deciding factor in the *Friends* reunion special, with each star earning \$US2.5 (\$AU3.7) million for a month's work. While Jen needed to be convinced, insiders say Courteney was all for a reunion but doesn't really need the cash – although Lisa is said

to be 'desperate' to take part.

Matthew Perry, who has battled drug addiction, reportedly needed reassurance from his co-stars that he hasn't been an 'embarrassment'.

Sources say there's potential of a billion-dollar payday down the line, depending on the show's success.

"Ultimately, the money was too much to resist and the cheque they're getting for a month's work has persuaded them to do it," the insider adds.



David, Courteney, Matthew and Lisa will join the all-star reunion special.



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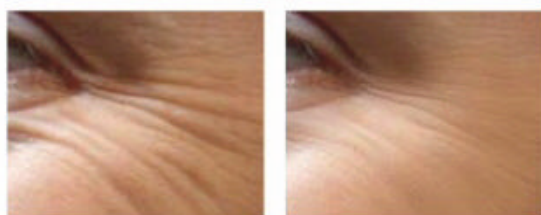


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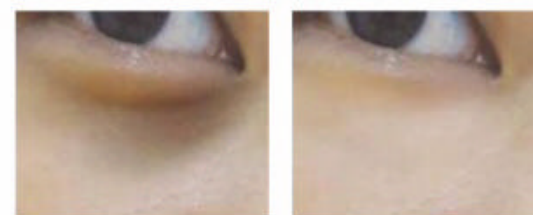
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LIFE COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT FOR THE ROYALS

In a new interview, the man who could have been the king of Denmark reveals he never even thinks about how his life could have been so different.

The now 80-year-old Count Ingolf was born Prince Ingolf of Denmark, and was the eldest son of Prince Knud, brother to the now deceased King Frederick IX, the father of Queen Margrethe.

In an earlier time, Ingolf would have ascended to the throne as head of the Danish monarchy. However, in 1953 an Act of Succession was passed

MARY'S SHOCK THE COUN



A change in succession laws meant Margrethe was able to take the throne after her father's (right) death.





Count Ingolf could have ascended the throne as the king of Denmark.

MAN WHO LD BE KING

meaning King Frederick's daughters could succeed him. Instead of Prince Knud becoming king – followed eventually by his son, Ingolf – Margrethe became the country's first female monarch. In doing so she paved the way for Crown Princess Mary to eventually

continues, adding: "It is like it is and it's not something I dig into or spend time thinking about."

"One should not dwell on things that cannot be changed," says the count, who renounced his title as prince in 1968 when he married a non-royal. He married without King Frederick's permission,

**"ONE SHOULD NOT DWELL
ON THINGS THAT CANNOT
BE CHANGED"**

become queen, when son Frederik ascends the throne in the future.

"No!" says Count Ingolf when asked if he ever thinks about what it would have been like to be king. "Actually never," he

assuming he wouldn't receive it.

His father reportedly tried to convince the king to allow Ingolf to retain his royal title after the marriage, but Frederick refused.

If he was still eligible, the count would be 12th in line

to the Danish throne.

Over the years he has continued to carry out official engagements and reportedly still receives a royal allowance. He often attends major royal events such as the 2004 marriage of Prince Frederik and Mary.

But his life has been very different for Ingolf from the lives of his royal relations. He has worked as a farmer and doesn't live in a palace.

"I ended up in Jutland because it was the only place I could afford at the time. I'd had my eyes on an estate on Funen Island, but it was a bit too expensive, so I had to expand my radius a bit," he explains.

His first wife, Inge, died in 1996, and the count never imagined he'd find another partner. But when his mother had died the year before, Ingolf met Sussie Hjørhøj, a lawyer helping administrate the family's inheritance. They married in 1998. He says of their relationship: "None of us

thought that such a thing could happen for us. We were fortunate to meet each other and our marriage has always been lovely. We are very grateful."

Now 80, and having recently suffered ill-health, Ingolf is determined to continue to enjoy life for as long as possible.

He's looking forward to Queen Margrethe's 80th birthday on April 16 and hopes to celebrate with her.

"It's lovely to attend these parties," he says.

"With age it gets harder and harder to regain your strength, but I do what I can and with the help from Sussie I will succeed. She takes such good care of me".



REUNITED WITH HIS EX!

Crown Prince Frederik recently reunited with former girlfriend and glamorous Danish pop singer Maria Montell.

The pair – who dated for more than a year – reportedly attended the Red Cross Club 100 in Copenhagen.

This isn't the first time that Fred – who left his family in Switzerland for the occasion – has seen his ex since their 1998 break-up. In 2009, Fred, accompanied by Mary, bumped into Maria at the charity gala premiere of the Danish film *Ved Verdens Ende* in Copenhagen.

Both Frederik and Mary greeted Maria with a handshake and a kiss on the cheek.

Fred and Maria dated before the prince met Mary in 2000 during the Sydney Olympic Games. The pair lived together, but it didn't take long before Maria discovered the consequences that came with dating a prince.

She struggled with the media attention that came with her relationship and also found it tough to accept that people were interested in her love life rather than her music. She also said Fred was ready for a serious relationship, but she was at the peak of her career.

"I met Frederik and we became lovers ... and it was not enough for two big things at once," she told *Life* magazine. "I toured around the world with my band, and I had absolutely no time and tranquillity to find out if there really was something between us."



MARK & ROMEL

'WE WANT ANY TO

WILL THESE RIVALS

There's no denying that from day one of *MKR: The Rivals*, Mark and Romel have had it in for each

other. However, in a strategic move that no-one sees coming, the two rivals will put aside their differences this week and team up to form an alliance.

With the competition getting tougher and a lack of allies on his side, Romel knows that he needs some help if he wants to win and decides to contact Mark via text to arrange an alliance.

"I knew Sophia and I were not safe in House Manu," Romel tells New Idea.

"We knew they were going to do whatever it took to get rid of us, to have us thrown out or



MKR: THE RIVALS
MON. TO WED.
7.30PM &
SUN. 7PM



Mark, it's Romel.
Interested in forming an
ALLIANCE?

Romel
texts Mark
asking him
to form an
alliance.



'S SHOCK ALLIANCE

WILL DO 'THING WIN'

TEAM UP AND FIND GLORY?

eliminated. So, what do I do? How do I ensure we last in the competition?

"I knew that Mark was in control of House Colin, so I thought that if I form an alliance with him then we can control who we eliminate and

anything positive I said about Mark, people would know there was something going on," says Romel.

"What that was, I don't think they knew, but they were definitely suspicious."

There is one person who

"I THOUGHT THAT IF I FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH HIM THEN WE CAN CONTROL WHO WE ELIMINATE"

who we send to elimination cook-off," Romel admits.

Also known to be a strategic player in the show, Mark decides to take up Romel on his tactical offer.

"I could see he was struggling with his team and I needed some help with my team so I thought that it would be a good idea," says Mark.

"I came into this competition to win, if an alliance with Romel helps me do that, I am in."

Now, Romel and Mark must try to convince their fellow teammates to score each others' meals well. But, with their history of giving negative critiques to each other, will the rest of the table suspect that something is going on?

"If there was

wasn't on board with Romel's decision to team up with Mark, and that was his very own teammate Sophia.

"Look, it was a shock to me definitely and one thing we knew from the very beginning is that Mark can't be trusted," Sophia reveals.

"So, the fact that the alliance was happening was crazy to me because Mark has shown his true colours and what his values are, and you are essentially going to bed with this person.

"I kind of feel like it wasn't going to end well but Romel is Romel, I didn't want to say no and have him have regrets."

Whether or not the alliance proves fruitful, Mark admits that he has a safety plan in case it all goes belly-up.

"If you make a deal with the devil you have to have a backup plan and that's what I had," he admits.

But, will Mark need to use his backup plan, or will their alliance prove a good decision?



Manu finally gets fed up with Sophia in the kitchen and the two clash.

SOPHIA'S BUST-UP WITH MANU

Over the course of the restaurant takeovers, there have been several times that Sophia has relied on her mentor and professional chef, Manu Feildel, to help out with her cook, much to his frustration.

But this week, Manu finally gets fed up with Sophia expecting him to help them all the time and the two have an argument in the kitchen.

"The problem is you don't do it, everyone else is doing it," he tells her. "You think we've got time because you don't take the time."

Sophia is quick to argue back.

"Manu and I have such a turbulent relationship," Sophia tells New Idea.

While she admits that she and Manu have had their fair share of clashes in the kitchen, she reveals that the reason is often due to her close connection with the recipes she is cooking.

"In my defence, when you are cooking a lot of home recipes, you have such a connection to them and you know how things should be done because that's how your mum did it and how your grandma did it," she says. "So to have someone who is an amazing world-class chef saying, 'You should do this,' it's a hard pill to swallow."



Having spent \$117,000 on eight rounds of IVF after going through menopause aged 36, Marie Neal never imagined her dream of becoming a mum would come true.

Marie and her husband, Dale, 51, had longed for children in their 30s.

After tying the knot 12 years ago, the couple began trying for a baby but were devastated when Marie couldn't fall pregnant.

"Being told you're going through the menopause at 36 was heartbreaking; it was a real-life nightmare," Marie, now 50, tells New Idea.

"It wasn't until doctors told me I couldn't have any children that I realised how important having a family was. It was a terrible shock because with no more eggs, it meant I'd never have a biological child of my own."

But Marie and Dale refused to give up on their baby dream and began looking into other options. After reading how donor egg babies take in much of the pregnant mum's DNA while growing in the womb, Marie felt happy about trying it. And a year waiting to be matched with a donor egg, Marie, then 42, had her first

IVF cycle, but it failed.

Six months later, Marie became pregnant on a second IVF attempt. Devastatingly, at six weeks she miscarried.

A third attempt also resulted in an ectopic pregnancy.

"It was terrible knowing I was pregnant but the baby wouldn't survive as it moved into the fallopian tube," Marie says.

A fourth attempt also resulted in another ectopic pregnancy, and a fifth attempt proved negative.

"That was due to be our final go. We had decided if we hadn't had a baby by the age of 45, we would try to content ourselves with a life without children."

"I even bought books

After having Essie, Marie and Dale want to give other people hope.

**MARIE AND DALE
REFUSED TO GIVE
UP THEIR DREAM**



**WE SPENT \$117,000
TO HAVE A CHILD**



Marie says she had a perfect pregnancy with daughter Essie.



about making a life without kids, but at the same time, friends were having babies. I was so happy for them but I wanted to experience that joy myself. I couldn't accept not being a mum," Marie says.

So in January 2015, the couple went to a clinic in the Czech city of Prague which Marie had researched online.

Their first attempt there resulted in a positive test, but once again she had a miscarriage.

In July 2016, they tried again in Prague, but Marie experienced an "incredibly rare and dangerous" type of ectopic pregnancy and had to have the embryo removed.

Six months later, an eighth attempt also sadly proved negative.

The clinic had some frozen embryos left from Marie's previous attempts and offered them a final IVF round for free, after the couple had already spent \$117,000 on the eight failed attempts.

But it was still a difficult decision to make.

UK doctors had warned it could be dangerous for Marie because of her age.

"Forty-nine was the cut-off age for the clinic in Prague. I knew if I got to 50 that would be the end of the journey," Marie remembers.

But the couple went ahead, and miraculously, the final attempt was successful.

"From the first scan to when she was born, it was a textbook pregnancy. I had a small, neat bump and felt great. I was glowing," Marie says.

Essie was born by caesarean section on August 10, 2018.

The couple have since shared their story to give others hope.

"We treasure every moment with Essie as we longed to be parents for so long, I still have to pinch myself that I'm actually a mum, even now," Marie says.

"It has been such a long and emotional journey

that even now, 17 months later, I can't quite believe I am finally a mum."

Proud father, Dale has now published his own children's book, *My Socks Have Gone Bonkers*, to celebrate the journey – after penning short stories during the couple's heart-breaking fertility struggle.

Dale says: "A few years ago we were in a really dark place. We'd spent most of our money and things were looking like they weren't going to work.

"I had no reason to think I was going to be published and we were becoming more and more helpless with trying to get pregnant.

"So to have them both, a published book [and] book deal and our miracle baby, is a better happy ending than I could have ever imagined."

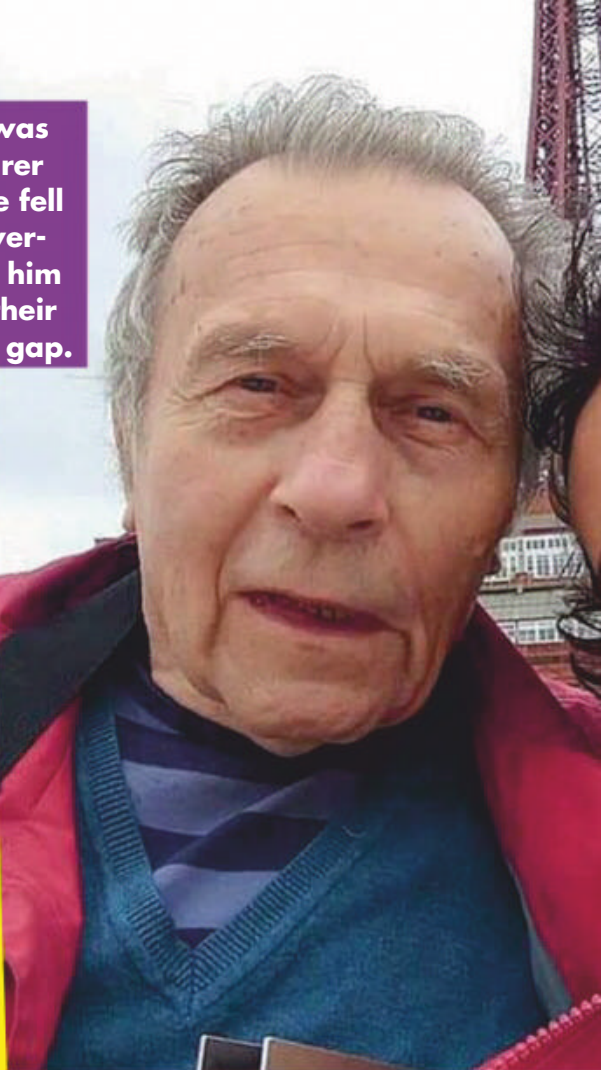
117,000 BABY!



Little Essie was born via caesarean after eight failed IVF attempts.



Donna was Eric's carer when she fell head-over-heels for him despite their huge age gap.



'I F WITH

A 40-YEAR AGE GAP DIDN'T STOP DONNA AND ERIC FROM FALLING MADLY IN LOVE

If you saw Donna Brickell and Eric Morgan out and about of an afternoon, you might smile and think a daughter is taking her elderly dad out for a walk.

But 40-year-old Donna and 80-year-old Eric are not father and daughter.

In fact, they're not related at all. Despite a 40-year age gap, the pair are madly in love and even plan to marry.

"There are no numbers in love. The chemistry between

Eric and me is amazing," Donna says. "The first time I saw him I thought how handsome he was. I never imagined he was more than 60 years old because he looks so good. He has the sharpest sense of humour and makes me laugh so much."

"He is very mischievous and we have so much in common. I love him so much and I am happier than I have ever been in my life. For the first time I feel completely

loved by a man and it feels truly wonderful."

Donna was a married mother of three when she first met Eric and became his carer.

She had been married for 20 years to her husband, John, but for the last nine she had been very unhappy.

"John gave me no love and attention at all and I had fallen completely out of love with him. The only reason I kept my marriage going was for my children's sake," Donna admits.

"I hadn't felt loved and cherished in such a long time, I guess I'd forgotten what it felt like to feel really loved."

Donna's then-patient Eric was paralysed from the waist down 10 years ago and needed support with personal and household chores.

"I didn't really see Eric's disability. I just saw a wonderful, kind, funny man. I'd be in tears laughing with him. I had never felt like that with my husband," she says.

Donna swiftly became smitten by the twinkle in Eric's eye and his humour while she worked as his carer. She would even drive to his house after hours for a chat, which was forbidden by her employer.

Both she and Eric finally admitted their feelings to each other when Eric put his hand on her thigh, asking if this was OK and Donna was unable to resist.

"I was a married mother but I'd fallen in love with my patient and I didn't know what do," Donna says.



ELL IN LOVE

AN 80-YEAR-OLD!

It was then that Donna discovered Eric's true age when she looked in his file at work. She saw he was 78, rather than 60 as she'd assumed.

But she overcame her shock because she says they "fit together like a glove".

Months of unbridled romance followed, with Donna visiting Eric regularly outside work hours to watch musicals or head to the park.

"I enjoyed Eric's company so much. We had so much in common and had a great love for theatre and musicals," Donna gushes. "He might be in a wheelchair but he is one of the most positive people I have ever met. He never lets his disability get him down."

Donna says they shared their first passionate kiss after a few months together and it was beautiful.

"I almost fainted with joy. There is such a beautiful chemistry between us. It was tender and so wonderful," she says.

But it wasn't all plain sailing, as Donna's employer strictly

forbids carer-patient relationships. But Donna refused to give up Eric and instead quit her job.

"I had broken the rules and was told I could not see Eric again. That was absolutely unthinkable. I realised life is so

"IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT PEOPLE MISTAKE US FOR FATHER AND DAUGHTER – WE'RE SO HAPPY"

short and here was a man I had fallen madly in love with despite a 40-year age gap. I knew we were meant to be together," she says.

Donna had to tell John that she had fallen in love with Eric. The news came as a big shock to him when she revealed she wanted to leave him for her 80-year-old patient.

"He said some very unkind things and said that Eric and I were 'disgusting'. His words hurt but I really didn't care. They didn't affect how I felt about Eric. I just couldn't imagine my life without him,"

Donna says. "When you find your true soulmate, you don't care what others think. I just knew I had to be with Eric."

Donna packed her clothes and fled the family home and moved in with Eric in his flat. Her middle son came with her

while her other two children stayed with John.

She also got to know Eric's own children, who were very happy and accepting to meet their dad's new girlfriend.

"Eric's daughter tells me she is so glad he has me to look after him," Donna says. "I tell her that Eric looks after me too. He really is my best friend."

"I didn't matter that people mistook us for father and daughter. We're both so happy."

Donna now says every day with Eric feels like a wonderful blessing.

"I am madly in love with him

it's as simple as that. Every single day he makes me feel so special and loved.

"Being with him has taught me that age is just a number and nothing more.

"When he asks me what I see in him I tell him it's his muscles!" Donna laughs.

"I will never ever regret my decision to be with him – everything about him is wonderful. He is determined, positive, funny and kind.

"Even if we only have a few years together, we will make every day wonderful."

Now Donna and Eric are engaged and plan to become husband and wife as soon as her divorce is finalised.

"I can't wait to become Eric's wife. It will be the proudest day of my life. I may only be 40 and Eric is 80 but the love between us is so strong," she says.

"When a love like this comes along you have to grab it with both hands.

"I know we will be together for the rest of our lives, however long that might be."

By Jane Cohen

The Family's matriarch, Anne Hamilton-Byrne, died in June 2019 after a battle with dementia.



GO THE

From Jonestown to Heaven's Gate – or Charles Manson and his followers – cults have a devastating and sometimes lethal impact on those who join.

Pop culture harbours a morbid fascination with cults. Countless movies, novels, plays, podcasts and articles explore the psychology behind why people start cults and why others join them.

One of Australia's most infamous cults was simply known as The Family.

The Family was headed by a Victorian woman named Anne Hamilton-Byrne, who at her height through the 1960s until the late 1980s, ran the sadistic apocalyptic sect with hundreds of members. Anne was as beautiful and charismatic as she was delusional and dangerous.

Born in 1921 as Evelyn Grace Victoria Edwards, Anne was a yoga teacher turned cult leader who convinced her

followers she was Jesus Christ reincarnated. Her ethos was simple – the world was going to end, and the only way you could be saved is if you joined The Family.

Along with her husband, William, Anne started recruiting followers from a nearby clinic. She targeted middle-class professionals, some even with medical backgrounds, and essentially 'brainwashed' them with her new-age 'spiritualism'. She also acquired children through adoption scams or even through other members, and allegedly injected them with LSD, as well as beating and starving them.

All this horror happened tucked away in near secrecy not far from the busy streets of Melbourne.

Author JP Pomare's new novel, *In the Clearing*, inspired

by The Family, is the result of research into Anne and the reason why people join cults.

"I think in the right circumstances, most people are prepared to believe fantastical, ridiculous things as long as the conditions are right," JP tells the podcast *Investigates*.

"As long as it's sort of a gentle escalation. It always starts as something a lot smaller and it sort of grows. And so was particularly fascinated with The Family."

Anne's hold over her many members is hard to describe.

Not everyone lured into the sect spiderweb is a vulnerable and gullible person. They were intelligent, educated people who just wanted a purpose. Anne told her followers that they were going to save the world after an apocalypse.

In total, Anne had around 28 children in her care and nearly 500 members at the cult's peak.

A mistress of deceit, Anne was able to put her followers under a spell. They handed over their money, homes and even their children.

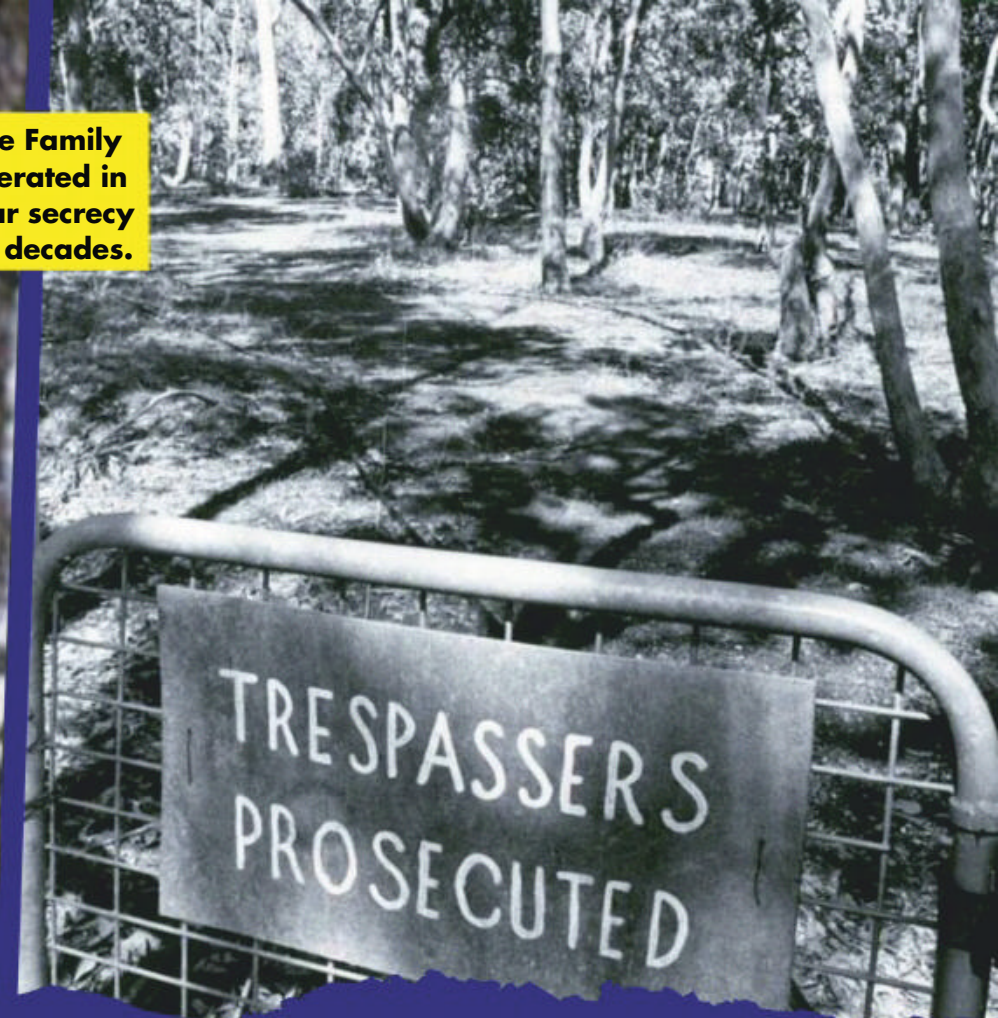
"People were joining purely



Anne dyed the kids' hair blonde.



