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'Melbourne Declaration' affirms ASEAN and Australia partnership for the future

Australia and South-East Asian leaders have called for countries to avoid "unilateral actions" that "endanger peace, security and

stability" in the South China Sea in the wake of another confrontation between China and Philippines in the contested waters.

The so-called Melbourne Declaration was handed down by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and ASEAN leaders after they wound up a

special summit designed to bolster Australia's commercial and strategic ties with the critical region.

Continued page 17

Super Tuesday: Trump and Biden rematch looms as both win big



Donald Trump vowed to cheering supporters that he would "take back our country" after dominating the Super Tuesday primary contests.

Hours later he became the lone Republican White House contender after rival Nikki Haley dropped out.

Continued page 17

Hamas delegation leaves Gaza truce talks in Cairo without deal

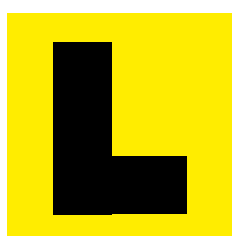


A Hamas delegation has left talks in Cairo without a deal for a ceasefire in Gaza, but Hamas delegation says indirect negotiations with Israel are

not over.

It had been hoped that a 40-day truce could be in place for the start

Continued page 17



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'Shameful' Qantas fined \$250k for standing down worker



A former Qantas health and safety representative says he has finally been vindicated after the airline was hit with a \$250,000 fine for standing him down for raising COVID-19 concerns.

The airline was found guilty of breaching workplace health and safety laws and agreed in late February to pay \$21,000 to Theo Seremetidis, who directed others not to clean planes arriving from China early in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seremetidis was stood down by Qantas subsidiary Qantas Ground

Services (QGS) in February 2020, hours after he told others to cease cleaning and servicing planes over concerns staff could be at risk of contracting the virus.

Speaking outside the NSW District Court on Wednesday, the former Qantas employee said he was happy with the conviction but the fine was "insignificant" for the airline.

"I'm glad that justice was served to Qantas today," he said.

"Qantas made a \$3.8 billion profit in the last 18 months, so what's a quarter of a million? That's a drop in the ocean."

Brittany Higgins and David Sharaz attend mediation in Perth over Senator Linda Reynolds defamation action



Brittany Higgins and her partner David Sharaz have attended a mediation hearing in Perth with Ms Higgins's former employer, Senator Linda Reynolds.

Senator Reynolds is suing the pair over alleged defamation in a series of social media posts.

In her first public appearance in Australia since the pair moved to France last year, Ms Higgins told the waiting media pack that Perth was a beautiful, but difficult place to come back to, and she believed "everyone's acting in good faith".

Senator Reynolds arrived shortly afterwards but said she would reserve her comments until after the mediation.

Tuesday's talks concluded just before 7pm, after almost nine hours of mediation, with Ms Higgins and Mr Sharaz leaving without making any comment.

Senator Reynolds also walked out and said the mediation is ongoing and it wasn't appropriate to comment.

But her lawyer, Martin Bennett, said the mediation would not be resuming on Wednesday.

Social media posts triggered action. The retiring Liberal senator claims Ms Higgins defamed her in an Instagram post and a subsequent tweet in July

last year.

It's alleged Ms Higgins breached a non-disparagement clause in a settlement contract she entered in 2021, which prohibited her from speaking negatively about Ms Reynolds.

Ms Reynolds is seeking aggravated damages, an injunction preventing Ms Higgins from publishing defamatory material, and another injunction to stop her from breaching the settlement contract.

She has separately accused Ms Higgins's partner, David Sharaz, of defaming her in five social media posts, which were allegedly "falsely defamatory" and caused her "loss and damage".

The Perth-based senator first threatened legal action in July last year, claiming she had been the "target of unwarranted criticism and abuse" since Ms Higgins made her rape allegations public.

Ms Higgins alleged she was raped by a colleague, Bruce Lehrmann, while she was working in Ms Reynolds's Canberra ministerial office.

Mr Lehrmann's criminal trial was abandoned in October 2022 following juror misconduct and a planned retrial was later dropped by the prosecution. He has always denied the accusations.



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By Mamdouh
Sukkarieh

Road safety

There has been a recent surge in road accidents, predominantly attributed to young drivers. This trend has raised significant concerns among parents, the wider community, and authorities regarding road safety.

There are several factors that contribute to the high incidence of road accidents among young drivers:

Lack of Experience: Young drivers often lack the experience necessary to handle challenging driving situations effectively. They may not have encountered various road conditions or learned how to react appropriately in emergencies.

Risky Behavior: Some young drivers engage in risky behaviors such as speeding, distracted driving (e.g., texting while driving), driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and not wearing seat belts. These behaviors significantly increase the likelihood of accidents.

Peer Influence: Peer pressure can also play a role in encouraging risky driving behaviors among young people. They may feel pressured to impress their friends or engage in reckless driving to fit in with their peers.

Overconfidence: Some young drivers may exhibit overconfidence in their driving abilities, leading them to take unnecessary risks on the road.

Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach involving education, enforcement, and community involvement:

Education: Comprehensive driver education programs should be implemented to teach young drivers about the rules of the road, safe driving practices, and the consequences of risky behavior. These programs should also emphasize the importance of responsible decision-making while driving.

