

DEM DAYS

with Bob Holland
Cartoons by Ian Jones



WHO HAD A BILLY CART?

Few of us wouldn't have had or built a billy cart growing up. All it took was some disused wood, some nuts and bolts, nails, a piece of rope and some old wheels. Old ball bearings soaked in kerosene also made good wheels. Who can forget the downhill races, bumps, bruises etc. that were all part of the billy cart experience back then.

WHO COULD EVER FORGET THE LEYLAND BROTHERS?

'Ask the Leyland Brothers' kept us amused each week back in the late 70's. Mike and Mal, along with their family, took us to all parts of Australia in answer to questions from viewers. Australia loved the Leyland Brothers and at one point 2.5 millions watched each week.

How times have changed....

These items appeared in the Sun News Pictorial - March 30, 1937

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC GAMES SUGGESTED

Miss L.C. Mills, former president of the Victorian Women's Amateur Athletic Association, said last night that her personal view was that special international games for women would be preferable to women taking part in the Olympiad.

"I think it desirable that women athletes of one nation should compete with those of other nations," she said.

"But there seems to be no reason why they shouldn't have an Olympiad of their own. That is my own view. It is not necessarily shared by others."



PLUCKING SHEEP INSTEAD OF SHEARING SUN WORLD CABLES

LONDON, Monday— Shearing sheep by means of the injection of a drug which causes the roots of the fleece to be loosened gently has been carried out on fine-wool sheep in Russia, The Times says.

The drug, thallium, was injected, causing the sheep to moult, the whole process occupying a fortnight. It is said that the sheep can be plucked in seven to 10 minutes at a stage before the final moult.

The Daily News WHEN NEWSPAPERS RULED!



Back in Dem Days, newspapers were a vital part of everyday life, almonst as important as eating each day.

Those were the days when newspapers came out twice a day and 50, 60 or more pages was not uncommon. Even the size of the pages of some papers were in-

credibly large, approx. 58cm x 40cm was not uncommon.

Newspapers sold for pennies or cents, for example the Sun News Pictorial in 1937 sold for 1 1/2d, the SMH for 5c in 1969 and the Daily Mirror and Daily Telegraph sold for 7c in 1971.

THE TOP 20 BOYS NAMES IN 1930

John (2,61)	Donald (670)	David (408)
Robert (1258)	Kenneth (639)	George (390)
William (1192)	Peter (609)	Edward (381)
Donald (1,096)	Raymond (591)	Thomas (379)
James (742)	Barry (581)	Allan (349)
Kevin (718)	Keith (432)	Richard (318)
Brian (674)	Colin (427)	

REMEMBER THESE?





This photo was taken during an ocean tall ships race back in 2011.
PHOTO: Bill Stanford

TURTLES OF THE BARRIER REEF

(From Sydney Mail, 1938)

In his diary, Captain Cook described the green turtles of the Great Barrier Reef as the “finest in the world”.

These amphibians are also the world’s most remarkable egg-layers.

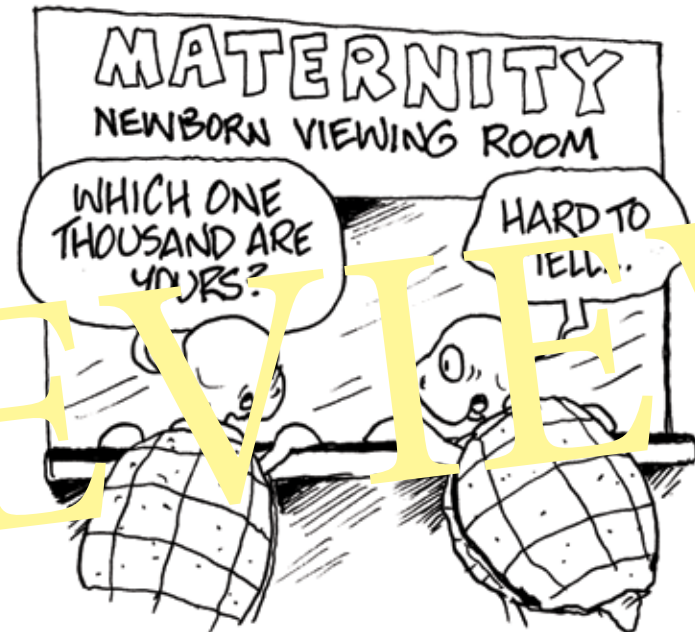
Recently, at Lady Musgrave Island, near the southern end of the reef, a turtle nest was discovered containing 23 eggs!

