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WSFM Top GfK Survey 7, 2024 Ratings



In the latest GfK metro survey 7, **WSFM** topped Sydney's ratings for the first time. It tied for first place with **2UE** for one survey in 1984, but this was its first outright ratings win since launching as **2WS** in November 1978. Also, after a 22-year reign, spanning 160 rating periods, **Ray Hadley** lost out to morning presenter **Phil O'Neil** on **WSFM**. Coming in second was **Ty Frost** on **smooth**, followed by Hadley. Interesting that Ray Hadley announced his retirement on-air just a week before his ratings loss. **Jonesy & Amanda** achieved their strongest result in 10 years and in Survey 7 were Sydney's No 2 FM Breakfast show with an 11.3% share.

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Our final print issue - December 2024

After 36 years of publishing a 'print' version of Jocks' Journal, we wish to announce that this is the final 'print' with this December 2024 edition. Most of our subscribers have now moved to a digital/PDF option. I would also assume that many of our 'print' (postage) subscribers have a printer so there is still that option to print off the journal. Rising postage costs has also been a factor in our decision. For those concerned about our digital/PDF option - we can assure you that it's a very simple process. The online edition is also in colour and makes for a much more appealing presentation. Any questions - call **Greg** (Editor) on **0407 750 694**.

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The mornings

Triple M has unveiled its Drive show line ups for 2025. **The Marty Sheargold Show** will continue to be heard nationally across the Triple M network, from 3-4pm, Monday to Friday. But, in 2025 listeners in Sydney, Brisbane, Gold Coast and all Triple M regional markets in NSW and Queensland will take the program from 4-6pm. **James 'JB' Brayshaw** and **Billy Brownless** will now be heard not only in Victoria and Tasmania but also in WA and SA. It will be heard from 4-6 p.m, Monday to Friday, across Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Perth, and Triple M's regional stations in these southern states. The new Triple M line up for 2025 marks the end of the Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth Rush Hour shows.



FIVEAA has announced a change to its morning program with **Graeme Goodings** taking over from current host **Matthew Pantelis**. After two years in the chair, Pantelis has made the decision to continue to follow his passion for news in the FIVEAA news room, where he was previously the station's News Director for fifteen years.



Journalist **Sharnelle Vella** and ex-AFL star **Bob Murphy** will takeover **ABC Radio Melbourne's** breakfast program in January. They replace **Sammy J** who has announced he is leaving the station. Both Sharnelle and Bob have appeared individually on ABC Radio Melbourne.

Pete Brandtman is departing the **ARN** owned station **2ST Nowra**. He has been with the station over 30 years. Brandtman announced on social media: "The radio industry is going through massive changes at the moment so after 31 years broadcasting to the Shoalhaven and the Highlands, 34 years all up, my last day will be November 22. It's been a sweet ride. Hope you enjoyed it as well." Pete has previously hosted both breakfast and drive. He has also worked as a copywriter and as the station floater.

Andrew Doman has returned to radio and is the new breakfast announcer on **ROK FM** in Parkes. Doman has worked at stations including **96.5 Hill FM Broken Hill** for eight years as well as **4LG Longreach** and **4VL Charleville**.

Adrian Brine is on the move. Brine is heading to New Zealand joining **MediaWorks NZ** in a new role as Group Content Manager. Brine was recently at Melbourne's **KIIS1011** as Content Director. He announced on LinkedIn: "I'm joining MediaWorks NZ in a new role as Group Content Manager for *Mai, George and The Edge*. Thrilled to be working on such iconic brands I've always admired from across the ditch, and fortunate to do it alongside such talented people who bring them to life."



105.1 Triple M Melbourne has announced that **Mick Molloy** is returning to Melbourne with a new Breakfast show in 2025. Joining Mick on the new show is former AFL Saint **Nick Riewoldt**, making his breakfast radio debut, along with **Titus O'Reilly**, Molloy's long-term collaborator, including as co-host of LISTNR's podcast *Bizarre with Mick Molloy and Titus O'Reilly*, and star of Triple M Workdays and *The Hot Breakfast Rosie Walton*.

Sarah Kate Young has left **Magic 89.9** Port Lincoln after six months as their breakfast announcer.

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More Radio News

Brad McIntosh has moved into the **Capital Radio Network** newsroom after previously working as a producer with **ABC Canberra** and on **2CC Breakfast** with **Stephen Cenatiempo**. He replaces **Maddi Green** who has joined **WIN TV's** Canberra newsroom.



Callum Jones has been promoted to Station Manager at **2LM/ZZZ** Lismore. He has hosted the breakfast show on **ZZZFM** since 2012. When not on air, he's been the Content/Music Director and recently acting General Manager.

Daniel Smith has left radio for a new career. He was the Group Content Director for North Queensland with **SCA**. He has a new role supporting the North Queensland Cowboys.



Caroline Hutchinson is leaving **MIX FM** on the **Sunshine Coast** at the end of 2024. Caroline and her co-host **Mark Darin** have worked together on the breakfast show for more than 20 years. Hutchinson, a mother of three children, has worked at **MIX FM** for 26 years.

Rick Lenarcic has a new role as National Direct Sales Manager at **Nine Entertainment - Radio**. He will be supporting and working with the sales & content teams in Sydney (2GB), Melbourne (3AW), Perth (6PR) and Brisbane (4BC).



Emily White has left **6PR** Perth. She was with the station for 14 years. She had been Content Manager for five years and before that had roles including station and executive producer as well as news reader. Announcers **Julie-anne Sprague** and **Tod Johnston** have also left due to cost cutting measures.



Mark Soderstrom has quit breakfast radio saying he faces the "biggest challenge of his life". He made the announcement on his **SAFM** breakfast show, telling listeners that he was left with no choice but to step away. The Advertiser reports that Soderstrom has decided to prioritise time with his young family ahead of the demands of breakfast radio. "Life has changed for me recently and I'm facing the biggest challenge of my life and I've been doing a lot of thinking and it's been pretty tough," he said alongside co-host **Rebecca Morse**. Soderstrom will continue on-air until the end of the year, and remain as **7NEWS** Adelaide weekday sports presenter.

Adrian Basso, GM of **PBS FM 106.7** for 15 years and **CBA** President for five years, has been appointed as General Manager of the Melbourne Writers Festival.

Nine Entertainment's Sydney news director **Simon Hobbs** has left the company.



Cam St Clair is stepping up to Audio Applications Manager at **Southern Cross Austereo**. He will lead the Audio Apps Team.

2GB morning announcer **Ray Hadley** will host his final program on Friday December 13 concluding a 43-year career in radio. He announced: "My own four children made many sacrifices for me over the years, allowing me to realise my ambitions, and I want to spend more time with them and my seven grandchildren. Sophie has been the most supporting, calming, loving and amazing wife – and she deserves a break too! It's been a hell of a ride, from a young bloke wanting to call the races, to being the old bloke sitting in this studio for so long." On March 4, 2002, *The Ray Hadley Morning Show* first went to air on 2GB. Over the next 21 years, Hadley amassed 160 consecutive ratings wins and this run finally ended Survey 7, 2024.

James Tynan, **ABC TV** and radio producer, has a new role as Guests and Specials Producer at **Rage**.



Dom Rinaldo has a new partner for his Football Soccer Podcast. **John Kosmina** has left and his new partner is **Travis Dodd** the former captain of Adelaide United. The show is now called **Doddsy & Rinaldo Uncensored**. Dom is also on air on **Sunshine FM** 2-7pm as well as 7pm - 12am on **4BH**.

Brendan Annakin, **Triple M** Sydney mornings presenter and co-host of the Saturday 10am – midday *Dead Set Legends* show with **Richard Freedman**, has been made redundant.

Super Radio Network's principals, **Despina Prial** and **George Caralis** have been appointed to the board of Directors of **Coastal Broadcasters Pty Ltd**. Coastal Broadcasters, operates the NQ Radio network in tropical north Queensland. NQ Radio General Manager, **Rod Henshaw**, said the recent board appointments had created excellent opportunities designed to enhance the North Queensland network's programming and Sales potential.



Triple M has confirmed that **Xavier Ellis** and **Katie Lamb** have joined forces to host the **92.9 Triple M** Perth Breakfast show. The program kicked off on Monday 21 October 2024. Xavier Ellis is a well-known former AFL player, or as he prefers, a self-proclaimed 'mediocre' AFL player, who won a premiership with Hawthorn before joining the West Coast Eagles in 2013. Xavier Ellis said: "I'm so excited to team up with my good mate, Katie. I thoroughly enjoy laughing with, and at Katie on-air, at the pub or on social media. We're going to have a fun time together." Katie Lamb said: "Besides the 4am alarm, I'm so excited to move into Breakfast! I feel like Xavier and I will have a lot of fun together, we are both in our 30s and both love a good time. It's a match made in heaven! I can't wait to see out the rest of the year together and hit the ground running in 2025. I'm super excited and so grateful for this opportunity."

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Jocks' Journal Fun Files

RING STORY #1. A man whose class ring from an Ontario university fell into the ocean in 1977 was reunited with the item on his 83rd birthday 47 years later thanks to a diver's surprise discovery. Alex Davis said he was diving with his metal detector near Miami Beach in Barbados when he found a ring buried underwater. The McMaster University ring bore the year 1965 and the initials "FMP," so Davis contacted the Hamilton school for help finding its owner. The school searched through the database and identified the ring's likely owner as Morgan Perigo, who had graduated in 1965. They contacted Perigo, who revealed he had lost his ring into the ocean during a family trip to Barbados in 1977. The school sent the ring to its owner via FedEx.

(And to top off this good news story ... it arrived on the evening of Perigo's 83rd birthday!)

RING STORY #2. A Florida man who lost his U.S. Naval Academy class ring on a Pennsylvania golf course was reunited with the prized item by a fellow golfer 54 years later. David Lorenzo, 82, said he lost his Class of 1964 ring while golfing with his father. Michael Zenert, 70, was golfing at that same golf course recently when he spotted a shiny object in the clay that had been exposed by recent rains near the fourth green. He thought it was a beer can tab and so he dug it out so no one would step on it and then he discovered it was a ring. Zenert was able to locate the owner on the internet. He travelled to Florida to present Lorenzo with the ring at the National Naval Aviation Museum where Lorenzo is a volunteer.

(Funnily enough I was playing golf the other day when I noticed what looked like a beer can ring tab and I thought: 'Hey ... maybe it's a ring and not a beer can tab.' Well guess what? It wasn't a beer can tap ... no, it was actually a Coca-Cola ring top tab!)

A HOTEL IN THE PHILIPPINES that stands 114 feet, 7 inches tall (about 35 metres) was awarded a world record for the largest building in the shape of a chicken. The Highland Resort, recently unveiled its new rooster-shaped building, which features 15 hotel rooms. The building's rooster shape is a tribute to the local culture. The local town where it is based has a gamefowl industry that employs millions of people in the Philippines.

(The hotel also has a viewing deck which of course offers a ... great bird's eye - 'er make that rooster's eye view!)

A FAST-FINGERED CONCERT PIANIST from Romania broke a Guinness World Record by hitting a piano key 500 times in 30 seconds. Thurzó Zoltán, a renowned concert pianist, took on the record in October as a tribute to his mother, who died on the same date in October 2023 at the age of 77. The former record of 495 piano key hits in 30 seconds was set by Japanese musician in December 2023. Zoltán also previously set the Guinness World Records for the highest altitude grand piano performance and the longest marathon playing keyboard/piano by an individual of 130 hours.

(Have you ever tried to hit a piano key 500 times in 30 seconds? I think you'd have more luck playing the chords to Billy Joe's Piano Man - even if you couldn't play the piano.)

FIVE FUN FACTS:

- * The "Fi" in "WiFi" doesn't mean anything. Its creators just called it that because it rhymes with "HiFi".
- * In the 19th century, 'Shirley' was a popular name for boys.
- * In horse racing, the favourite wins less than 30% of the time.
- * By the age of 20, you've lost 20% of your sense of smell.
- * A rat can fall from a 5 story building without injury.

A WOMAN FROM BANGLADESH used chopsticks to lift one grain of rice at a time and managed to eat a record-breaking 37 pieces in one minute. Sumaiya Khan, 24, says she has been using chopsticks to eat all of her meals for a few years. She became obsessed with ramen and that's when she purchased her own personal chopsticks and since then she has eaten almost all of her meals using the chopsticks and eats rice just about every day. The previously record stood at 27. Khan easily defeated the record by eating 37 grains of rice, one at a time.

(If you think you can do better – then I suggest you grab your best chop sticks and challenge her to a future rice race!)

A NEW ZEALAND AIRPORT posted a sign in its drop-off zone asking passengers and their drivers to limit their farewell hugs to a maximum of three minutes. Photos of the sign at Dunedin Airport went viral online for its unusual message: "Max hug time 3 minutes. For fonder farewells please use the car park." Dan De Bono, the airport's chief executive, said some goodbyes in the drop-off zone have been taking up far too much time. "We're trying to have fun with it. It is an airport and those drop off locations are common locations for farewells. There's no space left for others. It's about enabling others to have hugs."

(So if a female wanted to be technical they could always argue that the reason they hugged longer is because their male mate he wasn't called Max ... and after all the sign does state 'Max hug time 3 minutes.')

AN ADELAIDE COUPLE arrived at their home after midnight and found their bedroom occupied by an unexpected intruder - a koala! Fran Dias Rufino posted a video to Facebook showing the scene that she and her husband, Brunno, were confronted with in their Rosslyn Park, South Australia, home. Rufino called for expert help while her husband attempted to contain the koala. The koala was eventually coaxed out of the house and proceeded to climb a tree in the couple's yard.

(Yes I think it would be much happier in the tree – especially one with gum leaves. Ah ... but not just any gum leaves. There are over 600 types of eucalypts, but koalas will not eat a large proportion of these. They are very fussy eaters and have strong preferences for different types of leaves. Within a particular area, as few as one, and generally no more than two or three species of eucalypt will be regularly browsed. And that's your 'koala' fun fact for today.)

A 77-YEAR-OLD SLICE OF CAKE from Queen Elizabeth II's wedding to Prince Philip was auctioned for \$2,800. The slice of cake was packaged in a box bearing then-Princess Elizabeth's silver insignia and included a printed letter from the bride and a decorative doily. The piece of cake had been given to Marion Polson, housekeeper at Holyrood House in Edinburgh, Scotland, as a gift from the royal couple. The auction house announced the piece of cake, part of a 500-pound baked dessert served at the Nov. 20, 1947, wedding, was auctioned for \$2,831.

(And when you pay an amount that large – "you certainly can't have your cake and eat it too!")

THE OFFICIAL SCRABBLE PLAYER'S DICTIONARY new edition is now available. Nearly 2,000 new words, including a slew of slang words, have been added. New slang terms include bagsy, doncha, imma, peng, tomoz, noobie, nibling and yeet. As well as normal words such as stan, sitch, convo, zedonk and dox.

(By the way a 'stan' is an excessive fan and a 'zedonk' is a hybrid between a zebra and a donkey! As for the others - I'll need a dictionary to find out what they mean.)

More JJ Fun Files

FIVE FUN FACTS:

- * It snowed in the Sahara Desert for 30 minutes on February 18, 1979.
- * Bill Gates aimed to be a millionaire by age 30. He was a billionaire at the age of 31.
- * Sherlock Holmes never said "Elementary, my dear Watson".
- * The sentence "Are you as bored as I am?" can be said backwards — and still make sense.
- * The term "bank teller" originated in the wake of the 1929 stock market crash, when banks began hiring low-paid workers to "tell" throngs of frantic depositors that their money was gone.

PIZZA HUT IS NOW SERVING "SNAKE-MEAT PIZZA" in Hong Kong. The food chain has teamed up with a restaurant to offer customers a pizza combining shredded snake meat, along with black mushrooms and Chinese dried ham. The pizza will also come with abalone sauce – not the typical tomato spread. One customer said that the texture was a bit like chicken and tasted like fish and other kinds of seafood. Pizza Hut claims the cheese and diced chicken makes the snake meat seem "richer in taste".
(That might be so ... but if I visit Hong Kong I will stay "richer in wallet" and slither away from any snake-meat pizzas.)

A RARE FLOWER, known as the "corpse flower" due to its rotten odour, made a long-awaited appearance in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The plant, *Amorphophallus titanum*, only flowers once every 10 years, and blooms for just 48 hours. The flower gained lots of attention, with the gardens remaining open for 24 hours, allowing visitors the option to experience the bloom firsthand. For those unable to attend in person, a live stream was set up online and drew thousands of viewers. The corpse flower is famous for its distinctive odour that is reminiscent of rotting flesh when it blooms. The pungent smell it releases when it blooms attracts pollinators such as carrion beetles and flies.
(But I don't think it's likely to attract any perfume companies. But if you do see a bottle of Corpse Flower on the shelf ... maybe move on to a well known French fragrance.)

HOW MANY TIMES A DAY do you find yourself whipping out your phone to snap a picture? About 6, if you're average, according to a new survey. OnePoll asked 2,000 Americans about their camera phone habits, and also found that when we go to a special event, we spend about 40% of the time peering through our phones, taking photos. The average person was found to have just under 2,800 pics on their camera roll. The most-popular photo subjects? In order: group photos with family (69%) with friends (66%), selfies (58%), pet pics (52%) and scenery (43%).
(And I'm sure there would also be a fair few photos of thumbs and fingers found in people's smart phone pics.)

SCURVY has re-emerged in the 21st century thanks to poor diets. The disease was common in those who travelled at sea hundreds of years ago but a new case study has revealed that a man was recently hospitalised in Australia with the illness. Doctors detailed the case of a middle-aged man who arrived at a hospital in Perth with a mystery rash and bruising on his legs. It soon emerged that he barely ate any fruit and vegetables and survived primarily on processed foods - leading doctors to diagnose him with scurvy.
(Hard to believe in 2024 one could get scurvy. In fact, I doubt your manager would even believe it. "Sorry boss, won't be in this week, I have scurvy." I think it might be better to fib and say you have covid or even the flu.)

A MAN WITH A PASSION FOR CAFFEINE earned a world record for his collection of 1,019 energy drink cans. The Rhode Island resident Joel Spears, aka CaffeineMan on YouTube, has announced that he has received official confirmation that he possesses the world's largest collection of energy drink cans. He started his YouTube channel to review energy drinks about six years ago and said applying for the record was a surprisingly involved process. He had to videotape the whole entire thing and he also had to take pictures of each and every can. Spears said he usually drinks one or two energy drinks each day and his favourite is the Swedish Fish flavour of Ghost Energy Drink.
(Sounds disgusting. However when I read the label's description it says: "Smooth and fruity, meets balanced and juicy, with notes of bubble gum." That's sounds ok.)



7 Things We All Learned From Watching Movies:

- * It's easy for anyone to land a plane, as long as there is someone in the control tower to talk you down.
- * If being chased through town, you can usually take cover in a passing St. Patrick's Day parade – at any time of the year.
- * A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating, but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.
- * If you need to pass yourself off as a German officer, it's not necessary to speak the language. A German accent will do perfectly.
- * The ventilation system of any building is a perfect hiding spot. No one will think to look for you there, and you can travel to any other part of the building easily.
- * A detective can only solve a case once he had been suspended from duty.
- * If you are heavily outnumbered in a fight involving martial arts, your enemies will wait patiently, attacking you one by one, only after you have knocked out their predecessor.

AIR FRYERS could be spying on you. Researchers have found that Chinese-made kitchen appliances could be sending sensitive personal information back to Beijing and that smartphone apps linked to the gadgets sought permission to record audio for no apparent reason. Harry Rose, editor of Which? magazine, said: "Our research shows how smart tech manufacturers and the firms they work with are currently able to collect data from consumers, seemingly with reckless abandon, and this is often done with little or no transparency."
(I personally don't think that Chinese air fryers are spying on us. I checked with my friends Alexa and Siri and they agree with me.)

BRAT has been named as the Collins Dictionary word of the year. The term is defined as someone with a "confident, independent and hedonistic attitude" and has been inspired by Charli XCX's album of the same name that was released in June 2024. According to the singer, a brat is "that girl who is a little messy and likes to party and maybe says some dumb things some times." In July, Charli XCX gave Kamala Harris her seal of approval, proclaiming on X: "kamala IS brat." Memes and t-shirts with Harris' name in the "brat" style followed.
(Well it didn't seem to help Kamala's quest to become president and come November 6 she was unable to celebrate. Or maybe we should say cele-brat?)

GfK Radio 360 Metro Survey 7/2024

Overall figures. All people 5.30 - Midnight, Mon-Sun. (Previous 2022 survey results in brackets.)

Sydney

Station	7/2024	6/2024	5/2024	4/2024	3/2024	2/2024	1/2024	8/2023
WSFM	10.9	10.7	9.4	9.0	9.6	8.7	7.5	9.0
smoothfm 95.3	10.3	10.3	9.3	9.8	10.7	11.0	10.8	11.4
KIIS 1065	9.9	10.8	10.9	9.7	10.3	11.0	10.5	11.5
2GB	9.8	10.2	13.3	14.0	13.3	11.9	12.7	12.1
ABC Sydney	7.5	6.7	6.1	7.1	6.6	5.1	5.4	6.0
NOVA 96.9	7.1	7.1	7.0	5.9	6.1	8.1	8.0	7.7
104.9 Triple M	4.8	4.0	4.7	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.2
104.1 2DAYFM	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.4	5.5	5.5	4.6	5.2
2UE 954	3.3	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.0	5.0	5.6	3.5
ABC Classic	3.0	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.5
2JJJ	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.7	4.1	3.6
2RN	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
ABC NEWSRADIO	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.2	2.2
SKY Sports Radio	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2

- KISS No 1 in breakfast. WSFM No 1 in morning (Phil O'Neil – ending Ray Hadley's 20 year reign), afternoon, drive.
- 2GB No 1 in evening and No 2 in breakfast. Smoothfm No 1 on weekends and No 2 in mornings, afternoon, drive.

Melbourne

Station	7/2024	6/2024	5/2023	4/2024	3/2024	2/2024	1/2024	8/2023
3AW	14.0	14.9	14.7	13.7	14.4	13.8	14.5	13.6
smooth 91.5	10.9	11.0	10.2	10.5	10.3	8.9	7.5	9.4
GOLD 104.3	10.0	10.0	10.3	11.0	10.8	10.9	11.8	10.3
101.9 FOXFM	9.6	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.4	10.1	9.4	10.3
NOVA 100	9.0	7.4	8.6	8.3	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.4
105.1 Triple M	6.5	6.4	6.6	7.5	6.6	6.1	7.8	6.4
ABC Melb	6.1	5.8	6.6	5.9	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.6
KIIS 101.1	5.2	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.7	6.2	6.4	7.6
SEN 1116AM	3.3	3.9	3.9	4.8	5.1	3.5	2.6	2.4
Magic 1278	2.6	2.4	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.0
3JJJ	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.5	3.2	4.3	4.1
3RN	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.0
3MP 1377	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.0
ABC Classic	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.1	2.1
ABC NEWSRADIO	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.8
RSN 927	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6

- 3AW No 1 in breakfast, morning, evening and weekends. smoothfm No 1 in afternoon. FOX No 1 in drive.
- NOVA No 2 in breakfast. Smooth No 2 in morning and evening. FOX FM No 2 in afternoon. GOLD No 2 in drive.

Brisbane

Station	7/2024	6/2024	5/2024	4/2024	3/2024	2/2024	1/2024	8/2023
B105	13.1	12.7	13.3	14.4	12.4	11.9	13.8	11.7
104.5 TRIPLE M	12.2	11.8	10.7	11.5	11.4	11.8	13.2	13.3
4BH 1116	11.1	11.2	10.3	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.1	8.1
KIIS973	10.8	10.0	9.7	9.8	10.5	10.2	8.2	10.0
NOVA 106.9	10.5	10.5	11.3	11.2	10.9	10.3	11.4	12.7
ABC Brisbane	5.5	6.3	6.5	5.8	5.1	4.2	4.3	5.3
4BC 882	4.6	5.0	4.6	5.5	6.1	7.0	6.5	6.6
4JJJ	4.3	5.1	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.8
ABC Classic	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.2
ABC NEWSRADIO	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.2
4RN	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.9
SENQ693	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.3

- B105 No 1 in breakfast and afternoon. Triple M No 1 in morning. Nova 106.9 No 1 in drive. KIIS No 1 in evening.
- 4BH No 1 on weekends. KIIS 973 and Triple M equal No 2 in breakfast and afternoon. B105 No 2 in morning.

GfK Radio 360 Metro Survey 7/2024

Overall figures. All people 5.30 - Midnight, Mon-Sun. (Previous 2023 survey results in brackets.)

Adelaide

Station	7/2024	6/2024	5/2024	4/2024	3/2024	2/2024	1/2024	8/2023
MIX102.3	13.5	13.5	12.2	10.9	12.3	14.3	13.3	11.9
5MMM	12.6	12.7	13.2	13.7	13.7	12.4	11.6	14.4
NOVA 91.9	10.9	11.2	9.6	9.4	9.8	10.0	11.3	10.1
FIVEaa	8.7	7.8	7.7	8.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	7.5
SAFM	8.6	8.6	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.9	9.2
CRUISE 1323	8.6	7.8	8.8	8.6	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.3
ABC Adelaide	6.9	7.7	8.1	8.6	7.5	7.4	6.6	8.3
5JJJ	4.2	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.8	5.1	5.2	4.3
ABC Classic	2.4	2.4	2.4	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.7	2.4
ABC Newsradio	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.6
5RN	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.1

- 5MMM No 1 in breakfast. MIX 102.3 No 1 in morning, afternoon, drive and weekends. FIVEaa No 1 in evening.
- FIVEaa No 2 in breakfast. Triple M No 2 in morning, afternoon. Nova 91.9 No 2 in drive.

Station	7/2024	6/2024	5/2024	4/2024	3/2024	2/2024	1/2024	8/2023
96FM	14.6	15.2	14.3	13.6	14.4	12.4	12.4	15.3
NOVA 93.7	13.9	14.1	14.6	15.1	14.3	14.6	14.0	13.6
MIX 94.5	12.6	11.7	12.0	11.9	11.9	15.3	15.6	12.4
92.9 TRIPLE M	9.2	10.7	9.2	8.7	8.8	7.8	7.0	9.2
6PR	7.4	6.8	7.3	8.6	7.3	5.5	5.3	5.8
6IX	5.6	5.4	4.2	3.8	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.3
6JJJ	5.0	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.9	5.6	7.0	5.3
ABC PERTH	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.6	6.5
ABC Classic	2.6	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.5
ABC Newsradio	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.7	1.2
6RN	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.0

- Nova 93.7 No 1 in breakfast and drive. 96FM No 1 in morning, afternoon and weekends. ABC Perth No 1 in evening.
- MIX 94.5 No 2 in breakfast, morning, afternoon and drive. NOVA No 2 in evening and weekends.

GfK Gold Coast - Tweed Radio Survey 3/2024

Overall figures. All people 5.30-midnight Mon-Sun. (2023 and previous 2022 results)

STATION	3/24	2/24	1/24	3/23	2/23	1/23	3/22
HOT TOMATO	21.8	19.8	20.8	16.4	15.9	16.0	15.7
92.5 TRIPLE M	14.3	14.6	10.6	12.8	14.0	11.7	9.0
90.9 SEA FM	9.0	10.2	9.1	9.4	11.1	11.0	10.6
TRIPLE J	6.5	7.2	6.3	9.8	8.8	9.5	8.0
ABC GOLD COAST	3.3	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.2

- * Hot Tomato No 1 in all sessions (3.8 % in breakfast). Hot Tomato +2.2 in drive, +3.2 on weekends.
- * Triple M No 2 in b'fast, morning, a'noon and drive. SEA FM No 2 in evening. ABC + 5.2 in evening.

In the latest **GfK Radio 360 Metro** survey (#7/2024) the top rating DAB+ stations were: Adelaide and Brisbane – **Smooth FM**, Melbourne – **Gold 80s**, Sydney – **CADA** and in Perth – **96FM 80s**.

i98FM was the most listened to station in Wollongong in the **Xtra Insights Survey** (#1/2024) with 28.8% (+2.8). Next came **WAVE FM** with 21.8% (+4.6) then **ABC Illawarra** with 11.4%. i98 was the most listened to station in all sessions except evening.

Hit Southwest was the most listened to station in Bunbury in the latest Xtra Insights Survey (#1/2024) with 30.9% (+0.5). Next came **triple j** with 13.0% (-3.2) followed by **Triple M Southwest** with 10.4% (+1.7).

Triple M Townsville was the most listened to station in Townsville in the Xtra Insights Survey (#1/2024) with 21.4% (+1.2). Next came **Hit 103.1 Townsville** with 19.5% (+0.9) followed by **Power 100** with 14.2% (-3.0) and then **Star 106.3** with 12.3 (-2.4).

Birthday Bulletin

Sunday 1st December 2024

Births

WOODY ALLEN (Allen Konigsberg) born in Brooklyn, New York - 1935 (89)

* American actor, director and writer. He made his film debut in 1965 in *What's New Pussycat*. He often writes and directs his own scripts. His movies include - *Bananas* ('71), *Play It Again Sam* ('72), *Love And Death* ('76), *Annie Hall* ('77), *Hannah And Her Sisters* ('86) *Crimes And Misdemeanours* ('90), *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* (2008), *Midnight In Paris* (2011) and *Mag-ic In The Moonlight* (2014).

* His former partner Mia Farrow featured in 13 of his films. His 2nd wife Louise Lassiter also appeared in some of his early films.

* In 1997 he married Soon-Yi Previn, 27, the adopted daughter of his former girlfriend Mia Farrow.

LEE TREVINO born in Dallas, Texas - 1939 (85)

* Mexican golfer. 'Super Mex' won the US Open in 1968 and 1971, British Open in 1971 and 1972 and the US PGA championship in 1974 and 1984.

RICHARD PRYOR born in Illinois - 1940. (Died aged 65 - 2005)

* US comedian and actor. He co-starred with Gene Wilder in the movies *Stir Crazy*, *See No Evil*, *Hear No Evil* and *Silver Streak*. His other movie credits include - *Lady Sings The Blues* ('72) - that won him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, *Car Wash* ('76), *California Suite* ('78) and *The Toy* ('82).

BETTE MIDLER born in Honolulu, Hawaii - 1945 (79)

* US singer and actress. Her biggest hits include *Wind Beneath My Wings* (from the movie *Beaches*) - No 1 in Australia in 1989 and *From A Distance* ('91). Her films include - *The Rose*, *Down And Out In Beverly Hills*, *Ruthless People*, *Outrageous Fortune*, *Beaches*, *Scenes From A Mall*, *First Wives Club* and *Parental Guidance*.

GILBERT O'SULLIVAN (Raymond O'Sullivan) born in Ireland - 1946 (78)

* Irish singer/songwriter. He had his biggest hits in the '70s with *Alone Again Naturally*, *Ooh-Wakka-Doo-Wakka Day*, *Clair* and *Get Down*.

ROSS HANNAFORD born in Newcastle, NSW - 1950. (Died aged 65 - 2016)

* Australian musician. He was the lead guitarist with Daddy Cool. Their two biggest hits are *Eagle Rock* and *Come Back Again*. He turned to busking in his later years, drawing crowds on the corner of Degraives Lane and Flinders Lane.

DOUG MULRAY born in Sydney, NSW - 1951. (Died aged 71 - 2023)

* Sydney radio and TV presenter. He was a top rating Triple M breakfast announcer in the 1980s. In 2019 he was inducted into the Radio Hall Of Fame. From 2002-2003 he hosted TV's *Beauty And The Beast*. He also hosted *The Basement* music program on ABC TV. He died from liver cancer on 30 March 2023.

BOB GOEN born in Long Beach, California - 1954 (70)

* US TV presenter. He was the co-host of *Entertainment Tonight* from 1993-2004.

CHARLENE TILTON born in San Diego, California - 1958 (66)

* US actress. She played Lucy Ewing Cooper in the TV soap *Dallas* ('78-'91).

WALLY LEWIS born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1959 (65)

* Australian rugby league player. 'The Emperor of Lang Park' played in 31 State of Origin games (Queensland v NSW) and in 33 Tests. He also captained the Brisbane Broncos, Queensland and Australia. Following his retirement from the sport, he became a sports presenter for Channel Nine's National Nine News in Brisbane.

* His son Lincoln Lewis is a successful actor.

JANE TURNER born in Newcastle, NSW - 1960 (64)

* Australian comedienne. She starred as 'Kath' in the comedy series *Kath & Kim* which debuted on Australian television in 2002. She created, wrote and produced the comedy program with her long time friend and collaborator Gina Riley who played Kim. Jane has also appeared in the comedy programs *Fast Forward*, *Full Frontal* and *Big Girl's Blouse* with *Kath & Kim* co-stars Magda Szabanski and Gina Riley.

