

August 2023

# brilliant

ONLINE



➔ Epic Rides & Tours

## *The* **GO FOR LOCAL** *Issue*



**INSIDE:** Supporting local businesses is a powerful way to boost our community's economy. Explore their endeavors and discover the magic they create. We connected with Elvis Tribute Artists Paul & Anthony Fenech, the inspiring Wonder Women of City2Surf, and the talented young golfing prodigy Louise Landgraf.



**vermilion**  
PINSTRIPES

BUILDING  
BUSINESS  
CONFIDENCE

## B2B Communications

At Vermilion Pinstripes, we go beyond shaping perception and maintaining positive brand reputation. We turn your reputation into a lead generation machine. Yes, communications can deliver measurable business value if done well and in collaboration with your in-house marketing and communications teams on an integrated campaign with a full range of earned, owned, paid and shared media.

**Book 30 min discussion**

*t* / +6140 777 9828

*e* / [admin@vermilionpinstripes.com](mailto:admin@vermilionpinstripes.com)

*w* / [vermilionpinstripes.com](http://vermilionpinstripes.com)

# NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

◆ Welcome to this August's edition of Brilliant-Online where we are celebrating "Keeping it Local".

The importance of the role of the local community cannot be emphasised and praised enough, something recently brought to light more than ever before by COVID-19. Not only does the local community provide an invaluable and unique support mechanism but it helps provide opportunity while maintaining a vibrant and healthy economy that benefits all.

The local community is something that we at Brilliant-Online have always placed at the heart of all we do. It's why this month we are celebrating a number of local businesses who are the heartbeat of our local community, including TG's, Epic Rides and Tours, Smart Coast Conveyancing, the Witchy Nook and others. Keep doing what you're doing guys as you genuinely do a Brilliant job every day!

Elsewhere, we celebrate International Youth Day by profiling a selection of Australian entrepreneurs, a couple of whom are local, who are all dazzling in their respective fields. Similarly we

check in with National Science Day to take a peek at tomorrow's stars in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Maintaining a focus on youth we also catch up with young golfing sensation Louise Landgraf who recently became the youngest ever winner on a women's professional tour – and she is still at school!

There is absolutely no place for bullying of any kind in the modern world as far as we are concerned which is why we feature the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, a crucial movement that we wholeheartedly support.

We also check in with the Melbourne Film Festival, the City2Surf, wish Hip Hop a very Happy 50th Birthday and meet Trumpet the Thai cat to celebrate International Cat Day!

As always, we have a broad array of eclectic stories to entertain you this month and we are sure there will be something for everyone so please enjoy!



*Ben Tirebuck*

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

◆ Contact Chrissy ◆

**+61 412 137 621**

[chrissyjones@brilliant-online.com](mailto:chrissyjones@brilliant-online.com)

[Request Ad Package](#)

## ABOUT BRILLIANT

Brilliant-Online is more than a one dimensional read. It is an empowering read for progressive individuals and dynamic businesses pushing for a better world in the digital era. Born witty, Brilliant unveils an online magazine featuring a variety of digital interactive content that makes it similar to the magical Daily Prophet newspaper from Harry Potter.

## FOLLOW US

- 📷 @brilliantonlineinternational
- 📘 @BrilliantOnlineInternational
- 🐦 @AdBrilliant
- 📺 @Brilliant-Online

## CONTACT US

- ✉ editor@brilliant-online.com
- 🌐 brilliant-online.com
- 📍 P.O. Box 9339, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444, Australia

### HQ Australia

☎ +61 412 137 621

### Singapore

☎ +65 96 817 045

[Subscribe to Brilliant](#)

[Send Us Your Stories](#)

# BRILLIANT CONTENTS

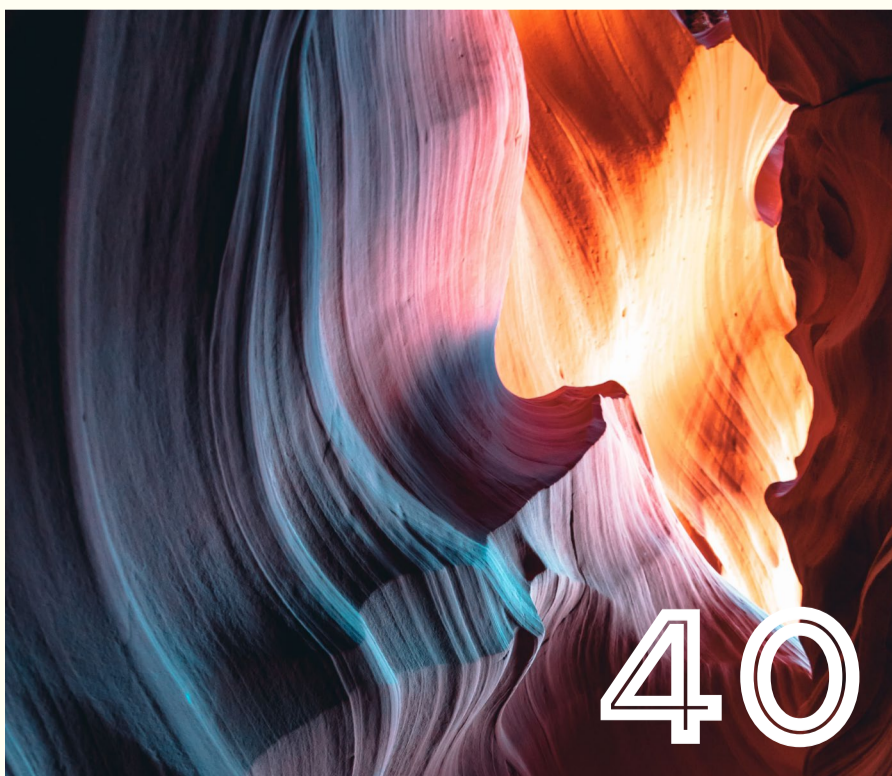


- 3 Note from our editor
- 6 Embark on Epic Rides & Tours with Dusty and Swampy



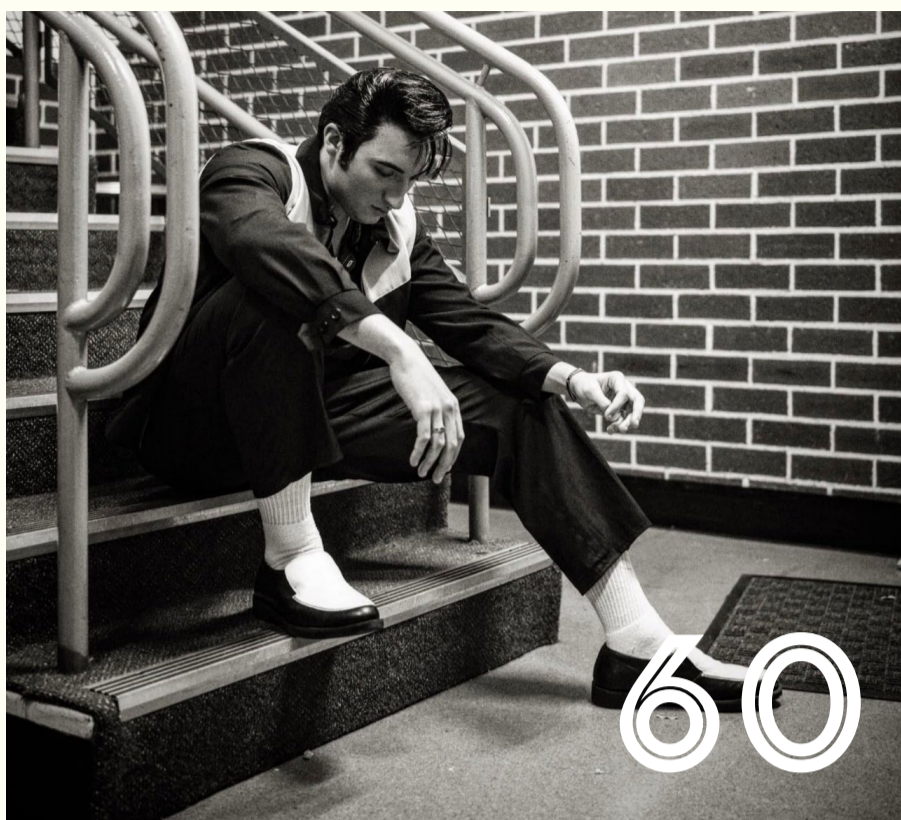
## *Brilliant* BUSINESS

- 14 Paws and Properties: Navigating Strata Law with Your Furry Friends
- 16 Embrace your magick at The Witchy Nook
- 20 Five essential developmental skills for children through the power of play with TG's Child Care
- 24 Keep Calm, and Keep Communication Going in a Crisis
- 30 Brilliant September Theme is Superheroes
- 32 The benefits of 'Keeping it Local'
- 35 Who Says Science Can't Be Fun? Celebrating National Science Week



## *Brilliant* INVESTMENT

- 42 Venture Minerals Limited (ASX: VMS) has a Potential High Grade Clay Story
- 46 Poseidon Nickel Limited shares challenges to restart Black Swan mining production
- 49 Taiton Resources Limited (ASX: T88) - Ultrafine Soil Survey on Highway Project
- 52 Richard Brescianini, Heavy Rare Earths Limited on Cowalinya project and what drives REE Economics
- 54 Maiden Mineral Resource Estimate from OD6 Metals Limited (ASX:OD6)
- 56 Brilliant Red Seagulls take flight with Samso-Brilliant Online partnership



### *Brilliant* **COMMUNITY**

- 62 It was a wild, wild night at the Biggest Elvis Show on Earth!
- 70 Wonder Women break Guinness World Record at the City2Surf
- 74 Hippy Hoppy Birthday!
- 77 Celebrating Young Entrepreneurs on International Youth Day
- 80 Celebrating Cinema at the Melbourne International Film Festival
- 82 Bullying In The Crosshairs – Raising Awareness and Taking Action
- 84 From Rachel Sheppard (Councillor, Deputy Mayor, Port Macquarie Hastings Council)



### *Brilliant* **SPORT**

- 88 Nominations open for Sunrise Hastings Sports Awards
- 92 In A Class Of Her Own, Louise Landgraf Makes Golfing History



### *Brilliant* **PETS**

- 98 The Tails of Trumpet the Thai Cat!
- 102 Soi Dog – Celebrating 20 Years Saving Asia's Dogs and Cats
- 106 Recipe for Dog Liver Bites



### *Brilliant* **TRAVEL**

- 110 The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2023®
- 112 Bedding down at Sydney Airport

# EMBARK ON EPIC RIDES & TOURS WITH DUSTY AND SWAMPY

◆ Meet the trusty bikes that are taking visitors around the Mid North Coast and Hinterland, and keep visitors returning for more!



➔ **Dusty (left) and Swampy (right) are waiting to take you on an adventure**

**W**e've already met the owners of Epic Rides & Tours, Heff and Beth Williams in our Brilliant story on Taking a Magical Mystery Tour with a Difference, and today we turn the spotlight on two of their most beloved protagonists in their business - Dusty and Swampy.

Heff and Beth have been taking visitors out and about, exploring the beauty of the Mid North Coast and what makes them stand out are the motorcycles fitted with sidecars. Affectionately christened Dusty and Swampy, these vehicles allow people to literally feel the wind in their hair

and fully experience the smells, temperatures and sights of their surroundings. It's a much more immediate and intimate way to experience a ride.

Hear it from Dusty and Swampy, and find out why they love what they do!

## Dusty - a rarity in Australia

I'm the new kid on the block, otherwise known as a Ural Gear Up with a sidecar outfit. I'm quite a rare sight in Australia as a 2 wheel drive that can trundle through dirt tracks. Nothing's stopping me here!

I can carry one or two passengers, and what visitors love about me is I've got a large luggage rack with an integral 70 litre boot. You can easily pack everything you need in me.

[Book Me for a Ride](#)

## Dusty's Curiosity Bits

What some people may not know is that I come equipped with a handy digging tool. Some bits of our local tracks can get a bit soft, so you're going to want to have a digging tool to make sure you never get stuck!

Oh, and did you know when Heff and Beth ordered me, I was held up by global logistics in Russia! Thankfully everything got sorted out in the end, but I have to say I was very anxious to be on my way to Heff and Beth and start on my Epic Rides & Tours!

### **Dusty's Favourite Stops**

I love taking people outdoors, whether if it's for a 30-min ride or a 5-hour one to fully soak up the sights. One of my favourite stops is at Beechwood Cafe and Bar. They serve high quality food and the chefs are so generous with servings After a long ride, we do get famished! Visitors have a great time chatting with Wayne and Nicole and the staff there. Be sure to try out their Chicken Snitty or Salt and Pepper Squid!

When visitors need a rest, I take them to Timbertown Motel located on the B56 Oxley Highway. It's just 7 minutes' walk from Timbertown and 3km from the Wauchope train station. It's a lovely little motel, clean and simple with everything you need for a good night's rest before you va-va-vroom your way to your next destination.

### **Swampy - the best camping companion**

I've been travelling for quite a bit now with Heff and Beth, and have met so many amazing people who came for a ride to experience the Mid North Coast.

I'm a Ural Tourist vehicle that is fun to ride, and like Dusty, I can carry one or two passengers. I got really busy when Dusty was held up, and Heff and Beth enjoyed travelling

with me so much they decided to keep me even when Dusty finally arrived. I'm glad they did! I think I'm really quite special... anyway, Heff and Beth always say I am "different"!

### **Swampy's Curiosity Bits**

I'm fitted with a 110 Amp hour battery, which makes it useful for running lights, camping fridges etc. So for visitors who enjoy and want to do a bit of camping, I'm their go-to motorcycle! I've often taken visitors to some of the most amazing scenic views, and we always park and stop there to soak up the beautiful sights. This is one of my favourite moments, because visitors can stop to brew up some tea or coffee on the gas stove, and when you're in front of a view so magnificent, it somehow inspires some of the most interesting and memorable conversations there.



## Swampy's Favourite Stops

I like taking visitors to A Classy Cafe & Espresso Bar where they can get quality homemade food that everyone enjoys. You have to try at least one of their homemade fresh bakes, they're to die for, and their homestyle cooking is going to make you want to make a second trip back. We were so proud to hear they won a lovely Excellence in Accommodation and Hospitality award recently at the 2023 Wauchope & Hinterland Business Awards!

When I find enchanting places, I simply want to share it with everyone. If you haven't been to Larrikins Lock-up, you need to

jump in my passenger seat and take a ride there. It's a unique garden and old gaol, with beautiful trees and an expansive lawn. It's surrounded by the Thone River which gives the place its unique charm. Visitors can bring a picnic (you can pack something from A Classy Cafe!) and stroll around the grounds, or do a bit of shopping in their gift shop.

## We love where we drive

As you can tell from Dusty and Swampy, they clearly love where they drive! For Beth and Heff, setting up Epic Rides & Tours allowed them to experience the warmth and support of local businesses.



"The shop owners in Wauchope are wonderful people, they know how to treat their customers and they will go out of their way to help find or sort things that you need. Local businesses are run by your neighbours, so there is incentive to do the right thing, and do it well." - Beth Williams





Beth recalls when they started their business, they were very clear they wanted to source locally, so they set out on an adventure to get PPE things like helmets, bike clothing and gloves. Wauchope Rural Centre was especially helpful when Beth needed some boots, and they bent over backwards to get the right item for her.

## “We ride at dawn!”

Dusty and Swampy are always ready to go on an epic ride and tour around the Mid North Coast. Some good news to update here as well - Heff is recovering well from a surgery! It was quite a setback, as his recovery estimate was anything

from 6 to 18 months, and when you're recovering, it can feel like it's taking forever. As a passionate bike lover, it was difficult for Heff not to be able to ride for so long. Those who know Heff well though, are not surprised by his determination to get back on his bike. He is working hard at his physiotherapy, and as they say, necessity is the mother of invention, so Heff modified Swampy with a gear stick and he has also managed to ride Dusty for a short distance!

Heff's love for motorcycle is what seeded the idea of Epic Rides & Tours. He wanted to earn a living riding his bike, and it was Beth who simply questioned him, "Why don't you do it then?"

And so, Epic Rides & Tours was born. That was in October 2021 and Beth and Heff are still riding strong in spite of the challenges that they and everyone in their communities have experienced. They have both literally ridden through floods and a pandemic, and faced other personal difficulties in their lives. One ride at a time, they simply keep moving forward and onward.

## Small businesses with big hearts

One thing that makes small businesses in Australian communities stand out is how big a heart they have.



Beth and Heff were inspired to reach out to NDIS and Aged Care organisations to offer taking special needs people for a ride of a lifetime.

NDIS allows funding for recreational activities like bike riding, so they have the opportunity to book rides with Beth and Heff. The beauty of our lands is for everyone to enjoy, and being able to make this accessible to those who would otherwise miss out, is a privilege.

Epic Rides & Tours have organised NDIS rides which turned out to be a happy success. A support worker reached out to them late 2022, and that one ride has now turned into a monthly one! What clients appreciate about Epic Rides & Tours is how they can be flexible and adapt. Sometimes they stop for coffee, or they may want to stop for lunch. The simple fact of

being able to be outdoors, feel the wind in your face and have random conversations with locals is in itself a wonderful therapy anyone can benefit from.

Another support worker Kim and her client Pamela were visiting from Tamworth, and by the time they finished the ride, they simply couldn't hide the joy they felt. It was clear they had tons of fun, and Kim left a wonderful voicemail for Beth and Heff, sounding like a little kid in a lolly shop! It's things like that that literally drive Beth and Heff to keep doing what they do. Imagine having a business where you bring joy to everyone!

Beth shares another funny story they had with a client:

"We also did a surprise 50th and 30th for two wonderful ladies which was organised by their mums. Tracy has Cerebral Palsy.

She is able to get around town on an E-bike and is always up for an adventure. Lauren has learning difficulties and suffers from anxiety, so she was very apprehensive about it and her Mum called to explain. I suggested that they both come to our home and we would go through everything with Lauren, so she knew where they were going and what they would be doing. We even got Lauren to go for a short ride around the block with her Mum as a pillion passenger. I said to Lauren that we were happy for her Mum to tag along, and by the time they got back, Lauren was very adamant that she didn't want her Mum to tag along after the test run! We all had a laugh about it as Mum was relieved she didn't have to do it as a pillion passenger!"



Anyone can take a bike tour. NDIS supports this!



"When it comes to booking a ride for someone on NDIS, or someone with special needs, we like to have a chat before booking it in. We like to make sure we understand their needs, and if it comes down to it, we are more than happy to meet up with a client and show them the bike and see if they are able to get in and out of the sidecar." - Beth Williams



To learn more about rides for people with special needs, check out their FAQ or contact Beth and Heff, who will be more than happy to assist. For Epic Rides & Tours, safety is always a priority and everyone's needs are taken into consideration to ensure an enjoyable ride.

## A Ride of a Lifetime

Visitors who have gone on a ride with Dusty or Swampy agree that this was a ride of a lifetime, and a great experience they'll never forget. It certainly makes for a wonderful gift, when you

run out of ideas for what to give to friends and family. Gifting an experience makes for a unique gift, and whether it's for birthdays or celebrations or for no specific reason, jumping in the passenger seat with Dusty and Swampy will give you lots of stories and memories to recount over the years.

With Father's Day coming up on September 3, why not surprise Dad with a ride to soak up the sights, sounds and smells of the beautiful Mid North Coast? Call Beth and Heff at 0475 908 054 or book directly on their website!

[Book an Epic Ride & Tour here](#)





DISCOVER  
THE MID NORTH COAST  
& HINTERLAND

BOOK NOW

[epicridesandtours.com.au](http://epicridesandtours.com.au)  
 0475908054



➡ Let's Get Witchy

PHOTO: MIKHAIL NILOV



*Brilliant*

**BUSINESSES**



# PAWS AND PROPERTIES: NAVIGATING STRATA LAW WITH YOUR FURRY FRIENDS

◆ To all of my two-legged and four-legged readers out there! If you're a proud pet parent and also in the market for a new strata property, or if you're already living the high-rise life and considering bringing home a fur baby, this article is purr-fectly tailored for you.



**My name is Jessica Gray and I am a licenced conveyancer and owner of Smart Coast Conveyancing which operates NSW wide. I am the only 24/7 service in NSW and 100% digital.**

**S**o anytime you need me, I am here to make your property journey stress free and even enjoyable. We offer a free advice service and have someone 7 days a week to take your call.

## Understanding Strata Laws

Strata properties, with their shared facilities and close-knit community, often come with a unique set of rules. Think of these as the community's very own 'house rules'. Among these are regulations about our beloved pets. Most owners corporations will require you to write to the strata manager if you have a pet or want to get one. Check the scheme's by-laws to see what the process is and what information is needed for approval.

## The Good News and the "Tail-Twisting" News

First, let's get some good vibes going! There's been a growing trend towards being pet-friendly, probably because the decision makers have heart-melting moments every time they see a Labrador puppy (who wouldn't?).

But, here comes the tail-twisting part - some strata schemes have restrictions. These might range from the types of pets allowed to their sizes, and even behaviour but an owners corporation cannot stop you from owning a pet unless the pet causes 'unreasonable interference' - for example, it is a dangerous or restricted dog or makes constant noise and repeatedly causes damage.

Your pet or pets must not disturb other residents in your scheme. Owners corporations can create their own rules for pets. However, by-laws banning all pets are not valid and banning animals based on size, type, or quantity, will not be valid in most circumstances.

### Why All The Rules?

The primary reason for these regulations isn't because the management has a vendetta against Mr. Whiskers. It's more about ensuring the peace and quiet of all residents. Pets, much as we adore them, can sometimes cause disturbances.

If you have concerns about another resident's pet, try speaking to the pet owner first. They might not know about the problem, for example if a dog is barking non-stop when they are at work. When talking to the pet owner, remember that pets are often seen as 'part of the family'. Be friendly and pick a good time for both you and the pet owner.

Some schemes have an internal dispute process that you could use. Ask your strata committee or strata manager if there is one.



### A Helping Paw

Still feeling a little ruff around the edges with all these rules and regulations? You're not alone, and that's why we're here. Reach out to us, and we'll help guide you and your furry (or scaly or feathery) companion through the maze of strata property laws. After all, home isn't just where the heart is; it's where your pet eagerly waits for you!