Only once before so far is it known has a larger batch of eggs been discovered in a single nest.

Three years ago, on Heron Island, near Lady Musgrave Island, a nest containing 287 eggs was found, and these eggs had been laid by the turtle in exactly 15 minutes!

The female turtle goes ashore to lay eggs every two weeks or so during the breeding season (the hot summer months), and in the aggregate she lays anything up to 10,000 eggs, or even more.

On one occasion a large turtle was dis-



sected in Queensland, and she contained a total of 1200 eggs in various stages of development, ranging in size from a small bead to a ping-pong ball. There was also a mass of immature eggs, and this mass must have represented another 2000 eggs at least. When Lieutenant Fowler, one of Captain Matthew Flinders officers, was marooned for three months in 1802 on

Wreck Reef (North Queensland), he also counted 1940 eggs in a green turtle he had captured for food. The mature turtle eggs are about the shape and size of billiard balls. They are white and have a soft glutinous shell, which is extremely tough, but which, strangely enough, shrinks up when exposed to the air for any length of time.

FASTER AIR MAILS REDUCTION OF ONE DAY

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, 1937)

The Postal Department advised yesterday that, following the introduction of the new flying boats on part of the England-Australia route, the time for the transport of mails from Sydney to London would be reduced from 13 to 12 days.

The time from London to Australia however, would remain unaltered.

It has been found practicable to carry the mails entirely by air, cutting out the rail link between Paris and Brindisi.

Instead of calling at Paris, the new route from Croydon to Alexandria will be via Marseilles and Rome.

A feature of the new service will be a more expeditious service of air mails to Rome and Marseilles.

THEN and NOW

Prize money for the Melbourne Cup in 1956 was 5 500 pounds.

Today, it's \$10 million!

