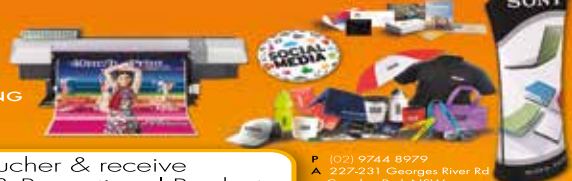


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## Rental market is bad and likely to get even worse



The lines of hopeful tenants queuing outside rental properties expected to get longer as pressures on Australia's rental market intensify.

Fresh data released this week pointed to a re-acceleration in rents as well as a stabilisation in

home prices, a situation that St George economists have labelled a "double-whammy" for the one-third of Australian households that rent.

Higher demand and low vacancy rates prompted advertised rents to lift 2.5 per cent in the March

quarter, according to CoreLogic data, up from two per cent in the December quarter.

The property data firm also released new homes data for March this week showed prices lifting

*Continued page 16*

## Pope Francis rises above pain, age and weather to celebrate Easter Sunday



A frail and ailing Pope Francis has presided over Easter vigil Mass in St. Peter's Basilica a day after chilly weather saw him bow out of Good

Friday's night-time procession at the Colosseum.

The evening basilica service began

*Continued page 16*

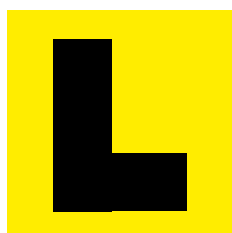
## China launches military drills around Taiwan



The Chinese military announced the launch of three days of exercises in the Taiwan Strait on Saturday. The wargames come just a day

after Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen returned from the US, where she met with House Speaker Kevin

*Continued page 16*



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## PM Anthony Albanese: Make it a happy and safe Easter



Anthony Albanese has called on Australians to enjoy a safe and happy Easter, saying the holiday break testifies to multiculturalism's success and the importance of diversity.

In his official Easter message, the Prime Minister said Easter Sunday was a holy day marking the resurrection and a celebration of faith, hope and renewal for many.

"Our nation is home to Christians drawn from all parts of the world and from all traditions," Mr Albanese said.

"The variety of services, vigils and ceremonies across the Easter period speaks for our nation's diversity."

He thanked those Australians working through the public holidays, saying it was only possible for others to enjoy the long weekend because of their efforts.

'Take care on the roads'

And he also urged drivers to take caution through the holiday.

"Finally, can I ask you all to please take care on the roads at this busy time for travel," Mr Albanese said.

"Have a safe, happy and holy Easter."

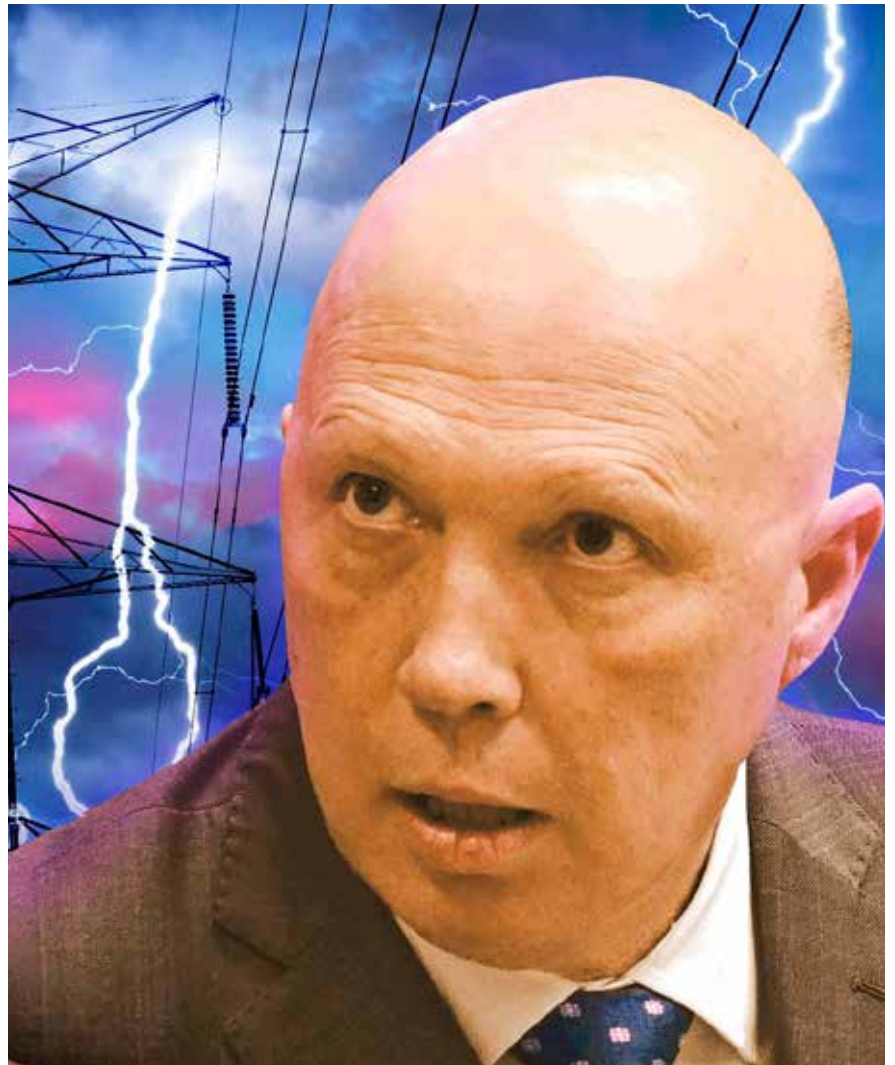
Opposition Leader Peter Dutton also wished Australians a happy Easter, saying it was a time for Christians everywhere to reflect on Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice and the profound impact of his teachings.

