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The Sydney Morning Herald



'The weirdest week of my life'

Nick Galvin

A first-time Australian thriller writer is, at the age of 61, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Dan Brown and J.K. Rowling after his book debuted at the top of the British bestseller list. *I Am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes has appeared at No. 4 in the *Sunday Times* hardback fiction list, with the rights to the novel sold into more than 15 countries even before publication. The book was launched a couple of weeks ago in Britain and has already sold more than 12,000 copies, with 1600 electronic downloads on one day alone. "I can honestly say it's been the weirdest week of my life," Hayes said of all the attention his book has received. "When I was writing it, I went through the entire

gamut of human emotions. There would be nights when I'd think to myself that if it sold one copy I'd be really grateful and then there were other times when I thought this can really do it." Hayes, a former *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist, has had a successful career as a screenwriter, with credits including *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*, *Dead Calm* and TV mini-series *Bodyline* and *Bangkok Hilton*. He first began thinking about the plot of his first novel, an espionage thriller he describes as "an epic race against time to stop a terrorist working at the forefront of modern technology", about seven years ago. "I'd thought I'd better write some of these ideas down or I'm going to forget them so I had a shot at the" **Continued Page 6**

Renewable energy Analysts fear cash shortfall if Coalition wins

Climate of uncertainty

Exclusive
Ben Cubby, Tom Arup

About \$4 billion in private funding would be sucked away from Australia's solar power and renewable energy industries over the next three years if the Coalition wins government, confidential data obtained from banks and financial analysts shows. The Coalition's climate change plan is also \$4 billion short of the funding required to meet its promised 5 per cent cut in greenhouse emissions by 2020, and is on track for a 9 per cent increase by that date, according to analysis commissioned by The Climate Institute, an independent think tank. Although the Coalition rejects

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that analysis, big investors are planning for the impact if Opposition Leader Tony Abbott axes the carbon price and dismantles the clean energy finance system. They expect that about \$4.1 billion in private funding would be funnelled away from large-scale renewable power, starving the sector of capital due to regulatory uncertainty and a lack of returns, according to sources in the carbon finance sector. This would likely lead to the construction of a rash of cheap wind farms after 2016, to meet the mandatory renewable energy target, which commits Australia to 20 per cent clean power by 2020. "Under this scenario, the winners are probably going to be the gas guys and the wind guys. You will see a charge towards getting lots and lots of wind farms up at lowest cost because you have still got to meet the [renewable energy target]," a source within the sector

said. "It's going to change the shape of the industry." Mr Abbott said on the weekend that spending under his "direct action" climate change plan would remain capped at \$3.2 billion, even if it meant missing the Coalition's pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5 per cent by the year 2020. The Coalition climate change spokesman, Greg Hunt, said \$3.2 billion allotted for "direct action" would be enough to meet the 5 per cent target because cutting emissions was getting cheaper. "First, because of a collapse in overseas demand for our manufacturing goods our emissions task is lower," he said. "Second, the available quantity of abatement is" **Continued Page 8**

Fashion victims
A damning report on the Australian fashion industry shows 93 per cent of brands, including Rivers, Katies and Lacoste, do not know where their cotton is sourced from, making it likely child labour and exploitation has been involved. **News - Page 2**



Putting the boot in
Readers of *The Sun-Herald* woke to a confronting front page on Sunday - the image of a Western City Tigers player with his boot above a felled opponent. "This is happening all over Sydney," said Don Fellis, of Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League. **News - Page 7**



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ABANDON HOPE. ALL YE...



First get rail system in first-class order

Very glad to see Jacob Saulwick's piece on Sydney's train network ("Tunnel vision", August 17-18). I'm not opposed in principle to the privatisation of some rail sectors in Sydney, but we must first make sure the existing network functions to its optimal capacity.

And this will be nearly permanently stymied if the tunnel entrances at Epping can accommodate only metro trains (the parallel with building the M5 tunnels too small cannot be escaped).

The building of a Parramatta-Epping link via the Carlingford line, to give much-needed relief to the Western line together with other benefits, will also be consigned to the never-never.

The handing over of the Chatswood-Epping line to the north-west rail link operators, and the tunnel dimension decisions, are critical issues and must be opposed for the sake of our (allegedly) great city's future.

Matthew Doherty Denham Court

Kind words preferred

We should also never go back to the language of xenophobia of the early 2000s ("Neither party's policy offers a real solution", August 17-18). Remember the maps showing an asylum seeker invasion of Australia. Asylum seekers are people fleeing persecution and do not deserve maltreatment, another experienced and documented legacy of that time.