VANCE JOY (James Keogh) born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1987 (37)

* Australian singer/songwriter. His 2013 single *Riptide* became a top 10 hit in Australia, Germany, Ireland, UK and Austria. His 2014 album *Dream Your Life Away* made No 1 in Australia and No 2 in Canada. His 2015 single release *Fire And Flood* peaked at No 6 in Australia. In 2022 he charted with the single *Missing Piece*.

SARAH SNOOK born in Adelaide, SA - 1987 (37)

* Australian actress. She is best known for her starring role as Shiv Roy in the TV series *Succession*, for which she won two Golden Globe Awards and a Primetime Emmy Award.

TYLER JOSEPH born in Columbus, Ohio - 1988 (36)

* US musician and rapper. He is the lead vocalist for the musical duo Twenty One Pilots. He wrote their two biggest hits *Stressed Out* (#2) in Australia in 2015) and *Heathens* (#3 in 2016).

AMBER SHERLOCK (Amber Higglett) born in Sydney, NSW - 1988 (36)

* Australian journalist and television news presenter. She currently presents the weather on Nine News Sydney.

ZOË KRAVITZ born in Venice, California - 1988 (36)

* US actress. Her breakthrough came with portraying Angel Salvadore in the *X-Men: First Class* (2011). She went on to play Christina in *The Divergent Series* and Leta Lestrange in the *Fantastic Beasts* film series. She also was one of the stars in the TV series *Big Little Lies*.

* She voiced Mary Jane Watson in *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (2018) and played Catwoman in the animated *The Lego Batman Movie* (2017) and the live-action DC film *The Batman* (2022).

* Her parents are actress Lisa Bonet and musician Lenny Kravitz.

ROBERT IRWIN born in Buderim, Queensland - 2003 (21)

* Son of the Steve and Terri Irwin. He's the brother of Bindi. In 2024 he was appointed as co-host of *I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here!* - opposite Julia Morris.
* In 2013 he starred alongside his mother and Bindi in *Steve Irwin's Wildlife Warriors*.

Events

First **DRIVE-IN SERVICE STATION** (filling station) opened in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - 1913.

First **SKYWRITING** in America was created by Capt Turner (RAF) who wrote "Hello USA" - 1922.

BINGO was invented by New York toy salesman Edwin S Lowe - 1929.

THE BODY OF AN UNKNOWN MAN was discovered on Somerton Park beach south of Adelaide - 1948.

* His death became one of Australia's longest-running insolvable mysteries. He was found lying in the sand, with his head resting against the beach seawall, and his legs crossed. In his pockets he had an unused train ticket, a bus ticket from the city, a tin comb, chewing gum, cigarettes and matches. But there was no ID, and all the labels on his clothes had been removed. In 2022, an Adelaide University professor and a genealogist claimed to have identified the man as Carl "Charles" Webb. It's believed that Carl had serious mental health issues and "spiralled down" after losing four close relatives in seven years. His history and the autopsy findings suggest he committed suicide by poisoning himself.

BOBBY DARIN married **SANDRA DEE** - 1960.

* They divorced in 1967.

PASTOR SIR DOUGLAS NICHOLLS became the first indigenous Australian to be appointed a State Governor (of SA) - 1976.

THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union in a referendum - 1991.

* More than 92% of voters approved the move to independence in the referendum, including more than half of native Russian speakers.

ADELAIDE RAMS rugby league franchise folded - 1998.

ANGRY BIRDS, a Finnish puzzle video game, was released internationally - 2009.

CIGARETTES began to be sold in Australia without brand logos and with the packets covered with compulsory olive green packaging with warnings - 2012.

Birthday Bulletin

Monday 2nd December 2024

Births

JULIE HARRIS (Julia Harris) born in Grosse Point, Michigan - 1925. (Died aged 87 - 2013)

* US actress. Her movie credits include - *The Member Of The Wedding* ('53), *East of Eden* ('55), *The Haunting* ('63) and *The Hiding Place* ('75). She played Lilimae Clements in the television series *Knot's Landing* ('79-'93).

TOM McGUINNESS born in London, England - 1941 (83)

* UK musician. Original bass player with Manfred Mann and a member of the group McGuinness Flint (with Hughie Flint) who had hits in 1971 with *When I'm Dead and Gone* and *Malt And Barley Blues*.

LUCY LIU born in Queens, New York - 1968 (56)

* US actress born to Chinese immigrants. She played Ling Woo in the *Ally McBeal* TV series and Joan Watson in the *Elementary* TV series. Her films include the *Charlie's Angels* movies, *Jerry McGuire* ('96), *Shanghai Moon* (2000) and *Chicago* (2002).

* She provides the voice of Master Viper in the *Kung Fu Panda* movies.

RACHEL McQUILLAN born in Merewether, NSW - 1971 (53)

* Australian tennis player. She teamed with Nicole Provis to capture the bronze medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. She enjoyed her finest years on the WTA Tour in 1991 and 1992. She was coached by her father Ted.

MONICA SELES born in Serbia - 1973 (51)

* Yugoslav-born American tennis player. She became a US citizen in 1994. Before she reached 18 she had won three out of four Grand Slam singles titles. Up until December 1992 she had won six of the past seven grand slams she had played, compiling a match record of 140-11 in two years.

* She was attacked in 1993 with a knife by a 38-year-old obsessive Steffi Graf fan at the Citizen Cup tournament in Hamburg. She finally returned to the professional tennis circuit in 1995.

* In 1993 she won the Australian Open tennis title for the third year running defeating Steffi Graf.

NELLY FURTADO born in Victoria, British Columbia - 1978 (46)

* Canadian singer. Her parents are of Portuguese descent. Her 2000 hits include *I'm Like A Bird*, *Turn Off The Light*, *Man Eater* and *Say It Right*.

BRITNEY SPEARS born in Kentwood, Los Angeles - 1981 (43)

* US singer. In August 2022 Spears and Elton John released the duet *Hold Me Closer*, a remake of John's 1972 single *Tiny Dancer*. It made No 1 in Australia. Her other hits include *Baby One More Time*, *Oops I Did It Again*, *Lucky*, *You Drive Me Crazy*, *Stronger*, *Sometimes*, *Toxic*, *Everytime*, *Gimme More* and *Womanizer*.

* In February 2022, Spears signed a \$15 million book deal for her memoir *The Woman In Me* which went on sale in October 2023. Two months later, she announced her pregnancy with the child of her longtime boyfriend Sam Asghari, which ended in a miscarriage the following month. The couple married on June 9, 2022 at her home. None of Spears's immediate family were invited and her two sons did not attend. They divorced less than 12 months later. Her first husband, Jason Alexander, attempted to crash the wedding by breaking into her home, armed with a knife, but was arrested.

* In January 2018, Spears released her 24th perfume with Elizabeth Arden, *Sunset Fantasy*.

* Spears is recognized as the best-selling female albums artist of the 2000s in the United States.

* Her 1999 debut hit *Baby One More Time*, became Mushroom records biggest selling single. It spent 9 weeks at No 1.

* She began her career as a child star on *The Mickey Mouse Club*.

* She co-wrote the novel, *A Mother's Gift*, with her mother.

* She played herself in the film *Austin Powers: Goldmember* and appeared in the 2019 movie *Corporate Animals*.

CHARLIE PUTH born in Rumson, New Jersey - 1991 (33)

* US singer/songwriter. He wrote and sang on Wiz Khalifa's single *See You Again* which made No 1 in 2015. He also charted with *Marvin Gaye* and *One Call Away*. He had a top 10 hit in Australia in 2017 with *Attention*.

Events

PU YI became China's last Emperor at the age of two years and ten months - 1908.

* His life story was the subject of the film *The Last Emperor* that won nine Oscars including the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1987.

"BODYLINE" cricket series began in Sydney - 1932.

* It was so called because of the bowling strategy of the English fast bowlers - in particular Harold Larwood. In the first Test series he took 5 for 96 and 5 for 28.

* A TV mini-series titled *Bodyline* was made in 1984 and starred Gary Sweet as Don Bradman.

ATN 7 started official transmission in Sydney - 1956.

ANDY WILLIAMS recorded *Can't Get Used To Losing You* - 1962.

LABOR GOVERNMENT was elected in Australia for the first time in 23 years - 1972.

* Gough Whitlam became the Prime Minister. He also won the 1974 election with a reduced majority but Whitlam was dismissed from office on November 11, 1975.

KISS played their first concert in New York - 1973.

* It was to an audience of just three at the Popcorn Club in Queens. On December 2nd 2023 they played their final concert as part of their 'End Of The Road' world tour.

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON divorced **RITA COOLIDGE** - 1979.

* They were married for six years.

ELVITA ADAMS fell from the 86th floor of the Empire State Building and survived when a strong wind blew her into the window of the 85th floor! - 1979.

* After losing her job, the 29-year-old woman was reportedly living off \$100 welfare checks. Unable to pay the rent, her landlord was threatening to evict her and her 10-year old son. So in a deep depression and not knowing what to do, she found herself on top of the Empire State Building. She only suffered a broken hip. Later in hospital she is quoted as saying, *"I'm not sure if the wind pushed me back, or pushed me off."*

First **ARTIFICIAL HEART** was implanted in American dentist Barney Clark - 1982.

* He died in March 1983.

MARTY FELDMAN, British comedian, died aged 49 - 1982.

* He died of a heart attack immediately after completing the last day of shooting his role in *Yellowbeard*.

MTV debuted the full 14 minute version of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* video - 1983.

DESI ARNAZ, Latin American actor and bandleader, died aged 71 - 1986.

LABOR PARTY was elected in Queensland for the first time in 32 years - 1989.

* The National Party was ousted with Wayne Goss becoming the state's new Premier.

ALLAN BORDER was fined \$2000 and **MERV HUGHES** fined \$400 - 1992.

* Border was found guilty of misconduct during the opening Test against the West Indies at the Gabba. Hughes was fined for "sledging".

MARISKA VERES, Dutch singer from Shocking Blue who charted in 1969 with *Venus* (later revived by Bananarama), died aged 59 of cancer - 2006.

JUSTIN BEIBER appeared on stage 70 minutes late for his Melbourne concert - 2013.

* It appears he was talking to *Big Brother's* Tahan Lew on FaceTime at the exact time he was due on stage. He came on stage at 9.40pm with no apology to fans.

PAUL McCARTNEY commenced his 2017 tour of Australia performing in Perth at NIB Stadium - 2017.

ROGER DAVID menswear shops closed their doors after 76 years of trading in Australia - 2018.

* Australia's third-largest menswear retailer closed their 57 stores around the country then ceased trading.

WAYNE BENNETT, Brisbane Broncos NRL coach, was sacked via voicemail - 2018.

* He coached the Broncos to 631 games and to six premierships. He was replaced by South Sydney coach Anthony Seibold who then took on the role of the Broncos coach. The Broncos believe Bennett breached his contract in dealings with South Sydney, giving them grounds to sack him without a full payout. A short time later Bennett signed with Souths as their new coach.

Birthday Bulletin

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Births

BOB ROGERS born in Donald, Victoria - 1926. (Died aged 97-2024)

* Sydney radio announcer. He began his time on Sydney radio at 2UE in 1954 before moving to 2SM in 1962. During his time at 2SM he got to tour around Australia with the Beatles. In his later years he was heard on the 2CH morning program. However in November 2018, due to his doctor's advice he retired from his weekday morning program. He was then heard only on Saturday nights hosting *Reminiscing* but in September 2020 he officially retired. He died on May 29, 2024.

* In October 2024 he was posthumously inducted into the Commercial Radio Hall of Fame tribute at the ACRA awards.

* He hosted his own TV show for 7 years.

* He commenced his radio career in 1942. His first on-air position was with 3MA, prior to that he was a panel operator at 3XY.

ANDY WILLIAMS (Howard Andrew Williams) born in Wall Lake, Iowa - 1927. (Died aged 84 - 2012)

* US singer. His first major hit was in 1957 with *Butterfly* which became his only US No 1. *Can't Get Used To Losing You* was one of his biggest sellers in the '60s and his last chart entries were the themes to *Love Story* ('71) and *The Godfather (Speak Softly Love)* ('72). He hosted his own TV variety program from 1962-1971.

JAYE P MORGAN (Mary Morgan) born in Colorado - 1931 (93)

* US singer and comedienne. She was a regular panel member on TV's *Gong Show* ('76-'80).

RALPH McTELL (Ralph May) born in Kent, England - 1944 (80)

* English folk singer. He is best known for his 1975 hit *Streets Of London*. He took his second name from singer Blind Willie McTell.

PAUL NICHOLAS (Paul Beuselinck) born in Peterborough, England - 1944 (80)

* British singer and actor. He had his biggest hit in 1977 with *Heaven On The 7th Floor*. He starred in the British TV sit-com *Just Good Friends*.

OZZY OSBOURNE (John Osbourne) born in Birmingham, England - 1948 (76)

* Lead singer with Black Sabbath. Their biggest hit single was in 1970 with *Paranoid*. Ozzy and his family featured in the US reality TV series *The Osbournes*.

* He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in February 2019 and also underwent surgery to fix his neck. He's battled alcohol and drug addiction but says he's now been sober for over 10 years.

MICKEY THOMAS (John Michael Thomas) born in Cairo, Georgia - 1949 (75)

* Lead singer with US band Starship (which also featured Grace Slick). Their biggest hits were in the '80s with *We Built This City*, *Sara* and *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now* - all No 1 hits in the US.

* He provided the vocals on Elvin Bishop's 1976 hit *Foiled Around And Fell In Love*.

MIKE STOCK born in Kent, England - 1951 (73)

* British songwriter/producer. He was part of the Stock, Aitken & Waterman team who wrote and produced numerous hits for artists such as Dead Or Alive, Mel & Kim, Rick Astley, Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

STEVE WILLIAMS born in - 1959 (65)

* Australian musician. Steve and Paul Gray were the nucleus for the Australian band Wa Wa Nee. Their single *Stimulation* was their biggest seller.

JULIANNE MOORE (Julie Anne Smith) born in Fayetteville, North Carolina - 1960 (64)

* US actress. Her films include *The Fugitive* ('93), *Vanya On 42nd Street* ('94), *Safe* ('95), *Lost World: Jurassic Park* ('97), *End Of The Affair* ('99), *The Hours* (2002) and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1* (2014) and Part 2.

DARYL HANNAH born in Chicago, Illinois - 1960 (64)

* American actress. She had her first starring role as the mermaid in *Splash!* ('84). Her other films include *Roxanne* ('87), *Wall Street* ('87), *Steel Magnolias* ('89) and *Kill Bill Vol 1 and 2*. She appeared in the TV series *Sense8* (2015-2018).

BRENDAN FRASER born in Indianapolis, Indiana - 1968 (56)

* Canadian-US actor. In 2023 he received an Oscar for Best Actor for his role in the film *The Whale* (2022). He starred in *George of the Jungle*, *The Mummy* (and sequels), *Dudley Do-Right*, *Mrs Winterbourne*, *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth* and *Inkheart*. * His former actress wife Afton Smith was also born on December 3 (1967). They divorced in 2007.

HOLLY MARIE COMBS born in San Diego, California - 1973 (51)

* US actress. From 2010-2017 she played Ella Montgomery in the TV series *Pretty Little Liars*. She also played Kimberley Brock in *Picket Fences* ('92) and Piper Halliwell in *Charmed* ('98).

MARK BOUCHER born in South Africa - 1976 (48)

* South African cricketer and coach. He played all three formats of the game. Boucher holds the record for the most Test dismissals by a wicket-keeper, with 532 catches and 552 total dismisses. He retired in July 2012 after suffering an eye injury.

CARRIE BICKMORE born in Adelaide, SA - 1980 (44)

* Australian radio announcer and TV presenter. She is the co-host of the *Carrie & Tommy national* radio program on the Hit Network. She was a founding co-host on *The Project* on Network Ten. She left the show at the end of November 2022 after 13 years.

* She won a TV Week Logie in 2010 for 'Most Popular New Female Talent.' In 2015 she won a Gold Logie.

AMANDA SEYFRIED born in Pennsylvania - 1985 (39)

* US actress. In 2004, Seyfried made her film debut in *Mean Girls*. She had a recurring role in the TV programs *Veronica Mars* and *Big Love*. Her films include *Mamma Mia!* (and sequel), *Red Riding Hood* and *Les Misérables* (as Cosette).

Events

GALILEO GALILEI announced that he had perfected the **TELESCOPE** - 1621.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, written by Tennessee Williams, opened on Broadway - 1947.

* It starred Jessica Tandy as Blanche and Marlon Brando as Stanley.

MURRAY ROSE won the first of his three gold medals at the Olympic Games in Melbourne - 1956.

A **HUMAN HEART TRANSPLANT** operation was performed for the first time by Dr Christiaan Barnard and a team of 30 at Capetown, South Africa - 1967.

* The patient survived for 18 days before he succumbed to pneumonia.

ALBERT EINSTEIN'S handwritten manuscript of *The General Theory of Relativity* sold at a New York auction for \$1.6 million - 1987.

THE SULLIVANS' house (used in the TV series), was sold for \$339,500 in Canterbury, Melbourne - 1988.

IAN HEALY equalled Wally Grout's record (187) for the most dismissals by a Queensland wicket keeper in Test Matches - 1993.

GLEBE ISLAND BRIDGE closed in Sydney - 1995.

* The bridge, which connected Rozelle to Pyrmont by road, was one of the last remaining swing bridges of its type in Australia and in the world.

PETER GARRETT quit Midnight Oil after 25 years as lead singer - 2002.

* He then went into politics and became the ALP member for Sydney's Kingsford Smith (2004-2013).

MELBOURNE experienced its worst storm in a century - 2003.

* It caused \$50 million damage. More than 100 mm of rain fell on Melbourne's north and east in two hours. In some parts, boats were used to rescue motorists from cars.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME was reintroduced in WA for a 3 year trial - 2006.

* It was rejected at a referendum at the end of the 3 year trial.

KRISTINA KENEALLY became first female Premier of NSW after Nathan Rees was dropped in an ALP leadership spill - 2009.

SCOTT WEILAND, American musician and singer-songwriter died aged 48 of a cardiac arrest on his tour bus in Minnesota - 2015.

* It occurred just before he was scheduled to go on stage with his band The Wildabouts. He was best known as the lead singer for Stone Temple Pilots as well as Velvet Revolver.

Birthday Bulletin

Wednesday 4th December 2024

Births

TONI FISHER born in Los Angeles, California - 1924. (Died aged 74 - 1999)

* US singer. Known professionally as Miss Toni Fisher, her two biggest hits were *The Big Hurt* ('59) and *West Of The Wall* ('62).

FREDDY CANNON (Frederic Picariello) born in Lynn, Massachusetts - 1936 (88)

* US singer. His three biggest hits were *Tallahassee Lassie* ('59) (co-written by his mother), *Way Down Yonder In New Orleans* ('59) (a 1922 jazz song) and *Palisades Park* ('62) - which was written by *Gong Show* host Chuck Barris.

MAX BAER JR (Maximilian Baer Jr) born in Oakland, California - 1937 (87)

* US actor and producer. He played Jethro - the thick-skulled nephew in the '60s TV series *The Beverly Hillbillies*. Actually he's quite intelligent and has a minor degree in philosophy. He's the last surviving cast member. He went on to become an independent Hollywood producer. His films include *Macon County Line*, *Ode To Billy Joe* (based on the hit song) and *The Wild McCullochs*.

DAVID JOHNSTON born in Pontypool, Wales - 1941 (83)

* Melbourne TV news reader. Former presenter on Channel 7 and Channel 10 in Melbourne. He retired in 2005.

CHRIS HILLMAN born in Los Angeles, California - 1944 (80)

* Bass guitarist. He played with the band The Byrds. Their biggest hit was *Mr Tambourine Man*. In 1979 he joined with former band members to record the album *McGuinn, Clark and Hillman* and had hit success with the single *Don't You Write Her Off*.

DENNIS WILSON born in Los Angeles, California - 1944. (Died aged 39 - 1983)

* Drummer with the Beach Boys. Brother of Brian and Carl. He was the only serious surfer in the group. He drowned at Marina Del Ray, California. Special permission was later granted for him to be buried at sea - a custom normally reserved for sailors.

JEFF BRIDGES born in Los Angeles, California - 1949 (75)

* US actor. In 2010 he won the Academy Award for Best Actor at the Academy Awards for his role in *Crazy Heart*. A year later he received a nomination for Best Actor for his role in *True Grit*. His other movie roles include - *Last Picture Show* ('71), *King Kong* ('76), *Nadine* ('87), *Tucker - The Man And His Dreams* ('89), *The Fisher King* ('91), *The Mirror Has Two Faces* ('96), *Sea Biscuit* (2003), *Iron Man* (2008), and *The Giver* (2014).

* He starred with his brother Beau Bridges in *The Fabulous Baker Boys* ('89) and made his screen debut at the age of 8 when he appeared with his father Lloyd Bridges in the TV series *Sea Hunt*.

PAMELA STEPHENSON born in Auckland, New Zealand - 1949 (75)

* New Zealand-born comedienne, psychotherapist and wife of Billy Connolly. She moved from NZ to England where she made a name for herself in the British comedy program *Not The Nine O'Clock News*.

* Married comedian Billy Connolly in 1989 in Fiji.

BARRY BLUE (Barry Green) born in London, England - 1950 (74)

* UK singer and songwriter. He had a hit in 1973 with (*Dancin'*) *On A Saturday Night* (No 2 in Australia) and also co-wrote Lynsey De Paul's 1972 hit *Sugar Me*.

GLYNIS NUNN-CEARNS (Glynis Saunders) born in Toowoomba, Queensland - 1960 (64)

* Australian track and field champion. She won gold in the heptathlon at the 1984 Olympic Games as well as winner of that event in four successive Commonwealth Games from 1978 to 1990.

MARISA TOMEI born in Brooklyn, New York - 1964 (60)

* US actress. She made her film debut in 1984 in *The Flamingo Kid* and won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in *My Cousin Vinny* ('93). Also appeared with Mickey Rourke in the 2008 movie *The Wrestler* and co-starred with Robert Downey Jr in the 1994 rom-com *Only You*. She played May Parker in *Spider Man: Homecoming* and *Captain America: Civil War*.

SHARYN GHIDELLA born in Babinda, Queensland - 1966 (58)

* Australian journalist and news presenter. In July 2024, Ghidella announced that she had been made redundant from the Seven Network after 17 years with the network. However in August 2024, it was announced that she would return to Network 10 to present a revived, local edition of 10 News First Queensland.

JAY Z (Shawn Carter) born in Brooklyn, New York - 1970 (54)

* US rap artist. He married singer Beyonce Knowles in 2008. In 2003 they had a hit with *Crazy In Love*. They also combined on the 2003 hit *'03 Bonnie And Clyde*. Jay Z featured on Rihanna's 2007 No 1 hit *Umbrella* and on Alicia Keys' 2009 hit *Empire State Of Mind*.

* He is one of the world's best-selling artists, having sold more than 100 million records, while receiving 24 Grammy Awards for his musical work.

TYRA BANKS born in Los Angeles, California - 1973 (51)

* US model and actress. She played Jackie Ames from 1993-1994 in the TV sit-com *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

CRAIG HUTCHISON born in Warragul, Victoria - 1974 (50)

* Australian broadcaster and CEO/part owner of the Sports Entertainment Network. His TV credits include the Channel 9 programs *Footy Classified*, *The Sunday Footy Show* and *National Nine News*. He's also heard on SEN 1116 as a co-host of *Off The Bench*.

JAMES BARTEL born in Geelong, Victoria - 1983 (41)

* AFL player with Geelong Football Club. In 2007 he won the Brownlow Medal and was part of the Cats' premiership team. Also played in their 2009 and 2011 premiership teams. He retired at the end of 2016 after playing 305 games. He now works in the media.

SARAH ROBERTS born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1984 (40)

* Australian actress. She has made appearances on various television shows, including *Jack Irish* and *INXS: Never Tear Us Apart*. After appearing in the 2014 *Neighbours* spin-off series *Brennan on the Run* as Sienna Matthews, Roberts joined the cast of the main show in a recurring capacity. In 2017, she began playing Willow Harris in *Home and Away*.

Events

ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH, JERRY LEE LEWIS and CARL PERKINS made an impromptu recording in Memphis - 1956.

* In those days the four stars used to record with Sun Records. The recordings from the session weren't released for 25 years and came out under the title of *The Million Dollar Quartet*.

THE BEATLES album *Beatles For Sale* was released in the UK - 1964.

LED ZEPPELIN announced that the band was calling it quits - 1980.

* The decision to disband was made shortly after the death of their drummer John Bonham.

ON GOLDEN POND, starring Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn, opened in US cinemas - 1981.

* The film received ten nominations at the 54th Academy Awards including Best Picture and won three: Best Actor (Fonda), Best Actress (Hepburn) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Thompson).

GOLD COAST CHARGERS rugby league club officially wound up - 1998.

Australia experienced a **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE** - 2002.

* The best viewing point was at Ceduna in South Australia. The next solar eclipse occurred in November 2003 over Antarctica.

HOME AND AWAY's central home for filming was burnt down in the Sydney bush fires - 2002.

* The stately Kenthurst house was known as Jackaroo Ranch and had been the show's key location since its first episode in 1987.

AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION reached 20 million, according to the Bureau of Statistics - 2003.

* Our population passed 27 million in September 2024.

KEVIN RUDD defeated **KIM BEAZLEY** by 10 votes to win Labor Party leadership - 2006.

MAL WALDEN read his final news bulletin on Ten News Melbourne - 2013.

MELBOURNE experienced an earthquake in the east - the largest tremor to hit the area in 50 years - 2014.

* The 3.3 magnitude hit between Pakenham and Berwick at 6.05am and lasted about 10 seconds.



Birthday Bulletin

Thursday 5th December 2024

International Volunteer Day

Births

LITTLE RICHARD (Richard Penniman) born in Macon, Georgia - 1932. (Died aged 87 - 2020)

* US rock 'n roll singer/songwriter and pianist. His '50s rock classics include *Tutti-Frutti*, *Long Tall Sally*, *Keep A Knockin'*, *Lucille*, *Rip It Up*, and *Good Golly Miss Molly*. In his final years he was confined to a wheelchair since undergoing hip surgery in 2009. He was also seen in public without wearing any of his large black wigs and displaying a penciled moustache. He was also very vocal about his Christian faith.

J J CALE (Jean Jacques Cale) born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - 1938. (Died aged 74 - 2013)

* American singer/songwriter. He made his first album in 1965 which contained *After Midnight*. It became a big hit for Eric Clapton in 1970. His biggest solo hit was in 1972 with *Crazy Mama*.

ANDY KIM (Andrew Joachim) born in Montreal, Canada - 1946 (78)

* Canadian singer/songwriter. He had hits with revivals of the Ronettes' songs *Baby I Love You* ('69) and *Be My Baby* ('70). In 1974 he had a No 1 hit in the US with *Rock Me Gently*.

* He co-wrote the Archies' 1969 hit *Sugar Sugar*.

JIM MESSINA born in Maywood, California - 1947 (77)

* US musician. One half of the duo Loggins & Messina and a former member of Buffalo Springfield and Poco. The biggest hit for Loggins & Messina was in 1972 with *Your Mama Don't Dance* (also covered in Australia by the Bootleg Family Band.)

JOSE CARRERAS born in Spain - 1946 (78)

* Spanish operatic tenor. His duet with Sarah Brightman - *Amigos Para Siempre* (*Friends For Life*) spent six weeks at No 1 on the Australian charts in 1992. His album *Friends For Life* also made No 1. He's also had hit success with his contribution to the *Three Tenors* recordings.

* In the late '80s his career was temporarily halted for three years when he was diagnosed with leukaemia.

DENISE DRYSDALE (Denise Drysdale) born in Moorabbin, Victoria - 1948 (76)

* Australian TV presenter. During the '70s she became well known when she worked with Ernie Sigley on the *Ernie Sigley Show*. In 1974 they had a No 1 hit with a revival of *Hey Paula*. They also co-hosted the morning TV program *Ernie & Denise*. In 2011, she announced her retirement from showbusiness on the morning program *The Circle*. Prior to *The Circle*, her last regular TV role was in 1998 when she joined Channel 7 to host her own weekday program *Denise*. However in 2016 she returned to television on the morning program *Studio 10*.

CHERYL KERNOT born in Maitland, NSW - 1948 (76)

* Australian politician. She was a Senator for Queensland and Leader of the Australian Democrats from 1993 to 1997 before joining the ALP and becoming the Member for Dickson (Qld) in 1998.

MORGAN BRITTANY (Suzanne Cupito) born in Hollywood, California - 1951 (73)

* American child actress and later a leading lady. Her films include *The Birds* ('63), *Marnie* ('64), *The Day of The Locust* ('75) and the TV series' *Dallas* (as Katherine Wentworth) and *Melrose Place*.

ADRIAN BARICH born in Canberra, ACT - 1963 (61)

* Former Australian Rules footballer and rugby league player. 'Barra' was an inaugural member of the West Coast Eagles Football Club and played in their historic first game in 1987. Since 1995 he has been a television sports reporter on Channel 7 Perth and is a former co-host on MIX 94.5's *The Dead Set Legends* program.

DON PYKE born in Bloomington, Illinois - 1968 (56)

* Former Australian Rules player and coach of Adelaide Football Club. On 12 September 2019, Pyke resigned as head coach of the Adelaide Crows. Pyke spent eight seasons with the West Coast Eagles, playing in premiership sides in both 1992 and 1994, and sharing the Club Champion Award with Glen Jakovich in 1993.

COOPER CRONK born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1983 (41)

* NRL player. He finished his career with the Sydney Roosters with whom he won two consecutive NRL Grand Finals. He also played with Melbourne Storm and took part in their 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2017 premiership teams. He played a total of 375 games.

* He was the winner of the Dally M player of the year award in 2013.

FRANKIE MUNIZ born in Ridgewood, New Jersey - 1985 (39)

* US actor. He played Malcolm in the TV sit-com *Malcolm In The Middle* (2000-2006) and starred in the 2003 film *Agent Cody Banks* and the 2004 sequel. In 2008 he put his acting career on hold to pursue an open wheel racing career. In 2021 he became involved in stock car racing.

* From 2012-2014 he was drummer with Kingsfoil.

Events

WOOLWORTHS first store opened in Australia - 1924.

* It was in a basement between Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street, Sydney (later the Imperial Arcade). Then as now, Woolworths had no connection with the chain stores of the same name in the USA and Britain. The founders of the Australian chain were smart enough to take advantage of the fact that F.W. Woolworth had not registered the name in Australia!

PROHIBITION ended after 14 years in the US - 1933.

* A 21st amendment overturned the 18th amendment that was passed in 1919, banning the sale or consumption of alcohol in the US, which led to a booming black market for liquor and the rise of organised crime in the country.

GREAT SMOG OF LONDON began - 1952.

* For five days Londoners could see no further than a metre in front of them. At nighttime, the street lights were useless. About 4,000 deaths were attributed to the smog, along with many more illnesses.

TV WEEK went on sale for the first time in Australia - 1957.

* Geoff Corke and his wife-to-be Val Ruff appeared on the cover of the first issue.

THE BEATLES played their last ever concert in Liverpool at the Liverpool Empire - 1965.

CONSCRIPTION ended in Australia and draft resisters were released from jail and pending prosecutions for draft resistance were dropped - 1972.

* Australia's military commitment in South Vietnam ended but the withdrawal process was largely completed by 1973.

FITZGERALD ENQUIRY into political corruption resulted in five former Queensland ministers being charged - 1989.

HELEN CLARK assumed office as Prime Minister of New Zealand - 1999.

* She was defeated at the November 2008 election.

INTERNET MAY BE ONLY A 'PASSING FAD' story was reported in the Daily Mail - 2000.

* The newspaper report, written by Science Correspondent James Chapman, stated that researchers found that millions were turning their back on the world wide web, frustrated by its limitations and were unwilling to pay high access charges. It also reported that email, far from replacing other forms of communication, is adding to an overload of information.

GERRY HUMPHRIES, lead singer for the Australian band the Loved Ones, died aged 63 of a heart attack - 2005.

OJ SIMPSON was sentenced to at least 9 years in jail (without parole) regarding his role in an armed robbery - 2008.

* OJ and his accomplice, Clarence Stewart, were found guilty of stealing sports memorabilia from a hotel room at a Las Vegas casino in 2007. The most serious charges involved kidnapping and assault.

KOBE BRYANT (USA), aged 34, became the youngest player to score over 30,000 points in basketball - 2012.

AMAZON launched its full Australian website - 2017.

JIMMY BARNES notched up his 15th No 1 album in Australia with *Blue Christmas* - 2022.

* The Christmas recording was his 20th studio album.

DENNY LAINE, English musician and singer, died aged 79 - 2023.