The Family operated in near secrecy for decades.



A LOOK INSIDE AUSTRALIA'S MOST INFAMOUS CULT, THE FAMILY

ING DOWN RABBIT HOLE

because of Anne's charisma, because they just believed that she had a sort of power," JP explains.

"Everyone described her as so beautiful that you couldn't look away, and other clichés like that, particularly the men in the cult."

Former Detective Lex de Man, who investigated Anne for six years, explained what he believed was the true motive behind the cult mistress' decision to start The Family.

"What it boils down to is it's about money and, I believe,

money and power for Anne," he said.

But it didn't last forever for Anne. In 1987, a rebellious 14-year-old member named Sarah Moore finally escaped.

Police swooped in on The Family on August 14., 1987, and the children under her spell were finally saved.

But Anne didn't face the justice she deserved. She went on the run until police finally apprehended her in 1993 as she was hiding out in New York.

Shockingly, Anne served almost no jail time and was

only ordered to pay damages to ex-members for the psychological abuse she caused.

Up until her death at age 97 in June 2019, a frail and elderly Anne Hamilton-Byrne sat in her nursing home, battling dementia but likely not battling her own guilt.

When she passed away, many ex-members said it didn't offer the 'closure' or emotional reparation they so desperately craved.

Her cruel control and sadism is something they can never forget.

Detective Lex, who led investigations into Anne and The Family, summed it up after her death. "Today is a great day in that she is now dead. She can rot," he said. "The lives she affected and her evil deeds, I shed no tear. Not one drop."

By April Glover



For more, listen to Investigates on Acast, Apple, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.



Anne (left) and some of the children (right).

Author JP Pomare.

THE FATHER WHO SOLVED HIS SON'S MURDER

Dan Schneider was from a regular churchgoing, middle-class, Mississippi family. His father, esteemed pharmacist Daniel Sr, described his son as “good natured, compassionate kid”.

But towards the end of his final year of college, Dan struggled with his grades and his sister Kristi said he got “lost”.

“I think Danny was just struggling with what to do

with himself,” Kristi said in the new Netflix docuseries, *The Pharmacist*.

“I COULDN’T STAND TO THINK MY SON’S MURDERER WOULD GET AWAY WITH IT ... OR KILL AGAIN”

In 1991, at the age of 22, Dan told his parents he was going out and would be back soon. Tragically, Dan never returned.

He was shot in the head in his Ford pick-up truck as he

held some crumpled-up cash in his hands. Authorities believed Dan was trying to buy some

crack at the time and had unwittingly become involved in a fatal shootout.

Dan’s parents had no idea he was taking drugs at the time. “Some people would say these were warning signs, but

police sergeant Addie Fanguy, who dealt with the case. “I’m telling you the kid didn’t give the money to the guy.”

After several failed leads, Daniel became frustrated with the investigation into his son’s death and took the matter into his own hands.

“Like most people, when my son was murdered, I expected the police to do their job,” he told TV station WDSU. “But it didn’t really work out that way.

“I couldn’t stand to think not only would my son’s [murderer] get away with it, but he might kill again.

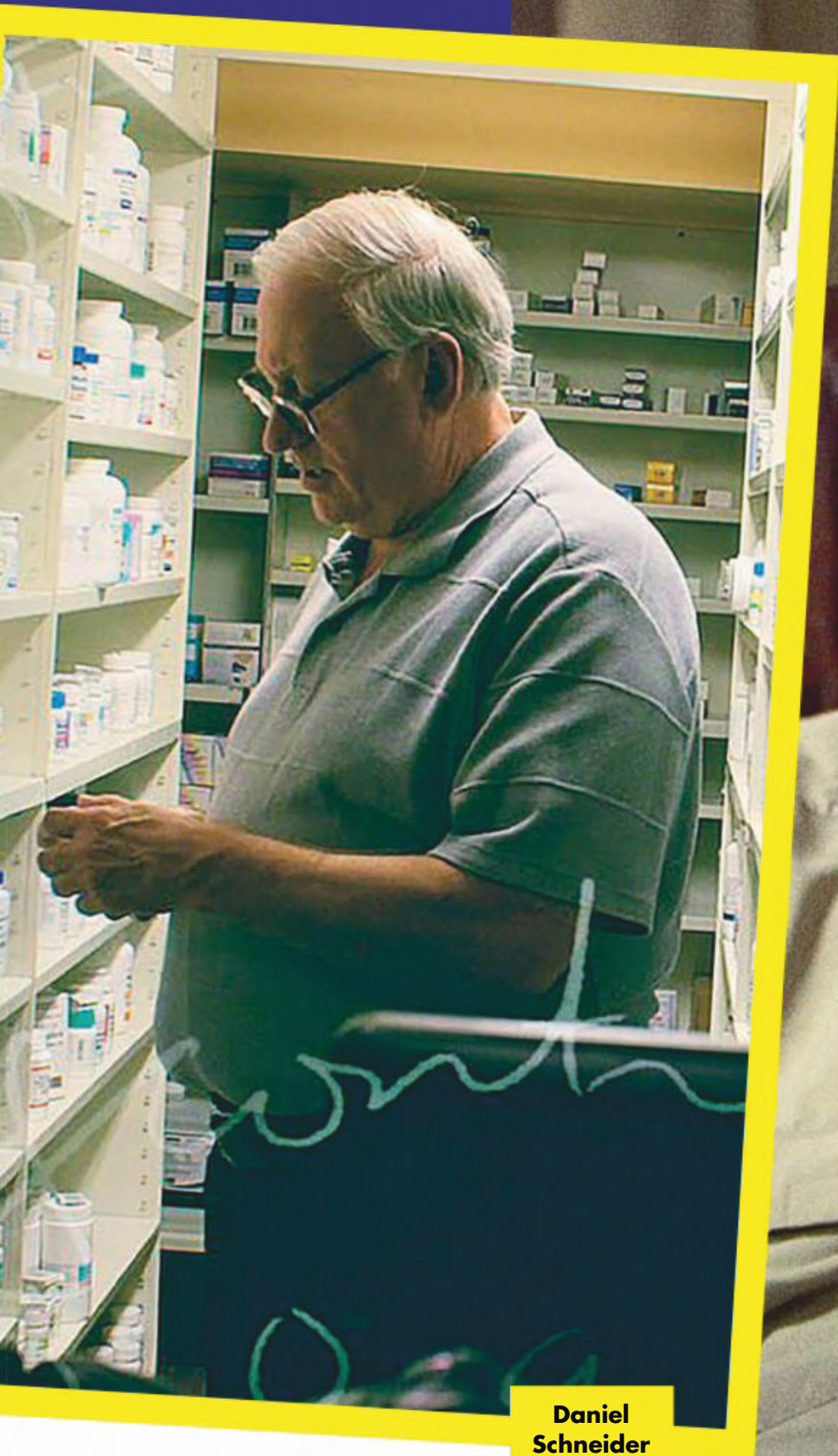
“I wasn’t thrilled with the job the police did, but I have some compassion for them. They have a big job and without the community helping them, we’re not going to cut down on these murders and

we didn’t see it at the time,” his father Daniel admitted.

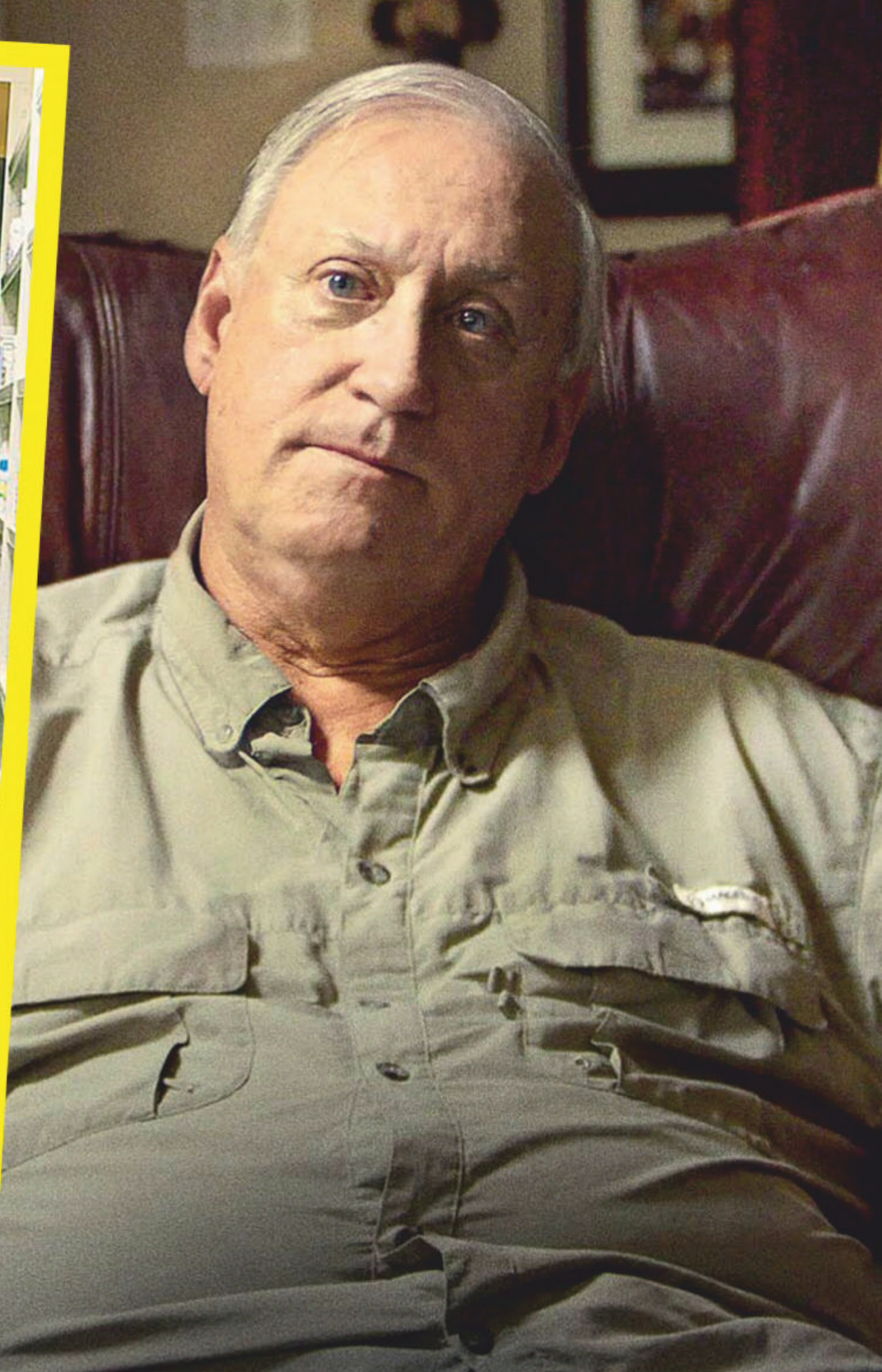
“One out of every 200 dope deals, somebody gets stupid and somebody gets shot,” said

Daniel Sr. with son Dan and daughter Kristi. Right: Murder victim, Dan Jr.





Daniel Schneider turned detective after his son was shot during a drug deal.



car robberies, so stand up.”

What he uncovered was not only a growing opioid crisis, but also the eyewitness whose evidence would lead to the eventual conviction of his son’s killer.

Daniel, through his meticulous questioning and door knocking within the local neighbourhood, was led to a woman named Shane Redding, who says she saw who killed his son. It turned out to be Jeffrey Hall, who police originally believed was in jail the night the murder took place.

Jeffrey Hall later pleaded guilty to manslaughter in 2000 and spent 13 years of his 15-year sentence in prison.

Shane was placed in witness protection and after the conviction, Daniel read out a statement thanking her.

“In this not-so-perfect world,” he said, his voice

breaking with emotion, “it’s people like our witness – one by one – telling the truth about what they have seen that will truly make a difference.”

But Daniel’s findings didn’t just end there. What he later unearthed was the answer to what possibly drove his son to the underworld of drugs.

While investigating his son’s murder, Daniel discovered an alarming number of young people coming into his pharmacy with Oxycontin prescriptions. It soon lead him to Dr Jacqueline Cleggett, a pain management doctor from New Orleans, who was prescribing the highly

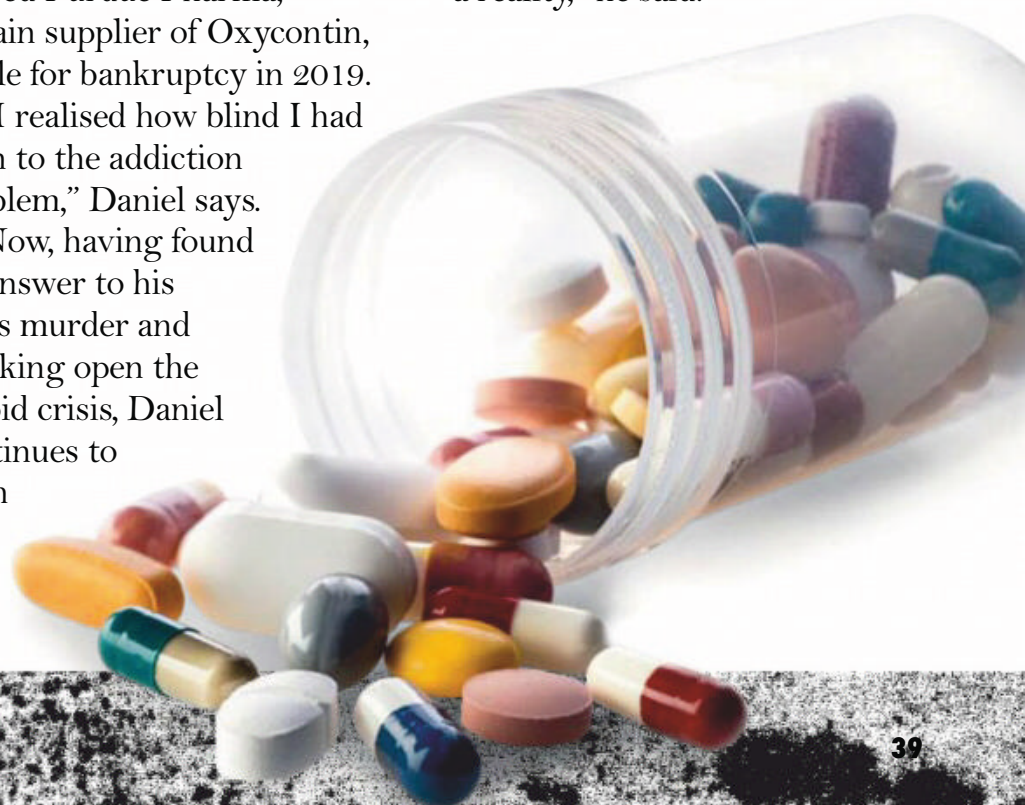
addictive opioid illegally.

Eventually, Daniel found enough evidence to have her licence revoked and caused Purdue Pharma, a main supplier of Oxycontin, to file for bankruptcy in 2019.

“I realised how blind I had been to the addiction problem,” Daniel says.

Now, having found an answer to his son’s murder and cracking open the opioid crisis, Daniel continues to push on.

“That I could make a difference, or be a part of something that can make a difference, may very well be a reality,” he said.





NEW IDEA

FOOD

FRESH
NEW
RECIPES

Loaded Veggie Salad with Whipped Feta

Serves 8-10, Prep and Cook:
1 hour, 10 mins

1¼ cups brown rice and quinoa blend
½ butternut pumpkin (900g), peeled, deseeded, cut into 3cm pieces
¼ cup olive oil
2 tbsps red wine vinegar
1 tsp dried chilli flakes
1 tsp honey
200g packet frozen shelled edamame beans
500g broccoli, cut into small florets
400g red cabbage, finely shredded
200g (1 cup) semi-dried tomatoes, chopped
2 tbsps pine nuts, toasted
Fresh mint leaves, to garnish

WHIPPED FETA

200g tub smooth Danish feta
250g tub spreadable cream cheese
3 green spring onions, thinly sliced
½ cup fresh mint leaves

1 Add rice and quinoa blend to a large saucepan of boiling, salted water. Gently boil, uncovered, for about 25 minutes or until tender. Drain. Cool.

2 Meanwhile, toss pumpkin with 1 tbsp of the oil on an oven tray lined with baking paper. Season with salt and pepper.

3 Cook in a hot oven (200C) for

about 25 minutes, or until tender and lightly browned. Remove. Cool.

4 To make dressing, whisk remaining 2 tbsps oil with vinegar, chilli and honey in a jug. Season with salt and pepper.

5 To make whipped feta, process all ingredients in a food processor until smooth. Add 1 to 2 tbsps water, processing to a dollop-consistency.

6 Place edamame beans in a heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Stand for 5 minutes. Drain. Rinse under cold water. Drain well.

7 Add broccoli to a large saucepan of boiling water. Boil for 1 minute. Drain. Rinse under cold water. Drain well.

8 To assemble, spread ½ cup whipped feta over base of a large, glass serving bowl (16-cup capacity). Top evenly with rice and quinoa blend, followed by layers of cabbage, tomatoes, edamame and broccoli.

9 Drizzle evenly with dressing. Scatter two-thirds of the pumpkin cubes over top. Spoon over remaining whipped feta. Sprinkle with remaining pumpkin and pine nuts. Garnish with mint.



TIP

Rice blend and pumpkin can be cooked up to one day ahead, and salad ingredients can be prepared up to 4 hours ahead. Keep, covered, in the fridge. Assemble just before serving.

Colourful, fresh and delicious, these pretty layered salads are guaranteed to impress your guests

LAYERED SALAD BOWLS

Retro Layered Aussie Salad

Serves 8, Prep and Cook: 45 mins

250g rindless bacon, finely chopped
2 cups frozen green peas
2 x 450g cans diced beetroot, drained
½ iceberg lettuce (about 350g), shredded
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled, coarsely chopped
2 x 250g punnets baby roma tomatoes, halved
⅔ cup sour cream
½ cup thousand island dressing
1 tblsp lemon juice
2 green spring onions, thinly sliced
Salted potato crisps, to serve

1 Heat a non-stick, frying pan over a medium to high heat. Add bacon. Cook, stirring

frequently for about 3 to 5 minutes, or until crisp and light golden. Drain on absorbent kitchen paper. Cool.

2 Add peas to a large saucepan of boiling water. Return to boil. Boil for 1 minute. Drain. Rinse under cold water. Drain well.

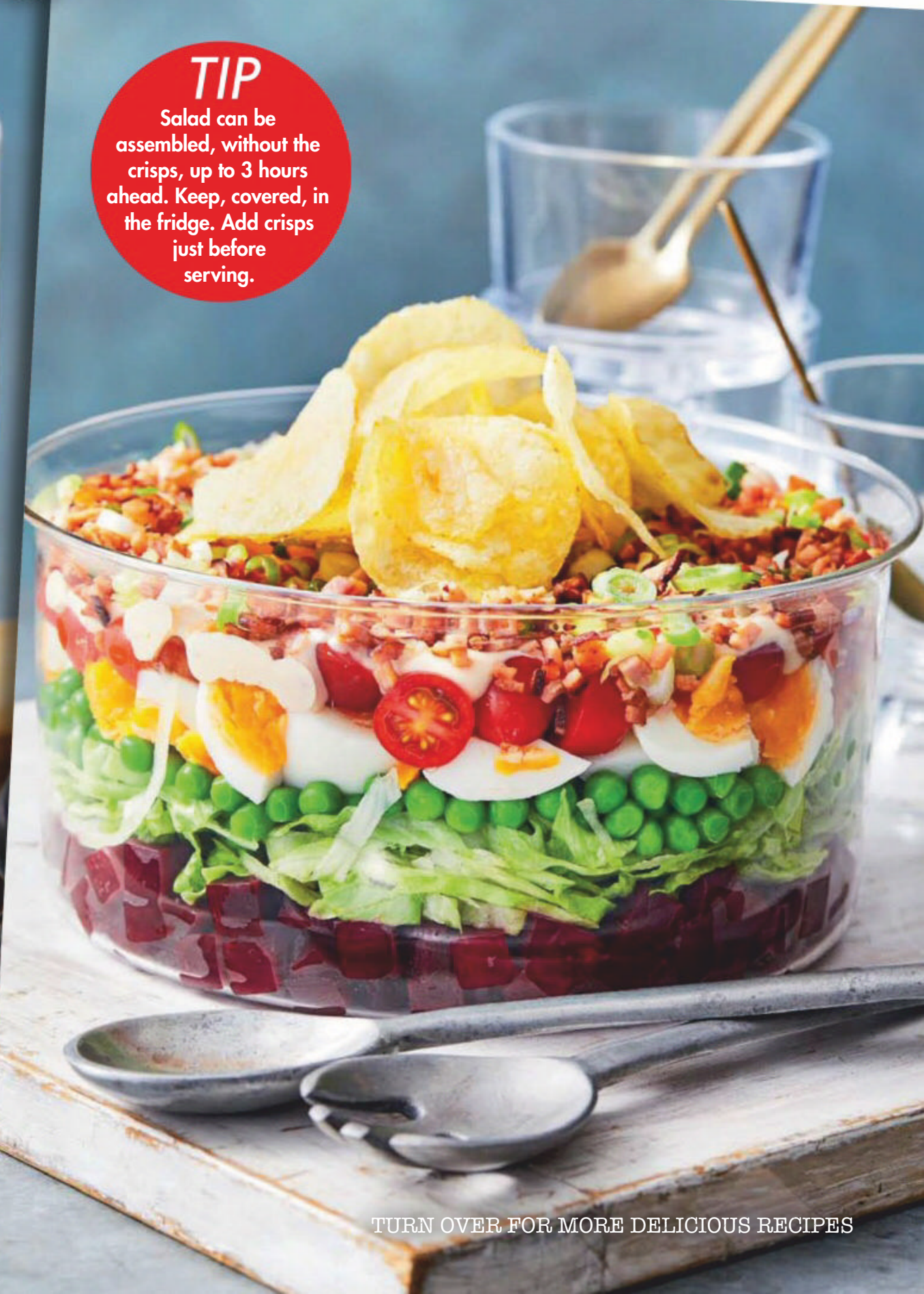
3 Spread beetroot over the base of a large, glass serving bowl (16-cup capacity). Layer lettuce over top, followed by peas, eggs and tomatoes.