Tony Abbott's "This is our country and we determine who comes here" is the wrong tone ("Abbott's tough words, in the way of his hero", August 17-18). There are indeed

more refugees and asylum seekers wanting to come to Australia than we can accept. Surely we can and should manage our asylum seeker and refugee process without this kind of inflammatory language.

David Hind Neutral Bay

More polle than leader

The impressive surge in Labor polling occurred because many voters considered a wrong had been set right with Kevin Rudd's return and voters were expecting that the calibre of the leadership Labor had shown during the global financial crisis would return ("Voters reject Rudd factor", August 17-18).

However like Tony Abbott, Rudd is more concerned with neutralising issues than leading. No wonder Labor's momentum is waning.

George Finlay Balclava (Vic)

Dog beach is out of way

I would like to clarify my comments in support of the restrictions for the dog off-leash area at Greenhills Beach that were expressed in the article "Dogs allowed off-leash cause waves at beach" (August 15).

The beach is a resource for the community as a whole to enjoy. It has been my experience the dog owners using this beach are responsible, aware of the environment and considerate of other users. The section of Greenhills that has been designated dog friendly is only a small part of the Cronulla coastline.

Greenhills is an unpatrolled beach and does not attract large numbers of swimmers other than those taking the opportunity to

swim with their dogs. There are four other beautiful beaches - Wanda, Elouera, North Cronulla and South Cronulla - that are patrolled and safer for beachgoers. With the change being trialled for 12 months, the council has the option to address any concerns.

Michelle Lawson Caringbah

Printed in Beijing

I see one of the Palmer United Party's key policies is to create jobs and increase exports. I just received a leaflet from his party and it was printed in Beijing - so it



looks like his party has increased exports - exports of jobs which could have been done here. How beautifully ironic.

Colin Maltman Chatswood West

Latham's plain speaking gives debate a twist

I was interested to read your brief comments about women writing to the editor (Postscript, August 17-18) and how Tony Abbott's "sex appeal" remark had triggered a surge of letters from women.

Just three pages before I had read Julia Baird's column ("No appeal in those who have bulldust for brains", August 17-18) in which she refers to Mark Latham's response to that Abbott remark, saying "She's a rather plain, ordinary-looking woman ... in politics they say it's showbiz for

ugly people and I don't think she'll be out of place". Did Latham's comments draw any further letters - from men or women - and, if so, what did they say? I'm just curious to know whether a male polle effectively calling a female polle ugly gets a more or a less heated response than one who refers to her sex appeal. Anything is possible in this crazy world.

Andrew Urban Seaforth

Aren't we being a trifle hypocritical about Tony Abbott's reference to a young female candidate's sex appeal (Letters, August 17-18)? Don't tell me the vast sums that womenfolk spend on beautification, hairdos, breast implants, facelifts, cosmetics, stylish clothing, etc - all a vital part of the modern economy - are not at heart an attempt to enhance their appeal as a sex?

In your article, "The belle curve: designer does maths for shapely fit" (August 17-18), Danielle Wallace, recruited to design Jantzen's centenary swimsuits, says: "It's a misnomer that women want to minimise their curves. Most of us prefer to accentuate them."

Thank goodness for that. My youth was in the more liberal wolf-whistle days of the 1940s when sex appeal was accepted and enjoyed as a fact of life. No women I knew shrank from it. Why should not even a budding PM enjoy that human magic that crowns and glorifies the female species? Well said, Tony.

Robin Hutcheon Edgecliff

Fix those locks, Kevin

Would someone, anyone, please give Kevin Rudd a can of hairspray, pronto. It might also help his sex appeal, which hovers around zero. And if he uses the word "frankly" again, I'll do something rash.

Margaret Johnson Peakhurst

One goal only: healthy baby and mother

At last, a sensible comment on childbirth ("No right or wrong way to give birth", August 17-18). My "natural" first birth reminded me of my luck, as a preemie myself who spent her first month of life in a humidicrib, at being born in a first-world country and having my kids in one. My 18 hours of "natural" labour was followed by two lots of surgery and anaemia for months. My second was a breeze: an emergency caesarean with no issues at all. Result: two healthy kids.

