



The Sydney Morning Herald

Impact *Report* 2021

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INTRODUCTION



As 2021 dawned in NSW with the air blissfully free from bushfire smoke and the northern beaches COVID-19 cluster contained, it felt like we had put to bed the dreadful 2020 and were in for a year of recovery and possibly, normality, to celebrate *The Sydney Morning Herald's* 190th birthday. None of us could have imagined what the Delta strain, and the draconian government response to it, could have brought. After four months of lockdown in Sydney and half the city under curfew, it would be easy to think that in 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic was the only news in town.

The *Herald* newsroom took the skills forged in the rolling crises of the prior two years and swung back into pandemic mode with full force, with rolling live coverage, data interactives, deep scientific inquiry, political analysis, empathetic human stories, podcasts, videos, and more.

This impact report, however, reminds us our pandemic coverage was just one element in a huge year of the *Herald* breaking the biggest stories and providing the most comprehensive high-quality coverage of our city, our state, our nation, and our place in the world.

The *Herald's* investigations team uncovered major lapses in governance at The Star casino, serious corporate failures in the lead-up to Australia's biggest public float of the year, a travesty of historical proportions at the underfunded National Archives of Australia, neighbourhood Nazis, disturbing practices by one of Australia's most high-profile cosmetic surgeons and shocking dysfunction within regional hospitals across NSW. Decades of dedicated reporting on the dealings of former Labor minister Eddie Obeid and his associates, led by Kate McClymont, was vindicated with the sentencing of Obeid (for the second time), his son, Moses, and ministerial colleague Ian Macdonald over a dodgy licencing deal worth \$30 million.

Throughout 2021 *Herald* journalists, including those in our four foreign bureaus, have led the coverage on big breaking stories, including the downfall of former NSW premier Gladys Berijiklian, the COP26 summit in Glasgow, the joyous Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, our return to political polling, the geopolitical challenges we face in the Indo-Pacific, our relationship with China and the new AUKUS alliance and its impact on our friendship with France.

Alongside all this news coverage, we have continued to provide our readers with the best food, travel, culture and lifestyle coverage in the business.

The *Herald* enters 2022 stronger than it's ever been. The *Herald* continues to grow a solid subscriber base and we remain the country's most read masthead across print and online. We're hiring more people, including bringing on board a new round of trainee reporters - the next generation of journalists who can look forward to a very bright future at Australia's most well-read and respected masthead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tory Maguire'.

Tory Maguire
Executive editor

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

#1

AUSTRALIA'S MOST-READ
MASTHEAD ACROSS PRINT
AND ONLINE

490



STAFF MEMBERS
NATIONALLY

53,810

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

24

NEW POSITIONS
NATIONALLY,
INCLUDING:

- + 10 X TRAINEES
- + 5 X DIGITAL PRESENTATION STAFF
- + 3 X SOCIAL MEDIA PRODUCERS
- + 2 X AUDIO PRODUCERS
- + 2 X NEWSLETTER STAFF
- + 2 X INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS REPORTERS

8 COMMENT
MODERATORS
PUBLISHED

1,326,076

COMMENTS
IN 2021

5448

OPINIONS SHARED
FROM 1500 VOICES

866

LIVE BLOGS
STAFFED



 12 PODCASTS DOWNLOADED
10MILLION TIMES

39,299,762

NEWSLETTERS DELIVERED

OUR JOURNALISM LED TO...

MORE OF FRAUDSTER **MELISSA CADDICK'S**

victims coming forward with crucial information, including her earlier financial crimes.

It was our reporting that revealed Caddick had forged CommSec accounts showing astonishing returns.

The NSW gaming regulator calling a public inquiry into The Star that will begin in 2022, as well as two inquiries into Crown: the Bergin Inquiry in NSW and the Finkelstein Royal Commission in Victoria. Both found

CROWN UNFIT TO HOLD A LICENSE

and called for new laws and new casino regulatory agencies.

THE RESIGNATION OF NUIX CEO AND CFO.

A criminal investigation launched by the Australian Federal Police into Nuix co-founder, Tony Castagna.

An ASIC investigation into the share trading of Nuix by CFO Stephen Doyle, his brother and father, which revealed they were facing a **criminal investigation into insider trading.**

A PETITION AND

\$67.7 MILLION

of federal government funding to save the most at-risk documents in the **National Archives.**

AN INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED

by the Victorian government into cosmetic surgeon

DR LANZER

who, within a week of our investigation being published, said he would **no longer work as a medical practitioner**, in any form, in Australia. A month later the national health regulator announced a **sweeping review** of the multibillion-dollar cosmetic surgery industry.

Fresh probes by counter-terror police into the rise of

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM IN AUSTRALIA.

Calls from the Coalition and Labor for the **National Socialist Network** to be proscribed as a **terror group.**

A parliamentary inquiry into **regional hospitals** across NSW, triggered by our reporting last year. Then-deputy premier and Nationals leader John Barilaro described the findings as

“HORRIFIC”.

Two fresh

FEDERAL POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

into **Ben Roberts-Smith**, in addition to two existing war-crimes probes.

The nation's most notoriously corrupt politician, former Labor minister

EDDIE OBEID, HIS SON MOSES OBEID

and former resources minister **Ian Macdonald** being found

GUILTY

over their roles in a crooked tender for an exploration license that delivered a \$30 million windfall to the Obeid family.

The guilty verdicts came after more than two decades of reporting by Kate McClymont.

Three new statues in Canberra to

ADDRESS THE LACK OF DIVERSITY

reported by Rob Harris. His suggestion to honour the first two women and first Indigenous Australian in Federal Parliament - Enid Lyons, Dorothy Tangney and Neville Bonner respectively - was announced by Scott Morrison within months of Harris' reporting.



MELISSA CADDICK

Eastern suburbs businesswoman Melissa Caddick went missing in November 2020 after tricking friends and family into parting with more than \$30 million. Photo: Supplied



The disappearance of Dover Heights woman Melissa Caddick in mid-November 2020 captivated the country. How had a seemingly successful eastern suburbs businesswoman tricked her friends and family into parting with more than \$30 million? Where had the money gone and what had happened to her?

It was the *Herald* who revealed that Caddick had forged CommSec accounts showing astonishing returns. Her forgeries had six digits, whereas genuine CommSec accounts had eight.

For a number of friends and family, this simple revelation was devastating. As many later told me, it was through my reporting that they first realised the ghastly truth that they too had been financially ruined by someone they thought was a friend.

But where had all the money gone? Guests who attended Caddick's second wedding – to her hairdresser boyfriend Anthony Koletti (who was not aware of or involved in any of her wrongdoing) – would have been horrified to learn that they were paying for the French

champagne to flow all night, for the bride's three outfit changes and for the month-long honeymoon in the glamorous ski resort of Aspen.

The day after Federal Police executed search warrants and seized her fabulous jewels, designer clothes and shoes, Caddick seemingly vanished into thin air.

In late February, just as warrants had been issued for her arrest, the remains of Caddick's foot washed up on a remote beach on the NSW South Coast. Rather than bring the story to a close, this bizarre turn of events just made the story even more intriguing. Where was the rest of her body? Was she really dead?

The Caddick stories, which have been nominated for a Walkley Award, prompted others to come forward with further crucial information, including earlier financial crimes.



Kate McClymont
Investigative reporter

THE FALLEN STAR

Our investigations into Australia's biggest casino companies - The Star Entertainment Group (owner of The Star Sydney) and Crown - have led to sweeping changes to Australia's gaming sector and had a huge impact on those businesses.

In 2021, having already undertaken intensive investigations into Crown, we turned our attention to the question of whether The Star, which had portrayed itself as a cleanskin, was as dirty as its Melbourne rival. The answer was yes. Our investigation - which pieced together police files, data from sources inside Star and leaked company records - revealed how The Star has enabled suspected money laundering by drug syndicates and Chinese high rollers.

One alleged drug trafficker was the biggest poker machine player in the recent history of the Sydney casino, turning over tens of millions of dollars despite having no significant source of income. Rather than act on warning signs that it was enabling potential financial crime, Star gave incentives to people involved in alleged serious crime to keep gambling.

We also uncovered internal reports showing Star's executives and board were warned in 2018 that the casino firm was failing to combat money laundering. Our revelations led to the NSW gaming regulator calling a public inquiry that will begin in 2022. Star's board will face the same scrutiny as Crown's directors have, given our revelations that Star engaged in near-identical behaviour.

This was journalism that shone a light on powerful corporate interests and had real impact. It came after our reporting on Crown in 2019 and 2020 prompted and then informed three commissions of inquiry in three states. This journalism began with tip-offs from law enforcement insiders and Jenny Jiang, a brave Crown whistleblower. These sources all passed over information about how Crown prioritised high-roller revenue over good governance, anti-money laundering controls and its social licence.

After the information was painstakingly corroborated with more sources and internal Crown files, we published a series of stories. Crown went aggressively on the defensive, denying all wrongdoing and attacking our journalists. We held strong, knowing our information was solid. We kept publishing, including reports in 2020 and 2021 which revealed more about how Crown had got into bed with organised criminals.

This year, our work was vindicated, most notably by the Bergin Inquiry in NSW and the Finkelstein Royal Commission in Victoria. Both found Crown unfit to hold a licence and called for new laws and new casino regulatory agencies.



Nick McKenzie
Investigative reporter



↑ Illustration: Matthew
Absalom-Wong





↑ Nuix chief executive Rod Vaudrey at the bell ringing ceremony when the company was listed on the ASX in late 2020. Photo: Ben Rushton

Nuix founder Tony Castagna arrives at the company's headquarters in April. Photo: Dominic Lorrimer →



NUIX

Sydney-based data analytics company Nuix received glowing coverage when it listed on the ASX as the biggest float of the year, almost tripling in value in the first few weeks of listing.

We went behind the hype and uncovered a prospectus that didn't paint the full picture. We outlined in devastating detail how the regulators failed and how a small group of Nuix insiders walked away with millions of dollars.

So serious were the problems at Nuix, as [revealed in our investigation](#), that \$3 billion was wiped from the value of the company in a matter of months.

Our investigation, alongside *The Australian Financial Review's* Neil Chenoweth, went back almost two decades, trawling through court records, company records, leaked material, financial accounts and contacts, and uncovered serious issues inside the company. Those issues included poor governance, years of missed financial forecasts and a controversial options package that allowed former chairman and founder Tony Castagna to walk away from the initial public offering with \$80 million from just a \$3000 investment, as well as documentation which raised serious questions about when Nuix CFO Stephen Doyle sold shares to his brother in tax-friendly Switzerland.

It delved into the role of Nuix's major shareholder, Macquarie, and how far it would go to protect its own.

The fallout from our investigation into Nuix was profound. The chief financial officer quit, the CEO resigned and the [Australian Federal Police launched a criminal investigation into the co-founder, Mr Castagna](#). Then the regulator ASIC investigated the share trading of Nuix by Stephen Doyle, his brother and father which [culminated in them now facing a criminal investigation into insider trading](#). No charges have been laid to date. Separately, the Macquarie-backed company is facing separate investigations into false and misleading statements in the prospectus.



Adele Ferguson
Investigative reporter



Kate McClymont
Investigative reporter

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Mention the word archives and images of dust-covered boxes piled upon each other along rows and rows of shelving come to mind. But those boxes contain histories and stories that without protection literally fade away.

