
[Brush Bed, Melissa Audio CD Before of Parente 100](#) 100 Strokes of the Brush Before Bed **International Bestseller An international bestseller - over 1 000 000 copies sold. Written By Melissa P Read By Melissa Parente 100 Strokes of the Brush Before Bed Author(s): P. Melissa Narrator: Parente Melissa No. of cd: 3 Duration: 3 hours 35 minutes** The fictionalized memoir of Melissa P. a Sicilian teenager whose quest for love rapidly devolves into a shocking journey of sexual discovery. A stunning erotic debut. Melissa begins her diary a virgin but a stormy affair at the age of fourteen leads her to regard sex as a means of self-discovery and for the next two years she plunges into a succession of encounters with various partners male and female her age and much older some met through schoolmates others through newspaper ads and Internet chat rooms. In graphic detail she describes her entry into a Dante-esque underworld of eroticism where she willingly participates in group sex and sadomasochism as well as casual pickups. Melissa's secret life is concealed from family and friends revealed only in her diary entries. Told with disarming candor Melissa P.'s bittersweet tour of extreme desires is as poignant as it is titillating. "It is easy to see why it was a massive bestseller in Italy ... clever dark gothic-style twenty-first century fairy tale" — *The Barcelona Review* "Melissa tells herself no fairy tales - and therein lies the odd potent purity of these pages." — *Publishers Weekly* "a bo

[Give emissions trade revenue back to hard-up: Origin](#) .One of Australia's biggest power retailers, **Origin Energy**, [says](#) revenue raised through an emissions trading scheme must be funnelled towards households struggling with higher power bills. **The Federal Government will today outline options for an emissions trading scheme in a green paper. . "We need to have a system where we can give people an incentive to either change how [they use] energy or reduce their energy use with energy-efficient products," she said. Origin's chief operating officer Karen Moses says some households under hardship from rising energy costs will need financial assistance and help to lower their bills. "The Government, through the auctioning of the permits, will obviously be raising dollars that are then at their discretion to support . "So there's an education process to give people the right information in order to change how they use energy.. affected industries, low emission new technologies coming through, and to recognise the transitional impact on households.."** . "So the Government is well-placed to identify those people in the most need

[the -Ken Unabridged of The Earth](#) Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett Unabridged 32 CDs Get Other **Classic Audio Books click here The Pillars of the Earth - Ken Follett - Audio Book Unabridged CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): . 41 hours 32 CDs** The Pillars of the Earth is a historical novel by Ken Follett published in 1989 about the building of a cathedral in Kingsbridge England. It is set in the middle of the 12th century primarily during the time known as The Anarchy between the time of the sinking of the White Ship and the murder of Thomas Becket. The book traces the development of Gothic Architecture out of the preceding Romanesque Architecture and the fortunes of the Kingsbridge priory against the backdrop of actual historical events of the time. Although Kingsbridge is the name of an actual English town the Kingsbridge in the novel is actually a fictional location representative of a typical market town of the time. Until this novel was published Follett had previously been known for writing in the thriller genre.

[Police investigate after Gold Coast body find](#) .Police are examining a Gold Coast house where a woman's body was found earlier today. **Police say an ambulance crew was called to a home at Parkwood just before 11am AEST and found the body of a 56-year-old woman. . Police say the cause of death is unknown at this stage**

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[James reads](#) James Earl Jones reads The Bible King James Version - New Testament Other Bible and religious Audio click here **James Earl Jones reads the Bible - Audio CD Brand New (16 CD) Hear the power of the most important Book ever written through the most recognized and talented voice in America James Earl Jones. This Oscar nominated Emmy and Tony award winning actor has earned a worldwide reputation as one of the best actors of cinema and stage but he is most famous for his deep authoritative voice which is among the most distinctive in the world. This reading of the Bible has been hailed as the greatest spoken-word version ever recorded with over 400 000 copies sold. 19 hours long - featuring beautiful music soundtrack About The Bible The Christian Bible consists of the Hebrew scriptures which have been called the Old Testament and some later writings known as the New Testament. Some groups within Christianity include additional books as part one or both of these sections of their sacred writings - most prominent among which are the biblical apocrypha or deuterocanonical books. In Judaism the term Christian Bible is commonly used to identify only those books like the New Testament which have been added by Christians to the Masoretic Text and excludes any reference for Audio Activity CDs** German for Children Activity Book CDs and Parents CD Other Learn to Speak German Audio click here **German for Children Activity Book 2 Program Audio CDs 1 Parents Audio CD Brand New Includes A Full Color Activity Book (80 pages)- A complete Language Course A wide range of Activities Games French-language songs the cartoon adventures of Superchat Stimulating Program CDs - Numerous -activities drawn from the activity book additional activities created especially for the CD the songs for all the units each exciting episode of Super-Katze. Parents/Instructors CD - Tips for helping children get the most out of the program Additional games and activities All the program songs collected together the adventures of Superchat read aloud. Already a proven home-study program the Language for Children series is making noise with this updated integrated book-plus-audio edition. Along with its charming visuals and lively activities the series now provides in CD format the stimulating sounds of language to entice preschoolers through primary graders into learning a second language. Cute catchy songs and the humorous serial adventures of SuperCat are sure to captivate the imagination and foster language acquisition. Each set in the series contains an 80-page full-color activity book coordinated with two 60-minute CDs as well as a Parent/Instructor CD packed with helpful tips. Together children and parents can master basic language skills including making introductions counting from 1 to 20 and describing objects. The perfect package for parents and teachers who want to familiarize three- to nine-year olds with foreign languages and cultures. Published by McGraw-Hill About the German Language The German language is a West Germanic language and one o**

[Ease access to credit, small business tells banks](#) .Small business and [industry](#) groups are up in arms after a meeting with big banks in Melbourne today, saying the banking sector does not understand the predicament they face. Federal Minister for Small Business Craig Emerson held the [meeting](#) for both sides to present their case, but many small business operators say they are in danger of failing unless their needs are better taken care of. "We're all

in this together," he said. After two and a half hours, Mr Emerson stood between the business and banking groups and announced that progress had been made." Mr Emerson says today was about building bridges between the banking sector and the small business sector. "We're all in this together; the banks, small business and the Government and today we've formed a partnership. "My office will become a clearing house for small businesses who feel that perhaps they have been hard done by," he said. One of those bridges will go straight through his office." But the executive director of the Retailers Association, Richard Evans, was not impressed with what he heard at today's meeting. "We are encouraging small businesses in those circumstances, through the Council of Small Business of Australia and any other business associations, or even off their own bat, to email our office. "Mums and dads small businesses need help right now. "Small business is suffering right now and I think what we need to have is the banks clearly understanding that they've got to work a little bit harder for that sector," he told PM." - 'Proper assessment' - The definition of risk may have changed radically in the banking world recently, but Greg Evans from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry thinks banks are putting too high a price on it for small businesses. "They need some credit as much as they need cash and what we'll see is mums and dads businesses closing up unless they get that support. "We think the banks need to look more closely at lending provided in those instances, to make a proper assessment of that risk," he said. Mr Evans says only 60 per cent of the value of recent interest rate cuts has been passed on to small businesses, compared to 90 per cent for larger businesses and home owners." The head of the Australian Bankers Association, David Bell, was charged with the task of presenting the four big banks' point of view. "If any small businesses find it difficult to obtain credit then there's going to be less opportunity for employment and growth in the economy, and that's a concern. He says loan assessments are taking no longer than they used to and the loans are at a price which covers the risks involved. Mr Bell says banks will maintain the level of funds available for small businesses, and cuts to interest rates will be passed on as much as possible. "One of the reasons Australia has the stand-out banking sector in the world in terms of strength and security, [when] you compare us to the UK, you compare us to America, is because we have lent on the basis of risk. "It's very important that banks lend on the basis of risk," he said." The chief executive of the Council of Small Business, Jaye Radisich, says Australia's banks have failed to pick up the slack and do not even seem to realise. "So we are required by a prudential regulator to make proper risk assessments and make those loans according to the risk. "Some loans have been called in; some business loan interest rates have been increased," she said. "Some loans have been called in; some business loan interest rates have been increased," she said. "There's a whole range of real-life examples through our industry; everything from newsagents through to the confectionery, automotive parts, real estate; the whole gamut of small business." Adapted from a report by Simon Lauder for PM, March 6.