4 Whisk sour cream with dressing and juice in a medium jug. Season with salt and pepper.

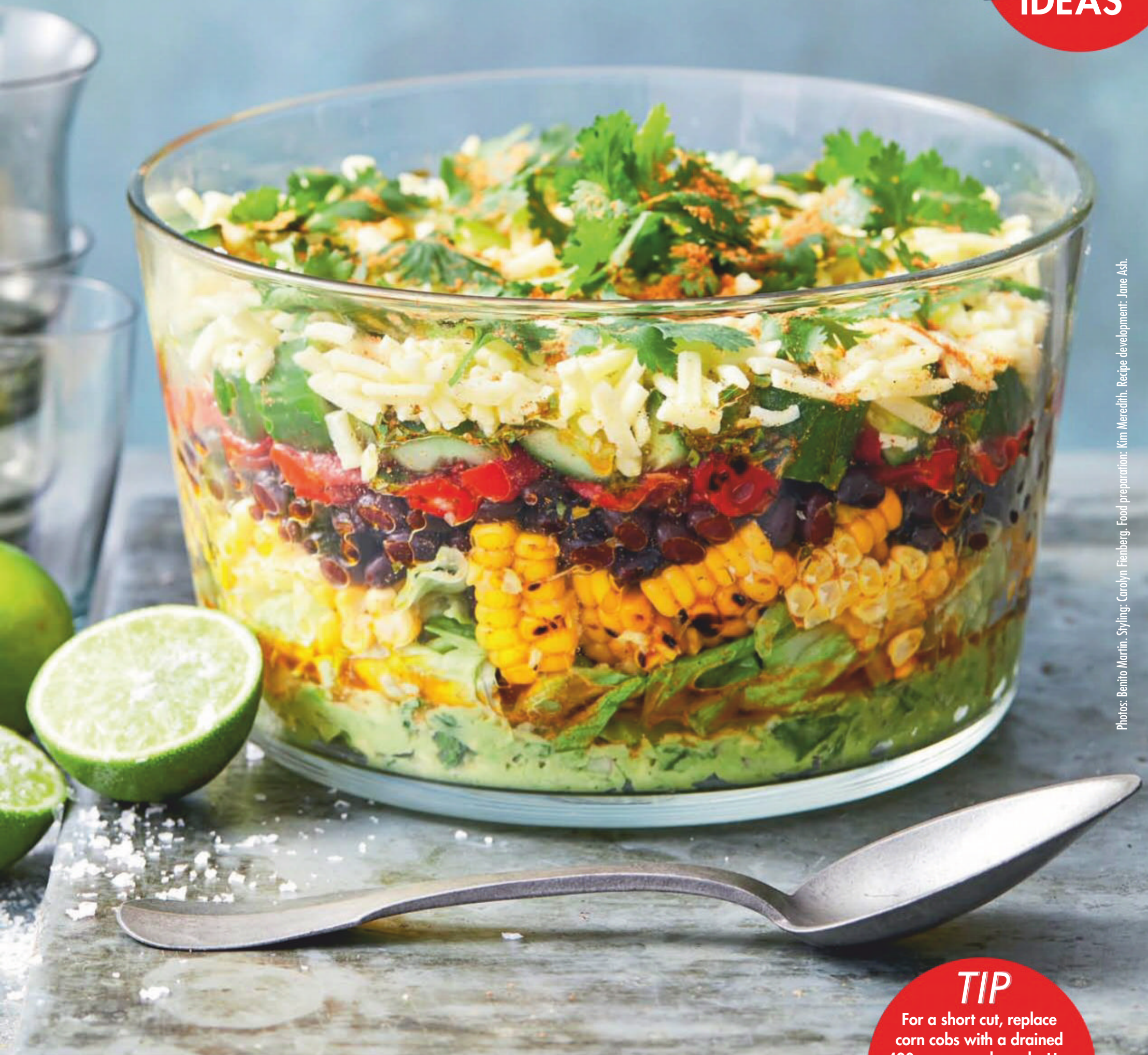
5 Spoon dressing over tomato layer. Sprinkle with combined onions and bacon. Top with a handful of crisps.

TIP

Salad can be assembled, without the crisps, up to 3 hours ahead. Keep, covered, in the fridge. Add crisps just before serving.



TURN OVER FOR MORE DELICIOUS RECIPES



Photos: Benito Martin. Styling: Carolyn Fienberg. Food preparation: Kim Meredith. Recipe development: Jane Ash.

Layered Tex Mex Salad

Serves 8, Prep and Cook: 35 mins

4 corn cobs, silk and husks removed (See Tip)
2 avocados, peeled, chopped
½ small red onion, finely chopped
2 tbsps chopped fresh coriander
1 tbsp lime juice
½ large iceberg lettuce (450g), coarsely chopped
400g can black beans, drained
2 x 130g tubs roasted capsicum strips, drained (about 1 cup)
2 Lebanese cucumbers,

quartered lengthways, chopped
1 cup grated Tasty cheese
Fresh coriander leaves and smoky chipotle seasoning, to serve

DRESSING

⅓ cup olive oil
¼ cup lime juice
1 tbsp smoky chipotle seasoning (See Tip)
¼ cup chopped fresh coriander

1 Heat an oiled, chargrill pan over a medium to high heat. Add corn. Cook, turning occasionally for about 10 minutes, or until lightly charred. Transfer to a plate. Cool. Cut kernels from cobs.

2 Mash avocados in a medium bowl. Stir in onion, coriander and juice. Season with salt and pepper.

3 Spread avocado mixture over base of a large, glass serving

bowl (14-16 cup capacity).

4 Layer lettuce over top, followed by corn, beans, capsicum and cucumbers.

5 To make dressing, whisk all ingredients in a medium jug until combined.

6 Drizzle dressing over cucumber layer. Sprinkle with cheese. Garnish with coriander. Lightly sprinkle with seasoning.

TIP

For a short cut, replace corn cobs with a drained 420g can corn kernels. Use taco or fajita seasoning in place of chipotle seasoning, if preferred. Try serving with corn chips for added crunch.

蒼山
CANGSHAN



Beautiful Function

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3 GREAT WAYS WITH...

POTATOES

Satisfying and delicious, these tasty dishes make easy midweek meals



TIP

For an extra spicy kick, add 1 tsp dried chilli flakes to the sauce, or try using hot salami instead of mild. Sauce can be made up to three days ahead. Keep, covered, in the fridge. Reheat before serving.

Spanish Patatas Bravas

Serves 6, Prep and Cook: 1 hour

1.5kg brushed potatoes
2 tps smoked paprika
1 tblsp olive oil
Garlic aioli, to serve
Thinly sliced spring onions, to garnish

SAUCE

1 tblsp olive oil
1 small onion, finely chopped

150g sliced mild salami, chopped
1 tblsp tomato paste
400g can diced tomatoes
1 tblsp red wine vinegar
1 tsp caster sugar

1 Peel potatoes. Cut into 2cm pieces. Place in a large bowl with paprika and oil. Toss to coat. Transfer to a

large roasting pan.

2 Cook in a hot oven (200C), tossing halfway through, for about 45 minutes, or until golden brown and crisp.

3 Meanwhile, make sauce. Heat oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, until soft. Add salami. Cook, stirring for about 4 minutes, or until

crisp. Stir in tomato paste. Add tomatoes, vinegar, sugar and ½ cup water. Bring to boil. Gently boil, stirring occasionally for about 5 minutes, or until slightly thickened. Remove from heat.

4 Place potatoes in a serving bowl. Spoon over sauce. Drizzle with aioli. Scatter with onions.

Cajun Chicken with Spring Potato Salad

Serves 4, Prep and Cook: 30 mins

800g chicken thigh fillets, trimmed of excess fat, halved
2 tbsps Cajun seasoning
2 tbsps olive oil
Baby rocket, to serve

SPRING POTATO SALAD

750g baby white potatoes, halved
1 green capsicum, finely chopped
2 stalks celery, trimmed, thinly sliced
4 green spring onions, thinly sliced
1/3 cup Dijonnaise
1/3 cup light thickened cream
1 tbsp lemon juice

1 Place chicken in a large shallow dish. Add combined seasoning and half the oil. Rub to coat chicken evenly.

2 To make spring potato salad,

place potatoes in a large, microwave-safe bowl. Cover with plastic wrap. Pierce wrap with a fork. Microwave on High (100%) for about 7 minutes, or just tender. Remove. Stand, covered, for 5 minutes. Drain. Transfer to a large bowl. Cool for 5 minutes. Add capsicum, celery and onions.

3 Combine Dijonnaise, cream and juice in a small jug. Add to salad. Season with salt and pepper. Toss well.

4 Heat remaining oil in a large, non-stick frying pan over a medium to high heat. Add chicken. Cook for about 4 to 5 minutes on each side, or until evenly browned and cooked through. Remove.

5 Serve chicken with salad and rocket.

TIP

For a milder version, reduce Cajun seasoning to 1 tbsp. Potato salad can be made up to one day ahead. Add an extra combined 1 tbsp Dijonnaise and cream to potato salad just before serving.



NEW
FOOD
IDEAS

TIP

For a change, try serving chicken in warm wraps with salad leaves, cucumber, mango chutney and yoghurt, with potato gems on the side.

Oven-Baked Indian Chicken with Potato Gems

Serves 4, Prep and Cook: 35 mins

750g chicken tenderloins (12)

1/2 cup Greek yoghurt

2 tbsps mango chutney

1 tbsp curry powder

1 1/4 cups packaged dried breadcrumbs

Olive oil cooking spray

1 kg packet frozen Potato Gems

Salad leaves, sliced Lebanese cucumber, extra mango chutney and lemon wedges, to serve

1 Place chicken in a large bowl. Add combined yoghurt, chutney and curry powder. Mix to coat chicken.

2 Place breadcrumbs in a large, shallow dish. Working with one piece of chicken at a time, toss in breadcrumbs, pressing on gently to coat evenly.

3 Meanwhile, heat a large, non-stick roasting pan in a very

hot oven (220C) for 10 minutes.

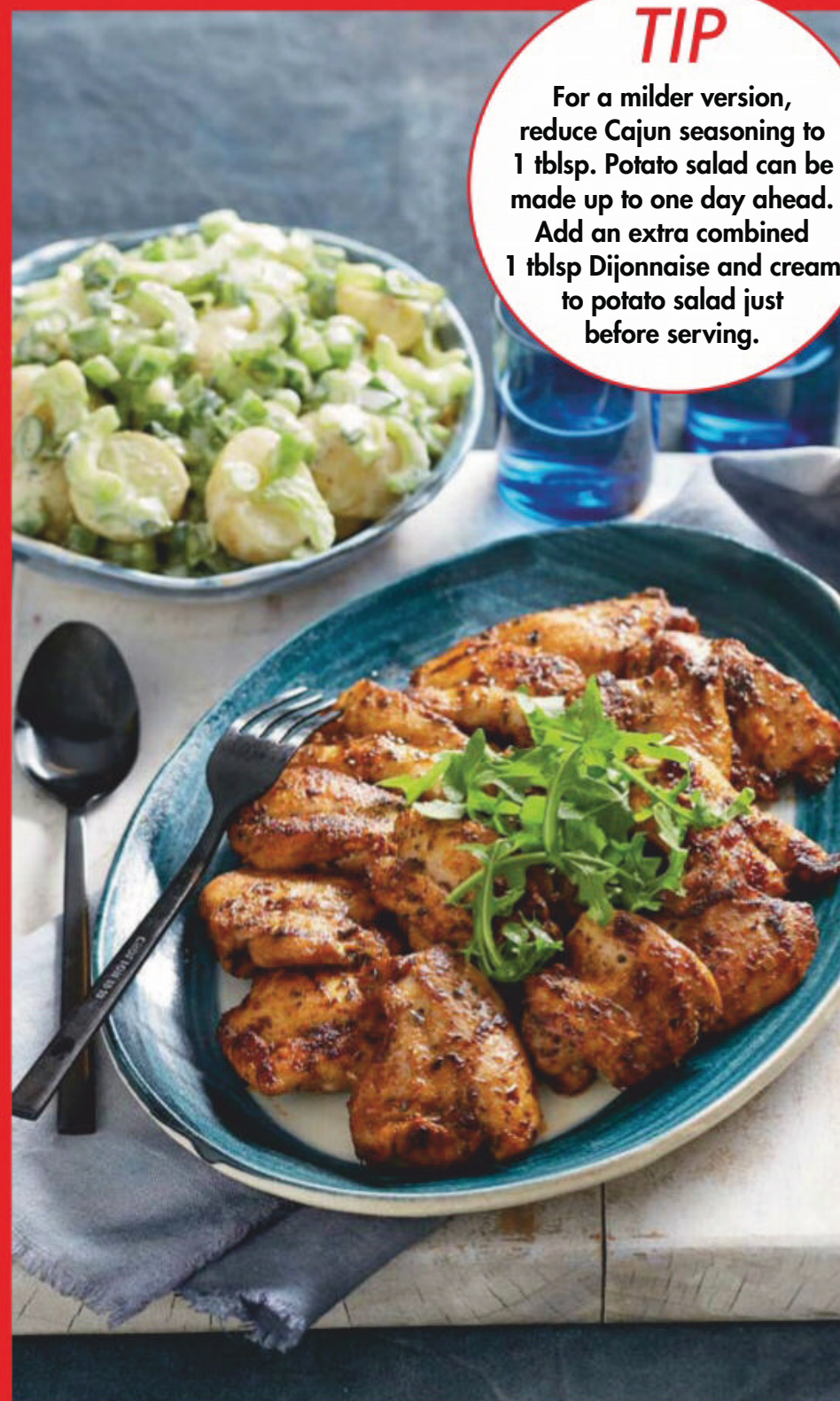
4 Line a large oven tray with baking paper. Spray with cooking oil. Arrange crumbed chicken in a single layer over paper. Generously spray chicken with cooking oil.

5 Remove hot roasting pan from oven. Add potato gems, spreading evenly over base.

6 Cook chicken and potato gems on separate shelves in a very hot oven (220C) oven for 10 to 12 minutes.

7 Remove tray from oven. Turn chicken over. Spray again with cooking oil. Return to oven for a further 10 minutes, or until chicken is cooked and golden and potato gems are crisp.

8 Serve chicken with potato gems, salad leaves, cucumber, extra mango chutney and lemon wedges.





Fresh flavours

Summer nights are made for crisp, lively flavours like this zesty prawn salad paired with a glass of chardonnay

The combination of flavours and textures in this simple but delicious salad is a delight for the senses. Perfect for lunch or dinner, it will be a hit on the summer menu!

VIETNAMESE PRAWN NOODLE SALAD

SERVES 4

PREP 25 MINS

500g cooked, peeled prawns, tails removed

½ cup bottled Vietnamese salad dressing

200g rice vermicelli noodles

2 small Lebanese cucumbers, halved lengthways, thinly sliced diagonally

1 large carrot, peeled, shredded

4 green spring onions, thinly sliced

½ cup fresh mint leaves

1 cup fresh coriander leaves

2 tbsps soy sauce

Chopped roasted, unsalted peanuts, to serve

1. Toss prawns with ¼ cup of the dressing in a bowl. Set aside.
2. Put noodles in a large heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Stand for 10 minutes, or until tender. Drain. Rinse under cold water. Drain well.
3. Put noodles in a large bowl. Cut into shorter lengths using kitchen scissors. Add prawns, cucumber, carrot, spring onions and herbs. Toss well. Add combined soy and remaining dressing. Toss to combine.
4. Serve salad sprinkled with peanuts.

IDEAL COMPANION

The McWilliam's Hanwood Estate range captures the exceptional character and premium quality of New South Wales vineyards. The Hanwood Estate Chardonnay has a zesty profile with citrus aromas and intense peach flavours, supported by subtle hints of oak. The full flavours, coupled with the citrus acidity, make it a perfect match for Asian dishes, crispy chicken salad or pasta carbonara.



For more recipes visit mcwilliams.com.au

Impressipe

NEW
FOOD
IDEAS

Scorched Plum and Almond Tart

Serves 8-10, Prep and Cook:
1 hour, 45 mins

1½ cups plain flour
⅓ cup sugar
125g cold unsalted butter, chopped
1 egg
Cream, to serve

FILLING

25g unsalted butter
500g small red plums (9), halved,
stones removed
1 tblsp honey
100g unsalted butter, chopped, at
room temperature
½ cup caster sugar
2 tsps vanilla extract
2 eggs
1¼ cups almond meal (125g)
2 tsps plain flour
2 tsps plum jam

- 1 Grease a 25cm round x 3.5cm deep, loose-base flan tin (base measures 24cm).
- 2 To make pastry, process flour, sugar and butter in a food processor to form fine crumbs. Add egg. Process to bring ingredients together. Turn out dough. Shape into a disc. Cover. Refrigerate 15 minutes.
- 3 Roll out pastry between two sheets of baking paper until large enough to line base and side of tin. Remove top sheet of paper. Invert pastry over tin. Remove other sheet of paper and ease pastry into tin. Trim edge. Patch any cracks with pastry trimmings. Place on an oven tray. Refrigerate while making filling.
- 4 To make filling, melt butter in a large, non-stick frying pan over a medium to high heat. Add plums, cut-side down. Cook for about 2 minutes, or until lightly scorched. Drizzle honey over plums. Shake pan gently until honey comes to the boil. Remove pan from heat, leaving plums in pan.
- 5 Beat butter, sugar and vanilla in the small bowl of an electric mixer until fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until combined. Stir in almond meal and flour.
- 6 Spread jam over base, then spread evenly with almond mixture. Arrange plums, cut-side up, over almond mixture, pressing in lightly.
- 7 Cook in a moderate oven (180C) for about 30 to 35 minutes, or until filling is evenly browned. Cover with foil. Cook for a further 15 to 20 minutes, or until filling is cooked in the centre when lightly touched with fingertips. Remove. Stand in tin for 30 minutes.
- 8 Serve warm or at room temperature with cream.

TIP

Tart can be made one day ahead. Leave in the tin until cold then refrigerate, covered. To reheat, place tin on an oven tray in a moderately slow oven (160C) for about 15 minutes, or until warm. Replace plums with apricots or peaches, if preferred.

Plums and almonds team
with buttery pastry and
a hint of honey in this
delightful sweet tart

SWEET EATS

LOVING LICORICE

Delicious treats made with licorice lollies to satisfy your cravings!



Choc-Licorice Truffles

Makes 12, Prep and Cook: 45 mins

4 x 5cm pieces soft black licorice
1½ cups Rice Bubbles
200g block milk cooking chocolate, finely chopped
Finely chopped black licorice, to decorate

TRUFFLE MIXTURE

200g block milk cooking chocolate, finely chopped
¼ cup thickened cream

1 To make truffle mixture, combine chocolate and cream in a medium heatproof bowl. Sit bowl over a saucepan of simmering water. Stir until melted and smooth. Remove bowl. Refrigerate, covered for at least 5 hours, or overnight until firm.

2 Cut each piece of licorice into three equal pieces, giving a total of 12 pieces.

3 Remove truffle mixture from fridge. Stand for 10 minutes. Place Rice Bubbles in a bowl.

4 Shape 3 teaspoons truffle mixture around each piece of licorice. Roll into a ball. Toss in Rice Bubbles to coat. Place on an oven tray lined with baking paper. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

5 Place chocolate in a medium heatproof bowl. Sit bowl over

a saucepan of simmering water. Stir until smooth. Remove bowl from heat.

6 Working with one truffle at a time, dip into chocolate to coat, allowing excess to drip away. Return to same tray. Sprinkle with finely chopped licorice. Refrigerate until set before serving.

TIP

Work quickly when rolling truffle mixture around licorice as it will start to melt if it becomes too warm. Truffles can be made up to five days ahead. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

Licorice Allsort and Pretzel Rocky Road

Makes 24 pieces, Prep and Cook: 20 mins

½ cup shredded coconut
270g packet licorice allsorts, cut into 1cm pieces
½ x 200g bag salted pretzels
280g packet pink and white marshmallows
½ cup unsalted peanuts
2 x 290g bags Milk Choc Melts
Extra chopped licorice allsorts, to decorate

1 Grease an 18cm x 28cm rectangular slice pan. Line base and sides with baking paper, extending paper 2cm above pan edges.

2 Stir coconut in a medium frying pan over a low heat for about 3 to 4 minutes, or until

lightly toasted. Transfer to a large bowl. Cool.

3 Add licorice, pretzels, marshmallows and peanuts to coconut. Toss to combine.

4 Place Milk Choc Melts in a large heatproof bowl sitting over a saucepan of simmering water. Stir until smooth. Add to coconut mixture. Stir until evenly coated.

5 Spoon mixture into prepared pan. Spread evenly. Scatter with extra licorice allsorts. Refrigerate until firm.

6 Remove rocky road from fridge 30 minutes before cutting into pieces.

TIP

We used Darrell Lea soft black licorice and bullets for this recipe, available from major supermarkets. Fudge can be made up to one week ahead. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

Licorice Bullet Fudge

Makes 24, Prep and Cook: 25 mins

280g packet pink and white marshmallows
100g unsalted butter, chopped
200g block dark cooking chocolate, finely chopped
2 tps vanilla extract
260g packet soft black licorice, cut into 1cm pieces
½ cup dark chocolate licorice bullets

1 Grease and line a 20cm square cake pan with baking paper, extending paper 5cm above pan edges.

2 Combine marshmallows, butter and 1 tblsp water in a medium saucepan over a medium heat. Stir until marshmallows are melted. Remove pan from heat.

3 Add chocolate and vanilla. Stir until chocolate is melted. Using a wooden spoon, stir in licorice. Pour into prepared pan. Spread evenly. Scatter with bullets. Refrigerate, overnight, or until firm.

4 To serve, use paper to lift fudge from pan. Cut into pieces.

TIP

Replace Milk Choc Melts with Dark, if preferred. Rocky Road can be made up to one week ahead. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

KITCHEN HACKS

4-Ingredient Choc Chip Cheesecake Slice

Makes 24 pieces
Prep and Cook:
1 hour, 20 mins

2 x 450g logs Auntie Kath's Choc Chip Cookie Dough
2 x 250g blocks cream cheese, chopped, at room temperature
½ cup caster sugar
2 eggs

- 1** Grease a 20cm x 30cm slice pan. Line base and sides with baking paper, extending paper 3cm above pan edges.
- 2** Break one and a half logs of dough into large pieces. Press evenly over base of prepared pan.
- 3** Cook in a moderately slow oven (160C) for about 20 minutes, or until firm to touch. Remove from oven. Cool.
- 4** Process cream cheese, sugar and eggs in a food processor until smooth. Spread mixture evenly over base. Crumble remaining dough evenly over filling.
- 5** Cook in a moderately slow oven (160C) for about 35 minutes, or until biscuit is golden brown and filling is slightly firm to touch. Remove. Cool slice in pan. Refrigerate for about 4 hours, or until cold.
- 6** Serve cut into squares.

TIP

Slice can be made up to two days ahead. Keep in an airtight container in the fridge.



Photos: Benito Martin. Styling: Carolyn Fienberg. Food preparation and Recipe development: Kim Meredith.

BAKING MADE EASY

Ciroa's new Marbled Silicone reinforced BPA-free bakeware cooks like a dream, making your baking experience a pleasure. Cakes and muffins cook evenly and are easily released without having to grease the pans. The reinforced rims mean the pans hold their shape and prevent wobbling, and the stylish marble finish looks great!

For stockist details visit alexliddy.com.au, and to view the range, visit ciroa.com



How to make...

Vietnamese Iced Coffee

● Three-quarters fill a tall, heatproof glass with crushed ice.

● Pour over ½ cup strong espresso or brewed coffee (traditionally made from a French-style drip filter called a phin).

● Add 1 to 2 tbsps sweetened condensed milk, stir until icy cold before drinking.

● For a dairy-free option, replace condensed milk with coconut milk.

Perfect for when you want that hit of coffee but need something cool!



ASK PAM

Q How can I tell if eggs are still fresh?
DELIA, VIA EMAIL.



A Place them in a glass or bowl of cool water. Fresh eggs will stay at the bottom of the bowl while older eggs float due to the large air cell that forms in its base. Eggs that float to the top of the water are best discarded.



Garlic Bread Scrolls

Makes 12, Prep and Cook: 50 mins

3 cups self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
50g cold butter, chopped
1 cup milk
¼ cup finely grated parmesan

GARLIC BUTTER

100g butter, softened
4 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbsps chopped fresh parsley

1 To make garlic butter, place butter, garlic and parsley in a small bowl. Mix well.

2 Combine flour and ½ tsp table salt into a large bowl.

Add butter. Using your fingertips, rub in butter until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

3 Make a well in the centre. Add milk, stirring with a flat-bladed knife, until mixture forms a soft dough.

4 Turn out dough onto a bench lightly dusted with extra flour. Gently knead to form a smooth, soft dough. Roll out to a 30cm x 38cm rectangle. Spread garlic butter over top to the edges.

5 With one long side facing you, roll up to form a log. Trim ends. Cut into 12 slices, about 3cm wide. Place slices, cut-side down and about 1cm apart, on a greased, large oven tray.

6 Cook in a moderate oven (180C) for about 20 to 25 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked in the centre.

7 Remove scrolls from oven. Sprinkle with parmesan. Serve



THE VOLUMINOUS BLOUSE

Blouse, \$64, ASOS.
Skirt, \$249, J Crew.
Earrings, \$149,
Mimco.
Heels, \$190,
Wittner.

THE CORDUROY JACKET

Top (worn as jacket),
\$99.95, Seed.
Top, \$39.99, Forever New.
Jeans, \$200, G-Star.
Rings, \$14.99 (pack
of 4), Colette by
Colette Hayman.
Sneakers,
\$79.99, Deuce.

THE SPORT LUXE PANT

Top, \$59.95, Seed.
Pants, \$149.95,
Witchery.
Earrings,
\$5.99,
Colette by
Colette
Hayman.
Heels,
\$70, ASOS.