That was the plight facing the National Archives of Australia, and it was the *Herald* that revealed the irreversible damage facing the history of this nation. Speeches of John Curtin, the only register of births, deaths and marriages from Pitcairn Island, tapes of the Stolen Generation royal commission and the papers of suffragettes Adela Pankhurst and Celia John were all slowly disintegrating within the Archives' vast holdings.

We revealed the issue facing the Archives which, over a number of years, had suffered funding cuts that had led to a situation where it could no longer protect its holdings.

We were able to show visual examples of the deterioration, giving readers an idea of what this loss of history looked like. From a direct descendant of one of the Bounty mutineers to global historians, the situation facing the Archives gained an international audience.

After our report on the issue was brought to the attention of Prince Charles, Australian historians organised a petition to the federal government to highlight the damage. Cabinet ministers privately confided they would have been unaware of the situation but for our stories.

Without these stories, the groundswell of anger locally and internationally would never have been brought to bear on the federal government. The impact of the stories became evident on July 1 when the federal government committed \$67.7 million towards saving the most at-risk documents. As historians acknowledged after the government's actions, this series of stories saved Australian history.



Shane Wright
Senior economics correspondent



Katina Curtis
Political reporter

*Deteriorated nitrate
negatives, prints and scans
of Italian prisoners of war in
Australia. Photos: Supplied by
National Archives of Australia*





Whistleblowers Lauren Hewish (left) and Justin Nixon (right) spoke up about the practices at Dr Daniel Lanzer's cosmetic surgery (centre). Photos: Simon Schluter, Joe Armao

COSMETIC COWBOYS

A joint investigation by the *Herald*, *The Age* and *Four Corners* went behind the glitz and glamour of the multibillion-dollar cosmetic surgery industry and exposed alarming practices, including safety and hygiene issues and a regulatory system that is failing to protect Australians.

It examined famous cosmetic surgeon Daniel Lanzer and his network of clinics, uncovering botched surgeries and questionable activities such as staff taking home human fat to store in their fridges to avoid questions from regulators during an audit, nurses using expired medication, nurses filling in blank signed prescriptions, staples used in the front of the ear on facelifts and a dangerous lack of care while performing liposuction. There was also evidence that Google reviews might not be all they seem, with some five-star reviews written by staff and an unhappy patient paid to replace a negative online review.

Cosmetic Cowboys highlighted deficiencies with the regulatory system, which has allowed doctors with basic medical degrees to call themselves cosmetic surgeons and do facelifts, liposuction and abdominoplasty.

This was a story Dr Lanzer tried to stop being told with an urgent interlocutory injunction in the Federal Court days before publication.

The fallout from our investigation was immediate. Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt referred the allegations to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency for an urgent investigation. The Victorian government launched an investigation into Dr Lanzer and said it would examine changes to cosmetic surgery rules. The Australian Medical Association called on the country's health ministers to close the "loophole" that allows anyone with a basic medical degree to call themselves a "cosmetic surgeon". Dr Lanzer launched an "independent" investigation into his clinics.

By the end of the week the story was published, the regulator said the Medical Board of Australia had accepted an undertaking from Dr Lanzer that he would not practise as a medical practitioner, in any form, in Australia.

It said its inquiries into Dr Lanzer's clinics were ongoing.

A month later the regulator announced a sweeping review of the cosmetic surgery industry.



Adele Ferguson
Investigative reporter

NSW REGIONAL HOSPITALS

This year a parliamentary inquiry triggered by a *Herald* investigation revealed shocking depths of dysfunction within regional hospitals across NSW. The inquiry was inundated with more than 700 submissions as it travelled across the state for 10 months, holding public hearings.

Among the most disturbing of the revelations was that four critically ill patients had been left to die in hospitals that did not have a single doctor on site. The inquiry heard extraordinary accounts of how hospitals were improvising to cope with a lack of staff: using cleaners to monitor dementia patients, tea ladies to check on newborns and an instance where a cook was sent to care for a stroke patient in a car park because no hospital staff were available to admit them.

Doctors and nurses courageously came forward, describing times where they would run out of basic supplies, including incontinence pads and antibiotics, and of massive rates of burnout among exhausted staff.

The *Herald* exclusively revealed allegations from a group of senior doctors that the preventable deaths of patients were being routinely covered up by hospital administrators. They told of a toxic culture where doctors were deemed “troublemakers” for speaking out about safety concerns.

The *Herald* was inundated with further patient stories, detailing the plight of an Aboriginal woman, Gwendoline May, whose amputated leg was rested on a dirty rubbish bin, and a man, Peter Carter, who nearly died from flesh-eating bacteria after he was sent home twice from Broken Hill Hospital.

Then-deputy premier and Nationals leader John Barilaro described allegations about the state of the system as “horrific”. The parliamentary inquiry was brought about as a result of the *Herald*’s investigations into the deaths of people in western NSW, including the fathers of high-profile Sydney journalists Liz Hayes and Jamelle Wells. It will hand down its findings in early 2022.



Carrie Fellner
Investigative reporter



Kim May with her brother, Kenry, holding a photo of their late mother and father. They have serious concerns about the treatment of their mother, Gwendoline May, in hospital. Photo: Louise Kennerley





Jamelle Wells and Liz Hayes fronted an inquiry into regional hospitals to speak about the treatment of their fathers. Photo: Louise Kennerley

NSW RAIL

The NSW government has long prided itself as a good economic manager.

As part of a complex investigation that involved gaining access to high level insiders and analysing hundreds of confidential documents and past budgets, we exposed how the NSW government has been artificially inflating the state's budgets by billions of dollars a year.

It did so by shifting the costs of NSW's \$40 billion rail network onto a corporation known as the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE), which it started to create in 2013.

A key reason for setting up TAHE was to bolster the "state's short and medium-term fiscal results" and to "achieve a positive state budget position". In 2018, Treasury was able to use this entity to inflate the budget to help mask the government slipping into deficit.

Our investigation showed that as far back as 2014, senior ministers were warned that, while TAHE was designed to artificially bolster the budget, it posed safety and operational risks for the NSW public transport system. There were concerns that the new structure could repeat the 1990s carve-up of NSW railways and the resulting gaps in safety and investment accountabilities – key factors in the 1999 Glenbrook and 2003 Waterfall rail disasters. Despite these warnings, the government pushed ahead with turning TAHE into a fully fledged corporation.

The stakes are high. We revealed how NSW Treasury pressured accounting giant KPMG to delete or amend aspects of a scathing report that concluded TAHE should be wound up. A former head of the state's transport agency, Rodd Staples, was sacked without cause, just months after he raised concerns that TAHE posed safety risks for NSW railways.

The fallout from the investigation has been significant. It prompted calls for ICAC to investigate the \$40 billion entity, triggered a parliamentary inquiry and led to the NSW Auditor-General stepping up its own investigation.



Adele Ferguson
Investigative reporter



Matt O'Sullivan
City editor

↑ Illustration: Matthew
Absalom-Wong



Left: Brain surgeon Charlie Teo at an office in Rosebery in August. Photo Nick Moir. Right: The surgeon settled a claim for operating on the wrong side of Michelle Smith's brain. Photo: Wolter Peeters



CHARLIE TEO

There are some investigations where a journalist knows that they are likely to be publicly hounded for daring to raise issues about a hero, a miracle-worker, someone who is adored by the media and revered by the public.

"It would be like shooting Bambi," another medical professional suggested of any attempt to hold prominent neurosurgeon Charlie Teo to account.

My initial investigation into Dr Teo in 2019 revealed inappropriate behaviour, less than satisfactory post-operative care for some patients and exorbitant fees. Cash-strapped families were selling their houses, borrowing money or crowd-funding because of the belief – perpetuated by Dr Teo and the media – that he was their last hope.

This year I returned to the Tale of Two Teos: the adored neurosurgeon whose superior surgical skills allowed him to operate where others can't/won't. Or the flawed doctor who neatly sidesteps the medical creed: "First, do no harm." Just because you can operate doesn't always mean you should. In August the *Herald* revealed that in 2019 Dr Teo settled a negligence lawsuit for operating on the wrong side of a woman's brain.

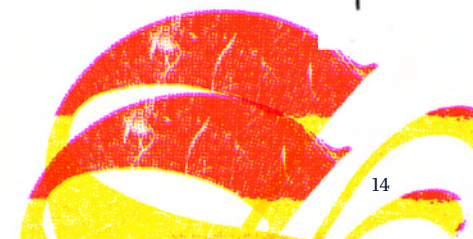
This followed news that conditions had been placed on his medical licence after an urgent hearing of the NSW Medical Council into complaints that were deemed of such seriousness that the health and safety of the public might be at risk. The Health Care Complaints Commission is still investigating those complaints.

The stories on Dr Teo brought forward other patients who had troubling results with the neurosurgeon. Some of these people felt empowered to report their outcomes to the healthcare regulator.

It is important for our readers to know that the *Herald* reports "without fear or favour" and that even the most lauded in their profession are not above scrutiny.



Kate McClymont
Investigative reporter





For months, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and 60 Minutes had an infiltrator inside Australia's largest neo-Nazi group, the National Socialist Network. Photo: Supplied

NAZIS NEXT DOOR

Nazis Next Door, which combined eight months of investigative reporting with an undercover operation, was an unprecedented exposé of the rise of right-wing extremism in Australia. Its impact was immediate: counter-terror police launched fresh probes; the Coalition and Labor both called for the National Socialist Network to be proscribed as a terror group and for laws to be changed if the existing proscription regime didn't allow this. Senior members of the network lost their jobs in government agencies and large companies, and the group was evicted from its headquarters.

This ground-breaking investigation was told in two lengthy online features with videos and graphics, various newspaper reports and over two weeks on *60 Minutes*. It has reshaped public understanding of this threat, previously hidden in some of our suburbs.

It has not been an easy reporting task. Since publication, the reporters involved have received threats. My photo has been circulated in extremist chat rooms with a noose above my head, and I have been viciously trolled for my Jewish heritage.

The story involved boots-on-the-ground journalism (on the hiking trails of the Grampians to track the group) and months spent cultivating sources inside neo-Nazi



Nick McKenzie
Investigative reporter

circles and policing agencies. After months of investigation, we then worked with an infiltrator who, after extensive legal and security advice, made secret recordings of the group that allowed us to penetrate its encryption and vetting protections and expose it from the inside.

The undercover vision we obtained revealed the National Socialist Network's support of other Australians accused of right-wing terrorism, as well as the Christchurch terrorist. We captured evidence of criminal activity, discovered its methods of raising funds and revealed its secret plans to start a rural headquarters.

Piecing together snippets of biographical detail and recordings captured on hidden camera and separately provided by sources, we not only identified the network's core members but their links to bikies and international terror groups, including Combat18, the Base and the Azov Battalion.

This work has resulted in two Walkley Award nominations.

THE OBEIDS AND IAN MACDONALD



↑ Former Labor minister Eddie Obeid leaving Darlinghurst court in May. Photo: Edwina Pickles

Moses Obeid talks to police at his Paddington home in July. Photo: Janie Barrett →



In July the nation's most notoriously corrupt politician, former Labor minister Eddie Obeid, his son Moses Obeid and former resources minister Ian Macdonald were found guilty over their roles in a crooked tender for an exploration licence that delivered a \$30 million windfall to the Obeid family.