"As we enjoy these great traditions together, let us remember the true meaning of Easter and the message of hope and renewal that it brings," he said.

"The messages of Easter – atonement, forgiveness, love, and hope – have meaning for all of us."

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk wished her state a happy Easter on Twitter on Sunday.

## Peter Dutton: Public servants will be the only real winners if the Voice gets up



Peter Dutton has claimed the only sector of Australian society likely to benefit from the proposed Voice to Parliament will be thousands of additional public servants while Indigenous disadvantage remains as bad as ever.

The opposition leader has bound his frontbench to the No case and while he supports constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians he also paints the Voice as a threat to Australia's democracy.

Mr Dutton has advanced an alternative model to create local and regional voices through legislation, saying that would more effectively advocate for Aboriginal communities.

"The Liberal Party model will limit the local and regional bodies to issues specific to improving lives and outcomes locally. It has no business in defence, RBA deliberations, energy and environment policy," Mr Dutton told The Weekend Australian.

He said his model would sit outside the Constitution and be better than giving a national body free rein to make representations on any issue affecting Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Mr Dutton said the government's proposed voice would "require thousands of public servants and

billions of dollars to run a new arm of the government to facilitate the consultation."

Former prime minister Tony Abbott, meanwhile, has called on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to halt the referendum process and hold a constitutional convention.

Abbott joins the attack

He told The Weekend Australian the Voice was a "Trojan horse" and a "power grab" that would create special political entities based on ancestry, akin to "Indigenous separatism."

"This assumption that Indigenous people are 'different' and need to be treated differently – this separatist mindset – is at the heart of the problem," he said.

Mr Albanese on Friday praised former Indigenous Australians minister Ken Wyatt as taking a principled stand in quitting the Liberal Party over its position on the voice.

"(Mr Wyatt) worked very hard for such a long period of time ... for years (former prime minister) John Howard said we needed to recognise Aboriginal people in our constitution and it hasn't happened," Mr Albanese told Sydney radio station 2GB.

"Peter Dutton has underestimated how many Liberal-National Party voters will vote 'yes'."



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By Mamdouh  
Sukkarieh

## Letter for the Pope and Patriarchs

My daughter Natalie Sukkarieh four years ago wrote a passionate letter to the Pope and Patriarchs hoping they will listen to her or at least consider her voice and all the voices of the younger generation to be heard. It's regarding the Easter celebration date to be the same for all Christians but unfortunately nothing came from the letter as of yet but as you can read below she amongst many others who share this sadness in one of the most holy times of the year:

I have been asked by friend are you celebrating Easter on this Sunday or next week, I said our Easter next week then they asked why? I told them I really don't know, the only thing I know is we follow the eastern calendar, then they tried to joke saying after one week, everything would be too late you won't even find any Easter eggs.

After I went home I went to Google search hunting for what the big reason behind this midterm I have found is that: By the 1700's, though, most of Western Europe had adopted the Gregorian Calendar. On the Gregorian calendar (the one that we use), Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon which is the first full moon on or after March 21. Easter thus always falls between March 22 and April 25. The Eastern Christian churches still determine the Easter dates using the older Julian Calendar method. The usual statement, that Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs next after the vernal equinox, is not a precise statement of the actual ecclesiastical rules.

What I have found not important for me and for other young and old people, As Christian we crucified Jesus and Rose him twice once in the Western calendar and the second in the Eastern Calendar, so what is the problem if the pope and the patriarchs meet and decide a day for everyone. My belief about the meaning of Easter is not about when, where and how we deal with historical issues in celebrating Easter. It's the spirit of resurrection and continuation of new life, with love and peace. It's giving and making sacrifices for others, but his resurrection represents something even more powerful: the potential for rebirth, salvation, and renewal of faith.

In conclusion I would like the religious leaders to take our concern into consideration and set up a one date for us all to celebrate Easter together. I wish everyone a happy festive season, hoping they have a wonderful and safe Easter with family and friends.

## Former Indigenous Australians minister Ken Wyatt quits Liberal Party over its Voice stance



Former Indigenous Australians minister Ken Wyatt has quit the Liberal Party over its opposition to the Voice to Parliament.

The party accepted a resignation from Mr Wyatt, the first Aboriginal person to hold the role, on Thursday, a day after leader Mr Dutton confirmed the Liberals had delivered a "resounding no" to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's model.