* He sang with the Moody Blues from 1964 to 1966, and joined Paul McCartney's band Wings in 1971 and stayed for 10 years.

Birthday Bulletin

Friday 6th December 2024

Births

MIKE SMITH born in London, England - 1943. (Died aged 64 - 2008)

* Lead singer with UK band the Dave Clark Five. Their '60s hits include *Glad All Over*, *Bits And Pieces* and *Over And Over*. They had 17 Top 40 US hits.

* Dave Clark Five appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* 18 times - more than any other British act.

JONATHAN KING (Kenneth King) born in London, England - 1944 (80)

* UK singer, producer and TV presenter. He had his first pop hit in 1968 with *Everyone's Gone To The Moon*. Many of his recordings have been made under various pseudonyms such as Hedgehoppers Anonymous, Bubblerock, Sakkarin and 100 Ton and A Feather.

* He discovered and named the group Genesis. He also was the one who suggested the group name for 10CC.

JOBETH WILLIAMS (Margaret JoBeth Williams) born in Houston, Texas - 1948 (76)

* US actress. Her films include *Kramer vs Kramer* ('79), *Poltergeist* ('82) and *The Big Chill* ('83). She also appeared in the '90s TV series *The Client*.

DR. RIC CHARLESWORTH (Richard Charlesworth) born in Subiaco, WA - 1952 (72)

* Australian cricketer, hockey player and MP. He is a doctor of medicine, a former captain of the Australian Hockey Team, the State Hockey Team and the State Cricket Team. He was in Federal parliament for 10 years when he retired to take up the position of National Coach of the Australian Women's Hockey Team from 1993 until 2000.

THOMAS HULCE born in Detroit, Michigan - 1953 (71)

* US actor. He played the role of Mozart in the 1984 hit film *Amadeus* (which won eight Oscars including Best Picture) and had a lead role in the 1989 movie *Parenthood*. He retired from acting in the mid '90s to focus on stage directing and producing.

STEVEN WRIGHT born in New York City, New York - 1955 (69)

* American comedian. He is known for his slow, deadpan, monotone delivery of one-liner gags. He appeared in a few episodes of the US comedy series *Mad About You*.

PETER BUCK born in Oakland, California - 1956 (68)

* Lead guitarist with US band R.E.M. Their hits include *Everybody Hurts*, *Losing My Religion*, *Shiny Happy People*, *Orange Crush* and *Imitation Of Life*. Their biggest selling album is *Out Of Time* ('91). In September 2011 they announced on their web site that they were breaking up.

NICK PARK born in Lancashire, England - 1958 (66)

* UK animator. He created *Wallace & Gromit* the stop motion clay animation comedy series. Their two best known films are *The Wrong Trousers* ('92) and *A Close Shave* ('95). He also created *Shaun The Sheep* in 1995.

DEBBIE ROWE born in Spokane, Washington - 1959 (65)

* Former wife of Michael Jackson and mother to his children, Prince and Paris. They were "officially together" from 1996-1999.

ALEXANDRA 'ALLY' FOWLER born in Adelaide, SA - 1961 (63)

* Australian actress. She was a vocalist with The Chantoozies (as Ally Fowler). Their hits included - *Witch Queen Of New Orleans*, *Wanna Be Up* and *Love The One You're With*.

* She was one of the original stars of the *Sons And Daughters* series playing Angela Keegan. Her other TV credits include *Wentworth* and *All Saints* as well as *Law Of The Land*, *Neighbours*, *G.P.*, the ABC mini-series *Frankie's House* and *Big Sky* (as Lauren Allen).

JANINE TURNER (Janine Gauntt) born in Lincoln, New England - 1962 (62)

* American actress. She played Maggie O'Connell in the US TV series *Northern Exposure* and also appeared in the TV series *Good Mediciene*. She was one of the stars in the film *Cliffhanger* ('93). * She took her acting surname from her father Turner Gauntt.

RICHARD KRAJICEK born in Rotterdam, Netherlands - 1971 (53)

* Dutch tennis player. In 1996 he became the first Dutchman to win the men's Wimbledon final.

* He's 196 cm tall (6 feet 5 inches).

ANDREW FLINTOFF born in Lancashire, England - 1977 (47)

* English cricketer. 'Freddie' was appointed captain of England in February 2006 when England's captain Michael Vaughan and vice-captain Marcus Trescothick were unavailable through injury. Due to injury he retired from all forms of cricket in September 2010. He's now working in the media as a TV/radio presenter.

* He achieved the record for scoring the most sixes for England (79).

* He won the first series of the Australian version of *I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here!*

TIM CAHILL (Timothy Cahill) born in Sydney, NSW - 1979 (45)

* Australian soccer player. He is best known internationally for scoring the first goal by an Australian at a FIFA World Cup. Cahill scored in three World Cups (2006, 2010, 2014) and has scored the most goals by any Australian in the World Cup with five goals.

* From 2004 to 2012 he played with the Everton Football Club.

Events

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA was first published in Edinburgh as a weekly installment - 1768.

THOMAS EDISON tested his "talking machine" (phonograph) with the poem *Mary Had A Little Lamb* - 1877.

SEAN CONNERY married Australian actress **DIANE CILENTO** - 1962. (Divorced in 1973.)

ROLLING STONES free Altamont concert in California was attended by 300,000 and was marred by violence and four deaths - 1969.

* The Grateful Dead were also scheduled to perform following CSNY, but declined to play shortly before their scheduled appearance due to the increasing violence at the venue.

GAVIN KINGSLEY, 18, of London, completely dismantled a motor cycle and put it back together in full working order in 6 hours, 14 minutes - 1979.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY announced it would become a monthly publication - 1982.

ROY ORBISON, American singer/songwriter, died aged 52 of a heart attack - 1988.

* His second wife Barbara died aged 60 of cancer on the 23rd anniversary of Roy's passing.

* Shortly before his death he recorded a new album *Mystery Girl* and had also joined with George Harrison, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne and Bob Dylan on the Traveling Wilburys first album.

NEALE FRASER retired as Australian Davis Cup captain - 1993. (He had been captain since April 1970.)

NATALIE COLE's Brisbane concert was delayed when the limousine driver who picked her up started driving her to the Brisbane Entertainment Centre instead of the Brisbane Convention Centre - 1997.

* Because of his mistake she went on stage 20 minutes late. On top of all that, the concert tickets printed a 7pm start when it was actually 8pm.

GEORGES CHRISTENSEN of Luxembourg blew up and burst a **HOT WATER BOTTLE** using his mouth in just 52 secs - 2000.

CHRIS DE BURGH's 19 year old daughter **ROSANNA DAVISON**, was crowned Miss World representing Ireland - 2003.

DIANA KRALL and **ELVIS COSTELLO** were married at Elton John's estate outside London - 2003.

* Their twin sons, Dexter and Frank were born December 6, 2006 in New York City.

A record 81 **COCONUTS** were smashed in one minute with one hand by Muhamed Kahrmanovic in Germany - 2007.

DOBIE GRAY (born Lawrence Brown), US singer, died aged 71 - 2011.

* His biggest hits were *The In Crowd* and *Drift Away*.

BARBARA ORBISON, widow of **ROY ORBISON**, died aged 60 of cancer on the 23rd anniversary of Roy's passing - 2011.

JERUSALEM was recognised as the capital of Israel by Donald Trump's administration - 2017.

Birthday Bulletin

Saturday 7th December 2024

Births

BENT FABRIC (Bent Fabricius-Bjerre) born in Copenhagen, Denmark - 1924. (Died aged 95 - 2020)

* Danish pianist. He had an international top 10 instrumental hit in 1962 with *Alley Cat*.

ELLEN BURSTYN (Edna Gillyooly) born in Detroit, Michigan - 1932 (92)

* US actress. She won an Oscar for Best Actress in *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* ('75). She was also nominated for Oscars in *The Last Picture Show* ('71), *The Exorcist* ('73), *The Same Time Next Year* ('78) and *Requiem For A Dream* (2000).

HARRY CHAPIN born in New York City, New York - 1942. (Died aged 38 - 1981)

* American singer/songwriter. His biggest hit in Australia was *Cats In The Cradle* ('74) which he wrote with his wife Sandy. Many of his songs told a story, such as *W.O.L.D.* about an aging disc-jockey and *Taxi* which was about a cab driver named Harry and his long lost lover Sue.

* Chapin died in a car accident.

JOHN WALLIS born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1944 (80)

* Australian singer. He reintroduced the verses of Australian poet, A.B. "Banjo" Paterson to Australians of all ages by adding music to more than 70 of his finest works under his band name, Wallis and Matilda. The *Pioneers* album achieved platinum status within weeks of release in 1980. It featured the hit single *Clancy Of The Overflow*.

TOM WAITS (Thomas Waits) born in Pomona, California - 1949 (75)

* American composer, singer, pianist and actor. His song *Downtown Train* was a hit for Rod Stewart in 1990. He's attracted a cult following in the US and Europe. He has released several albums since the early '70s containing many songs about the life styles of the lower classes. He has also appeared in movies including *Cotton Club* ('85), *Ironweed* ('87), *Short Cuts* ('94) and Terry Gilliam's film *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* (2009).

AMANDA VANSTONE (Amanda O'Brien) born in Adelaide, SA - 1952 (72)

* Australian politician. A member of the Liberal Party, she became a part of the Australian Senate in 1984. She was the Ambassador to Italy from 2007-2010.

LARRY BIRD born in French Lick, Indiana - 1956 (68)

* American basketball player. He led the Boston Celtics to 3 NBA titles and was selected in the US Olympic Dream Team in 1992.

GEOFF LAWSON born in Wagga Wagga, NSW - 1957 (67)

* Australian cricketer. 'Henry' played in 46 Test matches taking 180 wickets. In the Sheffield Shield he captained New South Wales between 1988 and 1992, leading the team to the title in 1992, his final game. He has worked as a commentator on ABC radio, Channel 9 and Fox Sports.

JEFFREY WRIGHT born in Washington, D.C. - 1965 (59)

* US actor. He is well known for his role as Belize in the Broadway production and miniseries *Angels in America*. He played Felix Leiter in the James Bond films *Casino Royale*, *Quantum of Solace* and *No Time to Die*. From 2016-2022, he starred as Bernard Lowe and Arnold Weber in the TV series *Westworld*.

C THOMAS HOWELL (Christopher Thomas Howell) born in California - 1966 (58)

* US actor. His films include *E.T.*, *Soul Man*, *The Outsiders*, *Red Dawn* and *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

* He was formerly married to Rae Dawn Chong who appeared with him in *Soul Man*.

MARK GEYER born in Sydney, NSW - 1967 (57)

* Australian rugby league player. He played primarily with Penrith and was a part of their premiership team in 1991. Also played with the Balmain Tigers and the Western Reds. He is the brother of NRL footballer Matt Geyer. Since his retirement, he has worked in the media. He currently co-hosts the Triple M Sydney breakfast show. He's also a panellist on *NRL* on FOX.

STEADY EDDY (Christopher Widdows) born in - 1968 (56)

* Australian comedian. Even though he has cerebral palsy, it is this handicap which is the butt of many of his jokes. In 1998 he released the music album titled *Born To Be Bent*.

NICOLE APPLETON born in Ontario, Canada - 1974 (50)

* English-Canadian singer and TV presenter. She was vocalist with the All Saints. Her sister Natalie was also a part of the group. Their biggest hit was *Never Ever* ('98). They had 5 No 1 hits in the UK including *Pure Shores*, *Black Coffee* and *Under The Bridge*. Since 2007 she's appeared as a host of the UK TV program *The Hot Desk*.

* She also sang with her sister in Appleton.

SARA BAREILLES born in Eureka, California - 1979 (45)

* US singer. She made the Top 10 in Australia, US and the UK in 2008 with *Love Song*. In 2014 she also had a top 10 hit with *Brave*.

EMILY BROWNING born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1988 (36)

* Australian actress and singer. She can be seen in the US TV series *American Gods*. Her films include *Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events* and *The Man Who Sued God*. She also appeared in several episodes of *Blue Heelers*.

Events

CANBERRA was discovered by Charles Throsby Smith, Joseph Wild and James Vaughan - 1820.

CHINA abolished compulsory wearing of **PIGTAILS** - 1911.

YES WHAT final radio episode (520th) was recorded in Adelaide - 1940.

* The comedy radio series was written, produced and directed by Rex Dawe. He voiced the headmaster Dr Pym.

PEARL HARBOR naval base in Hawaii was attacked by 350 Japanese bombers, torpedo planes and fighters destroying many aircraft and ships - 1941.

* Canada declared war on Japan within a few hours of the attack. The following day Britain and the USA declared war on Japan.

IAN MECKIFF, Australian cricketer, was no-balled four times for "throwing" in the first cricket Test against South Africa - 1963.

THE BEATLES opened up their Apple Boutique at 94 Baker St. London - 1967.

* It proved an unsuccessful venture and was closed six months later.

OTIS REDDING recorded (*Sittin' On*) *The Dock Of The Bay* - 1967.

* Three days after recording the song, he died in a plane crash.

NASA launched its final apollo mission, Apollo 17, the last manned lunar landing mission so far - 1972.

* During the voyage, the crew took an iconic photo of earth, dubbed "The Blue Marble" photo, the first clear image ever of an illuminated earth.

WONDERLAND opened west of Sydney - 1985.

* It closed down in 2004.

TONI BRAXTON commenced an 11 week run at No 1 on the US singles chart with *Un-Break My Heart* (written by Dianne Warren) - 1996.

SIR PETER BLAKE, NZ yachting hero, was shot dead aged 53 when he and his crew were attacked aboard his boat by 7 Brazilians - 2001.

RICHARD WHERRETT, Australian director, died aged 60 - 2001.

* He directed the 2000 Olympic Games ceremony.

The German band **GRABOWSKY** were applauded a Guinness World Record 90 minutes after a performance in Germany - 2002.

DANIEL MORCOMBE, age 13, went missing while waiting for a bus at Woombye on the Sunshine Coast - 2003.

* In August 2011 police arrested a 41 year old man in Perth in relation to Daniel's death. He is now serving a life sentence.

NINTENDO Wii home video game console was released in Australia - 2006.

KERRYNN McCANN, Australian marathon runner, died aged 41 of breast cancer - 2008.

JOHN ASIATA, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs NRL player, had his contract terminated effective immediately because of his refusal to be vaccinated against COVID-19 - 2021.

* Asiatia becomes the first NRL player to be axed for this reason.

Birthday Bulletin

Sunday 8th December 2024

Births

SIR JAMES GALWAY born in Northern Ireland - 1939 (85)
* UK flautist. Known as the 'Man With The Golden Flute', he's one of the world's best known flute players. He has recorded several successful instrumental albums.

JIM MORRISON born in Melbourne, Florida - 1943. (Died aged 27 - 1971)
* Lead vocalist with The Doors. Their biggest hits were *Light My Fire* ('67), *Hello I Love You* ('68), *Love Her Madly* ('71) and *Riders On The Storm* ('71). Aged 27, he was found dead in his bathtub in his apartment in Paris.

BERTIE HIGGINS (Elbert J Higgins) born in Florida - 1944 (80)
* US singer. He had his biggest hit in 1982 with *Key Largo* (a reference to the Humphrey Bogart 1948 movie).

GEORGE BAKER (Johannes Bouwens) born in Hoorn, Netherlands - 1944 (80)
* Lead singer with his Dutch band the George Baker Selection. They charted in Australia with *Little Green Bag* ('69), *Dear Ann* ('70) and *Paloma Blanca* ('75).

NOOSHA FOX (Susan Traynor) born in Australia - 1944 (80)
* Australian singer. She is best known as the lead singer of the band Fox. They had a No 1 hit in Australia in 1975 with *S-S-S-Single Bed*. They also charted with *Imagine Me, Imagine You*.

PAUL DAINTY born in England - 1947 (77)
* UK born-Australian promoter. He's the president and CEO of TEG Dainty. In 1971, aged 24, he established his first office in Melbourne. It was Dainty who produced ABBA's 1977 tour of Australia.
* In 2023 he was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia, recognising an individual having made a significant impact in society. He was feted for his "distinguished service to the community" - specifically, his efforts in organising the 2020 Fire Fight all-star concert in Sydney, which raised more than A\$10 million for bushfire relief efforts.

JOHN WATERS born in London, England - 1948 (76)

* Australian actor and singer. In 2015 revived his one-man stage show *Looking Through A Glass Onion* playing John Lennon. He played Mike Vlassek in *All Saints*. He also appeared in the local films - *End Play* ('75), *Eliza Fraser* ('76) and *'Breaker' Morant* ('80). He also played Sergeant McKellar in the television series *Rush*, had a role in the mini-series *All The Rivers Run* and co-starred with LA Law star Harry Hamlin in the Australian feature film *Ebb Tide*.
* From 1972-1991 he was a presenter on *Playschool*.

DAN HARTMAN born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - 1950. (Died aged 43 - 1994)

* US multi-instrumentalist/songwriter/vocalist. He had a disco hit in 1978 with *Instant Replay* and had a further hit in 1984 with *I Can Dream About You*.

BILL BRYSON born in Des Moines, Iowa - 1951 (73)

* US writer. His 1998 non-fiction book *A Walk In The Woods: Rediscovering America On The Appalachian Trail* was made into a movie. It starred Robert Redford as Bryson and Nick Nolte as Stephen Katz. His travel books include: *The Lost Continent, Neither Here Nor There* and *Bill Bryson In A Sunburned Country* (aka *Down Under*).

KIM BASINGER (Kimila Basinger) born in Athens, Georgia - 1953 (71)

* US actress. She can be seen in *Never Say Never Again* ('83), *The Natural* ('84), *Blind Date* ('87), *Nadine* ('87), *Batman* ('89) and *LA Confidential* ('97) - which won her an Academy Award for best actress.

* From 1993-2002 she was married to actor Alec Baldwin.

MIKEY ROBINS (Mikel Robins) born in Newcastle, NSW - 1961 (63)

* Australian radio and TV comedian. He appeared on the TV program *Good News Week*, between 1996 and 2000, and returned again when the series was revived in February 2008. He was also on *Good News Weekend* and *GNW Night Life*. For 7 years he was on Triple J breakfast.

STEVE ELKINGTON born in Inverell, NSW - 1962 (62)

* Australian golfer. He won the Australian Open in 1992 and US PGA in 1995.

TERI HATCHER born in Palo Alto, California - 1964 (60)

* US actress. She played the role of Susan Meyer in *Desperate Housewives*. She also played Lois in *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* and Penny Parker in *MacGyver*.

JAMES BLUNDELL born in Stanthorpe, Queensland - 1964 (60)

* Australian country singer. He scored his biggest hit in 1992 with *Way Out West*, which he recorded with James Reyne. His best selling album is *This Road* ('92). At the 2019 Country Music Awards of Australia, he was inducted into the Hall Of Fame.

* He was an unsuccessful candidate for Bob Katter's Australian Party in the 2013 Federal election.

SINEAD O'CONNOR born in Ireland - 1966. (Died aged 56 - 2023)

* Irish singer. Her biggest hit was in 1990 with the Prince composition *Nothing Compares To U*. It topped the charts in 17 countries including Australia. She also made No 1 on the Australian album chart with *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*.

* She died in July 2023. O'Connor announced in 2021 that she was diagnosed with complex post-traumatic stress disorder and borderline personality disorder. She also suffered from gallstones and endometriosis. She underwent a radical hysterectomy in 2015 to manage the latter, but her mental health suffered afterward.

DOMINIC MONAGHAN born in Berlin, Germany - 1976 (48)

* English actor raised in Manchester. He played Merry in the *Lord Of The Rings* movies and the role of Charlie Pace in the *Lost* TV series. He has hosted the program *Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan*. In 2018, he starred in *Bite Club* an Australian crime thriller television series.

TIM PAINE (Timothy Paine) born in Hobart, Tasmania - 1984 (40)

* Australian cricketer. He played for the Tasmanian Tigers and was the captain of the Hobart Hurricanes before his selection in Australia's 2017 Ashes squad. He became Australian captain when Steve Smith was suspended. He stood down in 2021 following a 'sexting' scandal.

Events

SMELL-O-VISION had its US premiere as part of an Italian movie titled *Behind the Great Wall*, at the DeMille Theatre in New York City - 1959.

* A somewhat noxious scent was piped through the ceiling vents during certain portions of the film.

JOHN LENNON, English singer/musician and former Beatle, was shot dead aged 40 - 1980.

* John and his wife Yoko had just returned home from a recording studio. He was shot seven times as he entered the courtyard of his home in a New York apartment building.

WALLABIES, coached by Alan Jones, achieved the rugby union grand slam when they defeated Scotland - 1984.

* Mark Ella scored a try in all four grand slam matches.

Australian production of **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** premiered at the Princess Theatre in Melbourne - 1990.

* Starred Anthony Warlow (as the Phantom) and Marina Prior. When Warlow stood down from the role due to illness he was replaced by Rob Guest.

SHANE WARNE and **MARK WAUGH** admitted they were "naive and stupid" for selling weather and pitch reports to an illegal bookmaker in Sri Lanka in 1994 - 1998.

PETER GARRETT became Member for Kingsford Smith in Sydney and made his first speech in the House of Representatives - 2004.

OPRAH WINFREY arrived in Australia - 2010.

* The US TV talk show host was paid \$3 million by the Federal Government and Tourism Australia to bring her TV show plus 300 audience guests to Australia.

METALLICA performed in Antarctica becoming the first band to perform on all seven continents in the world - 2013.

* They played an hour-long set at Carlini Research Base, inside a transparent dome with a crowd of 120 people. The "Freeze 'Em All" show included hits such as *Enter Sandman* and *Master of Puppets*.

THE FIRST RECORDED CASE OF COVID-19 was detected in Wuhan, China - 2019.

Birthday Bulletin

Monday 9th December 2024

Births

PASTOR SIR DOUGLAS NICHOLLS

born in Barmah (on the Cummeragunja Reserve) NSW - 1906. (Died aged 81 - 1988)

* Australian Aboriginal sportsman, a Governor of South Australia and a Churches Of Christ Pastor. He was the first Aboriginal to be knighted. He played for Fitzroy in the VFL. The annual AFL Indigenous round is named in his honour.

KIRK DOUGLAS (Issur Danielovitch Demsky) born in Amsterdam, New York - 1916. (Died aged 103 - 2020)

* US actor and father of Michael Douglas. Some of his major films include - *Champion* ('49), *The Bad And The Beautiful* ('52), *Lust For Life* (as Van Gogh) ('56), *Gunfight At The OK Corral* ('57), *Spartacus* ('60) and *Tough Guys* ('86).

* He'd been married to his second wife Anne Buyden's since 1954. She died aged 102 in April 2021.

BOB HAWKE (Robert Hawke) born in Bordertown, South Australia - 1929. (Died aged 89 - 2019)

* Australian Prime Minister (1983-1991). He came to power in 1983 and became Labor's longest serving Prime Minister. He was replaced by Paul Keating in December 1991 (10 days after his 62nd birthday).

DAME JUDI DENCH (Judith Dench) born in York, England - 1934 (90)

* English film and stage actress. Her films include *Hamlet* ('96), *Golden Eye* as 'M' ('95) - and five other James Bond films that followed, *Henry V* ('89), *84 Charing Cross* ('86), *Mrs Brown* ('97), *Shakespeare In Love* ('98), *Chocolat* (2000), *Iris* (2001), *Mrs Henderson Presents* (2005), *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2012) and *Philomena* (2013). She also co-starred in the TV sit-com *As Time Goes By* (1992-2005).

* For her 8 minute role in *Shakespeare In Love*, she won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar.

RON BOSWELL born in Perth, WA - 1940 (84)

* Australian politician. He represented the Nationals in the Australian Senate for Queensland from 1983 to 2014 and led the party in the Senate from 1990 to 2007.

BEAU BRIDGES (Lloyd Bridges III) born in Los Angeles, California - 1941 (83)

* American actor and son of Lloyd Bridges. He has appeared mainly in television movies. In 1989 he co-starred with his brother Jeff Bridges in *The Fabulous Baker Boys*. He also starred in the TV series *The Agency* (2001-2003).

WARREN MORGAN born in Richmond, Victoria - 1941 (83)

* Australian musician. He's played keyboards with bands including Chain, The Aztecs and John Paul Young's All Stars. In 1973 he recorded an album with Billy Thorpe titled *Thumpin' Pig And Puffin' Billy*. It featured the hit single *Captain Straightman*.

NEIL INNES born in Essex, England - 1944. (Died aged 75 - 2019)

* UK vocalist and musician. He sang with the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band who had a novelty hit in 1968 with *I'm The Urban Spaceman*.

* He has worked with the cast members of Monty Python's Flying Circus including the movie *Monty Python and The Holy Grail* and as a member of the Beatles send-up band The Rutles.

JOAN ARMATRADING born in St Kitts, West Indies - 1950 (74)

* West Indian singer/songwriter. She has lived in England since 1958. She had two of her biggest in 1983 with *Drop The Pilot* and *I Love It When You Call Me Names*.

JOHN MALKOVICH born in Christopher, Illinois - 1953 (71)

* US actor. His films include - *Places In The Heart* ('84), *The Killing Fields* ('84), *Dangerous Liaisons* ('88), *In The Line Of Fire* ('93), *The Man In The Iron Mask* ('97), *Being John Malkovich* ('99), *Johnny English* (2003), *Changeling* (2008) and *RED* (2010).

DONNY OSMOND born in Ogden, Utah - 1957 (67)

* US singer. He's a member of the famous showbiz Osmond family. His first solo release was *Sweet And Innocent* (originally recorded by Roy Orbison as a flipside to one of his '50s singles). Donny's other '70s hits included - *Puppy Love*, *Why* and *Go Away Little Girl*.

* He has also recorded with his brothers as well as his sister Marie.

NICK SEYMOUR (Nicholas Seymour) born in Benalla, Victoria - 1958 (66)

* Bass guitarist with the band Crowded House. In February 2024, Crowded House released *Oh Hi* from their eighth album *Gravity Stairs*, which in turn was released in May 2024. They also announced a New Zealand and Australian tour beginning in November 2024. Their biggest hits include - *Don't Dream It's Over*, *Something So Strong*, *Better Be Home Soon* and *It's Only Natural*.

* His brother Mark Seymour was lead vocalist with the Australian rock band Hunters And Collectors.

LARRY EMDUR born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1964 (60)

* Australian TV and radio presenter. He received TV's top honour of the Gold Logie at the TV Week Logie Awards held in Sydney in August 2024. Since 2007 he's been the co-host of *The Morning Show* (with Kylie Gillies). He also hosts *The Chase Australia*.

* He has also hosted several game shows including *The Price Is Right* from 1993-1998. In 2003 he returned to host *The Price Is Right*. This version ended in 2005. It was revived again in 2012 but ended in the same year.

ANNALISE BRAAKENSIEK born in Sydney, NSW - 1972. (Died aged 46 - 2019)

* Australian actress and model. Starred in TV series *Pizza* and movie *Fat Pizza* (2003). In early January 2019 she was found dead in her Potts Point apartment. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

TRE COOL (Frank Edwin Wright III) born in Frankfurt, Germany - 1972 (51)

* German-born American drummer for the band Green Day. He replaced the band's former drummer John Kiffmeyer in 1990.

JESSE METCALFE born in Waterford, Connecticut - 1978 (46)

* US actor. He played John Rowland in the TV series *Desperate Housewives*. He appears in the 2016 movie *God's Not Dead 2*.

SIMON HELBERG born in Los Angeles, California - 1980 (44)

* US actor, comedian, and musician. He is best known for his role as Howard Wolowitz in the TV sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. In 2016, Helberg starred alongside Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant in the movie *Florence Foster Jenkins*.

Events

First **CHRISTMAS CARD** was created in England - 1843.

* It was made for Sir Henry Cole who sent 1000 identical cards to all his friends.

THE FIRST REPORTED SIGHTING OF A YOWIE

was published in the Australian Town and County Journal - 1882.

CORONATION STREET

began on British television - 1960.

* It's the world's longest-running television drama.

DOMINO'S PIZZA

was founded in America - 1961.

LATROBE UNIVERSITY

was established in Melbourne - 1964.

NEIL DIAMOND's two album live set

Hot August Night was released in US - 1972.

SMALLPOX

was officially declared eradicated - 1980.

BILL WYMAN

announced that he had left the Rolling Stones - 1992.

* He was replaced by Darryl Jones on bass.

BERT NEWTON

revealed publicly that he had personal debts of almost \$1 million - 1993.

Final program of AT THE MOVIES

aired on ABC television - 2014.

* Hosts Margaret Pomeranz and David Stratton began on SBS where they hosted *The Movie Show* for 18 years before moving to the ABC.

THE VOLCANIC ISLAND

WHAKAARI/WHITE ISLAND

erupted in New Zealand's Bay Of Plenty - 2019.

* 47 people were on the island when the eruption happened. 21 people were killed and a further 26 were seriously injured.

MARIE FREDRIKSSON (born Gun-Marie Fredriksson), Swedish singer with Roxette, died aged 61 following a 17-year-long battle with cancer after her 2002 brain tumour diagnosis - 2019.

RYAN O'NEAL, US actor, died aged 82 - 2023.

* His films include *Love Story*, *Barry Lyndon*, and *What's Up Doc*. He also starred with his daughter Tatum in the 1973 film *Paper Moon*. For many years he was in a relationship with Farrah Fawcett.

Birthday Bulletin

Tuesday 10th December 2024

Births

BILLY DUNK born in Gosford, NSW - 1938 (86)

* Australian golfer. He achieved the most course records set in Australia with 75, which is believed to be a world record.

* He won the PGA championship on four occasions - 1967, '71, '74 and '76.

PETER SARSTEDT born in New Delhi, India - 1941. (Died aged 75 - 2017)

* English singer. He had two big hits in 1969 with *Where Do You Go To (My Lovely)* - which he wrote in Copenhagen in 1966 and *Frozen Orange Juice*.

* His brother Eden Kane (Richard Sarstedt) had a hit in 1964.

CHAD STUART (David Stuart Chadwick) born in Durham, England - 1941. (Died aged 79 - 2020)

* UK singer. One half of the duo Chad & Jeremy (Clyde). They were far more popular in America than their homeland of England where they had virtually no hit success. Two of their best sellers were *Yesterday's Gone* and *A Summer Song* which were both released in 1964.

GLORIA LORING (Gloria Goff) born in New York City, New York - 1946 (78)

* American singer and actress. She was a regular in the US soapie *Days Of Our Lives* playing Liz Curtis.

* In 1986 she had a hit with *Friends And Lovers*, a song she recorded with Carl Anderson.

* She was married for 14 years to actor Alan Thicke.

SUSAN DEY (Susan Smith) born in Pekin, Illinois - 1952 (72)

* American actress. She played Laurie in *The Partridge Family* and Grace Van Owen in *L.A. Law*.

* 'Dey' came from her mother's maiden name. She was a 17 year old model when she landed the part of Laurie in *The Partridge Family*.

JACK HUES (Jeremy Ryder) born in Kent, England - 1954 (70)

* Lead singer and guitarist with British band Wang Chung. Their biggest hits are *Dance Hall Days* ('84), *Everybody Have Fun Tonight* ('84) and *Let's Go* ('87).

PAUL HARDCASTLE born in London, England - 1957 (67)

* English vocalist. He had his only Australian hit in 1985 with *19*. It was a reference to the average age of the combat soldier in Vietnam. (In World War II it was 26). It made No 1 in the UK.

MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN born in Chicago, Illinois - 1957. (Died aged 54 - 2012)

* US actor. The ex-bodyguard played the prisoner John Coffey in *The Green Mile* ('99). He suffered a heart attack in July 2012 and died on September 3, 2012.

SIR KENNETH BRANAGH born in Belfast, Ireland - 1960 (64)

* Irish-born actor and director. The 2021 film *Belfast* was written and directed by Branagh. It received seven nominations at the 94th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, winning for Best Original Screenplay. In recent years he's starred as Hercule Poirot in the 2017 remake of Agatha Christie's *Murder On The Orient Express* as well as *Death On The Nile* and *A Haunting In Venice*. In 2016 he appeared in the movie *Dunkirk*. He starred in the TV series *Wallander* (2008-2016).

* He was married to British actress Emma Thompson from 1989-1995. They starred together in *Henry V* ('89), *Dead Again* ('91), *Peter's Friends* ('92) and *Much Ado About Nothing* ('93). In 2003 he married Lindsay Brunnock.

JAHANGIR KHAN born in Karachi, Pakistan - 1963 (61)

* Pakistani squash player. He became world champion at 17 and went on to win six world titles ('81-'85, '88). He also won the British Open 10 times.

DARREN BERRY born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1969 (55)

* Australian cricketer. Former captain of the Victorian Bushrangers. He's also played for SA and Marylebone in England. He was head coach of the South Australian cricket team for 5 years.