[5 CD Cantonese Book Audio Pimsleur Chinese](#) Pimsleur Basic Cantonese Chinese 5 Audio CDs Get Other Chinese - Mandarin and Cantonese language learning Audio click here Pimsleur Cantonese Chinese - 5 Audio CDs Brand New : . 5 CDs This Basic program contains 5 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. HEAR IT LEARN IT SPEAK IT The Pimsleur Method provides the most effective language-learning program ever developed. The Pimsleur Method gives you quick command of Cantonese structure without tedious drills. Learning to speak Cantonese can actually be enjoyable and rewarding. The key reason most people struggle with new languages is that they aren't given proper instruction only bits and pieces of a language. Other language programs sell only pieces -- dictionaries; grammar books and instructions; lists of hundreds or thousands of words and definitions; audios containing useless drills. They leave it to you to assemble these pieces as you try to speak. Pimsleur enables you to spend your time learning to speak the language rather than just studying its parts. When you were learning English could you speak before you knew how to conjugate verbs? Of course you could. That same learning process is what Pimsleur

replicates. Pimsleur presents the whole language as one integrated piece so you can succeed. With Pimsleur you get: * Grammar and vocabulary taught together in everyday conversation * Interactive audio-only instruction that teaches spoken language organically * The flexibility to learn anytime anywhere * 30-minute lessons desi
- Vocabulearn Greek Level 1 - Vocabulary Builder Get Other Greek Language Learning Audio click here Vocabulearn Greek - 4 Audio CDs Brand New (still shrink wrapped): 3 Hours on 4 CDs plus listening guide The One and Only Audio Foreign Language Vocabulary Builder Language learners know that after acquiring basic words phrases and grammar expanding foreign language vocabulary is essential to developing the power to really communicate in the new language. VocabuLearn is unique in its ability to build a broad vocabulary. # Levels one contains the 2500 most frequently used words and phrases. # Each level includes 2500 words organized into the categories of nouns adjectives and adverbs expressions and verbs. About Modern Greek Greek has a documented history of 3 400 years the longest of any single natural language in the Indo-European language family. It is also one of the earliest attested Indo-European languages with fragmentary records in Mycenaean dating back to the 15th or 14th century BC ma

[Childcare for babies like 'abuse'](#) . Leading children's author Mem Fox has drawn criticism from working mothers but qualified support from family groups for likening childcare for very young babies to child abuse. Ms Fox , 62-year-old author of books such as *Possum Magic*, *Koala Lou* and *Where Is the Green Sheep*, [told News Ltd](#) she believed society would look back on the trend of putting infants in childcare and wonder "how could we have allowed that child abuse to happen". "I don't know why some [people](#) have children at all if they know that they can only take a few weeks off work," she said. "She's right, large amounts of research are coming in showing that - particularly for children under two but also under three - childcare is generally likely to be harmful to them," AFA spokeswoman Angela Conway said, pointing to research from the US and UK. The Australian Family Association (AFA) said it was "largely supportive" of her comments. "There's so many pressures these days on just being a good parent that having negative coverage on childcare like that is very frustrating for a lot of parents," she told . The founder and director of *CareerMums*, Kate Sykes, slammed Ms Fox's comments as "irresponsible", saying many couples have no choice but to place their infant children into childcare. *CareerMums* is an online careers centre for working parents and also advises workplaces on retaining working parents. "Things are different these days," she said in response to the Ms Fox's comments. Ms Sykes said there were some "really good childcare centres" that were "doing a huge amount" for children.. "Over 65 per cent of families have both parents working and . for a lot of people it's not about choice, it's because they have to.. "They both have to be earning money to pay off the mortgage. "They both have to be earning money to pay off the mortgage. . "I don't see anything that's gone terribly wrong putting them into child care," she said.. "Childcare is not a good place for babies and we support her in that but we know that many families have elected to put very young children and infants into childcare because of serious economic pressures and . we need to face up to that.. She said a solution to the problem was for the government to redirect the money it provided to childcare providers to families so parents could afford to choose whether to remain at home or not, free of financial pressures." Ms Conway also said the childcare sector employed "strong marketing strategies" to convince parents children were better off in care "and large numbers of parents have been convinced that their children should be in childcare at least one day a week".

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[Rudd to hold stimulus briefings despite Senate opposition](#) .Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and senior ministers will today brief key players involved in the rollout of the Federal Government's \$42 billion economic stimulus plan. Kevin Rudd will explain the spending plan to business and union leaders as well as representatives from the education, welfare and environment sectors. "We'll be urging the Government to think beyond this package," she said. Sharan Burrow from the ACTU plans to raise the need for further measures to protect jobs. Mr Connor [says](#) the Government should consider "Making some of the homes cleaner and greener". The Climate Institute's John Connor says it is important to assess whether the package promotes good environmental outcomes. "There is a lot of room for their contribution," she said. Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard will talk with representatives from the education sector to discuss the \$15 billion earmarked for school upgrades. "We'd like to be part of any process about the rollout," she said. Leonie Trimper from the Primary Principals Association is keen to talk about how the funds will spent.5 billion for new public housing. The package also includes \$6. "We must all bring our resources and our goodwill to the table," he said. John Falzon from St Vincent de Paul says spending that amount of money is going to require good coordination. - \$200b needed - But the future of the stimulus remains uncertain with Opposition and independent Senators worried about the size of the package. The Prime Minister and Treasurer will also meet with farming representatives this afternoon. Treasury [officials](#) said last night it is all needed. The plan gives the Government permission to borrow \$200 billion, lifting the cap by \$125 billion. The size of the debt is one of the main reasons the Federal Opposition is refusing to support the plan. "The additional \$125 billion that the Government is seeking would finance the deficits that are projected in this document," an official said. . Liberal Senator Scott Ryan quizzed Treasury [officials](#) and concluded nothing would be left over for any future stimulus. Family First Senator Steve Fielding told Mr Henry he might be suggesting some changes and asked how long modelling would take. Senators have indicated they will push for changes. "How many people are going to miss out," he asked. "How many people are going to miss out," he asked. Coalition Senators also asked why the Government has chosen the \$42 billion dollar figure for its package. There were some terse exchanges between Senators and Dr Henry on the first day of the inquiry, which will resume this morning. Nationals Senate leader Barnaby Joyce accused Treasury officials of providing convoluted answers. A lot of what I've heard tonight is the most convoluted and extensive load of waffle," he said. The inquiry will resume this morning.