The guilty verdicts came after more than two decades of reporting by me and others at *The Sydney Morning Herald* in an attempt to bring the Obeids to justice. In 2012 a Walkley Award-winning series I worked on with then colleague Linton Besser revealed that the Obeid family owned secret cafe leases at Circular Quay as well as their involvement in the corrupt mining deal that had delivered untold riches to the family.

Over the years the pursuit of Eddie Obeid has come at a price. Obeid was once the most powerful Labor politician in the state. He used this power to make and break premiers, depending on whether they bent the knee to him. He also ruthlessly pursued any in the media who tried to hold him to account.

In 2006 he successfully sued the *Herald* for suggesting he was corrupt. He regularly attacked the paper and its reporters in Parliament because the *Herald's* investigations posed an enormous threat to the viability of the Obeid empire.

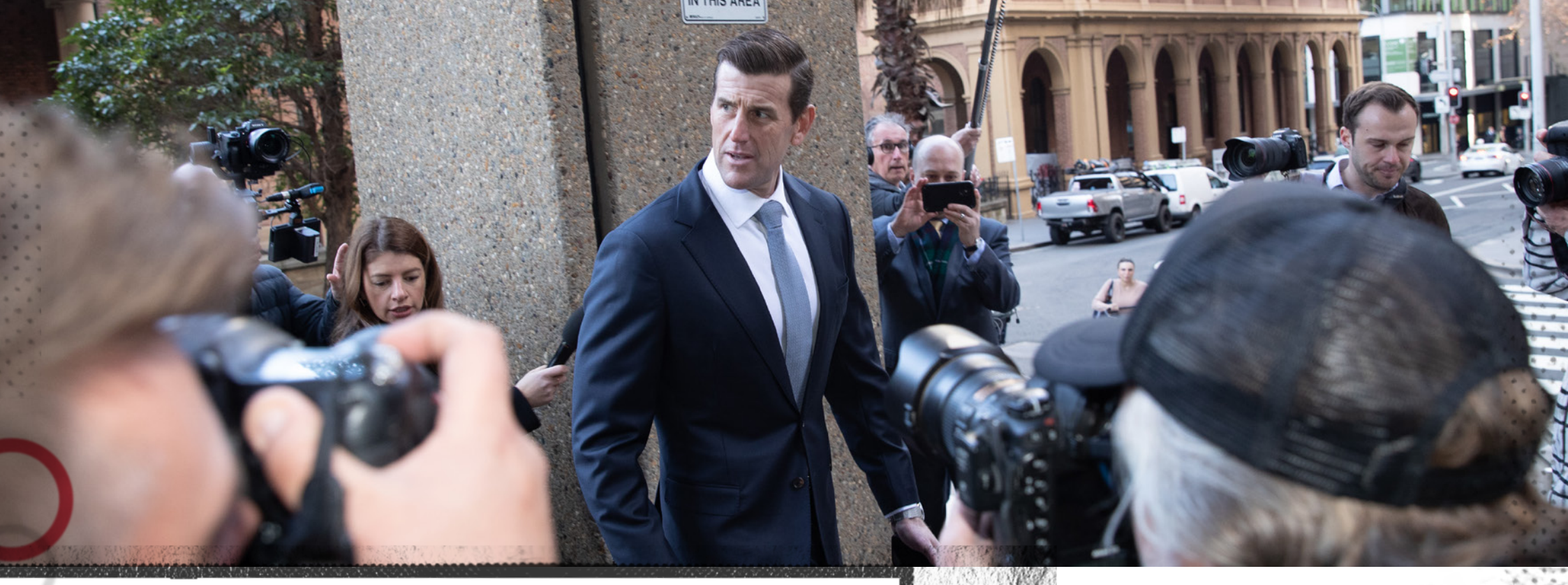
Moses Obeid also hired a private investigator in the hope that they could blackmail me.

Throughout all this, the *Herald* stayed the course to see that justice was done. Eddie Obeid has already been to jail as a result of our exposing his family's secret cafe leases and now he, along with his son and Macdonald, have been sentenced to prison time over our investigations into the corrupt mining deal.

The *Herald's* reporting on the Obeid family keeping the \$30 million in proceeds of crime despite the jail terms caused immediate outrage, with the Premier and Police Minister vowing to do something about it.



Kate McClymont
Investigative reporter



Former Special Air Service soldier Ben Roberts-Smith walking into court in Sydney in June. Photo: Edwina Pickles

BEN ROBERTS-SMITH

Our ongoing reporting of the Ben Roberts-Smith scandal this year made fresh headlines around the country. We revealed allegedly buried photographic evidence of potential war crimes and shocking behaviour by SAS soldiers on base in Afghanistan, sparking two fresh federal police investigations into Mr Roberts-Smith (in addition to two existing war-crimes probes).

Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Ian McCartney told a Senate committee after our reporting that his agency had commenced “priority” probes into alleged witness intimidation and the alleged mishandling of classified information. Both those investigations are ongoing.



Nick McKenzie
Investigative reporter

The exclusive reporting was many months in the making, with investigative journalist Chris Masters and I carefully verifying the evidence, cultivating sources and painstakingly building a compelling story.

This was difficult journalism done despite an ongoing defamation fight in relation to articles we published about Mr Roberts-Smith in 2018. We trust our readers recognise the added difficulty reporting on these matters in the face of these defamation proceedings and recognise we are driven by the public’s right to know.

SCIENTOLOGY

This series had global impact, uncovering a decades-old mystery about the extent of the Church of Scientology's wealth, and how it is using Australia as a haven for its money and making large tax-free profits.

While Scientology has become infamous for its mistreatment of adherents, the role of raising money in its operations is central to its purpose. For 70 years the finances of Scientology, which was set up by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, have been shrouded in secrecy.

My reporting – based on months of detailed examination of accounts and winning the trust of sources – uncovered details about the church's finances and elaborate corporate structure, and the shifting of tens of millions of dollars from the US to Australia. The exposé raised serious questions about whether Australia's charities laws were too weak.

The investigation, which has been nominated for a Walkley Award, led to a significant political response and the promise of a parliamentary inquiry from Labor and the Greens, pending the outcome of investigative work by the charities regulator. It also drew a ferocious response from Scientology, which used websites, social media, videos and lawyers to target me.

An accompanying feature article revealed the church's abuse of former adherents, its use of surveillance, the organisation's history in Australia, its belief systems and the large financial costs associated with membership. The final piece was a first-person article that drew out a key tactic of Scientology – known as Fair Game – to target critics through abuse, surveillance, legal threats and other means, drawing further attention to the misuse of its tax-free status.



Ben Schneiders
Investigative reporter



The Church of Scientology's headquarters in Chatswood, Sydney. Photo: Supplied

For Paul Schofield, who worked for the controversial religion and its offshoots for almost 30 years, the process of leaving Scientology was full of loss and grief. Photo: Peter Stoop



ANOTHER BIG YEAR OF NEWS



Kaidyn Wright, 17, being vaccinated at Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service, Airds, in August. Photo: Nick Moir



A COVID-19 patient receives treatment in ICU at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, in July. Photo: Kate Geraghty

LIVING WITH COVID

NSW was two weeks into winter when a single coronavirus case in a limousine driver transporting air crew completely altered the trajectory of the pandemic for the nation's most-populated state.

By the end of June, NSW residents were glued to Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her team's daily 11am briefing. Every day during July and August, hundreds of thousands of readers would flock to the *Herald's* live blog for the day's case numbers and latest health advice. Daily cases soared above 1500, hospitals entered emergency operations, schools closed and the city stopped as NSW's health system became the first to confront a Delta wave.

Photo journalist Kate Geraghty was given special permission to enter one of Sydney's intensive care units at St Vincent's Hospital, where emergency department head Dr Paul Preisz revealed how the Delta wave was hitting younger patients and that "no one is safe". The *Herald* covered the spread of the virus from the east to the west and south-west, broke the story on a cluster that spread rapidly through Nepean Hospital's mental health unit and reported on the transformation of hospitals as they coped with surging cases. As Delta spread, the NSW government imposed uneven COVID-19 restrictions across the city. It brought dormant resentments back to life as tougher lockdowns and curfews were

introduced to target areas in the south-west and west with higher cases. We reported exclusively on how a dozen of the state's top cardiologists were forced into isolation and multiple urgent heart procedures were cancelled after two unvaccinated nurses worked while infectious with the virus at one major Sydney hospital.

We followed the state's vaccination rollout including supply issues, the seemingly impossible task of getting a booking, the push to get shots to the homeless and Indigenous communities, the rollout in children aged 12 to 15 and low inoculation rates in pregnant women. We covered how Sydney changed its mind on AstraZeneca and the postcodes with the highest and lowest rates of vaccination. The *Herald* reported on how the state's check-in app helped contact tracers and we broke the exclusive story on how hundreds of thousands of case alerts were hidden inside people's smartphones. The human stories were some of the most important, such as how some families were left in the dark after testing positive, and those who were uneasy about vaccination and waited but later rolled up their sleeves.

In early October, NSW reached the significant 70 per cent double-dose vaccination target, paving the way for the long-awaited reopening of restaurants and gyms. Cases fell and vaccinations began to reduce hospitalisations. By late November, almost 12.8 million vaccines had been administered in mass vaccination hubs, GP clinics and pharmacies across NSW.



Lucy Carroll
Health reporter

VACCINE ROLLOUT

If COVID-19 has been the bad-news story of the past two years, the vaccines have been the good news. At the start of the pandemic, many eminent scientists warned that a vaccine was years away. Instead, we move into 2022 with a number of stunningly-good vaccines approved for a wide range of people.

The *Herald* has covered the story each step of the way, charting the optimism and dashed hopes of science, the rollout's successes and failures and what it will mean for us in the long term. We reported, in depth, the development of the University of Queensland's COVID-19 vaccine - and then broke the news that it had generated false HIV positives. We covered the development of vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax and AstraZeneca and then when they were approved in Australia, we delved into how they worked. Our graphics team built a custom Q&A mini-site to answer all your vaccine questions; our data team built a vaccine tracker data site, which is updated daily.

All along, we stayed sceptical and focused on the evidence. We resisted the temptation to be populist or panicked. I'm particularly proud of our coverage of the AstraZeneca blood-clotting issue. We resisted the scaremongering of other outlets, explaining the science, how tiny the risks truly were and then revealing the new treatments that had further cut those risks.

In a public health crisis, journalism should do more than just present the facts - it should explain, contextualise and analyse them. I did this with the new science newsletter, *Examine*, first working through the psychology of why we were worried about AstraZeneca's side-effects, and then writing a guide for people to do the maths on their own personal risk. We received dozens of notes from doctors telling us they had patients coming in to get jabbed on the basis of these articles. That is journalism that makes a difference.

When it became clear Australia's vaccine rollout was stuttering, we focused on what was going wrong, led by our federal health reporter Rachel Clun. We revealed the problems besetting the slow rollout, the limited supply and the anger from doctors. We investigated whether Australia should have ordered more vaccines, or from different brands. We revealed Australia took vaccines from a stockpile meant for poor countries - one of the most heartbreaking developments of the pandemic, in my view.

And now, we report on the success story: despite the bumps along the road, Australia looks set to exceed 90 per cent of people fully vaccinated. An incredible achievement.