**Smart Coast Conveyancing**

Get started



**Get in touch**  
**(02) 6519 4933**  
[info@smartcoast.com.au](mailto:info@smartcoast.com.au)

**Find us**  
 Suite 1B, 1-5 Manning Street  
 Tuncurry NSW 2428  
 (02) 6519 4933

**Postal address:**  
 PO Box 3  
 Tuncurry NSW 2428

[smartcoast.com.au](http://smartcoast.com.au)



# EMBRACE YOUR MAGICK AT THE WITCHY NOOK

◆ Magic is in every nook and cranny! Come and be bewitched!



What's brewing at The Witchy Nook?

➔ Check out herbs, spells, smudging, cleansing, candles, crystals, and more at the Witchy Nook at Colonial Arcade



"Double, double toil  
and trouble;  
Fire burn and cauldron  
bubble."

**W**ho doesn't love a sprinkle of magic and mystique? Perhaps not quite in the form of Macbeth's witches, but we can easily find in our midst fans of Harry Potter, Narnia or The Lord of the Rings. Magic does not abound only between the pages of a book. Magic, enchantments and spells are still very much alive in our modern world. Don't believe us? Just hop over to The Witchy Nook!

## What is the Witchy Nook?

It's an online metaphysical emporium based in Port Macquarie, NSW. In fact, even as we're writing this, they have just moved into a cosy little nest at Shop 5-6 Colonial Arcade, Port Macquarie. Here you can find the owner, Bianca Moore with her beautiful range of high-quality crystals, metaphysical supplies, herbs, spell kits and spell jars, crystal tumblers, cauldrons, smudging supplies and incense.





## ➔ Tapping into ancient wisdom in these modern times we live in

### Magic and Modern Life

You may be wondering, what can these things do and why would we be needing them in this 21st century and modern life?

One could say it is in these modern times we live in that we need even more to tap into ancient wisdom. Modern life is often stressful, there is a sense of disconnect and many struggle to find their purpose in life. This is where we need to remember that we are all humans - living, breathing creatures who are one with Nature. In a brick and concrete environment like most cities, we have forgotten the embrace of Mother Nature.

Bianca believes everyone has the ability to connect with the Earth, and to harness our own natural magic and innate wisdom. That is how The Witchy Nook was born, to provide a place to supply humans with the tools they need to reconnect with themselves, with Nature, with something more expansive than their immediate surroundings of work, traffic, taxes and chores.

Bianca can take you into her enigmatic world of crystals, herbs and spells and help you to wield your own brilliant magic and unlock your hidden potential. These have been used in ancient times for different purposes, from cleansing

negative energy in a space, to lifting one's spirits or for protection as one embarks on an arduous task.

### Magic is natural to us

Many of us know the feeling of heaviness or stagnation in one's living space, or that uncomfortable tension in the air at work. Even without realising it, we have a natural 'witchy' side to us. Many people have a little 'amulet' they carry around with them for good luck, whether they are superstitious or not. Sometimes it's a little stone your child found in the garden and gifted it to you when they know you are feeling down. Others have their favourite jewellery that is in some way symbolic and makes them feel more powerful so they wear it when they have an important interview.

Whatever your needs are, whatever changes you are seeking in your life, Bianca at The Witchy Nook will introduce you to a vast array of all things magical that awaits your discovery. Be enchanted as she unveils the secrets of mysterious spell jars, enigmatic kits, cryptic herbs and botanicals or calming incense that can help you make that shift in your life.

### Respecting Nature



"I supply hand picked and ethnically sourced Crystals and Metaphysical items while also creating a place where people can go to grow their knowledge." - Bianca Moore, The Witchy Nook

For Bianca, it is important that The Witchy Nook is a place that respects Nature and she works hard to source for the best Australian products, with the highest-quality ingredients in their handmade items. Being sustainable, eco-friendly and supportive of local businesses is what good witches do! Even with their packaging, Bianca is careful to keep it eco-friendly and to reuse whenever possible.

## A Witchy Nook ritual

Here are some examples of small rituals you can easily do at home. These ones can help you set your intentions for the month ahead. Remember to follow Bianca on Facebook and Instagram for tips on how to tap into your inner magic!

## Rituals to Set Intentions for the Month Ahead

- Blow cinnamon powder through your front door to bring prosperity and abundance for the month ahead. (If you don't have powder, throwing a stick of cinnamon across the doorway will work as well)
  - Smudge your house or space. This will get rid of anything negative that may have attached itself and allow you to go into the month ahead cleansed and with balanced energy.
  - Cleanse your crystals. This can be done using moonlight, smudging, or placing them
- Place citrine in the back left hand corner of your house or space. This will attract wealth and abundance to you for the month ahead.
  - Meditate and set your intentions. This can be as simple as going outside barefoot, connect to the earth and ground yourself, ask for what you want this month to bring you and start it off with strong intentions.

with some selenite for the day. Get your crystals ready to tackle the month ahead.

**Unlock the Magic of  
Crystals here**





"Always go with what feels right for you. This journey is yours to make your own!"  
- Bianca Moore

Intrigued? Perhaps your Inner Witch is already bubbling with excitement to find out more about The Witchy Nook. Take a deep breath, feel your feet grounding into the earth, call out your Inner Magical Self and visit The Witchy Nook at their new shop, or visit them online.

Let your magic shine!



➔ Bianca Moore: Respect nature and let your magic shine at The Witchy Nook



*The Witchy Nook*  
Metaphysical & Crystal Emporium

## THE WITCHY NOOK EMBRACE YOUR MAGICK

LET'S GET WITCHY



✉ THEWITCHYNOOK@GMAIL.COM
🌐 THEWITCHYNOOK.COM
🏠 SHOP 5-6 COLONIAL ARCADE, PORT MACQUAIRE NSW 244

# FIVE ESSENTIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS FOR CHILDREN THROUGH THE POWER OF PLAY WITH TG'S CHILD CARE

◆ TG's Child Care supports the essential skills children need to grow to reach their potential, and it's all done with fun, joy and laughter!



Families always warmly welcome TG's Child Care into their communities. We know it takes a village to raise a child, and in our modern parenting lifestyles, TG's has totally stepped up to take on this role to support families. TG's is a home away from home, and it is the extended family both children and Educators love going to every day.

TG's Child Care understands the essential developmental milestones necessary for children

to experience. There are five key areas of development TG's focuses on which are also blended with the five learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework. These are:

- gross motor skills
- fine motor skills
- speech and language
- cognitive and intellectual skills
- social and emotional skills

## 1. Gross Motor Skills

Children are natural explorers and their curious minds are always hungry to discover what's in each nook and cranny. Whether it's crawling, squelching in the mud, balancing on tree stumps or running on the sand, their little bodies are getting stronger and more agile even as they learn about the environment around them.

That is why TG's nature-based award-winning gardens are an important element of play. This is where the children can explore and develop in a way that challenges and supports both fine and gross motor skills. It also builds curiosity, social and emotional intelligence, encourages active and passive play and there is something to suit each child's unique interests and needs.

At TG's Urangan, the children go on beach and bush kindys or go on excursions to the beautiful Hervey Bay Botanical Gardens where there is ample space in nature for them to help strengthen their muscles, improve coordination, and enhance their balance and spatial awareness. Under the Educators' care, the children are free to be little explorers and release their energy in a safe environment.

## 2. Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills involve the development of precise hand and finger movements. These skills are crucial for tasks such as writing, drawing, buttoning shirts, and tying shoelaces. When children engage in activities like painting, colouring, puzzles, and building blocks, they enhance their hand-eye coordination, dexterity, and finger strength.

TG's Educators are always there to encourage and celebrate as the children go through their individual creative processes. Problem-solving skills, learning to handle frustration and disappointments are also very much found in creative processes. TG's Educators play an important role here as they provide the warm, loving, nurturing element for the children to feel safe to try and experiment.

## 3. Speech and Language

At TG's, everyone's voice is valued and heard. This is where children learn their voice matters. Listening is key in creating a respectful, kind and loving environment at TG's.

Speech and language development encompasses not only verbal expression but also listening, comprehension, and vocabulary expansion. Imaginative play, storytelling, and rhyme time sessions can stimulate their creativity and make language learning fun, paving the way for strong communication skills. You can be a pirate on an old boat in TG's gardens one day, and the next you can be a doctor looking after all the baby dolls in the room!



## 4. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

Cognitive and intellectual development involves problem-solving, critical thinking, memory, and logical reasoning.

At TG's, Educators stimulate the children's curiosity with age-appropriate puzzles, games, and activities that challenge their minds. The children are encouraged to explore nature, engage in experiments, and develop a love for reading. By nurturing a life-long love for learning, a healthy dose of curiosity and giving them the safe space to ask questions, TG's is nurturing future innovators and lifelong learners.

## 5. Social and Emotional Skills

At TG's, Building Relationships is one of the three TG's Foundation Stones in the TG's Way. TG's provides a safe, loving, kind and nurturing space for children to build healthy relationships with one another, with the Educators and with their communities.

From making friends to navigating emotions, social and emotional skills are essential for building healthy relationships and emotional well-being. TG's children are encouraged to interact with one another, participate in group activities, and develop empathy and kindness. Educators help the children to settle in, and to ease anxiety when they transition to a new room each year. Healthy Harold the Giraffe even came by to share some useful tools with the children to help them understand and manage their feelings and learn to use mindfulness tools.

As the stewardship of the children's future, TG's plays a crucial role in supporting the children's development. By



focusing on these five key areas - gross motor skills, fine motor skills, speech and language, cognitive and intellectual skills, and social and emotional skills - TG's is providing a solid foundation for their growth.

Every step, every milestone of each child is celebrated at TG's. Would you like to be a part of the TG's

Family where you can experience how the power of play makes a child's eyes simply light up?

Join the amazing team of TG's Educators! Apply here:

**Join the award-winning TG's Family!**

# TG's Child Care is Hiring

TG's Educators Play at Work  
[tgschildcare.com.au/careers](http://tgschildcare.com.au/careers)

- Our Educators are Play Experts who play at work to make a positive and significant difference in each child's life.
- We are currently seeking fun-loving qualified Early Childhood Educators, with an Early Childhood Teaching degree, or Diploma or Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education and Care.

**FIND OUT MORE AND JOIN TG'S FAMILY**

[www.tgschildcare.com.au/career-opportunities](http://www.tgschildcare.com.au/career-opportunities)

📍 NSW: Armidale, Uralla, Hastings St Wauchope, High St Wauchope, Riverbreeze Wauchope  
QLD: Urangan

🌐 [www.tgschildcare.com.au](http://www.tgschildcare.com.au)



# KEEP CALM, AND KEEP COMMUNICATION GOING IN A CRISIS

◆ Joh-Ju Koh, Communications Strategist of Vermilion Pinstripes explains what businesses can do to prepare in case of a crisis.



## ➔ Businesses can close due to bad reviews

**C**an you imagine closing your restaurant business because of a social media storm that started over rice and a one-star review?

That was what happened recently in Taiwan. A group of university students went to a stir-fry restaurant for dinner. While waiting

for their dishes to be served, they ate two pots of free rice and asked for more. When the rice was not given, they gave the restaurant one-star reviews and complained about the service. This incident triggered a massive backlash on social media. This ended with the closing of the restaurant.

You may pooh-pooh this and say people exaggerate, but in real life, crises can come in any shape and form, and businesses need to be prepared. 'Just in case' is no longer something your grandma would say when she packs an extra cardigan for you.





We spoke to Joh-Ju Koh, Communications Strategist of Vermilion Pinstripes about Crisis Communications, otherwise known as your raft in a storm. It's about exploring what your business will need to navigate the storm, the tools or equipment you will need for emergency operations, and the protocols for a smooth two-way communication, and many more.

## What is Crisis Communications?

Crisis communications is really the ongoing the conversations that businesses need to have with their stakeholders and members of the public during very very distressing times. These times could be for example, tragedies, emergency situations that have gone terribly wrong or even be difficult times like a pandemic.

I cannot emphasise enough, that being prepared for a crisis is important, especially in today's world.

Have you heard of the term "cancel culture"? People and businesses get "cancelled" for acts or words that are deemed offensive. For instance, a video situation goes viral and people who are offended go online to call for boycott of your

business or products. As a result, your business is severely impacted.

## Where do you find a Crisis Communications department?

In large companies, Crisis Communications would be handled by the Public Relations or Corporate Communications department. Generally, small and midsize businesses do not have a Corporate Communications or Public Relations department.

For businesses which do not have a Corporate Comms or PR department, they will need to retain a PR agency when a crisis hits.

**Set up a meeting with Joh Ju**





## Who are involved in a Crisis Communications situation?

Appointing a Crisis Communication leader and assembling a team to work through a situation would take a bit of time. In a crisis situation, the types of resources you need in a Crisis Communication team could include:

- the business leader
- a lead spokesperson
- legal counsel
- operations head
- customer service leader
- HR leader

- information technology leader
- PR and social media leaders

\*Depending on the situation, it may also require external consultants such as industry specialists or crisis communication experts.

It really helps to think ahead and be prepared for any crisis. Businesses should assemble a Crisis Communications team and have a plan ready before a crisis breaks.

Global banks and airlines, for instance, not only have Crisis Communication plans but also conduct simulation exercises to put their staff through the paces in preparation for certain crises.

## What prompted you to introduce Crisis Communications to businesses?

The Taiwan restaurant rice incident mentioned earlier really caught my attention. It was a popular local restaurant, but it was besieged by a spate of 1-star reviews in just one night. Anyone could start spamming a 1-star review over anything. Negative reviews can really hurt a business and even cause its demise. And that's a terrible ripple effect on the community and industry.

I want to help by getting business leaders to think ahead, think of the potential crises that can hit them, and make plans to manage these.

It's always important to keep the lines of conversations going as these can help influence perceptions and shape the outcomes for your business or product.

## Is this for all kinds of businesses?

Crisis Communications can benefit any business. It's wise to get ahead on potential crisis and make a plan.

Recently there was a case in Singapore impacting a bubble tea shop. There was a QR code put up by scammers outside the shop. A lady had scanned that QR code thinking that it was a promotional offer by the bubble tea shop. Unfortunately it was not. It was actually malware that would be downloaded through the QR code and she lost thousands of dollars. So you see, no business is immune.

## How can businesses be prepared for a crisis?

We need to be clear about something here - I'm advocating that all businesses be prepared for Crisis Communications, not just Crisis Management.

E.g. If an airline cancels a number of flights, their passengers are stranded at various airports and the airline will need to work through to rebook all the passengers on other flights, arrange for vouchers, locate their luggage and make sure that these are reunited with the passengers.

## That's the management of the crisis.

But because all businesses are dealing with people, they need to keep the conversations flowing both ways.

How do you do that in a crisis when the situation is so fluid and there's so little time to react? This is why in dynamic times like these, having a set of processes and workflow to keep conversations flowing while monitoring for changes and feedback, can be incredible helpful.



A good Crisis Communication is anchored on 2 critical elements: Emotions and Logic.

CIZA  
CONCEPT

vermilion  
PINSTRIPES

BUILDING  
BUSINESS  
CONFIDENCE



**DOWNLOAD**

**Business Communication Guide**  
build your crisis comm plan in 10 steps

People in a crisis will have a lot of emotions that they want to express. Many things said may be hurtful or derogatory, but we need to use logic to gather these as feedback and work through them during the crisis.

One of the first things that we do when a client suffers a crisis is to do a communication audit. We trawl through social media platforms and newspapers to learn what had been said, analyse the comments for tonality, and study the context in which they were made. These help to give an indication of the public's sentiments on the topic, about our client and the complainant.

If a business only has lawyers involved in stakeholder communications, the situation is likely to escalate.

A good communication strategy is to focus on de-escalation by being caring and empathetic towards the affected parties. At the same time, be clear and forthright with the facts of the situation with all the stakeholders.

In Crisis Management - Keep Calm, and find ways to cut through the clutter to get things done fast.

In Crisis Communications - Keep Calm, and be empathetic, kind, and speak simply.

## Have the types of crises changed over the years?

I wouldn't say that the types of violence have changed. Because whether it's crises involving technology, violence, acts of deception etc. they are classed in two main categories: Accidental or Premeditated.

But the spread of emotions in the crisis has definitely grown.

Are there any crises businesses need to be more vigilant about?

Every business needs to examine its own business operations and identify the potential risks and crises that could bring them down.

## Is there an increasing need for Crisis

## Communications because modern lives have made things more complicated or people more unmanageable?

A Crisis Communications plan takes time to build and test out through simulation exercises. So, it's best to do during "peace" time because you won't have the time nor energy to do that during the crisis!

I want to point out that it's not that people have become unmanageable. Rather, there are so many new platforms and tools available for everyone to create and share information. As a result, a seemingly innocuous matter could snowball out of hand, with an eruption of emotions to add fuel to the fire.

Anyone can pick just a part of a larger story and focus on it, distorting the event.

For instance, in the Taiwan restaurant incident, there were heated debates on social media over the definition of "free" rice. Is



it an all-you-can-eat buffet sort of free, or is it free only "while stocks last"?

The rice debates stretched for days and led to divided opinions about the restaurant, the owner, and the diners who complained.

Sadly, the online vitriol got to the restaurant owner. He decided to suspend operations indefinitely.

## Is this something you'd recommend businesses to implement now to become more sustainable?

Yes, I totally recommend it. In fact, I've written an article and created a free presentation containing 10 Steps as a guide for businesses who want to build their own crisis communication plan.

Check my article 10 Steps To An Effective Crisis Communication Plan. In this article, you will learn about the types of crises that can impact businesses, consequences

of not having a Crisis Comm Plan, and tips on how to get started on creating your own Crisis Comm Plan. There's also a free Business Communications Guide titled 10 Steps To Building A Crisis Comm Plan for download here:

### 10 Steps To An Effective Crisis Communication Plan

Vermilion Pinstripes is all about helping businesses thrive with confidence. Having the ability to plan ahead and engage with stakeholders in a crisis will add bounce to their strides.

When a business does not have a crisis communication plan, it will need to retain a PR agency immediately when the crisis hits. In such instances, businesses have very little to think, evaluate or consider alternative recommendations. This is not ideal as the current recommendations may only be good for the short term.

Ideally, a crisis communication plan should be developed by the business, not by an external party such as a PR agency. Which is why I'm advocating for businesses to start now before a crisis turns up.

## Who should businesses contact if they need help with Crisis Communications?

I'm happy to do a free 30-min discussion with businesses who have unique issues or challenges in building their own crisis communication plan.

### Contact Joh-Ju Koh for a free 30-min discussion

It could be a good idea to start now, for peace of mind. Remember, before all else fails, set up your Crisis Communications!



# BRILLIANT SEPTEMBER THEME IS SUPERHEROES

◆ At Brilliant, we find Superheroes every day.

**N**ational Superhero Week is from 4th to 10th September to raise awareness of muscular dystrophy and also raise money for research into a cure for muscular dystrophy and support for those with the condition.

Muscular dystrophy refers to a group of inherited genetic muscle conditions. Muscular dystrophy causes progressive muscle weakness, meaning it gets worse over time. It can become life-threatening, and there currently isn't a cure for it.

But this is beyond muscular dystrophy awareness. At Brilliant, we find Superheroes every day.

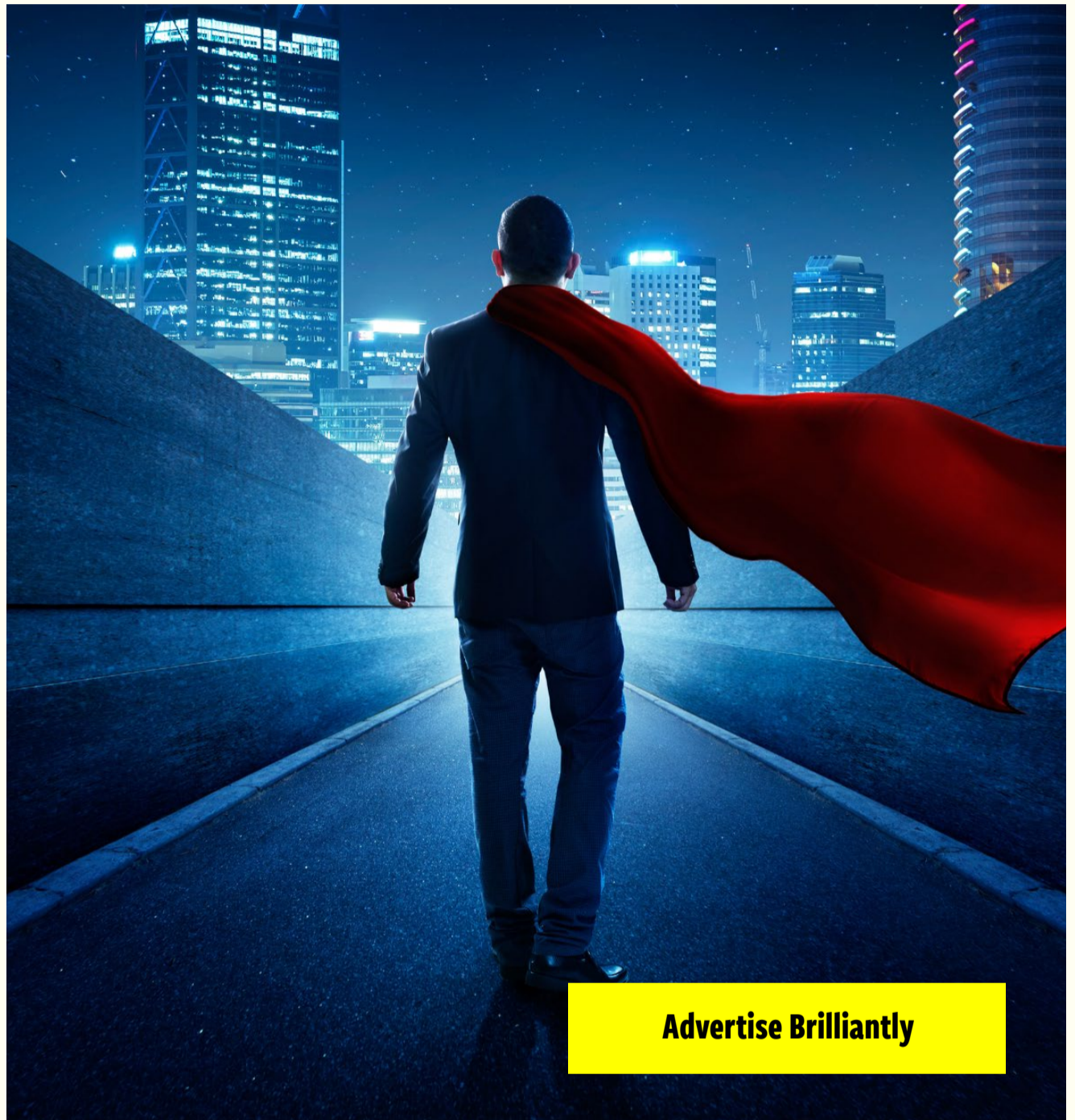
We have the amazing TG's Child Care Educators being stewards of children's future or Jade and Cherie doing a City2Surf run in Sydney dressed as Wonder Women to raise funds for charities in need and to set the world record for the largest group of people dressed as Wonder Woman in one gathering.