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KEY PIECES
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THROUGH
THE SEASONS

**BLOCK
COLOUR
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Blouse, \$180,
Boden.
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Morgan and
Taylor.
Heels, \$170,
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**CROPPED
WIDE
LEG
PANTS**

Top, \$69.99,
Forever New.
Pants, \$49.90,
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Earrings, \$129,
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Heels, \$199,
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WITH BLACK PANTS
FOR ALL SEASONS**

PHOTOS:
LAWRENCE FURZEY.
STYLING: JACKIE SHAW.
STYLING ASSISTANT:
STEPHANIE DE NOBILE.
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
PAUL BEDGGOOD.

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Dress, \$129.95,
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Hayman.
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Bangle, \$79.95, Mimco.
Wedges, \$159.95,
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Get an instant GLOW

FIND YOUR WAY TO AN ALL-OVER GLOW WITH SIMPLE TECHNIQUES AND PRODUCTS

Hair prep:

This year, the focus for hair is all about ensuring the ultimate in scalp health. Start by incorporating a weekly hair scrub or mask into your haircare routine. They can be quite grainy on application, but your scalp and hair will thank you. It's also worth investing in a scalp brush to help promote circulation, stimulate the scalp and move natural oils along the shaft.

Eleven Australia Scalp Brush, Gift with purchase, Visit elevenaustralia.com for details



HAIR GLOW:

Apply a couple of drops of this highly concentrated styling oil to damp or dry hair to dramatically increase shine, softness, and colour vibrancy. It also minimises frizz and flyaways. This formula also offers heat and UV protection, and will leave you with healthy, luscious locks.

Olaplex No.7 Bonding Oil, \$49.95, olaplex.com.au



Body prep:

Treat skin to a nourishing shower wash by choosing liquid formulas containing hydrating ingredients such as argan oil, known for its healing, anti-ageing and moisturising properties. This formula is also free from nasties and irritants like alcohol, silicones, parabens and phthalates.

Palmolive Naturals Moroccan Argan Oil Body Wash, \$5.99, palmolive.com.au



Scarlett Johansson



Fenty Beauty Mini Body Lava Body Luminizer. \$42, sephora.com.au

Body glow:

Add a little luxury to your morning routine while also adding a subtle glow. These body oils are infused with light diffusing particles to add a subtle sheen and illumination. Apply to your arms and legs after your shower.

MAKEUP GLOW:

If you want a long-lasting sheen, finishing your base with a liquid illuminator is the answer. Go for a lightweight, blendable formula that will give you radiant skin with a hint of colour *and* lasting moisture. Finish your look with a few coats of mascara and a tinted balm and you're good to go!

Mary Kay Honey Glow Finisher, \$50, marykay.com.au

Laura Dern

Iconic London Illuminator in Blush, \$68, sephora.com.au



Nail prep:

Well-groomed nails are all about a little extra TLC. This may be as simple as laying off the shellac for a couple of months to get your nails back to health. Use a nightly cuticle cream and hand cream to strengthen the skin, and add a nail strengthening formula while you're taking a break from manicures.

Mavala Scientifique K+ \$30.95, mavala.com.au



NAIL GLOW:

We love these jelly and gel formulas that are guaranteed to give that 'freshly polished' shine. Opt for bright pops of colour or add an extra top coat gel to a muted nude pink ... no UV lights required.

Sally Hansen 3D Gel Shine Top Coat, \$16.95, chemistwarehouse.com.au



Kosas Tinted Face Oil, \$64, mecca.com.au

Nude by Nature Sheer Glow BB Cream, \$29.95, nudebynature.com.au

Makeup prep:

Prep skin with your favourite moisturising SPF formula to set a safe, happy and hydrated base. Then try a tinted oil or BB cream formula in place of your full cover foundation to cover any imperfections without masking your natural glow.

Paula's Choice Essential Glow Moisturizer SPF15, \$33, paulaschoice.com.au



Jennifer Connelly



Sally Hansen Insta-Dri Jelly Belly Nail Polish in Very Cherry, \$8.95, chemistwarehouse.com.au

Nuxe Paris Huile Prodigieuse Or, \$32, adorebeauty.com.au





Is it safe to have **SURGERY OVERSEAS?**

WE EXPLAIN WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICAL TOURISM

Every year, an estimated 15,000 Australians travel overseas for surgery and healthcare services, according to an ABC report. 'Medical tourism' is an increasingly popular reason for travelling abroad, with the industry growing 25 per cent annually. "Typically, the most common procedures people have overseas are breast augmentation, facelifts and tummy tucks. More recently it's also dental work, IVF/fertility treatments, surrogacy, cancer treatments and gender reassignment," says GP Dr Michela Sorensen.

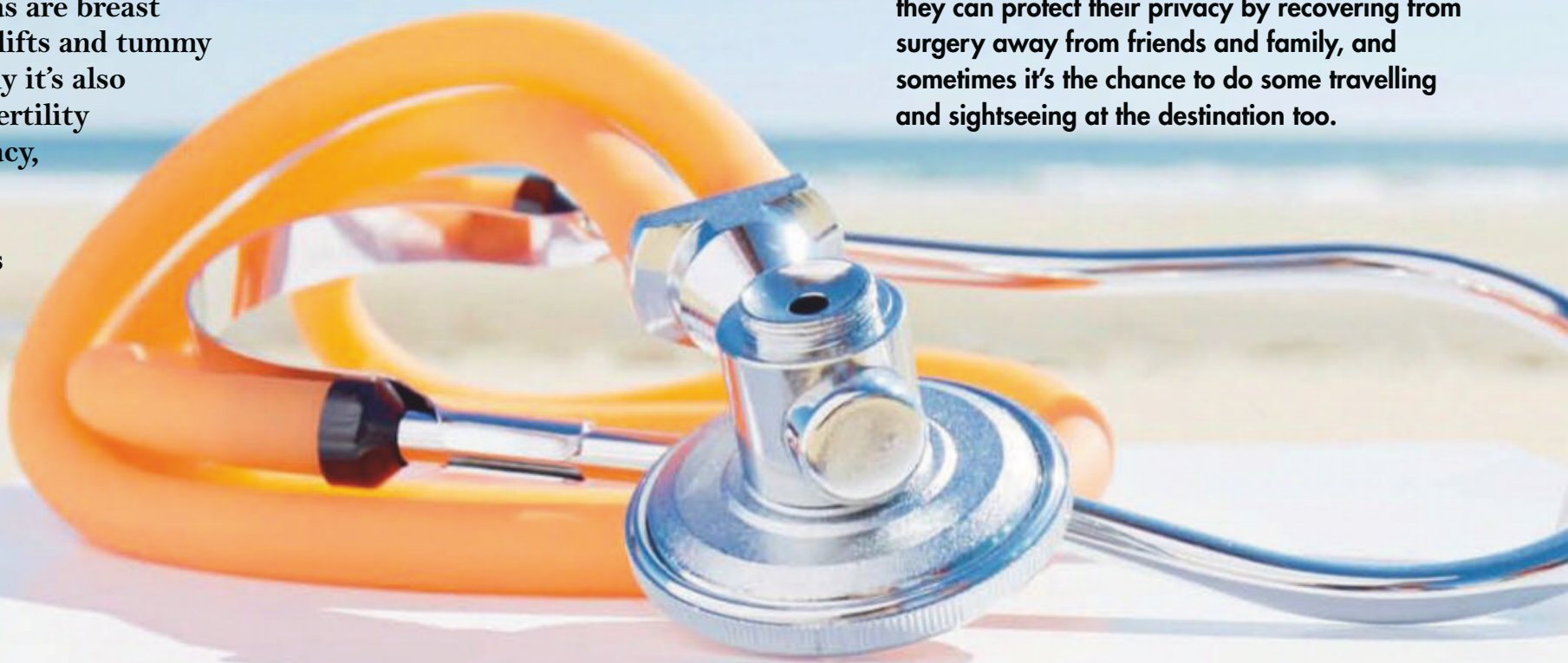
HOW MUCH WILL I SAVE?

The money saved by having major medical procedures in destinations like Thailand, India, South Korea, Turkey, Singapore and Malaysia can be huge, even with the cost of flights and accommodation factored in. According to Patients Beyond Borders, you can see an average saving of anywhere from 20-80 per cent if you travel for a comparable medical procedure, although the figures they use are in

US dollars. Prices from the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council state that a full facelift, for example, in Malaysia costs \$3300 (A\$4900), compared to the around \$16,000 or more you might pay in Australia.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

As well as the cost, some people also get medical procedures done overseas because it can be faster (shorter waiting lists), or because they can protect their privacy by recovering from surgery away from friends and family, and sometimes it's the chance to do some travelling and sightseeing at the destination too.





SM

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

All medical practitioners and facilities in Australia are tightly regulated and need to meet strict standards to maintain their registration. "One major risk of having a medical procedure overseas is the possibility of lower quality skills of the surgeon due to different regulatory standards in different countries. Standards vary considerably in different countries and there is no guarantee the quality of care or aftercare will be the same as it is in Australia," says Dr Sorenson.

It's also really important to find out if you can get medical travel insurance to cover the treatment. Otherwise, if things go wrong, it can become extremely expensive. Smarttraveller.gov.au has

good advice on what to look for in getting a specialised policy for medical tourism.

BEFORE YOU DECIDE

If you are thinking about getting a medical procedure done overseas, it's important to:

- Discuss it with your GP first. "Having knowledge of your full medical history, your GP is in the best position to advise whether the procedure is safe or not. They will be able to go through some of the risks with you and how these risks might differ if you have the treatment overseas," says Dr Sorensen.
- Make sure your surgeon is qualified and certified. Choosing one who is a member of ISAPS (the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery) means that they have been extensively screened and properly trained.
- Make sure you understand how you will be

COST COMPARISON

RHINOPLASTY

Thailand US\$1600 (\$2375)
Australia \$8000-\$20,000

KNEE REPLACEMENT

Malaysia US\$7800 (\$11,580)
Australia \$17,000-\$30,000

DENTURE IMPLANTS (upper and lower)

Singapore US\$7000 (\$10,400)
Australia \$3000-\$6500
per tooth

looked after post-surgery. "If you have post-operative complications, it's important to ensure there are channels through which to contact your treating practitioner. It is also important to read the fine print of your medical insurance to ensure it covers possible complications," says Dr Sorensen.

• Do your research on credible websites. There are several websites that offer information regarding medical travel and assist in finding internationally accredited practitioners and medical facilities. For cosmetic surgery overseas Dr Sorensen refers patients to ISAPS (isaps.org), which is the international body that accredits plastic and cosmetic surgeons. "The site provides a list of accredited specialists and facilities as we as a very comprehensive medical travel guide," she explains.

PATIENT BEWARE

There are several health tourism travel companies that seem enticing. They offer a one-stop shop to facilitate your surgery overseas, including booking airfares, accommodation, visas, surgeon, translators (if needed) and even extras like sightseeing excursions or restaurant trips post-surgery. But, according to a CHOICE report, these travel companies receive commissions for referring you to particular hospitals or surgeons, so you're essentially leaving your choice of surgeon in the hands of a travel agent. Ask your GP for advice and recommendations instead.



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Running a household has its ups and downs, so each week we bring you the latest tips and tricks to make your home life easy

**WE ASKED
AN EXPERT
ABOUT HOME
AND CONTENTS
INSURANCE AND
WHY YOU
SHOULD
CONSIDER IT**

HOME INSURANCE — take cover

The disastrous bushfires this summer were a tragic reminder on the importance of home and contents insurance. Do you have or are you considering getting home and contents insurance? It pays to do your research before you buy and every year when it's time to renew, you could save some serious cash. Canstar.com.au finance expert, Steve Mickenbecker has all the latest.

PEACE OF MIND

Home and contents insurance should be a

must. The home is the biggest expenditure most of us make, and puts us into debt. Loss of the home would leave us homeless and still in debt that needs to be repaid. It's hard to make a financial comeback from that if you're not insured. So what is it exactly? Home insurance is designed to protect the house that you live in and its fixtures such as the things attached to the house, including the built-in appliances, carpets, etc. If the core elements of a home are damaged or destroyed in an event covered by the policy such as storm, flood, fire, insurance should cover the cost of repair or replacement.

Contents insurance protects possessions within the house like your clothes, television and refrigerator. If you are renting, you probably just need contents insurance, as your landlord will have home building insurance over the investment property you're living in. Even if you don't make a claim, insurance gives you the peace of mind to enable you to get on with life.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSURANCE FOR YOU

Choosing the right home and contents insurance should involve more than simply



While you may never make a claim, these insurance policies offer peace of mind – but it pays to shop around.

you uncovered if the event doesn't meet the more limited definition.

Cheapest isn't always best, but even when comparing like with like, there is a large variance in premium, meaning that it pays to shop around.

IF THERE'S A NATURAL

DISASTER LIKE A FIRE, FLOOD OR STORM WILL EVERYTHING BE COVERED?

Fire is almost always covered, but bushfire could be excluded in some bushy areas. It pays to check. Storm is another incident that's covered but comes at a cost in prone areas like North Queensland, where premiums can be three times the equivalent for the rest of the state.

Flood, however, has many definitions – flash flooding (generally immediate flooding from a nearby rainfall event), riverine flooding (where the whole river comes up) and tidal surge (on the coast). Policies may cover all, just flash flood or no flood event at all. Check your policy.

PERFORM REGULAR INVENTORIES

Regularly preparing an inventory can be a crosscheck to ensure that you're not under-insuring yourself. On the other hand, it could be easy to forget about some of your possessions when there is a major loss and an inventory means that you don't have to rely upon memory when it comes to claim time.

At the other end of the spectrum, it is also easy to inflate the value of items – for instance, a suit becomes an Armani suit. An inventory is the first line of proof that the item actually existed before the event.

ARE PREMIUMS SET TO RISE DUE TO RECENT DISASTERS?

With the recent fire devastation in Australia does that mean premiums will go up?

To some extent bushfire risk is priced into insurance premiums already. However, this event has been more widespread than most, and has resulted in claims in areas that might not have expected bushfire devastation.

With the degree of loss, it would be optimistic to expect no increase in premiums, especially in those areas that had not previously been priced for bushfire risk.

To see more on the bushfires, visit canstar.com.au/bushfires.



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ANGELA MOLLARD

PROTECT YOUR MEMORIES

A year or so ago when my daughter turned 18, I made a photobook of her life. I scanned prints from when she was born and uploaded them with more recent photographs to create an online album, which I also turned into a hardcover book.

She loved it because I unearthed pictures she'd never seen before and I loved it because it forced me to create digital versions of some of my most treasured memories. I can't tell you how delighted I am to have gone through that process.

Because while insurance can compensate you monetarily or replace goods in the home, it can't bring back those printed images. Indeed, asked what they would grab in a fire or flood, plenty of people answer simply: "Photos."

Yet it's relatively simple to safeguard your family memories, whether they're pictures of your kids or ancient pre-war albums of your grandparents.

While the pictures we take on our phones are easy to store in the cloud, it takes more effort to scan and store images from our pre-digital lives.

I suggest taking a weekend and devoting yourself to the task.

First, sort your old prints and negatives and choose which ones you want to keep. Then it's simply a case of taking them to somewhere like Officeworks or Harvey Norman and getting them scanned either onto your phone or a USB.

Once you have a digital version, create files for each person in the family or sort the pictures into years and simply store them in the cloud. As well as being safe, they're also easily accessible for when you want to create an online photobook for an anniversary or special occasion. Equally, I know friends who've lost a loved one suddenly have been so grateful to have easy access to photographs when they needed to unexpectedly organise a funeral.

The other benefit of having your photos stored digitally is that you can actually see them more. Use them as your screensaver or upload them to a digital photo frame so you can share them with family and friends.

Finally, while you're at it, scan all your important documents as well. Having a copy of your passport, driver's licence, birth certificate, visas and immunisation records can save you a massive headache if they get lost.

valuing your assets and choosing the cheapest premium on offer. Insurers design different insurance products to suit a broad customer base, so it is important to make sure that the cover you end up buying covers those inclusions that are important to you.

Some policies cover the core risk to the property, which leaves you without cover for events like electric fusion and accidental damage. These extra inclusions can come at a hefty extra premium, and it can be a valid call to just cover for the main risk.

Then there are different exclusions and definitions of events, like flood, that can leave

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THE SLEEP GADGET PROMISING A GOOD NIGHT'S REST

For daily shopping tips and hacks, follow 'I bought it at...'. Go to facebook.com/iBoughtAU



SLEEP TIGHT

Weighted blankets are the latest sleep-promoting bedroom accessory – but this is more than just marketing hype.

Also known as gravity blankets, these have long been used as an anxiety-reducing tool by therapists to help people with autism or other sensory-based disorders. They have also been the subject of numerous occupational therapy-based health studies. The science behind weighted blankets is that their heaviness promotes deep-touch pressure. This action stimulates the

release of serotonin and dopamine in the body, which are the two neurotransmitters that tend to make people feel more relaxed. As a result, the body is sensorially calmed, which should ultimately result in a better ability to rest.

Anxiety and sleep-related issues among the wider population has spurred on the retail rise of weighted blankets. Touted as a relaxation aid, weighted blankets are now widely available in a variety of sizes and designs, and even as sheets for warmer months. There are also weighted blankets designed for children over 2 years old. However, it

must be noted that there are safety concerns, particularly as there has previously been tragic incidences involving their use – so take caution.



Neptune Weighted Blanket II \$319, neptuneblankets.com.au



KOO Elite Weighted Blanket @ Spotlight \$160, spotlightstores.com



Calming Blankets Queen/King Weighted Blanket \$349, calmingblankets.com.au

Text by Sharon Hunt

3 benefits of PETS in the WORKPLACE



SHOW THIS TO YOUR BOSS NOW!

#THEY REDUCE STRESS

Just having a pooch in the office is bound to create camaraderie. Studies show that interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. And reduced stress means less stress-related ailments and healthcare costs.

#STAFF RETENTION

There's nothing like a doggie in the office to keep staff happy, and when staff are happy they are

more likely to be loyal. According to a survey undertaken by fortune.com, 53 per cent of people working in a non-pet-friendly workplace would consider staying with the company if they allowed them to bring their pet to work.

#INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY

An office hound means staff are likely to get out in the sunshine and take the dog for a walk come lunch, and exercise is good for work productivity.



ANNABEL
KARMEL'S

GUIDE TO STARTING SOLIDS

**IS YOUR BUB
READY TO MOVE
ONTO SOLID
FOODS? ANNABEL
KARMEL REVEALS
THE SIGNS – AND
FALSE ALERTS –
THAT YOUR LITTLE
ONE IS READY**



**This is an edited extract from
Weaning Made Simple by
Annabel Karmel, \$39.99,
Pan Macmillan.**



Introducing your baby to solid food can be exciting, but also nerve-racking. In this edited extract from her new book, *Weaning Made Simple*, baby feeding guru Annabel Karmel shares her top advice for when to start weaning your bub.

WHEN TO INTRODUCE SOLIDS

Put simply, around 6 months of age. Of course, some babies will show signs of being ready before, but 'around 6 months' is the age advised by the World Health Organisation. Babies should never be weaned before 4 months (17 weeks) as their digestive systems aren't mature enough to cope with food at this point.

1 SIGNS THAT YOUR BUB IS READY

She's sitting up and supporting her own head. This doesn't have to mean sitting up completely unsupported, just as long as she can sit up for 3-5 seconds on her own. This is why a highchair will be your most important piece of weaning kit as it will provide that additional support for her feet, bottom and back while eating.

2 SHE HAS DEVELOPED HAND-TO-EYE COORDINATION

She needs to be able to coordinate food and direct it into her mouth. Is she trying to stick her fingers, fists and everything in sight into her mouth? That is a good sign she's mastered this skill.

3 SHE IS SHOWING SIGNS THAT SHE HAS LOST AN EARLY BABY REFLEX CALLED TONGUE-THRUST

This is a protective reflex to help prevent babies from choking. As soon as something foreign is put on

your baby's tongue, the tongue-thrust reflex means she will try to push it out of her mouth. This reflex is likely to have disappeared by 6 months, meaning she is better able to move food from the front to the back of her mouth and then swallow it. Not all babies lose this reflex by 6 months, but when weaning starts, it is likely this will soon disappear.

RED HERRINGS

WAKING MORE AT NIGHT

There is no hard evidence to suggest that sleep is a factor affected by weaning. And it's a myth that full babies sleep through the night (sorry, folks!). There are all sorts of reasons why your baby may be waking through the night. She may need a feed, she may want your comfort and reassurance during the night, or she may benefit from a more consistent bedtime routine to help her settle. Teething can also upset your baby's routine and sleep pattern.

WHEN SHE IS STILL HUNGRY AFTER A MILK FEED

This is more likely to be down to a growth spurt. Learning a new skill requires additional energy. Sometimes this could be a mental development and you might not see any noticeable changes other than that she has increased appetite because she needs fuel. Sometimes parents think their baby needs food but actually she needs more milk. Giving your baby food when she is not developmentally ready can lead to gastrointestinal problems and can be linked to anaemia.

FIST CHEWING

This is a phase called mouthing and lots of babies tend to do this. Their mouths are highly sensitive and they learn through sensations in their mouths which helps prepare them for solids. This is why you will find her putting toys or fists in her mouth – to get that feedback from those sensations.

WHEN SHE SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN FOOD

Babies are instinctively curious about the world around them and will naturally show signs of being interested in what you are eating. That doesn't mean that they are necessarily ready for solids.

WHAT IS WEANING?

Weaning is about introducing a variety of flavours, tastes and textures. It's about teaching your baby how to eat solid foods and explore a wide variety of nutritious foods that will provide a great foundation for her future health. The important thing is to start slowly at a comfortable pace for your baby.



HERE ARE THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN JAPAN'S COLOURFUL CAPITAL

Considering going to Tokyo for the Olympics in July or the Paralympics in August? An estimated 600,000 international visitors are expected to flock to the Japanese capital. Besides the Games events themselves, here's where you need to go.

Japan's capital is full of intriguing contrasts.

ENJOY A BIKE TOUR

Tokyo is very bike-friendly. A day-long Cool Tokyo Ride takes you through Ginza in the city's heart and across to Shiba Park, the Tokyo Tower and Aoyama Cemetery. Stop for lunch at Yoyogi Park before taking a walking tour of the Meiji Shrine precinct, and then it's off to explore the Yotsuya neighbourhood of Shinjuku. The tour ends back in the CBD after a visit to the outer grounds of the Imperial Palace. tokyocycling.jp



GO SHOPPING

Shinjuku offers the perfect mix of modern convenience and history. Tokyo's most famous department stores are clustered around Shinjuku Station's exits. Lumine shopping centre at the station is great for the younger set, while grown-ups love the old school department stores such as Isetan, which started out in the 1880s as a kimono seller. The floors of the Isetan, Keio, Odakyu and Takashimaya department stores are packed full of designer labels and their basement floors are famous for the food halls.

GO BAR-HOPPING

Shinjuku is the area to head to for bar-hopping. A must is the L.I.T. cocktail (named after the film *Lost in Translation*) served at the New York Bar in the Park Hyatt Tokyo, the setting for the film. Other highlights include 8Bit Café, where you can play nostalgic video games and read Japanese manga. For a bird's eye view of the city, head to Rooftop Bar & Terrace G, which is perfect for drinking alfresco in summer. Meanwhile, Bar Benfiddich is a contender for the coolest looking bar in Shinjuku, with décor modelled on a vintage European bar.



TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Shinjuku's atmospheric Memory Lane is home to a collection of small bars, yakitori grills and food stalls. Tokyo's old-school alleyways, or yokocho, are treasure troves for anyone looking to experience the city's historic side, with many of them dating back to the early post-WWII years. Grab a stool and ask for a nama-biiru (draft beer). shinjuku-omoide.com



VISIT THE SAMURAI MUSEUM

The Samurai Museum is a must for anyone interested in old Japan and its history of combat and conflict that characterised the country up until the late 16th century. You'll see more than 70 selections of samurai armour, and you can also dress up in replica armour, don a kabuto helmet, and witness combat re-enactments by skilled swordsmen. If you make a reservation you can try your hand at a Japanese sword course. samuraimuseum.jp/en/

FOR MORE
INFO, VISIT
GOTOKYO.ORG

HAVE AN ISLAND ADVENTURE

Want to combine a big city stay with an escape to a subtropical island retreat? The Izu and Ogasawara islands, about an hour's flight from Tokyo, offer the perfect getaway to indulge in some tranquil outdoor activities. The nine Izu Islands are

known for their hot springs, sushi and an abundance of nature, and the two Ogasawara Islands further south are a subtropical paradise. Tokyo's archipelagos comprise more than 30 islands, 11 of which are inhabited.