Liam Mannix
National science reporter



↑ Aged care resident Jane Malysiak was the first person in Australia to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Prime Minister Scott Morrison received the vaccine alongside her at Castle Hill Medical Centre, Sydney, in February. Photo: Edwina Pickles

Cartoon: John Shakespeare →





Top left: Sydney fitness trainer Chris Thomas conducts training sessions in his front yard in July. Photo: Janie Barrett. Top right: A protester and police horse during an anti-lockdown rally in the Sydney CBD in July. Photo: Brook Mitchell. Bottom left: A near empty Sydney Harbour Bridge as daylight saving begins on 3 October. Photo: Brook Mitchell. Bottom right: Long queues for the 24-hour COVID testing clinic at Endeavour Sports Reserve, Fairfield West, in July. Photo Louise Kennerley



Top left: David and Jennifer Gamble and their children, Imogen and Rory, grappling with remote learning at their Birchgrove home in July. Photo: Wolter Peeters. Top right: People line up to receive their COVID-19 vaccine at Homebush vaccination centre in May. Photo: Dean Sewell. Bottom left: Bondi residents at a drive-through testing clinic in June after locally acquired COVID-19 cases were detected. Photo: Rhett Wyman. Bottom right: Travel restrictions prevented Charishma Kaliyanda (left) with her mother Bhanu Chottera from returning to India for a family funeral. Photo: Wolter Peeters

*Residents in COVID-19 hotspot Fairfield enjoy the sunshine during Sydney's lockdown in August.
Photo: Janie Barrett*



STATE POLITICS

If Gladys Berejiklian thought last year was tough, it could not compare to 2021 for the popular leader. NSW looked as though it had emerged strongly from the COVID-19 pandemic, delivering a budget on June 22 in which then Treasurer Dominic Perrottet declared that “NSW is back”. Lockdowns and border closures were a thing of the past, he boasted. However, within days, Sydney was in a lockdown that would span more than 100 days in an outbreak that started with an unvaccinated limo driver in Bondi and peaked at more than 1500 daily cases.

While Berejiklian was lauded for her handling of the 2020 outbreak, the Delta variant proved much more difficult to manage. Initially working towards achieving zero community transmission, it became clear that Delta was always a step ahead and NSW would have to learn to live with COVID-19. The initially slow vaccine rollout, which the NSW government blamed on the federal government, finally gathered pace and residents embraced the jab so much so that the state reached its 70 per cent double vaccination rate in early October.

As Sydney was preparing to emerge from its long winter lockdown that would once again define Berejiklian's leadership, her political career abruptly ended. The Herald repeatedly reported the ongoing suspicion that the Independent Commission Against Corruption had turned its sights to Berejiklian, and a bombshell statement from the commission eventually emerged. After being a witness in an inquiry into her former boyfriend, now disgraced ex-MP Daryl Maguire, Berejiklian was the protagonist. Within an hour of the ICAC statement being released, she had resigned as premier and set in motion a leadership challenge to replace her. The heir apparent was Perrottet, although Planning Minister Rob Stokes also threw his hat in the ring.

In the days that followed, former prime minister John Howard confirmed to the *Herald* that he was endorsing Perrottet, who went on to comprehensively win a party room vote. Perrottet was sworn in as the 46th premier of NSW on October 5. However, Perrottet's early weeks as premier were overshadowed by Berejiklian's looming ICAC appearance. Over 11 days, readers were captivated by the *Herald's* comprehensive blog on the ICAC hearings. The commission heard that Berejiklian and Maguire had considered marriage and children, but she maintained the relationship was not of “sufficient status” to warrant disclosing. Berejiklian said even if she had her time over, she would not have reported the relationship. As she walked out of ICAC, she reiterated to waiting media that she had done nothing wrong and she was looking forward to getting on with her life. The commission's findings will not be delivered until 2022 at the earliest.

Labor was not without its own leadership renewal. After a poor showing in the Upper Hunter byelection in May, Labor leader Jodi McKay resigned and was replaced by long-term aspirant Chris Minns.



Alexandra Smith
State political editor



Gladys Berejiklian resigned in October after it became clear the Independent Commission Against Corruption had turned its sights on the premier. Photo: James Brickwood



Grace Tame, the 2021 Australian of the Year, during her address to the National Press Club in March. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

Former Liberal staffer Brittany Higgins speaks at the March 4 Justice rally at Parliament House, Canberra, in March.
Photo: Dominic Lorrimer



WOMEN SPEAK UP

In late January, when many Australians were shaking off the sandy remnants of summer holidays, Grace Tame was talking about swallowing fear and making noise. Freshly crowned Australian of the Year, the child abuse survivor and advocate told the *Herald's* David Crowe she wanted to use her new position to create change.

The noise she wanted fellow survivors to make grew louder in mid February when former Liberal staffer Brittany Higgins went public with allegations that she had been raped in Parliament House. Higgins was inspired by Tame's speech. That same week, *Herald* reporter Natassia Chrysanthos broke the story about a petition that former Sydney schoolgirl Chanel Contos had launched, calling for better consent education. Thousands of current and former schoolgirls shared their stories of sexual harassment and assault, and the outpouring, along with the long campaign by Saxon Mullins, led to NSW overhauling its consent laws. Chrysanthos earned a Walkley nomination for her reporting.



Katina Curtis
Political reporter

At Parliament House in Canberra, the atmosphere was brittle and electric as politicians and media pushed for lasting change. Our wrap-up of the movements informed the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's review of complaint processes in Parliament House. Outside the "Canberra bubble", women were organising a March 4 Justice to demand change within politics, action on the Respect@Work report about stamping out workplace sexual harassment, and better treatment of women. Jewel Topsfield broke the story that Liberal backbencher Bridget Archer was the first government MP to confirm she would join the march. Veteran feminist Biff Ward told Topsfield the day tens of thousands of women marched felt like "a tidal wave of rage is sweeping the land".

Photographers Alex Ellinghausen and Dominic Lorrimer captured the mood in Canberra, where Higgins made a surprise appearance. They also documented the increase in women in Parliament, in particular the new mothers who pushed for the way Australia does politics to become more family-friendly.



Left: Christian Porter held a press conference in Perth in March about historic rape allegations which he strenuously denied. Photo: Trevor Collens

Right: Former Liberal MP Julia Banks, photographed for Good Weekend in June, wrote about Canberra's boys' club in her book published this year. Photo: Kristoffer Paulsen



In the days after the march I reported exclusively on the push for a cross-party group to support getting more women into politics and the slow moves within the Liberal Party towards implementing quotas for female candidates.

One of the most powerful initiatives of the masthead was letters editor Pat Stringa's call for women readers to share their stories. Hundreds of women responded. They wrote of the traumas suffered, of feelings of shame, humiliation and fear they had endured, many for decades. Former Liberal MP Julia Banks shared her experiences from inside the system. *Good Weekend* published an extract of her book *Power Play*, where she revealed numerous sexist run-ins she had had in the corridors of power and recounted a “bullying, short and swift and coldly calculating” phone call from Scott Morrison.

Throughout the year we've also had sustained coverage of the historic rape allegations levelled against then-attorney-general Christian Porter, which he continues to vehemently deny. In an exclusive interview, Jo Dyer, a friend of Porter's accuser Kate, spoke of how Kate had been “assembling her army” and vowed to continue until justice was served. Grace Tame wrote for our opinion pages to highlight the way Morrison's treatment of Porter – at one point returning him to a key parliamentary role – undermined his rhetoric about the standards and treatment of women.

By the end of the year, the newsroom's continued focus on “the women issue” had helped keep it in the public debate and led to concrete commitments from governments across the nation.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT



↑ Protesters dressed as Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce on the lawns of Parliament House in October. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

← Bob Brown Foundation campaigner Jenny Weber in a logging coupe in the Huon Valley, Tasmania. Photo: Jason South

For just over a fortnight in November, the climate and environment team backed by expert reporters from the Canberra press gallery as well as newsrooms in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth, worked around the clock to cover gruelling [United Nations climate talks in Glasgow](#).

In truth our COP26 coverage was the culmination of nearly two years of work.

Beginning early last year, the climate and energy team began charting the growing international pressure on Australia to raise its climate ambitions, and the struggles of the federal government and opposition to craft a policy response that addressed the serious issues at stake and the competing concerns of the varied constituencies. We visited rural and regional centres to illustrate the competing interests of farming and coal communities, and explain how governments were succeeding – and failing – to help rebuild the energy sector to cope with a flood of new renewable power.

Months before the talks began, the team identified the push by key Australian allies and trading partners to use Glasgow as the moment [to begin to force coal out of the global economy](#), and wrote a series on the environmental, social, economic and policy implications.

In August our reporters worked with our graphics team to [break down the 4000-page Sixth Assessment report of the UN's lead climate body](#) into a series of clear stories and charts, outlining the scientific case for climate change and for urgent action in Glasgow. We also charted the race towards renewables that has broken out in business and the financial sector.

Even as global attention focused on the Glasgow talks, the team also broke news on domestic environmental and conservation issues and efforts. Bolting from city newsrooms as windows appeared in state lockdowns, we travelled to the Great Barrier Reef to investigate efforts to save battered corals by “planting” resilient species and by shifting farming practices to avoid sediment and nutrient run-off. We joined scientists off the coast of Tasmania to see efforts to [save ancient kelp forests](#) and travelled with others into the Victorian high country and NSW highlands to shed light on debates over the impact of logging and of feral horse populations.

We kept a close eye on the federal government's as yet [undelivered promise to devolve federal environment laws to states](#), and the implications for the protection of Australia's growing list of endangered species. We also broke a series of stories on the “koala wars” in the NSW state government and [the terrible danger that species is in](#). Our reports traced the push to end logging in native forests and the growing slate of research showing that [logging spurs bushfires rather than taming them](#).



Nick O'Malley
National climate and environment editor



School students on the streets of Sydney for the School Strike 4 Climate in May. Photo: Edwina Pickles

Fireworks illuminate over the National Stadium during the closing ceremony of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in August, 2021. Photo: Kiichiro Sato/AP



TOKYO OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS

A couple of months before the Tokyo Olympics, two of our most experienced sports writers debated the burning question leading up to the Games: was staging an Olympics during a pandemic a morale booster or an indulgence? Phil Lutton, while acknowledging the dangers, argued the former. “What if everyone comes and goes, no infections break loose and the sport provides us with the kind of magical memories only Olympic competition can produce?” he wrote. Greg Baum, while conceding it would be a crushing blow for athletes if the whole thing were called off, felt the Games could endanger the health of the Japanese people. “Can you imagine the outcry if there is even one citizen death attributable to the Olympics?” Baum wrote. “This is far too much to heap on the shoulders of athletes.”

The Olympics and Paralympics went ahead and instead of being derailed by COVID-19 outbreaks, they gave rise to a wave of joy that was palpable among our readers, especially in locked-down Sydney and Melbourne.

The sense of trepidation before the Games also applied to the media’s coverage, which requires a big investment and months of planning. We needed to secure vaccinations for our journalists travelling to Japan, and they had to clear a series of logistical hurdles to be allowed entry. Our team in Tokyo - Lutton, Chip Le Grand, Michael Gleeson, Eryk Bagshaw and Malcolm Knox - covered the sport as well as the political and cultural significance of these unusual Games. Being on the ground has huge benefits; Knox and Le Grand had a close-up view when the world’s greatest gymnast Simone Biles walked away from defending her title in the all-around competition, sparking a fresh conversation about the mental health of elite athletes.