If you think your business is a superhero, supporting the community or bringing value because of your products and services, then advertise on Brilliant Interactive Magazine.

## Do something fun

Imagine you as a superhero in your city. Print this image and give your Superhero some space to fly.

**Download September Superheroes**



**Advertise Brilliantly**

➔ September is about supporting businesses making a brilliant breakthrough to becoming their best

## It's Spring in Australia!

Spring is coming, so what would your business be focusing on?

### Spring Clean

a. If you have old inventory, near expired stocks, non-profitable

items, you might want to sort them out and do a Spring Sale.

b. Clean up your online presence. Fix broken links, optimise and improve SEO on your digital channels. Need help?

**Set up a 30-minute marketing session with our expert**

## Spring is Renewal

- a. Focus on a new look for your website, a new feature, perhaps a new product offering to go along with the spirit of renewal.
- b. Time to talk about your business. Sometimes it is difficult to talk about ourselves, so this is where Brilliant can help. Advertising with Brilliant means we help you deliver the right business message in a story that will attract and engage 70,000 readers. Contact Chrissy Jones for help.
- c. Spring is a time to rejuvenate. Those in health and beauty can provide tips for a brilliant, beautiful lifestyle.

## Spring Travels

- a. Spring is a great time to travel. If you are in hospitality or travel, tell us if you have an event during Spring or where we can go or how to travel smart.

[Check out all themes](#)

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

◆ **Contact Chrissy** ◆

**+61 412 137 621**

[chrissyjones@brilliant-online.com](mailto:chrissyjones@brilliant-online.com)

[Request Ad Package](#)



# THE BENEFITS OF ‘KEEPING IT LOCAL’

◆ Although the very mention of COVID-19 again might send many into a cold, sweaty panic, there’s no denying that a major positive to be realised through the pandemic was the importance of local community.



## ➔ Lasiandra Festival is one community organisation that supports local businesses in Wauchope

**C**ast your mind back to those dark days of lockdowns and curfews and the role that local communities played from a support perspective was profound; if anything, the global pandemic helped unite so many in all four corners of the earth and emphasised exactly how vital a vibrant local community is.

“It is therefore why we at Brilliant Online actively promote the merits of “keeping it local”. In this age of big business, behemoth shopping malls, global restaurant

chains and a booming e-commerce industry, it is crucial that we ensure our local businesses continue to thrive in order to stay alive.”

The benefits of keeping it local are extensive and, frankly, self-explanatory, from an economic and a social perspective. Deciding to buy goods and produce from local businesses, and to opt for local trades and services, ensures that the local economy prospers, which in turn creates a vibrant community. When a consumer spends locally it ensures that a larger percentage of the money

remains in the local community as opposed to topping up the coffers of the already ridiculously rich large corporate chains.

This, of course, has a positive knock-on effect that allows local businesses to continue to not only survive but to grow. It also ensures that people remain in jobs, another big plus to the overall health of the local community. Also, with money circulating locally, there will often be other initiatives that are created that have a bigger positive impact, such as local





## ➔ A Classy Cafe attracts locals and tourists

community fairs or charitable events. Think of it as investing in your local community, which can provide an array of opportunities to not only sustain but to develop.

Another, often overlooked, benefit of keeping it local is how it fosters a stronger sense of community by building robust and very real relationships. There's something special about actually knowing the person behind the product or service you are investing in that you can't really put a price on. Be that your local butcher, favourite restaurant, mechanic or electrician, you can literally associate a face and personality with the product or service that usually develops into

a relationship of trust and respect. Local business owners actually care about what they are providing and place a significant level of pride in what they do, a dynamic more often than not reciprocated by the consumer. This also tends to create a notion of unique identity specific to that local community. Compare that with buying your goods from a generic large-scale retailer with soulless employees who often tend not to care so much and it is a no brainer!

It also pays to mention here that general customer service benefits from this dynamic in the local community. We've all experienced the frustrating phone calls to

customer service lines where we are either placed on hold for what seems like an eternity or have to contend with someone who, ultimately, doesn't seem to be able to actually help or even care! You don't get this issue when dealing locally as reputation is too important and something that can be undermined in an instant. It leaves one with a sense of a more personalised service, which ultimately goes a long way to ensuring customer satisfaction.

Keeping it local also has a big positive impact on the environment as less goods are needed to be transported in, usually via ships and large trucks, that often require

excess packaging. This is especially relevant to goods from within the agricultural industry such as dairy, fruit and vegetables produce and meat. Local businesses also often tend to favour employing sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. Knowing that you are reducing your carbon footprint is just one more satisfying reason to keep it local.

The majority of us are fiercely proud of where we are from or where we have elected to live and the impact of our local community in shaping our character and

the person we are cannot be overlooked. Local businesses are crucial to shaping this dynamic, to creating something vibrant, unique, special, an environment with character. In this day and age of enhanced convenience it is all too easy to just click online in order to purchase our goods or engage service providers. But this approach slowly but surely erodes the character and very existence of local business and community so consider opting local next time you need something.



As the old saying goes, “We are better when we work together” so let’s do just that and continue to keep it local!



TG's Child Care at a local festival in Uralla

# WHO SAYS SCIENCE CAN'T BE FUN? CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

◆ At Brilliant-Online we are all about promoting youth and innovation so it is apt that the theme of this year's National Science Week is Innovation: Powering Future Industries.



➔ National Science Week is an annual event first established in 1997.

**N**ational Science Week is an annual event first established in 1997 that celebrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The occasion has a dual focused objective: to provide students in Australian schools an overview on some of the most fantastic scientific achievements from years gone by while stoking an interest of the subject among today's youths and tomorrow's innovators and leaders.

In the current age, technology innovation is opening up a whole raft of opportunities for new discovery and invention and it is therefore essential that students have the rights access to knowledge through information

and the requisite tool set and support in order to flourish.



Indeed, this year's theme of **Innovation: Powering Future Industries** has a specific focus on the ubiquitous subject of artificial intelligence and the advancement of technologies where students will investigate the use of AI in industry, as well as recent advancements in renewal energy technology, data science and environmental monitoring.

Running this year from August 12-20 almost 2 million people are expected to participate in over 1,700 in-person and online events being hosted by schools, universities, museums, libraries and science centres that will offer a wide range of engaging and inspirational content. Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic launched this year's event on August 9 at Parliament House and emphasised the importance of STEM for Australia's future. "National Science Week has been shining a light on the world of science, technology, and innovation since 1997. From those early years, it has grown to over 1,700 events this year - all inspiring children and young adults everywhere to pursue STEM careers," Minister Husic said.



[Read her story](#)

## ➔ Jorja Schofield is empowering girls in STEM

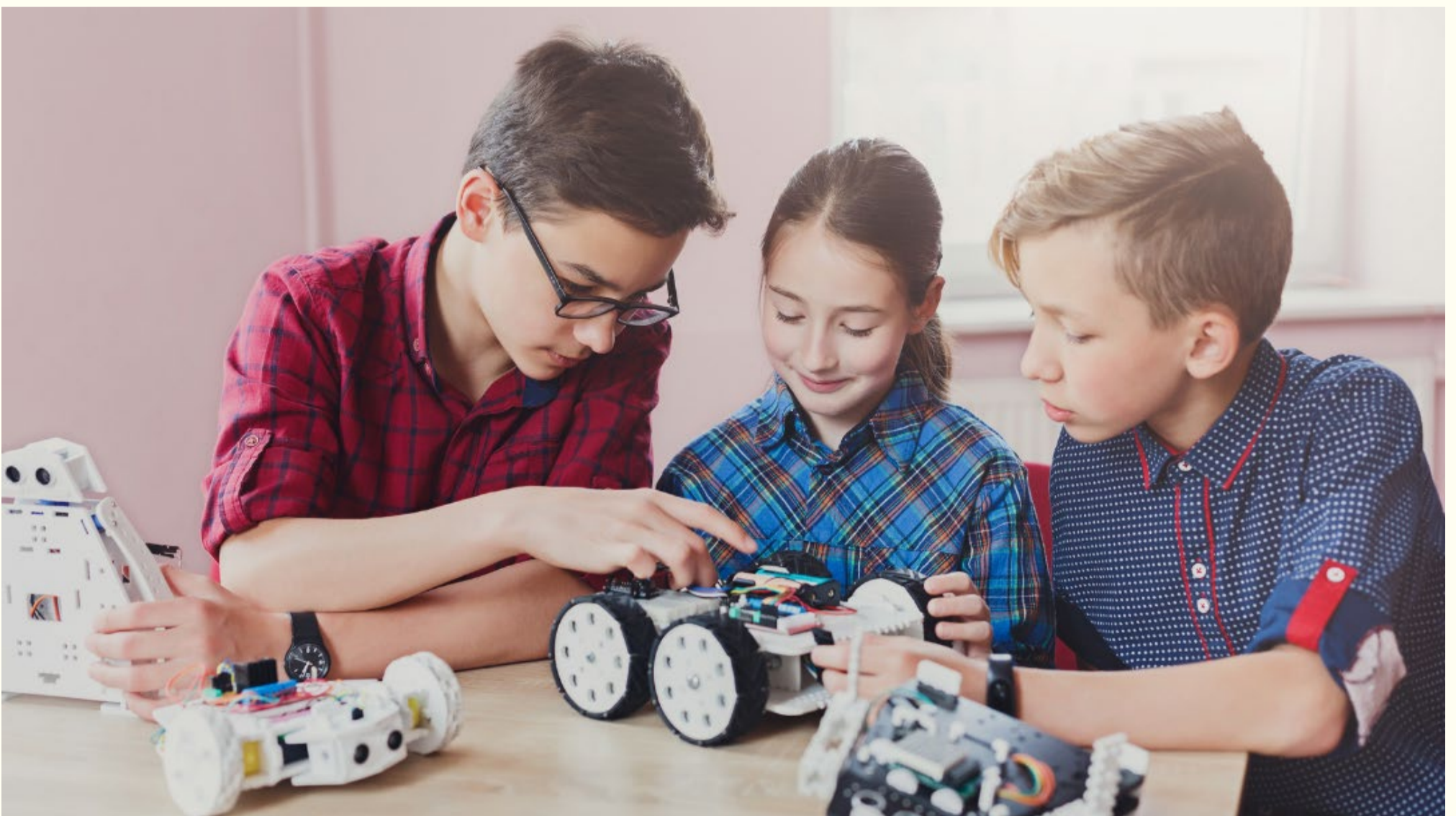
“National Science Week is one of my favourite events of the year and is a perfect opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Aussie scientists and inspire young Australians to pursue a future in STEM careers.

### Sign up for AI for Marketing presentation

“Why is this so important? Because we want a future made in Australia. One based on our expertise in quantum computing,

medical science, renewables, and other advanced technologies. To get there, we'll need to grow our STEM talent pool... Inspiring young people to see themselves in a STEM career also contributes to achieving the Government's goal of 1.2 million technology-related jobs by 2030,” he added, also stating that in May the Government announced 32 innovative public science engagement projects were to share in nearly \$500,000 as part of the nationwide event.

There are a whole host of exciting and engaging events taking place nationwide throughout the duration of National Science Week, including the online event Girls Day Out in STEM, Science in the Scrub in Sydney and the Sydney Science Trail through the famous Botanical Gardens in the CBD hosted by 'The Surfing Scientist' Ruben Meerman and The Festival of Bright Ideas in Tasmania. Museums Victoria has a lot going on and will be hosting events such as Wonders of the Deep Sea, Future Forums in conversation with renowned environmentalist and scientist



David Suzuki, *Black Holes: Journey into the Unknown* with Dr Tanya Hill, *Endless Universe* and a STEM Workshop entitled *Energy is a Superpower*.

ACT Libraries are running a range of different events while just one example in Queensland sees year 10 students from

the STEM Girl Power Initiative interviewing experts who “enjoy science, technology, engineering or maths-based careers all about their passion for STEM and what their every day is really like in the workplace or out in the field.”

There’s certainly a lot going on and a lot to get involved in this National

Science Week so why not jump in to the wonderful world of science and find out exactly what all the fuss is about – chances are you’ll be amazed!

More information on National Science Week and various events around the country can be found at their website.



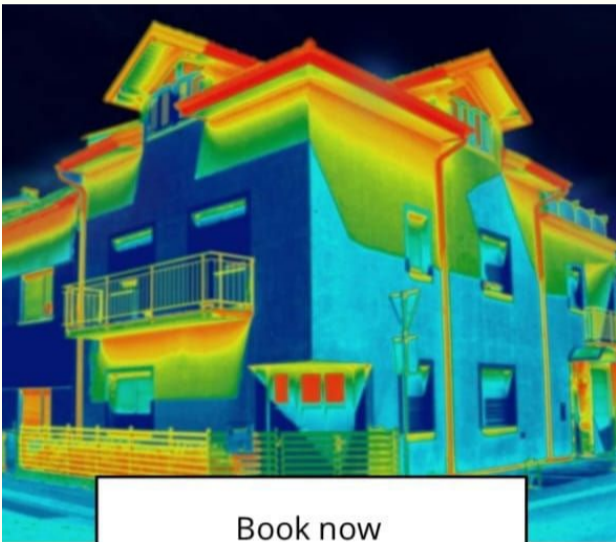
**STEM career also contributes to achieving the Government’s goal of 1.2 million technology-related jobs by 2030**



# #ShopLocal

#ShopLocal Challenge is a series of Promo Tiles to your shop or buy from you online

➔ **Click on each tile to shop**



Book now

### PRESTIGE Electrical

We can see what the naked eye cannot.

w/ [prestigeelectrical.com.au](http://prestigeelectrical.com.au)  
p/ +61 402 701 070  
e/ [Info@prestigeelectrical.com.au](mailto:Info@prestigeelectrical.com.au)

**SERVICES**

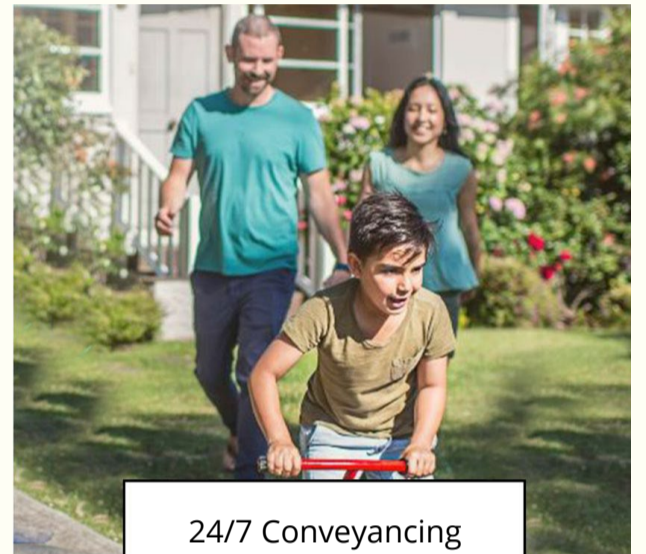


Window Dressing

### Newton Shutters, Blinds & Awnings

Call 0419 277 651 for Free Measure and Quote on customised window treatments

**SERVICES**

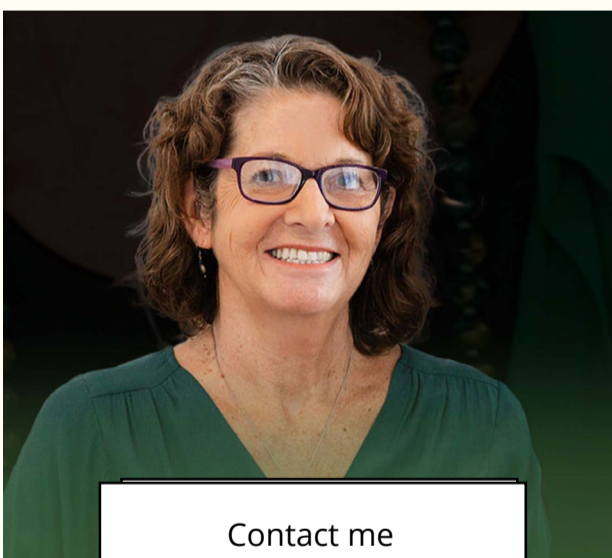


24/7 Conveyancing

### Smart Coast Conveyancing

Ph/ 02 6519 4933  
w/ [smartcoast.com.au](http://smartcoast.com.au)  
f/ Smart Coast Conveyancing

**SERVICE**



Contact me

### Bernie Ginanne

Counsellor, Mindfulness Meditation Facilitator, Spiritual Life Coach

+61 491 015 566

**SERVICE**



Crystals, Herbs & Spells

### The Witchy Nook

w/ [thewitchynook.com](http://thewitchynook.com)  
e/ [thewitchynook@gmail.com](mailto:thewitchynook@gmail.com)  
a/ Shop 5-6 Colonial Arcade,  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

**SHOP**



Gift Cards from \$25

### Epic Rides & Tours

Ph/ 0475 908 054  
w/ [epicridersandtours.com.au](http://epicridersandtours.com.au)  
f/ EpicRidesandTours

**TOUR**

le interactive ads that reveal your offer so customers can go



Father's Day

### Billabong Zoo

Dad could win the ultimate croc feeding experience just by visiting Billabong Zoo!

[billabongzoo.com.au](http://billabongzoo.com.au)

**ZOO**

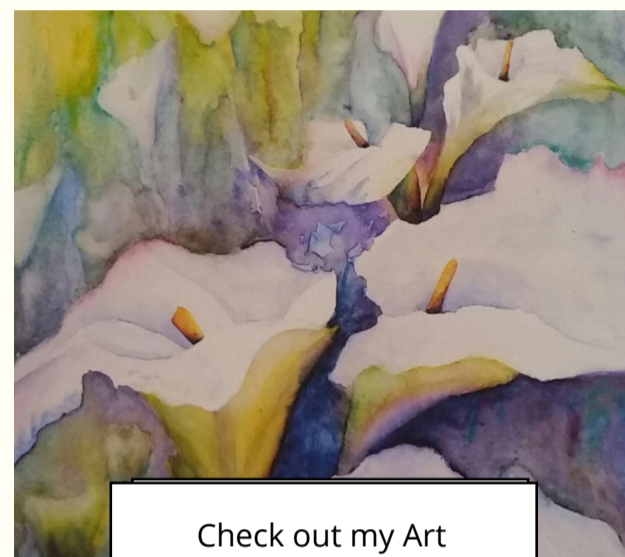


Capture Moments

Lucy Humphries Photography

Use code **BRILLIANT** for \$50 discount on bespoke photo sessions. **Book Online**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

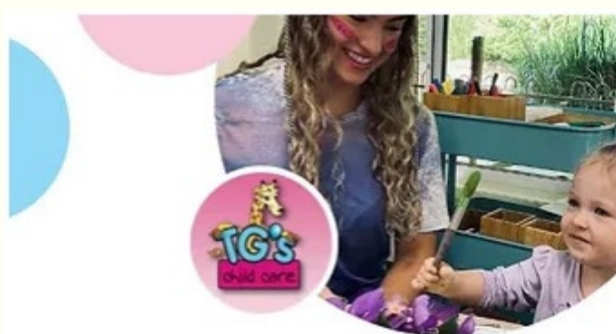


Check out my Art

### Art of Life

Buy original award-winning art or prints. Call Kim on +61408550950 Art Gallery

**ART**



TG's Hiring Play Experts  
ECT Degree or Diploma Qualified Educators

NOW HIRING

### TG's Child Care

TG's Hiring Educators and Early Childhood Teachers with ECT Degree or Diploma. Apply.

**JOBS**



Book Cruises Online

### Port AdVenture Cruises

W: [cruiseportmacquarie.com.au](http://cruiseportmacquarie.com.au)  
F: @Portadventurecruises  
T: 0417 681 031  
or 0434 393 199

**CRUISES**

**brilliant**  
ONLINE

**#ShopLocalChallenge**

#ShopLocal Challenge is a series of Promo Tile interactive ads that reveal your offer so customers can go to your shop or buy from you online

CHECK OUT OFFERS FROM AUSSIE BUSINESSES

**BOOK THIS TILE**

**#LoveLocal Challenge**

This Brilliant tile is available for \$66. Buy 12, get 1 free.  
**Buy Online.**

**PROMO**

**#ShopLocal**

**BUY TILE \$66 EACH**



"The information or opinions provided herein do not constitute investment advice, an offer or solicitation to subscribe for, purchase or sell the investment product(s) mentioned herein. It does not take into consideration, nor have any regard to your specific investment objectives, financial situation, risk profile, tax position and particular, or unique needs and constraints." - **Read full disclaimer.**





*Brilliant*

**INVESTMENT**



# VENTURE MINERALS LIMITED (ASX: VMS) HAS A POTENTIAL HIGH GRADE CLAY STORY

◆ The Brothers Rare Earth Discovery takes the spotlight today with Andrew Radonjic, Managing Director of Venture Minerals Limited (ASX:VMS).

**V**enture Minerals Limited (ASX:VMS) has recently made an incredible discovery in the Golden Grove district. They have found a high-grade clay Rare Earth project that is truly remarkable and deserves attention.



What sets this project apart is its impressive depth of intercept and high-grade mineral content, making it one of the top-tier projects in Western Australia.

[Read the 1st August 2023 announcement](#)



➔ [Venture Minerals Limited \(ASX: VMS\) has a Potential High Grade Clay Story](#)

## How is the Rare Earth Market now?

The fortunes of the Rare Earth exploration sector heavily rely on the rise or fall of the REE market pricing. Currently, the market is experiencing a bearish price sentiment, which is causing anxiety among many investors.

However, it's important to note that this market situation has emerged due to a geopolitical situation. The shifting focus of world politics has made metals like REE (rare earth elements) quite appealing. As a result, the future requirements for

REE components will undoubtedly contribute to the growing demand in the market.