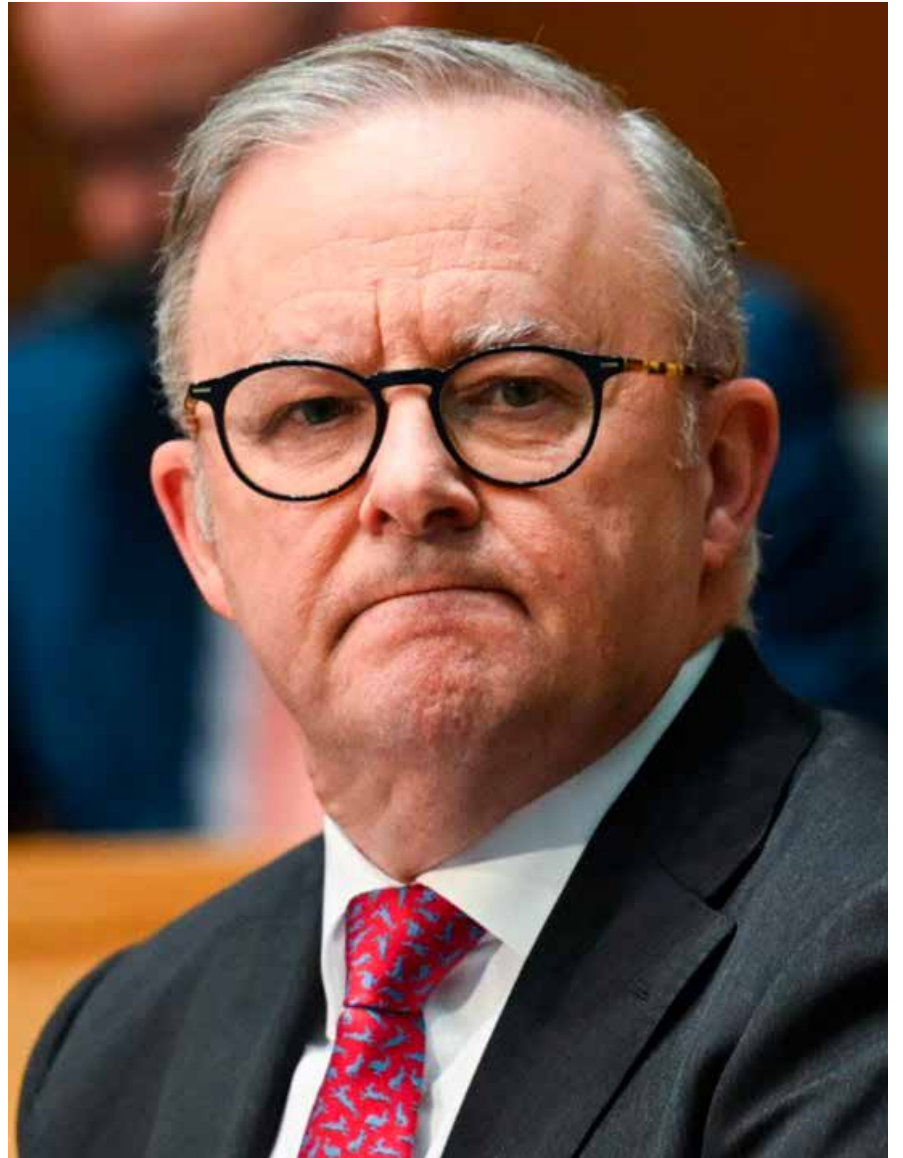
Enforcement: Law enforcement agencies should enforce traffic laws rigorously, particularly targeting behaviors such as speeding, distracted driving, and driving under the influence. Strict penalties should be imposed on those who violate these laws to deter others from engaging in similar behavior.

Parental Involvement: Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's attitudes and behaviors towards driving. They should set a positive example by practicing safe driving habits themselves and actively discussing road safety with their children.

Community Engagement: Engaging the community in road safety initiatives can help raise awareness about the issue and foster a culture of safe driving. This can involve organizing educational events, promoting safe driving campaigns, and encouraging community members to report unsafe driving behavior.

By addressing these factors through education, enforcement, and community involvement, we can work towards reducing the number of road accidents involving young drivers and improving overall road safety for everyone.

International court referral has 'no credibility': PM



The prime minister has dismissed a referral to the International Criminal Court that accused members of federal parliament of supporting alleged war crimes in the Middle East. Anthony Albanese said the referral to the court, made by Sydney-based law firm Birchgrove Legal, did not have any credibility.

The referral said the government, including prime minister, Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Defence Minister Richard Marles and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton provided "explicit political, rhetorical, moral, military and material support" for alleged war crimes carried out by Israel.

Speaking to reporters in Melbourne at the ASEAN-Australia summit, Mr Albanese said there was no basis to the referral.

"I don't wish to comment particularly on something that clearly has no credibility going forward," he said.

"I don't think that peaceful resolution is advanced by misinformation, and there has been substantial amounts of misinformation about what is occurring."

Albanese said Australia's stance on the Middle Eastern conflict was still consistent with a joint statement it

had put out alongside New Zealand and Canada in February, which urged for an immediate ceasefire in the region.

That statement also called for the release of hostages as well as further humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

"Australia joined a majority in the UN to call for an immediate ceasefire and to advocate for the release of hostages the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the upholding of international law and the protection of civilians," Mr Albanese said.

"If you go back to the resolution that was carried with the support of both major parties in October, they made it very clear that every innocent life matters, whether it's Israeli or Palestinian."

Barrister Sheryn Omeri, who is advising the legal team who made the court referral, told ABC TV the government had "accessorial liability" for alleged war crimes in the Middle East.

"Between (October) and now, there has been very little in the way of urging restraint on Israel and discouraging what the International Court of Justice found on January 26 to be a plausible case of genocide," she said.



Morrison scoffs at concerns over his Liberal replacement



Former PM Scott Morrison has brushed off criticism about the Liberals' gender representation, after the party chose a successor for his Sydney seat.

Consultant Simon Kennedy, who easily won Liberal preselection for Morrison's safe seat of Cook on Monday night, has also defended his selection by hundreds of party members cast in the Sydney shire.

Kennedy beat Sutherland Shire Mayor Carmelo Pesce and war widow Gwen Cherne for preselection for the safe Liberal electorate.

Cherne, who was the only woman to nominate, had the backing of another former prime minister in John Howard.

"It was very humbling to be chosen by the group of 300 locals," Kennedy said on Tuesday. "I'm here to listen [to the community] and stand up to this Labor cost-of-living crisis, to hold the Labor government and Anthony Albanese to account. Following the Coalition's 2022 election defeat, there had been calls for the Liberal Party to pre-select more female candidates for winnable seats.

Kennedy said there was already 50-50 representation for southern Sydney seats, with Jenny Ware representing the Liberals in the neighbouring electorate of Hughes.

"I haven't heard that issue [of female representation] raised by anyone I've met over the time I've been here, the last time I've been in politics," he told Sky News.

"What I'm hearing now is cost of living, that is issue one, two and

three."

Morrison also scoffed at concerns about representation, saying the pre-selection process was carried through.

"These are decisions that party members make, and we respect those," he said.

"What matters is in a political party, the party members get to have their say, and they've had their say, and there was a very strong win for Simon."

But Victorian MP Keith Wolahan said his party needed more women, particularly in the House of Representatives.

Women account for only 30 per cent of the Coalition party room. Kennedy is a partner of consulting firm Banksia, after leaving McKinsey, according to his LinkedIn profile.

The 41-year-old contested Howard's former seat of Bennelong at the 2022 federal election but came up short against Labor's Jerome Laxale after an almost 8 per cent swing against the Liberals.

Cook is a safe Liberal seat, with the party holding it by a more than 12 per cent margin, with 55 per cent of the primary vote.

While Kennedy lives outside of the Cook electorate, he said he would move to the area with his family on Friday.

"We are very excited to be moving there and to be part of this beautiful community," Kennedy said.

Labor is yet to determine whether it will formally run a candidate. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Cook was not a seat Labor was expected to win.

Matildas coach supports Sam Kerr after racism charge



Sam Kerr's defence team is expected to seek to have the case against the Matildas captain dropped, or at least downgraded, when the matter returns to court in April.

News Corp reports Kerr's lawyers will argue an abuse of process and will push for the matter to be thrown out before next year's trial scheduled for February.

Sam Kerr's defence team is expected to seek to have the case against the Matildas captain dropped, or at least downgraded, when the matter returns to court in April.

News Corp reports Kerr's lawyers will argue an abuse of process

and will push for the matter to be thrown Kerr did not inform Football Australia nor Matildas' coach Tony Gustavsson of the charge. The first they heard of it was when the news broke in Australian on Tuesday morning.