Sensing an appetite for respite from daily COVID press conferences and case numbers, we ran an Olympics blog from 7am until midnight each day. The blogs were a trusted source of news, results and medal updates but also a place for readers to engage with our

experts, pore over graphics that showed, for example, the lap by lap breakdown of Ariarne Titmus's 'race of the century' against Katie Ledecky, and to share the experience.

While readers celebrated the triumphs of athletes such as Titmus (and her coach Dean Boxall whose outpouring of emotion went viral), they lapped up much more than Aussie gold. One of the most popular stories was about Cedric Dubler, the decathlete who slowed down in the men's 1500 race, screaming at his teammate Ash Moloney to go faster and win the bronze medal. Dubler sacrificed his own race but celebrated his mate's achievement as if he'd won gold.

Readers told us they enjoyed the stories of hard work and sacrifice behind the scenes, and this was particularly true of the feedback to our coverage of the Tokyo Paralympics. Again, we ran a daily blog. Our reporter in Tokyo, Tom Decent, unearthed stories of incredible perseverance and introduced athletes such as Grant 'Scooter' Patterson, the swimmer who has diastrophic dysplasia, a form of dwarfism, and powered to medals. Decent's coverage helped bring Paralympic sport, and athletes such as Ellie Cole, who became Australia's most decorated female Paralympian, into the mainstream. There was tangible change, too, with a grass-roots campaign resulting in Australia's Paralympic medal winners earning the same financial bonuses as their Olympic counterparts.

The worst fears of organisers - a large-scale COVID outbreak in the Olympic village - did not materialise, which is not to say the Games were universally popular in Japan. But even those who held doubts felt their glow at an otherwise grim time.

"Perhaps without meaning to, perhaps against its understandably nervous national instincts," wrote Baum in the immediate aftermath, "Tokyo gave the world a gift."

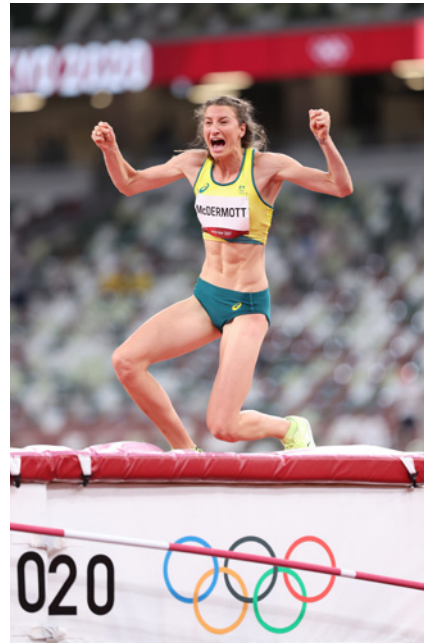


Ian Fuge
Chief sports editor

Top left: Australian Nicola McDermott celebrates winning the silver medal in the women's high jump at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Photo: Michael Steele/Getty

Top right: Australian swimmer Ariarne Titmus reacts with her coach Dean Boxall after winning the gold medal in the women's 200m freestyle final at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Photo: Clive Rose/Getty

Bottom: American Natalie Sims (left) and Australian Ellie Cole prepare to compete in the women's 400m freestyle - S9 final at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Photo: Naomi Baker/Getty

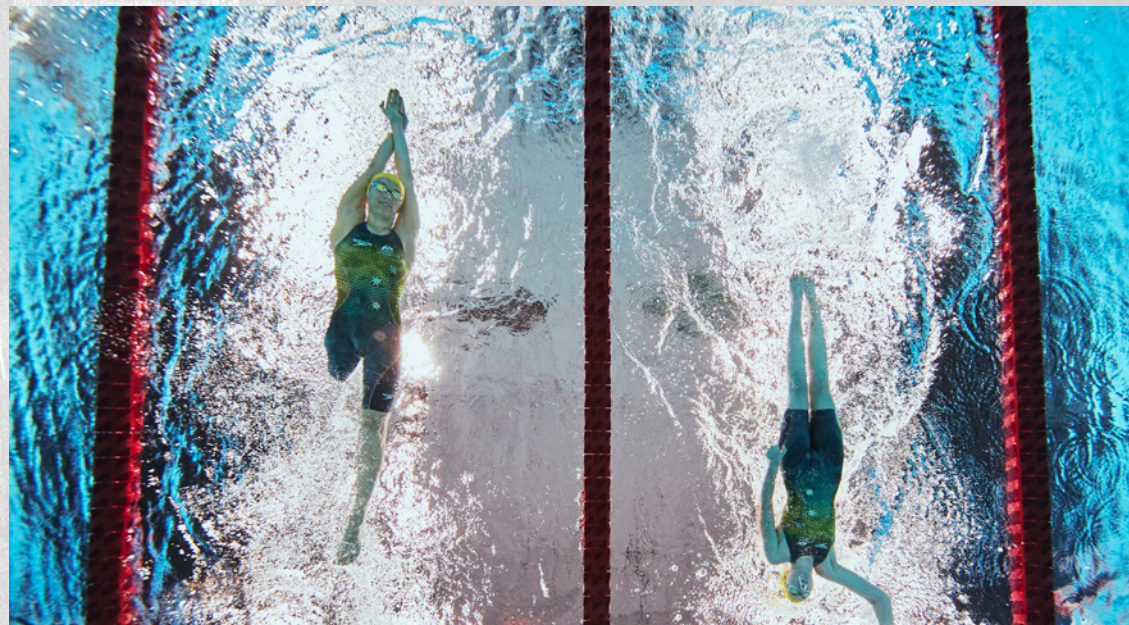




Runners react after they compete in the men's decathlon 1500m on day 13 of the Tokyo Olympic Games. Photo: Richard Heathcote/Getty

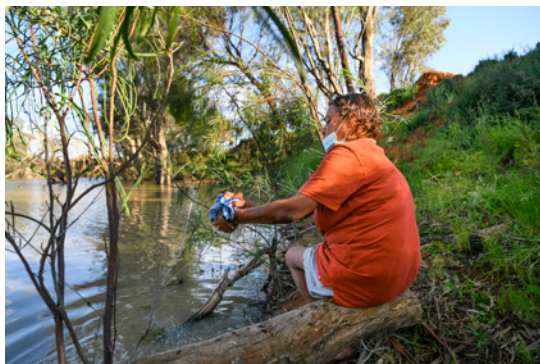


Australian Kieran Woolley competes in the men's skateboarding heats at the Tokyo Olympics. Photo: Ezra Shaw/Getty



Australians Ellie Cole (left) and Lakeisha Patterson compete in the women's 400m freestyle - S9 heats at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Photo: Adam Pretty/Getty

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS



The Strong Grandmothers Group of the Central Desert pictured in Alice Springs in May. Photo: Rhett Wyman



Catherine Bugmy from Wilcannia was forced to do her washing in the Darling River while in isolation after testing positive to COVID-19 in September. Photo: Rhett Wyman

The Sydney Morning Herald, supported by the Judith Neilson Institute, has continued to shine a light on issues that affect First Nations people as we continue the work of The Dalarinji Project. Indigenous affairs stories now make up an integral part of our reporting across a wide range of topics, including politics, lifestyle, education, and justice issues. Most importantly, our stories elevate the voices of First Nations people as a matter of priority.

Senior reporter Julie Power led the charge for the first half of the year, filing powerful news stories and features that spoke to the strength and pride of Indigenous people. Of particular note is [her visual story on the Strong Grandmothers Group of the Central Desert](#), a stunning profile of a group of senior Arrernte women in Alice Springs campaigning for a better world for their grandchildren. Adele Ferguson and Deborah Snow also broke several hard-hitting investigative stories around the corporate governance of major Indigenous organisations around the country.

Since joining the *Herald* in July, I've covered a wide range of stories I believe are important for our readers. I've reported on the tragic disappearance and death of Gomeroi man Gordon Copeland outside Moree, and [his family's struggles to search for him](#). I've also broken exclusive political stories around [Closing the Gap funding](#) and [a delay in the promised timeline for an Indigenous Voice to Government](#).

Arguably most importantly, I've spent months covering the COVID-19 outbreak in western NSW and the gap in vaccination coverage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [Powerful pictures by Herald photojournalist and Palawa man Rhett Wyman helped tell the story of Catherine Bugmy](#), a COVID-positive resident of Wilcannia who was forced to wash her clothes in the Darling River while isolating in a cabin run by NSW Health. The department had told her that she couldn't use the facility's communal washing machines because she was COVID-positive.

Given the way this pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives, it is imperative for our readers to see the virus' disproportionate impact on Aboriginal people and the sometimes inadequate public health response to the crisis affecting their communities.



Cameron Gooley
Indigenous affairs reporter



*Teenage girls sing during a Mabo Day parade along a street on Boigu Island in the Torres Strait in June.
Photo: Kate Geraghty*

THE *HERALD* CELEBRATES 190 YEARS

On April 18 this year, *The Sydney Morning Herald* celebrated its 190th birthday by reflecting on the very first edition of the newspaper, which carried a bold pledge to readers.

“Our editorial management shall be conducted upon principles of candour, honesty and honour. Respect and deference shall be paid to all ... freedom of thinking and speaking shall be conceded and demanded. We have no wish to mislead; no interests to gratify by unsparing abuse or indiscriminate approbation. We shall dissent with respect, and reason with a desire not to gain a point but to establish a principle.”

The commitment was published on page two under a simple headline: **“Sworn to no master, of no sect am I.”**

The special edition newspaper we produced this year looked pretty different to the 1831 version but the sentiments remain just as authentic and we sought to highlight to readers that they still underpin the journalism we produce today.

I think the whole tone of the week - which included writing reflecting on the *Herald's* role in covering our city, our nation and our place in the world - was uplifting for readers and staff alike.

The 190th birthday - which included a party at the Sydney Opera House, attended by past and present premiers, prime ministers and many of the city's most influential identities - really highlighted that we aren't just surviving - we are thriving.

We have never been read by more people, from a broader cross-section of Australia. The media landscape is constantly adapting to changing revenue models, global headwinds and digital disruption but through it all we have focused on the stories, on doing our jobs, innovating and ensuring the *Herald* remains the trusted source of news our readers demand.

It was a wonderful celebration that invited readers to join with us to reflect on the *Herald's* rich heritage; its vital role in shaping Sydney and our voice in the most important national conversations. But, perhaps more importantly, we wanted to draw on this history as we looked forward.

We must continue to drive and inform the future of our city, the direction of our nation and our place on the world's stage.



← The front page of the first edition of the *Herald*, published on April 18, 1831. Photo: Supplied



↑ Portrait of the *Herald's* environment reporter Laura Chung and economics editor Ross Gittins taken for the 190th anniversary celebrations. Photo: James Brickwood



Lisa Davies
Former *Herald* editor 2017-2021

THE STORY OF AUKUS

Defence secrets are hard to keep, but this year Prime Minister Scott Morrison managed to keep the details of the game-changing new nuclear submarine deal with the United States and United Kingdom from leaking.

Well, almost. Our national security correspondent Anthony Galloway and national affairs editor Rob Harris knew something was afoot the evening of Thursday, September 15, when they broke the story that cabinet ministers had been granted border exemptions to fly to Canberra for a security briefing and that the Opposition Leader had also been informed. Later that night we knew it was about our multibillion-dollar submarine deal.