Experienced investors understand that real profits lie in the long term. This is a widely recognised truth that is often overlooked by investors in the mining industry. Unlike other sectors, the mining industry operates on a timescale of decades, rather than months or years. While there have been a few exceptional cases like Nova Bollinger (Ni) and DeGrussa (Copper) that have yielded results within a shorter timeframe, they are rare occurrences.

## So what makes Venture Minerals stand out?

Venture Minerals has several strong points.

They excel at developing diversified projects that consistently generate value even in challenging circumstances.

They have a strong, experienced management that is taking the lead. The Brothers project is a prime example of the value that can be achieved. Initially appearing as an outlier, through drilling, it has now emerged as a strong contender in the Rare Earth race. Mr. Radonjic



➔ Andrew Radonjic, MD, Venture Minerals with Noel Ong, CEO, Samsco

never fails to surprise us with his skills. The Brothers project, which seemed to have a high potential for success, has proven to be a remarkable endeavour. The two drill holes that were announced originally from the Iron Duke acquisition were into bedrock which would have suggested that there could be more to come at depth. The recent release has shown that initially the near surface clays have the capacity to deliver a substantial discovery.

For Venture Minerals, their uniqueness stems from their location (close to the new Lynas story), the grade of mineralisation, and the depth at which it occurs. Unlike typical REE areas, Venture Minerals does not face potential land issues.

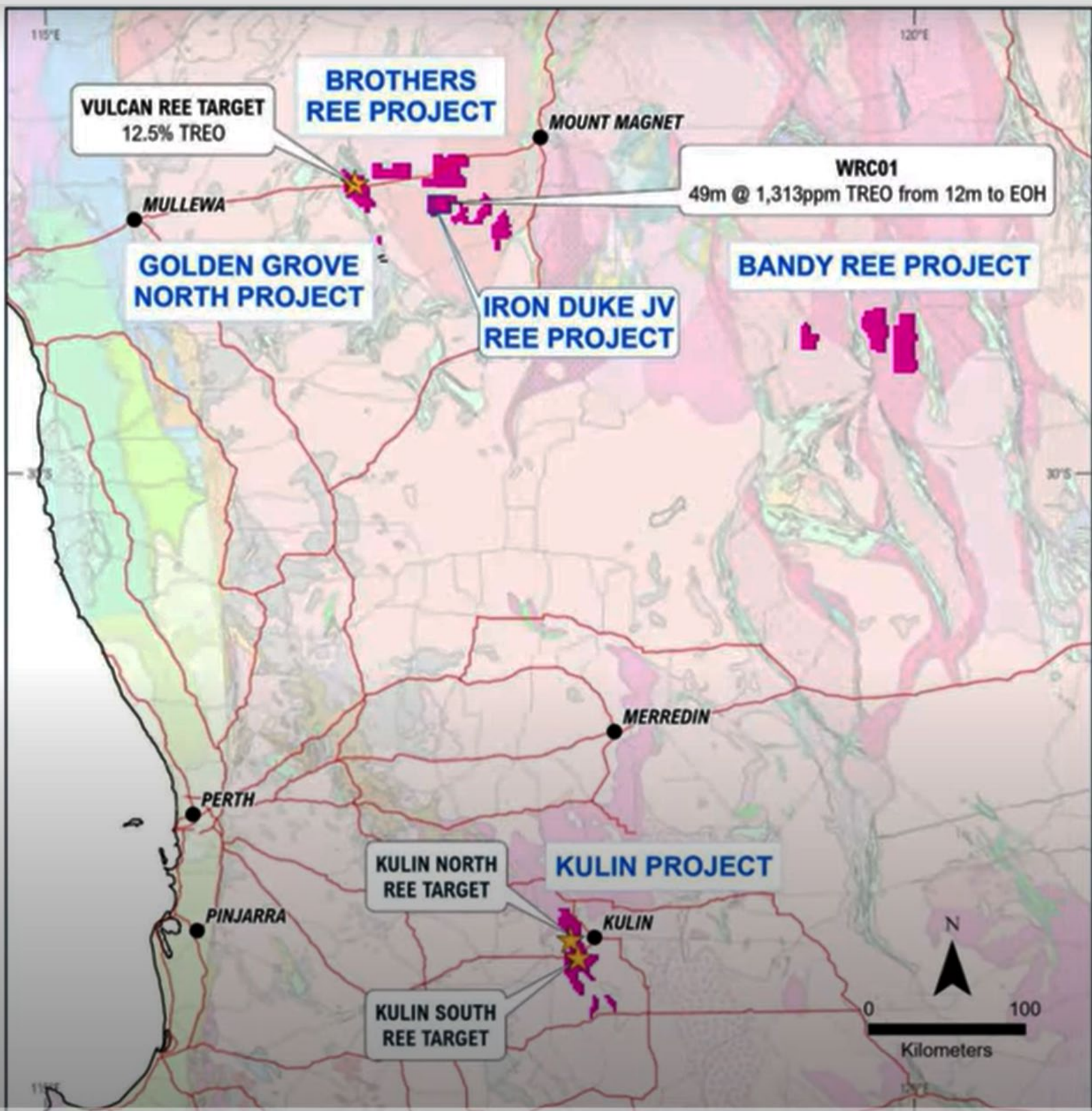
There are still developments coming up with regards to the Brothers Project. The unresolved metallurgical question will be addressed by demonstrating leaching. The amount of acid and

other related factors will likely be the focal point of discussion.

Is this likely to bring Venture Minerals back to his former days of glory as the darling among investors? Perhaps not right away, because in spite of their promising numbers, they are up against a market that is currently flooded with numerous rare earth element (REE) stories.

Watch this space, as more will be revealed in time to come.

Figure 1 | Location Map of Venture's REE Projects and Targets in Western Australia



# Responsible and sustainable mining

*Venture Minerals strives to discover and develop world class mineral deposits.*



t/ +61 (08) 6279 9428

w/ [www.ventureminerals.com.au](http://www.ventureminerals.com.au)

e/ [admin@ventureminerals.com.au](mailto:admin@ventureminerals.com.au)

a/ Suite 3, Level 3, 24 Outram Street,  
West Perth, Western Australia 6005

# POSEIDON NICKEL LIMITED SHARES CHALLENGES TO RESTART BLACK SWAN MINING PRODUCTION

◆ Peter Harold, Managing Director of Poseidon Nickel Limited (ASX:POS) has been steadily working towards restarting the Black Swan mining production. He shares recent setbacks and discusses the company's ASX announcement.

**T**he journey of POS has been a mix of highs and lows. However, consider the long-term positive outlook for nickel and positive project development environment in 2024.

## Factors for Black Swan Delay

The decision to restart Black Swan has been delayed despite the solid progress made since the delivery of the November 2022 Black Swan BFS. This delay is due to a combination of factors including:

- The later availability of grid power;
- The need to complete additional metallurgical testwork;
- The continuing tightness of the WA labour market;
- Ability to secure accommodation in Kalgoorlie for FIFO workers; and
- The volatility in global commodity and equity markets.



➔ Poseidon Nickel Limited (ASX: POS) Challenges to Restarting Mining.

Poseidon Nickel is looking forward to a positive project development environment in 2024. The main objective is to relaunch Black Swan after addressing the mentioned issues and gaining a more favourable perspective on nickel prices and equity markets.

### Samso, Tony Goode's take on the Poseidon story

The journey of POS has been a mix of highs and lows. While there have been challenges and unfulfilled promises, it's important to assess the company's potential as a nickel producer before making judgments. POS is actively addressing the identified issues and we believe they will transition from an explorer to a miner soon.

Looking at the long-term outlook for nickel, it remains positive, and POS stands out globally among prospective and near-term producers. They have multiple

existing nickel assets with varying grades and strong exploration targets. Their infrastructure is valued at over \$600 million replacement value.



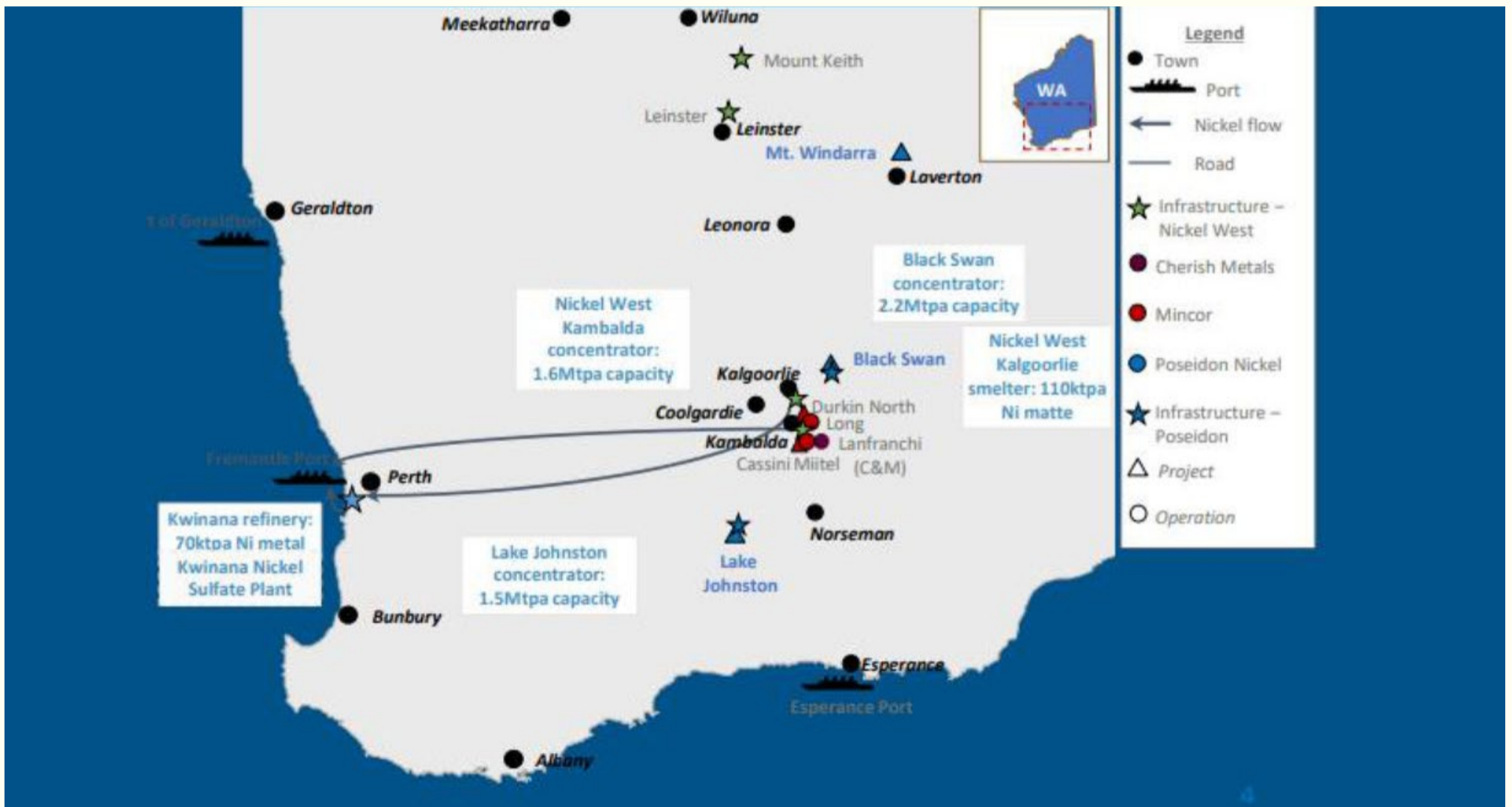
Currently, the share price is low due to the project delay announcement.

However, we believe there is a significant disparity between the market cap of around \$90 million and a more reasonable valuation based on the progress towards production, which could potentially reach a market cap of \$300 million or more. The low price may make POS an attractive takeover target.

Nevertheless, the delay doesn't change our overall expectations. POS is actively working with partners for offtake and funding. They are also addressing the metallurgical and other issues outlined in their recent announcement. Once resolved, the company will be able to announce a Final Investment Decision, Project Funding, and Offtake Agreements.

As a result, we anticipate that POS will experience a substantial re-rating in the future, presenting trading opportunities for investors.

For a breakdown of Poseidon's business strategy and a deeper analysis of the Poseidon story, join Peter Harold in his Coffee with Samso below.



➔ Poseidon Nickel's assets strategically located in Western Australia. (Source: Poseidon Nickel Limited)



# Western Australia



Kalgoorlie ●



Esperance ●

Perth ●

**Poseidon Nickel Limited (ASX Code: POS)** is a nickel sulphide exploration and development company with three projects located within a radius of 300km from Kalgoorlie in the Goldfields region of Western Australia and a resource base of around 400,000 tonnes of nickel and 180,000 ounces of gold.



[poseidon-nickel.com.au](https://poseidon-nickel.com.au)



+61 8 6167 6600



[admin@poseidon-nickel.com.au](mailto:admin@poseidon-nickel.com.au)



Level 1, 3 Ord Street West Perth WA 6005



# TAITON RESOURCES LIMITED (ASX: T88) - ULTRAFINE SOIL SURVEY ON HIGHWAY PROJECT

◆ Taiton Resources Limited (ASX: T88) announces the commencement of the UltraFine Soil Survey on the Highway Project, located in the Gawler Craton in South Australia.

**T**he UltraFine Soil Survey culminates six months of work and signals the first step in the company's exploration program.

The UltraFine Soil Survey is conducted over a five kilometre by five kilometre grid sample spacing at 100 meters by 100meters in the core area where Taiton has just conducted their IP survey where they've outlined a potential intrusion, and where they also have their dual targets defined which is pending approval from the Mines Department.

As they move out from that area, it steps out to a 200 metre by 200 metre spacing - basically, Taiton wants to cover as much space as they can.

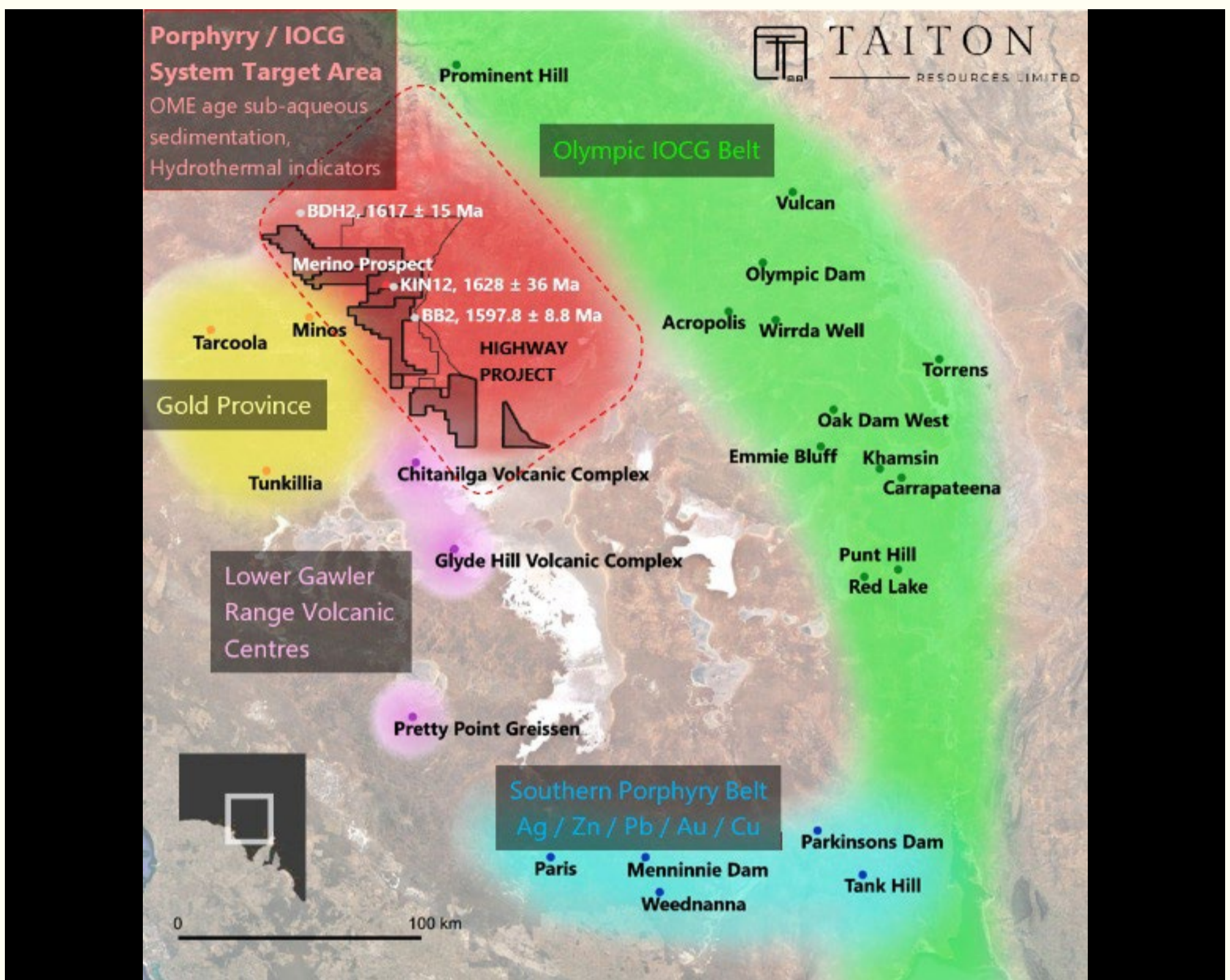
Based on the data from their 2018 CSIRO Survey, Taiton is optimistic in finding some positive results. The UltraFine Soil Survey is really also a means for Taiton to refine how it works and use it as a template to move to other parts of the project.

This is an exciting time for Taiton, with their cost-effective ways of looking for targets and they are also starting to collect geochemical information. About the Highway Project

[Read the ASX Announcement](#)



➔ [Taiton Resources Limited \(ASX: T88\) Ultrafine Soil Sampling Survey Commences](#)



➔ The location of zircon age dating samples. The results indicate that the area where the Highway Project (Red) is located may be part of the Olympic IOCG Belt (Green), in terms of mineral prospectivity.

Taiton acquired a total of 2,930 km<sup>2</sup> of granted tenements in South Australia, focussing on the Highway project. The Highway project has potential for polymetallic mineralisation in an environment rich with hydrochemical activities.

The Highway project is all about understanding that there is a fertile mineral system in place. Historical and work completed by Taiton indicated that the mineral system is fertile and has a magmatic source.

Taiton has now identified potential drill targets and are now awaiting approval to begin drilling.

Completed zircon age dating from historical drilling indicate that the source of mineralisation has the same timing as those feeding the mega mineral deposits of Olympic Dam, Carapateena and Prominent Hill.

### Highway Interest points:

- Tapping the same source as The Olympic Dam Domain.
- Historical exploration indicates a Strong Mineralizing System in place.
- Porphyry and IOCG systems may be present.

- Shallow cover ( less than 50m) allowing cheap exploration.
- Polymetallic Mineralisation.
- CSIRO and historical data show a strong hydrothermal system present.
- Potential for Ionic REE clays.

Learn more about the  
Highway Project



TAITON RESOURCES  
LIMITED



[taiton.com.au](http://taiton.com.au)



Level 13, 200 Queen St,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000



Contact  
T: +61 3 8648 6431  
F: +61 3 8648 6480

# RICHARD BRESCIANINI, HEAVY RARE EARTHS LIMITED (ASX:HRE) ON COWALINYA PROJECT AND WHAT DRIVES REE ECONOMICS

◆ Richard Brescianini, Executive Director of Heavy Rare Earths Limited (ASX: HRE) updates us on the Cowalinya project in Western Australia

**H**RE's Cowalinya project in Western Australia is located 100km north east of Esperance and only 40km east of a sealed highway and rail line that links Kalgoorlie with the port at Esperance.

This Cowalinya strategic location was meticulously selected based on promising historical drilling results, showcasing the presence of rare earths anomalies in pristine bedrock. Even more enticingly, higher grade supergene concentrations of rare earths have been discovered in the overlying in-situ weathered saprolite profile.

HRE resource appears to be headed for a substantial upgrade, boasting a higher grade than initially projected. Remember, the REE business is a long-term endeavor, and wise investors should conduct thorough research and adopt a strategic approach for sustained success.

## What drives REE Economics

Looking ahead, a potential partnership in non-China-based downstream operations could propel HRE to new heights. Collaborations in the Esperance region present an ideal location, especially for non-China



➔ Heavy Rare Earths Limited (ASX: HRE) What Drives the REE Economics

economies seeking to bolster their REE supply and manufacturing capabilities. The Australian government's support for value-adding industries in this area would undoubtedly make perfect sense.

Go to the video 45:45 and listen to Richard as he explains about the Economics in the REE market.