Mr Wyatt, a long-term advocate for the Voice, told The West Australian on Thursday: "I still

believe in the Liberal Party values but I don't believe in what the Liberals have become.

Advertisement

"Aboriginal people are reaching out to be heard but the Liberals have rejected their invitation."

Mr Wyatt warned last week his former party would be viewed as racist if it opted to oppose the body. Liberal MP Linda Reynolds described Mr Wyatt as an "outstanding" MP and minister, but accepted the party did not agree with his stance on the Voice.

## Family was sound asleep as Sydney home collapses



A family was sound asleep when they felt their home shaking and saw the ceiling begin to collapse in Sydney's south west.

Emergency crews arrived at the Condell Park property around 5am to find part of the home had collapsed. An exclusion zone has since been established.

The woman renting the home told Today she, her partner and her children were fast asleep in the bedroom when they started to see and feel the ceiling collapse.

The family felt the entire property begin to shake before they and their three pets fled the home as it collapsed.

NSW Fire and Rescues' Adam Dewberry said the family is devastated after their home and cars were destroyed.

"There's not a lot we can do here because of the damage it has occurred," he said.

"It is pretty unusual. It is a very new home.

"So what's occurred here will have to be investigated by the regulators and the other authorities and no doubt the owner and insurance."

Four cars have been damaged after the bedroom collapsed onto the garage.

The family has found alternative accommodation after the incident.





## Horror crash kills four, closes Barton Highway



It's been a horror start to Easter, with four people dead and another taken to hospital following a fatal crash on the Barton Highway. Emergency services were called to the Barton Highway, near Casuarina Lane, following reports of a two-vehicle crash.

When police arrived, officers from the Hume Police District found a Ford Ranger utility and a Mitsubishi Triton utility had collided.

A female driver and male passenger of the Mitsubishi, and a male driver and male passenger of the Ford died at the scene.

They have not been formally identified.

Another passenger in the Ford was treated at the scene and taken to hospital.

Their ages have not been released. Motorists have been urged to avoid the area, with ACT Emergency Services saying the Barton Highway would be closed for some time.

Live Traffic NSW advises those travelling southbound to use Murrumbateman Road and Sutton Road to the Federal Highway in Canberra.

Northbound travellers from the Federal Highway in Canberra should use Sutton Road, followed by Murrumbateman Road to get to the Barton Highway.

These diversions are not suitable for B-doubles.

B-double drivers can use Hume Hwy and Federal Hwy.

Murrumbateman Road was only recently reopened to traffic after a six month closure.

## Man accused of scamming more than 30 AFL fans with fake tickets 'to plead guilty'



A Mill Park man charged with scamming more than 30 AFL fans with fake tickets to last year's grand final has failed to face his accusers in court.

James Bambino's alleged victims have told 9News they didn't realise they had been ripped off until hours before the game.

Sheona Williams said she sent Bambino almost \$1000 for tickets to the grand final for her husband and his elderly mother Carol.

When Bambino claimed he had never received the money, family friend Peter Knight stepped in and also transferred cash.

"My friend needed to be at the grand final breakfast by 9am, it was 8.30am and I still hadn't heard anything," Knight said.

The tickets never arrived.

Geelong supporters Matt Brown and his friend Riley did successfully

get preliminary finals tickets from Bambino via Gumtree.

They trusted him enough to pay him for tickets to the grand final.

"Two tickets were \$360 each and he didn't send us the tickets," Brown said. Police say Bambino pocketed more than \$25,000.

The 24-year-old did not front court in person today, instead appearing via video link.

He and his family have reportedly been receiving death threats.

Bambino has been told he must appear at the Heidelberg Court in person for his next hearing in July.

His lawyer said on that day Bambino plans to plead guilty.

His alleged victims are still hoping to get their money back and put it to good use.

"I think we want to go to the grand final more because we missed out on it last year," Brown said.

## Police shut down website selling logins from hacked Australians

Ten Australians have been arrested and charged as part of an international police sting targeting a website selling stolen account logins.

The invite-only website, of which about 70,000 people had access to, offered login credentials, browsing history, autofill form data and other sensitive data taken from hacked devices.

The number of Australian victims of the website - called Genesis Market - are still being calculated, but 36,000 compromised Australian devices were found to be available for sale on the site, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said.

"This is now the new normal for our communities, with the cyber impacts having real world impacts on people in their homes. It's the

modern burglary," AFP Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee said.

Lee said the hackers were using malware to target people's computers and other devices.

"Whether it's your phone, your laptop, tablet, (the malware) then extracts your browser history, any cookies you may have on your device, any passwords that might relate to your bank accounts, your social media accounts, those types of things," Lee said.

"Once those are then extracted, they are placed on the marketplace for sale.

"People can purchase and seek to use those credentials to compromise people and gain access to their bank accounts, or other services they can then use for fraud purposes."

Lee said there was no link between Genesis Market and recent large-scale, data-hacking incidents in Australia involving companies such as Optus, Medibank and Latitude.

At the time it was taken offline, Genesis Market offered access to more than 1.5 million compromised computers - each containing information for dozens of accounts, including logins for companies such as Netflix and Amazon.