It's not a competition, ladies. The only "prize" for which you should be aiming is a healthy baby and mother. Do you feel inadequate if you take modern antibiotics for infection? Or have an MRI for a head injury? Do you boast that you had surgery for your broken leg with no anaesthetic? New parents all need love and support, not criticism. Trying to turn childbirth into some kind of competitive sport may be very "Australian", but it indicates twisted priorities.

Eva Elbourne Killara

Hazzard out of touch

Instead of scrapping his flawed draft planning laws for NSW, Brad Hazzard goes on the attack - criticising people he claims "slam dunk their views over other viewpoints by making alarmist assertions" ("Critics fearful of planning reforms", August 17-18). Residents of Ku-ring-gai have fought for years against bad planning. The only slam dunking has been done by government and big developers.

Felicity Moore St Ives

Respond with contempt

Rob Ryan (Letters, August 17-18) there is no need, when we are voting in the election, to have a choice of "none of the above". Simply register with the polling clerk (so you are not fined) and don't write anything on the ballot paper. That's an informal vote. If squillions of voters did this, it would certainly send a "message" to the main political parties.

Steve Barrett Glenbrook

... or just despair

I must confess, that if the polls maintain their current drift, the F-word is likely to be heard a lot more around our home, and it won't have anything to do with cars ("Kevin Rudd drops the F-word in fiery speech to Holden faithful", smh.com.au, August 17).

Mike Clear Cudmirrah

Not cricket, but ...

Robbie Deans, the Mickey Arthur of Australian rugby ("All Blacks exploit error-ridden Wallabies", smh.com.au, August 17).

Tony Re Georges Hall

Letters submissions

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'IT WAS JUST SO SENSELESS'



■ Jessica Wright, Deb Gough and Jane Lee

In a small town on the other side of the world, a young Australian's promise was snuffed out in the most brutal and inexplicable fashion. Jogging through the leafy streets of Duncan, Oklahoma last Friday, Chris Lane must have felt the world was at his feet. He was only 15 when he began dreaming of a life in the US. He wanted to attend an American college and chose to play baseball - despite displaying talent as an athlete and junior footballer - to get himself there.

Chris, who grew up in Oak Park in Melbourne's north, later won a baseball scholarship to become a catcher for



East Central University in Oklahoma. At 22, he was living this dream when it was cut short in a random attack that has devastated his friends and family and again trained the spotlight on the US gun culture.

He was jogging away from his girlfriend's home, as part of an almost daily training routine, when police allege three teenagers in a black car randomly spotted him and

Struggling: Donna and Peter Lane speak to the media. Inset: Chris with Sarah Harper. Photos: AAP, Facebook

began to follow him. "They came up from behind, shot him in the back with a small-calibre handgun and sped off," said Duncan's police chief Danny Ford.

Chris's father, Peter Lane, spoke to reporters outside his son's Australian sporting home, the Essendon Baseball Club: "He was a kid on the cusp of making his life. He gave up a lot to follow his dreams.

"There's not going to be any good come out of this because it was just so senseless. There wasn't anything he did or could have done ...

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UN climate change report Temperatures to increase

Revealed: 80cm sea rise warning

Ben Cubby, Peter Hannam

The world is on track to become up to five degrees hotter, and sea levels could rise more than 80 centimetres this century, according to a leaked draft of a landmark climate change report prepared for the UN.

There is now a 95 per cent likelihood human greenhouse gas emissions are driving changes being ob-

served globally, which in recent weeks have included extraordinary heatwaves in Asia and Alaska.

That degree of certainty has been revised up from 90 per cent in the last report in 2007, 66 per cent in 2001, and just over 50 in 1995. A sea level rise of up to 82 centimetres, which would have serious impacts on coastal cities everywhere, is now "unequivocal", Reuters reported.



Inside
Voters can trust either the science or the spin
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But while many forecasts have hardened, the certainty over some of the impacts of global warming has declined, with scientists struggling to predict some local effects including regional changes in rainfall, drought and wild weather.

The final version of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which will cover the expected effects of climate on Australia in coming decades, is scheduled for release in September.

About 200 countries, including Australia, have pledged to hold temperature rises to two degrees by cutting emissions, though few nations are on track to meet that goal.

The federal opposition rejected a

report by Fairfax Media on Monday that showed banks and other major investors estimated that about \$4 billion in private funding for renewable energy projects would be withheld if the Coalition won office.

This estimate is based on work by market analysts suggesting that regulatory uncertainty and the prospect of unknown returns would stymie investment.