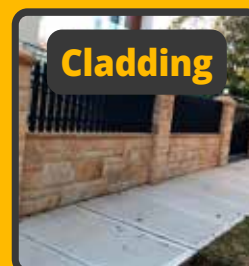
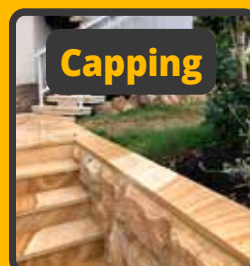
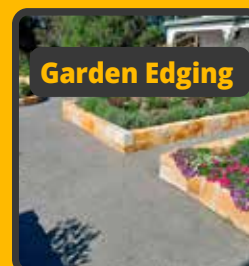
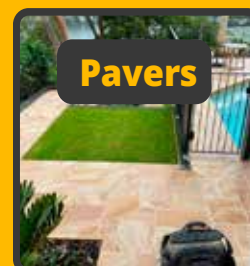
Gustavsson said he would "always support" Kerr, although he remained circumspect when asked if she would be stripped of the Matildas' captaincy. "I can't comment on anything other than referring to the FA statement," Gustavsson said in Sydney on Tuesday.

out before next year's trial scheduled for February.



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I wish you and your families a Safe and
Happy Ramadan

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رمضان كريم

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Ramadan Mubarak

Wishing you and your family a blessed month of Ramadan.

Anne Stanley MP
Federal Member for Werriwa



Ramadan Kareem

Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful month of Ramadan

أتمنى لكم ولجميع أحبائكم شهر رمضان سعيدًا وسلامًا ومباركًا

Kylie Wilkinson MP
MEMBER FOR EAST HILLS


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Ramadan Mubarak!

Wishing you a sacred Ramadan filled spiritual reflection and renewal and an abundance of peace and prosperity!



WARREN KIRBY MP
STATE MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

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RAMADAN MUBARAK

Wishing you, your family and friends peace and happiness.

JASON CLARE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BLAXLAND

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RAMADAN MUBARAK

Wishing you and your loved ones all the blessings for this holy month of Ramadan.

Andrew Charlton MP
MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA

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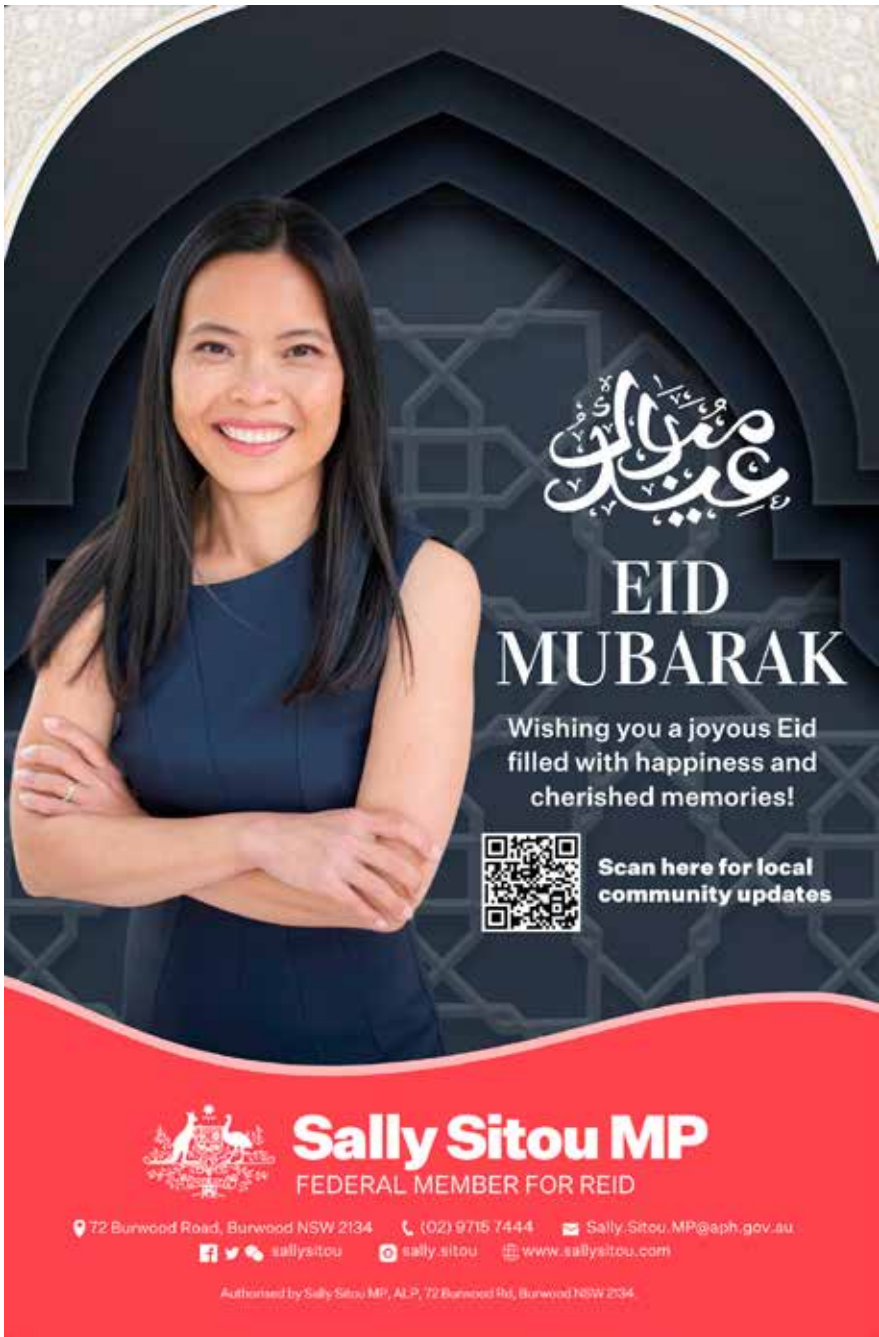
Wishing you and your family
a Happy Ramadan
رمضان كريم
وكل عام وأنتم بخير

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Wishing you and your family a blessed and peaceful Ramadan.

RAMADAN MUBARAK!

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STATE MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA
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PO Box 745 Parramatta NSW 2124
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EID MUBARAK

Wishing you a joyous Eid filled with happiness and cherished memories!

Scan here for local community updates

Sally Sitou MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR REID

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The Holy Month of Ramadan is a time of fasting, prayer and charity and is a reminder of the important contribution Australian Muslims make in our community.

As we welcome the beginning of Ramadan this week, I wish all Muslims the very best for a Blessed Ramadan.

Ramadan Kareem

شهر رمضان الكريم هو شهر الصيام والصلاة والتضحية وعمل الخير. أتمنى لجميع مسلمي استراليا كل الخير والسعادة في هذا الشهر المبارك.