[Canberra bishop confident church will survive rift](#) .The Vicar General of Canberra and Goulburn, Bishop Allan Ewing, says he does not believe the church will be driven apart by conservatives. . The new movement will create its own council of archbishops and produce its own statement of doctrine. The Global Futures Conference says it represents half the world's Anglicans and has criticised the Archbishop of Canterbury for failing to deal with what it calls a "false gospel". Bishop Ewing [says](#) he is disappointed about the boycott because he believes any rifts should be discussed in the wider Anglican community. Some members of the group also plan to boycott next month's Lambeth Conference in England, the once-a-decade gathering of the Anglican church. "At its heart the Anglican Church is a reforming church, that is, it doesn't breakaway and create new churches so much as tries to reform, always from within," he said. But he

says this latest development does not have to lead to a permanent schism. **"The Lambeth Conference will be another important part of that discussion. "So the challenge of what's happened in Jerusalem , and the Archbishop's involvement in that, is a challenge to how we might order ourselves and form ourselves as church in the future."** - 'False teaching' - [Sydney's](#) Archbishop Peter Jensen says the so-called "homosexual crisis" in the church is at the heart of the breakaway group's disaffection. **"I think what it will mean for us in**

[CD Ambrose Audio](#) Band of Brothers E Company 506th Regiment 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest Get other War history audio books on CD [click here](#) Band of Brothers - Stephen E. Ambrose - Audio Book CD Brand New (Abridged) 5 CDs 5 Hours : **In the summer of 1942 a band of citizen soldiers were brought together by the desire to be better than the other guy. At its peak Easy Company 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment 101st Airborne Division U.S. Army was as good a rifle company as any in the world. From their rigorous training in Georgia in 1942 through Utah Beach Market-Garden the Bulge and Hitler's Eagle's Nest WWII historian Stephen Ambrose tells the story of this remarkable company. In combat the reward for a job well done is the next tough assignment and the men of Easy Company kept getting the tough assignments from parachuting into France early D-Day morning to capturing Hitler's Bavarian outpost. About the Author Stephen E. Ambrose: Ambrose was born in Lovington Illinois and raised in Whitewater Wisconsin having graduated from Whitewater High School. His family also owned a farm in Lovington Illinois and vacation property in Marinette County Wisconsin. Ambrose received his Ph.D. in 1960 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served as a professor of history at several universities from 1960 until his retirement in 1995 having spent the bulk of his time at the University of New Orleans. For the academic year 1969-70 he was Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime Hi**

[The Rocky Road Romance to Janet](#) The Rocky Road to Romance by Janet Evanovich Audio Book read by C.J. Critt [Other Janet Evanovich Audio Books click here](#) [Other Fiction Audio Books click here](#) **The Rocky Road to Romance by Janet Evanovich Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): unabridged 5 CDs 5 hours Opportunity knocks . . . The "Dog Lady" of radio station WZZZ free-spirited Daisy Adams figures anything has to beat pushing tasty canine recipes over the airwaves. So when a slot for a roving traffic reporter opens Daisy jumps at it-- despite the fact that she's already juggling about fifteen other jobs. The new one comes with a raise and more responsibility. It also comes with a hands-on boss hunky operations manager Steve Crow. When Daisy turns into a media darling after inadvertently foiling a major criminal's getaway Steve decides it's his duty to protect her bringing him even farther into the tangled web of her maddeningly overextended life. But Daisy's got far too much going on to get involved in extracurricular activities-- like falling in love. About the Author Janet Evanovich: Janet Evanovich is an author born in South River New Jersey. She is best known as the creator of the character Stephanie Plum a lingerie buyer from Trenton New Jersey who loses her job and becomes a bounty hunter to fill her fridge. Biography After studying at Douglas College in New Jersey Janet Evanovich decided to go into writing. Sending many manuscripts to several editors she received as many refusals back. Returning to be a secretary she received a call by an editor interested in Seco**

[Traditional owners unveil 'Leichhardt' rock art](#) .Traditional owners in the Northern Territory have revealed a piece of rock art they believe is a painting of the first European to cross the Arnhem Land plateau. . Australian Rock Art Research Association member and tourism coordinator Andy Ralph says the markings suggest it could be the first time the artist encountered a European. The Aboriginal rock art site was rediscovered more than a decade ago, but traditional owners have only now decided to make the find public. **"We are certain this is Leichhardt himself, or one of his party who passed by the area in November 1845," he said. He says most rock art images in the area show gun toting buffalo hunters dating to the turn of the 20th century, but this image is much older. Mr Ralph says if managed properly the site will not be adversely affected by tourism. "The horse depicted has chest guards and knee pads, as did Leichhardt's horses for bush**

bashing through the Arnhem Land plateau. "It's very rugged country on the East Alligator River. "Access is extremely limited - you can't just walk there from Jabiru or Oenpelli for that matter," he said. "We of course have strict policies in place in regards to examining the occupational debris. "It's on the rock area of the Arnhem Land plateau. "There's issues with feral animals and weeds and also there is a lot of buffalo running around on the Arnhem Land plateau," he said." Mr Ralph [says](#) there are plans to fence off some areas to protect them from damage by animals." . "So that is a concern if they rub their hides up against the rock art

[Property slump hits state coffers](#) .The ongoing weakness in the West Australian property market is continuing to put a dent in the State's finances. The September quarterly figures show stamp duty from property [sales](#) is down almost \$200 million on the same period last year. In a sign the WA economy is still strong, the Government collected almost \$100 million more in payroll tax, compared with last year's quarterly figures. The reduction has been offset by an [increase](#) in mining royalties, which were up by \$140 million. The Treasurer, Troy Buswell, [says](#) the figures reinforce the need to clamp down on spending. Government expenses have climbed by almost 11 per cent, mainly due to higher salaries for public servants. Mr Buswell says the figures emphasis the need to keep spending in check by ensuring all departments and agencies find savings of three per cent. .

[Nursing union says members concerned after aged care audit](#) .The [Australian](#) Nursing Federation [says](#) staff at Ballarat's Kirralee Aged Care facility are worried they will lose their jobs because of a **damming Federal Government audit. The audit found the nursing home failed to meet 33 standards for patient care, and the matter is now being investigated by police. . "Members have reported to us that other areas of the workforce within Kirralee have been cut and the nurses are being asked to undertake kitchen duties, domestic cleaning duties and also laundry duties and therefore that takes them away from caring for vulnerable Victorians," she said. The union's Yvonne Chaperon says nurses are also having to clean, because of the staff shortages. The home's executive director Julie Reed says the staffing level is above industry standard and nurses have not had to take on extra duties. But the management of the nursing home has denied claims by the nurses union the facility is understaffed.**