North America correspondent Matthew Knott and UK-based reporter Latika Bourke filed from overnight briefings on the astonishing scope of the new alliance, known as AUKUS: Australia was tearing up its \$90 billion French submarine deal to join the elite club of nations with nuclear-powered submarines. The US and Britain would unlock the closely guarded secrets of a fleet that could better face the rising challenge of Chinese military dominance in the Indo-Pacific.

As Knott wrote in his analysis: “a country that takes inordinate pride in ‘punching above its weight’ on the global stage is very much doing so again”.

But the price of our pact was a serious rift with France. Our Europe correspondent, Bevan Shields, swung on immediately to warn that angering the most powerful leader in the European Union would have serious consequences. His predictions proved correct when French President Emmanuel Macron recalled his ambassadors to both Australia and the US, while his most senior ministers and diplomats were very undiplomatic about the Morrison government in interviews given to our journalists.

When asked twice by Shields on the floor of the G20 summit in Rome if he thought Morrison had lied to him, Macron made clear that he had neither forgotten nor forgiven: “I don’t think, I know”. This five-word missile aimed at the credibility of another world leader made headlines around the world.

As our south-east Asia correspondent, Chris Barrett, reported: neighbouring nations from Indonesia to Malaysia were also unhappy about this seismic geopolitical shift.

This is only the beginning of the story of AUKUS: its potential and perils remain ahead. We are yet to even select the new, astronomically expensive submarine to replace the abandoned French models. But our journalists will continue to break the stories that matter on this momentous decision.



Michelle Griffin
World editor



↑
Prime Minister Scott Morrison meets with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a bilateral meeting during the G20 summit in Rome in October. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen



Cartoon: John Shakespeare →

HOW WE'RE COVERING THE NEWS



John and Sue Brookes cleaning up floating debris in their backyard in Thompson Square, Windsor, after the Hawkesbury River floods in March. Photo: Louise Kennerley

RETURN TO POLITICAL POLLING

Our two main goals in setting up the Resolve Political Monitor were to bring more competition to political polling and to learn some of the lessons from the last federal election.

First, we talked about finding a new company that could do things differently. We found the answer in Jim Reed, who established Resolve Strategic after many years working in polling in politics and business. Our executive editor, Tory Maguire, set up a new way for us to probe how voters felt about politics and policies.

Second, we chose to drop the element in so much political polling that turns the results into a “horse race” between the two main political parties. We chose not to make it all about the two-party-preferred result, which reduces everything to a number for Labor and a number for the Coalition. These two-party-preferred results have always been simplistic. Mostly the results are within the margin of error. But they have encouraged people to think one party is in front when the race is almost always tighter than it looks. Labor found this out at the last election. So did the media.

The Resolve survey uses a different methodology from others. There is no “undecided” category because Resolve asks voters to nominate their primary votes in the same way they fill in their ballot papers for the lower house at an election. This means the final Resolve tables do not exclude the “uncommitted” group, which can be about 8 per cent of all respondents. There is no “uncommitted” cohort. Respondents have to choose an option.

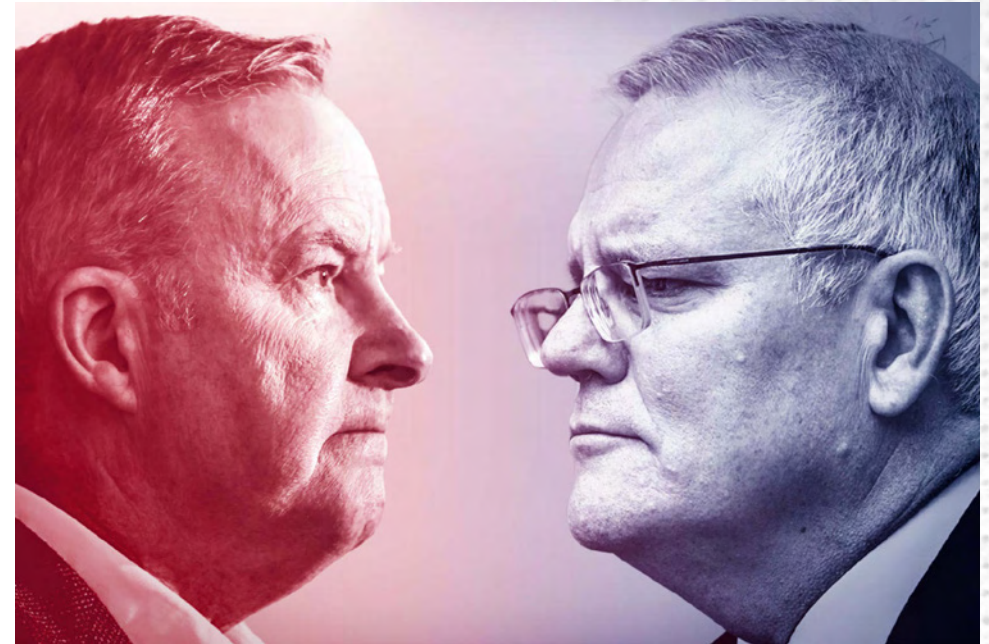
The Resolve Political Monitor also asks voters to state their support for political parties in the same way they would fill out a ballot paper at the election, with the names of the parties rotated to avoid a “donkey vote” in the results.

The outcomes have been tight in each survey we have done since April. Rather than try to portray one party as a clear leader, Reed has been very matter-of-fact about the results being too close to call. They are almost always within the margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.

Political polls capture only a moment in time. The Resolve survey does not predict the next election. What it shows, however, is the shift between the parties over time.



David Crowe
Chief political correspondent



The outcomes have been tight in each survey we have done since April with results too close to call. Photo: SMH



OPINION

In a year when the nation has faced the enormous challenge of the Delta variant of COVID-19, the *Herald's* opinion section has endeavoured to bring readers diverse, thoughtful and well-informed views that provide an insight into how Australia, its people and its leaders have navigated these difficult times.

One of the biggest stories of the year has been the relationship between the states and Canberra during the pandemic. While disagreements between the Morrison government and the leaders of Queensland and Western Australia have been no secret, political editor and columnist Peter Hartcher opened everyone's eyes to the depth of tension between then-NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian and her fellow NSW Liberal, Scott Morrison, in the best read column of the year, where Hartcher revealed that Berejiklian believed the Prime Minister was briefing against her and that she regarded him as a "bully".

With Delta cases rising in Sydney, despite a lockdown in the city's south west, a western Sydney doctor risked his job to take us behind the hospital curtain for a glimpse at reasons why the lockdown was failing, and warned of an imminent crisis. He urged the government to provide "a decent level of financial assistance ... to allay people's fears of economic loss from disclosing their infection". Not long after this piece became our second-best read piece of the year, the state government announced an increase in support for those getting tested. We have also explored the policy and personal issues raised by border closures in numerous pieces, including in our third most popular item, from Brianna Parkins, who was unable to be by her grandfather's deathbed.

And there was life beyond lockdown: readers really responded to a first-person piece from Danielle Mahe published at HSC results time. A Sydney midwife and writer, Mahe told of her shame at getting a disappointing HSC result when she graduated from high school and also of her triumph in later going to university and getting a degree. Equally, readers were looking for laughs, clicking onto guest columnist Mark Humphries' riff on US politics in January.

This year we began our *Opinion* newsletter, which has quickly gained a strong following and become one of the paper's most well-read newsletters – I encourage you to sign up to receive it in your inbox every Thursday evening.

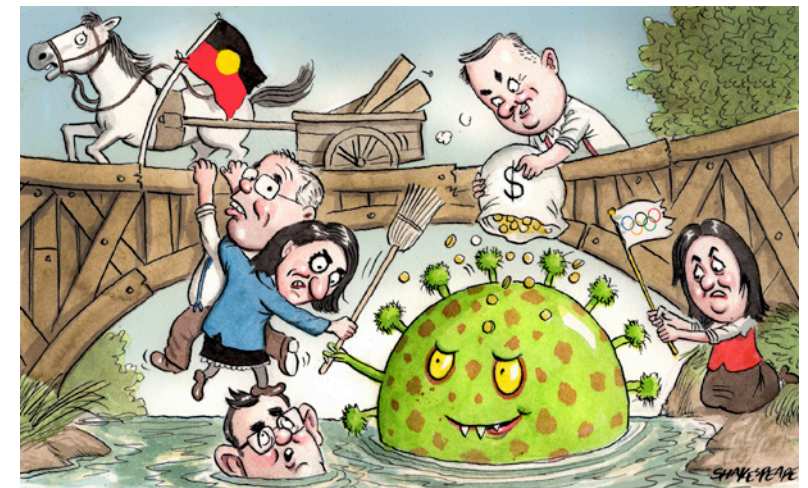
And on International Women's Day I made a pledge to increase the number of women published on the page to 50 per cent; so far we have made big improvements to the gender balance on the page. The lowest weekly representation of women writers so far has been 44 per cent, and regularly women make up just over 50 per cent of the voices on the page each week. The addition of the fearless Niki Savva to our stable of writers has certainly helped with this effort.



Julie Lewis
Opinion editor

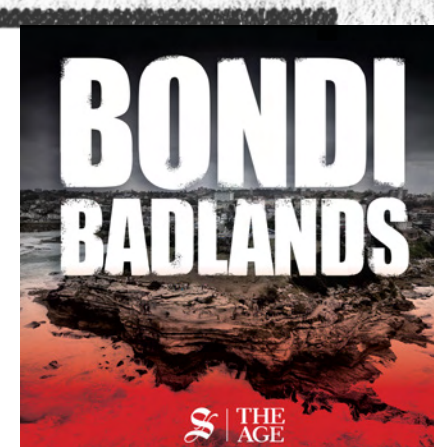


↑ Cartoon: Cathy Wilcox



↑ Cartoon: John Shakespeare

→ This year saw the return of popular podcasts *Please Explain* and *Good Weekend Talks* and the launch of investigative podcast *Bondi Badlands* and audio news bulletin *News with the Herald*.



THE SOUND OF THE *HERALD*

We've often contemplated the question - what does *The Sydney Morning Herald* sound like? One of the challenges for us is that we are a publisher, not a broadcaster. Primarily, we have words rather than a steady flow of radio or TV content. But that's also very liberating. It affords us an entirely clean slate and every podcast we make is original and crafted purely for the medium. That's why 2021 was such a rewarding year for the *Herald's* audio team.

In August, [Nathanael Cooper](#) joined the team as executive producer and filled the very big boots of [Tory Maguire](#) as host of our flagship news podcast *Please Explain* when Maguire was promoted to executive editor. Cooper was joined by co-hosts [Bianca Hall](#) and [Jess Irvine](#) in a new line-up. Like all good journalism, the podcast is constantly adapting to the world around it. We moved from a weekly to a daily offering last year in response to the pandemic, and it's now in an expanded format covering the biggest topics across the nation. One recent favourite was the [reaction to Gladys Berejiklian's dramatic resignation](#). The *Herald's* state political editor, [Alexandra Smith](#), discussed the Premier's downfall and what sort of leader her successor Dominic Perrottet might be.

We launched our first major investigative podcast, *Phoebe's Fall*, in 2015. So it was great to continue this type of audio story-telling with *Bondi Badlands* this year. Told by *Good Weekend's* [Greg Callaghan](#), the podcast revisits a series of killings and mysterious

disappearances of gay men that happened on the southern headland at Sydney's Bondi Beach in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

We've also recently launched our twice-daily audio news bulletins, *News with The Sydney Morning Herald*. Accessible through smart speakers and podcast platforms, they were a natural step for the *Herald* to bring up-to-date headlines to a whole new audience. It's another example of trying to make the most of our journalism and making it accessible in the widest possible range of formats to suit the reader or listener.