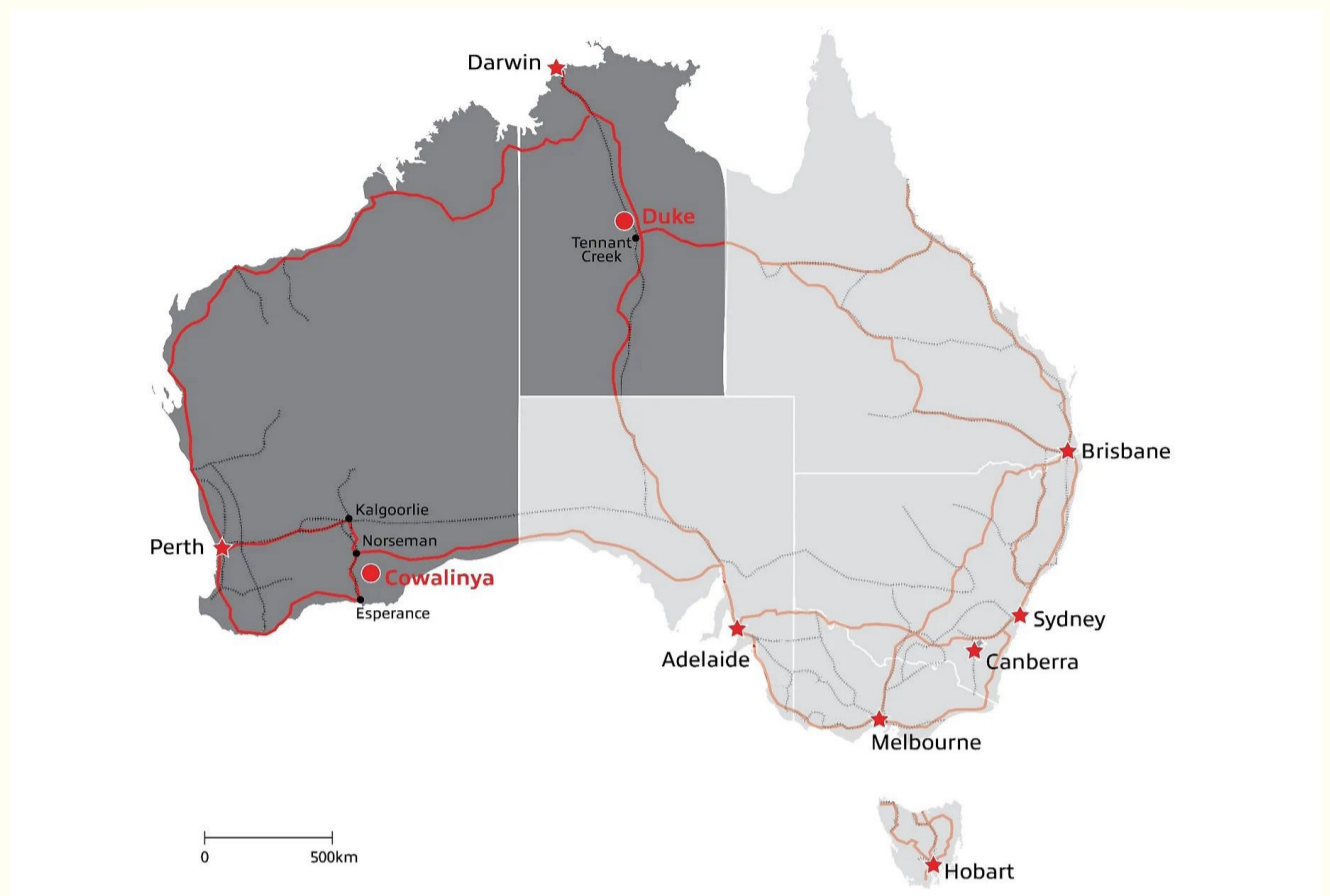
Richard, a seasoned expert in the field, underscores a crucial approach to skillfully leaching the REEs out using advanced acid-based methods. Richard's strategic insight highlights the importance of striking the perfect balance between cost efficiency and profitability.

Richard's exceptional industry experience and in-depth understanding of China's complexities provide a unique advantage that sets him apart from his peers.

One key takeaway from our discussions: a pathway to

developing the Cowalinya project is beginning to emerge. Now, the focus shifts to accelerating the metallurgical program to produce product samples for customer

assessment and qualification, and demonstrating that HRE's land position can host sufficient resources to support a long-term, sustainable rare earths operation.



➔ Location of the Cowalinya project in Western Australia. (Source: Heavy Rare Earths Limited)

**HRE**  
HEAVY RARE EARTHS LIMITED

**Supporting a cleaner  
and sustainable  
future through  
critical minerals.**

03 8630 3321 | hreltd.com.au | info@hreltd.com.au

# MAIDEN MINERAL RESOURCE ESTIMATE FROM OD6 METALS LIMITED (ASX:OD6)

◆ Brett Hazelden, Managing Director and CEO of OD6 Metals Limited (ASX: OD6) brings the low-down on the highly anticipated Mineral Resource Estimate.

**B**rett is here to show how the company is moving forward with their REE story. The recent release of the mineral resource by OD6 is a significant milestone, as it provides tangible evidence of their commitment to delivering value to shareholders.

## Read their ASX Announcement below on 18 July 2023

Splinter Rock Rare Earth Project Maiden Mineral Resource Estimate - 344MTR @ 1,308ppm TREO at a 1,000ppm cut off.

**ASX Announcement 18 July 2023**

The recent announcement is a positive step in confirming the existence of the resource and its "good" grade. However, it's important to note that there is still limited factual evidence on the exact grade that will be viable.



➔ [OD6 Metals Limited \(ASX:OD6\) What the Maiden Rare Earth Resource Means?](#)

## Highlights from interview



Brett's emphasis on the technical challenges involved in extraction is a good sign. During the Coffee with Samso interview, Brett highlights the significance of the high grade nature of the Splinter Rock Resource. In our industry, we often say "Grade is King" for a reason. The chosen cut off grade sets a baseline requirement for OD6 to make the project economically viable.

It's worth noting that the current resource of 344MT @1,308ppm TREO represents only 5% of the total potential in the Splinter Rock project. This means that OD6 Metals still has a significant upside and room for growth.

There are lots of nuggets to take away in this conversation, and Mr. Hazelden is not one to shy away from telling the market about the challenges out there. He also goes into the technical side of things to explain why the market needs to understand that there



are many factors that go into a leachable product. For serious investors out there who well know Samso's style, this is yet another

great opportunity to Do Your Own Research. So put on that DYOR thinking cap and tune in to OD6's REE story now.



Contact OD6  
Metals Limited :

- ☎ +61 8 6189 8515
- 🌐 <https://www.od6metals.com.au/>
- 📍 Level 1, 50 Kings Park Road, West Perth, Western Australia 6005

# BRILLIANT RED SEAGULLS TAKE FLIGHT WITH SAMSO-BRILLIANT ONLINE PARTNERSHIP

◆ This exciting partnership is helping ASX companies stand out, have their stories heard, reach new audiences and build positive brand perception.

## A

ASX companies need modern marketing too, and it can be challenging for these companies to know how to go about doing this.

### Challenge for ASX companies

The ASX industry is heavy in competition with so many companies in the same pool of investment funding. That makes it a real challenge to distinguish yourself from the crowd.

When presentations and announcements are released, it's important to consider how the information is received by interested investors. ASX companies need to know how to access a variety of investors, and provide a dynamic, immediate and trustworthy space to help clarify, intrigue and reinforce takeaways from presentations.







## Why Samso?

Samso understands what ASX companies need in order to stand out as the clear voice from the noise, and has the experience to use a company's news and information to create opportunities to boost engagement. It's about bringing a company's story to life and stay in people's minds.

**Noel Ong, CEO of Samso on how he creates compelling ASX stories**

Samso is a leading Digital Investor Relations Agency who can provide ASX companies with guidance to best position their announcements in formats that truly pique investor interest.

Samso has over 30 years experience in the mineral exploration industry, with knowledge drawn from the whole spectrum of the industry such as Field Assistant, Geologist, Senior Management and as the founder and Managing Director of ASX companies.

Samso's knowledgeable technical and corporate content allow Samso to offer engagement from one single source. This helps ASX companies save time and be more efficient having a one-stop shop for all their needs, ensuring consistency and an organised structure to their marketing.

## Why Brilliant-Online?

Because Brilliant Interactive Advertorials tell stories that make people famous and businesses sparkle. That means our clients can sell without selling and build brand confidence.

It's about reaching out to new audiences, and our story telling feature is a way for companies to create that positive brand perception to a wider audience.

Any Coffee with Samso Experience comes standard with Brilliant-Online's editorial and distribution.

## How Brilliant works:

- an advertorial published monthly in our Interactive Brilliant-Online Magazine. The magazine content is interactive for higher reader retention and engagements;

- a SEO rich longer blog feature with relevant call to action. Storytelling your brand, products and services is a way to sell more without selling;
- a visible ad banner on Brilliant-Online's home page that links to the company's advertorial, blog or website;
- the company's ad and/or advertorial is shared across Brilliant's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter and Google My Business);
- the company's story is emailed to our 15,000 subscribers.

See an example of what we did for Heavy Rare Earths Limited (ASX: HRE). Click on the image above to read their story.

## The Red Seagull Strategy

The Red Seagull strategy is what helps ASX companies truly stand out and pique investor interest.

This is a combination of the best of both worlds - Samso's Coffee with Samso Experience and Brilliant-Online.

What does the Red Seagull strategy include?

## 1. Access to Samsó's core products i.e. Coffee with Samsó, Rooster Talk and Samsó Insights

Videos and podcasts on Coffee With Samsó and Rooster Talk are tailored around the company's announcement and messaging. Samsó Insights are long form blogs with point of view about the industry and how a company is relevant to the insight.

## 2. Your content creation and social media coverage are taken care of on a monthly basis.

Companies get guidance to management on messaging and ideas to create content that makes sense and is technically relevant to the market.

Samsó creates video snippets including YouTube Shorts for each product and drive viewers back to the main video over a span of several weeks. It is used to highlight interesting features to whet the appetite of stakeholders.

Samsó manages the company's Twitter and LinkedIn accounts, with additional teaser video slides on LinkedIn to enhance announcements.



## 3. Extensive outreach

Samsó currently has over 10,500 YouTube subscribers; 1,900 Twitter followers; 2,600 LinkedIn followers plus a clean mailing list of over 1,200 subscribers.

With Samsó's partners, such as Proactive, The Market Bull, a company's content is further distributed to more than 630,000 followers.

Through Brilliant-Online the content reaches out to another 70,000 new readers monthly.

## An unparalleled ecosystem

Through this unique combination of Samsó and Brilliant-Online, the Red Seagull strategy gives ASX companies an ecosystem that is unparalleled in the industry. With the modern go-to-market know-how, the Red Seagull strategy confidently delivers ASX announcements in a way that clarifies and satisfies investor questions and curiosity, providing them with an insightful view to complete their investment research.

**Multichannel and Omnichannel Advertising Deliver Better Brand ROI**

**Coffee with Samsó Experience**

A Samsó Brilliant Partnership to Pique Investor Interest

**BRILLIANT INVESTMENT**

**READ NOW**



Samsó Australia:  
Hi there 🙌! Welcome to Samsó



samsco  
we tell compelling stories

# The Coffee with Samsco Experience has proven to Pique Investor Interest

ASX companies who want their stories heard, reach out to new audiences and build a positive brand perception, take flight with Samsco and reach over 630,000 monthly viewers.

**Learn More**



[samsco.com.au](https://samsco.com.au)

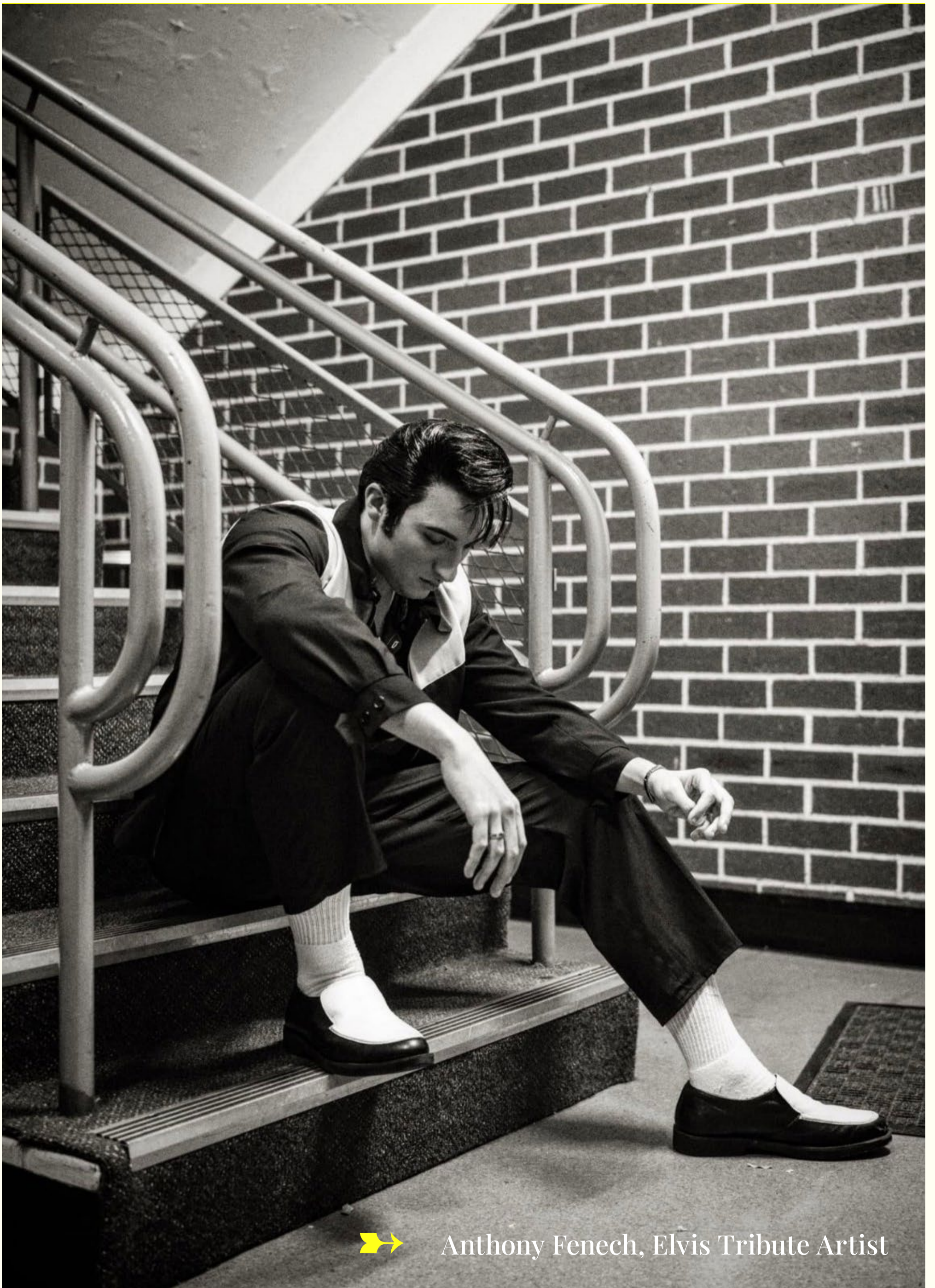


+61 490 092 814



[noel.ong@samsco.com.au](mailto:noel.ong@samsco.com.au)

**brilliant**  
ONLINE



Anthony Fenech, Elvis Tribute Artist



*Brilliant*  
**COMMUNITY**



# IT WAS A WILD, WILD NIGHT AT THE BIGGEST ELVIS SHOW ON EARTH!

◆ The audience was more than ready to bring the house down, and Elvis never felt more alive than when so many have gathered to pay tribute to and celebrate this amazing artist.



➔ Veronica is dazzled by father-and-son duo Anthony (left) and Paul (right) Fenech

**W**hat a blast we had at The Biggest Elvis Show on Earth on Saturday night at the ICC Darling Harbour Theatre in Sydney! The excitement had been building up all this time and we were certainly not let down!

Veronica Lind and Stephanie Pursehouse drove to Sydney to interview the stars, Paul and Anthony Fenech, who made the

magic come alive. Stephanie is a huge Elvis Presley Fan and has been following tribute artists for many years.

## Each Elvis Tribute Artist has a personal touch

Father-and-son Elvis Tribute Artists, Paul and Anthony Fenech are very clear that it's not about mimicking the King of Rock n' Roll. Paul

explains it's about bringing in his own personality, and to represent Elvis in the best way he can. It's an interpretation of the artist, and each tribute artist does it in their own unique way. Paul personally loves, and what he feels he does best is, Elvis' movement on stage, his feeling and power during the performance. That's what he trains to deliver more than anything.



➔ **Father-and-son Anthony Fenech (left) and Paul Fenech (right) sang at The Biggest Elvis Show on Earth**

Anthony seconds that, and he himself notices different things about Elvis to what his father notices. They could both be watching the same clip of Elvis and they'll both see something completely different. That's actually the beauty of Elvis Tribute Artists. Each brings what they see of Elvis to the stage. If what people want is the same thing then they might as well just watch the real Elvis. For Anthony, it's important to see your own version of Elvis and deliver that, whether it's the classic eyebrow raise or the pinky movement.

Some people may call it doing an impression, or an impersonation. However, Paul and Anthony Fenech are true professionals in what they do, because above all else, they highly respect the artist they are paying tribute to, and they constantly strive to present their uniqueness and personal touch to their interpretations.

Many have reached out to Paul and Anthony about becoming tribute artists themselves. The one piece of advice they always give is:



**"If you're going to be a tribute artist, just do it respectfully."**



➔ Anthony Fenech (left). Paul Fenech (right)

It's the only thing they need to focus on the moment they get on stage. It's not about doing it for the money or popularity. That would totally ruin the industry of tribute artistry.

## Growing with Elvis

When Anthony Fenech started this career, he was at the age of Elvis in his early 20s. He was able to relate to Elvis of that age and it felt natural to him. There is something wonderfully organic about this profession, in that Anthony is doing what feels natural and identifiable to him at his age. He does not do what his father Paul does e.g. with the jumpsuits.

Anthony knows that as he gets older, he may well transition to that as a natural path in his career and growth. Right now, he is aligned with the young Elvis, he sees things that he relates to e.g. the rawness, the rebellious nature, the young man that took a lot of risks.

## Unique father-and-son partnership

Many are curious to learn more about this unique father-and-son duo who are Elvis tribute artists. What are the odds of finding that in the industry!

Anthony and Paul excel at the different stages of the portrayal of Elvis.



"A lot of people think that I show him (Anthony) everything. I don't show him anything. He's his own person. He develops his own style. And he's seeing it differently to me anyway. He sees Elvis in his own way." - Paul Fenech





## ➔ Kathy and Eric Marinovic with Kylie Chapman going wild with delight at the Biggest Elvis Show on Earth

This is the incredible respect and professionalism from one tribute artist to another, in spite of them being a family. Of course, as a father, Paul is always there to guide Anthony, not just in his career but in life, work, relationships, everything, but he gives his son free rein to explore his own artistry.

Having grown up watching his father pay tribute to Elvis, Anthony was of course heavily influenced. Still, it was Anthony's call to dive into this industry.

"I wouldn't ever push him to do Elvis. I mean, why would anyone want to push their own child to become a tribute artist to perform like somebody else? I would tell him to perform like himself first. He's made his journey on his own."

It's no wonder Anthony has risen to his level of professionalism and skill, having this immense freedom, trust and respect from a father who understands and values the industry.

Anthony certainly reciprocates this support he has received from his father.



"The beautiful thing about it is that we have this sort of bond through Elvis."

## The King lives on... and on... and on

It is an irrefutable fact that the King of Rock n' Roll lives on and will continue to do so through time.

For Anthony, Elvis and his music is essentially timeless. Anyone of any age, gender, stage of life can look at every single one of Elvis' songs, read the lyrics and identify. There's a message for everyone in Elvis' voice - he still speaks to us through time.

Paul agrees and shares about how at some of his functions and events, he's had younger people coming up to him, requesting him to do Blue Suede Shoes or Hound Dog. And these are young people asking for songs by an artist that had already passed away, way

before they were born, and singing songs that were recorded 30 years before they were born. How in the world do these young people know Elvis? And yet, it's clear as day that Elvis' music is timeless, he's still with us, it's in the very fabric of his music. For Paul, it's a blessing to be able to do what they do, and bring Elvis' music to everyone who loves this artist.



"It was the best two minutes of my life!" - Anthony Fenech, on having about 50 women who went down to the stage to kiss him.



**FUN FACT: Australia's Matildas beat France in the Women's World Cup 2023 that same night! It was a double celebration with just amazing vibes all around. The audience simply went wild!**

### **Rev up the energy!**

While Paul and Anthony Fenech and the incredible team of 115 musicians and orchestra on stage are the stars making the magic come alive, it really is the audience who are the main motors for revving up the show. They

are an essential component of what makes an Elvis show simply electric. When the audience screams for more, it injects a megawatt jolt of energy to all the performers. It's a massive powerhouse, and you simply have to be there to experience it for yourself.



**FUN FACT: John St. Peeters revealed The Biggest Elvis Show had broken the record previously held by another one in Melbourne, because they had a staggering 115 musicians on stage in Sydney on Saturday, 12th August 2023!**



**Marty Rhone, producer and John St. Peeters, creative director are so proud of the amazing performance!**

So if you were one of the lucky ones who were there to witness the Simply Brilliant performance, do share your thoughts and experiences with us! If you haven't, keep a lookout, because we're sure there will be more shows to come.

**Let Marty Rhone and John St. Peeters know how much you loved this and that you want more! Email us and tell us what you think?**

**Rock Proms coming on Saturday 14th October 2023 at State Theatre Sydney.**

**Book Ticket**

**Massive kudos to Marty Rhone and John St. Peeters for all their hard work to put this show together. It was a mammoth effort and Elvis fans are certainly very grateful to have experienced this electrifying performance!**

If you haven't read our Brilliant story where we interviewed Marty Rhone on how the idea of this show came about, dive into it here.

**Interview with Marty Rhone**

Not enough of Elvis? Read our article here about the one and only immortal King of Rock n' Roll!

**Elvis Aaron Presley, King of Rock and Roll**

## Another important duo that made the show a reality

The Biggest Elvis Show on Earth is full of duos, and beyond Paul and Anthony Fenech, Marty Rhone and John St. Peeters, there is another duo that we may not

immediately be aware of, but they are as important as the other pairs in bringing this amazing show to audiences in Sydney.

You'll know them well by now - David Lazarus and Elsa Barbosa from Port Adventure Cruises! The Biggest Elvis Show on Earth was sponsored by Port Adventure Cruises. Now how did that come about?

Marty Rhone and John St. Peeters showed David a video of their Elvis show in Melbourne and simply asked if David would be able to provide it for them. A simple question that brought an unhesitating YES from David. For David and Elsa, they see their role as simply using their media contacts to tell people about the show, to "put bums on seats" and to finance it. They may make it sound simple but it is the key first step to making this show a reality.

So you must be thinking by now, David's got to be an Elvis fan himself too!

## Meet the Promoters of the Biggest Elvis Show on Earth!

PORTADVENTURECRUISES.COM.AU | 0434 393 199

**brilliant**  
ONLINE



Elsa Barbosa | Anthony Fenech | David Lazarus

**Meet the Promoters of the Biggest Elvis Show on Earth!**

In fact, David himself, as a born entertainer, has done an Elvis Tribute show on his cruise and he even got himself a lovely Elvis suit for \$1000! Unfortunately he lost the suit in an incident and John St. Peeters knew how disappointed David must have felt being an Elvis fan. He asked if David would like to be a part of the Elvis show, jokingly, to "help pay for your suit"!

Having known both Marty and John for years, David knew this

duo would prepare a show that would blow him out of the water. They do top quality shows that get bigger and better each time. If you enjoyed this Elvis show, don't miss out on their Rock Proms!

After all the excitement from the show, David and Elsa are patiently waiting for their cruise boat to return from Yamba where it's getting painted up and survey engines checked. When the boat returns they'll be up and sailing

with weddings, parties and dolphin spotting cruises. They're excited about Christmas as they're nearly booked out for Christmas parties!