PUFF JOHNSON (Ewanya Johnson) born in Detroit, Michigan - 1972. (Died aged 40 - 2013)

* US singer. She had her debut hit in 1996 with *Forever More*. In the same year she charted with *Over and Over*.

MEG WHITE (Megan White) born in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan - 1974 (50)

* US drummer and backing vocalist with the White Stripes. The duo consisted of Meg and (her then husband) Jack White. They had a worldwide hit in 2003 with *7 Nation Army*. Their albums *Elephant* (2003) and *Icky Thump* (2007) both made No 1 in the UK.

XAVIER SAMUEL born in Hamilton, Victoria - 1983 (41)

* Australian actor. He has appeared in leading roles in the feature films *September*, *Further We Search*, *Newcastle* and played Riley Biers in *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*, the third movie in *The Twilight Saga* film series.

RAVEN (Raven-Symoné Pearman) born in Atlanta, Georgia - 1985 (39)

* US actress and singer. She was seen on the US chat show *The View* (2015-2016). She played Olivia Kendall in *The Cosby Show*, Galleria in *The Cheetah Girls* and Raven Baxter in her own show, *That's So Raven*.

* She is known by her stage name as Raven, though also known as Raven-Symoné. She's had music success as a solo artist and on the *Cheetah Girls* movie soundtracks.

Events

QUEENSLAND was proclaimed a colony separate from NSW - 1859.

World's first **TRAFFIC LIGHTS**, built near London's Parliament Square, began operation - 1868.

SURF LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA was founded - 1949.

* Bondi was the first Surf Club and was established as early as 1906.

ROBERT MENZIES was elected Prime Minister for the second time - 1949.

* He had previously been in office from 1939 to 1941. Second time around he remained in the role of P.M. until 1966.

JIM BURKE, Australian cricketer, scored just 28 runs in 4 hours, 10 minutes of batting - 1958.

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, starring Peter O'Toole, had its world premiere in London - 1962.

* It was nominated for ten Oscars at the 35th Academy Awards in 1963; it won seven, including Best Picture and Best Director.

DONNY OSMOND, aged 6, made his TV debut on *The Andy Williams Show* - 1963.

OTIS REDDING, American soul singer, died aged 26 in a plane crash in Wisconsin - 1967.

SOPHIE'S CHOICE, starring Meryl Streep, opened in US cinemas - 1982.

* The film received five nominations at the 55th Academy Awards. Streep won the Best Actress Oscar.

Buckingham Palace announced that **PRINCE CHARLES** and **PRINCESS DIANA** had officially separated - 1992.

STEVE VIZARD sold his TV production company, Artist Services, for \$25 million to British media giant Granada - 1998.

SOUTH SYDNEY lost their appeal to remain in the National Rugby League competition - 1999.

* They were reinstated in season 2002 and won the premiership in 2014.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING world premiere opened in London - 2001.

GARTH BROOKS, 43, married **TRISHA YEARWOOD**, 41, - 2005.

OLDEST MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE was recovered after a record 92 years 229 days at sea by Mark Anderson (UK) - 2006.

* The message had been released by the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen on April 25, 1914.

The surviving members of **LED ZEPPELIN** reunited for a one-off benefit concert held in memory of music executive Ahmet Ertegun, with Jason Bonham filling in for his father John on drums - 2007.

AVATAR, directed by James Cameron, premiered in London - 2009.

* It was released theatrically worldwide from December 16 to 18. It became the biggest box office movie of all time.

MIKE NESMITH (born Robert Michael Nesmith), US singer and musician who was a member of The Monkees, died aged 78 of heart failure - 2021.

BILLY JOEL played a one-off Australian concert at the MCG Melbourne before a crowd of 76,299 - 2022.

Birthday Bulletin

Wednesday 11th December 2024

Births

RITA MORENO (Rosita Alverio) born in Puerto Rico - 1931 (93)

* Puerto Rican American actress and dancer. Her film roles include - *Singin' In the Rain* ('52), *The King And I* ('56), *West Side Story* ('61) and *The Four Seasons* ('81).

MAGGIE TABBERER (Margaret Trigar) born in Adelaide, South Australia - 1936 (88)

* Australian fashion designer known as Maggie T. For 15 years she wrote the magazine's fashion pages in the Australian Women's Weekly. She brought out her own line of clothing which caters for the larger woman.

* The 1960 Model of the Year was a Gold Logie winner in 1970 and 1971.

REG LIVERMORE born in Parramatta, NSW - 1938 (86)

* Australian singer, dancer, TV presenter and writer. In recent years he performed in the stage musicals *The Wizard* and *The Producers*. In 2008 he toured in a local production of *My Fair Lady* (playing Henry Higgins). A former *Burke's Backyard* reporter, for many years he was a presenter on the *Our House* TV program.

DONNA MILLS born in Chicago, Illinois - 1940 (84)

* US actress. She played Abby Ewing in *Knot's Landing*. One of her first movie roles was in the 1971 Clint Eastwood feature *Play Misty For Me*.

DAVID GATES born in Tulsa, Oklahoma - 1940 (84)

* US singer, guitarist and songwriter for his band Bread. Their '70s hits include *Make It With You*, *If, Everything I Own* and *Baby I'm A Want You*. Bread broke up in 1973 but reunited in 1976 and had one further hit with *Lost Without Your Love*. He had a solo hit with *Goodbye Girl* ('78) from the film of the same name.

BRENDA LEE (Brenda Tarpley) born in Atlanta, Georgia - 1944 (80)

* American singer. 'Little Miss Dynamite' recorded her first hit singles in 1960 when she was only 15. Three of her biggest sellers were *I'm Sorry* ('60), *Fool No 1* ('61) and *All Alone Am I* ('62).

RICK McCOSKER born in Inverell, NSW - 1946 (78)

* Australian cricketer and Test selector. He played in 25 Test matches and also played for NSW. His highest score was 168 - NSW v WA in Sydney, 1980-81.

TERI GARR (Teri Ann Garr) born in Lakewood, Ohio - 1944. (Died aged 79 - 2024)

* US actress. She started out as a background dancer for youth-oriented films and TV shows and appeared in nine Elvis Presley movies including *Viva Las Vegas*. Her major movies include - *Tootsie* ('82), *Young Frankenstein* ('74), *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* ('77) and *Mr Mom* ('83).

* She was diagnosed with MS in 2001 and retired from acting in 2007. In her later years she was confined to a wheelchair. Died aged 79 on October 29, 2024.

JERMAINE JACKSON born in Gary, Indiana - 1954 (70)

* American singer. A member of the famous Jackson family which consists of six boys and three girls. His solo hits include *Daddy's Home* ('73), *Let's Get Serious* ('80) and *Dynamite* ('84).

GERARD NEESHAM born in WA - 1954 (70)

* Former coach of the Fremantle Dockers AFL team. He was their inaugural coach when they entered the competition in 1995 but was axed at the end of 1998.

STEVIE YOUNG born in Glasgow, Scotland - 1956 (68)

* Rhythm guitarist with AC/DC. He joined the group in 2014 replacing his uncle Malcolm Young who left for health reasons. He's the nephew of Angus and Malcolm Young as well as the nephew of George Young (Easybeats). He is the son of the eldest Young brother Stephen. In November 2020 AC/DC released a new album *Power Up*. For this recording long time members Brian Johnson, Cliff Williams and Phil Rudd all returned to record the album.

MARCO PIERRE WHITE born in Leeds, England - 1961 (63)

* British celebrity chef. He appeared on the TV program *Masterchef Australia*. Marco trained with Gordon Ramsay.

DARRYL JONES born in Chicago, Illinois - 1961 (63)

* US bass guitarist. He has been recording and touring with the Rolling Stones as their bass guitarist since 1994. He has also played in bands with Miles Davis and Sting, among others.

GLENN LAZARUS born in Queanbeyan, NSW - 1965 (59)

* Australian rugby league player. He is the only player in the history of the game of rugby league to play in 6 grand finals, winning 5 of them with 3 different clubs - the wins being the first ever grand final wins for each club, Canberra Raiders, Brisbane Broncos, and the Melbourne Storm. Also represented Australia on two Kangaroo Tours in 1990 and 1994 and represented NSW in numerous State of Origin games.

* He was elected to the Australian Senate at the 2013 federal election as the lead Queensland candidate for the Palmer United Party. He became an Independent but did not retain his seat in the 2016 election.

HAMISH BLAKE born in Glen Waverley, Victoria - 1981 (43)

* Australian TV presenter, radio presenter and podcaster. He is well known for his radio and TV work with Andy Lee. They can be heard on their podcast *Hamish & Andy* which is the most downloaded and listened to podcast in Australia. Since 2019 he's hosted the TV program *Lego Masters Australia*.

* In 2012 he won the TV Week Gold Logie for Most Popular Personality on Television. In 2022, Blake was the recipient of the TV Week Bert Newton Award for most outstanding presenter.

* In 2012, Blake and Andy Lee won a Logie Award for their TV program *Hamish and Andy's Gap Year*.

* He married Australian author and skin care founder Zoe Foster on his 31st birthday in 2012.

LIAM DUGGAN born in Victoria - 1996 (28)

* AFL player and the co-captain of the West Coast Eagles. He was a part of the team's 2018 premiership win over Collingwood. He hosts the 4WD Podcast with YouTuber Ronny Dahl.

HARRIS ANDREWS born in Fitzroy, Victoria - 1996 (28)

* AFL footballer. He has played with the Brisbane Lions since 2015 and is their co-captain. Andrews played in their 2024 premiership win over the Sydney Swans.

Events

EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES

abdicated the British throne to marry twice-divorced American Mrs. Wallis Simpson - 1936.

* At the time he announced: "I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love." He was then given the title of Duke of Windsor, and in 1937, married Simpson in a small private ceremony in France.

An **AUTOMATIC DOOR** was installed in Australia for the first time in an insurance building in Collins St Melbourne - 1939.

ELVIS PRESLEY started a 20-week run at No.1 on the US album chart with *Blue Hawaii*, his seventh US No.1 album - 1961.

SAM COOKE, US singer, was shot dead aged 33 - 1964.

* Cooke was fatally shot by Bertha Franklin, the manager of a motel in Los Angeles. After an inquest, the courts ruled Cooke's death to be a justifiable homicide. A woman who had accompanied Cooke to the motel that night had also called the police that night from a telephone booth near the motel, telling them she had just escaped being kidnapped and that he had attempted to rape her.

MUHAMMAD ALI boxed for the final time, losing to Trevor Berbick - 1981.

* Ali retired permanently in 1981 with a career record of 56 wins, 37 by knockout, against 5 losses.

THE JAM played their last ever gig as a band when they appeared in Brighton, England - 1982.

* Singer and guitarist Paul Weller went on to form the Style Council with keyboardist Mick Talbot.

ROBERT ALLENBY became the first Australian to win the Australian Open, Australian PGA and Australian Masters - 2005.

Australia's **LAYNE BEACHLEY** won her 7th professional world surfing title - 2006.

* First woman in history to win seven titles. Retired in 2008.

GRETA THUNBERG, 16 year old climate activist, is named Time magazine's Person of the Year - 2019.

Birthday Bulletin

Thursday 12th December 2024

Births

FRANK SINATRA born in Hoboken, New Jersey - 1915. (Died aged 82 - 1998)

* American singer and actor. His No 1 US singles include *All Or Nothing At All* ('43), *Learning the Blues* ('55), *Strangers In The Night* ('66) and *Somethin' Stupid* (with his daughter Nancy) ('67). His other hits include *Come Fly With Me*, *All The Way*, *Love And Marriage*, *My Way* and *New York New York*.

* He won an Oscar for his role in the 1953 film *From Here To Eternity*. His other movies include *Guys & Dolls*, *The Man With The Golden Arm*, *Pal Joey*, *Can Can* and *Tony Rome*.

* His final words were apparently - "I'm losin'."

* He remained married to his fourth wife, Barbara Marx. They were wed in 1976. She was formerly married to Zeppo Marx.

DR JAMES WRIGHT (John Knight) born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1927. (Died aged 95 - 2022)

* Australian general practitioner. The famous media medical doctor made his TV debut on *The Mike Walsh Show* in 1973. He was also a regular guest on the *Midday* show and *Today*. He had surgery for throat cancer and in February 2017 had surgery for bowel cancer.

CONNIE FRANCIS born in Newark, New Jersey - 1938 (86)

* US singer. From 1958 to 1963 she had a string of hits including *Who's Sorry Now*, *Stupid Cupid*, *Lipstick On Your Collar*, *Where The Boys Are* and *Vacation*.

* She has been married four times. Her 4th marriage ended in 1986.

DIONNE WARWICK (Marie Dionne Warrick) born in East Orange, New Jersey - 1940 (84)

* US singer. Some of her biggest '60s hits were *Walk On By*, *I Say A Little Prayer*, *Do You Know The Way To San Jose* and *Anyone Who Had A Heart*. They were all penned by Burt Bacharach and Hal David. In the '80s she made No 1 in Australia with *Heartbreaker* ('82) and *That's What Friends Are For* ('85) - her only US No 1 hit. 'Friends' was recorded with help from Elton John, Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder.

GROVER WASHINGTON JR born in Buffalo, New York - 1943. (Died aged 56 - 1999)

* American jazz and rhythm and blues saxophonist. He had a hit in 1981 with *Just The Two Of Us* which featured Bill Withers on vocals.

BILL NIGHY born in Surrey, England - 1949 (75)

* English actor. His films include: *Love Actually*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* (as Davy Jones), *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Valkyrie*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1* and *Dad's Army*.

DAVID ATKINS born in Sydney, NSW - 1955 (69)

* Australian dancer/choreographer and actor. He's appeared in musicals including *Grease*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Cats* and *Little Shop Of Horrors*. His own productions include *Dancin' Man*, *Dynamite* and the popular *Hot Shoe Shuffle*. His acting credits include the lead role in the 1982 film *Squizzy Taylor*.

SHEILA E (Sheila Escovedo) born in California - 1957 (67)

* US singer and musician. A former backing vocalist and drummer for Prince, she had two hits in 1984 with *The Glamorous Life* and *The Belle Of St. Mark*.

TRACY AUSTIN born in Palos Verdes, California - 1962 (62)

* American tennis player and tennis commentator. She was world No 1 at 17. She won the women's singles title at the US Open in 1979 and in 1981 as well as the mixed doubles title at Wimbledon in 1980, before a series of injuries, including a massive car accident, cut short her very promising career.

JENNIFER CONNELLY born in Cairo, New York - 1970 (54)

* US actress. She won a best supporting actress Academy Award for her role in *A Beautiful Mind* (2001). She got her film break in *Once Upon A Time In America* (1984). Her other films include *Hulk* (2003) and *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022).

* She is married to actor Paul Bettany whom she met while working on *A Beautiful Mind*.

ROBBIE KEARNS born in Sydney, NSW - 1971 (53)

* Australian rugby league player. Former captain of the Melbourne Storm team. He also played with Cronulla and the Western Reds. Retired at the end of season 2005.

MAYIM BIALIK born in San Diego, California - 1975 (49)

* American actress, author, and neuroscientist. From 1991 to 1995, she played the title character of the TV sitcom *Blossom*. Since 2010, she has played Amy Farrah Fowler - like the actress, a neuroscientist - on the TV sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* (2010-2019).

Events

Brisbane's first **GOLF CLUB** officially opened at Yeerongpilly - 1896.

GOLF TEE was patented by George Grant of Boston - 1899.

First **RUGBY LEAGUE TEST** was played between Australia and England with the result a 22-all draw - 1908.

LEONARDO DA VINCI'S famous painting *Mona Lisa* was recovered on December 12, 1913 two years after its theft from the Louvre Museum in Paris - 1913.

* It was found in the home of Italian handyman Vincenzo Peruggia in Florence. When he stole the painting he had little knowledge of its value.

CANBERRA held its first land sale - 1924.

The first **MOTEL**, the 'Motel Inn', opened in California - 1925.

* Arthur Heineman originated the term 'motel' in 1924, though the word did not enter any dictionary until 1950.

BILL HALEY & THE COMETS recorded *See You Later Alligator* - 1955.

JERRY LEE LEWIS, 22, secretly married his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown - 1957.

* She was his first cousin once removed. Myra was the daughter of his bass player. It was his third marriage.

JACK BRABHAM became the first Australian to become the World Racing Champion - 1959.

* He received the title after competing in the Formula One event in the US on this day.

THE BEATLES played their last official British concert at the Capitol Theatre in Wales - 1965.

DOUG WALTERS made his Test cricket debut making 155 against England in the drawn first Test - 1965.

THE DOORS played their final concert with Jim Morrison as lead singer - 1969.

Australia's **SHANE GOULD** broke the world 1500 metre free-style record by 18 seconds - 1971.

* This achievement meant that she became the first woman in history to hold every single free-style record.

MICK TAYLOR left the Rolling Stones - 1974.

* His replacement was ex-Faces guitarist Ronnie Wood.

HELEN REDDY, Australian singer, took up U.S. citizenship - 1974.

WHITNEY HOUSTON began a 20 week run at No 1 on US album charts with *The Bodyguard* - 1992.

MICK JAGGER, Rolling Stones lead singer, was knighted by the Queen - 2002.

LAYNE BEACHLEY (Australia) became the first surfer to win 6 consecutive world titles - 2003.

* She ended her career with seven world titles.

PETER DOYLE, founder of the Doyle's Seafood restaurants, died aged 72 in Sydney - 2004.

PETER BOYLE, US actor who played Frank Barone in *Everybody Loves Raymond* (1996-2005), died aged 71 - 2006.

A lock of **JOHN LENNON'S** hair inside an autographed copy of his book *A Spaniard In The Works* was sold for \$48,000 at auction - 2007.
* The hair and lock was given to a hairdresser on the set of *A Hard Day's Night*.

JOHN LE CARRE (born David Cornwell), British/Irish author, died aged 89 - 2020.

JIMMY BARNES, Australian singer, announced via Instagram that he was to undergo open heart surgery due to an infection having spread to an already-weakened valve - 2023.

* He returned home in time for Christmas.

Birthday Bulletin

Friday 13th December 2024

Births

DICK VAN DYKE born in West Plains, Missouri - 1925 (99)

* American actor. He starred in his own television program *The Dick Van Dyke Show* that ran from 1961-1966. Mary Tyler Moore played his wife. *The New Dick Van Dyke Show* went to air in 1971 but only ran for two seasons. His movie roles include - *Mary Poppins* ('64), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* ('68) and *The Comic* ('69). From 1993-2001 he starred as a crime-solving physician in *Diagnosis Murder*. His real-life second son Barry Van Dyke played his son in the series. * His late brother Jerry iwa also a successful actor.

* He beat out Johnny Carson for the role of Rob Petrie on what became *The Dick Van Dyke Show*. * On February 29, 2012, at the age of 86, Van Dyke married 40-year-old make-up artist Arlene Silver. It was his second marriage. He was in a longterm relationship from 1976-2009 with Michelle Marvin.

CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER (Arthur Christopher Orme Plummer) born in Ontario, Canada - 1929. (Died aged 91 - 2021)

* Canadian actor. He received an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the 2011 film *Beginners*. His major films include *The Sound Of Music* ('65) - as Baron Von Trapp, *Waterloo* ('70), *The Return Of The Pink Panther* ('75), *The Insider* ('99), *A Beautiful Mind* (2001), *The Last Station* (2009), *Up* (2009) as the voice of Charles Muntz and *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* (2009).

JEFF 'SKUNK' BAXTER born in Washington D.C. - 1948 (76)

* American guitarist. The former guitarist with Steely Dan later joined the Doobie Brothers on a full-time basis. He's also worked as a session musician and in record production.

* Apart from his musical gifts, he's also a specialist in terrorism, missile defence and chemical and biological warfare.

PAULA WILCOX born in Manchester, England - 1949 (75)

* British actress. She was one of the stars in the UK '70s comedy series *Man About The House*.

ROSS RYAN born in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas - 1950 (74)

* Australian singer/songwriter. In 1973 he had his biggest hit with *I Am Pegasus*. It was a national No 1 and he went on to record four albums for EMI. His best selling album was *My Name Means Horse*.

STEVE BUSCEMI born in Brooklyn, New York - 1957 (67)

* US actor and director. Buscemi has featured in several movies by Joel and Ethan Cohen and frequently appears in unbilled roles in Adam Sandler movies. His films include: *Armageddon*, *Con Air*, *Fargo*, *Ghost World* and the series of *Spy Kids* movies.

JAMIE FOXX (Eric Bishop) born in Terrell, Texas - 1967 (57)

* US comedian. Appeared in TV comedy *Living Colour* and starred in the TV series *The Jamie Foxx Show*. Starred in the 2004 movie *Ray* - based on the life of Ray Charles. It won him an Oscar for Best Actor. His other movies include *Django Unchained*, *Collateral* and *Spider Man: No Way Home*.

CHRIS GRANT born in Daylesford, Victoria - 1972 (52)

* AFL player. Captain of the Western Bulldogs from 2000 - 2004. Joined the club in 1990. He played his 330th game in August 2006 and broke Doug Hawkins' record for the most number of games played for the Western Bulldogs. Retired at end of 2007.

JAMES MURDOCH born in London, England - 1972 (52)

* British-American businessman. He's the younger son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch and the fourth of his six children. Murdoch is the former chief operating officer of 21st Century Fox and a former chairman and chief executive of News Corp.

SIMON BEAUMONT born in - 1975 (49)

* AFL player with Carlton (1995-2003) and Hawthorn (2004-2005). Beaumont played 133 consecutive games for the Blues between Round 9 1998 and Round 22 2003. He became the first Carlton player to play 100 games in the #29 guernsey,

AMY LEE (Amy Hartzler) born in Riverside, California - 1981 (43)

* US singer with rock band Evanescence. She formed the group with Ben Moody. Their biggest hits were *Bring Me To Life* (2003) and *My Immortal* (2004).

ANTHONY CALLEA born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1982 (42)

* Australian singer. He was the runner-up in the 2004 edition of *Australian Idol*. In 2004 he made No 1 with his debut single *The Prayer*. Also made No 1 with the follow-up *Rain*. His latest studio album *Forty Love*, was released in October 2022.

TAYLOR SWIFT born in Reading, Pennsylvania - 1989 (35)

* US singer/songwriter. She performed in Sydney and Melbourne in February 2024 as part of her world Eras tour. In Melbourne at the MCG she played to 96,000 people, her biggest crowd ever. In 2022 she made No 1 in Australia with her album *Midnights* and also went to No 1 with the single *Anti-Hero*. As of December 2024, she's had nearly 100 solo hit singles in Australia. * In 2021 she made No 1 with *Fearless* (Taylor's Version). It is a re-recording of Swift's second studio album, *Fearless* (2008), and is the first in the series of six re-recorded albums Swift has recorded following the dispute regarding ownership of the masters to her first six studio albums.

* Her No 1 hit singles in Australia include *Love Story* (2009), *Shake It Off* (2014), *Blank Space* (2014), and *Look What You Made Me Do* (2017). Her No 1 albums in Australia are *Speak Now* (2010), *Red* (2013), *1989* (2014) and *Reputation* (2017).

* Her hit *Love Story* became the most downloaded country song in history and is the best-selling country song in the United States surpassing LeAnn Rimes' *How Do I Live* by 1 million copies.

EMMA CORRIN born in Kent, England - 1995 (29)

* English actress. She is best known for portraying Diana, Princess of Wales, in the Netflix series *The Crown*.

JACK STEELE born in Canberra, ACT - 1995 (29)

* AFL player. He is the captain of the St Kilda Football Club. He previously played for the Greater Western Sydney Giants from 2015 to 2016. Steele had the highest number of tackles in the 2021 season.

Events

LUNA PARK opened in St Kilda - 1912.

* It's the world's oldest amusement park under private management.

* On the opening night 22,319 attended. Original attractions included the Ferris Wheel, Fun Factory and Scenic Railway.

* The crazy face into Luna Park is conceptually similar to Coney Island's ride 'To The Moon' in New York.

* LinFox founder Lindsay Fox, is one of the owners of Luna Park.

EDNA EVERAGE, created and played by Barry Humphries, made her stage debut at Melbourne's Union Theatre - 1955.

* In Edna's first sketch she played an Olympic Games hostess.

JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE recorded *Foxy Lady* - 1966.

GREG CHAPPELL scored a century for Australia in his first Test match - 1970.

MALCOLM FRASER was elected Prime Minister of Australia - 1975.

TOM BAKER married **LALLA WARD** in the UK - 1981.

* He was the fourth actor to play Doctor Who. Lalla played the part of his assistant. They broke up in 1982. From 1984-2016 she was married to Richard Dawkins.

DRIVING MISS DAISY, starring Jessica Tandy, opened in US cinemas - 1989.

* The film received nine Academy Award nominations, and won four; Best Picture, Best Actress (for Tandy), Best Makeup, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

Australia's **WENDY BOTHA** won the women's world surfing championship in Hawaii - 1991.

SADDAM HUSSEIN was captured by US troops in Iraq - 2003.

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, 68, married Nicoletta Mantovani, 34 - 2003.

* The couple had one child. Pavarotti died in 2007.

JAMES DIBBLE, ABC Sydney news reader, died aged 87 - 2011.

CAIRO in Egypt experienced a rare snowfall - 2013.

* First time the country had experienced snow in 112 years. The cold weather was part of a storm dubbed Alexa.

Birthday Bulletin

Saturday 14th December 2024

Births

CHARLIE RICH born in Arkansas - 1932. (Died aged 62 - 1995)
* US country singer. In the early '70s he started to make it big with country hits such as *Behind Closed Doors* ('73), *The Most Beautiful Girl In The World* ('73), *A Very Special Love Song* ('74) and *Rollin' With The Flow* ('78).

JANE BIRKIN born in London, England - 1946. (Died aged 76 - 2023)
* English actress and singer. The former model, went on to appear in several British and numerous French movies and became a French icon. Her films include *Blow Up* ('66), *Death On The Nile* ('78) and *Evil Under The Sun* ('82). She died in Paris in July 2023.
* Her name is behind the famous Hermes Birkin handbag.
* She was first married to James Bond composer John Barry when she was 18 (1965-1968). For many years she was in a relationship with French singer/songwriter/actor Serge Gainsbourg.

STAN SMITH born in Pasadena, California - 1946 (78)
* American tennis player. A former World No 1, he won two US Open titles and a singles title at Wimbledon in 1972.

PATTY DUKE (Anna Maria Patricia Duke) born in New York City, New York - 1946. (Died aged 69 - 2016)
* American actress. In 1962 she had her first major film role as Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*. Anne Bancroft and Duke both won Oscars recreating their Broadway roles. A year later she starred in her own television series, *The Patty Duke Show*, playing two roles - a high school girl and her identical European cousin.
* When she married actor John Astin in 1972 she changed her name to Patty Duke Astin. They divorced in 1985.

KIM BEAZLEY born in Perth, WA - 1948 (76)
* Australian politician. He's a former leader of the ALP and leader of the Opposition. He was deputy Prime Minister from 1995-1996. He was the Governor of WA from 2018-2022 and a former Australian Ambassador to the United States.

LYNNE RANDELL (Lynette Randall) born in Liverpool, England - 1949. (Died aged 57 - 2007)
* Australian singer. Her biggest '60s hits were *Ciao Baby*, *Going Out Of My Head* and *I'll Come Running Over*. She was Ian Meldrum's personal assistant for several years in the 1980s.

CLIFF WILLIAMS born in Essex, England - 1949 (75)
* UK musician. He was the bass player for AC/DC from 1977-2016. He replaced Mark Evans. On July 7, 2016, he announced his plans to retire from the music industry following AC/DC's *Rock or Bust* World Tour. However he rejoined the group in 2020 and can be heard on their album *Power Up* that was released in 2020.

REBECCA GIBNEY born in Levin, New Zealand - 1964 (60)
* NZ-born Australian actress. In August 2024 she was inducted into the Logies Hall of Fame. She starred as Julie Rafter in the TV series *Back to the Rafters* from 2008-2013. A sequel to *Packed to the Rafters* aired in 2021 but the series was not renewed. She's also played Lola in the TV drama series *Wanted* (2016-2018) and Jane Halifax, a forensic psychiatrist, in *Halifax F.P.* (1994-2002). Her other TV credits include - *Snowy*, *All Together Now*, *The Flying Doctors* (as Emma Patterson), *Stingers*, *Tripping Over* and the mini-series *Come In Spinner*.
* She won the Gold Logie in 2009 for her role in *Packed To The Rafters*.

DAVID NILSSON born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1969 (55)
* Australian baseball player. He is the manager of the Brisbane Bandits and manager of the Australia national baseball teams. He was named the greatest catcher in Milwaukee Brewers. He was signed by the Brewers in 1987. He played 837 games with the club up until the end of 1999.

NADINE GARNER born in Knoxfield, Victoria - 1970 (54)
* Australian actress. She played Jean Beazley, the housekeeper, in the *Doctor Blake Mysteries* with Craig McLachlan from 2013-2018. She also appeared in 84 episodes of the TV series *City Homicide*.

SOPHIE MONK born in London, England - 1979 (45)
* Australian TV/radio host, singer and actress. She's the host of the TV program *Love Island Australia* as well as *Beauty And The Geek Australia* and appears as a regular guest panellist on *The Hundred With Andy Lee*.

* Sophie was a member of the group Bardot. Their biggest hit was their debut single *Poison* (2000). They broke up in 2002.
* In 2017 Monk starred on *The Bachelorette Australia*. In 2015, Monk was declared the winner of the fourth season of *The Celebrity Apprentice Australia*.

VANESSA HUDGENS born in Salinas, California - 1988 (36)
* US actress and singer. Played Gabriella Montez in the *High School Musical* hit series. She began a music career in 2006 and released her debut album *V*.

SAM BURGESS born in West Yorkshire, England - 1988 (36)
* English-born NRL player. In 2023 he returned home to England to take on the position of head coach at Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club. He played with South Sydney from 2010-2014 and again from 2017-2019. Burgess, along with brothers Tom and George, playing for South Sydney, defeated the Bulldogs in the 2014 NRL Grand Final.
* In late 2014, Burgess switched codes to play for Bath Rugby. He was also called up to the England national rugby team in 2015 before returning to NRL in 2016.

Events

PRINCE ALBERT, husband of Queen Victoria, died aged 42 of typhoid fever - 1861.

DR JOHN HARVEY KELLOGG died aged 91 - 1943.
* He developed cornflakes which were marketed by Will Kellogg.

Norwegian explorer **ROALD AMUNDSEN** became the first man to reach the South Pole - 1911.
* The party of five led by Amundsen arrived 35 days ahead of the expedition led by Captain Robert Scott.

APOLLO 17 commander Gene Cernan and Lunar Module Pilot Jack Schmitt walked on the moon - 1972.
* Cernan became the last man to walk on the moon's surface.

ABBA: THE MOVIE had its world premiere in Australia at Hoyts Regent Cinema in Sydney - 1977.

First **NIGHT CRICKET** match was played between Australia and the rest of the world at VFL Park in Melbourne - 1977.

ALLAN BORDER became Australia's highest run scorer in Test cricket (beating Greg Chappell's record) - 1987.

TAB CLEAR was launched by the Coca Cola Company in US - 1992.
* It was discontinued in 1994.

BABE was released in Australia - 1995.
* The family movie about a pig named 'Babe' was shot in the NSW southern highlands. The film only features female pigs.

PAUL MCCARTNEY returned to The Cavern Club in Liverpool and played to just 300 people in an intimate set - 1999.
* It was also streamed as a live webcast to more than three million people (a record at the time for an online audience).

BERT NEWTON hosted *GMA* for the final time - 2005.

ROD STEWART, aged 74 years and 11 months, became the oldest male solo artist to have a No.1 album in the UK when *You're in My Heart: Rod Stewart with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*, topped the chart - 2009.

PETER O'TOOLE, English actor, died aged 81 - 2013.
* He became an international star for his portrayal of T.E. Lawrence in David Lean's epic *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962).

JOE OSBORN, US bass player and session musician ('Wrecking Crew'), died aged 81 - 2018.
* His playing can be heard on records by such groups as The Mamas & the Papas, The Association, The Grass Roots and The 5th Dimension. Osborn also played on many of Neil Diamond's major hits in the late 1960s and early to middle 1970s and provided the unique bass lines on *Holly Holy* in 1969. He also played on the hits of The Carpenters.

THE BEL AIR MANSION featured in '60s TV series *The Beverly Hillbillies* sold for \$150 million, becoming California's most expensive property - 2019.

Birthday Bulletin

Sunday 15th December 2024

Births

LANCE HILL (Lancelot Hill) born in Adelaide, SA - 1902. (Died aged 83 - 1986)

* Adelaide inventor. In 1945 he developed and marketed the first inexpensive rotary clothes line (Hills Hoist). He finally patented the rotary clothes line in 1956.