One of the administrators of the website was believed to have been operating out of Russia, while another was located in Asia, according to the FBI.

A Victorian man, who police will allege is the most prolific purchaser of compromised information in Australia, was among the ten



arrested by the AFP and state detectives locally.

The Box Hill man, 31, is accused of spending more than A\$56,500 purchasing information from the website.

The Dutch Police have developed a portal to help determine if your personal details have been compromised. Visit [www.politie.nl/checkyourhack](http://www.politie.nl/checkyourhack) to determine if your details were available on Genesis Market.



# The Holy Good Friday at St Charbel's Punchbowl Parish



The Good Friday liturgy at St Charbel's Punchbowl Parish, is a big annual spiritual gathering during which over 6,000 parishioners

partake in the Stations of the Cross that start in Roberts Park, Greenacre and end at St Charbel's Church. This is followed by the Good Friday

Liturgy. Thousands walk, pray and reflect on the stations of the passion of Jesus Christ. After the Liturgy dignitaries were

invited to a breaking the fast with His Excellency Bishop Antoine Tarabay, Father Superior Assad Lahoud and monks,





# HAPPY EASTER



**JASON CLARE MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BLAXLAND

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Authorised by Jason Clare MP, Australian Labor Party, Suite 7, Level 1, 400 Chapel Road Bankstown NSW 2200



**The Hon.**  
**SOPHIE COTSIS MP**

I wish  
you and your families  
Blessed and peaceful  
**Easter**



**SOPHIE COTSIS MP**  
Member for Canterbury

Suite 201, Level 2, 308-312 Beamish Street  
Campsie NSW 2194

**Phone: 9718 1234**



The Easter story and the resurrection of Jesus Christ brings a truly significant message to all in our community.

Let's take advantage of this opportunity to stop and reflect on the Easter message of hope, love and peace.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing break with your family and friends.

*Khal Asfour*

Clr Khal Asfour  
MAYOR  
City of Canterbury Bankstown

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E [Mayor@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Mayor@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au)



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Curry and  
Councillors, we  
wish everyone a  
happy and safe  
Easter break.**

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Authorised by Ed Husic, ALP, Shop 41, Plumpton Marketplace, Jersey Rd, Plumpton, 2761

Wishing you a  
Happy Easter



**TONY BURKE MP**  
MEMBER FOR WATSON

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Authorised by Tony Burke MP, ALP, Shop 29, Broadway Plaza Punchbowl, NSW, 2196



**Linda Burney** MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BARTON

Happy  
Easter!

Wishing you and your family  
a safe and festive Easter break.

**Office:** 203 / 13A Montgomery St, Kogarah NSW 2217

**Mail:** PO Box 32, Kogarah NSW 2217 **Phone:** (02) 9587 1555

**Email:** [linda.burney.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:linda.burney.mp@aph.gov.au)

Authorised by Linda Burney MP, Australian Labor Party, 203 / 13A Montgomery Street Kogarah NSW 2217







By Natalie Sukkarieh



## Easter

*Easter time*

*A time of love*

*A time of sacrifice*

*When Jesus payed a high price*

*He died on the cross*

*And his mother dealt with his loss*

*To save us from our sins*

*In the nails went*

*Like pins in his skin*

*The heavy cross he carried,*

*Only to be later buried.*

*He died out of love for us*

*And in him we put our trust*

*He fell three times*

*But not for his crimes.*

*He was innocent*

*Yet his love was infinite*

*He was resurrected*

*And the good word he subjected*

*To the people believed*

*He promised them to be free*

*He suffered pain*

*But for no personal gain.*

*Out of love he died,*

*In order to guide*

*His pride, of people*

*To the heavenly land of God.*



## Everything you need to know about the Sydney Royal Easter Show



The Sydney Royal Easter Show returns this April, continuing its run as the largest ticketed event in Australia.

Welcoming over 850,000 attendees on average each year, the Sydney Royal Easter Show celebrates Aussie culture with a host of activities on offer for all ages.

When and where

The Sydney Royal Easter Show runs for 14 days at Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park.

It all kicks off on Thursday 6 April and runs right through to Wednesday 19 April.

What's on

Expect all things traditional including agricultural competitions, cute animal areas, pony rides, craft corners, live entertainment and carnival rides, plus more modern touches like shopping, great food and a spectacular firework display.

There's also a whole section for kids to learn and get hands on with heaps of cool activities, including learning how to be a junior farm hand, to sheep shearing, pie baking and petting adorable farm animals.

What more could you want?

This year there's also the option to pre-purchase your Meal Deal, Tasting Platter and Carnival Coupons to save time and money on the day.

Tickets

General tickets: Meet farmyard animals, taste award-winning produce and feel the adrenaline in the carnival on any day of the Show. Pre-purchase and save.

Twilight ticket: Have over 5 hours of fun and watch the sun go down. Valid for entry from 4pm.

2-day ticket: Fancy double the fun? Get discounted entry on any two days of the Show.

Kid's Day: Child Show tickets are half price on the last day. Valid 19 April 2017 only.