**Book Cruises**



Thank you to David and Elsa for bringing the audience to this amazing Elvis show!





# EXPLORE PORT MACQUARIE



**BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS  
AND BUSINESS EVENTS**

W/ [CRUISEPORTMACQUARIE.COM.AU](http://CRUISEPORTMACQUARIE.COM.AU)  
F/ [PORTADVENTURECRUISES](http://PORTADVENTURECRUISES)  
T/ 0417 681 031  
0434 393 199

**BOOK CRUISES ONLINE**

**PRIVATE CRUISE PARTY ENQUIRIES WELCOME**

# WONDER WOMEN BREAK GUINNESS WORLD RECORD AT THE CITY<sub>2</sub>SURF

◆ City2Surf Heroes raise funds for charities



➔ In its 50+ year history, the Sydney City2Surf has become established as a standout occasion in the running calendar

**K**een and amateur runners alike convened in Australia's largest city to take part in the world's largest "fun run" on August 13.

In its 50+ year history, the Sydney City2Surf has become established as a standout occasion in the running calendar where, today, over 80,000 participants walk, jog and run the 14-kilometre (8.7 mile) scenic route from Hyde Park to the world-famous Bondi Beach.

While certain competitors take the run absolutely seriously, the emphasis is on fun and raising

money for a range of worthy charities; although the first race was held in 1971, it wasn't until 2008 that the charity fundraising aspect was included and a staggering \$50 million has been raised since, finding its way to charities in need. As the City2Surf website itself states, "A city giving back has become the beating heart of this event". This year's race pulled in more than \$2.8 million for charities including Beyond Blue, RUOK, First Nations Foundation and Black Dog.

Maintaining the fun angle, many competitors consider it a

worthwhile opportunity to gather up some mates to take on the challenge, often dressing up in a hilarious range of weird and wonderful fancy dress costumes to truly maximise the lighthearted charity theme – after all, the more outrageous you look, surely the more fun you'll have, right? Or at least others will have fun watching you! Some of the costume and impersonation highlights in recent years have included Wonder Woman, Super Mario, Prince William, Kate Middleton and their children in a push-chair, human hotdogs, dinosaurs, spacemen and characters from Sesame Street!



## ➔ The gathering of Wonder Women at City2Surf

### Support these Wonder Women to promote Brain Cancer Awareness

Sydneysiders Caroline Stevenson and Sarah Foley have participated in the City2Surf event an impressive five times. In a remarkable move to inspire others, Caroline and Sarah encouraged women to stand alongside them at City2Surf, donning the attire of Wonder Woman. This choice held a deeper symbolism, representing the unyielding strength of women who fulfill diverse roles as mothers, caregivers, professionals, and even warriors battling their health issues.

Sarah's personal journey added another layer of inspiration, as she faces her brain tumor with remarkable courage, starting chemotherapy tomorrow with an unwavering spirit that lights the way for others. Their motivation was not just personal achievement, but a genuine drive to raise awareness for brain cancer. Through their partnership with the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, Caroline and Sarah showcased their commitment to effecting meaningful change.

An awe-inspiring assembly of 281 "Wonder Women" converged at City2Surf, etching their names into history by setting a Guinness World Record for the largest group of people dressed as Wonder Woman

in one gathering. Beyond the records, their united front radiated camaraderie, leaving an indelible mark on the event's legacy.

Wonder Women raised about \$14,000 for Cure For Brain Cancer Foundation and contributed about \$29,000 for charity in total.

**Email Sarah to support her cause**

Jade Hartas and Cherie Coen were at City2Surf dressed as Wonder Women, despite the distance from Port Macquarie, embodying the far-reaching influence of inspiration. Their dedication to the cause

translated into completing the race in 2 hours and 42 minutes, demonstrating the tangible results of determination and support.

## Other Heroes

Armidale resident Keith Robinson, aka "KR Kiltman" is fundraising to help PCYC NSW run Life Changing youth programs. Keith wore his full Scottish Highland attire of kilt, shirt,

tie, jacket, sporran, etc. Cheer him on and donate.

Sydney is a beautiful city and the race takes in much of the splendour of the famed eastern suburbs. It officially started at the corner of Park Street and College Street near Hyde Park on the fringes of Sydney's CBD before heading up to King's Cross (ok, admittedly maybe not one of

the more beautiful areas of the city!). However, once through "The Cross" competitors enter into more picturesque environs through Rushcutters Bay, Double Bay and Rose Bay then over to Vaucluse, along the coast and breathtaking ocean views through Dover Heights before hitting the finish line at Bondi Beach. One note of caution however – the section from Rose Bay to Vaucluse may offer



➔ 281 "Wonder Women" converged at City2Surf setting a Guinness World Record for the largest group of people dressed as Wonder Woman in one gathering. Photo supplied.



stunning views but it is also known as “Heartbreak Hill” due to the punishing incline along New South Head Road!

Competitors are staggered into four different starting “waves” meaning those eager beavers and running enthusiasts looking to set an impressive time will set off at the front of the pack, with the waves decreasing accordingly

based on longer completion times and ranked by colour – pink, blue, yellow and orange. The City2Surf website describes the orange class thus: “Everyone knows the back of the pack is where the party is at! This group is for EVERYONE! Whether you're a jogger, fun group, family, disco partier, walker, pushed wheelchair or a runner with a pram!” Irrespective of whichever wave, competitors will congregate

at the finish and enjoy the ensuing celebrations in local cafes, pubs and so forth, regaling personal tales of their respective race and savouring a truly unique experience.

The City2Surf is a fantastic fun occasion which ultimately helps a wide range of good causes. You can find out more information, specially on how to donate, [here](#).



➔ Jade Hartas and Cherie Coen

# HIPPY HOPPY BIRTHDAY!

◆ As Hip Hop marks its 50th year we take a closer look into the cultural phenomenon



➔ [MDA PROMO VIDEO 2023 | Champagne Shots - Sainte](#)

**T**he date of August 11 is a seminal one in the world of Hip Hop. On that day back in 1973 a young DJ by the name of Kool Herc and his sister Cindy Campbell organised a 'Back to School Jam' party at their housing block complex in the Bronx, New York, where a new technique of rotating two copies of the same record to enable people to dance longer was tested. It was this technique, later complemented by MCs engaging with the crowd, graffiti, beatboxing and break dancing, that would evolve over a 50-year timespan into one of today's most popular subcultures.



A common misconception is that the term Hip Hop merely relates to a musical style. However, it encompasses far more and is essentially an expansive urban cultural and art movement that fuses graffiti, fashion and music.

This movement developed over the decades by reflecting on the negative effects of post-industrial decline, political discourse and a rapidly changing economy, specifically in regards to young, inner-city African Americans. The musical style associated with Hip Hop, rap, provided these disenfranchised youths a platform to express themselves, to vent and tell their stories to highlight the inequality that was tarnishing their lives and so many others. Also, despite many conceptions to the contrary, the Hip Hop movement strived to keep such youths out of

trouble and away from the likes of drugs and crime by providing a collective with a sense of belonging and purpose.

Legend states that the term Hip Hop was created by Robert Keith “Cowboy” Wiggins, a well-known MC in the rap group Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, one of the most iconic and pioneering groups on the scene. It is said that Wiggins coined the onomatopoeic word in 1978 to describe the sound of marching feet to a friend who had joined the U.S. Army.

Originating from the use of two turntables, a mixer and an MC, the musical component of Hip Hop evolved in alignment with innovations in technology which made access to sampling technology and drum machines both more affordable and widespread, allowing early pioneering artists such as Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, The Sugarhill Gang and Afrika Bambaataa to truly drive

the genre to the masses. The mid-1980s to the mid-1990s is referred to as the Golden Age of Hip Hop, where artists such as LL Cool J, The Beastie Boys, Public Enemy, KRS-One, De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest and many others found huge popularity.

It was also during this time that the musical style diversified and many derivatives of the genre were subsequently formed, such as West Coast and East Coast Hip Hop, with celebrated artists such as Snoop Doggy Dog and Tupac Shakur associated with the former, and the likes of the Notorious B.I.G, the Wu-Tang Clan and Mobb Deep with the latter. Gangsta Rap focused on the violent lifestyles and impoverished conditions of inner-city African American youths that artists such as Ice-T and NWA popularised with lyrics that were more violent, openly confrontational and shocking than those of established rap acts. There was also the more party-themed style of MC Hammer

and Vanilla Ice that found huge commercial success in the charts - “Can’t Touch This” by the former still sees heavy airplay these days on commercial radio stations across the world.

What became known as the “Bling Era” emerged towards the end of the century and into the 2000’s, with artists such as Jay-Z, Sean “Puff Daddy” Combs, Kanye West and Eminem finding huge success. Hip Hop had a huge impact on mainstream pop music at this time with the likes of TLC, Destiny’s Child, Beyoncé, Aaliyah, Usher, Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badu and Jill Scott crafting the R&B genre to huge acclaim. In tandem, the musical style gained traction all over the world with prominent artists emerging in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, all using the power of the genre to find a voice and express their views on social injustice.



Legend states that the term Hip Hop was created by Robert Keith “Cowboy” Wiggins



## ➔ MDA street dance

Photo: Photography JNY

Nowadays, over a quarter of the world's music-listening population enjoy Hip Hop music on a regular basis as the scene continues to thrive and become fully integrated as an integral component of modern society and culture. The venue for the famous Bronx party in 1973 where it all started - 1520 Sedgwick Avenue - has since gone on to become a renowned landmark and the date officially recognised as the birth of Hip Hop; indeed, August 11 has been officially declared "Hip Hop Celebration Day" after the United States Senate passed a bill of declaration in July 2021. Similarly, according to the Senate Periodical Press Gallery, August is now designated as "Hip Hop Recognition Month" and November as "Hip Hop History Month".

As the Senate bill states, Hip Hop has "become a culture, now found in communities across the United States, and has long been a worldwide phenomenon... [it] transcends many different ages, ethnicities, religions, locations, political affiliations, and socioeconomic statuses, which demonstrates the melting-pot quality of Hip Hop art and culture."

This is especially true locally with the Macquarie Dance Academy (MDA), a student group focused on street dance culture and its art of expression, one of the key facets of Hip Hop. You can read our previous story with MDA member Sabrina Tay here.

Hip Hop has grown considerably over its 50 years and will no doubt continue to do so and shape modern day culture in the process. If any further evidence to illustrate this was required just note that breakdancing, otherwise referred to as "breaking", will feature as a competitive sport at next year's Olympic Games in Paris!

All that's left to say is Happy Birthday Hip Hop, and here's to many more to come!

# CELEBRATING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

◆ “The youth is the hope of our future.” – Jose Rizal



## ➔ Delicious, Nutritious, Artisan Ice Cream from the Comboyne Plateau

**S**aturday, August 12 marked the 24-year anniversary of International Youth Day, an occasion that sees an array of cultural events, workshops and dialogue-driven initiatives between governments and youth-related groups take place all over the world. Designated as an awareness day by the United Nations, this year's theme is 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World', aligning with the ever-evolving push towards a greener tomorrow.

Acknowledging this key date in the global calendar, we at Brilliant

Online decided to shine the light on a selection of young Australian entrepreneurs who are creating a buzz in their respective industries – indeed, one could argue that they are running the companies of the future!

### Healthy Ice Cream!

We start with 15-year-old local girl Miah Armstrong who started her own business Hilltop Natural Ice Cream to provide incredibly delicious and health benefiting alternative ice cream and frozen yoghurt. Miah's goal is to produce delicious and healthy ice cream

from local ingredients as she intends to be carbon neutral. “One of the ways I’m offsetting my carbon footprint is by using regenerative farming techniques,” Miah told us. “I use eggs straight off our family farm [Grazed and Grown] and our own homemade vanilla extract. I also source the highest quality ingredients from reputable suppliers, such as milk from Jimmy Eggert at Hastings Riverlands, as I’m focused on putting the flavour and health benefits before profit.” You can read more about Miah's delicious offerings and wonderful story here.

Another young local entrepreneur is Jessica Gray, a licenced conveyancer and owner of Smart Coast Conveyancing which operates NSW wide. Jessica helps pet owners navigate the complexities of strata law where properties with shared facilities typically have a unique set of rules, often specific to pets. It can get pretty complex but Jessica is on hand to help make it a far more understandable and less stressful experience. After all, home isn't just where the heart is, it's where

your pet eagerly waits for you! Find out more here.

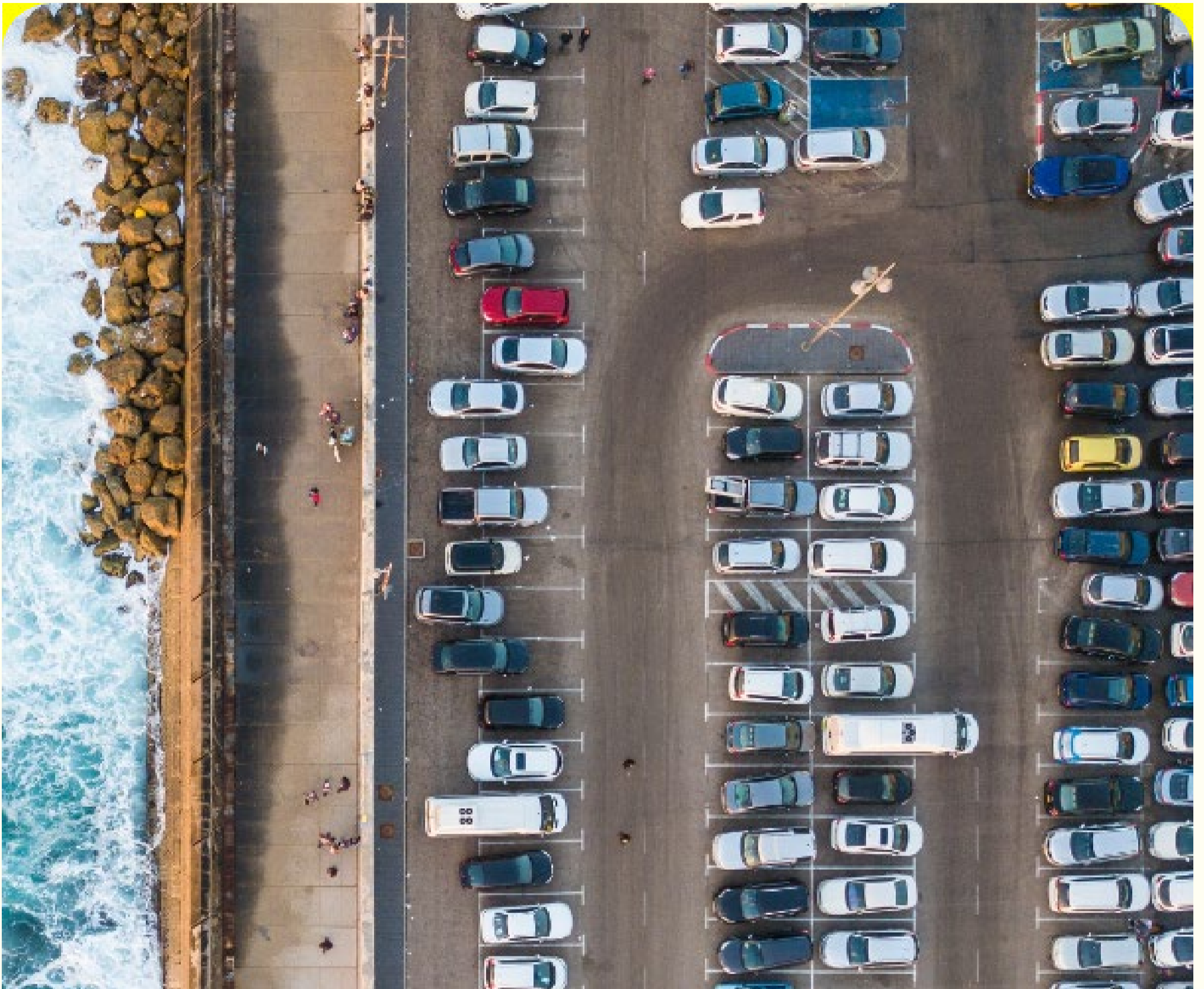
Zoë Condliffe founded She's A Crowd back in 2018, a safe and anonymous reporting platform that uses crowdsourcing technology and data analytics to combat gender-based violence, specifically for women and gender-diverse Australians, although stories from all over the world have also been shared. The company has since won a raft of awards while impacting policy and planning at a governmental level.

## Park Your Problems

Good friends Louise Chen and Lisa Qi created Share With Oscar to tackle the issue of the lack of parking spaces in urban areas by offering people to share their available spaces, such as driveways, for others to pay and park in. The company's mission is to "make our cities more liveable through sharing. We're changing the way we share our infrastructure and resources when we don't use them, to



➔ Jessica Gray, a licenced conveyancer and owner of Smart Coast Conveyancing which operates NSW wide.



create greener, smarter, and more liveable cities." The company is now Australia's largest network of on-demand parking, with solutions for all types of parking needs and a smart parking technology app that helps businesses better manage their parking facilities and optimise the use of space. Think of an AirBnB for parking and you're on the right track!

Morgan Coleman set up Vets On Call in 2018. Essentially a mobile veterinary service, or "Uber for pets" as it has often been referred to, the company makes "pet care more convenient, less stressful and completely transparent by delivering in our consultations in the comfort of our clients' homes."

Elsewhere, Amal Wakim and Jade Spooner quit their jobs at Google in 2016 to launch Equalution and pursue a healthier lifestyle, not just for themselves but for others. Offering a balanced nutritional plan that is personalised towards an individual's health goals with an app that tracks nutrients consumed, the company ranked 14th out of 50 companies for revenue growth over a three-year span on Deloitte Technology's Fast 50 Australia list, at a staggering 987%! The achievements also saw the founding couple featured in Forbes' Asia Pacific 30 Under 30 index under the category of Retail and E-commerce. Nowadays, the company is a multimillion-dollar

business with over 750,000 clients globally – a far cry from the \$240 weekly wage Jade was paying herself in the early days of the company's inception!

There are literally countless other examples of vibrant young entrepreneurs who are making waves and shaking up a whole range of industries, not just in Australia of course but worldwide, proving that age is not a barrier to success – you just need a creative imagination to form and develop a good idea, lots of positivity, passion and drive, a small dose of youthful fearlessness and maybe a little help from your friends (or parents!).

# CELEBRATING CINEMA AT THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

◆ Now in its 71st year, the Festival offers much for film buffs Down Under



gettyimages®  
Kristian Dowling

➔ Last year's MIFF saw over 300 feature films.

**Photo: Getty**

**T**he MIFF premiered in 1952, making it one of the oldest film festivals in the world only behind Cannes, Venice and Berlin. Over the years it has developed to become renowned as not only Australia's leading and most iconic film festival but the largest of its kind in the entire southern hemisphere, where films premiere throughout selected cinemas in the CBD alongside a range of industry specific events. Accredited by the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Australian Film

Institute and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, the MIFF also has major social economic benefits as it generates millions of dollars for the state of Victoria each year.

Some of the industry specific workshops and events running throughout the festival include:

- Accelerator, an educational skills development program run over four days for emerging directors who have short films screening at MIFF.
- MIFF 37°South Market, which serves as a film financing program for producers.
- MIFF Premiere Fund, which provides essential finance support for local feature-length films.
- MIFF Talks program, where guest directors, actors, screenwriters and producers engage in panel discussions.

Last year's MIFF saw over 300 feature films, documentaries and short films screened from



81 different countries and in 74 different languages. It's therefore safe to say it is an occasion that warmly embraces diversity and provides an eclectic mix of productions to its audience. As the MIFF itself states, its vision is to create "an enlightened, inclusive, engaged society through film" by bringing "the story of the world through curated and unforgettable screen experiences". Furthermore, there is the MIFF Schools initiative which aligns with the Victorian Curriculum learning program and provides discounted access for students and teachers alike as many of the films screened each year are in languages taught in state schools, such as Japanese, French, Spanish and Mandarin.

The main prizes for works submitted to the festival include the \$140,000 Bright Horizons Award, which celebrates emerging filmmakers, the Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award, which rewards outstanding Australian creativity within a film playing during the festival, and the Audience Award, where viewers vote for their favourite film and documentary aired throughout the festival. There is also the Shorts Awards category with a total cash prize pool of \$63,500 where winners become eligible for consideration at the annual Academy Awards Oscars ceremony in the United States.

Some of the highly-anticipated offerings this year at MIFF include *No Bears*, *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood*, *20,000 Species of Bees*, *How to Blow up a Pipeline*, *Monster*, *the Eternal Daughter*, *Autobiography*, *A Couple*, *La Chimera*, *BlackBerry*, *Femme*, *Showing Up* starring Michelle Williams, *May December* starring Julianne Moore and Natalie Portman, and the Wim Wenders-directed *Perfect Days*.

Aussie specific produced offerings include the Hugo Weaving starring feature *The Rooster*, *Keeping Hope*, *Shayda*, *Mercy Road*, *Kindred*,

*Monolith*, *Hello Dankness*, *The Coolbaroo Club*, *Birdeater*, *The Carnival*, *Japanese Story* and *The Hidden Spring*.

The opening night gala kicks off with the screening of *Shayda*, an Australian-produced film that stars Cannes Best Actress winner Zar Amir-Ebrahimi as an Iranian mother in an Australian refuge centre seeking a new life for herself and her daughter. The festival closes

with American comedy *Theater Camp*, which won the US Dramatic Special Jury Award for Ensemble at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

More information on the festival, including how to access passes, can be found here.

[miff.com.au](http://miff.com.au)



The MIFF premiered in 1952, making it one of the oldest film festivals in the world only behind Cannes, Venice and Berlin. Photo:

**Photo: Getty**

# BULLYING IN THE CROSSHAIRS – RAISING AWARENESS AND TAKING ACTION

◆ “Bullies are always to be found where there are cowards.” – Mahatma Gandhi



Let's be honest, there's not much worse than a bully, is there? We've all come across them, be it in school or later in life at work or in social circles, there will always be someone who chooses to attempt to dominate others via verbal or even physical intimidation. Gandhi had it right for sure - bullies are just cowards at the end of the day.

It's why we at Brilliant Online are so eager to promote and support the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, a leading anti-bullying prevention initiative for schools in Australia taking place on Friday, August 18. Last year, 68% of Australian schools aligned to support the initiative and, as bullying unfortunately shows little sign of dissipating, the focus will be even greater this year in an attempt to prompt yet further awareness and action.