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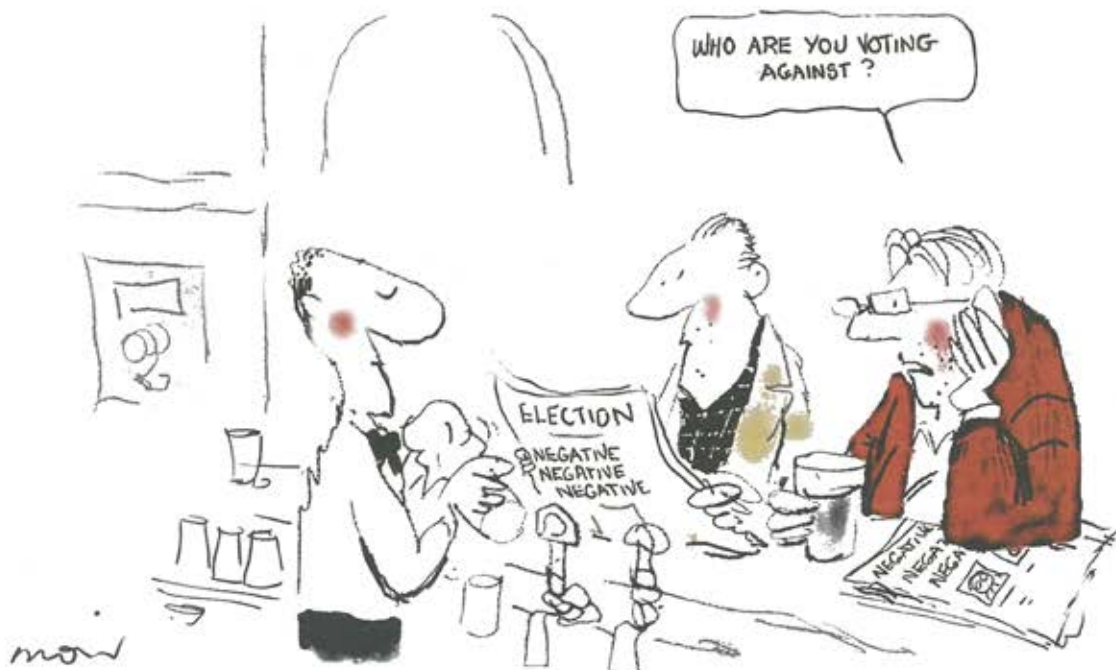
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Old pick up tab for paid maternity plan

Tony Abbott says big business will pay for his new paid parental leave scheme ("Liberals smooth out the bumps with \$6b paid parental leave scheme", August 19). How can this be? They are receiving a 1.5 percentage point reduction in their company tax rate to offset the 1.5 per cent levy for the scheme, so for them the effect must be cost neutral. So who really pays? Shareholders in the major companies, primarily superannuation funds and self-funded retirees, who will see their franking credits, and therefore net income, reduced by 1.5 per cent. An interesting development in middle-class welfare where the old pay for the young.

Ian Bradley Balgowlah Heights

Tony Abbott's parental leave is poor public health policy as it sends the wrong message to prospective parents.

Instead of waiting until they maximise their maternity payments as they rise up the pay rates, prospective parents should be aware that between the ages of 25 and 35 fertility rates halve. Even with expensive IVF, take-home baby rates fall from 35 per cent at 25 to 15 per cent at 35.

Parents falsely believe that if they wait until everything is rosy financially they can plan their ideal family. Yet costs of child care also rise with time, for example, private school fees have doubled over the past 15 years.

Parental leave should encourage parents to conceive under 30 with a 10 per cent reduction in benefits every year to 35. This would save the heartache of infer-

tility and the huge cost to the health system of expensive IVF.

Dr Colin Hughes Midland (WA)

An employed woman earning \$150,000 a year will receive full pay for six months plus super: married or not, supported or not. But her less fortunate, single, unemployed sisters with one or more dependent children, will receive a maximum of \$537.80 (Newstart) a fortnight. Less than \$270 a week. Land of the fair go? Think again, Mr Abbott.

Janet Simpson Glebe

If this doesn't look like a policy for Mr Abbott's daughters what does?

David Evans Boorowa

CTP bill failure reminds of need to fix compo

Too little too late would best describe the Shooters and Fishers withdrawal of support for the O'Farrell government proposal to change compulsory third party insurance ("Insurance scheme overhaul dead", August 19).

Where was their social conscience when this same government destroyed (in three days) our world-class workers compensation scheme, to the detriment of every working person in NSW? The only winners from those changes were the insurance companies.