Seniors' Day: Pre-purchase Seniors' tickets and receive a discount. Valid 12 April 2017 only.

For all Sydney Royal Easter Show ticket info head to [Ticketmaster.com.au/sydneyroyaleastershow](https://www.ticketmaster.com.au/sydneyroyaleastershow).

Find a full list of activities at [eastershow.com.au](https://www.eastershow.com.au).





*I'd like to wish you and your families  
a **Happy and safe Easter**  
May this occasion be filled with hope, peace  
and unity for all.*

**Jihad Dib MP**  
Member Elect for Bankstown  
Shop 21, Broadway Plaza, Punchbowl NSW 2196  
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E: [bankstown@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bankstown@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Authorised by Jihad Dib MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



**Happy  
EASTER**

On behalf of the City of Parramatta,  
I wish everyone a very happy Easter.  
For many, this is a time of hope and  
reflection.

This Easter, may you enjoy a very  
well deserved break with your family  
and friends.

For those working over Easter, we  
thank you for your service.



Happy Easter Parramatta

**Cr Donna Davis**  
Lord Mayor  
City of Parramatta

[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)



**Cr Rachelle Harika**

I wish  
you and your families  
Safe and  
Happy Easter

أتمنى لكم وعائلاتكم  
فصحاً مجيداً



**Cr Ola Hamed**

Wishing everyone  
a Happy and safe Easter  
أتمنى للجميع فصح مجيد



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## City of Canterbury Bankstown Iftar Dinner



A wonderful Iftar Dinner hosted by Cllr. Khal Asfour - Mayor of the City of Canterbury Bankstown at the Grand Vaudeville in with eminent, politicians, media, imams

and community leaders. It was a memorable event for the community. "A pleasure to host last night's special Iftar Dinner for our Muslim community.

More than 600 of my Muslim friends came together to celebrate and break their fast at the Grand Vaudeville at Condell Park. My thanks to fellow Councillors, Members of Parliament,

religious leaders and community leaders who made the night a success. I extend my best wishes to our Muslim community during this holy month. Ramadan Kareem." Khal Asfour said





# Community Iftar hosted by three wonderful parliamentarians



For 10 years, Tony Burke MP, Jason Clare MP and Jihad Dib MP, have been hosting a community iftar. It is always great to attend this event at

which the three ministers thanked the many unsung heroes of our community. It's a pretty special time this year with Ramadan and Easter,

allowing many of us to spend time together. The event was attended by a representative of parliamentarians,

Councilors, sheikhs, media, representative of the local communities, and a large number of attendees.





## WAG Jesinta Franklin stuns in deep pink gown as she showcases designs by Jason Grech



Radio celebrity Jackie 'O' Henderson has taken to social media to warn her fans about scam advertising using radically altered images of her face to sell diet pills.

The 48-year-old KIIS FM radio host shared some examples to Instagram of the photo alterations being used in a bid to spruik Keto Gummies.

"Another day, another scam!!!" she wrote.

"If you see me 'advertising' keto gummies, it ain't true.

"But I'm loving their photoshopped pics."

In some of the photographs, Henderson's face is exaggerated to look extremely bloated.

These photos are then contrasted with pictures of Henderson looking much slimmer in a form-fitting dress.

One ad featured a fake quote of Henderson saying, "Now I weigh 57kg and I want to lose another 3-5 kilos."

## Australian Idol star's former neighbour issued with restraining order

Australian Idol star Guy Sebastian's neighbour has been ordered not to approach, contact, harass, threaten or otherwise bother him for four months as criminal charges are withdrawn.

Phillip Hanslow's relationship with his famous neighbour in Sydney's eastern suburbs became strained during construction of 41-year-old Sebastian's mansion next door to his home in Maroubra.

The three-level concrete and glass home designed by architect Joe Snell has attracted comparisons to a fortress and overlooks neighbouring properties.

Sebastian told a Brisbane radio station as the house approached completion in 2019 that one of his neighbours was "a bit filthy at everyone".

Hanslow, 66, was charged with intimidating the singer and damaging his fence over an alleged threat in January.

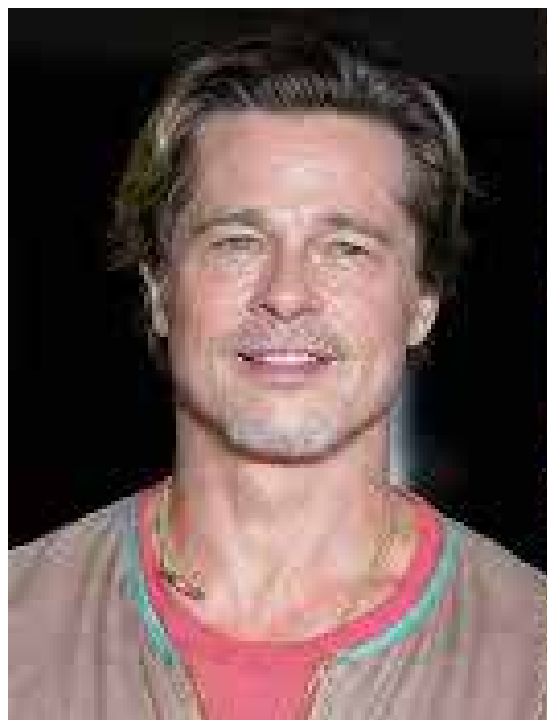
Both charges were withdrawn on Wednesday.