CINDY BIRDSONG (Cynthia Birdsong) born in Camden, New Jersey - 1939 (85)

* US vocalist. In 1967 she replaced Florence Ballard in The Supremes. She left the group in 1972 when she was pregnant but returned in 1973.

DAVE CLARK born in London, England - 1939 (85)

* English musician. He formed his own group the Dave Clark Five in 1958. He was their drummer and manager. From 1964 to 1966 they notched up several hits including - *Glad All Over*, *Bits And Pieces*, *Can't You See That She's Mine* and *Over And Over*.

* The Dave Clark Five appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* more times than any other UK group.

THAAO PENGHLIS born in Sydney, NSW - 1945 (79)

* Australian actor, born to Greek parents. He played Tony DiMera as well as Andre Di Mera in the TV soapie *Days of Our Lives*. He was also in the '80s remake of the TV series *Mission Impossible* (as Nicholas Black).

DON JOHNSON (Donnie Wayne Johnson) born in Galena, Missouri - 1949 (75)

* American actor. He played Sonny Crockett in the TV series *Miami Vice* and also starred in *Nash Bridges*.

* In 1989 he re-married his former wife Melanie Griffith. But they divorced in 1996. They starred together in the 1993 remake of *Born Yesterday*.

GEORGE DONIKIAN born in Sydney, NSW - 1951 (73)

* Australian television newsreader. Son of Greek-Armenian migrants. In September 2011 he resigned from Network TEN after more than 20 years. Prior to that he had been presenting news for many years in Melbourne and Adelaide on SBS and the Nine Network.

TIM WEBSTER born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1951 (73)

* Australian TV and radio presenter. He left Ten News on 30 May 2008 after 27 years working for the network. He worked for Network Ten, both as a news co-anchor on the Perth edition of *Ten News First at Five*. He also hosted their *Sports Tonight* program and was the original news presenter on *Good Morning Australia*.

* He was a part of the original Sydney Triple M on-air team in 1980. He then moved to 2DAYFM a year later and was there until the late 1980s.

GREG MATTHEWS born in Newcastle, NSW - 1959 (65)

* Australian cricketer. In 1995 'Mo' was the highest wicket taker for NSW. The following year he was appointed captain of the NSW team. He has also represented Australia in Test cricket and in 1991 notched up his first century in nearly 5 years when he made 128 against England in the first innings of the third cricket Test.

* He's also well known as an ambassador for the Advanced Hair clinic ('*yeah, yeah.*').

FRANKIE DETTORI born in Milan, Italy - 1970 (54)

* Italian horse racing jockey. He's based in the United Kingdom and has ridden 287 Group 1 winners. His most celebrated achievement was riding all seven winners on British Champions' Day at Ascot in 1996.

ADAM BRODY born in San Diego, California - 1979 (45)

* US actor. He played Seth Cohen in the TV series *The O.C.* from 2003-2007 and is now appearing as Nick Talman in *Start Up*.

BROOKE FRASER born in Wellington, New Zealand - 1983 (41)

* NZ folk-pop and contemporary Christian music singer-songwriter. She also records under her married name Brooke Ligertwood. Her 2010 single *Something In The Water* made No 1 in New Zealand and No 29 in Australia. Her albums *What To Do With Daylight* (2003), *Albertine* (2006) and *Flags* (2010) all made No 1 in NZ. In 2022 she released the live album *Seven* and in 2023 released *Eight*.

KIRSTY LEE ALLAN born in Dubbo, NSW - 1984 (40)

* Australian actress and model. She joined the TV drama *Sea Patrol* for its second season playing the character of Able Seaman Rebecca 'Bomber' Brown. Also appeared as Leanne Murdoch in the SBS comedy *Swift and Shift Couriers*. * She received a TV Week Logie nomination for Most Popular New Female Talent in 2009.

KIMBRA (Kimbra Johnson) born in Hamilton, New Zealand - 1990 (34)

* NZ singer. She sang on Gotye's 2011 No 1 hit *Somebody That I Used To Know*. Her 2011 debut album, *Vows*, made No. 4 in Australia. In 2011 she also won Best Female Artist and Best Song for *Cameo Lover* at the ARIA Music Awards. In 2014 she released her second solo album *The Golden Echo*. It peaked at No 5 in Australia.

ALANA HAIM born in Los Angeles, California - 1991 (33)

* US singer and musician. She plays with her sisters Este and Danielle in the band Haim. She is the youngest. Their 2013 debut album *Days Are Gone* made No 2 in Australia. Their single *The Wire* was also a major hit in 2013. The group also featured on the 2015 Calvin Harris hit *Pray To God*.

STEPHEN CONIGLIO born in Joondalup, WA - 1993 (31)

* AFL player. He's the captain of the Greater Western Sydney Giants. He was the sole captain in 2020 and 2021. He made his debut for the Giants in the first round of the 2012 season.

Events

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND TROOPS began their evacuation from Gallipoli beaches during the ill-fated World War I campaign - 1915.

* Months earlier they had landed in what was expected to be a swift campaign to seize key targets in Turkey. But dogged Turkish resistance and poor leadership led to a bloody stalemate. About 8,700 Australians were killed during the fighting.

GONE WITH THE WIND, starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, premiered in Atlanta - 1939.

* At the 12th Academy Awards, it had thirteen nominations. It won for Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Director and others. First colour film to win Best Picture.

CANADA adopted the Maple Leaf as the national flag - 1964.

WALT DISNEY, US animator/producer, died aged 65 after a battle with lung cancer - 1966.

PLASTIC ONO BAND played their first (and only) concert at the Lyceum Ballroom in London - 1969.

* The line up was made up of John Lennon, Yoko Ono, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, Delaney & Bonnie, Keith Moon and Billy Preston. The concert was for UNICEF.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT board game was created - 1979.

* Two 30-year-old Canadians Chris Haney and Scott Abbott came up with the idea. It was eventually manufactured in 1982.

DREAMWORLD amusement park opened on the Gold Coast in Queensland - 1981.

COLD CHISEL broke up with a concert at the Sydney Entertainment Centre - 1983.

SCHINDLER'S LIST, directed by Steven Spielberg, opened in US cinemas - 1993.

* It was nominated for twelve Academy Awards, winning seven, including Best Picture and Best Director.

PAT FARMER, 54, crossed the Simpson Desert in a record time of 3 days, 17 hr, 31 min and 51 sec - 1996.

* He beat Ron Grant's 1986 record by 20 min and 20 secs.

SPICE WORLD: THE MOVIE, starring the Spice Girls, premiered in London - 1997.

AUSTRALIAN cricket team won the Ashes defeating England. It was the first time that the series had been decided prior to Christmas in Australia - 1998.

IAN 'MOLLY' MELDRUM, Melbourne music journalist, was taken to hospital and placed in an induced coma after experiencing a 3m fall from a ladder at his Richmond home - 2011.

* Five weeks later he was released from hospital and moved into a rehabilitation centre.

RORY O'DONOGHUE, Australian actor/musician who played Thin Arthur in the ABC TV comedy show *Aunty Jack*, died aged 68 (suicide) - 2017.

Birthday Bulletin

Monday 16th December 2024

Births

LIV ULLMANN born in Tokyo, Japan - 1938 (86)

* Norwegian actress. She has worked with Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman on some of his greatest films as well as Norwegian and Hollywood productions. Her movie credits include - *Pope Joan* ('71), *The Emigrants* ('71), *Lost Horizon* ('73) and *Autumn Sonata* ('78).

TONY HICKS born in Nelson, England - 1945 (79)

* UK guitarist/vocalist with The Hollies. He joined the group in 1963. He wrote their 1971 hit *Too Young To Be Married*. The current touring line up features Hicks as well as long time drummer Bobby Elliott (who also joined in 1963.) Peter Howarth has been lead singer of The Hollies since October 2004.

BENNY ANDERSSON (Goran Benny Andersson) born in Sweden - 1946 (78)

* Swedish keyboard player/songwriter with Abba. They first charted in 1974 with *Waterloo*. Their biggest hit in Australia was *Fernando* ('76). Benny wrote their hits with band member Bjorn Ulvaeus. (Their late manager Stig also helped out with some of the lyrics.)

* In 2021 Abba released the album *Voyage*. It was released 40 years after their last album *The Visitors* ('81). They also announced a concert experience in London, also called *Voyage*. It began in May 2022. Digital versions of themselves appear nightly alongside a 10-piece live band.

* Benny and Bjorn co-wrote the musical *Chess* with Tim Rice. The hits *I Know Him So Well* and *One Night In Bangkok* are featured in *Chess*.

* He was formerly married to Abba member Anni-Frid. They divorced in 1981. He's been married to his 2nd wife Mona since 1981.

JEFF McMULLEN born in Sydney, NSW - 1947 (77)

* Australian TV reporter. He joined Channel 9's *60 Minutes* in 1984 and was their longest serving reporter until his axing in 2000. He hosted the ABC program *A Difference Of Opinion*.

BEN CROSS (Harry Bernard Cross) born in London, England - 1947. (Died aged 72 - 2020)

* English actor. He was one of the stars in *Chariots Of Fire* ('81) and played Sarek in *Star Trek* (2009). He died from cancer in August 2020, aged 72. He had recently finished two films, *The Devil's Light* and *The Last Letter from Your Lover*.

BILLY GIBBONS born in Houston, Texas - 1949 (75)

* Lead singer and guitarist with Z Z Top. They formed in 1970 and made their chart debut with *La Grange* in 1974. Gibbons and bass player Dusty Hill (who died in 2020) always performed wearing sunglasses, trench coats and their trademark waist-length beards.

* He plays a classic 1959 Gibson Les Paul guitar he calls 'Miss Pearly Gates'.

JOEL GARNER born in Barbados - 1952 (72)

* West Indian Test cricketer. He is the all time highest ranked ODI bowler. In 2010 he was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

* He is nicknamed 'Big Bird' because of his height - 203 cm.

GEORGIE PARKER (Georgina Parker) born in Sydney, NSW - 1964 (60)

* Australian actress. Since 2010 she's played Ruth 'Roo' Stewart in *Home and Away*. (Parker is the second actress to play Roo Stewart.) Her other TV roles include: Lucy Gardiner in *A Country Practice*, Sister Terri Sullivan in *All Saints*, Despina in *Acropolis Now* and 'Mad Dog' Morgan in *Fire*.

* She won three TV Week Logies for Most Popular Actress on Australian TV.

MIRANDA OTTO born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1967 (57)

* Australian actress and daughter of actor Barry Otto. Her films include *Emma's War*, *Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers and Return Of The King* (as Eowyn), *War Of The Worlds*, *Danny Deckchair*, *Last Days Of Chez Nous*, *Doing Time For Patsy Cline* and *The Thin Red Line*. She also played Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton in the 2004 mini-series *Through My Eyes*.
* On new year's day 2003 she married actor Peter O'Brien.

DONOVAN BAILEY born in Christ Church, Barbados - 1967 (57)

* Jamaican Canadian sprinter. Particularly noted for his top speed, Bailey ran 43.6 km/h in his 1996 Olympic title run, the fastest ever recorded by a human at the time. Bailey ran 43.6 kph in his 1996 Olympic title run, the fastest ever recorded by a human at the time.

* At the 1996 Atlanta Olympics he broke the world record in 100 metres and won gold in the 4 x 100 relay.

Events

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON's second book of fairy tales was published - 1835.

* It contained the story *Thumbelina* (inspired by *Tom Thumb*).

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT, written by Beatrix Potter, was first published - 1901.

VOTING FOR WOMEN was allowed for the first time in Australian Federal elections - 1903.

VARIETY, US show biz weekly, was first published - 1905.

GLENN MILLER, US bandleader, died aged 40 in a plane crash (supposedly on this day) - 1944.

* He is remembered for instrumentals like *In The Mood*, *Little Brown Jug* and his theme tune *Moonlight Serenade*.

SCRABBLE board game was registered as a trademark - 1948.

* The idea for the game originated with Alfred Butts in 1931.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE, aged 22, announced her retirement from acting - 1950.

* Temple was one of the most popular Hollywood stars of the 1930s, appearing in eleven films in 1934 alone (when she was only 6) and a made a total of 45 movies.

JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE released their debut single *Hey Joe* in Britain - 1966.

COLONEL HARLAND SANDERS, creator of Kentucky Fried Chicken, died aged 90 - 1980.

* Founded Kentucky Fried Chicken at the age of 66. Aged 65 he began travelling from state to state trying to sell his chicken recipe. After facing over 1000 rejections, he finally received his first acceptance on the 1009th attempt.

DUSTY HILL, ZZ Top bass player, accidentally shot himself in the abdomen when his gun fell from the boot of his car and discharged - 1984.

* Hill drove himself to a local hospital for treatment.

RAIN MAN, starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise, opened in US cinemas - 1988.

* It was the highest-grossing film of 1988. The film won four Oscars including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor in a Leading Role for Hoffman.

GEOFF MARSH, Australian cricketer, completed 355 runs for Western Australia against South Australia - 1989.

PAUL McCARTNEY announced he had left EMI his record label of 45 years - 2006.

* He said it had become "boring" and he had "dreaded going to see its executives."

AN EPISODE OF POKEMON induced seizures in 685 children when the cartoon aired in Japan - 1997.

* A series of flashing blue and red lights in the episode caused photosensitive epileptic seizures,

INDIA cricket team had their first win in Australia in 23 years when they defeated Australia at Adelaide Oval - 2003.

* Despite Australia scoring 556 runs in its first innings, India won by four wickets. It was the first time in the history of 5 day Tests that a team had scored that many runs and lost.

DAN FOGELBERG, US singer/songwriter, died aged 56 - 2007.

* His popular songs include *Longer*, *Same Old Lang Syne* and *Leader Of The Band*.

A JUMPING CASTLE and two zorbs were lifted into the air by a gust of a wind at Hillcrest primary school, located in Devonport in Tasmania, killing six children - 2021.

ROBIE PORTER (aka Rob EG), Australian musician and record producer, died aged 80 after suffering from dementia - 2021.

* He had two No 1 hits in Sydney with the instrumentals *Si Señor* and *55 Days at Peking*.

COLIN BURGESS, Australian rock drummer with the Masters Apprentices, AC/DC (original drummer), died aged 78 - 2023.

Birthday Bulletin

Tuesday 17th December 2024

Births

POPE FRANCIS (Jorge Mario Bergoglio) born in Buenos Aires, Argentina - 1936 (88)

* Head of the Catholic church and sovereign of the Vatican City State. Francis is the first Jesuit Pope, the first Pope from the Americas, and the first from the Southern Hemisphere. He chose the papal name Francis in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

* He had a lung removed as a teenager, after an infection.

TOMMY STEELE (Thomas Hicks) born in London, England - 1936 (88)

* British singer. For over 60 years most of his time has been spent in stage musicals. He had his only No 1 hit in the UK in 1956 with his version of Guy Mitchell's hit *Singing The Blues*. In Australia he had his best sellers in 1960 with the novelty songs - *What A Mouth (What A North and South)* and *Little White Bull*.

* He wrote the song *You And Me* which became the theme song for the clowns Zig & Zag who were on local TV from 1957-1969.

* His movie credits include *The Tommy Steele Story* ('57), *The Happiest Millionaire* ('67) and *Half A Sixpence* ('67).

DAVE DEE (David Harman) born in Wiltshire, England - 1943. (Died aged 65 - 2009)

* Lead singer for UK band Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Tich. They had their biggest hit in 1966 with *The Legend Of Xanadu*. They had eight Top 10 hits in England.

MICHAEL EDGLEY born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1943 (81)

* Australian entrepreneur. He is best known for pioneering big-ticket tours by artists, including the Bolshoi Ballet and Cirque du Soleil, Marcel Marceau, Olivia Newton-John, John Denver, Tina Turner, Rudolf Nureyev and Torvill and Dean. He took over from his father Eric, when he was 21.

* He produced local movies such as *The Man From Snowy River, Phar Lap* and *Coolangatta Gold*.

* He's responsible for building the Perth Entertainment Centre.

* He produced local movies such as *The Man From Snowy River, Phar Lap* and *Coolangatta Gold*.

LINDA MCGILL born in Sydney, NSW - 1945 (79)

* Australian swimmer. In 1965 the champion breaststroker and butterfly swimmer became the first Australian woman to swim the English Channel. She repeated this effort on another two occasions.

IAN McNAMARA born in Sydney, NSW - 1946 (78)

* Australian radio presenter and musician. 'Macca' joined the ABC in 1974 and since 1985 has been the host of the national Sunday morning program *Australia All Over*. His radio career began when his mum showing him a job advertised for the ABC's sports department. He applied but missed out. Then a few weeks later a telegram arrived offering him a job in the ABC's newsroom. Two years later he moved to the rural department and found himself reporting on programs like *A Big Country, Countrywide* and *PM*.

PAUL RODGERS born in England - 1949 (75)

* Lead vocalist with the bands Free and Bad Company. Free's best sellers were *All Right Now* ('70), *My Brother Jake* ('71) and *Wishing Well* ('73). Bad Company's biggest hit was *Can't Get Enough* ('74).

JENI EDGLEY born in - 1950 (74)

* Australian natural health practitioner. She established the Gold Coast health retreat, The Hideaway. She's a one time 'Miss Australia' and former wife of Michael Edgley.

* She is the mother of actress/singer Gigi Edgley.

BILL PULLMAN born in Hornell, New York - 1953 (71)

* US actor. He appeared in *The Sinner* TV series from 2017-2021. His movie credits include *Independence Day, While You Were Sleeping, Casper, Lost Highway* and *Sleepless In Seattle*.

ROBERT BROUGH born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1955 (69)

* Australian TV and radio presenter. The former host of the TV game show *Family Feud* has been the presenter of Seven Queensland's Sunshine Coast nightly news since 1996.

* Older brother of former Liberal politician Mal Brough.

SARAH DALLIN born in Bristol, England - 1961 (63)

* Vocalist with UK trio Bananarama. The girls dubbed themselves Bananarama after the children's television program *The Banana Splits* and the Roxy Music song *Pyjamarama*. Their hits include revivals of *Venus, Love In The First Degree, Shy Boy* and *Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye*.

MILLA JOVOVICH born in Kyiv, Ukraine - 1975 (49)

* US actress/model. She played Leeloo in *The Fifth Element* ('97), Joan of Arc in *The Story of Joan of Arc* ('99) and appeared in Ben Stiller's 2001 comedy film *Zoolander*.

MANNY PACQUIAO (Emmanuel Pacquiao) born in Philippines - 1978 (46)

* Filipino boxer, politician, singer and evangelist. Nicknamed "PacMan", he is regarded as one of the greatest professional boxers of all time. Pacquiao has won twelve major world titles and was the first boxer to win the lineal championship in five different weight classes.

* He has released several albums and singles. His cover of Dan Hill's *Sometimes When We Touch* peaked at 19 on US Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart.

DYNAMO (Steven Frayne) born in England - 1982 (42)

* English magician. He is well known for his documentary TV show *Dynamo: Magician Impossible*.

TOM WALKER born in Kilsyth, Scotland - 1991 (33)

* Scottish singer-songwriter. His best selling single is *Leave a Light On*, which peaked at No 7 on the UK Singles Chart in 2017. It was a Top 20 hit in Australia.

NAT WOLFF born in Los Angeles, California - 1994 (30)

* US actor, singer-songwriter and musician. Wolff gained recognition for composing the music for *The Naked Brothers Band* (2007-09), a Nickelodeon TV series he starred in with his brother Alex.

Events

VOGUE magazine was founded in New York City - 1892.

ORVILLE and **WILBUR WRIGHT** made their first ever flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina - 1903.

BILL PONSFORD scored 437 runs for Victoria out of a team total of 793 in a match against Queensland at the MCG - 1927.

PETERS ICE CREAM went on sale in Melbourne - 1929.

HAROLD HOLT, Australian Prime Minister, disappeared while swimming, aged 59 - 1967.

* He was presumed to be drowned at sea at Cheviot Beach, on the Mornington Peninsula. His body was never found and the search was called off after 18 days. On the day of his death, The Australian printed an article headlined "PM advised to swim less".

TINY TIM married **MISS VICKI** (Victoria Budinger) on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show* - 1968.

* He was 39 and she was only 17. They divorced in 1977.

STAN BARRETT became the first person to break the sound barrier on land when he reached more than 739 mph in a 60,000 horsepower rocket vehicle at Rogers Dry Lake, California - 1979.

KAREN CARPENTER gave what was to be her last live performance, singing Christmas carols - 1982.

* She sang at the private school where her godchildren attended.

CAROLS IN THE DOMAIN was first held at Domain Gardens in Sydney - 1983.

THE SIMPSONS began as a half-hour Christmas special - 1989.

* The cartoon became a regular series in January 1990. It's the longest running animated series in TV history.

CELINE DION, 26, married her manager Rene Angelil, 54, in a wedding ceremony which was broadcast live on Canadian television - 1994.

SAVAGE GARDEN's final overseas stage concert was held at Cape Town, South Africa - 2000.

CANBERRA CANNONS NBL club (a foundation club) existed only in name after administrators terminated all player and coaching contracts - 2002.

AUSTRALIA had its hottest day on record with a nationally average temperature of 40.9 degrees Celsius - 2019.

* This beat the previous record of 40.3 Celsius recorded on January 7, 2013.

Birthday Bulletin

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Births

KEITH RICHARDS born in Kent, England - 1943 (81)

* UK musician. He's been the lead guitarist with the Rolling Stones since 1962. In 2023 the Rolling Stones released their first collection of original songs since 2005 with the album *Hackney Diamonds*. In the UK, the release took the group to number one for the 14th time. They also extended their record as the act with the most US top 10 albums of all time, with 38 in total.

* He made a cameo appearance as the father of Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End*. Johnny Depp has stated that he based Sparrow's mannerisms on Richards.

STEVEN SPIELBERG born in Cincinnati, Ohio - 1946 (78)

* US film director and producer. He won Academy Awards for best picture for *Saving Private Ryan* ('98), *Schindler's List* ('93) and *Lincoln* (2012). In 2021 he released a remake of the musical movie *West Side Story*. He also directed the following successful films: *Jaws* ('75), *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* ('81), *E.T.* ('82), *Back To The Future* ('85), *The Color Purple* ('85), *Hook* ('91), *Jurassic Park* ('93), *Catch Me If You Can* (2002), *War Of The Worlds* (2005), *Bridge Of Spies* (2015), and *The Post* (2017).

GILLIAN ARMSTRONG born in Surrey Hills, Victoria - 1950 (74)

* Australian film director. Her films include - *My Brilliant Career* ('79), *Mrs Soffel* ('84), *High Tide* ('87), *Fires Within* ('91), *The Last Days of Chez Nous* ('92), *Little Women* ('95), *Oscar & Lucinda* ('97) and *Charlotte Gray* (2001).

FRANK HOLDEN (Peter Bryan) born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1952 (72)

* Australian actor, singer and TV host. As Frankie J Holden, he was lead singer for the Australian band Ol '55 and can be heard on their first hit *On The Prowl* ('76). He left in 1977 to involve himself in other areas of show business.

* He played Stuart McGregor in *Something In The Air*, Mr Gribble in *Round The Twist*, compered *In Melbourne Tonight* and also appeared in *Police Rescue*.

MARTY FIELDS born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1961 (63)

* Australian entertainer. He's the son of Maurie Fields and Val Jellay. He had a four year run on *Hey, Hey, It's Saturday*, was a resident comedian on the game show *Blankety Blanks*, and had a regular role on *Battle of the Sexes*.

BRAD PITT (William Bradley Pitt) born in Shawnee, Oklahoma - 1963 (61)

* US actor. He starred as Cliff Booth, opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, in Quentin Tarantino's 2019 film *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. His other movies include *Thelma And Louise*, *Diary Of A Vampire*, *Seven*, *Legends Of The Fall*, *Twelve Monkeys*, *Ocean's Eleven* (and sequels), *Troy*, *Mr and Mrs Smith*, *The Fight Club*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Inglorious Basterds*, *12 Years A Slave* and *Ad Astra*.

* In 2000 he married *Friends* star Jennifer Aniston. Divorced in 2005. He began a relationship in 2005 with Angelina Jolie. They married in 2014. In 2016, Jolie filed for divorce from Pitt.

STEVE 'STONE COLD' AUSTIN (Steven Williams) born in Victoria, Texas - 1964 (60)

* US wrestler. He had a role as Det Jake Cage in the TV series *Nash Bridges* (1996-2001).

RACHEL GRIFFITHS born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1968 (56)

* Australian actress. Her best known local film is *Muriel's Wedding* ('94). She's also appeared in US films including - *My Best Friend's Wedding* ('97), *The Rookie* (2002), *Saving Mr Banks* (2013), and *Hacksaw Bridge* (2016) as well as the US TV series *Six Feet Under* and *Brothers And Sisters*.

BRIDIE CARTER born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1970 (54)

* Australian actress. She played the role of Tess Silverman McLeod-Ryan in the TV series *McLeod's Daughters* and the role of Jan in *800 Woods* (2015-2018).

ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO born in Spain - 1971 (52)

* Spanish born tennis player. She won the French Open in 1989, 1994 (runner-up in 1996) and the US Open in 1994.

SIA (Sia Furler) born in Adelaide, SA - 1975 (49)

* Australian singer/songwriter. In 2014, her single *Chandelier* became an international success, reaching No 8 in the US. This became the highest ranked solo song by Sia. In 2016 she made No 1 in the US with *Cheap Thrills*.

* She has collaborated with other artists including Christina Aguilera, Flo Rida, Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Beyoncé, Kylie Minogue, Leona Lewis, Katy Perry, Kesha, Rita Ora, Britney Spears, Jessie J, and Celine Dion.

KATIE HOLMES (Katherine Holmes) born in Toledo, Ohio - 1978 (46)

* US actress. She played Joey Potter in the TV series *Dawson's Creek* and Rachel Dawes in the movie *Batman Begins* (2005).

CHRISTINA AGUILERA born in New York - 1980 (44)

* US singer. Her last major hit in Australia was in 2013 when she made No 1 with *Say Something* - a duet with *A Great Big World*. In 2011 she combined with Maroon 5 on the hit *Moves Like Jagger*. She had her first No 1 hit in 1999 with *Genie In A Bottle*. Her other hits include *What A Girl Wants*, *Fighter*, *Car Wash* (with Missy Elliott) and *Candyman*.

* Starred with Cher in the 2010 film *Burlesque*.

USMAN KHAWAJA born in Islamabad, Pakistan - 1986 (38)

* Australian cricketer. He plays for Australia and Queensland. Khawaja made his first-class cricket debut for NSW in 2008 and played his first international match for Australia in January 2011.

BARBORA KREJČÍKOVÁ born in Czech Republic - 1995 (29)

* Czech tennis player. Krejčíková has won one Grand Slam singles title and ten major doubles titles, including the career Super Slam in women's doubles. Her singles major win came at the 2021 French Open.

BILLIE EILISH (Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell) born in Los Angeles, California - 2001 (23)

* American singer and songwriter. She recently made No 1 in Australia with the single *Birds Of A Feather* and her latest album. In 2023 she made No 1 in Australia with *What Was I Made Of?* In 2019 she made No 1 in Australia with the single *Bad Guy* (co-written with her brother) and her album *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*

Events

OPALS were discovered in Australia near Adavale in Queensland - 1872.

NUTCRACKER BALLET was performed for the first time in Russia in St Petersburg - 1892.

PUFFING BILLY steam train began operating in Victoria - 1900.

* It is Australia's oldest preserved steam train in operation.

SAM COOKE recorded *Twisting The Night Away* - 1961.

WERNER ERHARD of San Francisco set a record by mailing his 62,824th personal **CHRISTMAS CARD** - 1975.

MAURIE FIELDS, Australian actor, died aged 69 - 1995.

* He was married to actress Val Jellay. His son Marty Fields is having a birthday today.

TITANIC movie opened in Australian cinemas - 1997.

* It became the biggest box office movie of all time. It was beaten by *Avatar* - a film that was also directed by James Cameron.

CHRIS FARLEY, US comic actor, died aged 33 of opiate and cocaine intoxication - 1997.

* He starred in the films *Tommy Boy*, *Beverly Hills Ninja* and *Black Sheep*.

JULIA "BUTTERFLY" HILL, US environmentalist, came down after living two years in the top of an ancient redwood tree in Humboldt County, California, to protest logging - 1999.

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND was declared the highest grossing touring artist of (2000-2009) in North America - 2009.

ONE DIRECTION played their first show, performing at Watford Colosseum in London - 2011.

* The concert did not go well and vocalist Niall Horan says: "We were just a joke."

LARRY HENLEY, US singer with Newbeats (charted with *Bread and Butter*) and co-writer of *Wind Beneath My Wings*, died aged 77 - 2014.

THE SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE was cancelled for the first time in its history due to COVID-19 in Sydney - 2020.

Birthday Bulletin

Thursday 19th December 2024

Births

ROBERT SHERMAN born in New York City, New York - 1925. (Died aged 86 - 2012)
* US songwriter. With his brother Richard (who died in 2024) he co-wrote the musicals *Mary Poppins*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *It's A Small World*.

MAURICE WHITE born in Memphis, Tennessee - 1941. (Died aged 74 - 2016)
* Founder of the US group Earth, Wind & Fire. He wrote and produced most of their material, sharing lead vocals with Philip Bailey. Earth, Wind and Fire's hits include - *Fantasy* ('78), *September* ('79) and *Boogie Wonderland* (with the Emotions) ('79).

PETER LANDY born in - 1943 (81)
* Australian sports presenter. He joined Channel 7 in 1977 after moving from Channel 9 and called his first VFL game between South Melbourne and Melbourne at the MCG. Also specialised in Olympic Games rowing and world boxing titles. From 1978-1989 he hosted the Brownlow Medal awards.

TONY LEONARD born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1955 (69)
* Melbourne radio presenter. The former ABC radio 'Coodabeen Champion' has been a longtime presenter on 3AW. He has had various roles including general announcing, calling the football and providing food reviews.

LIM AHL (Christopher Hamill) born in Wigan, England - 1958 (66)
* Former vocalist with British band Kajagoogoo. He had a solo hit in 1985 with *Never Ending Story* - the theme song to the film of the same name.
* Limahl is an anagram of his second name Hamill.

LISA WILKINSON born in Woolongong, NSW - 1959 (65)
* Australian journalist and television presenter. Wilkinson co-hosted the Nine Network's breakfast television program, *Today*, with Karl Stefanovic from 2007 until 2017. In 2018, she joined the Network Ten show *The Project*. She left at end of 2022.
* She married journalist and author Peter FitzSimons in 1992.

ALYCE PLATT born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1963 (61)
* Australian TV hostess and singer. For 5 years she was Tony Barber's co-host on *Sale of The Century*. They both left the program in 1991.

* She had a starring role in the Australian 16-part series *Animal Park*, played Jen Handley in *Neighbours* ('94-'95) and Amanda Morrell in *Sons And Daughters* ('83-'85).

JENNIFER BEALS born in Chicago, Illinois - 1963 (61)
* American actress. She starred in the '80s film *Flashdance* and the 1993 mini-series *2000 Malibu Road*. Her other films include *Devil In A Blue Dress* (1995) and *The Book Of Eli* (2010).

CRISS ANGEL (Christopher Sarantakos) born in East Meadow, New York - 1967 (57)
* US magician, hypnotist, escapologist and stunt performer. He is well known for starring in his own TV show *Criss Angel Mindfreak*.

RICHARD HAMMOND born in England - 1969 (55)
* English TV presenter, journalist and writer. He is a former co-presenter on the UK TV program *Top Gear* along with Jeremy Clarkson and James May. He's also presented the *Brainiac: Science Abuse* and co-hosted *Total Wipeout* and *Planet Earth Live*.

ALYSSA MILANO born in Brooklyn, New York - 1972 (52)
* US actress. She starred in 178 episodes of *Charmed* playing Phoebe Halliwell from 1998 to 2006. She also played Samantha Micelli in the US TV series *Who's The Boss?* and appeared in *Melrose Place* as Jennifer Campbell.

RICKY PONTING born in Launceston, Tasmania - 1974 (50)
* Australian cricketer. Former captain of the Australian cricket team in One Day International, Twenty20 International and Test cricket. He was Australia's Test captain from 2004-2011 and became Australia's most capped Test captain. He's the only Australian to have won 100 Tests. He retired from Test cricket in December 2012.

JAKE GYLLENHAAL born in Los Angeles, California - 1980 (44)
* US actor. His movies include: *Moonlight Mile* (2002), *The Good Girl* (2002), *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004) and *Nocturnal Animals* (2016). He made his movie debut as young Danny Robbins in *City Slickers* ('91).

Events

CHARLES DICKENS' A Christmas Carol was first published - 1843.