The CTP proposal was just as dangerous and most certainly was not aimed at improving compensation for the victims of motor vehicle accidents.

How about now putting a bill to the upper house that reverses the workers compensation changes?

Quid pro quo to restore the balance so sadly missing since Mr O'Farrell took office.

Tony Heathwood Kiama Downs

Thugs on the sport field

As if verbal abuse and biff in junior rugby league isn't bad enough, what made that kid think it's OK to stomp on someone's head ("Revelation at thuggery in footy game", August 19)? Was he never told you don't hit someone when they're already down? Just as alarming is the notion that many of those under-19 players are presumably 18-year-old "adults".



I'll be interested to see what sanctions and strategies will be employed to stop this behaviour. I also wonder what studies have been done researching any possible connection between violent screen "entertainment" via video games, film and television and violence on the street and in sport.

Daniel Flesch Bellingen

Has-been v potential PM

The reason, Andrew Urban (Letters, August 19), that Mark Latham's comments have attracted a less heated response from women than the comments of Tony Abbott is not because they are less offensive, but because Mr Latham is a political has-been while Mr Abbott is a prime ministerial contender. Meanwhile, I would politely suggest

to Robin Hutcheon (Letters, August 19), that the "vast sums womenfolk spend on beautification" may be a function of social context, and the double standards under which women continue to be judged primarily on their appearances. Given that male politicians are still discussing a female candidate's "sex appeal" (or lack thereof), perhaps those "wolf whistle days" are not so far behind us, after all?

Thea Gumbert-Jourjon
Alexandria

Goal of planning reform

Felicity Moore (Letters, August 19) has it entirely around the wrong way. The NSW planning reforms are intended to rectify the "bad planning" she says residents have fought in Ku-ring-gai.

Under the proposed reforms there would be a well-informed process, that residents could participate in, to create an agreed "masterplan" for the entire area. This would determine where development should go, and its overall form. In Ku-ring-gai it would highlight opportunities for bigger transport-oriented developments on the rail and road corridor, leaving the bulk of the north shore suburbs intact. The developers could build with certainty, and put their time and money into better designs rather than court cases. However, having never achieved that agreed overall plan, with local buy-in, it's been NIMBYs and NOTES (not over there either) in hand-to-hand combat on each project; the end result is chaotic developments scattered through the streets.

The BANANA approach (build absolutely nothing anywhere near anything) won't work, so it is better that everyone decides ahead of time where the best places for development are, and let's really save our suburbs, rather than continue the endless fighting we have now.

Tone Wheeler Glebe

Slow learner

I was surprised to see Tony Abbott with his arm around the shoulders of Fiona Scott ("When Tony met Fiona again", jsmh.com.au, August 19). He was quick to protect his candidate from a difficult economics question. He is slow to learn what is appropriate, both in word and action, when interacting with a competent, adult woman.

Jacqui Richmond Cheltenham

Next generation

The article on boat refugees by East Hills high school students Wafa Kazal and Aida Zjakic is an outstanding example of the depth of thought of our next generation ("Paradise lost if compassion is not sacred to society", August 19). It is also a positive statement on our public school system and the ability of young students from migrant families to participate in a sensitive policy debate with passion and clarity. Well done.

Bert Candy

Lemon Tree Passage

Labor's the problem

Did a certain ex-prime minister chuckle this morning when she read the latest polls ("Election live", smh.com.au, August 19). Perhaps, despite all the posturing of Mr Rudd that she was the problem, voters think the Labor brand stinks regardless of who is leading it.

Tim Roberts Lane Cove

Student's got talent

James Nash, in year 11 at Coonabarabran High, shows empathy, insight and wisdom ("War without end for traumatised soldiers and their families", August 19). Whatever job he does, I'm glad he'll be in the workforce when I've left it.

Patricia Strauss Cheltenham

Real action for change

Rather than sending an informal message, Steve Barrett (Letters, August 19), perhaps you should join a political party and push for better policies and candidates. It only requires one evening meeting each month.

Pasquale Vartuli Wahroonga

Forever the optimist

Peter FitzSimons' fervent belief before every Wallabies rugby Test that this is the dawn of a new era is reminiscent of the eternal optimist Charlie Brown as he races in to kick the football held by Lucy ("Over the hill: could this be the All Blacks' Achilles heel?", August 17). It always ends the same way, and it never ends well.

Michael Momsen Thirroul

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