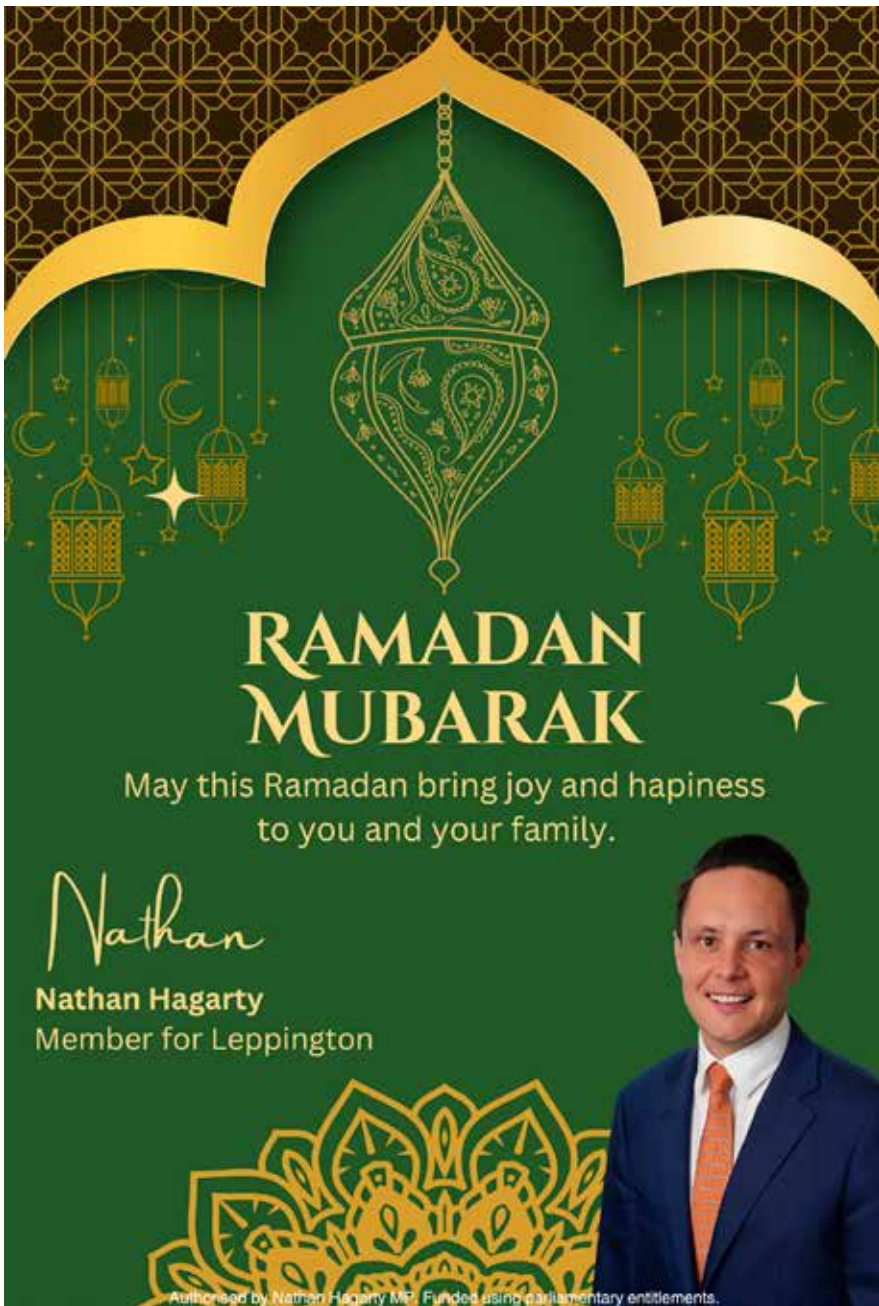
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TONY BURKE MP
MEMBER FOR WATSON

HON TONY BURKE MP
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Authorised by Tony Burke MP, Australian Labor Party, Shop 29/1 Broadway Punchbowl 2196



RAMADAN MUBARAK

May this Ramadan bring joy and hapiness to you and your family.

Nathan
Nathan Hagarty
Member for Leppington

Authorised by Nathan Hagarty MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



Ramadan Mubarak

**I WISH YOU ALL A
SAFE AND BLESSED
HOLY MONTH**

Charishma
Charishma Kaliyanda MP
Member for Liverpool

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Arab Business Council elects a new Board for 2024



The Australian Arab Business Council (AABC) elected a new Board of Management for 2024 at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Villa Blanca Reception, Bankstown on Wednesday, 21st February 2024. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Rana Saab, President of Arab Council Australia and Principal of Saab Law Group. Following the presentation of the Annual Report by the AABC President Mr. Radwan Hamdan, a new Board was elected.

The election of a new Board was conducted by the Returning Officer, Mr. Simon Diab, of Simon Diab & Associates. The new Board is as follows:

President: Mr Radwan Hamdan – Hamdan & Associates

Vice President: Mr George Bousamra, Syncorp Consulting

Secretary: Mr Bass El Hashem – All Stars Solutions

Treasurer: Mr Ali Kawtarani – Flora Enterprises

Assistant Secretary: Ms Reem Borrows, Dreem Consulting

Board Member: Mr Michael Azar – Hayten Engineering

Board Member: Ms Batoul Khayat – KPR Recruitment

Board Member: Ms Jannette Samawi – DSJ Taxation

Board Member: Ms Malak Takache – IMB Bank

Board Member: Ms Nancy Tannous – Acqua Accountants

They will be joined Immediate Past President: Ms Genan Issa – Mortgage Choice.

The President, Mr Hamdan, thanked the outgoing Board and congratulated the new one. Mr Hamdan

hoped the new Board will make AABC members proud of our upcoming initiatives for 2024 and looks forward to sharing them early in 2024

AGM guest speaker at the AGM was Mr. Mutaz Abu Ghazaleh, who shared his insight regarding “The World of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Generative AI”. Mr Abu Ghazaleh is an accomplished AI and Data Science professional with over 20 years of experience in the technology industry. He currently serves as a Global Black Belt and AI/ML Lead for ANZ at Microsoft, where he has been instrumental in driving AI and Machine Learning initiatives. He was introduced at the meeting by AABC Vice President and AGM MC, Mr George Bousamra.

The next monthly dinner will be Ramadan Family Iftar to be held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at Summerland Restaurant, Bankstown.



Ramadan Kareem
*Wishing you and your family
a blessed Ramadan*

Mark Coure MP
Member for Oatley
Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism

Authorised by Mark Coure MP, 24 Pitt Street, Mortdale NSW 2223, funded using parliamentary entitlements, March 2024



رَمَضَانُ كَرِيمٌ
*Wishing you a
blessed Ramadan*

Tina Ayyad MP
Member for
HOLSWORTHY

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Ramadan Mubarak

Sending Warm Wishes for a Blessed Ramadan.

My family and I would like to extend our heartfelt greetings to you and your loved ones during this holy month of Ramadan. It has been a very challenging time for everyone with events happening overseas. We hope the spirit of Ramadan brings better days ahead.