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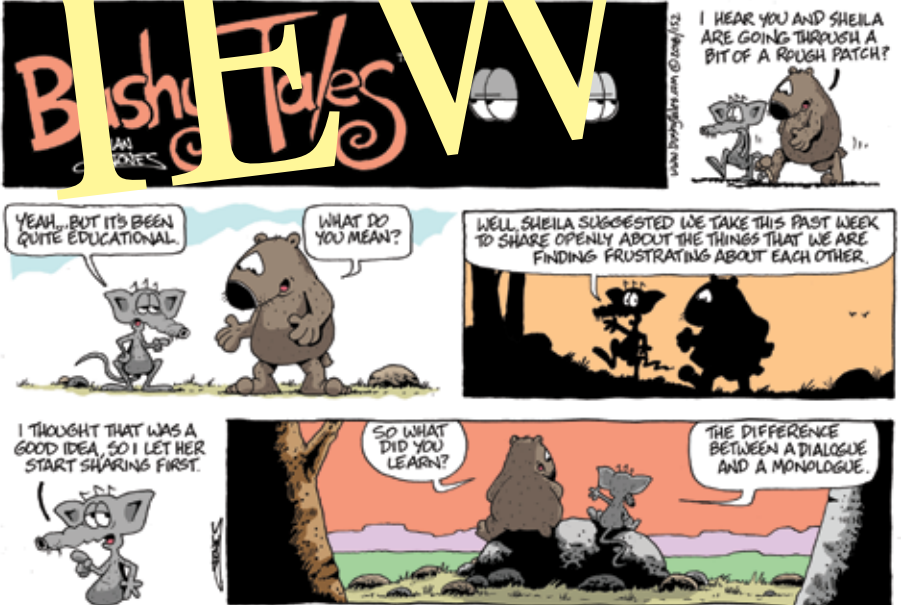
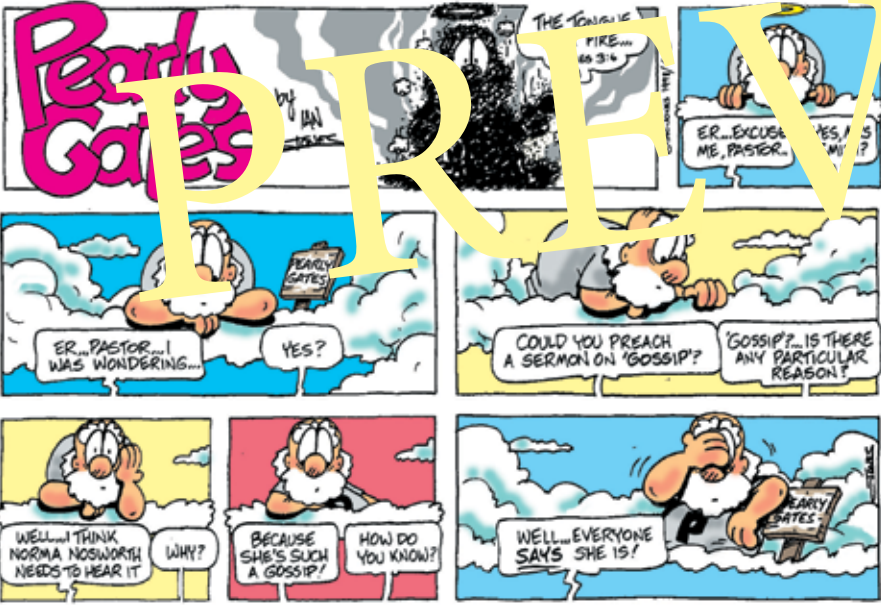
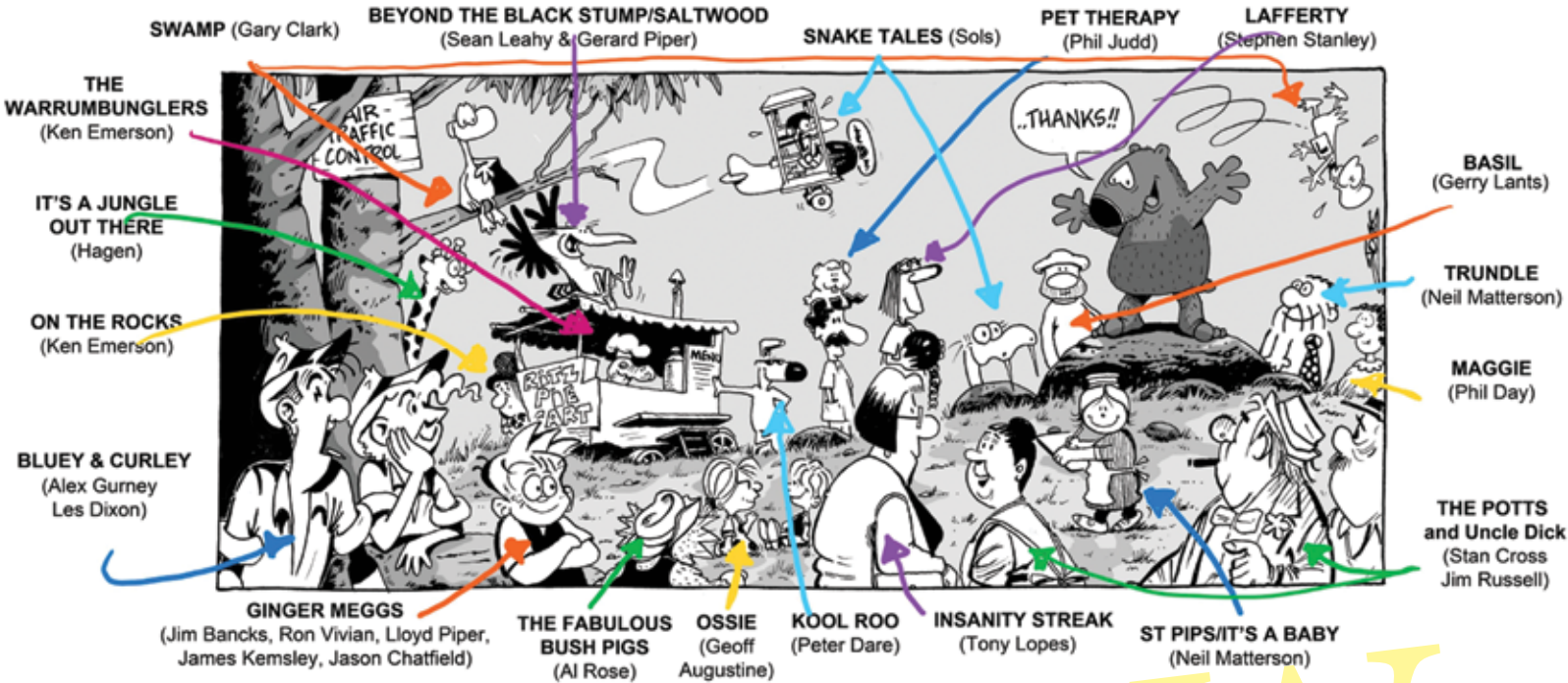
We LOVE our Comic Strips