According to statistics provided by DoSomething.Org from a study conducted in the United States, “About 37% of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have been bullied online [and] 30% have had it happen more than once.” Data from the Pew Research Center suggests that “at least half of the young U.S. population has faced bullying online in 2022.”

Another recent study shows that children using YouTube are the most likely to be cyberbullied at 79%, followed by Snapchat at 69%, TikTok at 64% and Facebook at 49%.

With up to 95% of children in the US alone having direct access to the internet via home computers, smart phones and tablets, and an increase in screen time engagement during and since the COVID-19 pandemic, this worrying trend seems likely to only go one way. And, whereas these stats are U.S. specific, it is common knowledge that proportionate numbers are being realised globally. Cloudwards states that “About 28% of children around the world have experienced cyberbullying that is racially motivated, according to their parents, with the highest rates occurring in India and the U.S.”

While children are the most vulnerable targets of cyberbullying, adults are also regularly victims, although the abuse is often referred to as online harassment or stalking instead.

The Pew Research Center cites that 40% of American adults have personally experienced some form of online harassment and a report in the Sydney Morning Herald from 2017 states that cyberbullying happens to at least one in 10 Australians (the number will have increased considerably since, of course). A visit to any online forum these days can often unveil a torrent of abusive exchanges between what may appear to be juveniles, but more often than transpire, to be fully grown adults.

## Detrimental impact

The impacts of any form of bullying can be devastating, not only to the victim themselves but also to families, and cyberbullying is no different. In fact, it can be worse. Cyberbullying doesn't end when the school bell rings at the end of the day. Instead it can be carried out at any time, day or night, via emails, text messages, social media posts and video shares. It can often leave the victim feeling suffocated with no obvious or imminent sign of reprieve. The detrimental impact from a mental health perspective can be huge, with a marked increase in stress and anxiety levels, bouts of depression, clear acts of violence being demonstrated, physical degradation, evidence of self-harm, a general sense of very low self-esteem and long-term emotional scars.

Sadly, the link between bullying and suicide rates and attempts is profound. Bullying Statistics cites how "for every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts" and how over "14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it." The same site details a study by Yale University that states, "Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims" and how a "study in Britain found that at least half of

suicides among young people are related to bullying."

It is why awareness initiatives like the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on August 18 are arguably as critical now than ever before. The theme this year is 'growing connections' which "supports research findings that strong school community connections and social skills are protective factors in the prevention of bullying and help enable positive, help-seeking behaviours in students."

Aligned to such initiatives, UNICEF hints at a glint of positivity in specific regard to targeting cyberbullies: "Face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying can often happen alongside each other. But cyberbullying leaves a digital footprint – a record that can prove useful and provide evidence to help stop the abuse." Social media giants such as Facebook and Twitter are constantly being

lobbied to provide a more robust protection mechanism on their platforms and to oust any series offenders found guilty of bullying or harassment of any form, although, while there has been some progress, critics argue it is too slow and much more needs to be done.

Whether you are a parent, teacher, student or member of the broader community, everyone has a role to play in preventing bullying so please get behind the August 18 initiative and efforts to help create a brighter and safer tomorrow for all.

More information on the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence initiative can be accessed here.

[bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au)



# FROM RACHEL SHEPPARD (COUNCILLOR, DEPUTY MAYOR, PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL)

◆ For the last six months I've been privileged to serve as Deputy Mayor for the Port Macquarie- Hastings, with my term due to end in February 2024.



Rachel Sheppard Deputy Mayor PMHC.

**T**his month, the Mayor of Port Macquarie Hastings Council has proposed to remove and not replace the Deputy Mayor role for the remainder of this term. (Item 10.01: [https://portmacquarie.infocouncil.biz/Open/2023/08/OC\\_17082023\\_AGN\\_WEB.htm](https://portmacquarie.infocouncil.biz/Open/2023/08/OC_17082023_AGN_WEB.htm))

## My initial response to the Mayor's proposal.

Firstly, it is important for our community to have a Deputy Mayor.

The role of the Deputy Mayor is to perform the responsibilities of the Mayor in the event that the

Mayor is absent or incapacitated. This is an important redundancy to ensure continuity of civic leadership. Almost all Councils maintain this position.

Having a Deputy Mayor for an LGA offers other potential benefits including.

- sharing the workload of Council
- preparation for succession planning
- upskilling the broader elected governing body in serving our community
- supporting the flow of information to councillors who are not in regular communication with the Mayor.



Secondly, I have performed the Deputy Role well.

After my election to Deputy Mayor in February I was soon given the opportunity to be Acting Mayor by chairing the March Public Forum, when the Mayor became unavailable at short notice. (<https://www.portnews.com.au/story/8120460/no-explanation-councillors-called-out-for-last-minute-no-show-at-public-forum/>).



## Acting Mayor for a month

While the Mayor was absent without leave shortly following the State election. During that time, I was called on to chair different Council meetings, perform the Mayor's regular media duties, and I was especially privileged to represent Council as Acting Mayor on Anzac Day at the Centenary Memorial in Kendall

Since that time, I played an important role in the CEO review process as Deputy Mayor, and

have otherwise only been called upon as Deputy on few occasions. Meanwhile, I have continued to perform my role as councillor with diligence and with stubborn and steadfast commitment to transparency and integrity.

I understand that many people in our community value my approach to local government. Many have noted my commitment to meaningful community engagement, sustainability across the Triple Bottom Line (community, environment, economy), and

future readiness of Council and our community.

On Thursday I will argue my case in Chambers, and I hope that as a result I will have the opportunity to complete my 12-month term as Deputy Mayor. Community members can attend meeting in person. Council meetings are also live streamed to YouTube.

\*The views in this release are Rachel Sheppard's alone, and not those of PMHC, any other Councillor or person\*



➔ Australia's Matildas beat France on Saturday night 12th August 2023. Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi.

Photo: Andy Cheung from Arck Photography & Images





*Brilliant*

**SPORTS**



# NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR SUNRISE HASTINGS SPORTS AWARDS

◆ Councillor Nik Lipovac and Sunrise Rotary President, Diane Hicks have opened nominations for the Sunrise Hastings Sports Awards 2023.



## ➔ The Sports Awards Sponsors and Committee Members

**T**he Port Macquarie Hastings Sporting Fund and the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise are once again collaborating to deliver the annual Sunrise Hastings Sports Awards.

The awards recognise local athletes and volunteers for their achievements in sport, with \$10,000 in prizes to be awarded to help our future sporting champions achieve their dreams.

Opening the nominations for 2023, Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise's President, Diane Hicks, acknowledges the importance of local sport to our community.



“Community sport brings us together; it promotes not only physical and mental health but also creates social connections and friendships that can last a lifetime. Each year our Sports Awards Committee is inspired by the stories and achievements shared by nominees, along with the commitment of volunteers and families to support young people in achieving their sporting dreams.”

“The Sunrise Hastings Sports Awards celebrate the spirit, commitment, and diversity of sporting accomplishments in our community. Nominations from a wide range of sports and the many varied roles in volunteering are encouraged,” says Diane.

The nomination period covers achievements from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023.

### The Wayne Richards Scholarship shield

Chair of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sporting Fund Sub-Committee, Nik Lipovac, was





## ➔ The Wayne Richards 2022 Scholarship winner Trent Alley ( Pictured Centre )

proud to officially launch the Scholarship Shield displayed at the Port Macquarie Indoor Stadium and announced an increase in the scholarship prize to \$5,000 to help with the costs associated with competing, travelling, accommodation and the purchase of uniforms.

"The Wayne Richards Scholarship Shield, recognises previous award winners, and aims to inspire our young athletes to pursue their sporting goals," Nik said.

The Wayne Richards Scholarship was launched in 2004 by the Mayor's Sporting Fund Sub-

Committee as a tribute to former Mayor Wayne Richards who established the Mayor's Sporting Fund in 1999 and was a passionate supporter of youth and sport in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. To apply for the Wayne Richards Sporting Scholarship, visit [pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Wayne-Richards-Scholarship](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Wayne-Richards-Scholarship).

Since 2005 the Wayne Richards Scholarship has been awarded to 18 extraordinary local athletes representing 13 different sports including those who have achieved success at international level like Ryley Batt (Wheelchair Rugby), Lauren Kitchen (Cycling) and Luke

Meier-Smith (Mountain Biking). Others have proudly represented their region and state and are on the verge of becoming future stars like Trent Alley (Athletics) and Annika Toohey (Hockey), while others turned professional including Claire Coelho (Football), Chase O'Leary (Bodyboarding) and Madi Roberts (Triathlete).

## Wayne Richards Scholarship Fundraiser



The Port Macquarie-Hastings Sporting Fund and Regional Australia Bank invite you to their TRIVIA NIGHT Fundraiser at the Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club on FRIDAY AUGUST 18. (\*6pm for a 7pm start through to 10pm). Tickets are \$120 for a table of 8. Limited Tables so get in quick.

(Rego closes Aug 16 or until Sold Out).

Your Quiz Masters John and Sue Carroll are back, so here's your chance to test your wits and challenge other teams on a wide variety of subjects as you vie for the honour of being named the 2023 Hastings Trivia Champions!

The theme is to wear Green and Gold, but if you have any Matilda's supporter gear, then wear that! The Trivia Night is being held two nights before the Women's Football World Cup Final. This Event supports local Junior Athletes aged 13 to 21 who apply for financial support or nominate for the Wayne Richards Scholarship which provides \$5 000!

Tickets now on sale at the Glasshouse Box Office or on-line [here](#)

**Book Ticket**

## Port Macquarie Sunrise Rotary launched the Hastings Sports Awards 24 years ago

The awards encourage participation in grass root sport across the region and provide some financial support to local champions to help them achieve their sporting goals. Previous winners have included Olympians, professional footballers, elite cyclists, and volunteers on club committees or as coaches.

This year the Sports Awards Breakfast presentation will be held at 7am on Friday 20 October at Port Panthers and proudly sponsored by Greenmeadows Health Centre and the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise.

## 9 Categories

The highly sought-after awards now include nine categories:

- Wayne Richards Sporting Scholarship
- Greenmeadows Health Centre Sportsperson of the Year
- AusSport Scoreboards Junior Sportsperson of the Year (Primary School age)
- Donovan Oates Hannaford Junior Sportsperson of the Year (High School age)
- Flower Hotels Senior Sportsperson of the Year
- Patterson Real Estate Junior Team of the Year (18 years and Under)

- Donovan Oates Hannaford Senior Team of the Year
- Laing + Simmons Port Macquarie Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability
- Hastings Physiotherapy Sporting Volunteer of the Year
- Regional Australia Bank – Excellence in Sporting Achievements (awarded at judges' discretion from nominees for other awards).

Nominations are now open at [sunrise-rotary.org.au/sportsawards/](http://sunrise-rotary.org.au/sportsawards/) and will close at midnight on Friday, 30 September. Nominations across all categories will automatically be entered into the Sportsperson of the Year Award sponsored by Greenmeadows Health Centre.



➔ The theme is Green and Gold



Experience what flying is all about

# BUY A DISCOVERY FLIGHT FOR \$160

**Purchase a Discovery flight gift voucher**

[www.hdfc.com.au](http://www.hdfc.com.au)

# IN A CLASS OF HER OWN, LOUISE LANDGRAF MAKES GOLFING HISTORY

◆ Young golfing prodigy Louise Landgraf sets a new record as the youngest ever winner on the women's professional golf tour.



➔ Louise made history by becoming the youngest ever winner on the women's professional tour in April while still an amateur.

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

**K**een readers of Brilliant-Online may well recall a profile piece we ran in March 2022 on a young, amateur golfing prodigy based in Phuket, Thailand by the name of Louise Landgraf who has been

trailblazing through the sport over recent years. "Sometimes people are just born to do something," we said. "Natural talent is in their blood and their destiny almost seems preordained."

Well, in the 12 months or so since that piece, Louise has taken things to an altogether different level after the Phuket school girl made history by becoming the youngest ever female winner on the professional

tour when she triumphed at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open, part of the Ladies European Tour Access Series, on April 15 at the age of 14 years, 2 months and 18 days. In doing so, she broke the record previously set by young Thai sensation Atthaya Thitikul who won the Ladies European Thailand Open in 2017, aged 14 years, 4 months and 19 days old.

Battling not only tough opponents but adverse weather conditions at the Domaine de Terre Blanche Golf Resort in the south of France, where high winds meant the competition had to be shortened to two rounds, Louise finished with hugely impressive scores of 69 and 74, sinking five birdies during her round to ultimately end 2 shots over par. Entering into a three-way

playoff against Pasquale Coffa of the Netherlands and Charlotte Liautier of France, Louise kept her cool and focus to win the match and subsequently claim the record, a truly outstanding achievement.

However, proving that her mind was purely focused on her game, Louise admitted after the victory that she was unaware she had broken the record and, while clearly delighted, maintained her typically humble and respectful manner. "I wasn't aware I had broken a record," said Louise, who was born and raised in Phuket to a Thai mother and French father but who now competes for France. "But after I got the news I was definitely surprised because I beat Atthaya Thitikul which is pretty cool to achieve at a young age.

That win has got her to where she is now and it is nice to follow her footsteps. She is such an amazing player, she's really consistent, that's where I hope to see myself in the next few years.

"I feel great after the win," she added. "I feel I have accomplished something really good. Especially, to win on a professional tour is something I've wanted to accomplish for a really long time. It definitely shows me what I am able to achieve and definitely gives me a boost of confidence in other tournaments. I exceeded my expectations by a long way. My dad was my caddie this week - he used to caddie for me a lot when I was younger - so it was really nice for him to join me this week."



➔ Louise with the winner's trophy at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open on April 15.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



➔ Louise with the winner's trophy at the under-14 French International Championships at Chantilly Le Vineuil Golf Club on April 22.

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Prodigious talent

Following her record-breaking success, Louise then followed up by competing at the under-14 French International Championships at Chantilly Le Vineuil Golf Club, Chantilly, France on April 20-22. Her prodigious talent shone once again as she posted scores of 71 (par), 68 (-3) and 67 (-4) to finish on a total of 7 under par and claim the overall win. Afterwards she was invited to represent the French girls' national team at the under-14 age level, qualifying thanks to her father Marc.

The final stop on Louise's European tour was the Jabra Evian Ladies Open, to which she received an official invitation to compete from the Ladies European Tour following her win at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open. Competing in an extremely tough field, Louise made the cut after 2 rounds and finished 6 over par to place a hugely credible 39th out of a total of 132 players. The three combined tournaments means Louise is currently ranked 92nd in the Ladies' World Amateur Golf Ranking and 601st on the World Ladies Rolex Golf Ranking.

More recently, Louise was on a five-tournament tour of the United

States and once again her talent shone through. She won the girls' 15-18 age group at the World Star Golf Championships Class Girls in Las Vegas, Nevada, between June 27-29 with a score of 70 (-2), 69 (-3) & 67 (-5), to finish with a total of 206 (-10). Louise then followed this up by winning the FCG Callaway Junior World Championships at Cimarron Golf Club in Cathedral City, California, on July 19 with score of 67 (-4), 62 (-9) & 62 (-9). She also finished in second place in the girls' 15-23 year age class at the FCG Collegiate Summer Series at Twin Oaks Golf Club in San Marcos, California on June 22.



Louise and her proud parents after winning the World Star Golf Championships in Las Vegas on June 29, 2022.

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Louise credits her parents for supporting her and helping her to get where she is now. Both parents travel with her on overseas trips, providing logistical and emotional support, and even caddying when required, as Marc did at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open. The entire Landgraf family are quick to pay special thanks to Louise's coach in Phuket Prawat Prachoomsrisakul aka Pro Golf, her French coaches Laurent Cabanne and Thierry Abbas, Le Kempferhof Golf Club in France, the French Golf Federation team, Loch Palm Golf Club in Phuket, Red Mountain Phuket, Phuket Country Club and Transview Bangkok, who sponsors Louise's golf equipment.

Louise herself cites 13 time LPGA winner Brooke Henderson of Canada as her biggest inspiration. "I look up to Brooke Henderson," she said. "She is an amazing player. I really like her attitude and the way she practices. There have been some ups and downs in her career but she always fights back. I really admire that fighting ability. She has been my inspiration for a really long time. I met her once and she was really kind in person, she shows me what I have to do to be there up with her."

One thing is for certain – the future is definitely bright for

this phenomenal young talent who has already demonstrated such huge potential. Thailand's Atthaya has gone on to enjoy a hugely successful career and is currently ranked number 6 in the world on the ladies' professional tour and, having already broken one record held by the Thai star, the future is Louise's to make. While she has stated she aims to turn professional within the next five years, it would be no surprise to see Louise breaking even more records and creating even greater waves within the game before then.



17th August is International Homeless Animals Day.  
Adopt a Pet and Give them a Home.

PHOTO: TEHMASIP KHAN





*Brilliant*

**PETS**



# THE TAILS OF TRUMPET THE THAI CAT!

◆ With August 8 marking International Cat Day, we caught up with a cute little furry feline who is living a splendid life in the tropical paradise of Phuket in Thailand!



Meow! Hello, my name is Trumpet!

**M**eow! Hello, my name is Trumpet! I only know this as it is what my hooman friends regularly say when they see me or are calling me. I never used to have a name before they came – I was just a little white cat.

I was born in a lush landscape surrounded by trees, which my Mama later told us was called a jungle. I had several brothers and sisters that looked just like me and who I used to play with regularly. We had such fun chasing through the trees and getting to know the

other animals that lived there such as squirrels, monkeys, birds, geckos, bats and a huge variety of insects. There were certain animals that we were warned not to go near but to run far and fast from if we ever saw them, two of which I remember being called snakes and monitor lizards!

My favourite animal friends, however, should have really scared me but absolutely didn't. They were so kind and graceful and would always smile when they saw me, despite me being so much smaller and weaker than them.

My Mama told me these animals were called elephants, the king of the jungle, and they lived near us as they worked in the day taking lots of loud, noisy tourists on treks into the heart of the jungle. Why, I don't know, but my Mama said our elephant friends were well looked after and were never left wanting for food or shelter, especially when the heavy monsoon rains would come.

Nearby our jungle playland was a big house where I would sometimes see people although me and my family were far more scared of them than any of



## ➔ Trumpet has Elephant Friends and is not afraid of them

the animals we regularly came across in our world. Sometimes the people would leave scraps of food outside and we would sneak up late at night with only the moonlight and our bravery to guide us in order to take them. Sometimes there would be fish bones which were my absolute favourite!

Then suddenly one day the people disappeared. My Mama said she heard the local workers at the elephant camp saying it was because of some sort of virus that the people had started by eating bats in a faraway place called China and which had spread throughout

the rest of the world. It sounded scary but not half as much as the thought of people eating my friends – gulp! My Mama always said people were supposed to be smart but they didn't seem so to me!

### **Braver and smarter**

One day my Mama never came home. I still don't know what happened to her but my brothers and sisters and I missed her terribly and felt lost without her. It meant we had to be braver and smarter in looking after ourselves, making trips further than we did

before into areas where there were many more people. Some were kind and would feed us but some were mean and would shoo us away. I found people to be very strange beings!

Then, one by one, my brothers and sisters started to get ill and disappear until, one day, I was left completely alone. I was scared at first but my friends in the jungle looked after me and made sure I had company and protection, especially the elephants. It was around this time when I met the people that gave me my name and made me realise that not all people are strange or mean.

It was a big man with a hairy face and a small woman who moved into the house close to our jungle home that me, my brothers and sisters and Mama used to visit so often. I could tell they were different as they also had two cats with them, although these two cats did not go outside at any point. Still, I could see the couple were very kind to the two cats as I would sneak up close to the house to take a peek every evening and see them receiving food, being brushed

and fussed and having warm, comfortable blankets and baskets to sleep in. Sometimes late at night I would lie outside the window and talk to one of the cats, a big black boy I later learned was called Gus. He was very friendly and we fast became good friends!

One day while I was near the house, the couple saw me and called me over, making a kind of strange kissing sounding noise with their lips to attract my attention! As I now considered myself to be a big

boy, I decided not to be scared and went over to them. They were very gentle as they stroked my coat and offered me some food, which was delicious! I decided I could trust them and would visit more often.

As I did, I got closer and closer to the couple, who I decided to call "hoomans" as they were affectionate and kind. They started to call me "trumpet" because, apparently, I made lots of noise when I spoke to them! I still don't really know what a trumpet is but



I like it as a name! They started to feed me fish twice a week in a cute little bowl and healthy portions of biscuits twice a day, which were yummy! They also bought me a little kennel with a cushion inside which was lovely to sleep on and allowed me to shelter from the rain. I was also given several toys to play with and the hoomans started to tickle my belly and brush me which was soothing and relaxing and helped me fall asleep. It also kept my coat clean and fresh

and made me appear even more handsome, they said!

I don't know how long my hooman friends will be here but I hope it is forever. I did hear them saying that if they decided to move from the house then they would probably take me with them, which made me feel happy and wanted. I would miss my animal friends and the jungle but am sure I would make new friends elsewhere. For now, however, I am happy being able to roam free and get into all manner

of adventures, knowing that I have some good friends who take care of me and always make sure I have yummy food to eat! I enjoy sitting with them at night on the balcony of the house where I can look out over the jungle to see my elephant friends and across to the sea where all the fish live! I know I am very lucky and just hope all the cats out there in the big wide world have a very happy international cat day, just like me!



I got closer and close to the "hoomans"

# SOI DOG – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS SAVING ASIA’S DOGS AND CATS

◆ “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” – Mahatma Gandhi



The Phuket-based organisation Soi Dog celebrates its 20th year anniversary

**T**he Phuket-based organisation Soi Dog celebrates its 20th year anniversary this year, having helped close to a million stray cats and dogs during that period, in addition to driving a shift in perceptions on animal welfare in Southeast Asia. As its mission statement reads, “Soi Dog Foundation’s mission is to improve the welfare of dogs and cats in Asia, resulting in better lives for both the animal and human communities, to

create a society without homeless animals and to ultimately end animal cruelty. Simply translated from the Thai language, Soi means “street, alley or lane”. Thus, in effect, “Street Dog”.

The story of Soi Dog goes back to 2003 when British couple John and Gill Dalley decided to retire to the island paradise of Phuket, Thailand. They had got married there seven years earlier and had instantly fallen in love with the place, returning on numerous occasions

until finally making the decision to relocate there full-time.

Both had enjoyed successful careers – Gill in banking and John in the chemicals industry – and decided they wanted to give something back to society, to help others less fortunate. Both animal lovers, they had noticed the appalling plight of stray animals on the streets, beaches and parks of Phuket during their numerous visits and thus decided to focus on helping them endure less suffering.