إرسال التمنيات الحارة لشهر رمضان المبارك.

أود أنا وعائلتي أن نعرب عن تهنيتنا القلبية لكم ولأحبائكم خلال شهر رمضان المبارك. لقد كان وقتاً صعباً للغاية بالنسبة للجميع مع الأحداث التي تقام في الخارج. نأمل أن تجلب روح رمضان أياماً أفضل في المستقبل.

JIHAD DIB MP
Member for Bankstown

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RAMADAN MUBARAK

رمضان مبارك

Bilal El-Hayek

Clr Bilal El-Hayek
MAYOR
City of Canterbury
Bankstown



Contact me at: P 9707 9522 E Mayor@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au

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Ramadan Mubarak

رمضان مبارك

On behalf of Cumberland Council, I send my warmest wishes to people of the Islamic faith during the holy month of Ramadan.

May this special time be celebrated with family and friends, filled with peace, happiness, spiritual reflection and renewal.

- Mayor Lisa Lake -

Join us at Cumberland Council's Ramadan Street Food Festival



Saturday 16 March, 7pm - 12midnight
Auburn Town Centre, Auburn Road, Auburn

Ramadan Mubarak

On behalf of the City of Parramatta, I wish everyone observing Ramadan a happy and blessed month. May the holy month bring you peace, happiness and prosperity.



Cr Pierre Esber
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta



**CITY OF
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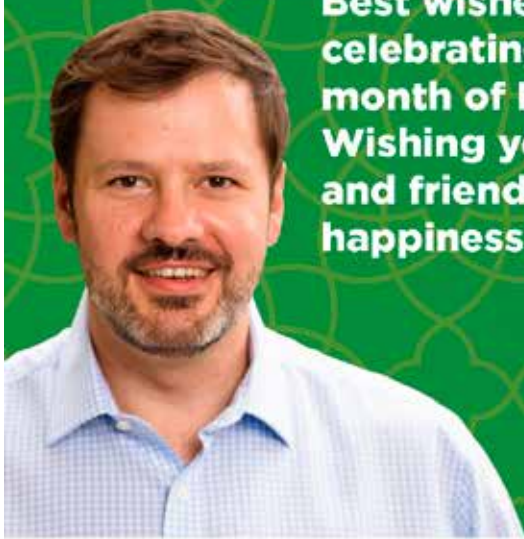
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Ramadan mubarak


Best wishes to everyone celebrating this holy month of Ramadan. Wishing you, your family and friends peace, happiness and prosperity.



ED HUSIC MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CHIFLEY


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رمضان مُبارَك Ramadan • M U B A R A K •


Wishing you and your family a blessed holy month of Ramadan



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Federal Member for Barton

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RAMADAN ◆ KAREEM ◆

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THE BEST
FOR THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN.



Lynda Voltz MP Member for Auburn

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By **Natalie Sukkarieh**



Technology

Little devices in our hands,
The most powerful devices in the land.
These little devices aren't they grand?
I would consider myself a fan.

We walk and talk,
With little speakers in our ears,
Don't you think this is something to fear?

From one item to the next,
We are always looking for the best.
Never satisfied with only one,
Like a father having son after son.

A phone for example,
I shall start to ramble,

Is a form of addiction,
Like it comes from a prescription.

People walk the streets,
While staring at this item with defeat.
It controls our minds,
Its not the best, you will find.

Instant gratification is what it provides,
So less and less people look at the sky.
They say time flies,
And to our phones we should say goodbye.

Goodbye to technology,
And goodbye to the glue,
That holds us in place,
Isn't it a disgrace?

To rely on such a material,
We use it even when we're eating cereal.
We treat it as though it is imperial,
I think this is quite trivial.

Humans have forgotten how to interact,
And we like to give each other the sack!
Id much rather enjoy the company of my phone,
It's so much better than being alone!

RAMADAN
Mubarak

May you and your family enjoy
the blessings of this special time.



Mayor Ned Mannoun

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The Hon.
Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

Wishing you and your family the blessings of the Holy Month of Ramadan

رمضان كريم
Ramadan Kareem

رمضان كريم



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Serving Our Community



The Councillors and I extend our sincerest wishes for a very happy Ramadan during this month of personal reflection and charity.

Ramadan Mubarak.

Cr Bill Saravinovski
Mayor

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Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens

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Cllr Rachelle Harika
Deputy Mayor

I wish you and your families a Safe and **Happy Ramadan**

أتمنى لكم وعائلاتكم
رمضان كريم

بَارَكْ وَسَلَامْ عَلَى الشَّهْرِ





Cllr Ola Hamed
Deputy Mayor

Wishing everyone a Happy and safe Ramadan

أتمنى للجميع
رمضان كريم


CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL



Home and Away star Tammin Sursok reveals why she deliberately lost her Australian accent



Tammin Sursok (pictured) has lived in America since her early 20s.

Tammin Sursok has lived in America since her early 20s.

And the former Home and Away star now has little trace of her Australian accent left.

The 40-year-old told The Jimmy & Nath Show this week that choice was very much deliberate.

I was actually trained to like, lose it for a job that I'd spent four years doing,' she said.

'I was going to get fired and I was going to lose my green card.'

Tammin explained she was working on The Young And The Restless and forced to ensure she sounded as American as possible or else risk her job.

She played Colleen Carlton on the soap opera between 2007 and 2009.

'I actually chose to lose it for a job,' she said.

'I had left everything to go to America and then, I just didn't want to get fired because my accent kept coming out.'

Tammin acquired an American twang after living in Los Angeles for close to 20 years.

She insists she 'doesn't feel any less Australian' despite having completely lost her native accent.

The star was asked during an Instagram Q&A on Instagram if she was 'sad' about losing her accent.

'I don't feel any less Australian,' Tammin replied. 'Others feel sad though and mention it a lot.'

The Pretty Little Liars star has always said she speaks the way she does naturally because she has lived in America for most of her adult life.

Leonardo DiCaprio's 'three word response' to Playboy model, 22, when she turned down 'actor's invite to go home with him'



Hieke Konings, 22, has claimed she shared a kiss with the Hollywood star, 49

A Playboy model has revealed Leonardo DiCaprio's three word response after she turned down his invitation for her to go home with him.

Hieke Konings, 22, has claimed she shared a kiss with the Hollywood star, 49, in an invite-only nightclub in Los Angeles.

In a new interview with the Dutch edition of Playboy, Hieke said she was then invited to go home with the Killers Of The Flower Moon star, but turned him down.

'He reacted very shocked. Of course he wasn't used to it. When I said I didn't know him well enough,' she said. Hieke said he gave her the three word response: 'I respect that.'

But she added: 'Whereupon he turned to another

girl and took her home.'

Of their rendezvous, Hieke said: 'It was in a secret club in LA, one where you only get in by invitation. I saw him sitting there in his black hoodie and black cap and we made eye contact.'

She explained how Leo's manager brought her over to the star's table, saying: 'Leo wants to talk to you.'