For as long as we can remember, comic strips in newspapers have been part of our lives. Ian Jones is one cartoonist whose *Pearly Gates* and *Bushy Tales* comic strips have been entertaining people for years.

In this issue of Dem Days, Ian shows his extra-ordinary talent as he pays tribute to several of his fellow cartoonists who have brought joy and laughs into our lives over the years.



Cartoonist Ian Jones having a bit of fun with the main character of his *Bushy Tales* comic strips - Doug the Wombat



AN INNOVATIVE AUSSIE Australian film pioneer - Raymond Longford

With film-making for decades dominated by the giants of Hollywood, few realise the vital role that Australia played in the development of the industry. Way back in 1900, the Salvation Army's Magic Lantern and Photographic Department, filmed the world's first full-length feature movie, on a converted tennis court in Melbourne!

Kicking-off cinema-goers love of biblical epics, Soldiers of the Cross, featured cruel Roman centurions, Christian martyrs, a real lion and, with 600 actors, was three times longer than the American film, The Great Train Robbery, often listed by many cinema historians as the first "real" movie!

Into this world of innovation and experimentation, Raymond Longford was born in Melbourne in 1878. Making 40 films in a three-decade career, Longford started, and ended, his working life, involved with the sea, first sailing on a wind-jammer as a teenager, then deserting ship, and being involved in a bloody insurrection in Chile.

Later being employed as a travelling physician by the Indian medical service, he found a love of drama and joined a travelling theatrical group.



In 1908 and back in Australia, he saw the future of film, and became an actor and director with his first full-length release, A Fatal Wedding, made in 1911.

Longford was a cinematic pioneer, being one of the first directors to film inside, overcoming the problem of interior lighting by removing the roof from one set, and using a glass ceiling for another.

He was also one of the first directors to use the close-up of an actor's face to show intense emotion, inventing the technique locally at almost exactly the same time as overseas film-makers.

Making such early Aussie classics as The Silence of Dean Maitland, The Sentimental Bloke, and Steele Rudd's On our Selection, he fought a losing battle against official indifference, censors, Government interference, and bloody-minded bureaucrats.

He was once arrested for

shooting a scene outside his studio, with the State Government denying him the use of the historic Sydney Harbour convict island, Pinchgut (Fort Denison) for his iconic movie, Mutiny on the Bounty.

"Not only did they refuse to help me, but they actually opposed me in every possible way; baulked my schemes, prevented me from taking photographs... and cut my films to pieces when they were produced," he lamented later.