“We were a bit shocked at first,” John recalls. “Most of the dogs were emaciated through malnutrition. Many had mange and were covered in sores. Some had open wounds which could have been caused by road traffic accidents, dog fights or human cruelty. Many of the wounds were infested with parasites and maggots, and riddled with infection.

They were living on the streets without anyone to care for them. I wanted to find a solution to improve their lives, but was unsure how to do this. The scale of the problem was just so overwhelming.”

The couple joined forces with a Dutch expatriate called Margot Homburg, who had set up the Soi Dog Foundation in Bangkok where she helped numerous dogs get neutered at local vets. Having recently moved to Phuket herself, Margot, John and Gill set about improving the situation by embarking on a widespread spay and neuter programme to help reduce the number of strays being born, thus reducing the suffering in the process.

### Fighting spirit

The operation was underway and gaining traction before tragedy struck. In September 2004, after rescuing a dog in a flooded buffalo field, Gill contracted a rare form of septicaemia which left her in a coma for several weeks and resulted in both her legs being amputated. However, with a strong will and admirable fighting spirit, Gill discharged herself from hospital after a couple of months and returned home to continue the work.

Then the Boxing Day 2004 Tsunami hit, which completely devastated Phuket. However, proving that a glint of positivity can come out of even the darkest moments, the tragedy propelled Soi Dog into the spotlight as their tireless efforts to help animals across the island impacted by the disaster attracted widespread attention and offers of support. The following year, the organisation became the first of its kind to be granted foundation status in Thailand before it established a shelter in the northern district of Mai Khao, which still serves as its global headquarters to this day.

Margot returned to Bangkok in 2006 to leave Gill and John to drive the organisation forward and their tireless efforts resulted in profound expansion and exposure in the subsequent decade. Sadly, Gill passed away after a short battle with cancer in early 2017. John remains fully involved in the Soi Dog Foundation, honouring his commitment to Gill and the street dogs and cats, and in 2020



➔ The story of Soi Dog goes back to 2003 when British couple John and Gill Dalley retired to Phuket, Thailand

was awarded an MBE in Queen Elizabeth II birthday honours for services to animal welfare in Southeast Asia.

Nowadays Soi Dog continues to thrive, completing over 190,000 neuter and vaccination procedures a year, more than any other organisation in the world. The Gill Dalley Sanctuary in Phuket is home to around 1,900 animals and the most advanced stray dog and cat hospitals in Southeast Asia, with a full-time veterinary team that handle over 400 new admissions every month. There is a treatment facility in Bangkok and crisis situations throughout the country are regularly responded to. Relying wholly on donations, it continues to be dedicated to implementing effective, sustainable solutions

that reduce the suffering of dogs and cats in Asia, ensuring all donations are used to help animals as effectively as possible. Advocacy has seen the likes of Peter Egan, Ricky Gervais, Dame Judi Dench and Joanna Lumley all lend their support.

## Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return

Today, Soi Dog's spay and neuter programme, CNVR (Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return), is at the forefront of its operations and is aiming to reduce the number of animals born into a life of suffering and abuse or neglect, eliminate rabies and stop the spread of other infectious diseases among dogs and cats, both domesticated and non-domesticated, benefitting

animal and human communities alike. It carries out CNVR in various locations across Thailand and is committed to a long-term programme of CNVR in Greater Bangkok in partnership with Dogs Trust Worldwide, where it has expanded to nine mobile teams within the capital city.

Soi Dog was also instrumental in seeing the horrendous dog and cat meat trade abolished in Thailand and the introduction of the country's first animal welfare law which came into effect in 2014. Active efforts to end the trade continue today in Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.

Soi Dog also oversees local, national and international adoptions, directly rehoming thousands of dogs and cats



➔ Soi Dog's full-time veterinary team handle over 400 new admissions every month



rescued from dire situations across the country. It also collaborates with several like-minded rehoming organisations in the USA – and, prior to the implementation of an import ban in September 2022, Canada – who have helped to find loving forever homes for over 1,000 former Thai street animals in North America since 2017.

Working alongside the adoptions team in Thailand, the boards in these countries, plus a host of other dedicated volunteers, form a network that supports the adoption process from start to finish, providing ongoing advice and assistance to adopters.

Soi Dog runs Humane Education and Community Outreach programmes targeted to help improve the treatment of both

stray and domestic animals in Thailand, actively teaching local schoolchildren and communities about animal welfare. Soi Dog opened its humane education centre in 2020, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

The community outreach programme is also responsible for the treatment of over 10,000 animals each year on the street and at the local government pound and provides over 130 tonnes of dog and cat food every year to stray animal feeders.

For those wishing to help and donate their time, the Soi Dog sanctuary welcomes visitors and volunteers from all over the world, year round. More information can be accessed at [www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org).

**\* Sometimes words or images**

**can cause sadness or distress, or trigger traumatic memories for people, particularly survivors of past abuse, violence or childhood trauma. For some people, these responses can be overwhelming. If you need to talk to someone, support is available.**

**Find & Connect Support Services: Freecall 1800 16 11 09 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm).**

**Lifeline: Call 13 11 14 anytime for confidential telephone crisis support.**



**Soi Dog is committed to bringing an end to the horrendous dog and cat meat trade in certain parts of Asia**

# RECIPE FOR DOG LIVER BITES

◆ Pamper your canine darlings with this homemade treat. A way to a dog's heart is through their stomachs!



➡ Dog lickin' good!

**D**id you know that liver is a kind of superfood for dogs? It's a great source of protein and does not have as much fat as muscle meat. It's also rich in nutrients such as Vitamin A, D, B, folic acid, iron and other minerals like copper and zinc. All these help with their immune functions, anaemia and supports bone and joint health.

\*Always check with your vet about the appropriate amount of any type of food to give to your dog. This may vary depending on the breed, size and health conditions etc.

For this recipe you can use beef or chicken liver. If you don't have a food processor, a blender or liquidizer would work as well. Otherwise you can finely chop the oats and liver before cooking.

## Ingredients

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ pound chicken livers, rinsed and trimmed
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, or more as needed

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Grease a 9-inch square baking dish and line it with parchment paper.
2. Add oats to the bowl of a food processor; pulse until finely chopped, 10 to 15 seconds. Transfer oats to a large bowl and mix in flour.
3. Place livers in the food processor and process until smooth, 10 to 15 seconds. Add eggs and blend until well combined, about 10 seconds. Add oil and process until incorporated.



## ➡ Dog Liver Bites

Source: [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

4. Add liver mixture to oat and flour mixture; stir until well blended. Spoon into the prepared baking dish.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until firm to the touch but not hard and crispy, 30 to 40 minutes.
6. Remove from the oven and let

cool completely before cutting into 50 pieces.

And there you have it! Homemade (with love) dog liver bites that's going to go down a real treat! We are going to have to change the expression 'it's a dog's life' to mean the complete opposite nowadays, given the pampering our canine

friends receive from their Forever Homes!

Learn about the life of a Peanut, the THERAPuppy!

**How do I get a Therapy Dog, like Peanut?**





➔ 115 Switchblade flying cars were sold at Oshkosh 2023 valued at nearly \$22M

Photo: Samson Sky



*Brilliant*

**TRAVEL**



# THE WORLD'S GREATEST AVIATION CELEBRATION AT EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH 2023<sup>®</sup>

◆ Aviation enthusiasts swear by the magic of EAA's AirVenture at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It's an AirVenture unlike any other.



➔ Members of the local Hastings District Flying Club were at Oshkosh 2023!

**E**AA (Experimental Aircraft Association), founded in 1953 is an international organisation with more than 240,000 members who nurture their passion for aviation through a worldwide network of chapters, outreach programs and events. It is best known for its largest aviation show held annually in Oshkosh, Wisconsin where it attracts more than 500,000 people and 10,000 airplanes.

Each summer for one week, the EAA organises the largest aviation show in the world with more than 500,000 people from 80 countries attending EAA AirVenture at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For those who are passionate about aviation, this is like their annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There are daily air shows, aerobatics and pyrotechnics. Watch

feature films at the Fly-In Theatre, attend forums, workshops and demonstrations. And not forgetting the thrilling Night Air Shows that get the crowds gasping.

**Check out Oshkosh 2023 videos here**



## HDFC was there too!

Knowing the passion for aviation of the members of our beloved Hastings District Flying Club (HDFC), they made their yearly pilgrimage to Oshkosh 2023 this summer and clearly had a great time! Meeting and talking to fellow enthusiasts and experts among the clouds, forming new friendships and catching up with friends they meet just once a year, it's an experience you have to go through once in your lifetime!

## Meet the Switchblade Flying Car

No, you're not on the set of Back to the Future with Doc and Marty. This is REAL! Meet the Switchblade flying car from Samson Sky!

The Switchblade made its appearance at Oshkosh 2023 and achieved record-breaking sales, adding 115 vehicles to their order books, valued at nearly... an astounding \$22M!



The Switchblade Flying Car currently has over 2400 reservations from 57 countries, and over 100 vehicles have already been pre-purchased by those wanting to be at the front of the queue!

The Switchblade is a two-seat flying sports car, powered by a 200 hp liquid cooled Samson 3 engine. It is a three wheel, street-legal vehicle you can keep parked in your garage. From there, you can drive it straight to the airport, extend the wings and tail in under three minutes. As it's a registered aircraft, you can fly to your nearest destination at up to 160mph. You



Check out the wild paint scheme on this Bristell

land and transform your plane to a car with wings and tail safely stowed and protected!

The Switchblade is set to transform lives, allowing users to enjoy freedom like never before, skipping traffic and saving time, conveniently going on business trips or travelling for recreation minus all the fuss.

Check out the different models of the gorgeous Switchblade here.

## EAA Museum

You could spend days at the EAA Museum and it would not be enough to marvel at the collection of beautiful planes.

And just to have a feel of how massive this event is, even

before the engines have cooled down from this year's event, the organisers are already brainstorming and planning Oshkosh 2024!

[Get tickets for Oshkosh 2024](#)

Remember to save the date for next year's show! And if you're looking for fellow aviation enthusiasts, you don't have to go so far to Wisconsin. Head up to Hastings District Flying Club and you'll find an amazing group of aviators who are passionate about taking to the skies. If it has always been your dream to learn to fly, check out their training programmes. See you at next year's Oshkosh 2024!

# BEDDING DOWN AT SYDNEY AIRPORT

◆ Prior to checking in, travel writer Susie Boswell checks out an exceptional hotel right at the edge of the runways.



➔ Mantra on Sydney Airport rises above the runways

**M**y head's in the clouds, and I'm loving it. Planes taking off from Sydney's busily throbbing domestic and international airports scream as they climb into the sky mere metres above my head, a thrilling aerial burst of energy and thrust. And with each that passes, whining, on descent I do a mental "duck" - in case they hit me, they seem so close! Just as aircraft, when they

salute, dip and waggle their wings, I do a subtle shimmy, an involuntary frisson at being so near these gloriously powerful skybirds - yet tucked safely inside the picture windows of my room atop one of Sydney's most personable airport hotels.

Such was my overwhelming sensation when Mantra on Sydney Airport opened some six years ago, and has remained a trademark when I've stayed now on three

subsequent occasions. Checking in here the night before departure, to overseas or to further-flung Australian destinations, ensures a smooth stress-free transition.

The bonus is that the anticipation of your flight and holiday, family reunion, or whatever purpose of travel is brought forward: the excitement that accompanies a journey starts once you check in to the hotel.

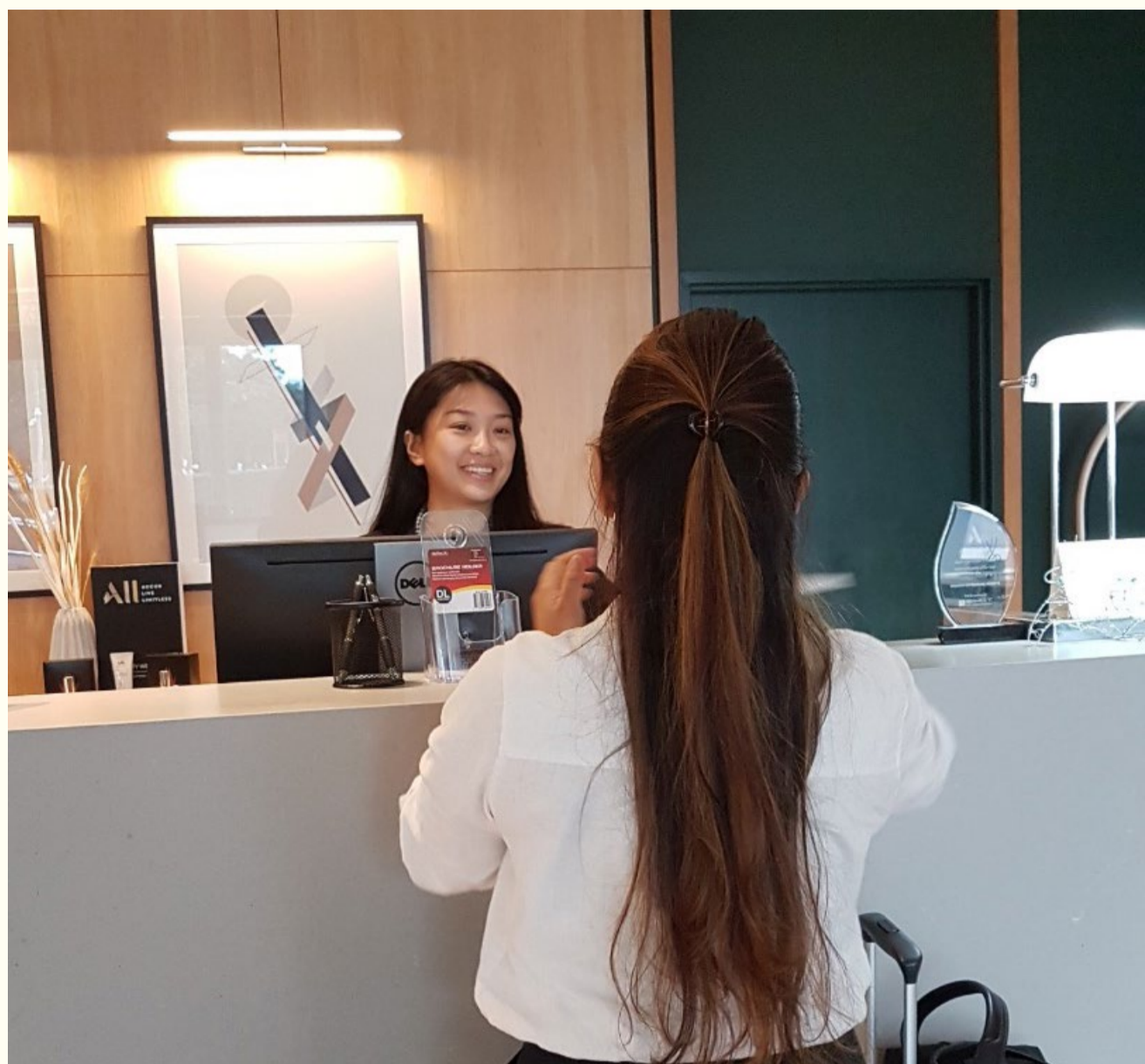


If you're ho-hum about flying, blasé at what a whiff of avgas promises, and the sound of jet engines elicits only ennui then, as my mate Dr Sammy Johnson says, you're just too tired of life.

Certainly, kids especially will get a sustained kick out of close-up plane spotting: parents, meanwhile, a reprieve from trying to invent new ways of keeping children occupied and satisfied in the - these days, inevitably - drawn-out prelude to actually clicking on the seat belt.



Exiting Sydney by air? A pre-flight airport hotel stay ensures you check in on time



Off to a good start with a warm, efficient greeting

The Mantra sits right at the northern edge of the airport complex, moments from the chain-wire perimeter fence to the taxiways. Any closer and it would be actually on the tarmac. Its convenient proximity to domestic Departures is such that many exiting guests choose just to hit the footpath (well-lit in dim light), pulling their roll-ons along for the few minutes it takes to the T2 and T3 terminals. Of course, cold or inclement weather's possible; there may be a posse of junior travellers to wrangle; lots of luggage might need handling: Mantra's 24-hour Reception staff have transfer by economical Sydney Super Shuttle down to a fine art, from the earliest hours of the day. Taxis and Ubers heading empty to the airport, too, can be keen to pick up a small fare for the final leg of their trip.

The activity in the air is matched by the buzz of a friendly and enthusiastic team here on the

front desk, accustomed to serving a clientele overwhelmingly of travellers with deadlines to meet. On all occasions I've stayed I found, and observed, them to be knowledgeable, willing and efficient in catering to left-field inquiries or requirements. Reception staff who offer eye contact, a genuine smile and truly enjoy their job? That's something.

The lobby opens to the glassed-in hotel restaurant, bar and a private lounge-cum-waiting area on one side and to a complimentary computer nook and the lifts on the other. (Lifts! The bane of life in many hotels. It's irritating to have to wait yonks for a lift to arrive, an aspect I detest in many a five-star CBD establishment). Here, lifts arrive promptly and travel swiftly - another little dollop of Mantra dopamine.

In fact, I've come to think of Mantra on Sydney Airport as my Goldilocks

hotel, as the metaphor goes. A low-to-mid-budget rate opens up individually air-conditioned rooms of a cosy but practical size, warmly carpeted and decorated (appropriately, with framed historic aircraft prints), featuring both sheer and block-out curtains and all the expected standard amenities including crisp restful bedding with choice of pillows, fluffy towels, ensuite bathroom with both a hand-held and a refreshing rain shower, TV, safe, iron/ironing board, mini fridge and, of course, a digital alarm clock - everything with the whiff of newness and sparkling clean.

Whether going out or arriving home, an uninterrupted sleep's particularly desirable: I found Mantra's soundproofing notably effective. If required, guests are offered Wifi, available for a fee.

One special aspect that strikes the first-time guest is the wardrobe.



There isn't one. As if to underline that this hotel's dedicated to travellers coming and going and not for dawdling, clothes hangers are fixed, exposed, to the walls, perfectly inviting a quick discard of jacket and pants, and a snappy grab-dress-go in the morning. After all, no one's unpacking here: we're all poised to fly out, or eager to bed down for immediate respite from a lengthy return flight.

Or, first, perhaps: the in-room electronic hotel directory suggests a welcome diversion. On 364 days a year, 8am to midnight, a Rejuvenator massage. The Rejuvenator website says the service provides clients with "a safe professional non-sexual massage". Mobile therapists offer a seated massage or bring a portable table, oils and lotions for

a relaxation, remedial, sports or aromatherapy massage, full-body exfoliation or facial. For example, the StressBuster, it boasts "will combat fatigue, provide stress relief, reduce the effects of jet lag and provide a deep sense of peace" with its combination of deep tissue, Swedish and Shiatsu massage and reflexology.

In tune with the hotel's reason for being, there's round-the-clock food and beverage room service from the Mantra kitchens. From breakfast on, the ground-floor restaurant offers an all-day menu through to lunch and dinner and the restful adjacent lounge is ideal for indulging in drinks from the bar. The spacious dining space informally divides itself into several sections by use of distinctive floor tiling or carpeting, and layout. A

corner nook, for example, is slightly removed from the main area and suitable for restless children, or as a more secluded spot for solo patrons to enjoy reading as they dine. All the while, wall-mounted Departures boards keep guests informed of aircraft timetables.



Driving to Sydney before flying out? An airport hotel with parking smooths the trip

A key attribute of the hotel is the vast parking area surrounding the building. It's doubtful you'd ever miss securing a spot in this massive well-lit arena. It's open-air but secure, with passengers, the airport Shuttle and taxis all coming and going pretty much all the time. On the last occasion I stayed the fee - with unlimited exits and re-entries - was less than at the Blue Emu public parking facility. (And, using Blue Emu requires drivers to join its shuttle bus for quite a distance to the domestic terminals, and doesn't service the International Airport at all. Blue Emu T1 travellers need to pay the Sydney Super Shuttle fare, or transfer by rail or taxi/Uber across to International). Inquire with Mantra Reception for charges for leaving your car at the hotel while you're away.



Back from overseas and transiting home regionally? An airport hotel spell makes sense

In all, I find this venue simply comfortable and efficient, both pre- and post-flight, particularly when dealing with what can be the endurance test of long-haul travel. Frequently, there are delays on arrival home: queues, duty-free shopping, customs, quarantine, baggage collection, then the wait for a taxi/shuttle, maybe in inclement weather. If you're transferring to a regional flight you could be cutting it fine - too fine. If driving on to your country home, a good night's rest is not only welcome but wise.



### ➔ Dining and 24/7 service suit travellers' schedules

For departing passengers faced with a bare minimum of three hours arrival required prior to take-off, it's not worth gambling you won't encounter all sorts of delays meeting that deadline too. And if you'd enjoy the mesmerising "preview" thrill of watching the big birds come and

go as you settle into your room, make sure to request an airport-side location.

#### **Contact:**

E: [sydneyairport.res@mantra.com.au](mailto:sydneyairport.res@mantra.com.au)

Reservations: 13 15 17



## REGISTER YOUR CHILD WITH TG'S CHILD CARE

**Urangan QLD**  
+61 (07) 4184 2282  
[urangan@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:urangan@tgschildcare.com.au)  
[tgschildcare.com.au/urangan](http://tgschildcare.com.au/urangan)

**Armidale NSW**  
+61 (02) 6772 7810  
[armidale@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:armidale@tgschildcare.com.au)  
[tgschildcare.com.au/armidale](http://tgschildcare.com.au/armidale)

**Uralla NSW**  
+61 (02) 6778 3369  
[uralla@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:uralla@tgschildcare.com.au)  
[tgschildcare.com.au/uralla](http://tgschildcare.com.au/uralla)

**Wauchope - Hastings St NSW**  
+61 (02) 6585 1033  
[HastingsStreet@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:HastingsStreet@tgschildcare.com.au)  
[tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-hastings-st](http://tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-hastings-st)

**Wauchope - High St NSW**  
+61 (02) 6585 3331  
[HighStreet@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:HighStreet@tgschildcare.com.au)  
[tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-high-st](http://tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-high-st)

**Wauchope - Riverbreeze NSW**  
+61 (02) 6585 2981  
[riverbreeze@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:riverbreeze@tgschildcare.com.au)  
[tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-riverbreeze](http://tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-riverbreeze)