An apprehended violence order was made ordering Hanslow not to assault, threaten, harass or contact Sebastian or his family and avoid damaging his property for four months.



Hanslow has been living at a southwest Sydney address.

## Brad Pitt let his 105-year-old neighbor live rent-free on his \$39m former compound for years



Brad Pitt let his 105-year-old neighbor live rent-free on his former \$39m LA estate for years, Elvira star Cassandra Peterson has revealed in a new interview with People.

The Oscar-winning actor, 59, who sold his Los Feliz, California compound after nearly three decades in March, was the perfect neighbor to his elderly friend after his wife passed away - allowing him to become a tenant on the estate.

Peterson, 71, who became next-door neighbors with Pitt after she sold him her home in 1994, said Pitt had built up his estate by acquiring surrounding properties, one of which belonged to a man in his early nineties. She said: 'He was very, very kind to the husband. His wife passed away and the

husband, John, lived there. I know that Brad allowed him to live there without paying anything until he died.

'It was kind of funny because John lived to be 105. I imagine Brad was thinking well, you know, he can live there till he dies, which might be any minute now.

Peterson said the actor was always 'kind and sweet' to her throughout their years as neighbors, and reveals she 'almost fainted' when she saw the star shirtless and punching a bag in preparation for 1999 film, Fight Club. She added: 'I remember he goes, "Hey, how are you?" and I'm like, "Huh?" I couldn't talk. I was turning red. I felt like I was fainting,' she continues. 'He's just so stunningly, stunningly handsome — and nice, to top it off.'



## Meghan Markle sparks rumours of new career after PR payment revealed

Is Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, planning to carve out a political career in the US?

Payments made by Meghan and Harry's Archewell charity organisation to a PR company run by Michelle Obama's former press secretary suggests she could have a tilt at running for office.

More than \$160,000 was paid to the company, which is run by top political "spin doctor" Katie McCormick Lelyveld.

Lelyveld worked with the former First Lady from 2007 to 2011.

The substantial payment to KML Strategic Advisors for "social impact PR" was included in Archewell's 2021 tax filing, details of which were made public in recent days.

Apart from working for Michelle Obama, Lelyveld has also worked on PR campaigns for former Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and John Kerry.

The KML Strategic Advisors website states that the company has "decades of dynamic experience with influential leaders".

In recent years speculation has mounted amongst royal-watchers that Meghan has political ambitions.



Writing for The Sun in 2021, journalist Tom Bower wondered if The Duchess of Sussex would "tempt California's power brokers to promote her own political ambitions to the Senate and possibly beyond."

Royal biographer Omid Scobie also wrote that Meghan has "her eyes set on the US presidency".

And another royal expert, Russell Myers, believes the Duchess has an eye on The White House.

## 'Special energy': Kylie Jenner shows off her jaw-dropping curves in a hot pink bikini



Kylie Jenner put her formidable form on display in sizzling new bikini snaps, shared with her 386M followers on Thursday.

The lip kit mogul, 25 - who recently promoted new Kylie Cosmetics products with a red hot photoshoot - looked incredible in a hot pink bikini that showed off her toned midriff and ample cleavage.

'Special energy,' the mom-of-two captioned the snaps, which saw her soaking in a sizable outdoor pool, with a picturesque view of the mountains behind her.

The reality TV star also showed off her pert derrière while leaning back against the edge of the pool.

Kylie wore her long dark tresses down for the dip in the pool, cascading down her back.

Kylie accessorized with a pair of gold hoops for her fun in the sun.

As for glam, she appeared to be wearing a touch of peach blush and light mascara.

She also shared two close-up shots, as she proudly showed off her spectacular physique a little over a year after giving birth to her second child - son Aire.

## Stormy Daniels says Donald Trump shouldn't be jailed if found guilty of alleged crimes



Stormy Daniels, the woman at the centre of the Donald Trump hush money payment allegations, has spoken out, revealing she does not want to see the former US president jailed for his alleged crimes.

The former adult film actress spoke with the TalkTV host Piers Morgan as Trump pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records in the first degree in a New York courtroom on Tuesday.



Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was speaking on Friday for the first time since the indictment and arrest of Trump.

She pledged she will testify if asked to give evidence against Trump at trial.

"I have nothing to hide," Daniels said.

But she added that she does not believe Trump should be sent to prison if found guilty of the alleged crimes.





Robert Sarkis Wishing you and your family  
a Happy Easter

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## Gold prospector finds 2.6kg nugget worth \$240k between Bendigo, Ballarat, St Arnaud



A regional Victorian gold prospector is celebrating a big payday after uncovering a 2.6-kilogram specimen of quartz and gold while prospecting in “the Golden Triangle” between Bendigo, Ballarat, and St Arnaud.

The price of one ounce (31.10 grams) of gold is worth about \$2,984 — up from about \$2,600 this time last year.