Hieke said while she had not slept with Leo, she had several pals who had spent the night with him and claimed he has some questionable preferences in the bedroom.

She said: 'One friend said he kept his earphones in during sex because he didn't want to hear her. And another said he even put a pillow on her head.'

The blonde beauty then said: 'No, Leo is too weird and too old.'

Flight attendant on the 'scary' reason cabin crew always sit on their hands when flying



Ever wondered why cabin crew sits like this during takeoff & Landing?

During takeoff and landing, cabin crew sit with their hands tucked under their legs. Here's why.

Have you ever wondered why flight attendants sit on their hands when flying?

Well, cabin crew member Henny Lim has shared a video explaining why flight attendants sit on their hands during take-off and landing. Henny said that when flight attendants sit on

their hands while in their jump seats, it's called the "bracing position".

"This position involves fastening the seatbelt securely, sitting upright, sitting on hands, palms upright, thumbs tuck and arms are loose with feet on the floor," she explained.

"The aim is to keep the body in a rigid pose so that if there was any impact from an unplanned emergency, the body is less damaged."

Joe Alwyn breaks his silence on social media as Taylor Swift-mania sweeps Australia



Travis Kelce kisses Taylor Swift

Alwyn and Swift dated for six years before the pop megastar met Travis Kelce.

Taylor Swift fans care as much about her love life as they do about her music.

Before the 34-year-old pop megastar started dating Kansas City Chiefs player Travis Kelce, she had been in a long-term relationship with English actor Joe Alwyn.

The pair dated from 2017 to 2023 — Swift's longest relationship to date.

It's not known exactly why the couple broke up, but many fans have speculated that the title for Swift's upcoming album, *The Tortured Poets Society*, refers to him.

As the hoopla around Swift and Kelce intensifies, some fans have started taking potshots at Alwyn, saying he let the singer "slip away".

But now, the actor has emerged from a long silence to post on Instagram for the first time since September 6 last year — a social media absence of more than four months.

Alwyn simply posted a carousel of recent photographs, with no caption and the comments function switched off.

The photographs included a picture of his dog, a black and white image of him smirking at the camera, the inside of a casino, waves crashing at a beach, and a panoramic shot of a racetrack.

There's also a meme of Ricky Gervais from *The Office*, with the caption: "Different drinks for different needs".

A source speaking to *People* magazine after Swift and Alwyn's breakup in April last year said the pair had ultimately gone separate ways due to "difference in their personalities". "They've had rough patches before and always worked things out, so friends thought they would take some time apart but eventually come back together," the source said.

But ultimately, the source added, the couple "weren't the right fit for one another."

Swifties, of course, went on to scour her album *MIDNIGHTS*, released late in 2022, for any lyrical signs of trouble in the relationship. When the album release was announced, Swift said it contained "the stories of 13 sleepless nights scattered throughout my life".

When her breakup with Alwyn was made public, fans went to town analysing the lyrics. "Joe and Taylor breaking up is less surprising when you realise that every song on *Midnights* sounds like it's from the perspective of a girl grieving the end of a relationship she's still in," one fan wrote, as cited by BuzzFeed.

"Most successful world tour of all time, Time Person of the Year, became a billionaire, broke a Grammy record and her new boyfriend, who could easily beat him up, won the Super Bowl. DAMN," one fan wrote.

"If you told me on this day that in 10 months she would be kissing her NFL player boyfriend on the field of the Super Bowl and hard launching him at the club, I would've actually started barking like a dog," said another.

With his silence-breaking new post, Alwyn seems to be hinting that he's happier living the quiet life out of the Swift-mania spotlight. On X (formerly Twitter), people noted the timing of his Instagram post as rumours build that Kelce is travelling to Sydney for Swift's upcoming concerts and showered her with expensive gifts for Valentine's Day.

"I've seen more Joe Alwyn since the *TTPD* (The Tortured Poets Department) announcement than in his six years being with Taylor, and that says a lot I think," one X user wrote.

"Y'all, did Joe Alwyn just send a 'bring it on, I'm not afraid' message to Taylor???" wondered another.

"Look at his most recent post.

Queen Mary of Denmark is effortlessly elegant in plum blouse and statement wool skirt



Queen Mary of Denmark was effortlessly elegant

Queen Mary of Denmark was effortlessly elegant in a deep purple blouse as she attended a Rare Disease Day (RDD) event in Copenhagen.

The royal, 52, teamed her plum-hued ensemble - which she also wore to hand out a host of research awards in January last year - with a grey statement skirt that fanned out to create a stunning silhouette.

Committing to a monochrome aesthetic, the mother-of-four also opted for suede stiletto heeled boots and a flowy pashmina in the same shade.

She adorned her shirt with a golden, floral brooch and accessorised with simple earrings and a beaded bracelet.

Keeping their bright look from earlier this week, the Queen once again showed off a pop of colour with her electric blue-painted nails. Mary's chestnut tresses were styled in their relaxed signature waves, and she sported a glamorous make-up look with lashings of blush.

The royal appeared in high spirits as she chatted with guests during event at Industriens Hus business center.



HOUSE OF GODS

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Wiview



'Melbourne Declaration'

The final statement said leaders “recognise the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity” and “encourage(s) all countries to avoid any unilateral actions that endanger peace, security and stability in the region”.

But they have watered-down language that Australia originally proposed for the final declaration from the summit, removing any references to China’s “militarisation of disputed features” in the South China Sea.

The Melbourne Declaration also does not include Australia’s initial proposal to call on “both parties” to abide by the 2016 international ruling, which dismissed China’s claims to much of the disputed territory — a clear reference to Beijing’s decision to ignore the decision. South-East Asian states closest to China have typically refused to back language that directly criticises Beijing on sensitive issues like the South China Sea. While Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has again criticised Beijing’s conduct this week, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim struck a very different tone, declaring that he didn’t believe conflict was likely in the South China Sea.

Mr Albanese told journalists after the summit that Australia had to build a consensus with all ASEAN countries.

“People have to compromise,” he said.

“To get a statement between Australia and ASEAN ... it wouldn’t be the same if written by one country.” Officials from Australia and South-East Asia were also engaged in sometimes difficult negotiations over what the final statement would say about the war in Gaza, with Malaysia and Indonesia pushing for a forceful denunciation of Israel.

The final Melbourne Declaration calls for “an immediate and durable humanitarian ceasefire” and for “rapid, safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all those in need”. But stronger criticisms on Israel’s conduct were not included. The declaration also includes an indirect condemnation of the Hamas terrorist attacks on October 7, and a call to release all hostages held by the group.

As South-East Asian leaders left the city, Mr Albanese hailed the summit as a success, saying the nations represented had welcomed Australia’s plans to ramp up investment in the region.

Hamas delegation...

of the Islamic month of Ramadan next week.

With more signs of a famine looming, international pressure has only grown.

But Egyptian and Qatari mediators have struggled to seal a deal that would see Hamas free Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Israel did not send a delegation to Cairo, saying it first wanted a list of the surviving hostages who could be released under the agreement.