Opposing the monopoly actions of American studios, whose "block-booking" of cinemas essentially shut-out Australian films from all but the smallest movie theatres, he testified to a Royal Commission on the subject but to no avail.

With the Depression decimating local production in the 1930s, he made his last film in 1934, and returning to the sea, as it were, he spent his last years working as a night watchman at the P&O docks in Sydney, where he died in 1959.

Australian film-making did not return as a viable industry until the early 1970s, with one of our best-ever box-office years, ironically, being post-lockdown 2021, when the overseas movie-market was still in effective dormancy.

HOW'S YOUR MEMORY?

What year did the Sydney Harbour Bridge open?
Who skippered Australia II to win the America's Cup in 1983?

This little gem appeared in the Sun Pictorial on March 30, 1937

IT'S A FACT

That a Montana farmer milked his cows in his sleep.

For a long time he was troubled by some unknown person who milked his cows every night, and he was determined to catch the offender.

Although he waited several nights he saw no sign of the thief, yet when he did not keep watch his cows were dry in the morning.

Eventually he engaged two detectives, who hid themselves near the dairy at night. They were amazed to see the farmer himself appear, clad in pyjamas, and milk the cows, afterwards giving the milk to the pigs.

REMEMBER THESE?

Trafficators



The variety of flashing indicators on today's cars are a far cry from the trafficators we once used.

Do you remember driving with these trafficators/flippers?

Go back further and we just stuck our arm out the window! What are your memories?



Memory Answers: 1932 (19th March)
and John Bertram.



TV in the 70s

TV has certainly changed in the last 50 years.

Those days when the nation was glued to only three or four stations are long gone.

Gone too are the days when we were entertained with hugely popular shows like M.A.S.H., Dallas, The Waltons, Number 96, Homicide, Mission Impossible, Get Smart, Charlies Angels, The Sullivans, The Brady Bunch and Disneyland and not the myriad of so called “reality shows” today.

Who could forget “Goodnight Mum”, “Goodnight Dad”, “Goodnight Grandpa” and finally “Goodnight John-Boy”?



Fast forward to 2020....

The 10 Most Popular TV Shows in Australia in 2020 were 1. Married at First Sight, 2. The Block, 3. Lego Masters, 4. MasterChef Australia, 5. Bluey, 6. Stateless, 7. SAS Australia, 8. The Queen’s Gambit, 9. Farmer Wants a Wife, 10. Australian Ninja Warrior. How times had changed!

Changing names

Here’s an example of how naming your children has changed over time. These were the 10 most popular boys and girls names in 1979, 1999 and 2019.

1979	1999	2019
BOYS	BOYS	BOYS
Michael	Joshua	Oliver
Daniel	Jacob	Noah
Matthew	Liam	William
David	Thomas	Jack
Andrew	James	Leo
Benjamin	Matthew	Lucas
Adam	Daniel	Henry
Christopher	Nicholas	Thomas
Mark	William	James
Peter	Jacob	Ethan
GIRLS	GIRLS	GIRLS
Rebecca	Emily	Charlotte
Melissa	Jessica	Olivia
Sarah	Sarah	Mia
Michelle	Chloe	Amelia
Amanda	Olivia	Isla
Kelly	Georgia	Ava
Lisa	Emma	Chloe
Nicole	Isabella	Grace
Kylie	Sophie	Sophia
Belinda	Hannah	Ella

A Bit of History

- 1600s First recorded European landings
- 1642 Abel Tasman reaches Tasmania
- 1793 First free settlers arrive in Australia
- 1816 Establishment of the first bank
- 1850s Population increases three-fold in 10 years to pass the one million mark
- 1868 Transportation of convicts to Australia ends
- 1901 Commonwealth of Australia is formed
- 1911 The Australian Capital Territory is declared and an international competition held to design the new capital city of Australia
- 1913 The Capital is officially named Canberra
- 1938 The first day of mourning occurs in Australia
- 1949 Establishment of Australian Citizenship
- 1972 The Dept of Aboriginal Affairs is formed

A BLAST FROM THE PAST
It’s hard to imagine watching 6” and 8” TV screens today!