LINOLEUM was patented by Frederick Walton (UK) - 1863.

First '**GABBA**' inaugural cricket match was played in Brisbane (at Woolloongabba) between teams representing Parliament and the Press - 1896.

LORD LAMINGTON, Queensland governor and the name behind the famous Aussie **LAMINGTON**, stepped down as Governor - 1901.

RIPLEY'S "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" articles, written by Robert Ripley, appeared for the first time in newspapers - 1918.

* At the peak of its popularity, the syndicated feature was read daily by about 80 million readers, and during the first three weeks of May 1932 alone, Ripley received over two million pieces of fan mail.

THERESA VAUGHN, 24, went on trial for bigamy in Yorkshire, England and confessed to marrying 62 men in England, Germany and Africa in a space of just 5 years in 50 cities and in three different countries! - 1922.

JOSEPH LYONS was elected Prime Minister of Australia - 1931.
* He was the first Prime Minister to win three consecutive elections, first Tasmanian and one of only two Prime Ministers to also serve as Premier.

CARL PERKINS recorded *Blue Suede Shoes* - 1955.
* Elvis Presley had the bigger hit version.

THE MUSIC MAN, starring Robert Preston, opened on Broadway - 1957.

BOBBY DARIN recorded *Mack The Knife* (from the musical *The Threepenny Opera*) - 1958.

APOLLO 17 (the last of Apollo Moon landing series) returned to Earth - 1972.

AL GREEN, recently ordained as a minister, opens the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church in Memphis, where he preaches most Sundays - 1976.

KRAMER V KRAMER, starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep, opened in US cinemas - 1979.

* It became the highest-grossing film of 1979 and received nine Oscar nominations winning five: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (for Hoffman), Best Supporting Actress (for Streep), and Best Adapted Screenplay.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF RONALD REAGAN was released on Stiff records - 1980.

* It contained no sound!

KANGAROOS became the first Australian team to win all 22 rugby league matches in Britain and France - 1982.

* They were coached by Frank Stanton and earned the nickname 'The Invincibles'.

IAN BOTHAM (England) retired after playing for Durham in a match against Australia - 1993.

MISS SAIGON became the longest running musical production in London - 1994.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON was impeached by the United States House of Representatives, becoming the second President of the United States to be impeached - 1998.

KIM PEEK, US savant who inspired the Hollywood film *Rain Man*, died aged 58 in Salt Lake City - 2009.

PARK GEUN-HYE was elected the first female President of South Korea - 2012.

DRONES flying over Gatwick airport, England, caused delays and cancellations for 800 flights and 110,000 people - 2018.

KARL STEFANOVIC was dropped as co-host from Nine's early morning *Today* program - 2018.

* In November 2019, the Nine Network announced that Stefanovic would be returning to *Today* as co-host alongside Allison Langdon from January 2020.

NEW SOUTH WALES announced a 7-day state of emergency amid extreme heat and over 100 bushfires that had burnt for two months - 2019.

Birthday Bulletin

Friday 20th December 2024

Births

RAY MARTIN born in Richmond, NSW - 1944 (80)

* Australian television presenter. In 2024, he presented the three-part SBS series, *Ray Martin: The Last Goodbye*. His other TV credits include: *Midday* (1985-'93), *60 Minutes* ('79-'84), *The Ray Martin Show*, *A Current Affair* and numerous TV specials for the Nine Network.

PETER CRISS (George Criscuola) born in New York City, New York - 1945 (79)

* Drummer with the original Kiss line-up. He was the first to quit in 1980 claiming he could no longer cope with putting on make-up. He rejoined on two other occasions before quitting again in 2004. He sang lead on the 1976 Kiss hit single *Beth* which he co-wrote.

JOHN BERTRAND born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1946 (78)

* Australian yachtsman. He was the Skipper of Australia II when it won the America's Cup Yachting trophy from the United States in 1983. This was the first time in over 100 years of competition that the America's Cup had been lost to another country.

DON SCOTT born in Victoria - 1947 (77)

* Australian Rules footballer. The former captain with Hawthorn led the Hawks to two premierships and retired after playing 302 games. For many years he was a football commentator on Channel 7. In 1996 he orchestrated Hawthorn's successful anti-merger push.

* In recent years he's been heard with former Geelong footballer 'Sam' Newman co-hosting the podcast *You Cannot Be Serious*. He is no longer on the program.

* He was reported 15 times, but only suspended for 11 matches.

STEVIE WRIGHT born in Leeds, England - 1947. (Died aged 68 - 2015)

* Australian singer. He was lead vocalist with The Easybeats. Their biggest '60s hit was *Friday On My Mind*. He had two solo hits in 1974 with *Evie (Part 1)* and *Guitar Band*. Both songs were written and produced by former Easybeats Harry Vanda and George Young.

ALAN PARSONS born in London, England - 1948 (76)

* English musician and engineer. He engineered Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* and The Beatles' *Abbey Road* album. The Alan Parsons Project had a top 10 hit in 1982 with *Eye In The Sky*.

JENNY AGUTTER born in Somerset, England - 1952 (72)

* English actress. Since 2010 she has starred in the TV series *Call The Midwife*. Her films include - *The Railway Children* ('70), *Walkabout* ('71), *Logan's Run* ('76) and *An American Werewolf In London* ('81).

KEN DUNCAN born in Mildura, Victoria - 1954 (70)

* Australian landscape photographer. He describes himself as "*an average photographer, with a great God - merely an interpreter of God's creation.*" The art, he says, is in seeing, capturing and presenting these images to others. He photographed the cover for the album *Diesel And Dust* by Midnight Oil.

* The Ken Duncan Gallery is based at Erina Heights in NSW.

* Mel Gibson invited Duncan to shoot a series, of stills on the set of his movie *The Passion of The Christ*. These stills were published in a book *The Passion: Lessons From The Life Of Christ*.

EDMUND "ED" KUEPPER born in Germany - 1955 (69)

* German-born Australian guitarist, vocalist and songwriter. He co-founded the punk band The Saints (1973-78). Their biggest hit single was *Just Like Fire Wood* in 1986. Since 2017 he's headed The Aints! His 1991 solo album, *Honey Steel's Gold*, made No. 28 on the ARIA Albums Chart.

ANITA WARD born in Memphis, Tennessee - 1956 (68)

* American singer. She had a US No 1 hit in 1979 with *Ring My Bell*. It was her only hit.

LEROY LOGGINS born in New Jersey - 1957 (67)

* US born Australian basketball player. 'Leapin' Leroy' is a former Brisbane Bullets captain and played 567 games for the club. From 1982-83 he played with West Adelaide.

DEBORAH HUTTON born in England - 1961 (63)

* Australian model, TV presenter and magazine editor. Host of the TV programs *Find Your Dream Home* (on Foxtel), *Location, Location and Looking Good*. She has also been a spokesperson for Qantas and Holden.

* At the age of 58 she had surgery for skin cancer.

CHRIS ROBINSON (Christopher Robinson) born in Marietta, Georgia - 1966 (58)

* US singer. He fronts the group The Black Crowes. They formed in 1984. His brother Rich Robinson is the group's guitarist. *Remedy* ('91) is their best selling single in Australia.

* In 2000 he married Kate Hudson, daughter of actress Goldie Hawn and step-daughter of Kurt Russell. They divorced in 2007.

KATRINA BLOWERS born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1976 (48)

* Australian senior journalist and presenter with Seven News in Brisbane. She's also the host of the podcast *The Briefing & Claiming Your Confidence*.

JONAH HILL (Jonah Feldstein) born in California - 1983 (41)

* US actor, producer and director. Hill is best known for his comedic roles in films including *Get Him to the Greek* (2010), *21 Jump Street* (2012), *Moneyball* (2011), *This Is the End* (2013) and *22 Jump Street* (2014).

Events

English-born **BOB HOPE**, who was then known as Leslie Downes (his real name), became an American citizen - 1920.

* He emigrated to the United States from England with his parents in 1907.

CLAG was registered in Australia - 1935.

AUSTRALIA CALLING (later called Radio Australia) began short-wave broadcasting to present news to Australian servicemen stationed overseas - 1939.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, the classic Christmas movie starring James Stewart, premiered in New York - 1946.

BOBBY DARIN, US singer/actor, died aged 37 during surgery to repair a heart valve - 1973.

JOE WALSH joined the **EAGLES** (replacing Bernie Leadon) - 1975.

* Prior to joining he had played with The James Gang and also had a solo hit in 1973 with *Rocky Mountain Way*.

AIR SUPPLY's single *Every Woman In The World* peaked at No 5 on US singles chart - 1981.

SYDNEY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE opened - 1983.

* It closed on December 20, 2015 and was demolished in 2016.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU was purchased by Warner Chappell (the largest music publisher in the world) for \$25 million - 1988.

BILLY CONNOLLY married **PAMELA STEPHENSON** in Fiji - 1989.

* It was Billy's second marriage and Pam's first. Barry Humphries gave away Miss Stephenson.

PAUL KEATING became Prime Minister of Australia - 1991.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II urged the then Prince and Princess of Wales to seek "an early divorce" - 1995.

* The monarch called for an end to the marriage in a letter to each of them. Their marriage officially ended in August 1996.

SPICE GIRLS notched up their 8th UK No 1 hit with *Goodbye* - 1998.

CARLTON football club reported a massive \$7.5 million loss for the season - 2002.

* To make matters worse, the AFL club was also fined \$930,000 for salary cap breaches and lost their first two draft picks.

RENEE ZELLWEGER and **KENNY CHESNEY's** marriage was annulled just 3 months after they married - 2005.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II became the oldest monarch of the UK surpassing Queen Victoria - 2007.

CENTAUR, Australian hospital ship, was discovered - 2009.

* It had been sunk by the Japanese off Moreton Island on May 14, 1943. Only 64 of the 332 people on board survived.

DOUG ANTHONY, Australian politician, died aged 90 - 2020.

* He served as leader of the National Party from 1971 to 1984 and was the second and longest-serving Deputy Prime Minister.

Birthday Bulletin

Saturday 21st December 2024

Births

PHIL DONAHUE born in Cleveland, Ohio - 1935. (Died aged 88 - 2024)
* US TV talk host. His long running program *Donahue* debuted in 1967. It finally ended in 1996. In 2002 he returned to US TV with a new program but it was cancelled in 2003.

* He married Danny Thomas' daughter Marlo Thomas who starred in the '60s television series *That Girl*. They met when she was a guest on his show. They wed in 1980. Thomas is the stepmother to Donahue's four sons and daughter from his first marriage.

JANE FONDA born in New York City, New York - 1937 (87)

* American actress and daughter of Henry Fonda. She won Academy Awards for Best Actress in *Klute* ('71) and *Coming Home* ('78). Some of her other major movies include - *Barbarella* ('68), *They Shoot Horses Don't They* ('69), *The China Syndrome* ('79) and *Book Club* (2018). In 1982 she produced and appeared with her father in *On Golden Pond*. (Both knew while filming that it would be his last movie). She co-starred with Lily Tomlin in the TV series *Grace And Frankie* which debuted (2015-2022).

* In 2000 she broke up with her third husband, US television mogul Ted Turner.

* She released and featured in over a dozen fitness videos.

PETER FAIMAN born in Brunswick, Victoria - 1944 (80)

* Australian TV director and producer. He directed/produced the *Paul Hogan Show* as well as the Graham Kennedy and Don Lane shows. He also directed the 1986 Paul Hogan film *Crocodylle Dundee*.

DOUG WALTERS (Kevin Douglas Walters) born in Dungog, NSW - 1945 (79)

* Australian cricketer. In his Test debut for Australia he made 155 against England at Brisbane in 1965. He also scored a second century in his second Test becoming the second player to achieve this record.

* He was the first Australian to score a double century and a century in one Test (against West Indies) in 1969.

CARL WILSON born in Los Angeles, California - 1946. (Died aged 51 - 1998)

* Lead guitarist and vocalist with the Beach Boys. He was the brother of Brian and Dennis. He sang lead on their '60s hits: *God Only Knows*, *I Can Hear Music*, *Wild Honey* and *Darlin'*. He died of lung cancer.

SAMUEL L JACKSON (Samuel Leroy Jackson) born in Chattanooga, Tennessee - 1948 (76)

* US actor. He's made over 100 films including: *Jungle Fever* ('91), *Die Hard: With A Vengeance* ('95), *Pulp Fiction* ('94), *Jurassic Park* ('93), *Star Wars Episode 2*: (2002) and the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy, *3* (2005), *Iron Man* (2008) and *Kong: Skull Island* (2017). He's also played the role of Nick Fury in several Marvel movies.

CHRIS EVERT (Christine Evert) born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida - 1954 (70)

* US tennis player. She won her first 29 singles matches from 1977-'86 in the Federation Cup and achieved the record for the most singles wins with seven in the French championships. Evert also won six US Opens, three Wimbledon singles titles and two Australian Opens. She retired in 1989.

* Evert and Australian golfer Greg Norman were married in June 2008. It was her third marriage. On October 2, 2009 they announced they were separating after only 15 months.

RAY ROMANO born in Queens, New York - 1957 (67)

* US actor. He was the star and creator of the TV sit-com, *Everybody Loves Raymond* that debuted in 1996 and ended in 2005. He was paid approximately \$2.8 million an episode for appearing in the 8th season of the program. His real family made various appearances in the show. They include his daughter Ally (as Molly), his father Albert (as Albert) and his brother Richard appeared in a few episodes. He also appears in the *Parenthood* TV series. He also portrayed Rick Moreweather in the comedy-drama series *Get Shorty*.

* He provides voice of Manny in the *Ice Age* animated movies.

PETER GUTWEIN born in England - 1964 (60)

* Australian politician. On 20 January 2020, he replaced Will Hodgman as leader of the Liberal Party in Tasmania. On 4 April 2022, Gutwein announced his resignation as premier and as a member of Tasmania's parliament.

KIEFER SUTHERLAND born in London, England - 1966 (58)

* Canadian actor and son of Donald Sutherland. He starred in the TV series *24* which debuted in 2001. In recent years he's also starred in the TV series *Designated Survivor*. His film credits include - *Stand By Me* ('86), *Young Guns* ('88), *Flatliners* ('90), *Young Guns II* ('90), *Some Good Men* ('92) and *The Three Musketeers* ('93).

KARRIE WEBB born in Ayr, Queensland - 1974 (50)

* Australian golfer. She is Australia's most successful female golfer. In 2005 she was entered into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

ADAM HARVEY born in Geelong, Victoria - 1974 (50)

* Australian country singer. He's currently on his *Let The Song Take You Home* tour. The album of the same name was released in November 2024. He has been nominated five times for an ARIA Music Award and has won nine golden guitars at the Country Music Awards of Australia. One of his best selling albums is *The Great Country Songbook* (with Troy Cassar-Daley). The 2014 album went platinum.

* In 2009, he made ARIA Charts history with his duets album *Both Sides Now* debuting at #1 on the Top 20 Australian Artists Country Chart.

TRISTAN BANCKS born in Sydney, NSW - 1974 (50)

* Australian actor and author. From 1992-'94 he played 'Tug' in the local soapie *Home And Away*. Tristan has written several short novels in Macmillan's Kids Inc. series, about kids setting up their own businesses and ventures.

THELMA PLUM (Thelma Plumbe) born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1994 (30)

* Australian Aboriginal singer. Her latest album *I'm Sorry, Now Say It Back* was released in November 2024. It made No 7 on the ARIA chart. Her 2019 debut album, *Better in Blak*, peaked at No. 4 on the ARIA Album Chart.

Events

CLANCY OF THE OVERFLOW, written by Banjo Paterson, was published in *The Bulletin* - 1889.

BASKETBALL is believed to have been played for the first time at Springfield College, Massachusetts - 1891.

RADIUM was discovered by Pierre and Marie Curie - 1898.

World's first **CROSSWORD PUZZLE** was published in *New York World* and was compiled by Englishman Arthur Wynne - 1913.

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS was shown for the first time in Los Angeles - 1937.

* It was the first full-length animated colour film.

CHARLIE WATTS' book *Ode To A High Flying Bird* was published - 1964.

* It was a tribute to jazz musician Charlie 'Bird' Parker.

THE TEMPTATIONS recorded *My Girl* - 1964.

* Written by Smokey Robinson, it was their first No 1 hit.

ELVIS PRESLEY visited **RICHARD NIXON** at the White House - 1970.

LOCKERBIE AIR DISASTER occurred when a flight exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland - 1988.

* All 259 passengers aboard were killed including 11 on the ground.

STEVE AND MARK WAUGH made 464 runs in a Sheffield Shield match, NSW v WA - 1990.

* By the time NSW declared they were 4/601 and Mark and Steve had both made double centuries. They set the highest first class partnership by Australian batsmen. They became the first brothers to have scored unbeaten double centuries in the same innings.

JOHN HOWARD became Australia's second longest serving Prime Minister - 2004.

SHANE WARNE announced his retirement from Test cricket - 2006.

TONY BARRY, Australian actor, died aged 81 in Murwillumbah, NSW - 2022.

* His films include *Mango Tree*, *Newsfront*, *Australia*, *Goodbye Pork Pie* and the TV series *The Time of Our Lives*.

Birthday Bulletin

Sunday 22nd December 2024

Births

DONNIE SUTHERLAND born in Fairfield, NSW - 1945 (79)

* Australian radio and TV host. He compered the '70s music program *Sound Unlimited* that later was titled *Sounds*. For 12 years he worked in radio at 2KY leaving the station in 2004. He also worked on other stations including 2UW and hosted the late night TV chat show *After Dark* ('82-'85).

* In December 2014 he underwent surgery to have his voice box removed.

JOHN 'SAM' NEWMAN born in Geelong, Victoria - 1945 (79)

* Australian Rules footballer. The former Geelong captain ended his career after playing 300 senior games (1964-1980). For many years he's worked in the media and was the longest serving member of Channel 9's *Footy Show* (which was axed in 2019). Nowadays he can be heard hosting the podcast *You Cannot Be Serious*.

* His 50 year old wife Amanda died of a stroke on May 1 in 2021 in their Melbourne apartment. The couple had been together for 20 years but it was only six months before her death in their apartment that they got married.

RICK NIELSEN born in Rockford, Illinois - 1948 (76)

* Guitarist with US band Cheap Trick. The group formed in 1973. Their hits include *Dream Police* ('79), *If You Want My Love* ('82), *The Flame* ('88) and *Don't Be Cruel* ('88).

ROBIN GIBB born on Isle Of Man, UK - 1949. (Died aged 62 - 2012)

* Australian singer. Gibb last performed on stage in February 2012 at a charity concert at the London Palladium. On 20 May 2012, he died at the age of 62 from liver and kidney failure.

* His final recordings were released in October 2014 as the album *50 St Catherine's Drive*. It was the address of where he was born on the Isle Of Man. The last track on the album was *Sydney* which was also his final recording. * Robin and his twin brother Maurice combined with their older brother Barry to become the Bee Gees beginning their recording career in 1963.

MAURICE GIBB born on Isle Of Man, UK - 1949. (Died aged 53 - 2003)

* Bee Gees musician and vocalist. The twin brother of Robin Gibb, died of a heart attack in 2003 just before an operation to remove an intestinal blockage.

* Maurice's first wife was Scottish singer Lulu. In 1976 he married Yvonne Spenceley. He stated that the Bee Gees considered themselves Australian even though they left Australia in 1967.

JAN STEPHENSON born in Sydney, NSW - 1951 (73)

* Australian golfer. She turned professional in 1972 and in 1973 won the Australian women's PGA title. Her other achievements include; winner of the Australian Open in 1977 and the US Open in 1983.

SIMON WESTAWAY born in Australia - 1958 (66)

* Australian actor. He played the role of Mick Gatto in the TV mini series *Underbelly*. He also appeared in the TV series' *Phoenix* and *Janus* and played Prof James Cameron in the 2004 mini-series *Through My Eyes*. He hosted the Channel 7 program *Surf Patrol*.

REBECCA WILSON born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1971. (Died aged 45 - 2016)

* Australian radio presenter, sports reporter and columnist. Her TV credits include *The Fat* and *110% Tony Squires*. In 2005 she joined radio station Vega as one of their breakfast presenters. She left at the end of 2009.

RALPH FIENNES born in Suffolk, England - 1962 (62)

* English actor. He's had starring roles in *Schindler's List* ('93), *Quiz Show* ('94), *The English Patient* ('96), *Oscar & Lucinda* ('97), *The Duchess* (2008) and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014). He can also be seen in the 2020 film *No Time To Die*.

* He's the brother to actor Joseph Fiennes.

LAURALEE BELL born in Chicago, Illinois - 1968 (56)

* US actress. From 1983-2006 she played Christine Blair in the TV soapie *The Young And The Restless*. She rejoined the program in 2010.

JENNIFER HAWKINS born in Holmesville, NSW - 1983 (41)

* Australian model. The 2003 Miss Australia winner was crowned Miss Universe in 2004. She ended her 12 year relationship with Myer in November 2018. She was the host of *Australia's Next Top Model* and also a host and a judge on the TV reality show *Make Me A Supermodel*. She is the former face of Australian department store Myer.

MATT DORAN born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1983 (41)

* Australian TV host and journalist. He is currently co-host of *Weekend Sunrise* with Monique Wright. Previously he had been a reporter for the Seven Network's program, *Sunday Night* and a reporter and presenter at Network Ten.

JORDIN SPARKS born in Phoenix, Arizona - 1989 (35)

* US singer. A former *American Idol* winner her 2008 hits include *No Air* (with Chris Brown) a No 2 hit in Australia and *Tattoo*. In 2009 charted with *Battlefield* (No 4 in Australia) and *Art Of Love* - a duet with Guy Sebastian. In 2015 she released the album *Right Here, Right Now*. In 2022 she featured on For King And Country's No 1 gospel hit *Love Me Like I Am*.

MEGHAN TRAINOR born in Massachusetts - 1993 (31)

* US singer/songwriter. In Australia she had two No 1 hits with *All About That Bass* (2014) and *Like I'm Gonna Lose You* (2015) - a duet with John Legend.

Events

First string of **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS** was strung together along a single power cord by American Edward H Johnson - 1882.

HENRY LAWSON's first short story, *His Father's Mate*, was published in The Bulletin - 1888.

COMMONWEALTH BANK was established in Melbourne by the Federal government - 1911. * The first branch opened in July 1912.

TORNADOS' hit *Telstar* became the first record by a British group to make No 1 in the US - 1962.

* It also made No 1 in the UK and Australia. The instrumental hit was written, produced and arranged by Joe Meek (who committed suicide in 1967.)

SEAT BELTS were made compulsory in Victoria - 1970.

* The other states followed suit in 1972.

KENNEY JONES became The Who's new drummer, replacing Keith Moon who had died two months earlier - 1978.

JON ENGLISH, UK born Australian singer, became a naturalised Australian - 1989.

AUSTRALIA'S WORST ROAD ACCIDENT occurred when 33 passengers and two drivers were killed when two buses collided on the Pacific Highway near Kempsey - 1989.

PETER SHILTON, 47 year old English league football (soccer) player, played his 1000th game - 1996.

South Australia's **JAMIE SIDDONS** became the first batsman to pass 10,000 runs in Sheffield Shield cricket - 1998.

GREG BLEWETT of South Australia made 213 not out and became the 6th Australian to score four consecutive first class centuries - 1998.

BURNLEY TUNNEL was opened to traffic in Melbourne - 2000.

JOE STRUMMER, singer with UK band The Clash, died aged 50 of a heart attack - 2002.

DELTA GOODREM scored a record 5th No 1 hit with *Predictable/Happy Xmas (War Is Over)* - 2003. * All five singles were taken from her album *Innocent Eyes*.

MOST T-SHIRTS worn at once record was achieved by Sanath Bandara in Sri Lanka when he put on 257 shirts - 2011.

JOE COCKER, UK singer, died aged 70 of lung cancer - 2014.

* He left behind his US wife Pam. They had no children. They married in 1987 and lived at the 'Mad Dog Ranch' in Crawford, Colorado (which he purchased from actress Jane Fonda).

CAROL BURNS, Australian actress who played Franky Doyle in *Prisoner*, died aged 68 in Brisbane - 2015.

* She was married to Alan Lawrence, a musician and composer, for 36 years. She died in Brisbane after a brief cancer illness.

Birthday Bulletin

Monday 23rd December 2024

Births

SIR RICHARD MICHAEL HILL born in Whangārei, New Zealand - 1938 (86)

* New Zealand jeweller. He founded global jewellery retailer Michael Hill Jeweller in 1979. He retired as the company's chairman in November 2015. He was Ernst & Young's 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year in New Zealand.

HARRY SHEARER born in Los Angeles, California - 1943 (81)

* US comedian and cartoon voice character. He played Derek Smalls in the movie *Spinal Tap* and provides several voices on *The Simpsons* including Mr Burns, Smithers, Ned Flanders and Reverend Lovejoy. He starred with his fellow Spinal Tap co-stars in the 2003 film *A Mighty Wind* – a send up of the folk music era.

GRAHAM BONNET born in Lincolnshire, England - 1947 (77)

* UK singer. He had his two biggest hits with *It's All Over Now Baby Blue* (written by Bob Dylan) ('77) and the Bee Gees composition *Warm Ride* ('78). He also sang with The Marbles who had a hit in 1968 with *Only One Woman*.

MIKE LONDON born in New Zealand - 1951 (73)

* NZ born Australian TV and radio presenter. For several years he read the news for Channel 9 in Brisbane.

GRACE KNIGHT born in Scotland - 1955 (69)

* Australian singer. Lead vocalist with Perth band the Eurogliders. Their biggest hits were *Heaven (Must Be There)* ('84), *We Will Together* ('85) and *Can't Wait To See You* ('85).

* In 1990 she had hit success with the album *Come In Spinner* which she recorded with Vince Jones. The songs were featured in the Australian TV mini-series of the same name. In 1991 she released the solo album *Stormy Weather* and in 1993 *Gracious*.

* She emigrated to Australia when she was 22, after she convinced an official from a cruise ship that she could sing, in return for free passage. Her first job in Australia was as a life guard at a swimming pool.

TRISHA GODDARD (Patricia Goddard) born in London, England - 1957 (67)

* English-born Australian TV presenter. She was a presenter on *Playschool* and hosted the lifestyle program *Live It Up*. Her first TV role was on the children's series *Off The Dish* followed by a current affairs program on SBS. In 1998 she returned to the UK to present a daily 45-minute show titled *Tricia* for the ITV network.

* In 2023, Goddard was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time, however, this time it was Stage IV. In February 2024, she announced the diagnosis and revealed that it was treatable but not curable.

EDDIE VEDDER (Edward Severson III) born in Evanston, Illinois - 1964 (60)

* Lead singer for US rock band Pearl Jam. In Australia they have had No 1 albums with *Riot Act* (2002), *Backspacer* (2009) and *Lightning Bolt* (2013). They also had a No 1 hit single in 1999 with a revival of *Last Kiss*.

LUCY BELL born in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England - 1968 (56)

* Australian actress and daughter of John Bell and his wife Anna Volska. Her films include: *The Wog Boy* (2000) and *Thank God He Met Lizzie* (1997). She played Det. Tessa Vance in the TV series *Murder Call* and also appeared in *G.P.*

COREY HAIM born in Toronto, Canada - 1971. (Died aged 38 - 2010)

* Canadian actor. One of his best known roles was in *The Lost Boys* ('87). He appeared in seven movies with Corey Feldman.

* He suffered from heart problems and died of natural causes and not a drug overdose as originally suspected. Haim, who battled addiction for years, died from respiratory distress, pneumonia and coronary disease.

SCOTT BURNS born in South Australia - 1974 (50)

* AFL footballer. He was captain of Collingwood for the 2008 season but retired at the end of that year due to injury problems. He played a total of 264 games kicking 149 goals.

KATIE UNDERWOOD born in Adelaide, SA - 1975 (49)

* Australian singer. Former member of the all-girl group Bardot. In 2001 she had a top 10 hit with *Beautiful* - which she recorded with Disco Montego.

FINN WOLFHARD born in Vancouver, British Columbia - 2002 (22)

* Canadian actor and musician. He is best known for playing Mike Wheeler in the Netflix series *Stranger Things*. His film roles include *It* (2017) and its sequel *It: Chapter Two* (2019) as well as the voice of Pugsley Addams in *The Addams Family* (2019).

* He was the vocalist and guitarist for the band Calpurnia and is a member of The Aubreys.

Events

JANE AUSTEN'S book **EMMA** was first published on this day - 1815.

* The novel was the last to be published during Austen's lifetime. It spawned film, TV and theatre adaptations since its release.

A VISIT FROM ST NICHOLAS, (aka *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*), a poem written by Clement C Moore, was first published in the Troy Sentinel - 1823.

Dutch painter **VINCENT VAN GOGH** cut off a portion of his left ear - 1888.

BOB HOPE agreed to entertain United States airmen stationed in Alaska for what would be the first of his famous Christmas shows for American armed forces across the world - 1942.

* The Christmas show tradition continued for over three decades.

TRANSISTOR was first demonstrated by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley of Bell Laboratories in the US - 1947.

THE WORLD'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL HUMAN KIDNEY TRANSPLANT was performed - 1954.

* When Richard J Herrick was diagnosed with kidney disease, he was told he had a short time to live. But thanks to his identical twin brother Ronald donating one of his kidneys, Richard's body had little problems with an immune response thanks to their matching genetics. His surgery was a success and he lived another eight years before dying from complications unrelated to the transplant.

THE CHAMPS recorded *Tequila* - 1957.

* It made No 1 in the US and was their biggest hit.

BRIAN WILSON (Beach Boys) suffered a nervous breakdown while aboard a plane en route to a concert in the US - 1964.

* He was replaced in the touring line up by Glen Campbell who stayed with the group until April 1965.

DEEP HEAT (rheumatic rub) trademark was registered in Australia - 1968.

* It has been on sale in Australia since 1956.

ELTON JOHN and **BERNIE TAUPIN** began their song writing partnership - 1969.

* The pair came together via an advertisement for artists and writers in a British music magazine in 1967. They began to write by correspondence and didn't meet until they'd written about 20 songs together.

THE MOUSETRAP stage play, written by Agatha Christie, which commenced in November 1952, became the world's longest running stage play - 1970.

* It was originally due to run just 6 weeks. It ran continuously until 16 March 2020, when the stage performances had to be discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JOHN ELLIOTT, Australian businessman, was charged with an alleged theft of \$66.5 million in a conspiracy related to the attempted takeover of BHP by Robert Holmes A Court - 1993.

THE WIGGLES last official concert featuring Greg, Jeff, Murray and Anthony (Field), played at the Sydney Entertainment Centre - 2012.

* This was the line up who formed in 1991 (with Phillip Wilcher).

MILEY CYRUS, aged 26, married **LIAM HEMSWORTH**, aged 29, at their home in Nashville - 2018.

* On 10 August 2019, Cyrus announced their separation. Eleven days later, Hemsworth filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences. The couple first got together in 2009.

HONEY LANTREE, UK drummer with the band the Honeycombs who charted with *Have I The Right?*, died aged 75 - 2018.



Birthday Bulletin

Tuesday 24th December 2024
Christmas Eve

Births

MIKE CURB born in Savannah, Georgia - 1944 (80)

* US record producer/executive. He is also a motorsports car owner, philanthropist, and former politician. He is the founder and chairman of Curb Records and is the chairman of the gospel music company Word Entertainment. His vocal group The Mike Curb Congregation had a No 1 hit in 1970 with *Burning Bridges* - from the movie *Kelly's Heroes*.

KEVIN SHEEDY born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1947 (77)

* VFL player and coach. He played with Richmond from 1967-'79 and took part in three Tigers premierships. He coached the Essendon football club from 1981-2007. He was also the inaugural coach of the Western Sydney Football Club (Giants) from 2012-2013. On 1 September 2013, Sheedy coached his 679th and final game as a senior coach in the VFL-AFL.

* He holds the AFL record for the most games combined as a player and coach. He coached Essendon for a record 635 games. On July 25, 2007, it was announced that his contract would not be renewed ending 27 years as Essendon senior coach. Under his leadership the Bombers won four flags. Their last premiership was in 2000 when they lost only one game.

DIEDRICH BADER (Karl Diedrich Bader) born in Alexandria, Virginia - 1966 (58)

* US actor and voice artist. He played Oswald Lee Harvey in the TV sit com *The Drew Carey Show* (1995-2004). He has voiced numerous animated cartoons.

RICKY MARTIN (Enrique Jose Martin Morales) born in San Juan, Puerto Rico - 1971 (53)

* Latin American singer/actor. His hits include *The Cup of Life* - recorded for the 1998 Soccer World Cup and *Livin' La Vida Loca* ('99). In 2013 he made No 3 in Australia with *Come With Me*.

* He was a coach on *The Voice Australia* in 2013.