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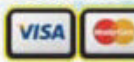


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PUZZLES

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captivating crosswords,
tricky trivia and sharp
sudoku will test
your skills



COMPACT STARS

To win one of four prizes of \$50, complete the puzzle and read the coloured squares to reveal a movie starring Ben Affleck (3,3,4). Write this name on the coupon.

\$200
UP FOR
GRABS!

Unrefined mineral	↓	Hurry up	↓	Personal chronograph	Look over	Cool, in vogue	Lightly cooked, of beef	Magical sprite	↓	Dame Kiri —, NZ soprano (2,6)	Blue — police TV series		
Flightless bird	→	↓	↓	High-pitched yell	→	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
→	→	→	→	Black-board writing material	→	→	→	→	→	Dangerous beach current	→		
Cardiac organ	As printed	→	→	Cost of plane travel	→	→	→	→	→	→	→		
→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→		
Michael —, late INXS singer	Engine speed gauge	→	Ticking explosive device (4,4)					→	→	→	→		
Explosive compound (1,1,1)	→	→	→					Super-hero's cloak	→	Married	→	→	→
Under-handed scheme	→	Of hearing	→					→	→	→	→	→	→
→	→	→	→					Puppy's feel	Public address	→	Non-attendance	→	→
Shade of colour	→	→	→					→	→	→	→	→	→
Sphere	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→		
Former Chinese leader	→	→	→	Otherwise	→	Fashion, mode	Police officer	Feline creatures	→	→	→		
→	→	→	→	→	→	Spinning toy	→	→	→	→	→		
Curtain-rail cover	→	Enid — children's author	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→		
→	→	→	Incline, hill	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→		
Aircraft engine	→	Castle's central stronghold	→	→	→	→	Tightly packed, thick	→	→	→	→		

WORD SEARCH

To win one of two prizes of \$50 in our word search, find everything on the list in the grid. One of the entries can't be found. Write this on the entry coupon.

\$100
UP FOR
GRABS!

A	F	U	X	Y	Z	L	G	J	B	D	A	S	H	B	V	F	J
M	E	B	E	S	U	O	H	D	E	K	O	O	R	C	U	I	Q
E	U	F	N	J	U	I	Y	C	D	T	X	E	W	K	E	W	S
R	D	N	O	I	T	A	C	U	D	E	X	E	S	H	R	Y	O
I	H	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E	O	F	M	I	R	T	H	X
C	B	Q	Q	Y	L	L	U	C	S	A	N	A	D	T	J	B	J
A	L	L	A	B	O	U	T	E	V	E	E	L	A	J	K	E	D
N	M	T	E	R	M	R	L	T	L	D	H	A	B	B	U	K	X
G	V	H	N	A	F	S	H	A	D	O	W	D	A	N	C	E	R
O	L	E	O	T	K	A	V	U	B	E	H	J	Q	B	X	E	Q
D	Q	F	U	I	Z	H	H	M	H	I	Y	C	H	Q	V	X	J
S	P	A	Y	H	Y	X	O	Q	Q	N	J	J	I	B	B	A	
H	P	L	S	N	P	L	A	U	Y	B	K	N	C	P	T	H	T
N	X	L	Q	U	S	U	F	F	S	T	O	Q	A	K	S	A	W
S	E	L	I	F	X	E	H	T	I	E	V	H	J	H	I	T	H



GILLIAN ANDERSON

- ALL ABOUT EVE
AMERICAN GODS
BLEAK HOUSE
CROOKED HOUSE
DANA SCULLY
GREAT EXPECTATIONS
- HANNIBAL
SEX EDUCATION
SHADOW DANCER
THE FALL
THE HOUSE OF MIRTH
THE X-FILES

WORD MAKER

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters on the right? Each word must contain the centre letter and you must make one nine-letter word. No proper nouns.

YOUR GOAL: 22

O	A	H
T	G	L
Y	O	N

SUDOKU

Slot the numbers 1 to 9 into every horizontal line, vertical row and 3 x 3 square. Here are three puzzles, graded from easy on the left, to hard on the right.

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

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

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



TURN OVER FOR MORE →

PUZZLES

CODE CRACKER

To win one of three prizes of \$100, work out which number represents which letter. All letters of the alphabet appear at least once. Fill in the coloured boxes at the bottom to reveal our prize word. Write this answer on the entry coupon.

\$300
UP FOR
GRABS!

15	6	12	14		6	12	10	13
	10		9		10		11	
	11	12	22	15	25	10	13	12
	11		12		17		18	
5	10	3		3	12	10	25	17
	25		11		22		22	
20	9	26	12	6	15	19	12	21
	4		24		11			3
	10	6	9	13		10	21	17
21			18		9			18
17	12	10	11		3	10	16	8
11			12		11			19
18	25	14		26	18	16	18	
7			25		2		8	
3	10	11	10	25	17	9	13	12
	25		3		13		12	
25	17	12	10	3		25	11	14
	18		25		10		23	
3	12	4	18	2	11	12	12	
	1		13		25		11	
6	12	1	14		17	12	12	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		P						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
							H	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
						C		

3	15	11	13	10	22
---	----	----	----	----	----

ACROSS

- 1 Orange vegetable (6)
- 4 Agricultural producer (6)
- 8 Movie theatre (6)
- 11 Autographed (6)
- 14 Musical variety show (7)
- 17 Dusk (7)
- 18 Demolish, completely ruin (7)
- 20 Frantic alarm (5)
- 21 – Banderas, actor (7)
- 23 Jack –, Johnny Depp pirate character (7)
- 25 Deliver a speech (5)
- 26 Police baton (9)
- 27 Young swans (7)
- 31 Sand-filled timing device (9)
- 32 Huge marine mammal (5)
- 34 Mosquito-borne disease (7)
- 36 Fruit plantation (7)
- 38 Pleasantly rounded (5)
- 41 Motor vehicle (3)
- 42 Speaker's stand (7)
- 44 Pale purplish blue (5)
- 45 Damp (5)
- 46 Extreme, drastic (7)
- 48 Basic bed-linen item (5)
- 49 Thick air pollution (4)
- 50 Line for service (5)
- 51 Self-satisfied (4)
- 53 Free from dirt (5)
- 56 Blade fixed to a rifle (7)
- 57 Without feeling (4)
- 58 Sum owing (4)
- 59 Fried Japanese cuisine (7)
- 63 Distant, isolated (6)
- 65 Intense snowstorm (8)
- 67 Second-hand (4)
- 69 Overcast (6)
- 73 Fabric (7)
- 75 Male goose (6)
- 76 Artistic and architectural style of the 16th century (7)
- 77 Pleased (4)
- 80 Juliet's lover (5)
- 81 Doomed ocean liner (7)
- 83 Green leafy vegetable (7)
- 84 Terrible (5)
- 86 U2 singer (4)
- 88 Transgression, crime (7)
- 89 Two-piece swimsuit (6)
- 91 Tenth month (7)
- 94 Pill (6)
- 96 Naughty child (4)
- 97 Disrespectfully humorous (8)
- 98 Gentle wind (6)
- 102 Width of a gun-barrel (7)
- 103 Beer serving size (4)
- 104 Skin complaint (4)
- 106 First book of the Bible (7)
- 110 Light wood used in model-making (5)
- 112 Security deposit (4)
- 113 Sailboat (5)
- 114 Potato (4)
- 115 Pink and grey parrot (5)
- 119 Game of chance (7)
- 121 Room on a ship (5)
- 122 Horned pachyderm (5)
- 123 Team sport (7)
- 124 Infused herbal drink (3)
- 125 – Butler, *Gone with the Wind* hero (5)
- 127 Versatile kitchen scraper and flipper (7)
- 128 Queen of the beasts (7)
- 129 – *for You*, early Madonna hit (5)
- 130 Members of a criminal group (9)
- 133 Underground prison cell (7)
- 136 With great fervour (9)
- 138 French farewell (5)
- 139 Enunciation, clarity of speech (7)
- 142 – *on a Jet Plane*, John Denver song (7)
- 144 Suffer as a consequence (5)
- 146 In need of a drink (7)
- 148 Major river running through western New South Wales (7)
- 149 Branch of mathematics (7)
- 151 Grow more dim (6)
- 152 Burning furiously (6)
- 153 Canary colour (6)
- 154 Large champagne bottle (6)

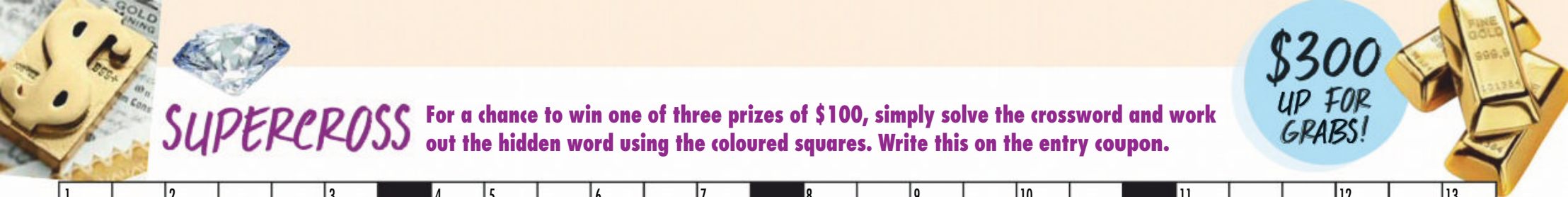
DOWN

- 1 Pilot's enclosure (7)
- 2 Batman's young companion (5)
- 3 Foot digit (3)
- 5 Jennifer –, actress (7)
- 6 Stone-worker (5)
- 7 – Starr, the Beatles' drummer (5)
- 8 Angry (5)
- 9 Stealthy Japanese assassin (5)
- 10 King or queen (7)
- 11 Take legal action (3)
- 12 Kurt Cobain's rock band (7)
- 13 Aridity (7)
- 15 Use again (7)
- 16 Skilled artisan (9)
- 18 Location of Australia, on the globe (4,5)
- 19 Temporary solution (7)
- 22 Climbing plant (3)
- 24 Domestic animal (3)
- 27 Big-top entertainment (6)
- 28 Elegant (8)
- 29 Gigantic (8)
- 30 Day off, often due to feigned illness (6)
- 32 Cardiff's country (5)
- 33 Supposed science of turning base metals into gold (7)
- 35 Send up, satirise (7)
- 37 Try (7)
- 39 Mother's brother (5)
- 40 Italian corn meal (7)
- 43 No longer living, as a species (7)
- 47 Numeric system based on the number ten (7)
- 49 Location (4)
- 52 Garden entrance (4)
- 54 South American river (6)
- 55 One making first appearance (8)
- 56 French cap (5)
- 60 Regular, commonplace (5)
- 61 Rhythmic flow (7)
- 62 Dedicated poem (3)
- 64 Saying, motto (5)
- 66 Unit of cosmic distance (5,4)
- 68 Theory of development of species (9)
- 70 Alpine song (5)
- 71 Put right (7)
- 72 Domain of a nobleman ranked between marquess and prince (7)
- 74 Object of adoration (4)
- 78 Unauthorised, illegal (7)
- 79 Food etc. used as a lure (4)
- 80 Automaton, android (5)
- 82 Addictive chemical in tobacco (8)
- 85 Strand, filament (5)
- 87 – Peace Prize, annual humanitarian award (5)
- 90 Force of a collision (6)
- 92 Riverside grasses (5)
- 93 Spoiled, sour (3)
- 95 Hold affectionately, cuddle (7)
- 99 Malaysian currency (7)
- 100 Doing word (4)
- 101 Matured (4)
- 102 Shoemaker (7)
- 103 Universal cure (7)
- 105 Blow up (7)
- 107 Dried grape (7)
- 108 Keep up, support (8)
- 109 Swagman's bundle (8)
- 111 Milky coffee (5)
- 116 – Hunter, actress (5)
- 117 Ridiculous, nonsensical (6)
- 118 Repudiate, deny relationship (6)
- 120 Day before today (9)
- 123 Affectionate attachment to the past (9)
- 126 Thin paper handkerchiefs (7)
- 129 Creating genetic copies (7)
- 130 Given, permitted (7)
- 131 More clamorous (7)
- 132 Give in to, yield (7)
- 134 Mysterious aircraft (1,1,1)
- 135 Mineral aggregate (3)
- 136 *Doctor* –, Boris Pasternak novel, filmed with Omar Sharif in the title role (7)
- 137 Horizontal spar on a ship's mast (7)
- 140 Delhi's country (5)
- 141 Medical assistant (5)
- 142 Exhibitionistic, ostentatiously flashy (coll.)(5)
- 143 Heavenly messenger (5)
- 145 From Havana (5)
- 147 Process hide into leather (3)
- 150 On the –, fugitive from authorities (3)

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SAVE UP TO 25%

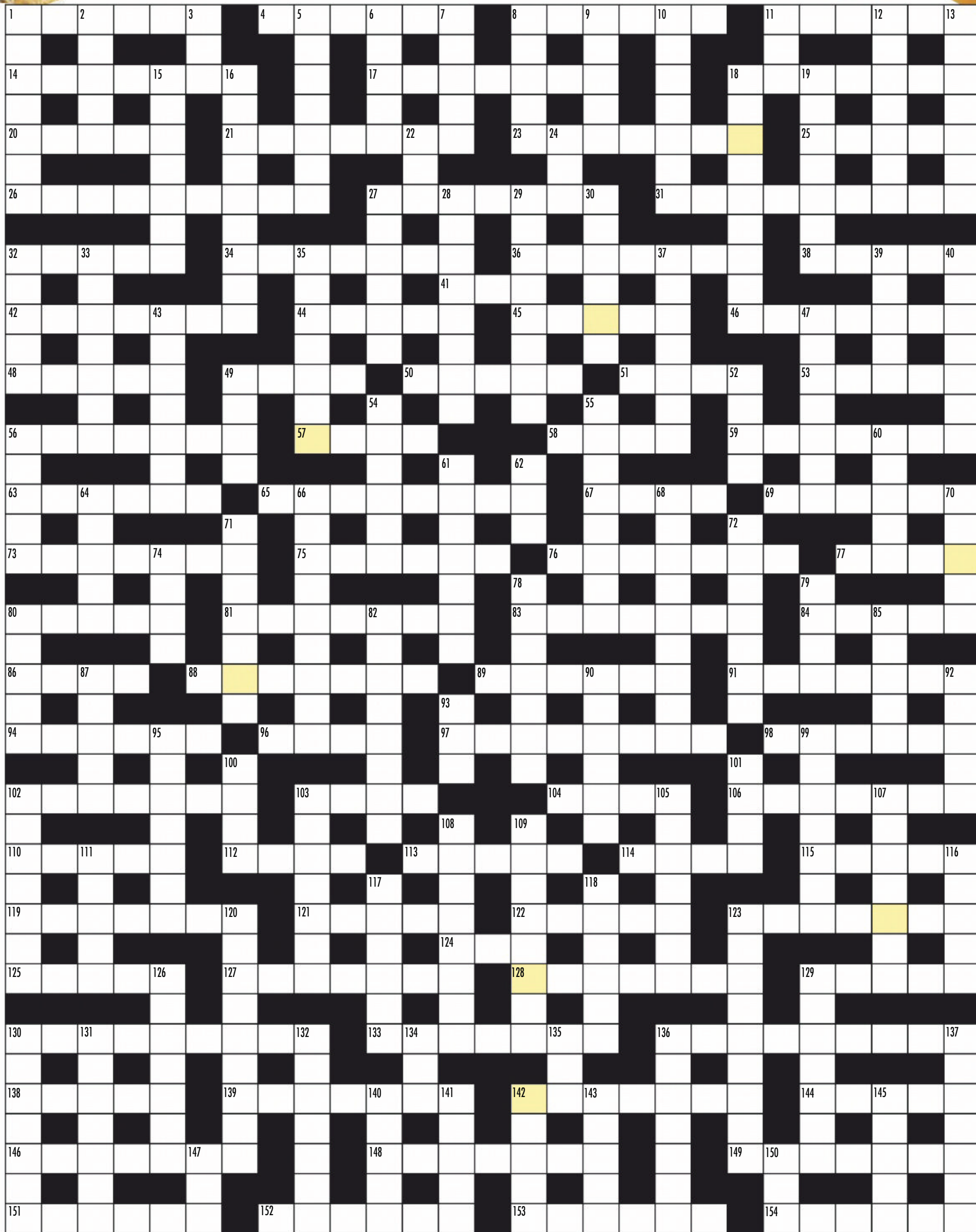




SUPERCROSS

For a chance to win one of three prizes of \$100, simply solve the crossword and work out the hidden word using the coloured squares. Write this on the entry coupon.

\$300
UP FOR
GRABS!



PRICES
START FROM
\$18.99



subscribetoday.com.au/puzzles

PUZZLES

LOGIC

Mullet Creek Zoo has five new primates on display. Can you work out the species of each animal, the country from which they came, and their daily banana consumption?

HOW TO SOLVE

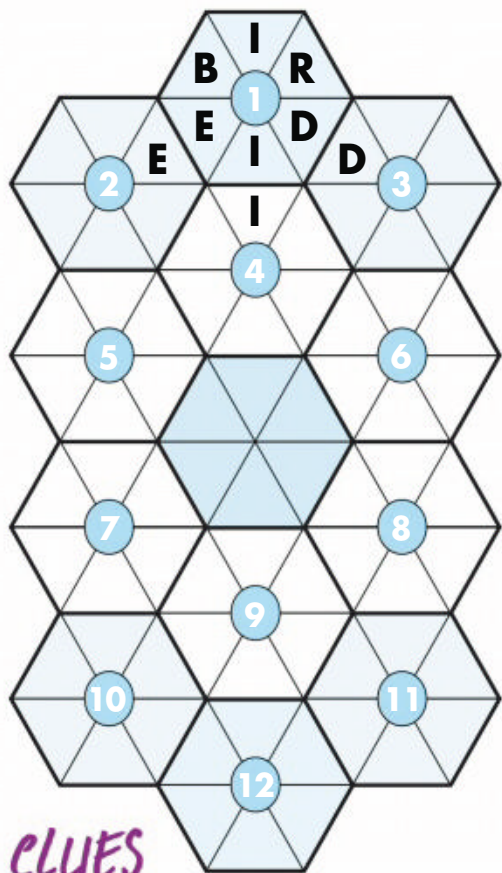
Read the clues and place a tick in an intersecting box if you have any positive information and use a cross if you have any definite negative information. For example, you learn that the orangutan eats 4 bananas, so we have placed some ticks and crosses in the grid to help you along. Using this method you should be able to fill in the smaller grid.

HEXWORD

To win one of two prizes of \$50, write the word in the coloured middle hexagon on the entry coupon.

\$100
UP FOR
GRABS!

Each of the clues below has a six-letter answer. Write the answer clockwise in the spaces around the appropriate clue number. Where the hexagons touch, the letters in the adjoining segments will be the same. We've answered one clue for you. The letters in brackets tell you the first letter of the answer. The letters in the inner coloured hexagon will spell a hidden word.



CLUES

- Score of one less than par on a golf hole (B)
- Las Vegas' state in the USA (N)
- Prison administrator (W)
- Desirable or admirable personal trait (V)
- Roman emperor's title (C)
- Distinctive regional inflection in speech (A)
- Oslo's country (N)
- Arid, inhospitable expanse of land (D)
- Upper house of Australia's Federal Parliament (S)
- Literary verse (P)
- American sitcom (1982-'93) set in a Boston bar where 'everybody knows your name,' and starring Ted Danson as barkeeper Sam Malone (C)
- Musical ensemble with seven players (S)



		SPECIES					COUNTRY					BANANAS				
		BONOBO	CHIMPANZEE	GIBBON	MACAQUE	ORANGUTAN	CHINA	INDONESIA	RWANDA	THAILAND	UGANDA	1	3	4	6	7
NAME	BOZO															
	CHARLIE															
	MADAM															
	ORWELL															
	RAFFLES															
BANANAS	1					X										
	3					X										
	4	X	X	X	X	✓										
	6					X										
	7					X										
COUNTRY	CHINA															
	INDONESIA															
	RWANDA															
	THAILAND															
	UGANDA															

CLUES

- The orangutan eats 4 bananas a day, which is more than he was eating in his native Indonesia.
- Bozo the bonobo eats twice as many bananas as Raffles.
- The primate from Uganda eats the most bananas.
- Madam is a macaque who arrived from China.
- The gibbon does not eat the most bananas per day.
- Charlie isn't from Asia.
- The primate from Rwanda eats more bananas than the primate from Indonesia.

NAME	SPECIES	COUNTRY	BANANAS
BOZO			
CHARLIE			
MADAM			
ORWELL			
RAFFLES			

ANAGRAM FACES

Rearrange the letters in the anagrams to work out the names of the hidden celebrities.



ENJOIN HOAX QUIP



DRAG THE HEEL



JOHN LACKS COIN

BIG CODE CRACKER

Here's a perfect puzzle for all you code-cracker fiends. Just like our prize Code Cracker but with a larger grid. Each number in the crossword represents a different letter of the alphabet. We've given you three letters to help you on your way to cracking the code, so you'll see that 3=L, 17=T, and 23=N. Use the Letter Checker box to keep track of the letters you've decoded.

16	17	24	3	3	2	20	23		24	13	17	16
		1			6		10			15		2
24	11	11	10	24	3		26	20	17	17	20	23
12		9			10	3	5		10			26
10	14	20	16			10			26	24	13	10
13		13		16	8	2	17	26	9			13
16	3	24	18		9				23	2	26	10
	7		20	13	2	14	24	1	2		24	
10	26	13	15		19		14		26	9	2	23
	13		17	24	19	19	10	17	24		13	
17	24	25	2				23		3	20	23	10
24			21	15	24	13	17	22		11		3
17	15	17	15			24			4	2	12	10
17			10		10	8	10			23		14
20	19	19	16	10	17		12	10	13	2	19	7
20		3			26		10			20		
16	1	15	14		9	20	13	1	20	23	24	3

LETTER CHECKER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			L										
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			T							N			

JIGSAW

Replace the 14 pieces in the grid to form a symmetrical puzzle with completed words.

MPL
PR

ERIE
E

NCU

EB

NE
WIN

URUBA

WR
ION

EL
NS
TEA

NGHER

YAG

SLY
PHOW

MA
OTC

ROBT

XSTO

14 puzzle grid with some letters pre-filled: O, E, X, I, I

WORDOKU

Here's a twist on the traditional Sudoku. Instead of numbers 1 to 9 there are nine different letters you need to into each row, column and 3 x 3 square. When you have completed the puzzle the shaded row will spell out a hidden word.

		U		N	E			Q
		Q						
R					H		N	U
	U	L			A			
	A						I	
			R			H	A	
A	L		H					E
						N		
N			I	R		A		

SPIRAL SQUARES

Write the answers to the clues below into the grid in a clockwise spiral starting at number 1, where the arrow points you in the right direction. The final letter of every answer becomes the first letter of the next. When the puzzle is complete, the coloured squares, reading diagonally downwards, will reveal a hidden word.