Hamas said Israel did not accept its demands for displaced Palestinians to be able to return to their homes nor a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gazan cities.

More than 30,800 people have been killed in Gaza since then, the Hamas-run health ministry says. A Hamas statement said its delegation left Cairo on Thursday morning “for consultation with the leadership of the movement, with negotiations and efforts continuing”.

Later, a Palestinian official familiar with the talks said: “The movement informed the brothers in Egypt and Qatar that it is open to negotiation to stop the aggression against our people.” The delegation had “presented the minimum required by the Palestinians to stop the war, which is the return of the displaced, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and allowing humanitarian aid and reconstruction”, they added.

Egyptian state-affiliated TV channel al-Qahera cited a senior source as saying that the negotiations would resume next week.

Israeli government spokesman David Mencer told reporters that he could not comment on the status of the talks. But he said: “Needless to say, Israel will do whatever it takes to release our hostages. We’ve made very, very clear - and this has been reiterated by the US - that, unfortunately, it is Hamas who is the stumbling block right now by not telling us who is alive and who they have in their custody.”

The US ambassador to Israel meanwhile stressed that it was a mistake to think that the negotiations were over.

“There are still conversations going on. There’s still back and forth. The differences are being narrowed,” Jack Lew said

On Thursday the US and Jordanian militaries carried out another joint airdrop of 38,000 meals over northern Gaza, where the UN estimates that 300,000 people are facing catastrophic levels of hunger and children are dying of malnutrition and dehydration. However, the World Food Programme warned that airdrops were “not an option for averting famine” among so many people and urged Israel to allow it to use the Israeli port of Ashdod to deliver aid to the north.

Super Tuesday: Trump...

President Joe Biden - who largely sailed through the Democratic nominating contests - said Mr Trump was “driven by grievance and grift”.

The results make a repeat of the 2020 US election all but certain.

Both men appear poised to frame the election as an existential test for the future of the country as they head towards a rematch in November.

On Wednesday, Mr Trump made it clear on social media that he had now set his sights on that rematch, challenging Mr Biden to “Debates, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ANYPLACE!” on issues that are “so vital to America”.

Polling indicates that many Americans do not want the same choice they had four years ago but the Super Tuesday results make a repeat of 2020 seemingly determined.

Despite the lack of enthusiasm, both men swept nearly all of the contests as voters in 15 states and one territory cast their ballots on the biggest night in the primary calendar.

Mr Trump won in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

He lost in Vermont to former UN ambassador Ms Haley, who announced on Wednesday she is quitting the race without endorsing her rival.

Mr Biden swept the same states plus Utah and Vermont, but lost to a Baltimore businessman in the US territory of American Samoa. He also won the Iowa caucus, which announced its results on Tuesday.

His only challenger in the primaries, Dean Phillips, dropped out of the race on Wednesday and endorsed him.

As the two candidates racked up their wins on Super Tuesday, they characterised each other as threats to the US.

Mr Trump warned his supporters at Mar-a-Lago that if “we lose the election, we’re not going to have a country left”.

He invoked one of his key issues, immigration, and the numbers crossing the southern border. He also pledged that the world would see fewer wars if he were president.

Just before Mr Trump spoke, Mr Biden released a statement attacking his opponent.

“Tonight’s results leave the American people with a clear choice,” he said.

“Are we going to keep moving forward or will we allow Donald Trump to drag us backwards into the chaos, division, and darkness that defined his term in office?”

Analysts are viewing the Super Tuesday primaries as a test of Mr Biden and Mr Trump’s support in different states and among different groups. It is also a test for the parties and their voters’ enthusiasm.

There were several other important takeaways on Tuesday night:

*In Minnesota, about 20% of Democratic voters cast their ballots for “uncommitted” as a protest over Mr Biden’s Gaza policy

*North Carolina’s closely watched gubernatorial race will be between Republican lieutenant governor *Mark Robinson and Josh Stein, the Democratic attorney general

*In California’s US Senate race, Democratic Congressman Adam Schiff and Republican Steve Garvey, a *former baseball player, will advance to the general election

*Meanwhile in Texas, congressman Colin Allred - a former NFL football player - will take on Republican Ted Cruz in the Senate race

*By the end of Super Tuesday, Democrats and Republicans will have awarded about a third of the total delegate count available through the entire primary contest.

The Trump campaign is confident the former president will hit the delegate threshold later this month.

Mr Biden and Mr Trump have all but locked up their parties’ nominations but there were warning signs for both.

The president has seen some Democratic voters back “uncommitted” on ballots and while it is unclear how that may translate in November, it could chip away at his support in key states.

On the Republican side, many anti-Trump voters had given their backing to Ms Haley.

She did not hold a campaign event after failing to gain huge traction on Tuesday night, but her campaign emphasised that her Republican supporters - who could prove key in a general election - continue to seek an alternative to Mr Trump.



Sacked presenter Antoinette Lattouf, ABC to head to mediation in axed journalist's high-profile unfair dismissal claim



Lawyers for the ABC will go to mediation with representatives for a former presenter sacked after sharing a social media post about the war in Gaza following a major twist in the high-profile Fair Work claim.

Antoinette Lattouf, a former fill-in breakfast presenter at the national broadcaster, lodged an unfair dismissal claim against her former employer alleging she was dropped for her political views and because of her race.

During the first case management hearing on Monday, the Federal Court was told both parties were interested in heading to mediation as soon as possible.

This process is likely to take place within a month, following Justice Darryl Rangiah's orders for the proceeding to be referred for mediation after April 1.

Ms Lattouf was working as a fill-in radio host for the ABC's Sydney morning radio slot between December 18 and 22 last year.

She was dismissed on December 20 after sharing a post from Human Rights Watch on her Instagram page that alleged the Israeli government was using starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza.

The same claim was reported by the ABC that day. In her statement of claim, Ms Lattouf alleges she was sacked for expressing a political opinion and because of her race.

But the ABC has denied this, insisting a decision was made to "not require" her for the final two days of her five-day contract.

The broadcaster has claimed Ms Lattouf "failed or refused to comply" with directions to not post on social media about controversial matters for the time she was presenting, resulting in her termination.

Ms Lattouf is seeking a declaration that the ABC breached the Fair Work Act as well as compensation and a penalty for the broadcaster.

During Monday's brief hearing Christopher Tran, acting for Ms Lattouf, sought an order for a "no later date" by which mediation with the ABC could occur.

This was opposed by the ABC's barrister Ian Neil SC, who said it was antithetical to think the process would not proceed in an expeditious manner.

"It is antithetical to impose an arbitrary deadline," he told the court.

"The safer and better course is to leave the matter in the hands of the mediator."

The ABC is yet to file a defence to Ms Lattouf's claim that Justice Rangiah ordered be filed and served by March 22.

The matter was referred to mediation before a court registrar, following consultation by the parties, to occur after April 1.