[British honeymooners in wicked Australian race row](#) . XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.dtd"> **British honeymooners in wicked Australian race row - Telegraph
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Australian race row - A British couple on honeymoon in Australia have unwittingly
stumbled into a racism row after hiring a van bearing the slogan "Save a whale. Content
from the Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph newspapers and video from Telegraph
TV.. harpoon a Jap".. However, while the Ropers were enjoying their holiday, the slogan
sparked fierce controversy. - By Bonnie Malkin in Sydney Last
Updated: 11:13AM BST 22 Jul Some of Wicked's campers have been
confiscated after Australia's Advertising Standards Bureau deemed them unsuitable
Andrew and Jo Roper, of Reading, hired the campervan from rental company Wicked to
drive from northern Queensland to Sydney. The pair only learned of the furore when a
fellow tourist [informed](#) them that the van was on the front page of the Cairns Post newspaper.
Unbeknownst to the couple, it was branded racist by Queensland premier Anna Bligh and
Australia's Advertising Standards Bureau (ASB) attempted to order the van off the road.
"We were out at a waterfall and someone said to us, 'Do you realise you're on the front
page?' We had no idea," Mrs Roper told the Brisbane Times. "We were out at a waterfall**

and someone said to us, 'Do you realise you're on the front page?' We had no idea," Mrs Roper told the Brisbane Times. "If Japanese people are offended they should think about why it's being written. Mrs Roper said: "It made us chuckle and it's quite relevant, particularly in Australia" where there is a strong anti-whaling sentiment." The Ropers' campervan is not the first Wicked vehicle to draw the attention of the authorities. It's there to start debate about what's occurring to the whales. The Ropers agreed that some Wicked van slogans were offensive, but said theirs "actually had some thought behind it". Two other campers have been confiscated after the ASB deemed their slogans - "Women are like banks - once you withdraw you lose interest" and "If God was a woman, sperm would taste like chocolate" - misogynistic and demeaning to women." The pair found most other motorists supported the slogan. Mrs Roper said she "was just glad not to get one with sex or masturbation on the side of it. At \$40 (£18) a day, they said the camper, which they've nicknamed Sheila - "it's an Aussie girl, what else could we call her?" - was by far the cheapest option to cover their transport and accommodation costs while they head for Sydney over the next two months. . "We had people commenting before but we've had more comments since it's been in the news. "We had people commenting before but we've had more comments since it's been in the news." Perhaps surprisingly, most have been positive. "One lady said she was offended but she couldn't articulate why," Ms Roper said. "She said it's not right to harpoon anyone, but I don't think it's meant to be taken literally. "Still, I would like to know what some Japanese people think about it. If they do find it offensive then maybe I'd think twice." However, Mrs Roper said she doubted the message would have received as much attention if it was written about England. She said: "We joked to each other that if fox hunting was still legal in England, they would probably have 'Save a fox, shoot a Pom' written on the side, and no one would complain about that."

[More child lead poisoning doesn't surprise lawyer](#) .The lawyer involved in legal action against mining giant Xstrata says he is not surprised more children have been found to have high lead blood levels in the mining city of Mount Isa in north-west Queensland. . [New figures released](#) this week reveal another five children have recorded high lead levels. "It is a fundamental problem in this town and it has to be dealt with," Mr Scattini said. Slater and Gordon lawyer Damian Scattini says it is an indication that a local lead awareness campaign is not working. "Mere education, while it is important, it is never going to stop a child from being poisoned. "What's happened everywhere in the world whenever anything has worked it is when the source of the pollution is fixed, and that's the only thing that works." - 'Personal hygiene' - Meanwhile, Mount Isa Mayor John Malony says residents need to practice personal hygiene to ensure they can live safely with lead in the environment. "Because lead appears on the surface and occurs naturally, it was discovered as a reef on top of the surface, so the original Aboriginal people had difficulty living with lead," he said. Councillor Malony says an awareness campaign is now underway to provide information to residents. "We've got to practice personal hygiene - that's the most important thing. "We've got to [learn](#) to live with lead because we live here ourselves."

[Global Financial Crisis](#) .Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced that the Government will guarantee all deposits in Australian banks, building societies and credit unions for the next three years. Mr Rudd has announced the measures in response to the global financial crisis, making the Federal Government liable for up to \$700 billion in bank deposits. "The [Australian](#) Government will guarantee all deposits whatever their size in all Australian financial institutions for three years," he said. He says the Government will guarantee all money that Australian banks borrow internationally and it will stand by all deposits in Australian institutions with no cap on the maximum amount. "This global financial crisis has entered a new and dangerous phase with real consequences for growth, for jobs and therefore for the future," he said. Mr Rudd [says](#) Australia's institutions are sound, but these measures are needed because other Governments are offering guarantees on their institutions. "Mr Rudd and I are very much of the one mind on these measures," he said. Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull says it is an important

step. **Mr Rudd says the global crisis will mean higher unemployment in Australia but he says the Government still intends meeting its election commitments. The Government is also doubling to \$8 billion the amount of mortgage backed securities it will buy. "We are looking at broadening the scheme and we are getting feedback on what's occurring elsewhere in the world, because we can't operate separately from the rest of the world," he said. Earlier, Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan said the Government must be mindful that other countries are guaranteeing all bank deposits. "We have to have a scheme which is broadly compatible with the rest of the world and that's what I've been providing the feedback on."**

[Kossmann used position for personal gain: Ombudsman](#) .The Victorian Ombudsman has issued a **damning report on the conduct of former Alfred hospital Professor Thomas Kossmann. The report says the former trauma surgeon exploited his powerful position for personal gain and cost taxpayers considerable amounts of money with his inappropriate billing practices. . The report also lashes out at the Transport Accident Commission and the Alfred Hospital for failing to monitor the Professor's appetite for surgery and his inappropriate billing practices. In his findings, the Ombudsman George Brower rejects the Professor's claim that there were no adverse outcomes from his surgery. The Ombudsman has called for a review of medical billing practices in light of these findings and has recommended his report be passed onto Victoria Police and the Tax Office. He [says](#) that failure cost tax payers considerable amounts of money. A spokesman for the Transport Accident Commission Phil Reed says the TAC accepts the reports recommendations. . "We've, as you'd be aware, already indicated on a [number](#) of occasions this year we have been taking steps throughout the course of , to improve our billings processes as they relate to medical providers," he said**

[Dune NEW Book by Herbert](#) Dune - Frank Herbert Unabridged AudioBook Read by Scott Brick Orlagh Cassidy Euan Morton Simon Vance and Cast New Release 2007 Get Other Sci-Fi Audio Books click here **Dune by Frank Herbert - Audio Book Brand New (still shrink wrapped): On CD - Unabridged -27 hours on18 CDs First published in 1965 Frank Herbert's Dune has since become a Science Fiction phenomenon. After more than forty years fans are still captivated by Herbert's interstellar saga of war politics and heroes. Dune won the very first Nebula Award and shared the Hugo Award. It was also the very first bestselling science fiction novel in hardcover. After his death in 1986 using Frank Herbert's notes on the series his son Brian Herbert teamed up with writer Kevin J. Anderson to write two prequel trilogies and the completion of the original Dune series.Now fans can experience an all-new recording of Dune on audio. With a talented cast and a beautiful new production Dune is an exciting revitalization of an enduring classic... bringing Herbert's masterpiece to a new generation of fans. If you want Dune by Frank Herbert as a book click here "One of the monuments of modern science fiction." —Chicago Tribune "I know nothing comparable to it except Lord of the Rings." —Arthur C. Clarke "A portrayal of an alien society more complete and detailed than any other author in the field has managed...a story absorbing equally for its action and philosophical vistas." —Washington Post Book World About the Author Frank Herbert Frank Herbert was born in Tacoma Washington and**

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University of London for over thirty years. He has written 17 publications on aspects of Urdu and Nepali language and literature and also worked towards his own PhD on the Urdu of the medieval Deccan. He takes an active part in the activities of Urdu-speaking communities of the UK and Europe and he has a special interest in the teaching and examining of Urdu in British schools. He is a fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain. Mohamed Kasim Dalvi co-aut