CLUES

- 1 Adhesive-backed postal token (5)
- 2 Student (5)
- 3 Soapy foam (6)
- 4 Without any clear or regular pattern (6)
- 5 Lodestone (6)
- 6 The – of the Shrew, Shakespeare comedy (6)
- 7 Car shelter (6)
- 8 Totally surround or wrap (7)
- 9 Short snouted dog breed (3)
- 10 Location of the Pyramids near Cairo (5)
- 11 Book of maps (5)

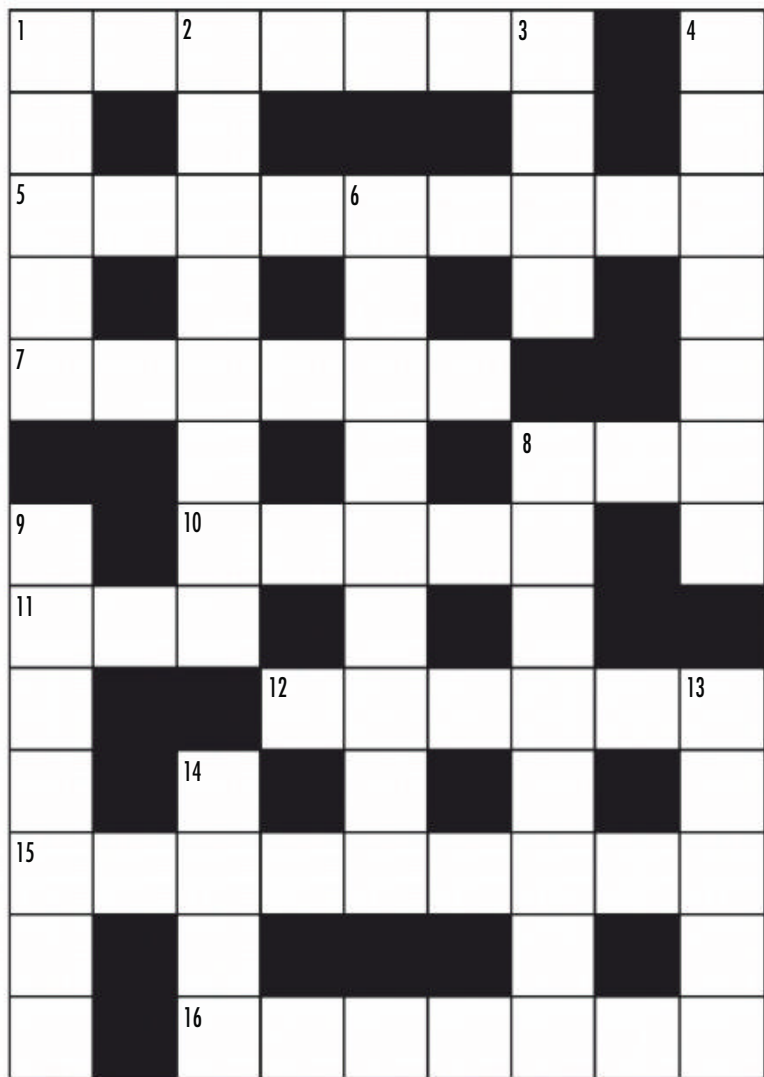
1				2		
6					7	
	9		10			3
				11		
				8		
5					4	

PUZZLES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Give your brain a workout!
To check if you're right, see solutions.



ACROSS

- 1 Capitol involved in current issues (7)
- 5 Make even a dour attempt (9)
- 7 Signed version of pattern (6)
- 8 Collection will get harder (3)
- 10 Ms Oakley scored a nine (5)
- 11 Oddly awful sport (1,1,1)
- 12 Colin turned east to see Ms Kidman (6)
- 15 Procedure moved on pirate ring (9)
- 16 Ian must deal with devastating wave (7)

DOWN

- 1 First time readers enjoy new direction (5)
- 2 Pete's lad placed on a platform (8)
- 3 Utensil tuned up plunder (4)
- 4 Funeral wagon and tradie's vehicle sound hairy (7)
- 6 Peron's country adjusted rent again (9)
- 8 Nail some processed wheat (8)
- 9 Immature frog reviewed old tape (7)
- 13 Green nuisance contains boredom and weariness (5)
- 14 Inclined to discuss period of abstinence (4)

QUIZ TIME

- 1 Who played Kim's 'second best friend' Sharon in the TV series *Kath and Kim*?
- 2 Fromage is the French term for which kind of food?
- 3 Which part of Australia was called Van Diemen's Land until 1856?
- 4 In which months of the year do the two annual equinoxes occur?
- 5 Which property of food is measured in Scoville units?



ANSWERS THIS WEEK

WORD MAKER

Agony, Along, **Anthology**, Galoot, Ghat, Gloat, Gnat, Goat, Goo, Gosh, Gyno, Hang, Lagoon, Lang, Logo, Logon, Longa, Ology, Tang, Tangly, Tango, Tangy, Thang, Thong, Toga, Tong, Yoga, Yogh.

ANAGRAM FACES

Joaquin Phoenix, Heath Ledger, Jack Nicholson

SPIRAL SQUARES

1 Stamp, 2 Pupil, 3 Lather, 4 Random, 5 Magnet, 6 Taming, 7 Garage, 8 Envelop, 9 Pug, 10 Giza, 11 Atlas

Hidden word: Sausage

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Topical, 5 Endeavour, 7 Design, 8 Set, 10 Annie, 11 AFL, 12 Nicole, 15 Operation, 16 Tsunami
Down: 1 Trend, 2 Pedestal, 3 Loot, 4 Hirsute, 6 Argentina, 8 Semolina, 9 Tadpole, 13 Ennui, 14 Lent.

QUIZ TIME

1 Magda Szubanski, 2 Cheese, 3 Tasmania, 4 March and September, 5 Heat (as in chillies)

SUDOKU

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

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

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

LOGIC

NAME	PRIMATE	COUNTRY	BANANAS
BOZO	BONOBO	RWANDA	6
CAESAR	CHIMP	UGANDA	7
MADAM	MACAQUE	CHINA	1
ORWELL	ORANGUTAN	INDONESIA	4
RAFFLES	GIBBON	THAILAND	3

BIG CODE CRACKER

S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N	A	R	T	S
M	D	E	U	I							
A	P	E	A	L	C	O	T	T	O	N	
V	H	E	L	K	E	C					
E	G	O	S	E	C	A	R	E			
R	R	S	W	I	T	C	H	R			
S	L	A	B	H	N	I	C	E			
Y	O	R	I	G	A	M	I	A			
E	C	R	U	F	G	C	H	I	N		
R	T	A	F	F	E	T	A	R			
T	A	X	I	N	L	O	N	E			
A	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	P	L			
T	U	T	U	A	J	I	V	E			
T	E	E	W	E	N	G					
O	F	F	S	E	T	V	E	R	I	F	Y
O	L	C	E	R	O	N	A	L			
S	M	U	G	H	O	R	M	O	N	A	L

Letter Checker												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	I	L	J	K	D	Y	W	H	E	P	V	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G	U	S	T	B	F	O	Q	Z	N	A	X	C

JIGSAW



WORDOKU

L	H	U	A	N	E	I	R	Q
E	N	Q	U	I	R	L	H	A
R	I	A	Q	L	H	E	N	U
I	U	L	N	H	A	Q	E	R
H	A	R	L	E	Q	U	I	N
Q	E	N	R	U	I	H	A	L
A	L	I	H	Q	N	R	U	E
U	R	H	E	A	L	N	Q	I
N	Q	E	I	R	U	A	L	H

NEW IDEA PUZZLES 04-20 WINNERS' LIST: \$100 **Supercross:** C Congram, Coburg, Vic; C O'Loughlin, Sawtell, NSW; P Woods, Carrum Downs, Vic
\$50 **Compact Stars:** L Bruce, North Albury, NSW; C Colls, Goolwa Beach, SA; L Thackray, Black Roll, Vic; D Vaughan, Thabeban Bundaberg, Qld
\$50 **Word Search:** J Hood, Sale, Vic; A Ward, Cootamundra, NSW \$50 **Hex Word:** Y McLean, Bligh Park, NSW; J Peake, Cabarita, NSW
\$100 **Code Cracker:** P Elliott, Ranui, NZ; J Hill, Bluff Point, WA; A Walker, Safety Bay, WA.
CHEQUES SENT WITHIN SIX WEEKS OF BEING PUBLISHED.

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CODE CRACKER

NAME

WORD SEARCH

SUPERCROSS

ADDRESS

COMPACT

HEXWORD

TEL



24 FEB ANSWERS

COMPACT STARS



Winning title:
Emma

CODE CRACKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	F	P	G	I	D	H	Q	U	T	S	V	B
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	A	Z	C	M	R	L	Y	N	O	X	J	E

Winning word: Indigo

WORD SEARCH

Winning answer: *Cinderella Man*

SUPERCROSS

ACROSS: 1 Speech, 5 Arthropod, 10 Relief, 13 Upper, 15 Eliza, 17 Vacuum, 18 Courgette, 19 Picnic, 20 Pooch, 21 Pinot, 22 Pesto, 25 Perth, 26 Clown, 28 Topiary, 29 Gnocchi, 32 Moscow, 35 Intact, 37 Batman, 39 Topple, 42 Feather, 43 Unit, 44 Nile, 45 Uptight, 47 Tarot, 49 Pumpkin, 50 FBI, 51 Leo, 52 Echelon, 55 Smile, 56 Fair, 58 Welsh, 60 Tempo, 62 Mayhem, 64 Album, 65 Cleo, 66 Pawn, 67 Essence, 70 Roast, 71 Tenth, 73 Resist, 75 Choice, 77 About Time, 78 Eating, 81 Geddes, 84 Teller, 85 Achilles, 86 Gown, 88 Java, 89 Quantity, 90 Editor, 91 Sparta, 92 Collie, 95 Rarotonga, 97 Cheese, 99 Slalom, 101 Rupee, 103 Idols, 104 Swooned, 106 Moat, 107 USSR, 109 Grace, 110 Parcel, 112 Goose, 15 Hedge, 117 Data, 118 Maple, 119 Lioness, 120 Tip, 121 Let, 122 Novelty, 124 Oasis, 125 Apricot, 128 Scar, 129 Iron, 130 Indiana, 134 Abbott, 136 Walrus, 137 Skater, 138 Saturn, 140 Primary, 143 Italian, 145 Scale, 147 Theta, 149 Tokyo, 151 China, 152 Jaffa, 154 Brando, 156 Pepperoni, 157 Inform, 159 Vague, 160 Nicer, 161 Adhere, 162 Repudiate, 163 Yellow.

DOWN: 2 Pea, 3 Erupt, 4 Hump, 5 Archer, 6 Thump, 7 Regard, 8 Patch, 9 Deepen, 10 Rapt, 11 Local, 12 Picnic, 14 Prohibit, 16 Innocent, 23 Europe, 24 Otto, 26 Ciao, 27 Wealth, 30 Scottish, 31 Gauntlet, 33 Catamaran, 34 Wreck, 36 Tuneful, 38 *Malcolm*, 39 Tap, 40 Paisley, 41 Parliament, 46 Snowman, 48 Refocus, 49 Pharaoh, 53 Home, 54 Nielsen, 57 Abate, 59 Sue, 61 Ewe, 63 Aorta, 68 Stone's Throw, 69 Coincidence, 72 Hailstorm, 73 Registrar, 74 Senses, 76 India, 79 Steak, 80 Blurp, 82 Eva, 83 Sequel, 86 Glare, 87 Wet, 93 Oddball, 94 Issue, 96 Toothpaste, 97 Cedar, 98 Swarthy, 100 Largest, 102 Pageant, 104 Sos, 105 Dye, 106 Medallist, 108 Sloe, 111 Chorizo, 113 Optical, 114 Emporium, 115 Helsinki, 116 Detroit, 123 Venus, 126 Public, 127 Off, 131 Norway, 132 Swimming, 133 Prolific, 135 Tape, 139 Aunt, 41 Reaper, 142 Legend, 144 Tajine, 146 Lance, 147 Top-Up, 148 Aloha, 150 Offal, 151 Cove, 153 Airy, 155 Red, 158 Rio.

Winning name: Timetable

HEXWORD

1 Enrico, 2 Calvin, 3 Robson, 4 Cereal, 5 Feudal, 6 Carmen, 7 Marley, 8 Beirut, 9 Hamlet, 10 Agatha, 11 Bullet, 12 Hughes.

Hidden word: Family



Pacific magazines

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HOROSCOPES



WITH KAREN MOREGOLD

For all things astrological, visit my website: karenmoregold.com

ARIES

MAR 21 – APR 20

Push hard to stay on track with a secret long-term hope or goal. Rebuilding an old relationship will set up a new chapter and a domestic project will challenge your resourcefulness. A difficult conversation will test your listening skills but a personal question will be answered.

Demanding conditions on the job will show your versatility; this is your time to shine and climb the professional ranks!

LUCKY NUMBERS: 15, 25, 35

TAURUS

APR 21 – MAY 21

You'll pour energy into turning a cherished dream into reality. A meaningful get-together or exchange with a loved one will be a joy. It will take proactive efforts and a good sense of timing to foster an important new connection. Fun outings and activities will also bring new people into your world. Singles, there'll be a romantic buzz to an encounter. A visitor too long coming will turn back time.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 6, 17, 34

GEMINI

MAY 22 – JUN 21

You'll be keenly motivated to achieve an ambitious career or personal goal but there'll be uncertain or changing factors to take in your stride. Get set to be out of your comfort zone as you go with the flow and aim high. Financially, prepare for unusual costs; building them into the budget will help you plan ahead. A discovery will explain an old issue or a relationship that you struggle to understand.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 8, 11, 24

CANCER

JUN 22 – JUL 23

Travelling, exploring a charming place or new social scene will bring discoveries. Fun plans with a distant relative will gather momentum and a learning experience will leave a reflective afterglow. The chance to clear up a misunderstanding will clarify where you stand.

A bargain, unexpected offer or financial boost will help you get ahead. An encounter will encourage an unusual friendship.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 2, 20, 22

LEO

JUL 24 – AUG 23

New financial prospects will fire your imagination; research and keeping your feet on the ground will help you make advantageous decisions. Extra expenses could stretch the budget. A social first will be a breakthrough; this may be a long-awaited invitation, an introduction to an exciting world or a get-together it's taken a lot of work to organise. A romance, friendship or work association will turn a corner.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 9, 12, 28

VIRGO

AUG 24 – SEPT 23

A changing relationship will take a promising new direction, getting special plans with someone dear off the ground will be emotionally uplifting, and there'll also be a situation where you can make a difference for another. Sudden requests could throw your schedule out of sync; be flexible. A reunion will be an insightful experience. Taking a hobby or sport to the next level will be exhilarating.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 14, 18, 36

LIBRA

SEPT 24 – OCT 23

A new or different work program will offer unusual possibilities plus the chance to foster new clients or restructure commitments. A meaningful personal goal will be in your sights; get set to go an extra mile. A health pursuit will be an enlightening learn-as-you-go experience. A project will ask a lot of you and family issues will need gentle defusing. An outing will bring intriguing encounters.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 7, 27, 37

SCORPIO

OCT 24 – NOV 22

Giving your best to help a loved one will expand the bonds between you both, a new door will open in a relationship and an exciting encounter will set up a new friendship or romance. Discovering or returning to a special place of interest will be eye-opening and a heart-to-heart with a distant relative will be most informative. Keep your cool with an emotional situation; it will be easy to overreact.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 29, 39, 45

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23 – DEC 21

Fun family plans will grow and grand ideas for a domestic or family project will fire your enthusiasm. Conversely, inconvenient domestic chores will put you on the spot, and there'll be extra household and family expenses too. A bold financial venture may stretch your resources; avoid rash decisions. Getting out and about will bring refreshing, different experiences and meetings.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 23, 33, 44

CAPRICORN

DEC 22 – JAN 20

There'll be so much to explore, experience and learn with an engrossing new personal endeavour. A deep and meaningful exchange with someone dear will be insightful but challenging and there'll be something to come to terms with. A surprise romantic turn of events will put you into a happy spin. Good fortune will put extra money in your pocket, but curb any spontaneous outlays to keep it there.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 3, 4, 19

AQUARIUS

JAN 21 – FEB 19

A lucky break with a special purchase or expensive plans will make them more affordable or you'll see options you didn't even know you had. Watch out for impulsive spending though, or it could go through the roof! A friendly exchange will encourage a fun friendship or flirtation, while a celebration will put you in high spirits. Something or someone it's time to take care of will draw your sense of duty to the fore.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 5, 16, 26

PISCES

FEB 20 – MAR 20

There will be happy and meaningful times aplenty this week with a special outing, warm sharing exchanges with people dear to you and new potential offering in a relationship you'd like to develop further. Fun visitors will descend upon you, and reviving a friendship will take initiative. A breakthrough on the job will benefit a situation you're keen to improve or open the way to show more of what you can do!

LUCKY NUMBERS: 1, 21, 31



YOUR SAY

SEND US YOUR BEST STORIES AND PICTURES

Q I have a daughter who's almost 3 years old and I'm about to start working again. Some of my shifts go into the night, just like my husband's, which means we need a babysitter. My friends have recommended some people, but I'm sceptical about a stranger looking after her. I was thinking of installing nanny cams so I can watch what's happening when I can. Is this too extreme?
ALEXANDRA, VIA EMAIL.

A Whatever helps to put your mind at rest. If your friends have recommended some people, this should be a plus. Obviously, they have had experience with the babysitters and would only suggest someone suitable. Check out some agencies and look into the background of their babysitters. Interview the prospective applicants. You will get a feel for the right person. Nanny cams may be a bit drastic, but your daughter is precious and you want to know she is safe.

Q I just moved to a new city and hate it. I thought that it's because I don't know many people and I'm out of my comfort zone, but I think the environment doesn't suit me. The only problem is, I just met a new partner and he's really adamant on staying. I'm unhappy, though this man makes me happy too. I'm torn. What should I do?
STEPH, VIA EMAIL.

A Settle girl. You need to work out your priorities. You've met a new partner who makes you happy. This should compensate the fact that you are so negative about the new city. There are so many ways to meet new people. Join a club, get to know your neighbours, charity work opens up new horizons. A pity you didn't spend more time considering these options before you made the move. I suggest you relax. Have fun with your new partner investigating what the new city has to offer.

My beautiful daughters, Gabriella, 3, and Stephanie, 8 months, enjoyed celebrating Australia Day.
RHIANNON PETRIS, SAFETY BEACH, VIC.



BIRD BRAIN

My 2-year-old grandson asked his mum late one afternoon if they could go to the shop to get a mango. My daughter thought it was an unusual request but as they were on holidays, it would be a nice treat! Mangos were not in season and cost quite a lot. When they got back to their holiday cottage, he pointed to a cushion on the sofa and said "mango!" It seems he wanted a flamingo, like what was on the cushion!
JOANNE LOVELL, BANKSIA BEACH, QLD.

FRUIT HACK

In your food section, you detailed getting the cherry pits out "prior to making something wonderful" (NI, Jan. 6). For me, just the process using a chopstick was an eye opener, with past experiences using knives, teaspoons and mostly my thumbnail to achieve the required result. Little mess (drops of juice on bench occasionally) occurred, so it was a refreshing experience as I use cherries frequently - if the fruit is in season. Thank you and whoever had the brain wave, MUCH appreciated!
LESLEY TANA, AUCKLAND, NZ.

BEST OF THE WEEK
WINS
\$100

MERE MALE

My son brought a female friend home from university and said they were going to his room to study. I said to MM, what could they possibly be studying - he's doing law and she's doing teaching? MM's reply: "Anatomy".
L. VENN, BAYVIEW, NSW.

Isabella at her favourite beach in Northland, NZ.
VALERIE DERBYSHIRE, AUCKLAND, NZ.



Whether it be relationships, work, family or just personal troubles, Nene King can tackle any question given to her. Send your life questions to nene@newidea.com.au.

Send us a funny story about your children and mere males, a letter about an interesting piece you've read in our mag or a pic of your child/pet. The best entry of the week wins \$100. Post your original letters and photos (sorry, photos cannot be returned) to Children's World/Mere Male/Letters/Pets, New Idea, GPO Box 7814, Sydney NSW 2001 or email childrensworld@newidea.com.au, meremale@newidea.com.au, letters@newidea.com.au or pets@newidea.com.au with your full name and home address.

I captured this photo of my great-grandchildren, Ellie and Lockie, at Harrington. They really are our pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!
DEAYNNE SHORT,
HARRINGTON, NSW.



They say curiosity killed the cat. Our kitten, Kiki, was watching me outside mowing the lawn.
JOHN SMITH, EAST SIDE, NT.



THE ghost FILES

KARINA MACHADO

Karina Machado is a journalist, host of the Spirit Sisters podcast and the author of Spirit Sisters, Where Spirits Dwell and Love Never Dies, a non-fiction series exploring the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people. Now, on The Ghost Files podcast each week, Karina will introduce a guest who'll share their personal encounter with the spirit world.

DEEP BONDS OF LOVE

I knew I had to introduce Ben Carn to listeners of *The Ghost Files* podcast, though not because his is a knock-your-socks-off ghost story. It's the gentleness of Ben's experiences – the deep love and grief he's lived – that moved me.

Softly spoken Ben, 27, lives a quiet and seemingly ordinary life with his partner and their sweet 2-year-old son at their home in Rankins Springs, NSW. But there's something that's not so ordinary about Ben: he can hear the voices of the dead bringing messages and

guidance. Sometimes, he even receives premonitions.

On June 11, 2018, Ben's mum, Lisa, died of brain cancer, aged only 51. Ben was devoted to his mum, who passed not long after his beloved grandmother. "I call it the year I lost my heroes," he reflects. And yet, two years before his mother's passing, Ben had seen it unfold in an enigmatic dream.

"I dreamt I was in a building I didn't recognise and walked into a dimly lit room," he recalls. "I could hear pouring rain outside and could see a hospital bed and someone in it beneath a white sheet. I couldn't see who it was."

Ben awoke with an ominous feeling about his mother's health, and rushed to be by her side. Sadly, it all eventually played out exactly as he'd seen it. Tune into *The Ghost Files* podcast to hear the rest of Ben's touching story, which honours his mum at every turn. Take, for instance, her joy at finding out Ben was going to be a father. to son Elijah "She looked at me with nothing but love in her eyes and told me, 'Mate, I've told you your whole life, you have the whole world at your feet,'" he remembers. "Now I know what it's like to hold the universe in your arms."



Lisa holding baby Elijah.



Ben and his mum, Lisa.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE ON THE GHOST FILES PODCAST? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT. EMAIL KARINAMACHADO@OPTUSNET.COM.AU WITH A SUMMARY OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND YOUR CONTACT DETAILS.