NOW AVAILABLE!

at all leading electrical retailers throughout Australia

129 g. s. (Battery extra)

6" MICRO TV RECEIVER

- All transistor.
- Completely portable.
- Operates from 240V. power point, or from car battery (12 volt).
- Or from rechargeable battery (optional extra).

STOP PRESS! To be released soon!

8" MICRO TV SET!

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT DATE. FULL DETAILS FROM OLIMS-HAYAKAWA ELECTRONICS PTY. LTD.



KING OF THE MOUNTAIN IN 1966

Everyone who has, in their younger days, ever had the pleasure of har-ing-around in a Mini Minor, will know the unique motoring experience it of-fers.

With none of the safety features of the modern motor vehicle, it did offer, none the less, a sense of a kid’s go-kart tearing around the streets, with abso-lutely sublime handling and accelera-tion, it was, simply, great fun!

Even the most committed race fan, may have forgotten, that for one shin-ing year in the swinging sixties (1966 to be exact), the Minis dominated the Bathurst race like no other car ever has.

Mount Panorama has a high strike rate when it comes to defining moments in Australian motor sport, which is not surprising given its unique layout and rich, colourful history.

The runaway success of the Morris Cooper S in the annual 500-mile (804 km) race held there on October 2, 1966 is a prime example.

The 1960s was a decade of unprece-dented social upheaval and the 1966 running of the annual 500-mile race for stock standard production cars at

Bathurst in October cer-tainly reflected that.

In 1966, the British Mo-tor Corporation Australia (BMCA) entered a three-car works team that comprised a mix of talented Austr-alian drivers paired with big name international ral-ly stars, that were also coming here to compete in the inaugural Southern Cross Rally held the week following the Bathurst race.

As a result, of the 53 cars that started the 1966 Gallaher 500, nearly half the field (24 cars) were Minis!

17 of the 19 cars entered in Class C were Cooper S’s, with the remaining seven being the cheaper Morris Cooper in Class B and Mini De Luxe/Mor-ris Mini 850 contending Class A.

The star-studded driver line-up in-cluded 1966 winner Barry Seton, plus Harry Firth, Bruce McPhee, Frank Mar-tich, Ron Harrison, and Fred Gibson to name a few.

British champion Paddy Hopkirk was paired with local Mini ace Brian Foley and European champion Timo Mak-



inen was paired with Queenslander John French, although Makinen was replaced by local Mini hot-shoe Steve Harvey before the race.

The third BMCA team car saw Finnish rally ace Rauno Aaltonen (the eventual winner) teamed with Sydney’s Bob Holden who had been racing Minis for a couple of seasons.

As expected, the Minis had won easily against feeble competition, with Cooper S’s filling the top nine places outright. In fact, the highest-placed non-Mini entry that year, was the first of two VCX Valiant 1808 automatics which came home 10th – six laps behind the winner.

It was to be the last time a naturally-as-pirated, four-cylinder car would win the Bathurst 500 outright. It was the end of an era...

Top movies of the 70s

Jaws, Star Wars, Rocky – which was your favourite flick from the 70s? While you ponder that, here’s a list of 12 of the most popular movies from the 1970s, along with those in starring roles.

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | The Godfather Part II | Robert De Niro |
| 2 | Star Wars | Harrison Ford |
| 3 | Jaws | Richard Dreyfuss, Roy Schneider |
| 4 | Alien | Sigourney Weaver |
| 5 | Apocalypse Now | Marlon Brando, Martin Sheen |
| 6 | One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest | Jack Nicholson |
| 7 | Rocky | Sylvester Stallone |
| 8 | Taxi Driver | Robert De Niro |
| 9 | Chinatown | Jack Nicholson |
| 10 | Close Encounters of the Third Kind | Richard Dreyfuss |
| 11 | All the President’s Men | Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman |
| 12 | The Sting | Paul Newman, Robert Redford |