Five years ago, the price of an ounce of gold was about \$1,700.

Geelong-based gold valuator Lucky Strike Gold valued the amateur prospector’s nugget at nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

Lucky Strike owner Darren Kamp said his jaw nearly hit the floor when the man from near Geelong, who did not want to be named, placed the rock in his hand. “He said, ‘I’ve got something to show you.’ He pulled the rock out of his backpack and as he dropped it in my hand, he said, ‘Do you think there’s \$10,000 worth in there?’” Mr Kamp said.

“And through the weight, my hand just dropped. And as my hand dropped, my wife said my jaw dropped too.”

Mr Kamp started out prospecting 43 years before moving into gold trading and valuations with his wife, Leanne.

“It’s just such an incredible find. He said ‘Oh, that’s only half the rock, I’ve got the other half at home,’” Mr Kamp said.

“He brought the other half in about two weeks later and I did a test on it, and it came up at 83 ounces of gold in this rock.”

### Pot of gold still a chance encounter

The Geological Survey of Victoria estimates that there may be up to 75 million ounces of gold in the central and north-central Victorian goldfields.

This compares with the 80 million ounces of gold mined from the area around 170 years ago during the gold rush.

For prospectors around the Golden Triangle, finding gold pieces is still “pot luck”.

Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria vice-president, John Garcia, regularly finds pieces as big as 7 grams — worth \$662 at today’s gold prices — while

out fossicking on the same ground the 2.6kg nugget was found on.

“Quite a fair bit of gold is being found at the moment,” he said. “We find places where we can find a piece of gold. We bring around 60 people in and the average number of pieces of gold could be from one to maybe 10, 20, or even 30 pieces.

“Let’s put it this way, the ground will never run out of gold.” And with the recent months of rain and floods, central Victorian gold hunters believe it’s likely more gold may be sitting closer to the surface.

The State Emergency Service’s assistant chief officer, Mark Cattell, said heavy isolated falls remain a risk to Victorians as they travel around the state over Easter and the Anzac Day long weekends.

“Though we expect rainfall to be lower than average, we know that a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture,” he said.

### Big nuggets out there to find

Bendigo-based brothers-in-law, Brent Shannon and Ethan West, have risen to fame as The Poseidon Crew on the Discovery Channel’s television show Aussie Gold Hunters.

In 2020, the pair, along with Ethan’s father, Paul, found two nuggets — 78 ounces (2.4kg) and 45 ounces (1.4kg) in weight — while prospecting near Tarnagulla, in central Victoria.

The find was worth \$350,000 at the time, but according to The Poseidon Crew, finding gold is never guaranteed. “Gold is where you find it, not where you always think it is,” Ethan West said.

“Right now, with the price of gold and the cost of living going up more, people are turning to a hobby that can actually make them money.

“It can be as simple as getting a miner’s right and buying a gold pan or spending more and getting a metal detector.

“As long as you’re out there looking, there is the hope of finding untold riches.”

In Victoria, a miner’s right can be bought for around \$26.

Earth Resources Regulation said there were around 65,000 active miners’ rights in Victoria.

## Jelena Dokic reveals the heartbreaking abuse she suffered at the age of just 17



Jelena Dokic has shone a light on the ‘sad reality’ of domestic abuse after posting heartbreaking photos of the violence she suffered as a young tennis player. The Australian, 39, has long been open about her struggles with depressing, social media abuse, body shaming and the family violence she suffered throughout her career.

In her book, Unbreakable, Dokic revealed that her father inflicted regular beatings with a belt or a hard-capped boot, and she was once knocked unconscious by him.

On Thursday, Dokic posted images of herself at 17 with bruised legs on Instagram, saying she is ‘sad and angry’ about the countless number of women suffering abuse.

‘Swollen, bruised and bleeding shins from being beaten and kicked all night with sharp shoes right into my shins for losing a match,’ she posted on Instagram.

‘These images were taken more than two weeks later and I was still heavily bruised. I was 17 years old.

‘To this day I still have sensitive and bumpy shins from this beating.

‘From every wound there is a scar and these are mine. I have survived but not everyone woman and girl has or will.

‘And that’s the sad reality.’

She added that she wanted to speak for sufferers who don’t have the same platform as her.

‘I was speaking at a domestic and family violence event today and I was sad,’ she continued.

‘Sad and angry for the tens of millions of women out there in the world who I know right in this moment are going through a lot worse than I ever did.

‘1 woman a week is killed from domestic violence in Australia alone.

‘1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

‘The figures are even worse around the world.

‘The more that we don’t talk about it, the more we shy away from the issue, the more we are abandoning women and girls.

‘For those reading this that might be experiencing abuse or domestic violence just know I get you.

‘I know how scared and afraid you are.

‘Know that you have incredible strength and courage.

‘Nothing is your fault.

‘For those that can please be there for those that need help and support. Don’t shy away from them and don’t abandon them.

‘Coming from someone that has been there, abandoned and scared to death please don’t turn your back. Women and girls need you and your help.’





## Rental market...

0.6 per cent, the first uptick after 11 months of declines driven by the Reserve Bank of Australia's sharp increase in interest rates.