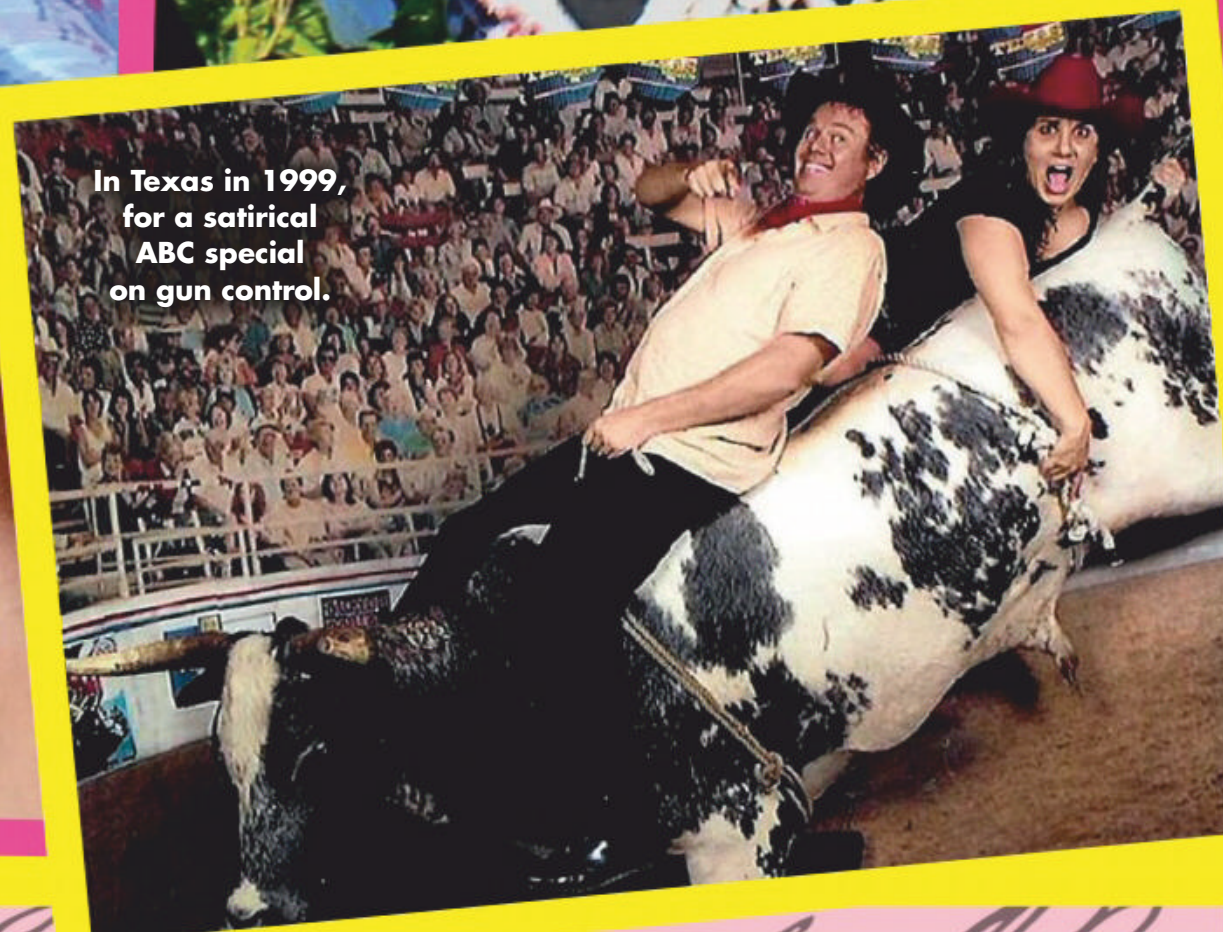


THE THEORY OF US

THE AWARD-WINNING STAR
AND HER
DIRECTOR/
PRODUCER
PARTNER ON LOVE
AND THE FUNNY
SIDE OF LIFE

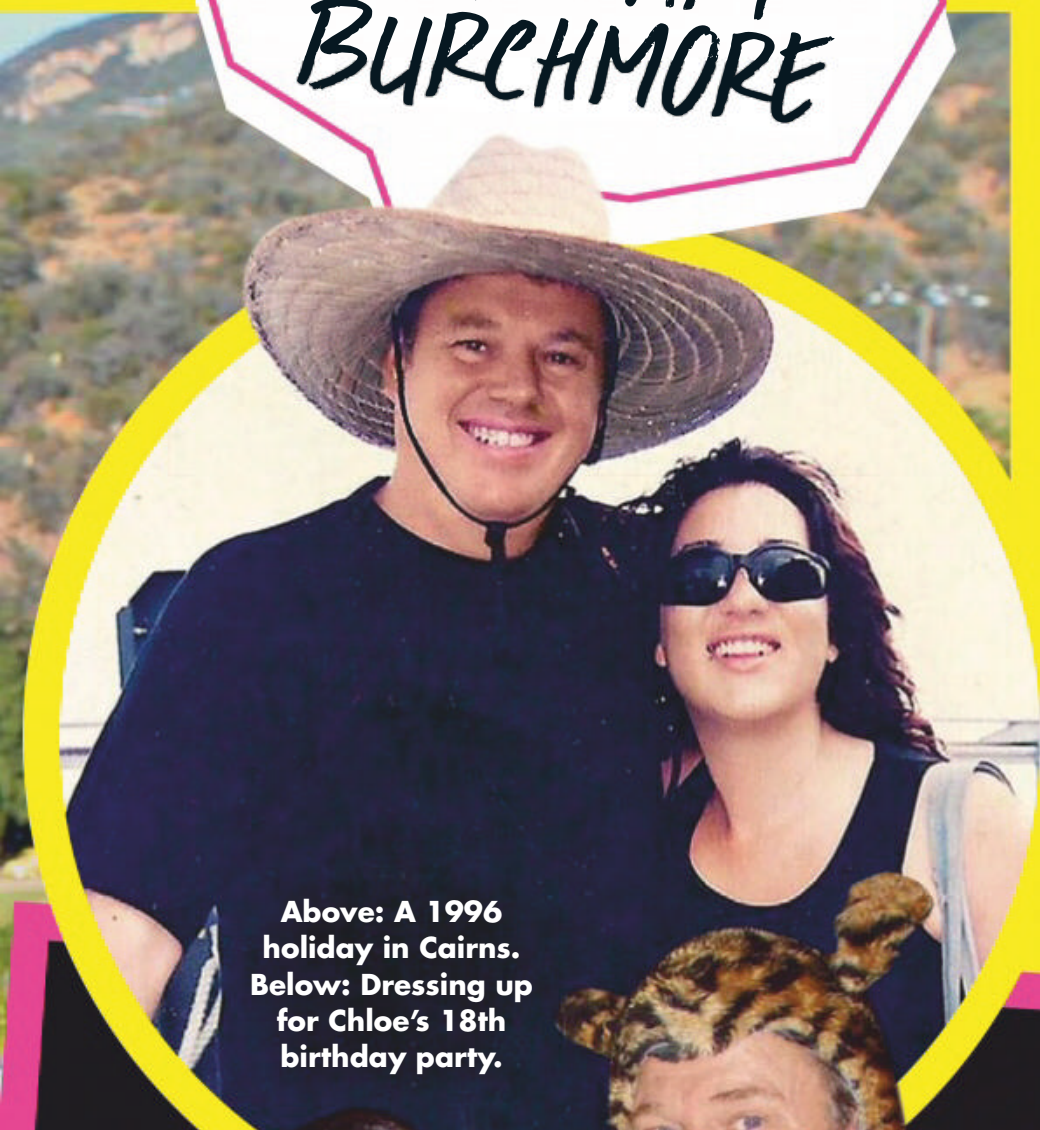


Clockwise from front: Che, Ella, Libbi, Dali, Chloe and Stewart enjoy a birthday at Luna Park in 2015.



In Texas in 1999, for a satirical ABC special on gun control.

LIBBI GORR & STEWART BURCHMORE



Above: A 1996 holiday in Cairns. Below: Dressing up for Chloe's 18th birthday party.



She was the first woman on Australian TV to host a sports talk show – *Live and Sweaty*, which she fronted as her comedy creation Elle McFeast. So perhaps it's only fitting that Libbi Gorr met the love of her life – entertainment and sports director/producer Stewart Burchmore – while filming the show more than 20 years ago. And their first encounter could not have been more memorable.

"We were at the snow to make a *Live and Sweaty* special and Stew was working as an audio director of *Recovery* – a entertainment/music show – at the time," says Libbi, now a popular ABC radio presenter.

"The problem was that I couldn't ski, so they had to work around me being absolutely terrible on the slopes. They needed a crew who could ski and do their job at the same time, and Stew was asked to come along because he could ski backwards and do the sound without a problem.

"Our first bump was literally a bump! I was skiing badly down a slope for a sketch when I went over a bump, lost complete control and, in order to stop going over a ledge, I had to ski into Stewart!"

What were the couple's first impressions of each other?

"That he was a safe place to land!" quips Libbi.

"And mine was, 'Out of control!'" laughs Stewart.

Have the couple's views of each other changed over the past two-and-a-half decades?

"Not much!" laughs Libbi. "We didn't get together straight away, but when we finally did, we just thought, 'That's that! We want to be together. This is unique.'"

As for what Libbi and Stewart love most about

each other, the answer comes very easily.

"I'm going to say Libbi's tenacity and dedication to the task at hand, plus the loving emotion that she exudes," says Stewart, whose sister is much-loved performer Rhonda Burchmore.

"And I love Stewart's organisational abilities," says Libbi. "He's also incredibly committed to family – and he has good legs! He has those Burchmore legs. Stewart has an innate ability to dance through life in his own way."

These days, family life for the couple centres around Stewart's adult daughters – Chloe and Ella – from his first marriage, and his and Libbi's children, son Che, 14, and daughter Dali, 9.

"It's a big, chaotic, diverse family and we love it," says Libbi. "We're very proud of our extended blended family. They're gorgeous."

Meanwhile, the fact that Libbi and Stewart both work in the entertainment industry is something they have always seen as a positive.

"It's interesting, because what we do is same-same but different," reflects Libbi. "I like to create stuff and be in front of the camera and the microphone, and Stewart likes to be in charge of where the camera is pointing and turning the microphone on and off."

Not to mention that Libbi has been known to share stories of her life with Stewart on air.

"He's my 'adventure man'," she says. "I generally talk about him on my Saturday breakfast show before the sun comes up so that I can't get in trouble."

By Jackie Brygel

• Libbi Gorr presents ABC Radio Weekends in Victoria, and will host ABC's International Women's Day special: The F Word on Sun. 10am (radio) and 11.15pm (ABC Comedy).

WHAT'S YOUR PARTNER'S SECRET DOMESTIC SKILL?

Stewart:

Nobody cleans her whites like Libbi with her Napisan!

Libbi: I do have a

fondness for Napisan paste! I am the daughter and the granddaughter of pharmacists, so I do enjoy putting that knowledge to use.



ALL ABOUT...

Stewart:

The Masked Singer.

Libbi:

Survivor.

WHICH REALITY TV SHOW WOULD YOUR PARTNER BE SURE TO WIN?

Libbi: Stew has a very endearing trait. He has trouble getting rid of vintage items.

Stewart: The fact that Libbi puts sweet chilli sauce on everything.

WHAT'S YOUR PARTNER'S QUIRKIEST HABIT?

LIBBI & STEWART

Home and Away

SNEAK PEEK

Colby is rushed to hospital for his injury, but could he lose his leg?



WILL COLBY RECOVER?

IN AGONY!

It was the terrifying development that left us gasping! Just as Leah (Ada Nicodemou) managed to escape the clutches of her deranged kidnapper Douglas (Adam Booth), the life of another Summer Bay local was suddenly on the line.

In the final shocking moments of last week's *Home and Away* episodes, Colby (Tim Franklin) was stabbed in the leg by Douglas at the stalker's remote hideaway when the kidnapper jumped out of a cupboard wielding a pair of scissors.

Rushed to hospital, Colby was writhing in agony. And

now we learn that the young police officer's condition is deteriorating fast.

Taken into surgery, there's every possibility that Colby may lose his leg!

As Alex (Zoë Ventoura) reveals in the ED to Dean (Patrick O'Connor) and Bella (Courtney Miller), a critically ill Colby has developed acute compartment syndrome, resulting in insufficient blood supply to tissue within the region. And surgery is the only option.

"There has been a complication to Colby's injury," confirms Tim. "Internal bleeding has begun, and

pressure is building up. It's apparently one of the most painful things that can happen to someone, so expect a lot of screaming!"

Meanwhile, Colby's on-again-off-again love Mackenzie is beside herself when she learns that Colby has been critically injured.

Rushing to the hospital, a distraught Mackenzie refuses to leave the ward until she knows that Colby will pull through. And it's plain to see that the young restaurateur, who spends the night at the hospital, is still in love with Colby.

Indeed, Ziggy (Sophie Dillman) and Dean can't help

but feel concerned for Mackenzie. Later, Mackenzie candidly admits to Ziggy that the thought of losing Colby terrifies her – and that she intends to resolve her feelings for him once and for all.

"Mackenzie and Dean's familial relationship has strengthened, and they are very good mates now," says Emily. "Mackenzie has also formed a great friendship with Ziggy, and both Ziggy and Dean are worried Mackenzie will get hurt again."

Meanwhile, the big question is: Will Colby make a full recovery, or will his life be changed forever?



Tim Franklin tells ... 'WHY JAKE WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY LIFE'

It's been several weeks since Colby's fellow officer Robbo (Jake Ryan) lost his life as a result of a horror car smash.

And just as the federal officer and new dad was a greatly loved resident of Summer Bay, Tim reveals that Robbo's talented portrayer Jake was a hugely popular member of the tight-knit *Home and Away* cast.

"It's like a family member leaving," says Tim. "It was really emotional."

"You find your people, and Jake definitely became that for me, so it is hard to say goodbye."

But as Tim says, Jake – who with his partner, Alice Quiddington, is now a doting parent to their gorgeous son, Wolf – will always be a part of his life.

"Jake was already on the show for about a year before me. Over time, we became really close friends and he'll definitely be around for the rest of my life," he says.



Tim admits that he and Jake will always be pals.

MONDAY:

As news spreads through the Bay about Colby's stabbing, Roo reaches out to a panic-stricken Bella. Will the troubled teen spiral out of control once again?

Meanwhile, Mackenzie rushes to the hospital to be by Colby's side.

TUESDAY:

Fed up with Bella's antics, Dean gives the teenager a reality check. Ari steps up his job hunt, and Nikau makes a surprising new connection.

WEDNESDAY:

Alex's time at the hospital comes to an emotional end, while John gives Marilyn an ultimatum. But will it backfire on the long-time resident?

THURSDAY:

Justin receives a harrowing insight into Leah's abduction. And will Willow really let Alex walk out of her life forever?

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS



Home and Away > 7

SNEAK PEEK

WILLOW'S HEARTACHE



Willow is heartbroken that Alex's new job has meant they have had to end their relationship.

They knew this day would come, but that doesn't make it any easier for Willow (Sarah Roberts) and Alex (Zoë Ventoura) to go their separate ways.

Indeed, Willow admits to Dean that while she and Alex have broken up, she isn't handling it well. Clearly, a distraught Willow is still deeply in love with the emergency doctor, who is farewelling the

Bay to take up a new position in Queensland.

"Willow is heartbroken," says Sarah. "She and Alex simply felt that the timing was not right for them to be together – but it's so sad. Neither of them wanted to end things, but it's just about geography. And now everything has come crashing down around Willow."

And what Willow doesn't know is that Alex is leaving

town far sooner than she thought.

After finishing her last day in the local ED, Alex quietly packs up her belongings in her office, including a photo of her and her ex-girlfriend.

However, just as Alex is about to leave town forever, Willow receives a message on her phone that takes her completely by surprise. Don't miss it!

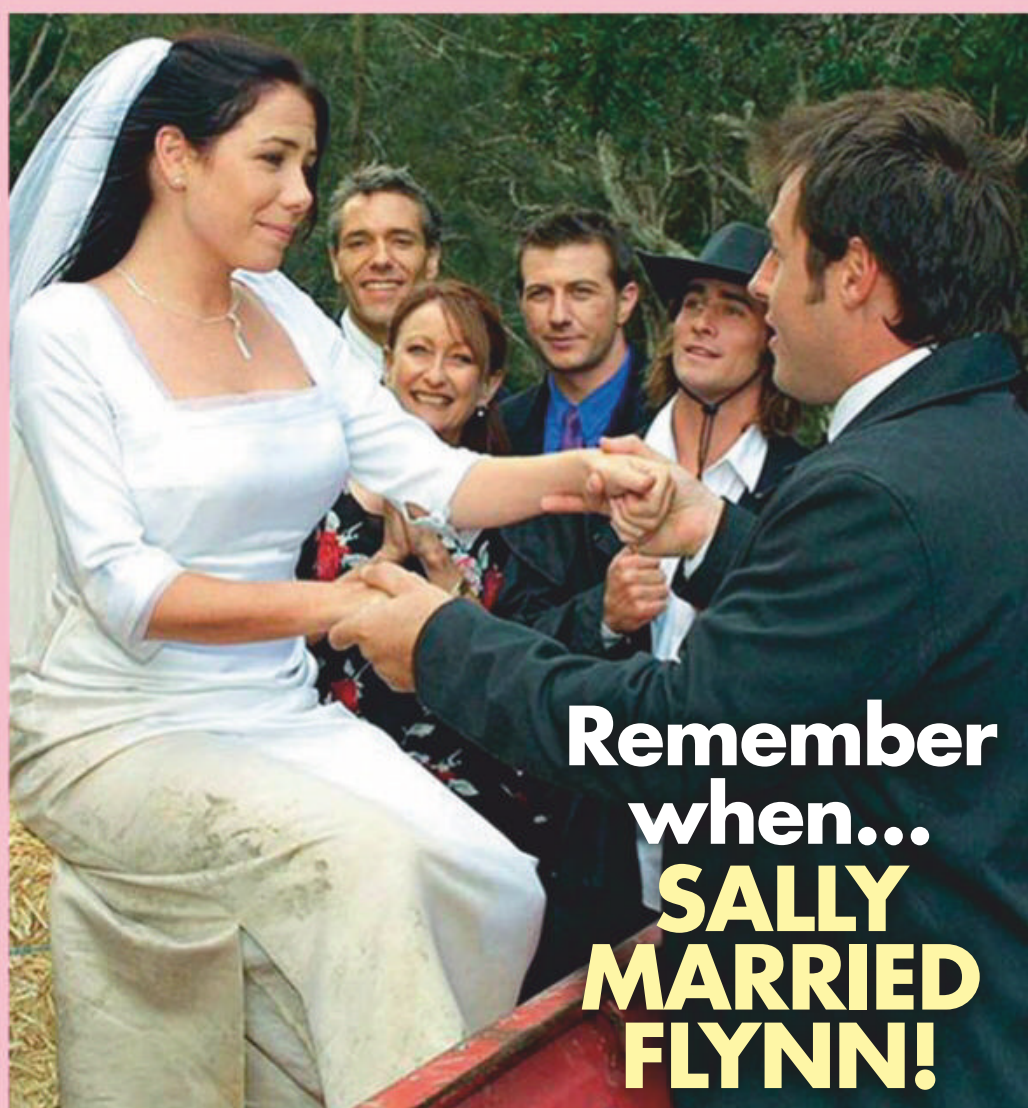
LEAH'S NIGHTMARE CONTINUES!

DEE



She may be safely back in the Bay following her horrific kidnapping ordeal, but every day is a struggle for Leah. And Leah's behaviour leads Justin (James Stewart), as well as Leah's close friend Irene (Lynne McGranger), to be gravely concerned for her state of mind.

"We really see Leah in a completely different light now," says Ada. "Her ordeal may well have changed her forever."



Remember when... SALLY MARRIED FLYNN!

Sally (Kate Ritchie) and Flynn (Joel McIlroy), 2003:

Few TV brides have had a bumpier road to the altar than former Summer Bay sweetheart Sally (Kate Ritchie) on her wedding day to Flynn (Joel McIlroy). Indeed, it was a case of what *didn't* go wrong, with the much-loved Sal even being dumped by a bolting horse into a muddy roadside puddle on the way to the ceremony. Then, just as the outdoor nuptials finally kicked off, the heavens opened, forcing the bride and groom to relocate proceedings to none other than the local hospital!



Leah refuses to open up to Justin about what she went through. What will this mean for their relationship?

P TRAUMA



Early in the week, Leah appears withdrawn and exhausted as she keeps her distance from the man she loves. Indeed, she steadfastly refuses to talk to either Justin or Irene about what Douglas (Adam Booth) did to her. What's more, she refuses to give a statement to the police.

Later, Justin and Irene are baffled when they see Leah meticulously setting the table for dinner, and waiting to eat until after

"WE SEE LEAH IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT – HER ORDEAL MAY HAVE CHANGED HER FOREVER"

Justin has finished his meal. When Leah accidentally drops a glass on the floor and it shatters, she has a panic attack and races out the door.

Will Justin find out what really happened to Leah, or will she continue to shut him out of her life?

As Ada says: "This is very challenging for Justin too, and for his relationship with Leah. We'll have to watch and see whether they can move forward."



HOME AND AWAY
MON. TO THU. 7PM

GETTING TO
KNOW...

PATRICK O'CONNOR (DEAN):

THE LAST MOVIE I SAW WAS...

The most recent *Star Wars* film. I'd been encouraged by my friends to go to a film by myself – and I loved it! It felt like a bit of an escape – and no-one was judging what food I ordered. I got a large popcorn, Maltesers, a choc top and a Coke – full sugar across the board!

THE LAST BOOK I COULDN'T PUT DOWN WAS...

The Tattooist of Auschwitz (by Heather Morris).

THE LAST MEAL I ATE WAS...

A chicken schnitzel – last night for dinner. It's a massive favourite – a classic!

THE LAST HOLIDAY I TOOK WAS...

Up the North Coast to Port Stephens, just before we came back to Summer Bay (after the production break) with [girlfriend and co-star] Sophie (Dillman).

THE LAST PERSON I SENT A TEXT MESSAGE TO WAS...

To my dad, John, planning the next walk we're going to do.

THE LAST SONG I LISTENED TO WAS...

'Instant Crush' by Daft Punk (featuring Julian Casablancas).

THE LAST WORKOUT I DID WAS...

I went to the gym this morning and did weights.



Three new glamorous housewives will join the cast of *RHOM* in Season 5 of the hit reality show.

KYLA KIRKPATRICK

CHERRY DIPIETRANTONIO

ANJALI RAO

MEET THE NEW HOUSEWIVES!

As *The Real Housewives of Melbourne* returns for a much-anticipated fifth season, New Idea exclusively spoke to the three newest wives.

ANJALI RAO

How excited are you to start filming?

I'm really, really excited and I just want to get on with it now. There's never been a broadcast journalist on it before, or somebody who's used to being in front of the camera. So it is a massive leap from TV journalism and I was very hesitant at first. I did try to back out after a couple of days, but then I remembered my dad always used to say, "Opportunity always looks so much bigger going than coming". And that's driven my entire career.

What do you think you'll bring to the table that no-one has before on *Housewives*?

I think the fact that I am very international: Indian father, mum from Bendigo, most of my life in Hong Kong, educated in England, just all over. I've got brown skin, I've got an English accent, and I'm a Muslim.

Do you think you'll steer clear of the drama?

I'm not a tongue biter! They don't tend to hire or cast wallflowers on this show and I definitely have fairly strong views.

KYLA KIRKPATRICK

Are you worried about going into reality TV?

When they first approached me, I was not sure whether this was the right path for me. Champagne's a very conservative industry. [As a champagne consultant I] protect the brand, the heritage of the business. And in previous seasons there's been a lot of drama and a few naughty words. I thought it could be potentially a bit risky.

Do you think you'll get along with the other *Housewives*?

I don't think you can put seven women as strong as each of us are, and not have a few differences of opinion. So it's going to occur, there's no doubt about it. But I think, if you looked at a normal relationship between two women, or a group of women, you have highs and you have lows. But you also have a lot

of fun and friendship and kinship, and you inspire one another.

What kind of Housewife will you be portrayed as?

I am a go-getter. I'm a self-made woman. I'm very strong. I make decisions quickly, and I really go for it. I don't like to sit around. I'm not trivial. When I have a conversation with you, I'm going to get to a deeper level pretty quickly, because there's a lot going on in my life, and I don't want to talk to you about handbags and shoes.

CHERRY DIPIETRANTONIO

Are you the kind of person who gets caught up in drama?

I'm just going to roll with it. I'm pretty good at standing up for myself if need be. I'm not going in with the intention of ruffling feathers. I intend to go in, be myself and share my love of yoga and mindfulness.

Do you expect a lot of cat fights this season?



I'm expecting it. Seven big personalities, of course. I mean, you'd get that in everyday life without the cameras, so that's life. It's how you deal with it, and as long as you can find a resolution, so you don't need to agree with everybody. It'd be boring if we were all the same.

Are you nervous about the cameras and being in the public eye?

I've done acting and presenting. I have got a background in the performing arts, so that part doesn't faze me. I expect some people will like me. Some people will hate me. You cannot please everyone.



**Pooch
PERFECT**

DAVINA 'TROLLS CAUSED ME TO GO INTO LABOUR EARLY'

**THE DOG STYLIST OPENS
UP ABOUT HER
HEARTBREAK**

Not only does *Pooch Perfect* contestant Davina have her hands full running her own dog styling business from home, she is also the mother of two adorable daughters, Adelaide and Zoe.

However, Davina reveals that Adelaide's birth didn't go smoothly.

She was heavily pregnant and running 11 dog grooming franchises when calamity struck.

"I had a grooming salon where we did training for our franchisees, and one Saturday when I wasn't in, a dog escaped out of the door," she tells *New Idea*.

"The dog went missing for a week and that really took its toll on me."

Not only was Davina out searching day and night for the dog, but after the owner posted a story about what happened, Davina was targeted by internet trolls.

"Understandably, the owner of the dog wanted the dog back, so she went viral with the story," says Davina.

"Of course, that led to trolls who want to tear you down and say you shouldn't be doing what you're doing and that was really hard."

While the dog was eventually found, the stress of the situation caused Davina to give birth to Adelaide seven weeks prematurely.

"It was at that time I decided to leave the business because I thought I can't put as much energy into my child if I give 100 per cent of my energy to the business," she says.

Davina now runs a dog styling salon from her home, where she can schedule her clients around her children, and, she says, she couldn't be happier.

"I believe everything happens for a reason," she says.

"If it wasn't for everything that happened, I would have never left that business."

"It was the hardest decision I ever had to make but I'm happier than ever."