It's a privilege to create audio journalism for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and to work with a team that has such talent and passion for its craft. And that team is expanding - we're hiring new producers and we're getting more of our best reporters behind the microphone - so stay tuned for more exciting audio offerings in 2022.



Tom McKendrick
Head of audio and video

MONEY WITH JESS



COVID-19 has forced many of our readers to take a closer look at their personal finances. Whether it was saving money during lockdown on their

daily commute and morning coffee or having their incomes severely buffeted, our readers took a great interest in how to best manage their money in 2021.

Since early 2020, I've been writing a weekly column in the *Sun Herald* and *The Sunday Age* Money sections chronicling my own journey to budget, save and invest my money better. In January 2021, we launched a free weekly email newsletter called *Money with Jess*. It hits reader inboxes early each Sunday morning, serving up a fresh "budget tip of the week" and links to all our fantastic Money articles and resources. I've also started hosting our *Please Explain* podcast once a week to delve into a money-related issue.

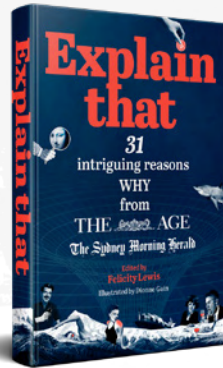
The response from readers, including during a subscriber Q&A earlier this year, has been wonderful, typified by this email I recently received: "Thank you so much for your newsletter and all your articles this year. They have been such a huge help." I've also enjoyed connecting with a new audience of younger readers via my Instagram account @moneywithjess in which I share intimate details of my own financial life. Money talks - and our readers listen with great interest!



Jessica Irvine
Senior writer

EXPLAINERS

With a pivotal climate summit just over, a pandemic in its second year and geopolitical rumblings unabated, there's been a lot to explain in 2021. Our rule of thumb is, if we're curious about something, there's every chance you will be too. This year we've provided in-depth context on everything from bitcoin and COP26 to hypersonic weapons and rapid antigen tests - in essence, users' guides to the news. And we've delved into some of life's big questions: Is time travel possible? Where did the Australian accent come from? and What is love at first sight?



Three years after their relaunch at the *Herald* and *The Age*, explainers have become a popular go-to for inquisitive readers. In a series on future energy we unpacked "green hydrogen", "just transitions" and more; a series on science-fiction ideas-turned-reality explored gene editing, cyborgs and the "de-extinction" of animal species.

Our new Sunday newsletter features Q&As with writers (and illustrators) from across our newsrooms who bring their expertise to our explainer journalism - not least dedicated explainer reporter Sherryn Groch. Meanwhile, after the success of our first book anthology, *What's It Like to Be Chased by a Cassowary* in 2020, Penguin Books has published a second, *Explain That: 31 Intriguing Reasons Why*. Along the way, we've enjoyed corresponding with our readers about the questions that have piqued their curiosity, and the perplexing yet fascinating matters they want explained.



Felicity Lewis
National explainer editor

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL NEWS BLOG



↑ COVID-19 clinic in Rockdale during Sydney's lockdown in August. Photo: Louise Kennerley

Our national news blog launched on Wednesday, May 12, in time for the federal budget washup. Since then, the national blog - which grew out of our rolling coronavirus coverage - has been running for more than 25 consecutive weeks. We have covered the beginning and end of lockdowns, the return of Barnaby Joyce, the rise and fall of state opposition leaders, a premier's resignation, and even an earthquake. The blog kicks off about 6.30am with a summary of the morning's top headlines, and our rolling coverage finishes about 6pm. Every day, without fail, it is the No. 1 asset on both *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* websites. It also attracts thousands of comments a day from a community of news-hungry, policy-savvy subscribers.



Broede Carmody
National news blogger



Michaela Whitbourn
National news blogger

LIFE AND CULTURE

Adam Lindsay, executive director of Sydney Living Museums, uncovering furniture in the drawing room of Vaucluse House after lockdown. Photo: Steven Siewert





Artist Guy Warren next to Peter Wegner's 2021 Archibald Prize-winning portrait of him. Photo: Steven Siewert

CULTURE

The Sydney Morning Herald has had a front-row seat at the city's major cultural moments for 190 years and few are more colourful (and controversial) than the Archibald Prize. The 100th anniversary this year deserved the best coverage yet so we mined our archive for the forgotten stories and the iconic moments, we created video content and rich data journalism. For the first-time we also live-blogged the award announcement, a format usually reserved for international awards such as the Oscars, Golden Globes and Emmys.

The *Herald's* vital role in telling compelling stories about artists and arts companies was especially important in 2021 when so many were pushed to breaking point by COVID restrictions and lockdowns. Linda Morris continued her excellent coverage of the Powerhouse Museum relocation, resulting in an exclusive story in June about the Ultimo site getting a \$500 million makeover. Other memorable stories included the exclusive announcement of Rebel Wilson's \$1 million donation to a new Walsh Bay theatre for the Australian Theatre for Young People and taking readers behind the scenes for the much-anticipated Australian premiere of *Hamilton*.

In long-form journalism we commissioned top authors Richard Flanagan and Michael Mohammed Ahmad to write personal and thought-provoking essays. We supported up-and-coming reviewers with the Young Emerging Critics program and emerging writers in the 25th iteration of the *The Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelist* award, with the winners Vivian Pham, Jessie Tu and K.M. (Kate) Kruimink all first-time novelists.

This year, we built an even bigger readership for our TV and book reviews through weekly newsletters titled *The Booklist* and *The Watchlist*. By the end of the year we will launch a weekly guide to the best Sydney events, called *Culture Fix*.

Here's hoping that 2022 is a time of renewal for Sydney's arts - and the *Herald's* Culture team will be there for every newsworthy moment.



Matthew Burgess
Culture editor



LIFESTYLE

For the past two years, the Lifestyle team at *The Sydney Morning Herald* has been fine-tuning its coverage to provide journalism that offers guidance, insight and authority in the areas of personal health, relationships and fashion.

Publishing content that is relevant to the lives of our readers was a top priority in 2020, and only became more urgent in 2021 as the Delta variant of COVID-19 forced the country into further lockdowns.

Our readers were hungry for practical, actionable advice around managing stress, staying fit and achieving balance as our work and home lives continued to collide. Deputy lifestyle editor Sophie Aubrey and I wrote a weekly newsletter called *Live Well* which became a vehicle for articles covering these topics, as well as nuanced, in-depth reporting that moved away from the “quick-hit” journalism synonymous with the wellness space.

Articles such as “[What happens to your body and mind when you reduce your drinking](#)”, “[How to navigate common conversations about vaccination](#)” and our “[Comprehensive guide to running](#)” became essential to the lifestyle offering for existing readers and also served to attract new readers.



Left: Trent Knox, Rachel Stanley and Todd Liubinskis, who are helping runners improve their strength and technique, pictured in Bondi in June. Photo: Janie Barrett. Right: Fiorina Golotta, pictured with her daughter Roma, shared her story about becoming a first-time mother at 50. Photo: Eddie Jim

Original video, illustrations and graphics were incorporated into our running guide, giving it a life beyond digital and print. Our expert-led training program was rolled out on Instagram over a five-week period offering tips and prompting interest from an entirely new audience.

With red carpets having returned in the northern hemisphere, our fashion coverage got a welcome injection of couture courtesy of the Met Gala, which our reporters and editors live blogged with huge success. A record number of *Herald* readers tuned in for the thoughtful and wildly entertaining commentary of the New York City event on a September morning in lockdown.

Also resonating with readers was executive coach Dr Kirstin Ferguson’s weekly *Got a Minute?* career column tackling issues such as leading in a crisis and returning to the office. After almost two years WFH, readers want informed coverage on the future of work and what that may look like. *Got a Minute?* aims to offer clarity and drive meaningful discussions in this space.



Julia Naughton
Lifestyle editor

GOOD WEEKEND

Good Weekend's shoot-the-lights-out readership wins for 2021 were a tale of two cities – two stories that were quintessentially of those cities but of equal interest beyond them. I speak of Kate McClymont's incredible [April cover story on Sydney fraudster Melissa Caddick](#), who ripped millions off her family and friends through a bogus financial advisory scheme and then went missing – only her foot was found. And there was Melissa Fyfe's [devastating July piece on Ashleigh Petrie](#), the 23-year-old Victorian court clerk whose relationship with a magistrate more than 40 years her senior, and tragic death only weeks after they became engaged, had Melbourne agog.

These two stories attracted massive readership and strong social media engagement in both Sydney and Melbourne, a reminder that a story need not come from your own backyard to be gripping. It just needs to be rigorously researched and compellingly well told, something both McClymont and Fyfe pulled off. McClymont's story led to more people coming forward with new information on Caddick, while after Fyfe's story the magistrate's judicial career finished and he started negotiating with Petrie's mother about sharing her daughter's superannuation, something he had not done before.

Two other cover stories that sparked Saturday dinner party chatter were Tim Elliott's August piece on celebrity chef Jock Zonfrillo, which as many observed, underlined the importance of writers digging below what's served up by the spin industry to find the real story about a subject; and James Button's definitive piece on cancel culture, which featured incredible photos of actor Hugh Sheridan on the cover. Both Elliott's piece and Fyfe's Ashleigh Petrie story have been shortlisted for the feature writing long (over 4000 words) category at this year's Walkley Awards, accounting for two of the three finalists in that category. The winner will be announced in February.

Other stories to garner strong reader reactions were David Leser and Natassia Chrysanthos' [deep dive into school children and sex](#); Stuart Rintoul's exclusive on a controversial new book that sets out to [debunk Bruce Pascoe's publishing bestseller *Dark Emu*](#); Gabriella Coslovich's [look at the Tasmanian salmon industry](#); and at the start of the year, Jacqueline Maley and Nigel Gladstone's [exposé of all that's wrong with the Australian honours system](#), backed up not just by opinion but by hard data. Anne Hyland's [story on the tiny town of Biloela](#), meanwhile, attracted dozens of long, considered letters, highlighting how deeply our readers feel about the issue of immigration; while another piece by Fyfe, this time on [former Victorian politician Tim Holding and the French chateau he's renovating](#), had everyone conjuring up their own French fantasy. Readers responded, too, to complex profiles on [Attorney-General Michaelia Cash](#), [Virgin CEO Jane Hrdlicka](#) and [runner Stuart McSweyn](#). Easy to read; fiendishly hard to do.

Our weekly newsletter sign-ups grew by 37 per cent this year, our *Good Weekend Talks* podcast continued to pick up listeners and our deputy editor, Greg Callaghan, launched a new true crime podcast, *Bondi Badlands*, that shot straight to the top of the Apple podcasts charts. *Good Weekend* merchandise continued to sell well, too, with more than 1400 The Quiz t-shirts and more than 600 tea towels walking out the door. Our plans to roll out our successful Quiz dinners nationwide in 2021 hit a COVID-sized snag, but fear not – they'll be back next year.



Katrina Strickland
Good Weekend editor



The story of Sydney fraudster Melissa Caddick captivated readers.





TRAVELLER AND GOOD FOOD

In a year in which tourism and hospitality were two of the industries most affected by COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, the content published on *Traveller* and *Good Food* altered dramatically.