[China's Minmetals in A2.6bn offer for Australian miner OZ Minerals](#) .Last Updated: 12:51PM GMT 16 Feb 2009 **The announcement came just four days after China's state-owned aluminium firm [Chinalco](#) said it was putting \$19.5bn into troubled Australian mining giant Rio Tinto.82. OZ Minerals said it had agreed to a cash offer from Minmetals, or [China Minmetals Nonferrous Metals Company Ltd](#), of 0. Under the deal, Minmetals will repay all of OZ Mineral's outstanding debt and also redeem its outstanding convertible bonds.5 Australian dollars a share, a 50pc premium over Oz Minerals' last traded share price of November 27. Diversified miner OZ last week flagged asset writedowns of up to A\$2. "The board has determined that Minmetals' cash proposal is in the best interests of OZ Minerals' shareholders and believes this is the best outcome for shareholders compared with any of the other options available to us," OZ chairman Barry Cusack said in a statement to the stock exchange. It is also struggling to refinance more than A\$1bn in debt.8bn due to steep commodity price falls sparked by the global financial crisis. Analysts said after [Chinalco's](#) investment in Rio Tinto was unveiled last week that the record Chinese investment in a foreign company underscored Beijing's drive to get more control over the natural resources that have helped fuel its rapid rise.**

[Facebook vows 'improvements' after user backlash](#) .Faced with a torrent of complaints over its latest redesign, the social networking hub [Facebook](#) has vowed a series of "improvements" to eliminate clutter and make the website more user friendly. "Since we launched [Facebook's](#) home page design, we've received thousands of emails, wall posts and comments from you along with direct feedback from all of our friends and family," product director Christopher Cox said in a blog post. . Mr Cox pointed to several areas "where we're focusing on improvements immediately and over the next several weeks," after the site earlier this month introduced a busier, twitter-like feed on its popular networking site. Rather than reload the page in order to see new posts, Facebook will introduce "the ability to turn on auto updating in the near future so you no longer need to refresh the page," he said. We will be giving you tools to control and reduce application content that your friends share into your stream," Mr Cox wrote. Improvements were also being made to a new '[Highlights](#)' section on the homepage so it will "update more oftenly and will show you more content throughout the day to mirror more closely the content that the earlier news feed provided. Photo tags or notifications that pictures of a user's friends have been posted, will also be added to the stream of updates on the main page in the coming weeks, Mr Cox said. However, a series of revamps in recent months has left many users disgruntled and sparked a legion of anti-change groups on the site." The social networking site has ballooned in popularity since it was begun in 2004, and now has an estimated 175 million users. "With the recent home page changes, we're trying to present the right balance between what's occuring right now and what's interesting over a longer period of time. "Redesigns are generally hard to manage, in part because change is always hard and in part because we may miss improvements that any individual user may like to see," Mr Cox admitted." -

[Girl, 5, contracted father's disease](#) . A FIVE-year-old girl who contracted a sexually transmitted infection was allowed to return to the family home after a judge ruled that he could not be certain her father had abused her. But the Department of Community Services yesterday argued that Judge Jonathan Williams did not need to be certain whether the abuse occurred and that he had erred in law by allowing the girl, now 7, to [continue](#) living with her parents. In the District Court, both parents successfully appealed against the DOCS finding, although an undertaking was made that the girl would not live with her father again until the end of all proceedings, the court heard. "It is known she contracted

the infection from her father," Ian Temby, QC, for the Department of Community Services, told the NSW Court of Appeal yesterday. The girl, to whom the court gave the pseudonym Sophie, contracted the infection from her father after he visited a prostitute in Bali." The District Court judge had considered it "highly improbable" the disease might have been transmitted by the child using a towel her father had used. "The question is whether she received it as a result of sexual interference or innocently. But he could not be sure that it had been transmitted by sexual interference. The department intervened soon after the girl's diagnosis in July 2006, and an order was made in the Children's Court that she remain in the care of DOCS and have no contact with her father until she turned 18. Mr Temby said the judge had reached "a false conclusion" after applying the wrong test for the standard of proof in such a case. But Judge Williams could not say "with certainty" whether sexual interference had taken place. In the District Court hearing the mother had been a "less than enthusiastic supporter" of her husband, the court heard yesterday. Counsel for the father, Jonathan Wells, SC, said the judge's decision was correct because anything considered highly improbable had not been proved. . The Court of Appeal has reserved its judgment. The Court of Appeal has reserved its judgment

[Climate change researchers closer to model for saving at-risk species](#) .Scientists say they could soon have a formula to better predict which species are most vulnerable to climate change. The Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change at James Cook University in Townsville, in north Queensland, has been working with researchers from around the world. "First of all the species here, but the whole idea is to be even bigger and broader than that, that if we can develop a technique that really works well, any techniques that we develop here in the Daintree and the wet tropics area we hope to apply right across Australia and maybe right across the world," he said. Centre director Associate Professor Steve Williams says they are on track to calculate a method within the next six months. "We want to be able to figure out which species are the most sensitive, the most vulnerable," Professor Williams said. More than 20 environmental experts from around the world gathered in the Daintree to discuss the issue on the weekend."

[Aust aid to Zimbabwe not without risk: Smith](#) .Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith says Australia's decision to [increase](#) its foreign aid to Zimbabwe is not without risk. Australia is the first Western country to increase its aid to the new Zimbabwean unity government, with a total of \$10 million to be provided to help the country restore basic water, sanitation and health services. "We think the time has come for Australia and the international community to make its contribution to helping rebuild Zimbabwe's economic and social circumstances, its economy, its social fabric, whether health or education, that have frankly been devastated by the Mugabe regime," he said. Mr Smith says the money is aimed at supporting the people of Zimbabwe and the new Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai. Their coalition, however, has been dogged by doubts due to the arrest of top MDC official Roy Bennett and disputes over top political appointments. President Robert Mugabe and Mr Tsvangirai formed a unity government four weeks ago in a bid to end a year of political turmoil and pull the country from economic ruin. - ABC/AFP .

[Gunslinger CD](#) .The Gunslinger by Stephen King Book 1 of The Dark Tower series Get Other [Stephen King Audio Books click here](#) **The Gunslinger - Stephen King - Dark Tower 1 - Audio Book Brand New : (still shrink wrapped) Unabridged 6 CD In the first book of this brilliant series Stephen King introduces readers to one of his most enigmatic heroes Roland of Gilead The Last Gunslinger. He is a haunting figure a loner on a spellbinding journey into good and evil. In his desolate world which frighteningly mirrors our own Roland pursues The Man in Black encounters an alluring woman named Alice and begins a friendship with the Kid from Earth called Jake. Both grippingly realistic and eerily dreamlike The Gunslinger leaves readers eagerly awaiting the next chapter. About The Dark Tower Series by Stephen King: Stephen Kings Magnus Opus - The Dark Tower series # The Dark Tower I: The Gunslinger (1982) # The Dark Tower II: The Drawing of the Three (1987) # The Dark Tower III: The Waste Lands (1991) # The Dark Tower IV: Wizard and**

Glass (1997) # The Dark Tower V: Wolves of the Calla (2003) # The Dark Tower VI: Song of Susannah (2004) # The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower (2004) If you want the

[US markets gain as oil price slides](#). The price of oil slumped more than \$US5 a barrel overnight, with traders citing renewed concerns about a global economic slowdown that have put question marks over future demand for energy. The further price slide also coincides with a warning on oil costs from the Group of Eight top industrialised nations, which has urged producers to raise output. The spot price of West Texas crude fell \$US5.06 a barrel.32 to \$US136. There was also a strong rally among financial stocks after Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke said emergency measures to bolster the financial system might be extended beyond the end of the year. On Wall Street, the receding oil price eased concerns about consumer and business spending. It was another volatile night on equity markets, however. It closed 152 points higher at 11,384, a rally of 1. On the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones industrial average moved in a range of close toly 220 points. The high-tech Nasdaq composite index gained 51 points to 2,294.