* From 1994 - 1995 he played Miguel Morez in The US soapie *General Hospital*. He's also appeared in about 40 TV ads.

MATT PASSMORE (Matthew Passmore) born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1973 (51)

* Australian actor. He starred as a Chicago cop in the US TV drama series *The Glades* from 2010-2013. His other TV credits include *McLeod's Daughters* (2006-2009) and *Blue Heelers* (2003).

* He began his TV career as a presenter on *Play School*.

RYAN SEACREST born in Atlanta, Georgia - 1974 (50)

* US TV and radio presenter. Since 2002 he's hosted the *American Idol* TV program. In January 2004, he took over Casey Kasem's place as host of the syndicated radio program, *American Top 40*.

* He began hosting *Live With Kelly & Ryan* - a US TV talk show in 2017.

WARREN TREDREA born in South Australia - 1978 (46)

* AFL footballer. He was the captain of Port Adelaide from 2006-2008 and played in their 2004 premiership team. He now works in the media and can be heard on FIVEaa. He used to present sports reports on Nine News Adelaide. (L eft in 2022).

DANNY RACO born in Rome, Italy - 1979 (45)

* Australian actor. He played Joss Peroni in *Blue Heelers* and played the role of Alex Poulos in *Home And Away*.

LOUIS TOMLINSON (Louis Troy Austin) born in South Yorkshire, England - 1991 (33)

* Vocalist with UK boy band One Direction. Their last No 1 hit was in 2015 with *Drag Me Down*. They signed with Simon Cowell's record label Syco Records after being formed and finishing third in the seventh series of the UK's *The X Factor* in 2010.

* In 2017 he had solo hits with *Just Hold On* (with Steve Aoki) and *Back to You* (featuring Bebe Rexha and Digital Farm Animals).

* In 2013 One Direction released the album *Midnight Memories*. It featured the hit singles *Story Of My Life* and *Best Song Ever*. Their first two albums *Up All Night* and *Take Me Home*, released in 2011 and 2012 respectively, broke several records, and generated international chart-topping singles.

Events

SILENT NIGHT was first performed in Austria at St Nicholas church near Salzburg - 1818.

* The words were written by an Austrian priest Josef Mohr and the melody by his church organist Franz Gruber. Because the church organ was broken down it was sung for the first time accompanied by a guitar.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE opened in Perth - 1904.

* It is on the corner of Hay Street and King Street in Perth's central business district. At the time the theatre was opened, it was the largest theatre in Australia, and had seating for over 2,500 people. It is also thought to be the first reinforced concrete building constructed in Perth.

World's first international **AVIATION SHOW** opened in Paris - 1908.

SMITH FAMILY charity began in Sydney - 1922.

* It was founded in Sydney by five businessmen who wanted to help disadvantaged children. On a visit to an orphanage they distributed gifts and lollies. When asked for their names, one of the men replied "*Er .. Smith*", to preserve their anonymity, and indicated the other businessmen were also called Smith.

WINNIE THE POOH first appeared in the London Evening News - 1925.

* The book *Winnie The Pooh*, written by A A Milne, was first published in 1926. It was based on the stories that Milne told to his son Christopher.

ZSM ('SM' standing for St Marks) radio station opened in Sydney - 1931.

* From 1931 until 1992 it was owned by the Catholic Broadcasting Company. It's now owned by the Super Radio Network.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT was held for the first time in Melbourne when approximately 10,000 people came together at midnight in the Alexandra Gardens to sing carols - 1938.

JOHN THAW married actress **SHEILA HANCOCK** - 1973.

* It was the second marriage for both. She is 9 years older than Thaw (who died in 2002).

CYCLONE TRACY struck Darwin killing 71 people - 1974.

* Approximately 25,000 people were left homeless and 66 died. It destroyed more than 70 percent of Darwin's buildings, including 80 percent of houses. Damage was estimated at \$837 million. The storm is the second-smallest tropical cyclone on record.

* Bill & Boyd had a hit with their tribute song - *Santa Never Made It To Darwin*.

Abba's **BJORN** and **AGNETHA** separated after seven years of marriage - 1978.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT, performed at the Myer Music Bowl, was first broadcast by Channel 9 Melbourne - 1979.

* Prior to 1979 the annual telecast was broadcast by Melbourne's ATV 0 beginning in 1969.

TOM CRUISE married **NICOLE KIDMAN** - 1990.

* Cruise was formerly married to actress Mimi Rogers. He met Kidman while filming *Days Of Thunder*. They divorced in 2001.

TOSHIRO MIFUNE, Japanese actor, died aged 77 - 1997.

* He appeared in more than 130 Japanese and English-language films.

PATRICIA WHITE BULL, 42, awoke at a New Mexico nursing home after being in a coma for 16 years - 1999.

* She had slipped into a coma while giving birth to her fourth child.

RICK PARFITT, UK guitarist with Status Quo, died aged 68 - 2016.

* He died from a severe infection after going to hospital, following complications to a shoulder injury.

GEOFF STEPHENS, UK songwriter, died aged 86 - 2020.

* He co-wrote several hit songs such as *There's A Kind Of Hush* (Herman's Hermits), *I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing* (New Seekers) and *Silver Lady* (David Soul). He was also vocalist on the New Vaudeville Band's 1966 novelty hit *Winchester Cathedral* (which he also wrote).

BARRY ROUND, VFL footballer with Sydney Swans and Western Bulldogs, died aged 72 of organ failure - 2022.

* He won a Brownlow Medal in 1981 tying with his former team mate Bernie Quinlan.



Birthday Bulletin

Wednesday 25th December 2024

Christmas Day

Births

ROD SERLING born in Syracuse, New York - 1924. (Died aged 60 - 1975)

* American playwright and producer. He created and hosted the television program *The Twilight Zone* (1959-1964) and later *Night Gallery* (1970-1973).

PETER BROWN born in Surrey, England - 1940. (Died aged 83 - 2023)

* English performance poet, lyricist, and singer. He is best known for his collaborations with Cream and Jack Bruce. Brown and Bruce wrote many of Cream's songs, including the '60s hits *I Feel Free*, *White Room* and *Sunshine of Your Love*.

TONY WORSLEY born in England - 1944 (80)

* Australian singer. He had his biggest hit in 1965 with *Velvet Waters*. For a number of years he ran the Velvet Waters restaurant situated on the Sunshine Coast.

NOEL REDDING born in England - 1945. (Died aged 57 - 2003)

* UK musician. Bass player with Jimi Hendrix Experience from 1966-1969. The trio's '60s hits include *Foxy Lady*, *And The Wind Cries Mary* and *Hey Joe*.

JIMMY BUFFET born in Pascagoula, Mississippi - 1946. (Died aged 76 - 2023)

* US singer/songwriter. His two biggest '70s hits were *Margaritaville* and *Come Monday*. He was also a best selling author and the owner of the Margaritaville Café Chain and the now defunct Cheese Cheeseburger in Paradise restaurant chain. His book *A Pirate Looks At Fifty* went straight to No. 1 on the New York Times Bestseller non-fiction list.

* His devoted fans are known as Parrotheads.

SISSY SPACEK (Mary Spacek) born in Quitman, Texas - 1949 (75)

* US actress. She won an Oscar for Best Actress in *The Coalminer's Daughter* ('80), which was based on the life of country singer Loretta Lynn. Her other major movies include *Carrie* ('76) and *The River* ('84). She also appeared in the *Bloodline* TV series.

ROBIN CAMPBELL born in Birmingham, England - 1954 (70)

* Guitarist/vocalist with British band UB40 (named after England's Unemployment Benefits Form 40). His brother Ali was also a member. Robin left the group in 2008. UB40's hits include remakes of *Red Red Wine*, *Can't Help Falling In Love* and *I Got You Babe*.

ANNIE LENNOX born in Aberdeen, Scotland - 1954 (70)

* Scottish singer. Annie and Dave Stewart made up the duo the Eurythmics. Annie and Dave were also both members of the Tourists who had a hit in Australia in 1980 with their version of *I Only Want To Be With You*. When the group folded Annie and Dave started seriously writing songs together and a year later they had their first hit as the Eurythmics with *Love Is A Stranger* ('82). Their other hits include *Would I Lie To You*, *Here Comes The Rain Again*, *There Must Be An Angel* and *Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)*. In 1999 they reunited after a five year split and released a new album *Peace*.

* She had her first solo hit in 1992 with *Why* from the album *Diva*. She also had a hit in 1988 with Al Green on the song *Put A Little Love In Your Heart*.

ALLANNAH MYLES born in Toronto, Canada - 1958 (66)

* Canadian singer. She had a big hit in Australia in 1990 with *Black Velvet*. Her self titled album made No 2 in Australia in 1989.

MARK ROBINSON born in Bendigo, Victoria - 1967 (57)

* Australian sports journalist. 'Robbo' has been News Corp's chief football writer since 2012. He co-hosted Fox Footy's *AFL 360* TV from 2010-2024 alongside Gerard Whateley. He hosted his final program in September 2024.

DIDO (Florian Cloud De Bonneville Armstrong) born in London, England - 1971 (53)

* English singer. In 2003 Dido made No 1 in Australia with the single *White Flag* and also topped the chart with her album *Life For Rent*. In 1999 she released her debut album *No Angel*. In 2001 she also had chart success with the single *Thankyou* and the album *No Angel* (No 2 in Australia).

JUSTIN TRUDEAU born in Ottawa, Canada - 1971 (53)

* Canadian politician. Prime Minister of Canada since 2015 and Leader of the Liberal Party since 2013. Trudeau is the second-youngest Canadian Prime Minister. He is also the first to be related to a previous holder of the post, as the eldest son of Pierre Trudeau.

ALASTAIR COOK born in England - 1984 (40)

* English cricketer. Former captain of the England Test and one-day international teams and plays county cricket for *Essex*.

* He made his debut at the age of 21 and went on to score 1,000 runs in his maiden year and became the youngest Englishman to reach 1,500, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000 Test runs.

JESSICA ORIGLIASSO born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1984 (40)

* Australian singer. The twin sister of Lisa and one half of The Veronicas. They have had three No 1 hits with *Hook Me Up* (2007), *You Ruin Me* (2014), and *In My Blood* (2016). Their single *You Ruin Me* peaked at No 8 in the UK. *Untouched* and *4 Ever* peaked at No 2. In 2021 they released the albums *Godzilla* (No 6 in Australia) and *Human* (No 5 in Australia).

LISA ORIGLIASSO born in Brisbane, Queensland - 1984 (40)

* Australian singer. The twin sister of Jessica and one half of The Veronicas. They've been performing together since the age of 4. In 2005 they released their debut album *The Secret Life Of The Veronicas* that made No 2 in Australia. Their single *4 Ever* also peaked at No 2 in Australia.

Events

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI assembled the first **NATIVITY SCENE** - 1223.

* It was assembled out of concern that the true meaning of Christmas was being lost.

CHRISTMAS TRUCE occurred between British and German troops, in the trenches on the western front, during World War I - 1914.

* The soldiers mingled together and swapped presents. There were also prisoner exchanges and burials - along with football matches and carol singing but at midnight the truce ended and fighting resumed. This event inspired Paul McCartney's 1983 hit *Pipes Of Peace*.

BING CROSBY's *White Christmas* entered the US Billboard chart for the first time, 7 years after it was recorded - 1954.

RINGO STARR, aged 19, received a drum kit for a Christmas present - 1959.

JAMES TAYLOR, aged 12, received his first guitar for a Christmas present - 1960.

SELF SEALING ENVELOPES were patented - 1962.

MRS DORIS BURGIN of Liverpool, Sydney gave birth to her 17th child at the Royal Hospital for Women - 1965.

* She gave birth to an 11lb 6 oz daughter Leeanne - her 11th daughter.

KOICHI OSE, star of the Japanese TV series **THE SAMURAI**, arrived in Australia at Mascot Airport and was mobbed by hundreds of young children - 1965.

* He performed in a series of stage shows in Sydney and Melbourne.

CHARLES CHAPLIN, British silent movie star/director, died aged 88 in Switzerland - 1977.

CORONATION STREET was watched by 26.6 million viewers who tuned in to see Hilda Ogden (played by Jean Alexander) in her final episode - 1987.

* 'Hilda' appeared in more than 1,600 episodes.

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV announced his resignation as Soviet President in an address to the nation - 1991.

DEAN MARTIN, US singer and actor, died aged 78 - 1995.

RUE McCLANAHAN, 63, *Golden Girls* star, married her 6th husband, Morrow Wilson - 1997.

JERRY SEINFELD, 45, married Jessica Sklar, 28, before an intimate crowd of 36 close friends - 1999.

JAMES BROWN, US soul singer, died aged 73 - 2006.

CHARLIE SHEEN, US actor, spent Christmas Day in jail after his wife Brooke accused him of physically attacking her - 2009.

GEORGE MICHAEL, UK singer, died aged 53 of natural causes (specifically a heart condition and a fatty liver) - 2016.



Birthday Bulletin

Thursday 26th December 2024

Boxing Day

Births

'UGLY' DAVE GRAY (Graham David Taylor) born in Manchester, England - 1933 (91)

* British-born comedian. He was one of the regular hosts on the *In Melbourne Tonight* programs and a regular guest on Graham Kennedy's *Blankety Blanks*.

FRED SCHEPISI born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1939 (85)

* Australian director. His two most recent films are *The Eye Of The Storm* (2011) and *Words And Pictures* (2013). His successful films include *Roxanne* ('87), *Evil Angels* ('89), *Plenty* ('85), *The Russia House* ('91), *IQ* ('95) as well as the local productions *The Devil's Playground* ('76) and *The Chant Of Jimmy Blacksmith* ('78).

PHIL SPECTOR (Harvey Philip Spector) born in The Bronx, New York - 1940. (Died aged 81 - 2021)

* US record producer. He is remembered for his 'Wall Of Sound' productions. He was only in his early 20s when he master minded hits such as - *You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'* (Righteous Brothers), *Unchained Melody* (Righteous Brothers), *He's A Rebel* (Crystals), *Be My Baby* (Ronettes) and *River Deep Mountain High* (Ike and Tina Turner). He was also responsible for the John Lennon hits *Happy Xmas (War Is Over)*, *Instant Karma* and George Harrison's LP *All Things Must Pass*. * In February 2003, he was arrested for investigation of homicide after the body of 40-year-old actress Lana Clarkson was found shot dead at his home in California. After a 2007 mistrial, he was convicted in 2009 and soon thereafter entered prison to serve a sentence of 19 years to life. He died in jail in January 2021.

JOHNNY CHESTER born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1941 (83)

* Australian singer He began his music career as a rock 'n' roller but in the late '60s moved into country music where he's had his greatest hit success. His best sellers include the novelty song *Shame And Scandal (In The Family)* (No 1 in Melbourne), *Gwen (Congratulations)*, *World's Greatest Mum*, *She's My Kind Of Woman* and *Glory, Glory*.

STEVE BISLEY born in Newcastle, NSW - 1951 (73)

* Australian actor. He played Jack Christey in the local TV drama series *Water Rats*. His other TV roles include 'Prowsie' in *Front Line*, Dr Henry King in *G.P.*, 'Nipper' in *Police Rescue* and Jim Knight in *Doctor, Doctor*. His films include - *Newsfront* ('78), *Mad Max* ('79) (as Goose), *The Big Steal* (as a sleazy car salesman) ('90) and *The Great Gatsby* (2013).

TEMUERA MORRISON born in Rotorua, New Zealand - 1960 (64)

* NZ actor. He played Jango Fett in the *Star Wars* movies, starred in *Once Were Warriors* and can be seen in the 2018 movie *Aquaman*.

LARS ULRICH born in Denmark - 1963 (61)

* Danish drummer, songwriter and actor. Ulrich met vocalist/guitarist James Hetfield and formed the heavy metal band Metallica in 1981. Their biggest hit singles in the '90s were *Enter Sandman*, *Fuel*, *Hero Of The Day* and *Until It Sleeps*. In 2023 they released a new album *72 Seasons*. It made No 1 in Australia. In Australia they have also had No 1 albums with *Metallica*, *Load*, *St Anger*, *Death Magnetic* and the 2016 album *Hardwired To Self Destruct*.

JARED LETO born in Bossier City, Louisiana - 1971 (53)

* US actor. His films include: *The Thin Red Line*, *Girl*, *Interrupted*, *Requiem For A Dream* and *Bladerunner 2049*. He played Jordan in the TV series *My So-Called Life* that ran from 1994-'95.

SIMON GOODWIN born in Adelaide, SA - 1976 (48)

* AFL player and now coach of Melbourne. He was appointed coach of the Melbourne Football Club in 2017. In 2021 the team won their first premiership (played in Perth) since 1964. He's a former captain of the Adelaide Crows and played in their 1997 and 1998 premiership teams.

EDEN SHER born in Los Angeles, California - 1991 (33)

* US actress. She played Sue Heck in the US TV sit-com *The Middle* that starred Patricia Heaton. The program ran from 2009-2018.

* She gave birth to twins in 2021.

Events

THE STORY OF THE KELLY GANG, Australia's first full-length multi-reel feature film, premiered at the Athenaeum Hall, Melbourne - 1906.

* Ned Kelly's actual suit of armour was borrowed from the Victorian Museum and worn in the film.

* First film to run for more than 60 minutes. About nine minutes of footage exists - some was found on a garbage dump in Melbourne.

JACK JOHNSON became the first African American boxer to win the world heavyweight title when he knocked out Tommy Burns - 1908.

JUDY GARLAND, billed as 'Baby Frances' (she was only 2 1/2), made her showbiz debut as part of her family's vaudeville act - 1924.

40,000 HORSEMEN premiered at Mayfair Theatre, Sydney - 1940.

* The Charles Chauvel-directed film starred Grant Taylor and Chips Rafferty. Australian actor Michael Pate played the Arab!

SYDNEY-HOBART YACHT RACE was raced for the first time - 1945.

* Nine yachts competed with Rani becoming the first winner. In 2020 it was cancelled for the first time (due to Covid-19).

First **CHARITY WALK** was organised by the World Refugee Fund and was held in England - 1959.

JIMI HENDRIX wrote the lyrics to his hit *Purple Haze* in a London dressing room - 1966.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR starring The Beatles had its world premiere on BBC television - 1967.

* British newspapers were unanimous in declaring the Beatles' film to be "rubbish" and "an utter waste of time." The EP containing the theme song was none the less a huge seller.

TIME MAGAZINE'S 'Man of the Year' was for the first time a non-human, the "personal computer" - 1982.

MUTTIAH MURALIDHARAN, Sri Lankan bowler, was no balled for throwing seven times in the second Test against Australia at the MCG - 1995.

* By coincidence, Ian Meckiff was in attendance at the match. He was also accused of "chucking" - and it was that incident which ended his Test career.

DARREN BEADMAN quit his horse racing career to attend Bible College - 1997.

* He resumed horse riding in 2000.

THE GIANT DROP, advertised as 'the world's fastest free-fall ride in the world', opened at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast - 1998.

* It falls from a height of 39 storeys and reaches a speed of up to 135 km/h. For 14 years, The Giant Drop held the record for the tallest drop tower in the world.

About **270,000,000 TREES** were felled or split by storms over a 48 hour period in France commencing on this day - 1999.

* 1.3 million homes were also destroyed.

IRAN experienced an earthquake registering 6.3 on the Richter Scale - 2003.

* More than 40,000 people were killed, an estimated 30,000 injured and up to 75,000 left homeless.

A TSUNAMI triggered by an earthquake in the Indian Ocean, that had a magnitude between 9.2 and 9.3, killed over 225,00 across a dozen countries - 2004.

* Indonesian officials estimated that the death toll there alone ultimately exceeded 200,000.

KERRY PACKER, Australia's richest man, died aged 68 - 2005.

* His father Frank died aged 67. His brother Clyde died aged 66.

PERTH had its hottest December day on record with a maximum of 44.2 C - 2007.

BIGGEST CROWD IN TEST CRICKET HISTORY gathered at the MCG when 91,112 watched Australia v England in the fourth Test - 2013.

* 93,013 attended a World Cup match (Aust v NZ) in 2015.

PENNY COOK, Australian actress and TV reporter, died aged 61 - 2018.

* She played Vicki Dean Bowen in *A Country Practice* and was a presenter on *Getaway*.

TOM SMOTHERS, US comedian and musician, died aged 86 - 2023.

* Tom and his brother Dick hosted *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* that ran in the US from February 1967 until April 1969, when the pair were fired after 72 programs due to their political content.

* He played acoustic guitar on John Lennon and Yoko Ono's *Give Peace a Chance*.

Birthday Bulletin

Friday 27th December 2024

Births

JEFF HOOK (Geoffrey Hook) born in Hobart, Tasmania - 1928. (Died aged 89 - 2018)

* Australian artist and editorial cartoonist. He is best known for his cartoons in Melbourne's Sun News-Pictorial later to become the Herald Sun. His trademark was a tiny fish hook that he hid in his cartoons. He retired from the Herald Sun in 1993.

SCOTTY MOORE (Winfield Scott Moore) born in Tennessee - 1931. (Died aged 84 - 2016)

* American musician. He played guitar for Elvis Presley in concert and on stage for 14 years until he quit to become a sound engineer. The last time he saw and played for Elvis was for Presley's 1968 TV special.

MIKE PINDER born in Birmingham, England - 1941. (Died aged 82 - 2024)

* Former keyboard player/vocalist with English group the Moody Blues. Their biggest hit came in 1968 with *Nights In White Satin*. It became a major chart hit in Australia in 1972. He left the group in 1978.

CHARMIAN CARR (Charmian Farnon) born in Chicago, Illinois - 1942. (Died aged 73 - 2016)

* US actress and singer. She was best known for her role as Liesl, the eldest Von Trapp daughter in the 1965 film *The Sound of Music*.

MICK JONES born in London, England - 1944 (80)

* Guitarist with American band Foreigner. Their biggest hits in Australia are *Cold As Ice* ('77), *Urgent* ('82) and the ballads *Waiting For A Girl Like You* ('82) and *I Want To Know What Love Is* ('85). The latter two songs were penned by Jones.

* In 1989 he released his debut solo album titled *Mick Jones* and produced Billy Joel's album *Storm Front*. He also was a co-producer of Tina Arena's album *In Deep*.

BOB BROWN (Robert Brown) born in Oberon, NSW - 1944 (80)

* Australian politician. Former Senator and Parliamentary leader of the Australian Greens. He resigned in April 2012.

GERARD DEPARDIEU born in Château roux, France - 1948 (76)

* French actor. His best known films in Australia are *Cyrano de Bergerac* (French), *The Green Card*, *The Man In The Iron Mask* and *The Life Of Pi*.

* His trial on charges of sexual assault has been postponed until March 2025 because he is in poor health. He is accused of attacking two women while shooting a film in 2021 in the highest profile #MeToo case to hit France.

IAN GOMEZ born in New York City, New York - 1964 (60)

* US actor. From 1990-1995 he played Larry Almada in *The Drew Carey Show*.

* He is married to Nia Vardalos - star of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. In the movie and TV series he played the role of Mike.

MATT SLOCUM born in Nashville, Tennessee - 1972 (52)

* Guitarist with the US trio Sixpence None The Richer. In 1999 they had a No 1 hit in Australia with *Kiss Me*.

HEATHER O'ROURKE born in San Diego, California - 1975. (Died aged 12 - 1988)

* US actress. She starred in three *Poltergeist* horror movies and died aged 12 of an intestinal ailment.

EMILIE DE RAVIN born in Mount Eliza, Victoria - 1981 (43)

* Australian actress and now an American citizen. She played Claire Littleton in the US TV series *Lost*. Her first starring role was on the fantasy drama, *BeastMaster* (1999). She plays the role of Belle in the TV series *Once Upon A Time*.

ALEX WILLIAMS born in Perth, WA - 1990 (34)

* Australian actor. He starred as Shane Warne in the 2023 mini-series *Warnie*. He's also known for *Underground: The Julian Assange Story* (2012) as Assange, *INXS: Never Tear Us Apart* (2014) as Kirk Pengilly, and *Brock* (2016).

MICHAEL MORGAN born in Townsville, Queensland - 1991 (33)

* NRL footballer. A former captain of the North Queensland Cowboys rugby league team. He was a member of the Cowboys' 2015 NRL premiership team.

OLIVIA COOKE born in Oldham, England - 1993 (31)

* English actress. In television she played Emma Decody in *Bates Motel* (2013-2017), Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair* (2018) and now plays Alicent Hightower in *House of the Dragon*.

HAYLEY WILLIAMS born in Meridian, Mississippi - 1988 (36)

* US singer/songwriter and musician. She is best known as the lead vocalist, songwriter, and keyboardist of the band Paramore. She featured on B.o.B's 2010 hit single *Airplanes* that made No 2 in Australia, US and Canada.

Events

SWEET ADELINE, a barbershop quartet favourite, was first performed - 1903.

PETER PAN was first performed at the Duke of York Theatre, London - 1904.

* J M Barrie began work on the play in 1903 based in part on the summer games he'd played at a cottage on Black Lake. Tinker Bell, the boys' loyal sidekick, was inspired by the twinkling light given off one evening by a lantern at the lake.

SHOW BOAT, a musical written by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened in New York City - 1927.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL opened in New York - 1932.

* It became the largest indoor theatre in the world. The music hall features heavily in Woody Allen's 1987 movie *Radio Days*.

The government of Tehran decreed that **PERSIA** would henceforth be known as **IRAN** - 1934.

DON BRADMAN scored 246 for South Australia v Queensland, in 364 minutes, including 20 fours - 1937.

LEONARD COHEN'S debut album *Songs of Leonard Cohen* was released on Columbia Records - 1967.

* It only made 83 on the US Top 100 album charts but made No 13 in the UK.

STORK, starring Bruce Spence, premiered at the Palais Theatre in St Kilda, Melbourne - 1971.

* It was based on the play written by David Williamson.

THE FACES split up and **ROD STEWART** went solo - 1975.

* Rod had been fronting the band as lead vocalist but had also released a couple of solo albums. The Faces had only a couple of minor hits in Australia with *Stay With Me* and *Cindy Incidentally*. Guitarist Ron Wood later joined the Rolling Stones and drummer Kenny Jones replaced the late Keith Moon in The Who.

BILLY HYDE, Australian drummer and founder of Billy Hyde Music, died aged 58 - 1976.

* He received his widest public recognition as drummer and singer with the GTV-9 orchestra on the *In Melbourne Tonight* show (1964-71).

SEAN 'PUFF DADDY' COMBS and his girlfriend **JENNIFER LOPEZ** were caught up in a nightclub shooting in Manhattan - 1999.

* In 2001, Combs, now calling himself P Diddy, was acquitted of taking an illegal handgun into the New York hip hop club. He was also cleared of a bribery charge relating to the incident.

GARY O'CALLAGHAN signed off after almost 50 years of broadcasting with 2UE Sydney - 2003.

* For 30 years he hosted breakfast on 2UE. He notched up 150 survey wins spanning over 4 years.

BENAZIR BHUTTO, former Pakistan Prime Minister ('88-'90, '93-'96), was assassinated by a gunman (suicide bomber) - 2007.

DELANEY BRAMLETT, US musician (Delaney and Bonnie) died aged 69 - 2008.

* Delaney & Bonnie & Friends had hits with *Never Ending Song Of Love* and *Free The People*. Delaney co-wrote the hit song *Superstar*.

NORMAN 'STORMIN' NORMAN' SCHWARZKOPF, US army leader, died aged 78 - 2012.

CARRIE FISHER, US actress and author, died aged 60 - 2016.

* Fisher was well known for playing Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* films. Fisher was the daughter of singer Eddie Fisher and actress Debbie Reynolds.

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN was named a Dame in the UK New Year's Honours List - 2019.

* She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her services to entertainment and charity.

Birthdays Bulletin

Saturday 28th December 2024

Births

DAME MAGGIE SMITH (Margaret Smith) born in Ilford, England - 1934. (Died aged 89 - 2024)

* English actress. She won an Oscar for Best Actress in 1969 for *The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie*. Her other movies of note include *Death On The Nile* ('78), *California Suite* ('78), *Evil Under The Sun* ('82), *A Room With A View* ('85), *Sister Act* ('92), *First Wives Club* ('96), *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2012), *Quartet* (2012), *My Old Lady* (2014) and *The Lady In A Van* (2015). In her later years she played Prof. Minerva McGonagall in the *Harry Potter* feature films and Violet Crawley in the TV series *Downton Abbey*. She died in September 2024.

* In 1994 she was made a Dame by Queen Elizabeth.

* Her first husband Sir Robert Stephens died in 1995. Her second husband Alan Beverley Cross died in 1998.

CLIVE ROBERTSON born in Katoomba, NSW - 1945 (79)

* Sydney radio announcer and TV presenter. He's hosted various television programs including *Beauty And The Beast*, *Newsworld* and *11AM*. He's worked on radio at 2GB, 2CN, 2UE, 2DAY FM and 2BL. From 2002-2004 he worked on ABC's Classic FM to present their breakfast program.

EDGAR WINTER born in Beaumont, Texas - 1946 (78)

* American blues guitarist. He had his only hit in Australia in 1973 with the instrumental *Frankenstein* (No 1 in US). He is the brother of guitarist Johnny Winter (who died in 2014). They are both albinos.

ALEX CHILTON (William Alexander Chilton) born in Memphis, Tennessee - 1950. (Died aged 59 - 2010)

* US singer. He was lead vocalist for the Box Tops. He was only 16 when they had their first hit in 1967 with *The Letter*. The Box Tops other best sellers were *Neon Rainbow* ('67), *Cry Like A Baby* ('68) and their final hit *Soul Deep* ('69).

* He also worked with the band Big Star which he formed in 1970 after the Box Tops split up.

DENZEL WASHINGTON JR born in Mount Vernon, New York - 1954 (70)

* American actor and director. He plays the character of Macrinus, a former slave who has become a wealthy arms dealer, in the new film *Gladiator II*. In 2023 he starred in the third *Equalizer* movie playing retired U.S. Marine and DIA officer Robert McCall. He won an Oscar for Best Actor for his role in *Training Day* (2001). His other movies include - *Philadelphia*, *Crimson Tide*, *Courage Under Fire*, *The Preacher's Wife*, *Remember The Titans*, *American Gangster*, *Man On Fire*, *The Book of Eli*, *Flight* and *The Magnificent Seven*.

* From 1982-'88 he played Dr Phillip Chandler in *St Elsewhere*.

* He has been married to the same woman since 1992 and has four children including twins. He admits to being old fashioned when it comes to family values and morality. He says - "*I'm a spiritual person - religious if you will. I look at society as it is now, and for those who aren't spiritual, it ain't working.*"

NIGEL KENNEDY born in Brighton, England - 1956 (68)

* English violinist. His album *Four Seasons* ('89) became the world's fastest selling classical record. In recent years he has performed jazz and other music genres.

CHAD McQUEEN (Chadwick McQueen) born in California - 1960. (Died aged 63 - 2024)

* US actor and the only son of Steve McQueen. He began his film career playing the character Dutch in *The Karate Kid* and *The Karate Kid Part II*. He died from organ failure at his ranch in Palm Desert, California on September 11, 2024. According to a friend, he had never fully recovered from an injury he sustained in a fall in 2020.

JOHN FITZGERALD born in Cummins, SA - 1960 (64)

* Australian tennis player. The 'Cockaleechee Kid' won 28 doubles and six singles during his 14 year career. He was a winner of the double titles at all tour grand slam tournaments. He retired from playing in 1995. From 2001-2010 he served as Australia's Davis Cup team captain.

TEX PERKINS (Gregory Perkins) born in Darwin, NT - 1964 (60)

* Australian singer and musician. He fronts the band Cruel Sea. The group is currently on the road supporting Cold Chisel on their current tour that began in October. The group has also released their first album in more than two decades, *Straight Into The Sun*. Their best selling albums include *This Is Not The Way Home* (1991), *The Honeymoon Is Over* (1993), and *Three Legged Dog* (1995).

PATRICK RAFTER born in Mount Isa, Queensland - 1972 (52)

* Australian tennis player. He won his first US Open title in 1997 pocketing \$850,000 and became the first Australian to win the title since John Newcombe in 1973. In 1998 he won his second successive US Open becoming the first Australian to win back-to-back US titles since Neale Fraser (1959-1960). In 1999 he was crowned the world's No 1 men's tennis player.

ALEX DIMITRIADES born in Sydney, NSW - 1973 (51)

* Australian actor. He played Eddie Mercia in the TV series *Young Lions* (2002) and starred in the movie *Heartbreak High* as well as the TV series that followed. He's also appeared in the TV series' *Wildside* and *Neighbours*.

* He also works as a DJ professionally across Australia.