In separate legal filings before the Federal Court, Ms Lattouf also alleges the ABC breached its own employee enterprise agreement when they sacked her "without a proper basis and due process."

She alleges the ABC breached the agreement by terminating her employment for alleged misconduct while failing to advise her what constituted the misconduct as well as whether the complaint was "substantiated".

Ms Lattouf is also claiming the broadcaster did not give her an opportunity to respond or explain her actions.

The court claims follow a bruising few months for the national broadcaster after staff voiced their outrage over perceived bias in the coverage of the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip.

More than 100 of the ABC's union-aligned staff passed a vote of no confidence in its managing director David Anderson late last year – both as a result of Ms Lattouf's dismissal and of the alleged "pro-Israel" coverage.

ABC chair Ita Buttrose and the rest of the board have unanimously backed Mr Anderson.

"It is abhorrent and incorrect that people would suggest that he has shown a lack of support for independent journalism and journalists," Ms Buttrose said in a statement.

"David Anderson has always been a strong supporter of the independence of the ABC and its journalists."

Book Launching of "Embracing the Spirit Personality" by Charbel Tadros



On the 5th of March, 2024 journalist and Author Charbel Tadros launched his new book, "Embracing the Spirit Personality," hosted at Bankstown RSL.

The event attended by a significant turnout of intellectuals, media personalities, entrepreneurs, and enthusiasts of eloquent literature.

This guidebook offers insightful strategies for navigating diverse personalities inspired by the natural elements. It further delves into cultivating a harmonious and potent identity known as the Spirit Personality.

"Embracing the Spirit Personality," book enriching experience for those interested in personal development and understanding the intricate dynamics of human personality.



Happy International Women's Day!



Today is International Women's Day, Jihad Dib MP and Tony Burke MP we hosted a Morning Tea to celebrate the wonderful women in our

community. In keeping with this year's theme, "Inspire Inclusion", women of all walks of life came

together to celebrate diversity. Sophie Cotsis MP was the guest speaker in the event.

(IWAA) Celebrate International Women's Day



Celebrate International Women's Day with a delightful luncheon hosted by the Islamic Women's Association Australia (IWAA),

dedicated to honoring and celebrating women in the community. The events was attended by a representative of

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



COUNCIL OPERATION KEEPS RAMADAN NIGHTS LAKEMBA SAFE



Sydney's biggest multicultural event, Ramadan Nights Lakemba, will welcome more than a million visitors this year and behind the scenes Council Staff and Police will be working overtime to ensure traffic rules and strict hygiene standards are met.

In a Council operation like never seen before, Environmental Health Officers, Parking Officers, Waste Crew and Events Staff will be out in full force to keep the event safe and enjoyable for the community.

Last year, the month-long event attracted around 1.4 million visitors and while the majority of people were courteous and considerate, there were some who ignored the rules.

Parking Officers issued 3,060 infringement notices for offences including disobeying no stopping signs, double parking, parking across driveways and stopping on footpaths or nature strips.

Motorists weren't the only ones doing the wrong thing. Council Officers also issued infringement notices to businesses operating without permission, improper food handling and dangerous cooking practices.

Canterbury-Bankstown Mayor Bilal El-Hayek said Ramadan Nights is a special celebration for the community and Council will not compromise the safety of those attending.

"Most attending do the right thing, but we can't tolerate any business that brazenly wants to cut corners," Mayor El-Hayek said.

"We saw examples of people barbecuing at a petrol station next to fuel bowlers and others barbecuing and spreading smoke which impacted on a busy road.

"Let's all play our part to ensure Ramadan Nights is a safe and fun event."

Council takes all measures to ensure Ramadan Nights is safe and friendly and all food vendors undertake Council-run Safe Food Handling Workshops prior to the event.

Environmental Health Officers will undertake nightly inspections of food stalls and businesses, while Parking Officers will be patrolling surrounding streets.

Council Investigators will also be on-hand to tackle any illegal trading, pollution incidents and dumped rubbish, while waste crews will keep the event clean.

Last year, Council's Waste Officers removed approximately three truckloads of rubbish each night, totalling 307 tonnes of rubbish across the month-long event.

Council is also offering a free shuttle bus service, brought to you by Western Union, to provide safe and accessible transport to and from the event.

For more information about Ramadan Nights Lakemba, visit cb.city/RamadanNights. Ramadan Nights Lakemba has been recognised and funded by the NSW Government.

This event is proudly sponsored by Western Union and SBS and supported by Sydney Water, MySat and Dessert Boxes.

About Ramadan

Ramadan is the most sacred month of the year in Islamic culture. During the month of Ramadan, people of Muslim faith fast during daylight hours, from dawn to sunset.

At the end of each day, Muslims gather for Iftar – the evening meal to break their fast.

About Ramadan Nights Lakemba

Ramadan Nights, Sydney's most popular multicultural event, returns on Saturday 9 March. This spectacular month-long celebration of culture sees Lakemba's Haldon Street transformed into a vibrant global food bazaar every Thursday-Sunday from 6pm-3am.

Each evening, there's an abundance of local food vendors and stall holders. It's the ideal place for you and your friends to experience foods from around the world, and for many Muslims to break their fast together.

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO ENJOYING RAMADAN NIGHTS LAKEMBA

For Soaliha Iqbal, Ramadan Nights Lakemba feels like home.



The influential journalist, who is proud of her Pakistani Muslim heritage, has been attending the event with her family for nearly a decade and always feels at home amongst the multicultural vibe.

It's not uncommon for her to bump into friends and family, and she loves sipping on hot sahlab and watching vendors make some of her favourite foods, including jalebi.

"Muslims from all over travel to Lakemba because it's such a lovely community," Ms Iqbal said.

"For many Muslims it is the only event we have like this, where we can mingle and share our culture in a space designed specifically for us.

"It's quite a beautiful experience and something I think many Muslims really appreciate and look forward to."

For those that might be attending Ramadan Nights Lakemba for the first time this year, Ms Iqbal has a few tips to enjoying the experience and says Kashmiri chai is a must-try that is difficult to find outside of the event.

"The quintessential foods to try are jalebi, Kashmiri chai, knafeh, sahlab and murtabak. They are always my favourite!"

Ms Iqbal says being kind and patient to people at the event is key and shares her top tips to being respectful:

Respect Muslims' choices to not play music in observance of Ramadan and its spirituality;

Make an effort to learn about the purpose of Ramadan and engage with what it means;

Treat the event like you would any other cultural event: respect local customs (in this case Muslim customs) and behave/dress/act accordingly; and

Avoid bringing your dogs (excluding service dogs). Many Muslims consider it impolite, if not offensive, to bring dogs into places associated with prayer and worship, and food.

Ms Iqbal added that while not all Muslims will share her views, it's still the most considerate and polite approach for those attending.

Ramadan Nights Lakemba will transform Haldon Street into a bustling food bazaar every Thursday-Sunday from 9 March-8 April, 6pm-3am.

For more details and to plan your trip, visit cb.city/RamadanNights