. The [French](#) and German markets fell around 1. Earlier, prices on the main European exchanges were sharply lower.5 per cent in value and the British market was dragged lower by bank and mining stocks.5 per cent in value and the British market was dragged lower by bank and mining stocks. The All Ordinaries index lost another 69 points to end at 5,022. -

Local movements - Yesterday the Australian [market](#) reached a new two-year low. The 10-year bond contract is up one point at 93. After the overnight session on the Sydney Futures Exchange, the Share Price Index 200 contract closed up 38 points at 4,999.33 per cent.67 with the implied yield easing to 6. Around 7:45am AEST it was being quoted at 95. On [foreign](#) exchange markets, the Australian dollar moved ahead overnight. On the cross rates, it was at 60.37 US cents, up more than one fifth of a cent on yesterday's local close.52 Japanese yen, 48.52 Japanese yen, 48.42 pence Sterling, and against the New Zealand dollar it was at 1.265. The gold price dipped overnight to \$US919.95 an ounce.

[Twilight](#) Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer - Audio Book CD Unabridged - Book Three of the Twilight Series read by Ilyana Kadushin Other Twilight series Audio Books by Stephenie Meyer [click here](#) Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer - Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): 13 CDs 16.5 Hours Listeners captivated by Twilight and New Moon will eagerly devour Eclipse the much anticipated third book in Stephenie Meyer's riveting vampire love saga. As Seattle is ravaged by a string of mysterious killings and a malicious vampire continues her quest for revenge Bella once again finds herself surrounded by danger. In the midst of it all she is forced to choose between her love for Edward and her friendship with Jacob --- knowing that her decision has the potential to ignite the ageless struggle between vampire and werewolf. With her graduation quickly approaching Bella has one more decision to make: life or death. But which is which? About the Author Stephenie Meyer: Stephenie Meyer is the author of the book Twilight and its sequels New Moon and Eclipse. Meyer was born in Con

[Covey The 8th R 3 CD NEW book Stephen](#) The 8th Habit by Stephen R. Covey Get other Stephen Covey 7 Habits AudioBooks [click here](#) Abridged 3 CD - From Effectiveness to Greatness The 8th Habit - abridged 3 CD by Stephen R. Covey Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): 3 CDs ABRIDGED The world has profoundly changed since The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People was published. The challenges and complexity we face in our personal lives and relationships in our families in our professional lives and in our organizations are of a different order and magnitude. Surviving thriving innovating excelling and leading in this new reality requires a new mindset a new skill-set a new toolset—it requires a new habit. The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness is an additional dimension to the 7 Habits that takes us beyond effectiveness and puts us onto the pathway leading to greatness. In a recent survey of 23 000 full-time employees holding key

[Dramatized AudioBook Juliet NEW Romeo & CD SHAKESPEARE](#) Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare A fully dramatised recording Get other William Shakespeare plays on Audio CD [click here](#) Get Other Classic Audio Books CD [click here](#) Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare - Unabridged Audio CD Brand New : Unabridged 3 Audio CDs The play starts

with a street brawl between Montagues and Capulets. The Prince of Verona intervenes and declares that further breach of the peace will be punishable by death. Later Count Paris talks to Lord Capulet about marrying his daughter but Capulet is wary of the request because Juliet is still only thirteen. Capulet asks Paris to wait another two years and invites him to attend a planned Capulet ball. Lady Capulet and Juliet's nurse try to persuade Juliet to accept Paris' courtship. After the brawl Benvolio talks with his cousin Romeo Lord Montague's son about Romeo's recent depression. Benvolio discovers that it stems from unrequited love for a girl named Rosaline one of Lord Capulet's nieces. Persuaded by Benvolio and Mercutio Romeo attends the ball at the Capulet house in hopes of meeting Rosaline. However Romeo instead meets and falls in love with Juliet. After the ball in what is now called the balcony scene Romeo sneaks into the Capulet courtyard and overhears Juliet on her balcony vowing her love to him in spite of her family's hatred of the Montagues. Romeo makes himself known to her and they agree to be married. With the help of Friar Laurence who hopes to reconcile the two families through their children's union they are married secretly the next day. Juliet's cousin Tybalt offended that Romeo had sneaked into the Capulet ball challenges him to a duel. Romeo now considering Tybalt his kinsman refuses to fight him. Mercutio is incensed by Tybalt's insolence

[Evictions will spark an 'explosion'](#) . MORE violence has been predicted at the troubled Three Ms estate in the city's south-west as the Government tries to evict six families police alleged were involved in a brawl in which two were shot and four stabbed. The eviction plan announced yesterday aims to remove a hard core of troublemakers, said the Housing Minister, David Borger. But a community elder has said the evictions could lead to problems. An appeal to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal has been made, and a spokeswoman for Mr Borger said she expected the six homes to receive eviction notices in the next few days. "We're going to have another explosion down there, but if that's the way the Government wants to do it, well, there's nothing to be done," said John Whiu, a Maori elder and member of the residents group the Buruwan [Foundation](#). Two families left the Three Ms of their own accord last week after informing police raised fears for their safety. The evictions at the Rosemeadow estate - comprising Macbeth, [Macduff](#) and Malcolm ways - would take place early next week, she said. The eviction plans follow a brawl on the night of January 5 that involved a group of brothers from nearby Julius Road and residents of the Three Ms. Residents had been expecting evictions early last week, Mr Whiu said. . I think they're all [wondering] about who it's going to be. "I think the news already arrived down there. ." The evicted families will not be eligible for public housing but would receive assistance to find rental properties on the private market, Mr Borger said

[Queues for viewing spots](#) . Thousands of people have queued for hours to grab a prime spot to view the New Year's Eve fireworks display on Sydney Harbour. Umbrellas and sunscreen were the order of the day at Mrs Macquaries Chair, where the entrance queue was well over a kilometre long by midday today. Peter, 25, and Carly, 22, staying at a hostel in Manly, had queued for four hours, but were still hundreds of metres from the front of the line. Carly said people who had pushed in had managed to avoid longer waits. "We thought we'd be in by 10am, to be honest," Peter said. "Nice guys finish last. "But we were here early and we're still not in so where's the justice?" she said." However, the long lines had failed to dampen the crowd's spirit. "We might have to power nap for a few hours, when we get in, but then we'll be ready to get on the beer. "We're still up for a party," Carly said. Two of them, Matthew, 27, and Sally, 25, both from Leeds in Britain, were having a picnic under a shady tree." There were calmer scenes at Dawes Point, close to the southern pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, where around 40 people were enjoying the fine weather. "Everyone has told us that last year's was amazing, so we're really looking forward to the show," Sally said. "It seems like the best place to be, to sit and have a picnic," Matthew said. [Sydney New](#) Year's Eve Creative Director Rhoda Roberts said the swarms of people would not be disappointed. [Sydney New](#) Year's Eve Creative Director Rhoda Roberts said the swarms of people would not be disappointed.