If property prices are indeed already bottoming out, St George economists Besa Deda and Pat Bustamante said renters will find it harder to ditch the rental market and buy at an affordable price.

It was unusual for dwelling prices to be lifting while the RBA was still eyeing more rate hikes, they said.

Migration's pressure

But the combination of strong population growth – largely driven by a post-pandemic migration boost – and few homes available to buy was countering the depressing effect of higher rates.

Domain's Nicola Powell said the decision to keep the cash rate on hold in April after 10 consecutive hikes, plus signs of stabilisation in the property market, could entice more investors back into the market and boost rental stock.

Investors were typically more interested in capital growth than higher rental yields, which is why higher rents hadn't done much to attract more investors into the market.

Independent economist Saul Eslake also echoed several of his peers, who have warned it's still too early to call the end of the property market downturn, especially since monetary policy movements hit with a lag.

Mr Eslake said a combination of strong post-pandemic population growth and prospective sellers hanging back in the knowledge they won't get the price they want, could continue to work against higher borrowing costs.

Construction slowdown

The slowdown in new home construction will only exacerbate the problem.

As pointed out this week by central bank governor Philip Lowe, new home building always takes a long time to catch up to a spike in demand and at the moment, there are a host of factors weighing on new work.

Community opposition to new development, the lack of suitable land for projects, long lead times and sky-high construction costs are all holding up new housing projects, the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation's State of the Nation housing report outlined this week.

Combined with the expected uptick in population growth, with net migration levels tipped to reach 350,000 this financial year based on recent Treasury estimates, the corporation is forecasting a projected shortage of 106,000 dwellings by 2027.

Mr Eslake said cutting migration was not the solution to improving housing conditions and said all levels of government had a role to play in helping maintain a better balance between supply and demand.

National problem, local factors

While the federal government does control some of the funding for public and community housing, the levers for boosting supply are largely controlled by state and local governments.

"And they're very difficult to change because, although it's easy for people to say, 'just let more housing be built at greater density', that runs into problems because the people who might benefit from denser housing are not in the area of the councillor that's been elected," Mr Eslake said. He said federal governments were largely responsible for levers that could control demand for housing, such as tax settings.

"If you are in a hole, the first thing you've got to do is to stop digging," he said.

"So we need some combination of policies that avoid unnecessarily inflating demand and policies that boost supply and the responsibilities for those that are spread across all three levels of government."

Mr Eslake welcomed the government's acknowledgement it had a role to play in easing the housing affordability crisis.

The Albanese government is pushing a package of housing reforms through parliament, which includes a housing future fund that will become a source of funding for new social and affordable housing.

The government could be forced to do more, however, with crossbenchers needed to pass the legislation negotiating for more ambition to better match the scale of Australia's housing woes.

## Pope Francis...

in darkness. Then the basilica's cavernous interior was suddenly bathed in light, reflecting the Christian beliefs that Jesus rose from his death by crucifixion and that goodness can triumph over evil.

The 86-year-old Pope is recuperating from bronchitis, which saw him recently hospitalised for three days.

On Sunday, tens of thousands of faithful are expected to join the Pope in St. Peter's Square for Easter Mass and to listen to his speech about conflicts in the world at the end of Holy Week.

At the start of the Easter vigil, Francis, who arrived in a wheelchair he uses to cope with knee pain, incised in the wax of a tall candle a cross, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – alpha and omega – and the numerals of this year.

Then the lit candle was carried by a cleric up the basilica's centre aisle, past darkened pews filled with faithful. Dozens of cardinals and other prelates followed, each carrying a smaller, lit candle.

"The Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray," Francis said, beginning the service on Saturday.

The basilica Mass during the vigil of Christianity's most important day has become an occasion for pontiffs to baptise several adults from around the world.

Selected to be baptised at this year's vigil were eight believers, from Albania, the United States, Nigeria, Italy and Venezuela, the Vatican said.

## China launches...

McCarthy and other lawmakers.

The drills, dubbed United Sharp Sword, are "a serious warning to the Taiwan independence separatist forces and external forces' collusion and provocation," the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) said in a statement. On day one, Chinese forces rehearsed the encirclement of Taiwan by seizing control of the sea, air and communications, the CCTV broadcaster reported. A suppressive situation was created, in which the island was surrounded from all sides, the statement added.

The Global Times newspaper identified some of the hardware involved after viewing footage of the exercises. It included PHL-191 multiple rocket launchers, a Type 052C destroyer, Type 22 missile boats, YJ-12B land-based anti-ship missiles, J-10C fighter jets, a KJ-500 early warning aircraft, a YU-20 tanker aircraft, and DF-11 conventional ballistic missiles.

The Taiwanese Defense Ministry said it had detected 42 Chinese aircraft and eight ships around the island on Saturday. According to the ministry, 29 of those jets crossed the median line, an unofficial border between Taiwan and the mainland, as they were "attempting coercion."

Beijing has used Tsai's trip to the US "as an excuse to carry out military exercises, which has seriously damaged regional peace, stability and security", Taipei claimed.

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