With international borders closed and travel between states a constantly changing scenario, *Traveller's* usual focus on inspirational, destination-driven stories shifted to giving readers the up-to-date advice they were seeking. Longstanding contributor Michael Gebicki penned many of the most-read pieces, including [“Want to be allowed out of Australia? Here's what you have to do”](#) and [“Will AstraZeneca mean some Australians are unable to travel overseas?”](#), distilling highly complex information into straightforward and indispensable analysis.

Opinion pieces such as [“The international border isn't really closed and we're all paying a price”](#) and [“Latest lockdown is the last straw for domestic tourism”](#), by highly experienced national *Traveller* editor Anthony Dennis, and – on a more positive note – [“Here are the first international routes Qantas plans to restart”](#), by Traveller.com.au editor Craig Platt, also rated extremely well.

Contributor Ben Groundwater brought some levity to the situation with columns such as [“‘No respect!': Why should I have to clean an Airbnb before I leave?”](#) and [“Why the new Qantas ad has all of Australia talking \(and crying\)”](#) while quirky stories such as [“Louis Vuitton plane bag ridiculed for costing more than an actual plane”](#) and [“Crossing Japan's 'insane' bridge into the sky”](#) allowed readers some mental (if not physical) escapism.

Meanwhile *Good Food* pivoted from restaurant reviews to stories about the best [takeaway](#), [home delivery](#), [chef-prepped meal kits](#), [bakeries](#) and [bottled cocktails](#). As readers comforted themselves through extended lockdowns by [baking sourdough](#), [cakes](#) and [banana bread](#) and making [lasagne](#) and [chicken parmigiana](#), our recipe-driven content attracted the highest audience ever.

Myffy Rigby reported on [“Why making pasta is the new yoga”](#), Adam Liaw guided us through [combatting cooking fatigue](#) and Gemima Cody put the [most popular kitchen gadget of 2021](#) through its paces.

Callan Boys kept readers entertained with [taste tests](#) and, as we looked towards a return to dressing up and dining out, nutritionist Susie Burrell offered [tips for losing those COVID kilos](#) while Emma Breheny revealed [new openings to get excited about](#).

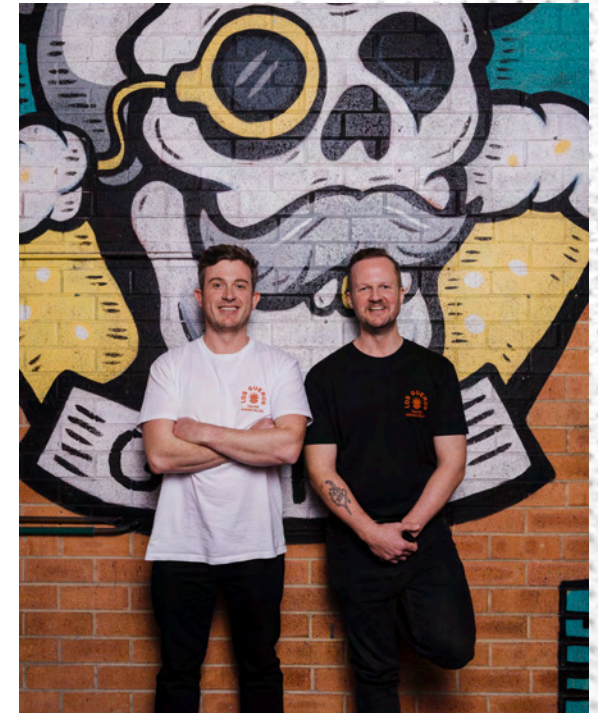
We also collaborated with Adam Liaw on a brand new television series, *Good Food Kitchen*. This eight-episode series aired on Channel Nine and 9Now, featuring a host of *Good Food* talent and guest chefs including Danielle Alvarez, Jill Duplex and Katrina Meynink sharing easy and delicious recipes. A cross-platform approach included a [hub on goodfood.com.au](#) featuring recipes and videos from the show, and a strong social-media presence.

Finally, once both NSW and Victoria were open for business, we published the *Good Food Guide* magazine as part of our Summer of Good Food campaign. A glossy magazine inserted free with *the Herald* and also available at supermarkets and newsagents, this gave readers an invaluable expert guide to more than 350 of the best restaurants, bars and cafes in NSW and Victoria so they could enjoy summer in true *Good Food* style.

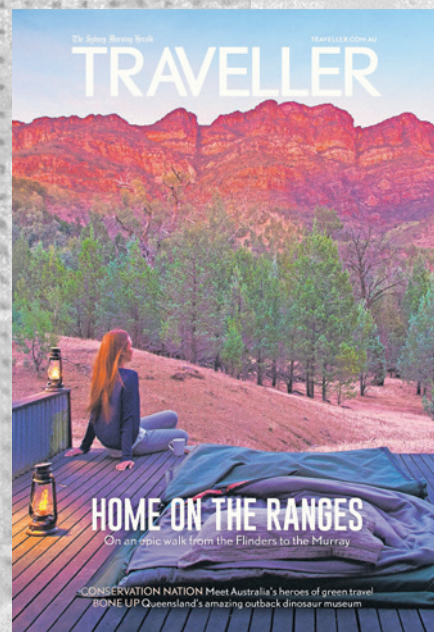
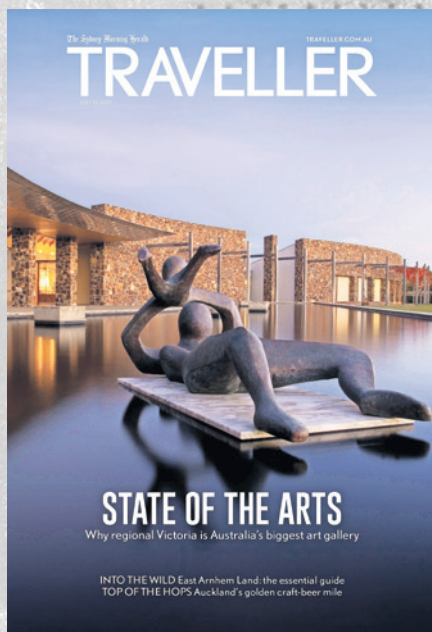
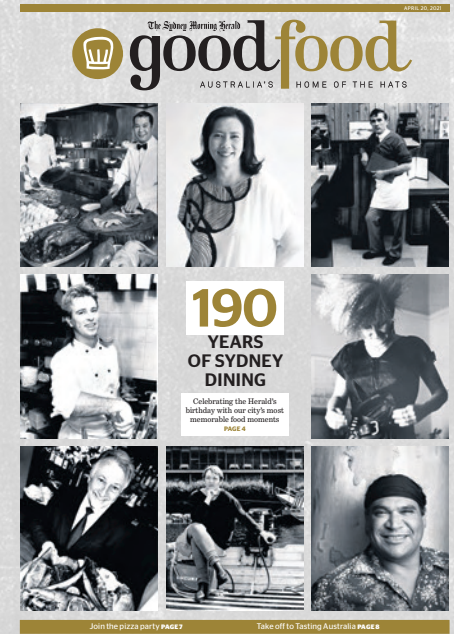


Trudi Jenkins

Publishing director, *Traveller* and *Good Food*



↑ Alex White and Dave McKinn of Los Gueros, a pop-up Mexican restaurant.
Photo: James Brickwood



AWARDS

KENNEDY AWARDS

- + **Young Journalist of the Year:** Natassia Chrysanthos.
- + **Outstanding Court and Legal Affairs Reporting:** Lucy Cormack and Kate McClymont.
- + **Outstanding News Photo:** Louise Kennerley.
- + **Vince O'Farrell award for Outstanding Illustration/ Cartoon:** Cathy Wilcox.

WALKLEY AWARDS

- + **Nikon Photo of the Year:** Kate Geraghty, "Fighting COVID-19 Delta".

The announcement of other 2021 Walkley winners has been postponed until early 2022. Finalists include:

Print/text News Report

- + **Natassia Chrysanthos** for "Hundreds of Sydney students claim they were sexually assaulted", "Pretty dark culture': Sydney boys' school heads express regret over rape claims" and "Rape culture reckoning as wave of sexual assault claims unleashed".
- + **Kate McClymont** for "Con Artist of the Century", "Vanished without a trace: Caddick, the toy boy and the missing millions" and "The Lady Vanishes".

Feature Writing Long (over 4000 words)

- + **Tim Elliott** for "Knives Out", *Good Weekend*.
- + **Melissa Fyfe** for "The death of Ashleigh Petrie", *Good Weekend*.

News Photography

- + **Kate Geraghty** for "COVID-19 ICU".
- + **Brook Mitchell** for "Sydney Anti-Lockdown Protest".

Feature/Photographic Essay

- + **Dean Sewell** for "Of Mice and Men", *The Sun-Herald*.

Nikon-Walkley Press Photographer of the Year

- + **Christopher Hopkins**, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Guardian* and *Al Jazeera*.

Television/video Current Affairs Long (more than 20 minutes)

- + **Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer** for "Nazis Next Door", *60 Minutes*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

Investigative Journalism

- + **Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer** for "Nazis Next Door", "Inside Racism HQ: How home-grown neo-Nazis are plotting a white revolution" and "From - kickboxing to Adolf Hitler: the neo-Nazi plan to recruit angry young men", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *60 Minutes*.

Commentary, Analysis, Opinion and Critique

- + **Waleed Aly** for "Woke Politics and Power", "Get to root of Mess" and "It makes no sense to ask 'why Melbourne?'", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Monthly*.

OTHER HERALD AWARDS IN 2021

- + **Best Sports Profile (written), Sport Australia Media Awards:** Iain Payten, "Most of Australia hated him: The judge with the red paddle who broke Australia's heart".
- + **Markets and Investment Journalism, 2021 Citi Journalism Awards for Excellence:** Sarah Danckert, "Bigger than the Wolf of Wall Street" series.

- + **Young Business Journalist of the Year, 2021 Citi Journalism Awards for Excellence:** Charlotte Grieve, “Operation Atlantis”, her series in collaboration with Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer.
- + **Broadcast Media, 2021 Citi Journalism Awards for Excellence:** Adele Ferguson and the ABC’s Chris Gillett for their investigation “Alinta Energy accused of putting customer data at risk”.
- + **Judy Dunbar Media Award from Netball NSW for Best Overall Media Coverage in 2021:** Sarah Keoghan.
- + **Story Page Design (Environment and Science), Society of News Design - Best of Digital Design:** Jamie Brown, Richard Lama, Cormac Lally, Nicole Precel, Mark Stehle, Mex Cooper and Rachel Eddie, “Buzz off: Why mosquitoes are biting you”.
- + **Story Page Design (Business/Finance, Technology & Transportation), Society of News Design - Best of Digital Design:** Richard Lama, Mark Stehle, Nick Toscano and Hamish Hastie, “All that glitters - might just be gold”.
- + **Story Page Design (Health/coronavirus), Society of News Design - Best of Digital Design:** Craig Butt, Richard Lama, Wolter Peeters, Joe Armao, Jason South, Mags King, Mark Stehle, “Silent Skies: how a pandemic grounded the aviation industry”.



↑ Coonamble broad acre farmer Allan Inglis goes about his daily routine of cleaning out his mice traps in his fight against the mice plague. Photo: Dean Sewell

← Olivia Bright, 66, a transgender and Wiradjuri woman, has lived on level 13 of the Daniel Solander building of the Waterloo housing blocks since 1991. Photo: Louise Kennerley

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