"All I can say is that it will be stunning . . ." The event, with the theme of creation, has been in planning for 15 months and will include a 36 x 36 metre bridge effect in the shape of a star as its centrepiece. you will be amazed. "I'd say that I think that we need New Year's Eve more than ever now," she told reporters in Sydney. Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the event was worth its \$5 million price tag." She said the event was worth about \$40 million to the NSW economy. "I think that's Rhoda's theme of creation, a new beginning, is something that we really urgently need.

[NEW](#) - Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling (Read by Jim Dale) Audio Book TAPE Get Other Harry Potter Audio Books click here Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling - AudioBook Cassette TAPE Brand New (still shrink wrapped): Unabridged. 19 hours 12 Cassettes As Voldemort and his Death Eaters openly wreak havoc throughout Britain Minister for Magic Cornelius Fudge has been forced to resign following public outcry over his mishandling the situation. Before he leaves office he pays a visit to the Muggle Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to warn him that events occurring in the magical world are now having an effect on the Muggle world and that things are going pretty badly for the Ministry of Magic at present. The Prime Minister is then introduced to Fudge's successor Rufus Scrimgeour. At his home in Spinner's End Severus Snape is sworn to an Unbreakable Vow by Draco Malfo

[Xenophon kills off \\$42b stimulus plan](#) .Independent Senator Nick Xenophon has dashed the Government's hopes of implementing its \$42 billion economic stimulus package by voting to reject it. Earlier today the passage of the legislation appeared doomed as Senator Xenophon vowed he would not support the package without the inclusion of an amendment to bring forward funds to save the Murray-Darling Basin. It earlier had gained the support of the Greens by agreeing to more than \$300 million worth of requested changes. . But Senator Xenophon would not budge on his opposition. It also amended the package to reduce the cash payments to single income families and the tax bonus to workers from \$950 to \$900.7 billion worth of cash handouts, \$14. The package was comprised of measures including \$12.6 billion for new public and defence housing.7 for schools infrastructure and \$6. Government Leader of the Senate Chris Evans has blamed the Opposition for the failure of the package. The Government had argued a speedy approval of the package was needed to immediately stimulate the economy and protect those facing hard times as economic conditions continued to worsen. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is now seeking to have the legislation reintroduced into the House of Representatives. "They seek to undermine the capacity of this Government to respond to this crisis," he said. But Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull lashed out at Mr Rudd for refusing to negotiate with the Opposition. "This Government will not be deterred from taking whatever action is necessary in the national economic interest to underpin this country's and our people's economic wellbeing," Mr Rudd said. "We have a Prime Minister who in his hubris chose to present a package of spending which represents an enormous percentage of GDP. "He has treated this Parliament with so much disingenuous contempt," he said."

[Govt 'motivated' to improve bush telecommunications](#) .The head of an independent review team looking into telecommunications in the bush says he is confident the Federal Government will act to improve services. The committee is finalising its recommendations after holding 19 public hearings across Australia. "The Government's made a huge commitment to the [National](#) Broadband Network, that's \$4. Chairman Dr Bill Glasson says the committee is due to report back to the Federal Government by the end of next month with recommendations on how services in rural and [remote](#) areas could be improved. .7 billion, and so I think this Government and particularly the current minister is very motivated to deliver the right outcome," he said. "It's very important that we don't actually provide a single solution at the top and try and fit that to the different regions of Australia because particular regions have different needs, different demographics," he said." Dr Glasson [says](#) local governments will play a role in shaping improved services for the future." . "It's very important that we have flexible recommendations so that we can actually meet those needs of local and regional governments

[Apple unveils revamped iPod range](#) . A thin and smiling Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs launched a much thinner, curved iPod nano music player, joking about the state of his much-discussed health. The iPod upgrades Jobs revealed on Tuesday in San Francisco include two slick new nano models, oval-shaped devices that Jobs said are the thinnest iPods Apple has ever made. They are about 64mm thick. Apple also said [new](#) nano has a "shake to shuffle" feature that changes songs as the player itself is jiggled. A \$A199 version comes with 8GB of memory (enough for 2000 songs); a 16GB version (which holds 4,000 songs) is \$279. But Apple has to work hard to differentiate them from the iPhone, Apple's cell phone/iPod/Internet device that threatens to cannibalise some of the demand for iPods. The [new](#) models acknowledge the [incredible](#) appetite for iPods - Jobs said Apple has sold 160 million iPods since their introduction in 2001. Apple dominates personal digital music players, with nearly three-quarters of the US market in July, Jobs said, adding that the product line-up was strong for gift-giving season. An 8GB version of the new model will sell for \$A329; a 16GB touch will be \$A419 and a 32 GB model will be \$A549. Jobs also showed off three new versions of the iPod touch, which is much like an iPhone except that doesn't make calls. Jobs said people have downloaded a "mind-blowing" 100 million applications for iPhones and iPod touch devices since Apple began offering the programs online two months ago. Apple hopes the 32GB unit will appeal to people who download a lot of games and other programs, and wouldn't be able to store them all on an iPhone, which maxes out at 16GB. At that time, programming controlled by NBC Universal, a unit of General Electric, made up an estimated 40 per cent of the video downloads on iTunes. In the deal with NBC, the television network is coming back to iTunes a year after pulling out in a dispute over the prices Apple charges for shows it sells on the online service. At the height of the dispute, Apple said NBC had sought more than double the wholesale prices for its shows, which would have resulted in shows selling for \$US4. At the height of the dispute, Apple said NBC had sought more than double the wholesale prices for its shows, which would have resulted in shows selling for \$US4. . NBC disputed that, and said it wanted only to be able to sell programs at different prices. Jobs gave the start of the event some buzz by flashing a message on a screen behind him: "The of my death are greatly exaggerated. NBC's programming will sell for the same prices as other TV shows available on the US version of iTunes. News outlets regularly prepare obituary material on famous people." Jobs borrowed that line from Mark Twain in reference to obituary preparedness on Jobs that was accidentally posted by Bloomberg News and then retracted. Apple has since said Jobs, 53, a survivor of pancreatic cancer, suffered from a bug and is better. Questions about Jobs' health swirled after he appeared gaunt at a recent Apple event. The iPod announcements were largely expected, and investors were less than excited, sending Apple's shares down \$US6. He appeared thin but energetic on Tuesday.9 per cent, to \$US151.9 per cent, to \$US151.79 in afternoon trading. AP and Reuters

[The nation that stops a race ... until now](#) . SOMETIMES when Barack Obama waited outside a restaurant for the valet to bring his car, a white couple would toss him their car keys. He endured this and all the petty humiliations of the black man in America. Yet he never allowed his anger to take over and he never surrendered to the tightly boxed confines of racial expectations. And he and his wife try to protect their two young daughters from being snared by the lingering culture of post-slavery despair: "Michelle and I must be continually vigilant against some of the debilitating story lines that our daughters may absorb," he writes, "about who the world [thinks](#) they are, and what the world imagines they should be. He was always determined to break what he calls "the psychological shackles of slavery and Jim Crow [segregation]". But what's Obama's secret? He goes to today's US election as the favourite to become the most powerful man in the world." Before African Americans could persuade whites that they could hold high office, they have had to convince themselves first. How did he resist the mindset of racial limitations that has bound generations of African-Americans for the 143 years since the abolition of slavery? As with Colin Powell, until now the black man who ascended higher than any other in America, Obama's family came from outside mainstream African-American society and