JOHN LEGEND (John Stephens) born in Ohio - 1978 (46)

* US singer. His 2014 hit song *All Of Me* topped the charts in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands. It's one of the best selling singles of all time in Australia (15x platinum). In 2015 he combined with Meghan Trainor on the single *Like I'm Gonna Lose You* which made No 1 in Australia.

SIENNA MILLER born in New York City, New York - 1981 (43)

* US actress. Her films include the remake of *Alfie* (2004), *Factory Girl* (2006), *The Edge Of Love* (2008), *GI Joe: The Rise Of Cobra* (2009), *The Girl* (2012) and *American Sniper* (2014).

GORDI (Sophie Payten) born in Canowindra, NSW - 1992 (32)

* Australian singer/songwriter. Her best selling album is *Our Two Skins* (2020). Her 2015 single *Can We Work It Out* featured in the TV series *The Vampire Diaries*, her 2017 single *Heaven I Know* featured in *The Walking Dead*.

Events

The world's first **CINEMA SCREENING** with a paying audience was held in Paris - 1895.
* The Lumiere brothers, staged the first public projection of a film before an audience of 33 at the Grand Café in Paris.

VICTORIA scored a record 1,107 runs against NSW - 1926.

* It was the highest-recorded innings in first class cricket. The record still stands.

BLUE-LINE DRIVE-IN located in West Beach, Adelaide was the first drive-in located in SA - 1954.

* It was also the first to be constructed outside of Melbourne.

THE SAMURAI began on Australian television on TCN 9 Sydney - 1964.

* The Japanese TV series began screening in Melbourne, Brisbane Adelaide and Perth the following year. It debuted in Japan in 1962.

DENNIS WILSON, Beach Boys drummer, drowned aged 39 - 1983.

An Australian law was passed banning **CIGARETTE ADVERTISING** from appearing in the print media (but excluded cinema, billboard and sponsorship ads - 1989.

NEWCASTLE in NSW experienced an earthquake which registered 5.5 on the Richter scale - 1989.

* It killed 13 people and more than 160 were injured.

SHANIA TWAIN, 28, married record producer **ROBERT JOHN "MUTT" LANGE**, 45, - 1993.

* Lange co-wrote and produced most of her hit songs. The couple separated when Shania discovered her husband had an affair with her best friend Marie-Anne. After their divorce Shania went on to marry Marie-Anne's former husband!

WILD OATS XI won the Sydney - Hobart yacht race in a (then) record time of 42 hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds - 2005.

* It beat this record by 16 minutes in 2012. Wild Oats XI is a nine-times line honours winner of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

AIR ASIA QZ 8501 flight crashed into the Java Sea en route to Singapore from Indonesia killing all 162 people on board - 2014.

* The aircraft lost contact with air traffic control after asking to fly higher to avoid clouds.

Birthday Bulletin

Sunday 29th December 2024

Births

BERNARD CRIBBINS born in Lancashire, England - 1928. (Died aged 93 - 2022)

* British actor. He appeared in several *Carry On* movies as well as *The Plank* ('79) and *The Railway Children* ('70).

* He had a novelty hit in 1962 with *Right Said Fred*. (The English trio Right Said Fred named themselves after Cribbin's hit.)

MARY TYLER MOORE born in Brooklyn, New York - 1936. (Died aged 80 - 2017)

* American actress. She played the wife of Dick Van Dyke in his television show that ran from 1961-1965 and starred in her own successful '70s series *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*.

* Co-starred with Donald Sutherland in *Ordinary People* which won the Oscar for Best Picture in 1980.

JON VOIGHT born in Yonkers, New York - 1938 (86)

* American actor. He had his first major movie role as the naive hustler in *Midnight Cowboy* ('69). In 1978 he won an Academy Award for Best Actor in *Coming Home*. His other films include - *Deliverance* ('72), *The Champ* ('79), *Mission Impossible* ('96) and *Pearl Harbor* (2001). He also appeared with his actress daughter Angelina Jolie in the film *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001).

* His brother Wes Voight wrote the hit songs *Wild Thing* and *Angel Of The Morning* under the name of Chip Taylor.

LUCKY STARR (Leslie Morrison) born in Sydney, NSW - 1940 (84)

* Australian singer. In 1962 he had the biggest hit of his career with the novelty song *I've Been Everywhere*. He also recorded New Zealand, Japanese, English and American versions.

MARIANNE FAITHFULL born in Hampstead, England - 1946 (78)

* English singer. The former girlfriend of Mick Jagger had her first pop hit in 1964 with the Jagger-Richards song *As Tears Go By*. Her other hits include - *Come And Stay With Me*, *Summer Nights* and *The Ballad Of Lucy Jordan*.

TED DANSON born in San Diego, California - 1947 (77)

* American actor. He's well known for playing Sam Malone in the long running TV comedy series *Cheers*, and as the star of the comedy series *Becker* (1998-2004). He can also be seen in *Damages* (2007-2010) and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* as DB Russell. His films include *Three Men And A Baby* plus the sequel *Three Men And A Little Lady*. From 2016-2020 he appeared in the TV sitcom *The Good Place*.

* He married actress Mary Steenburgen in 1995. It was his third marriage. They both played themselves in the TV comedy *Curb Your Enthusiasm*

YVONNE ELLIMAN born in Honolulu, Hawaii - 1951 (73)

* US singer. Her two biggest hits came in 1978 with *Love Me* and *If I Can't Have You* - both written by Barry and Robin Gibb. who performed for four years in the first cast of the stage musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

DAVID BOON born in Launceston, Tasmania - 1960 (64)

* Australian cricketer. He played in 107 Test matches. His Test career began against the West Indies in 1984 -'85. Retired from first class cricket in 1999.

* He captained Tasmania 57 times at Sheffield Shield level with a record of 13 wins, 25 losses and 19 draws.

BRYAN "DEXTER" HOLLAND born in, California - 1965 (59)

* Lead vocalist/guitarist with US band The Offspring. He's the last remaining original member. They had a No 1 hit in 1999 with *Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)*. In 1998 they made No 2 in Australia with *Why Don't You Get A Job?* Their 2021 album *Let The Bad Times Roll* made No 2 in Australia.

ALED JONES born in Bangor, Wales - 1970 (54)

* Welsh singer, radio and television presenter. Since 2004 he's presented the UK program *Songs Of Praise*. As a teenage chorister, he gained widespread fame in 1985 with his recording of *Walking in the Air*, which reached the UK top five. He has also on radio for the BBC and Classic FM.

JUDE LAW (David Jude Law) born in London, England - 1972 (52)

* English actor. His films include *Gattaca*, *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *Artificial Intelligence*, *Road To Perdition*, *Cold Mountain*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. He also played Dr John Watson in the 2009 and 2011 *Sherlock Holmes* movies.

* He was in Australia in 2024 to film *Eden* a new movie directed by Ron Howard. When he attended Paul McCartney's 2023 Gold Coast concert, McCartney dedicated the song *Hey Jude* to him.

BRAD HODGE (Bradley Hodge) born in Sandringham, Victoria - 1974 (50)

* Australian cricketer. The high-scoring Victorian cricketer made his Test debut in November 2005 in Hobart. He retired from one day cricket and from playing for Victoria in January 2012.

TRAVIS HEAD born in Adelaide, South Australia - 1993 (31)

* Australian cricketer. He is contracted to South Australia and the Adelaide Strikers for domestic matches. He was formerly a co vice-captain of the Australian national team in Tests from January 2019 to November 2020.

Events

BUCKINGHAM PALACE became the residence of Britain's Royal Family - 1837.

TEXAS became the 28th state of the United States of America - 1845.

THE JAZZ SINGER became the first sound film screened in Australia when it premiered at the Lyceum Theatre in Sydney - 1928.

GERMANY launched its deadliest air raid so far of WWII on London - 1949.

* Over 10,000 bombs were dropped on the city as part of the Blitz. The Nazi bombing campaign against Britain lasted eight months and killed 43,000 civilians. More than two million homes were destroyed, 60 % of them in London.

BARBRA STREISAND, aged 13, made her first recording, *You'll Never Know* at Nola Recording Studios in New York - 1955.

* The song wasn't released until 1991 and was featured on her four album boxed set *Just For The Record*.

THE BEATLES began recording *Penny Lane* - 1966.

* It was finally finished 3 weeks later. On the final day Paul McCartney recruited a musician to play a B-flat piccolo trumpet. Paul McCartney and John Lennon would meet at Penny Lane junction in the Mossley Hill area to catch a bus into the centre of the city.

TIM HARDIN, US singer/songwriter, died aged 39 of a heroin overdose - 1980.

* He wrote *If I Were A Carpenter* - which became a hit for Bobby Darin as well as the Four Tops. Rod Stewart recorded his song *Reason To Believe*.

GUNS N' ROSES played their first gig in 7 years - 2001.

ANDREW DENTON married **JENNIFER BYRNE** at their home in Sydney - 2003.

Australian musician **BEN LEE**, 30, married **IONE SKY**, 38 year old UK born American actress and daughter of Donovan Leitch, in India - 2009.

A hoax was spread by a website stating that **VAN MORRISON** was about to become a father for the 4th time to his wife and manager Gigi Lee - 2009.

* Morrison is in fact married to former Miss Ireland Michelle Morrison who is also the mother of two of his children.

SAMOA switched time zones to bring it in line with Australia and New Zealand - 2011.

* This meant that they skipped December 30 and jumped to December 31 at midnight.

TONY GRIEG, South African born cricketer and Channel 9 cricket commentator, died aged 66 from an apparent heart attack - 2012.

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, retired German racing driver, suffered a serious head injury while skiing - 2013.

* He was airlifted to a hospital and placed in a medically induced coma having suffered a traumatic brain injury. The true state of his health has been kept under close guard for the past five years.

PELE, Brazilian soccer player, died aged 82 of cancer - 2022.

* He is widely regarded as the greatest soccer player the game has ever seen. He was the only player to have won the World Cup three times.

Birthday Bulletin

Monday 30th December 2024

Births

DEL SHANNON (Charles Westover) born in Coopersville, Michigan - 1934. (Died aged 55 - 1990)

* US singer/songwriter. His biggest seller was *Runaway* which was his debut hit in 1961. His other hits include - *Hats Off To Larry* ('61), *Little Town Flirt* ('63), *The Swiss Maid* ('62) and *Keep Searchin' (We'll Follow The Sun)* ('64).

* Died in 1990 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was reportedly depressed about non-musical matters.

PAUL STOOKEY (Noel Paul Stookey) born in Baltimore, Maryland - 1937 (87)

* Vocalist and guitarist with the trio Peter, Paul & Mary (who died in 2009). He wrote the *Wedding Song* specifically for Peter Yarrow's wedding. The song was a hit in Australia in 1973 for Petula Clark.

MIKE NESMITH (Robert Michael Nesmith) born in Houston, Texas - 1942. (Died aged 78 - 2021)

* American musician, songwriter and a member of the Monkees. He had three big solo hits with *Joanne* ('70), *Silver Moon* ('71) and *Rio* ('77). He penned the Monkees hits' *Mary, Mary* and *Listen To The Band*. In 2019 he toured Australia with Monkee Micky Dolenz.

* He wrote the 1967 hit song *Different Drum*. It was recorded by The Stone Poneys and featured a young Linda Ronstadt.

ANNE CHARLESTON born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1942 (82)

* Australian actress. She played the role of Madge Ramsay/Mitchell/Bishop in *Neighbours*. She left the series in 1992 but rejoined in 1997 and left in 2001. She also had a regular role in the UK series *Emmerdale*.

DAVY JONES born in Manchester, England - 1945. (Died aged 66 - 2012)

* British-born member of The Monkees. He sang lead on the their '60s hits - *Daydream Believer*, *I Wanna Be Free* and *Valleri*. He also had solo hits in 1967 with *Dream Girl* and *Theme For A New Love*.

* In 2009 he married a woman who was 31 years younger than him.

PATTI SMITH born in Chicago, Illinois - 1946 (78)

* US singer. Her band had their biggest hit in 1978 with *Because The Night* - a song she co-wrote with Bruce Springsteen.

JEFF LYNNE born in Birmingham, England - 1947 (77)

* Vocalist, guitarist, songwriter with Electric Light Orchestra. The UK group had success with their albums *A New World Record*, *Out Of The Blue* and *Discovery*. Their hits include - *Evil Woman* ('76), *Living Thing* ('77), *Telephone Line* ('77) and *Don't Bring Me Down* ('79). Apart from his work with ELO he has been a producer and was a member of the supergroup the Traveling Wilburys.

GREG MACAINSH born in Melbourne, Victoria - 1951 (73)

* Australian bass guitarist/songwriter with Skyhooks. Their hits include *Living In The '70s*, *Horror Movie*, *Blue Jeans* and *All My Friends Are Getting Married*. Their best selling album was *Living In The '70s*. In 1990 they had a No 1 hit when they reunited to record *Jukebox In Siberia*.

MATT LAUER born in New York City, New York - 1957 (67)

* US TV presenter. From 1997-2017 he was the anchor of the US early morning *Today* program. But he's been disgraced since his firing from the show in 2017 following sexual misconduct allegations.

TRACEY ULLMAN born in Slough, England - 1959 (65)

* British comedienne. Star of the US television program *The Tracey Ullman Show*. She also had success with the TV comedy *Tracey Takes On*. She also played Ally's psychiatrist *Ally McBeal* and appeared in the 11th season of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

* Her film credits include *Plenty*, *Bullets Over Broadway* and *Give My Regards To Broad Street*.

MONICA TRAPAGA born in Wahroonga, NSW - 1965 (59)

* Australian jazz singer and TV presenter. For 10 years she was a presenter on *Playschool* and from 1997-2003 she was a presenter on *Better Homes And Gardens*.

* She sings the *Bananas In Pyjamas* TV theme song.

JAY KAY (Jason Cheetham) born in Lancashire, England - 1969 (55)

* Lead singer with UK band Jamiroquai. Jamiroquai's album *A Funk Odyssey* made No 1 in Australia. Their hit singles include *Little L* (2001) and *Love Foolosophy* (2002).

ELDRICK "TIGER" WOODS born in Long Beach, California - 1975 (49)

* American golfer. One of the most successful golfers of all time. He won his 5th US Masters in 2019. His last major win prior to that was the US Open in 2008. He spent a record 660 weeks in the top 10.

* He became the youngest US Masters winner at the age of 21. When he won the US Open in 2000 he broke every major golf championship record.

ELIZA DUSHKU born in Boston, Massachusetts - 1980 (44)

* US actress. She played Faith in the TV series' *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* as well as *Angel*.

LE BRON JAMES born in Akron, Ohio - 1984 (40)

* US basketball player. He is widely considered one of the greatest players in NBA history. James is the all-time leading scorer in NBA history. He's played for the Los Angeles Lakers as well as Miami Heat and the Cleveland Cavaliers. James has won three NBA championships, four NBA Most Valuable Player Awards and two Olympic gold medals.

ELLIE GOULDING (Elena Goulding) born in Herefordshire, England - 1986 (38)

* UK singer/songwriter. In 2015 she made No 1 in Australia with the single *Love Me Like You Do*. She released her debut studio album, *Lights*, in 2010. The album debuted at No 1 on the UK chart.

JOE ROOT born in South Yorkshire, England - 1990 (34)

* English cricketer. He is a former captain of the English cricket team. In June 2022, he became the second batsman for England to score 10,000 Test runs. He also represents Yorkshire domestically.

MAX GAWN born in Victoria - 1991 (33)

* AFL player. He made his debut for the Melbourne football club in 2011. In 2020 he was appointed their club captain. He led the team to their first premiership since 1964 when the Demons defeated the Western Bulldogs in 2021 in the Grand Final played in Perth.

Events

FRANK SINATRA recorded *My Way* - 1968.

* Paul Anka wrote the English lyrics to the French song that became Sinatra's signature tune.

MCDONALDS opened their first restaurant in Australia at Yagoona, Sydney - 1971.

* It closed in 1994.

SHANE WARNE took 7 wickets for 52 runs for Australia in the second Test against West Indies - 1992.

* He was the first leg spinner to take seven wickets at the MCG since Arthur Mailey took 9-121 against England 1920-1921.

VADER, a professional wrestler, was fined \$164 for assaulting the host of *Good Morning Kuwait*. The interviewer asked Vader if wrestling was fake - 1997.

GEORGE HARRISON and his wife Olivia were attacked at their 'Friar Park' home in England - 1999.

* An Oxford jury decided that their attacker was not guilty of the attempted murder of George and his wife, on the grounds of insanity after hearing the extent of his mental illness. Harrison was stabbed 10 times and bludgeoned with a lamp stand. His wife fought off the intruder with a poker.

SOUTH AFRICA defeated Australia in a historic nine wicket win at the MCG - 2008.

* It was Australia's first defeat at home since 1992-'93.

BOBBY FARRELL, a member of the group Boney M, died aged 61 in Russia - 2010.

DREAM LOVER, the story of Bobby Darin starring David Campbell, opened at the Melbourne Arts Centre - 2017.

DAWN WELLS, US actress who was best known for playing Mary-Ann in the '60s series *Gilligan's Island*, died aged 82 - 2020.

BARBARA WALTERS, US TV journalist and talk show host on *The View*, died aged 93 - 2022.

* She spent more than 50 years in front of the camera and, until she was 84, continued to appear on *The View*. In one-on-one interviews, she was best known for delving, with genteel insistence, into the private lives and emotional states of movie stars, heads of state and other high-profile subjects.



Birthday Bulletin

Tuesday 31st December 2024
New Year's Eve

Births

SIR ANTHONY HOPKINS (Philip Anthony Hopkins) born in Port Talbot, South Wales - 1937 (87)

* Welsh actor. He won the 'Best Actor' award at the 93rd Academy Awards for his role in *The Father*. Aged 83 he became the oldest actor to win the 'Best Actor' Oscar. His other films include - *Elephant Man* ('80), *The Silence of The Lambs* ('91), *Legends Of The Fall* ('94), *The Remains Of The Day* ('93), *Shadowlands* ('93), *The Mask Of Zorro* ('98) and *Thor* (2011). He also appeared in the 1992 Australian film *Spotswood*. He was the narrator of *The Grinch* (2000).

* He played Alfred Hitchcock in the 2012 movie *Hitchcock*.

* In 2011, Andre Rieu released an album including a waltz, *And The Waltz Goes On*, which Hopkins had composed at the age of 19.

TIM CONSIDINE born in Los Angeles, California - 1940. (Died aged 81 - 2022)

* US actor. He played Mike Douglas in the TV series *My Three Sons* (1960-1965).

SARAH MILES born in Ingatestone, England - 1941 (83)

* English actress. She starred with Robert Mitchum in the 1970 hit movie *Ryan's Daughter*. Her other major roles have been in *Term Of Trial* ('62), *Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines* ('65) and *Lady Caroline Lamb* ('72).

SIR ALEX FERGUSON born in Glasgow, Scotland - 1941 (83)

* Scottish soccer manager. From 1986 to 2013 he was the manager of Manchester United. During his 26 years at the club, he won 38 trophies, including 13 Premier League and two UEFA Champions League titles.

* He was the longest serving manager in Manchester's history (overtaking Matt Busby's record in 2010).

ANDY SUMMERS (Andrew Somers) born in Lancashire, England - 1942 (82)

* UK musician. Best known as lead guitarist with The Police. Their hits include *Message In A Bottle*, *Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic* and *Walking On The Moon*.

JOHN DENVER (Henry John Deutschendorf) born in New Mexico - 1943. (Died aged 53 - 1997)

* US singer/songwriter. His '70s hits include *Sunshine On My Shoulder*, *Back Home Again*, *Annie's Song* and *Take Me Home Country Roads*. He was killed when his single-engine plane crashed north of Monterey.

SIR BEN KINGSLEY (Krishna Bhanji) born in England - 1943 (81)

* English actor. His best known movie is *Gandhi* ('82) which won him an Oscar for Best Actor. His other movies include: *Pascali's Island* ('88), *Dave* ('93), *Schindler's List* ('93), *Sexy Beast* (2000), *Hugo* (2011), *Iron Man 3* (2012) and *The Walk* (2015).

BURTON CUMMINGS born in Canada - 1947 (77)

* Canadian singer. He was lead singer with the Guess Who. They had '70s hits including *American Woman*, *Undun*, *Albert Flasher* and *Rain Dance*. He had a solo hit in 1976 with *Stand Tall*.

DONNA SUMMER (LaDonna Andrea Gaines) born in Boston, Massachusetts - 1948. (Died aged 63 - 2012)

* American singer. The '70s disco queen began her string of hits in 1975 with *Love To Love You Baby*. Her other hits include - *I Feel Love*, *Macarthur Park*, *Heaven Knows, No More Tears* (with Barbra Streisand), *On The Radio* and *She Works Hard For The Money*.

TIM MATHESON born in Los Angeles, California - 1947 (77)

* US actor. He can be seen in the films *National Lampoon's Animal House* ('78), *To Be Or Not To Be* ('83), *Fletch* ('84) and *Drop Dead Fred* ('91).

GEOFF MARSH born in Northam, WA - 1958 (66)

* Australian cricketer. He is a former Australian vice-captain and captain of Western Australia. In 1996 he was appointed national cricket coach in place of Bob Simpson who was axed. In 2000 he quit but remained as a State Selector.

* He has two sons who have played Test cricket: Shaun Marsh and Mitchell Marsh.

VAL KILMER born in Los Angeles, California - 1959 (65)

* US actor. His major movies include *Top Gun* ('86), *Willow* ('88), *Batman Returns* ('97), *Red Planet* (2000), *Deja Vu* (2006) and *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022).

REBECCA RIGG born in Gold Coast, Queensland - 1967 (57)

* Australian actress. She appeared in *A Country Practice* and *The Restless Years*. Her US credits include the movie *Jerry Maguire* and the TV series *LA Doctors*.

JOE MCINTYRE born in Needham, Massachusetts - 1972 (52)

* Youngest member of the US vocal group New Kids On the Block. They had two No 1 hits in 1989 with *You Got It (The Right Stuff)* and *I'll Be Loving You (Forever)*.

CRAIG REUCASSEL born in South Africa - 1976 (48)

* Australian radio and TV presenter and comedian. He is the presenter of Breakfast on ABC Radio Sydney. He was an original member of the satirical team, *The Chaser*.

PSY (Jae-Sang Park) born in South Korea - 1977 (47)

* South Korean rapper. In 2012 he spent several weeks at No 1 in Australia with *Gangnam Style*. It was a No 1 hit in 33 countries. He has had several No 1 hits in Korea.

MATTHEW PAVLICH born in Adelaide, SA - 1981 (43)

* AFL player. Former captain of the Fremantle football club. He is a six time best and fairest winner with the Dockers. He led them into their only grand final appearance in 2013 when they lost to Hawthorn. He retired at end of season 2016.

CATHERINE BRITT born in Newcastle, NSW - 1984 (40)

* Australian country singer. Winner of four Golden Guitar awards. She moved to Nashville in 2004, and has charted several singles on the US Billboard Hot Country Songs charts. She returned to Australia in 2008. One of her best selling singles is *The Upside of Being Down* (2004).

ANDREW "DREW" TAGGART born in Portland, Maine - 1989 (35)

* US musician. He's one half of the US duo Chainsmokers with Alex Pall. Their hits include *#Selfie* (2014), *Closer* (feat. Halsey) (2016), *Something Just Like This* (featuring Coldplay)(2017) and *Paris* (2017).

Events

PAVLOVA dessert was created by Bert Sachse, chef at Perth's Esplanade Hotel, in honour of ballerina Anna Pavlova - 1935.

BEACH BOYS gave their first concert under that name - 1961.

* They had also played under names such as - The Pendletones, Carl And The Passions and Kenny And The Cadets.

AC/DC performed their first official gig at Chequers Nightclub in Goulburn St, Sydney - 1973.

* The only surviving original member is now Angus Young. His brother Malcolm died in 2017. Originally Dave Evans was the lead vocalist. Ex-Master's Apprentice Colin Burgess (who died in 2024) was on drums and Larry Van Knedt played guitar.

MICK FLEETWOOD invited **STEVIE NICKS** and **LYNDSEY BUCKINGHAM** to join Fleetwood Mac - 1974.

RICK ALLEN, Def Leppard drummer, lost his left arm in a serious motor accident - 1984.

RICK NELSON, US singer and actor, died aged 45 in a plane crash in Texas - 1985.

* He was killed with six others including his fiancée Helen Blair.

ROD STEWART played to a record crowd of 3.5 million people on Brazil's Copacabana beach - 1994.

ROD STEWART performed at a New Year's Eve party concert at Melbourne's Crown Casino - 1997.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, 39 year old son of Robert, died in a skiing accident in Colorado - 1997.

PRINCE changed from an unpronounceable symbol back to his original stage name - 1999.

ANALOGUE MOBILE PHONE network in Australia shut down at midnight - 1999.

ASBESTOS was banned in Australia - 2003.

ONE LEAP SECOND was added to world time - 2005.

SUNLANDER set off on its final rail journey from Cairns to Roma Street station in Brisbane ending 61 years of rail service - 2014.

* Arrived new years day at 1.10pm.

Christmas Traditions & Origins



SANTA CLAUS It was Dutch settlers who brought the tradition of Santa Claus to America in the 17th century. The name is derived from the Dutch “Sinterklass.” (Saint Nicholas) The image of Santa as a jolly, fat old man dressed in a red suit and yo-ho-ho-ing behind white whiskers was invented by US cartoonist Thomas Nast in the

19th century. He drew Santa Claus for Harper’s Weekly in 1862; Santa was shown as a small elf-like figure who supported the Union! Nast continued to draw Santa for 30 years and along the way changed the colour of his coat from tan to the now traditional red. However, it was Coca-Cola® advertising that actually helped shape this modern-day image of Santa in a series of magazine ads starting in 1931. They featured St. Nicholas as a kind, jolly man in a red suit. Because magazines were so widely viewed, and because this image of Santa appeared for more than three decades, the image of Santa most people have today is largely based on Coke’s advertising.

SANTA’S ‘NORTH POLE’ HOME In 1882 Thomas Nast drew a cartoon showing Santa Claus sitting on a box addressed: Christmas Box 1882, St Nicolas, North Pole. Nast figured that the North Pole was a good place for Santa to reside.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS Before electric Christmas lights, families would use candles to light up their Christmas trees. This practice was often dangerous and led to many home fires. Edward H. Johnson put the very first string of electric Christmas tree lights together in 1882. Johnson, Thomas Edison’s friend and partner in the Edison’s Illumination Company, hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs and wound them around his Christmas tree. Not only was the tree illuminated with electricity, it also revolved. The string of lights were first produced in 1903, and cost an average American’s weekly wage.

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER He was created in 1939 in a story by Robert L May and then immortalised in the 1949 Gene Autry song Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer.

FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMP They are believed to have been first issued on Christmas Day in 1898 in Canada when they started a Penny Postal System and issued a stamp to commemorate Christmas. In Australia, Australia Post has issued Christmas stamps every year since 1957.

CHRISTMAS BONUSES This tradition for employees apparently began with US department store owner F W Woolworth in 1899 with \$5 for each worker for every year of service - but not exceeding \$25, which was a lot of money in the late 1800s.

HAM The traditional ham dish associated with modern Christmas. It is a ham from a pig that has been cured and sometimes smoked, that is cooked either in the oven or boiled. The tradition is suggested to have begun among the Germanic peoples as a tribute to Freyr, a god in Germanic Paganism associated with boars, harvest and fertility.

TURKEY Edward VII made eating turkey at Christmas fashionable, but it remained a luxury until the 1950s.

SANTA’S REINDEERS Folklore holds that only one reindeer originally pulled Santa’s sleigh. In 1823, Clement C Moore gave him eight reindeers in the story A Visit From St Nicholas. The eight reindeers are: Dasher, Prancer, Dancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

FIRST CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD was produced by UNICEF in 1949. The picture shown on the card was painted by a 7 year old girl.

MYER CHRISTMAS WINDOWS Each Christmas in Melbourne brings a shop window display at Myer’s southern frontage in the Bourke Street Mall. The windows were first created by Freddie Asmussen. He began his career at Myer in 1928 and in 1956 Fred managed to convince a sceptical management to try something totally new in the Bourke Street windows for Christmas. Instead of filling the windows with the usual range of gift giving ideas, and an abundance of product, he’d create a celebration of the Olympics, recognise the technological marvel of television, and make sure Santa was there to oversee the whole production.

ADELAIDE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT This parade is reported to be the largest of its kind in the world, attracting crowds of over 400,000. It began in 1933 and the pageant is staged in early November every year marking the start of the Christmas season. It is held in Adelaide’s city centre and comprises a procession of floats, bands, clowns, dancing groups, and performers.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING and CAKES Began as a plum porridge - a soft sweet mixture enriched with dried fruit, known as plums. In the 18th century, this evolved into a thicker plum pudding. In Australia one of the best selling puddings is sold by the Lions Club. These are especially popular in Victoria. However the Lions Christmas Cakes (which contain at least 50% Australian dried fruit) are popular in the other states.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (OUTDOOR) Since the late twentieth century, increasingly elaborate Christmas lights have been displayed in Australia, and driving around between 8 and 10 p.m. to look at the lights has become a popular form of family entertainment. In some areas Christmas lighting even becomes a fierce competition, with town councils offering awards for the best decorated house, in other areas it is seen as a co-operative effort, with residents

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CHRISTMAS TREES First decorated and used by the Romans. Germany, however, was the first country to adorn them with red apples, fruit, nuts and lighted candles. The tree is really the Norway Spruce. Originally grown in Norway and Russia, it is now found all over the world. By the early 1800s, people in Britain and the US put up trees in their homes.

XMAS This symbol for Christmas began in the early Christian church. X was used as a holy symbol. In

Greek it is the first letter of Christ's name (Christos).

BOXING DAY It dates back to when people who went to church on Christmas Day would put money in a special box for the poor. The priests would then distribute the money or gifts to poor people. The custom first originated with the Romans during the feast of Saturn. You would present a "gift in a box" to a person who was owed a debt of gratitude. The church was unable to eradicate the custom so it gave it a religious meaning. In Australia, the day is now synonymous with the 'Boxing Day Test' between the Australian Cricket Team and an international touring side at the MCG, the commencement of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and of course the Boxing Day store sales.

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY Up until 1875, US employees were expected to report to work as usual, unless Christmas Day fell on a Sunday.

CANDY CANE According to one story there was a candy maker who wanted to invent a candy that would tell the story of Jesus. First of all, he used a hard candy because Christ is the 'Rock of Ages'. The flavour of the cane is peppermint, which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is in the mint family and was used in Old Testament times for purification and sacrifice. Jesus is the pure Lamb of God, come to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world. The colour white was used to represent the perfect purity of the spotless and sinless Son of God. A large red stripe was used to represent the blood that He shed upon the cross to cleanse us from our sins. Finally, it was shaped like a shepherd's staff to remind us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

FIRST CHRISTMAS GREETING CARD It was made in 1843 by English illustrator John Horsley for Sir Henry Cole. The cards, at first handmade and very expensive, did not become popular until the late 1800s.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS From ancient Rome where people made them as a sign of victory in battle and for special celebrations.

CAROLS Comes from "choraulien" which were sung by Greeks to flute music and performed at different times through the year. Gradually they were only sung at Christmas. Most carols sung today were composed between 1700 and 1800, including O Little Town of Bethlehem and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

ST NICHOLAS He was a Christian priest who lived in Myra, in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), from 280-343AD. He became Bishop of Myra, and was known for his generosity. He did not like to be seen giving gifts, so the children were told to go to sleep quickly or he would not come.

HOLLY Evergreen tree with glossy leaves and red berries. Christians first used it to decorate their homes at Christmas because it had the holy colours of red and green.

NATIVITY SCENE St Francis of Assisi is responsible for popularising the nativity scene, but it most probably existed earlier. In about 1223 St Francis wanted to add hope and joy of God's love to his message by constructing a life-size manger scene with live animals, with the gospel sung around the scene.

CRACKERS or BONBONS Began in France where sugared almonds were sold in paper twists. Tom Smith, an English pastry cook, developed the idea in about the 1840s but added mottos and riddles to the contents. Then cardboard strips which break with a bang were added.

EGG NOG This originated in Victorian England. It was made of eggs, curdled cream, nuts, spices, roasted apples and mulled ale. The most popular modern day Egg Nog is the local Paul's brand. The specially packaged Christmas Egg Nog is sold a few weeks before Christmas and is sold in limited Australian supermarkets

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" PHRASE When this was first coined it literally meant "blessed" and "peaceful". The phrase "God rest ye merry gentlemen" means "blessed peaceful gentlemen."



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

It was popularised by Melbourne radio announcer Norman Banks. On his way home from work on Christmas Eve 1937 he noticed through an open window, an old lady singing along to her radio and holding a flickering candle.

This inspired him to organise a Carols By Candlelight event - which are now held all over the world. Today, the largest such event is the original Carols by Candlelight, held at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.