Davina can devote time to her two children Zoe and Adelaide now she works from home.

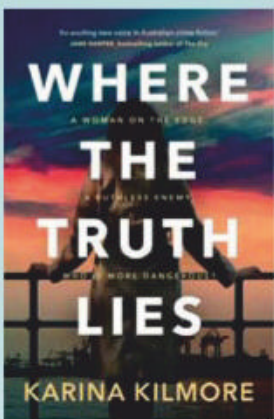


POOCH PERFECT
THU. 7.30PM
ON SEVEN

7

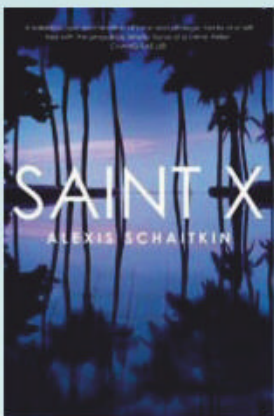
MUST-READ
THRILLERS
TO KEEP
YOU
GRIPPED
THIS MONTH

FANS OF CRIME, NOIR AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
SUSPENSE WILL LOVE THESE NEW RELEASES



**WHERE THE
TRUTH LIES**
BY KARINA
KILMORE

While unions and big business come to blows on the Melbourne wharfs, journalist Chrissie O'Brian is sent to interview a female worker. But when she dies in an apparent workplace accident, Chrissie begins to investigate. A gritty, compelling debut.



SAINT X
BY ALEXIS
SCHAITKIN

Claire was 7 when, during a luxury family holiday in the Caribbean, her sister Alison vanished and was later found dead. Years later, Claire recognises the name of her taxi driver as one of the suspects accused of the murder and sets off on a quest to learn the truth. Suspenseful with a strong vein of social commentary.



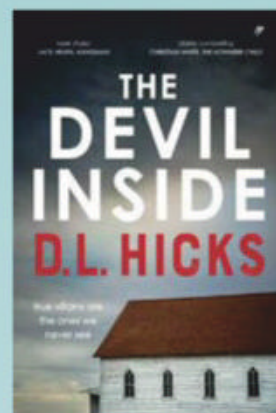
CHARLOTTE PASS
BY LEE CHRISTINE

When human bones are found in the Snowy Mountains, Sydney detective Pierce Ryder is called in to investigate and soon determines that they belong to a woman who disappeared in 1964. While local residents in the isolated, snowed-in village are interviewed, a second murder takes place. Skilfully blending romantic elements with a murder mystery, this is a really enjoyable read.



RIPTIDES
BY KIRSTEN
ALEXANDER

In 1970s Queensland, Abby and Charlie are driving to their father's rural property. When Charlie dozes off, the car swerves, forcing another vehicle off the road. The other driver dies instantly and the siblings make the choice to leave the scene. But when the woman's identity is revealed, they're plunged into a terrible new world filled with lies and fear. A captivating and powerful read.



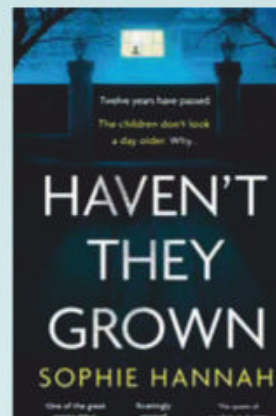
THE DEVIL INSIDE
BY D.L. HICKS

A young woman is found murdered, a note with scripture written on it in her hand. But as local detective Charlotte Callaghan attempts to track down the perpetrator, suspicion soon falls on her priest brother and his parishioners. A chilling but also emotional debut.



**THE MEMORY
WOOD** BY
SAM LLOYD

After being abducted, 13-year-old Elissa finds herself imprisoned underground and at the mercy of a frightening man who comes and goes. When 12-year-old Elijah stumbles across the place the abductor is hiding Elissa, his reaction is bizarre: having never had a friend before, he decides not to call the police. A spooky, atmospheric and intense thriller.



**HAVEN'T THEY
GROWN** BY
SOPHIE HANNAH

Beth is on her way to her son's soccer game when she takes a detour via an old friend's house, hoping to catch a glimpse of the woman she hasn't seen in a decade. But when she sees Flora and her children, she gets a terrible shock: Thomas and Emily still appear to be the same age. This twisty-turny read will have you gripped until the big reveal.

CELEBRITY SHELFIE

Natalie Portman is reading *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. The award-winning novel is a portrait of Connell and Marianne's relationship, from their life as teenagers in a small Irish town to when they move to Dublin for uni.

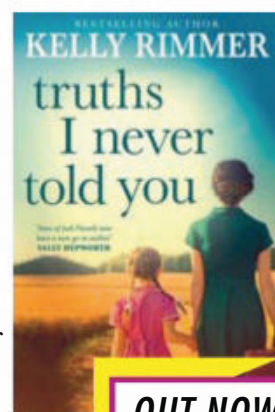


NEW IDEA'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

TRUTHS I NEVER TOLD YOU BY KELLY RIMMER

The best-selling author of *Before I Let You Go* returns with another all-consuming story. When Beth is clearing out the family house she makes a shocking discovery about her long-dead mother. *I put my hand on the doorknob and turn it, then bump into the door— completely caught off guard when it doesn't budge at all. I twist the handle hard, and push my shoulder against the door, but when this makes absolutely no difference, I look down at the lock and frown. This is a new handle— and it sports a seriously heavy-duty deadlock.*

But why would he need to lock the attic? Dad must have installed this lock when he lived alone otherwise we would have noticed. Was he locking himself in, or locking the world out?

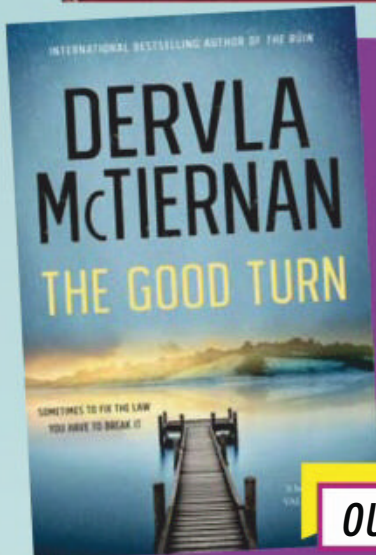
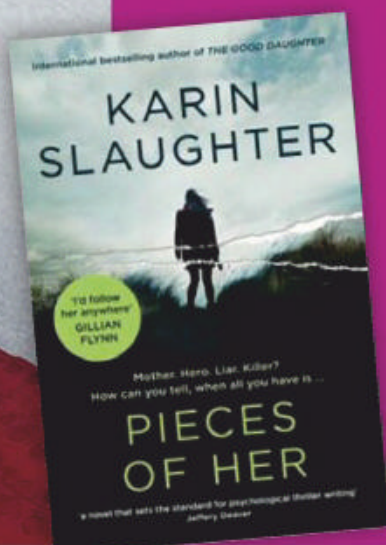


OUT NOW

Book news

It's been announced Toni Collette

will star in the new Netflix series *Pieces of Her*, based on the thriller of the same name by Karin Slaughter. The 2018 release is about a small-town mum whose secret past identity is revealed after her daughter is caught in a shopping mall attack.



OUT NOW

5 Minutes With ... Dervla McTiernan

THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR TALKS ABOUT TURNING HER NOVEL INTO A FILM WITH COLIN FARRELL



The Perth-based Irish writer's first book, *The Ruin*, was published in 2018 and won the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction. It's set to be made into a film starring Colin Farrell. Out this month, *The Good Turn* is Dervla's third Detective Cormac Reilly mystery. She chats to New Idea about why she loves to read and write about crime.

What's publication time like for you this time?

Things will be fully crazy for a few weeks with events and interviews and visits every day, and then medium crazy for a month or two after that. I'll enjoy every minute of it and then I'll happily settle back down in my writer's cave, stop dying my hair, and go back to work on my new story.

Tell us about *The Good Turn*

At the heart of the book is very young woman, Anna Collins. She's a single mother and her little girl, Tilly, has stopped speaking. Social workers think she may have experienced some kind of trauma and when it looks like they may try to take Tilly away, Anna decides to run. Meanwhile, back in Galway, another young girl has been

abducted. Detective Cormac Reilly and policeman Peter Fisher are desperate to track her down before it's too late.

What draws you to writing about crime?

Crime fiction is what I love to read. I write it because I think a novel should be a snapshot of the most important time in a character's life. A serious crime, whether it's a murder or something else, puts people under enormous pressure. That kind of pressure can destroy and reveal but it can also give people a chance to shine. There's just so much scope to work with there as a writer.

What's happening with the screen version of *The Ruin*?

Colin is very much still on board and I know the producers are working on finding the right screenwriter, so I'm excited to see what happens next!

Will you ever set one of your books in Australia or write a standalone?

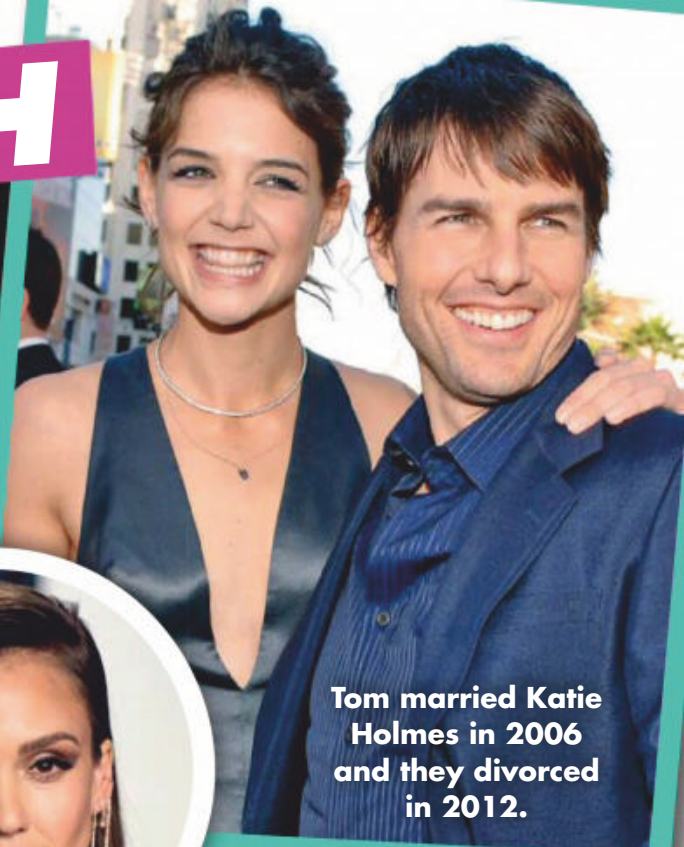
I think it's likely that I'll write a standalone. There

would be something so freeing about building an entirely new world with a new cast of characters and of course there are some stories that can only be told in particular settings. I had an idea recently for a story that would be set in Australia, but I'm not sure when I would get to write that one.

What are you working on now?

My next crime novel, which I'm right in the midst of. Probably like every other writer, I always think the thing I'm about to write is the best idea I've had. The ideas are always so exciting until you mess them up with the actual writing. Most recently I was on holiday, where by family agreement I was banned from writing anything except for a fantasy story I'm writing with my little girl. We're having a lot of fun.

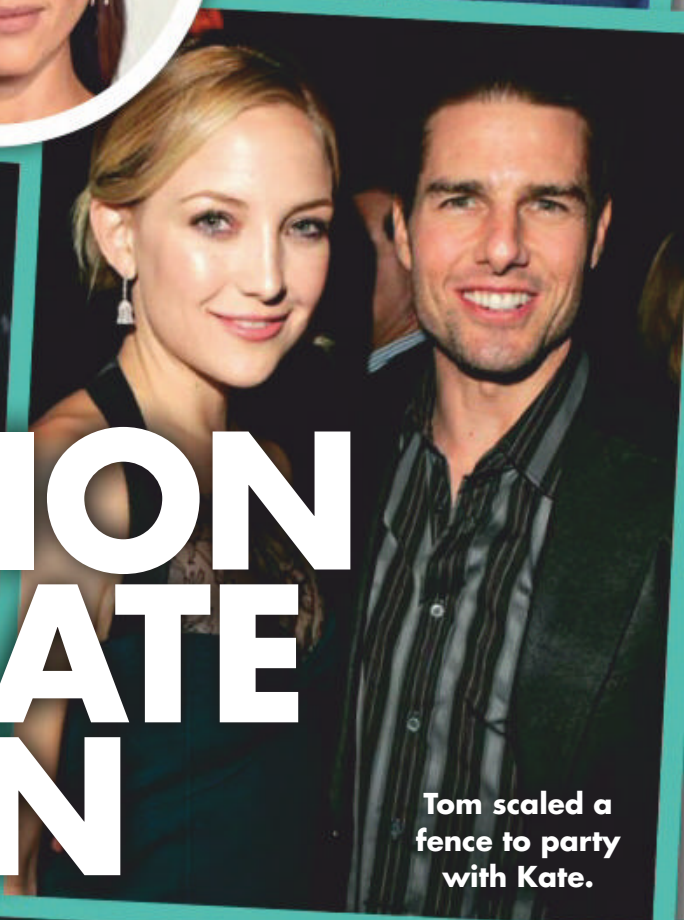
Tom Cruise has wanted to find a wife for years.



Tom married Katie Holmes in 2006 and they divorced in 2012.



TOM'S OBSESSION WITH KATE HUDSON



Tom scaled a fence to party with Kate.

Tom Cruise has always been obsessed with finding a wife, and sources say that before he met Katie Holmes, he once had his eye on Kate Hudson.

"It was an open secret in Hollywood that Tom was hunting for a high-profile girlfriend at the time Kate was throwing her wild parties," an insider tells *New Idea*.

"She was obviously someone he was crushing on heavily, but he also had the hots for a number of other fast-rising talents at various stages in the mid-2000s, including Scarlett Johansson, Jennifer Garner and Jessica Alba."

This comes after Kate revealed on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* that Tom once scaled a 2.5-metre fence to crash a party she was holding at her parents' house.

"He went out of his way to prove his worth with grand gestures," the insider says. "I guess he thought scaling the wall at Kate's would endear himself to her – and her friends, of course – like he was this hunky superhero in real life, but he'd do other outlandish things, too."

"At one point during his pursuit of Jennifer Garner he was believed to have sent her an actual Bengal tiger, which he had imported and delivered to her home – because he'd heard she had an interest in exotic animals!"

BUBLÉ'S BLOW UP

In a moment that no doubt shocked fans, Michael Bublé was seen flipping the bird when he was on stage in Perth last week. This comes after Michael took a hiatus while his son was battling cancer.

"I truly thought I'd never come back to music," he told the *Herald Sun* in July 2018. "Family is what matters. The health of my children is No.1. The relationship with my family, my wife, my faith – all of it is easily No. 1."



FAKE

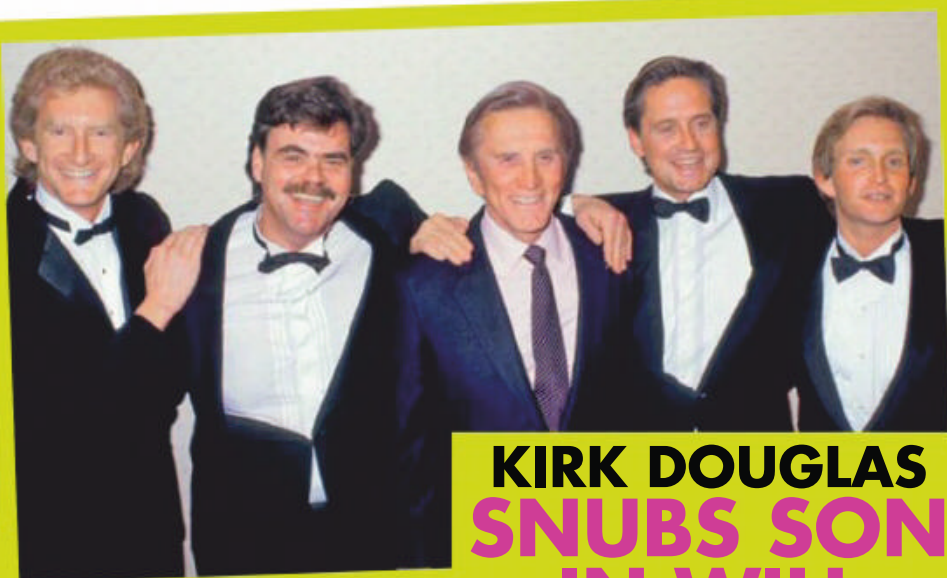


REAL

FAKE GORDON RAMSAY SHOCKS AUDIENCES

Onlookers did a double-take when they realised the man in front of them wasn't the real Gordon Ramsay. He was in fact Martin Jordan, who has made a career out of looking like the celebrity chef and wowed audiences at The Reel Awards, an event dedicated to celebrity

impersonators and lookalikes. It took place in Las Vegas last week and fake Gordon wasn't the only celeb to make an appearance. Martha Stewart, President Donald Trump, Dolly Parton and Adele lookalikes were a few of the star performers at the show.



KIRK DOUGLAS SNUBS SON IN WILL

After his passing earlier this month at age 103, it has been revealed that Kirk Douglas has left most of his \$92 million fortune to charity. The Hollywood legend left \$75 million to the Douglas Foundation, which provides financial support to a range of causes.

Some of the beneficiaries include the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Culver City's Kirk Douglas Theatre and Los Angeles' Sinai Temple.

It's reported that the veteran actor left nothing to his beloved son Michael Douglas.

Of course, Michael's own net worth is estimated at roughly \$400 million, so we doubt he was too worried.



VALE JUNE DALLY- WATKINS

Former model and department icon June Dally-Watkins died last week aged 92. According to friends and family she died peacefully in her sleep.

She was an inspiration to many. ABC chairwoman Ita Buttrose said: "Every girl in the '70s left school and went to Miss Dally's to learn department.

"As well as being a beautiful woman and a model, she was a very smart businesswoman — she just knew how to teach people the art of being elegant, the art of being civilised," she said.

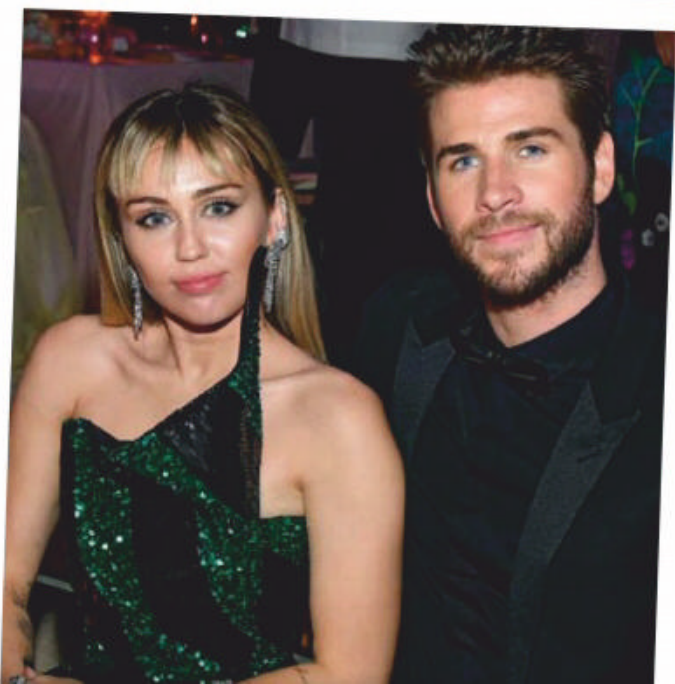


Tributes for Australia's queen of etiquette have flooded in since her death.

MILEY BACK IN OZ WILL SHE VISIT LIAM?

Following the success of the Fire Fight concert in Sydney, Melbourne will now host its own Bushfire Relief concert with Miley Cyrus headlining the show. The ticket sales will go to Australian charities working to restore forests, wildlife and communities affected by the devastating fires.

Of course, Miley has a deep connection to the country, having been previously married to Aussie actor Liam Hemsworth. The pair split in August last year and the singer has since moved on with another Aussie, Cody Simpson. But will she pay a visit to Liam while she is Down Under? Only time will tell.



Miley is set to perform at the Bushfire Relief concert, but will she stop by and visit her ex?

STARWATCH



Now and then! Celine Dion met up with the Montreal Canadiens ice hockey mascot again after many years. "Reconnecting with an old friend in Montreal," she said.



Animal attraction! Isla Fisher made friends with a pig while working on set. "Not all my fans smell amazing," she wrote.



Snow bunnies alert! Princess Mary and the family dog, Grace, enjoy the snow during their time in Switzerland.

BEST INSTAS OF THE WEEK!

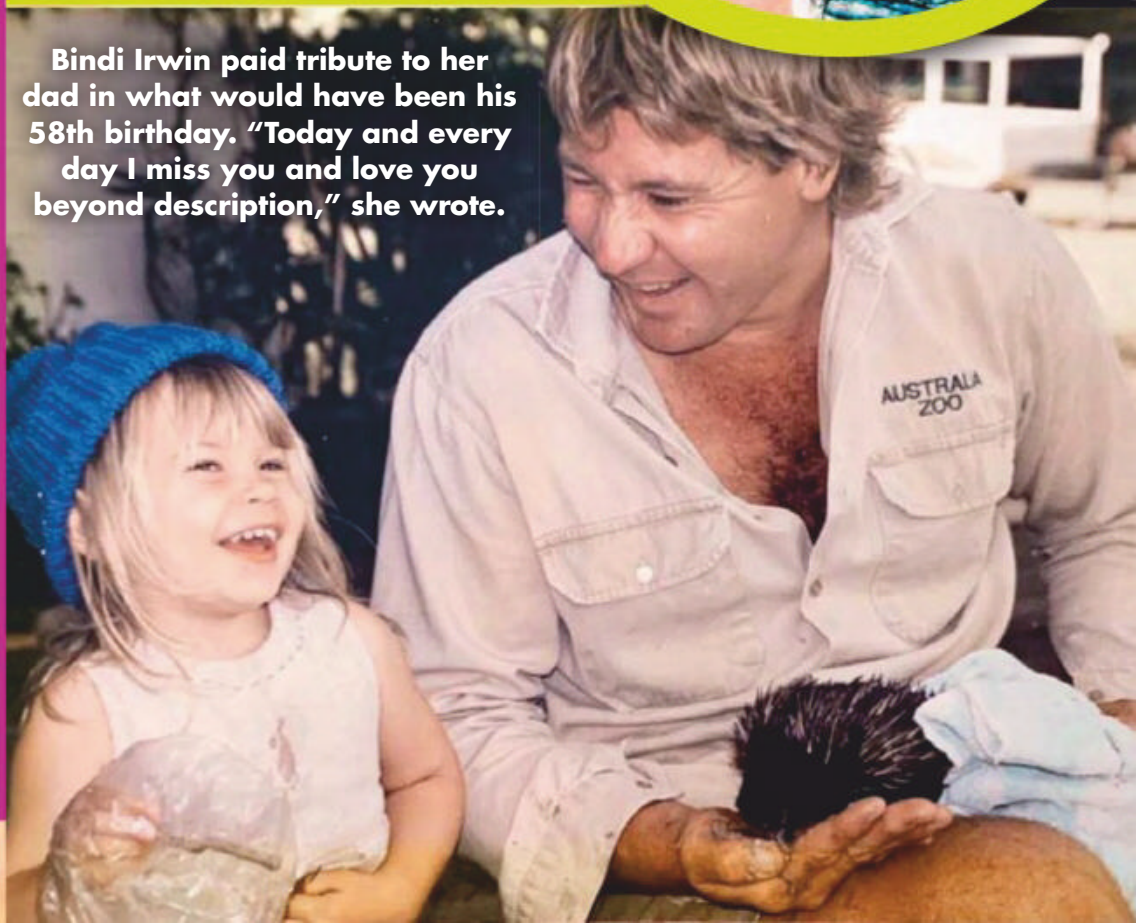


Star power! Olivia Newton-John caught up with fellow singer Elton John after his concert in Melbourne. "So wonderful to see my brilliant, long-time friend," she wrote.



Sweat it out! Chris Hemsworth shows off how he gets his hunky Thor physique.

Bindi Irwin paid tribute to her dad in what would have been his 58th birthday. "Today and every day I miss you and love you beyond description," she wrote.



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