never fully joined. The British ended slavery in the Caribbean more than a generation before the Americans got around to it and they set up compulsory schooling and allowed blacks to work in the civil service. Asked the secret of his success, Powell, the former chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff and secretary of state, emphasised that his parents were immigrants from Jamaica. They did not have their individual dignity beaten down for 300 years, the fate of so many black American slaves and their descendants. As a result, Powell said, Jamaicans had "an opportunity to develop attitudes of independence, self-responsibility and self-worth. Obama's father, an immigrant from Kenya, was a senior government economist who left his wife and two-year-old son in Hawaii to study at Harvard University." Similarly, Obama's parents were not part of the African-American experience. His mother, white and from the mid-western US state of Kansas, was an independent-minded woman who earned a PhD in anthropology. His mother, white and from the mid-western US state of Kansas, was an independent-minded woman who earned a PhD in anthropology." Colin Powell remarked that one of the reasons he was able to progress to the very highest post in the US Armed Forces was that "I [speak](#) reasonably well, like a white person". As Obama has said: "My own upbringing hardly typifies the African-American experience. As he told a rally this week as he criticised a policy of his rival, John McCain: "That ain't right," echoing a Chris Rock movie character, an accidental know-nothing presidential candidate in the film Head Of State. Likewise, Barack Obama, as a student one of the most brilliant young lawyers of his generation at Harvard, has perfect grammar, an urbane accent and only ever play-acts at speaking like a working class African American. He can visit Bubba's neighbourhood, he was demonstrating, but he doesn't live there. And then Obama continued: "Not only is it not right, it ain't right," he smiled. Powell's cousin, Bruce Llewellyn, chairman of the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company and the richest black man in the US, contrasted Powell with Jesse Jackson: "Jesse scares white people, because he really sounds like a fiery zealot, like he might just jump up and say, 'F--- you!' and hit you in the mouth. Another vital aspect of the success of Powell and Obama is that they are not threatening. Some black people do." As Powell himself put it: "I don't shove it in their face, you know? I don't bring any stereotypes or threatening visage to their presence. As Francis Fukuyama, professor [of international](#) political economy at Johns Hopkins University, explained it: "Obama's been very careful to distance himself from the traditional Jesse Jackson agenda and the Jesse Jackson persona. . A lot of people are worried about voting for him because they think once he's elected the mask will fall off and there'll be an angry Jesse Jackson underneath." But Obama doesn't carry the anger that many African Americans bear as part of their harsh historical experience. That's because he does not come from that experience. When American commentators call him a "post-racial" candidate, what they are really observing is that he is a post-slave culture candidate. Obama has talked about the African Americans' tendency to protect themselves psychologically by assuming the worst: "I've had some blacks tell me, 'We've been trying for 300 years, and it hasn't worked yet.'" Obama, unburdened by the brutal history of the American negro, instead assumes the best. He has persuaded millions of other Americans, of all colours, that the best is within reach.

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life and that of the liner's sole survivor Cabr

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[lemma's spin doctor paid \\$290,000](#) . Former Channel Nine news director John Choueifate was paid almost as much as a NSW premier when he took on the job of former premier Morris lemma's right-hand man. The Director General of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Robyn Kruk, revealed at a parliamentary budget estimates committee today that Mr Choueifate had earned \$290,000 a year in his role as director of strategy when he was hired in July by the then premier. A NSW premier earns \$320,000 a year. Following Mr lemma's decision to leave politics, the jobs of both men were axed. Ms Kruk also said

that former Channel Nine state political reporter Adam Walters, who was also hired by Mr lemma as a media adviser, earned \$220,000 a year. Mr Chouefate received \$30,000, while Mr Walters secured \$20,000. The highly paid pair received redundancy payment, Ms Kruk said. When he took office in September, Premier Nathan Rees cleaned out many of Mr lemma's former staff. Mr Rees said today that the \$600,000 budget of Mr lemma's strategic unit, in which both men worked, would be diverted to homeless services.6 million had been spent by the [new](#) Premier on media, public relations, [marketing](#) and other advisers. Deputy Opposition Leader Jillian Skinner said more than \$1. He said most of the advertised positions were to fill jobs left vacant across other areas of the Government after the recent ministerial reshuffle. But a spokesperson for the Premier dismissed the claim as misleading, saying the Premier's media staff had been cut from 11 to six since Mr Rees took office. Having boasted about cutting back on spin, axing media advisers and getting rid of Mr Chouefate and Mr Walters, Mr Rees has employed the nephew of the former police minister Paul Whelan, Jack Whelan, to his office on a \$262,651 a year salary to advise on "transport issues". Having boasted about cutting back on spin, axing media advisers and getting rid of Mr Chouefate and Mr Walters, Mr Rees has employed the nephew of the former police minister Paul Whelan, Jack Whelan, to his office on a \$262,651 a year salary to advise on "transport issues". Since leaving the office Mr Chouefate has taken work at Today Tonight in [Melbourne](#) as a supervising producer. Mr Rees has pledged to cut back on ministerial staff. - with [Stars to save Oz tourism industry](#) .Baz Luhrmann is to direct a new advertising campaign for Tourism Australia. In partnership with 20th Century Fox, the ads will capitalise on Luhrmann's upcoming epic Australia, which stars Hollywood heavyweights Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. "Let's be a bit frank. Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson says he hopes the campaign will boost Australia's dwindling tourism industry. "We've got pretty challenging times [ahead] for the tourism [industry](#) and we're hoping the work of Baz Luhrmann and all those great movie stars [will] actually rub off on the promotion of Australia internationally. The 'Where The Bloody Hell Are You?' campaign did not do Australia a lot [internationally](#)," he said. "The campaign is not the film," he said." But Luhrmann says the campaign will be separate from the film and will not include any footage from the film. That idea I talked about; about the fact that this country, if you come to it and you are from far away, the potential for you to have a transformative experience is very real. . It is expected to cost Tourism Australia \$50 million." The new campaign will run in all major [markets](#) from October until March 2009 and will dovetail with the promotion of the film. - [Your Learn guide CDs listening](#) Learn in Your Car Russian Level 1 Other Learn Russian Audio Book CDs Click here Learn in Your Car Russian - 3 Audio CDs plus Reference Guide Level 1 : Brand New - 3 hours of lessons plus a full Text Listening Guide The Learn in Your Car language series is the first system ever designed to teach Russian language in your car...or anywhere...without a textbook. Simple and effective you can learn to converse in another language while driving walking or doing tasks around the house. Each course is organized the way you learn best - by learning words and phrases - and building these into sentences and clear conversations. Arrange hotel accommodations order in restaurants change money and feel more at home next time you travel! The Learn in Your Car language series is: Easy to use without a textbook Prepared by dialect-free professionals Available in levels for students of all abilities Designed to teach grammar basics through recorded examples PLUS Full Text Listening Guide Level 1 offers an introduction to Russian key words numbers phrases sentence structure and basic grammar. About [Baby boom to push hospitals to limit: AMA](#) .The Australian Medical Association [says](#) a baby boom will push maternity wards over the limit, unless the Government pumps more money into new services. The maternity wards at the Royal Prince Alfred, a [major](#) Sydney hospital, have reached capacity as a result of a jump in the birth rate, causing some mothers to be transferred to a neighbouring hospital. AMA president Dr Rosanna Capolingua says the country's maternity wards are suffering from a common malaise. RPA director of obstetrics Dr Andrew Child [says](#) he is aware of similar problems in Melbourne and Brisbane. "I

understand the maternity hospitals are managing - they're fine, we haven't got mothers birthing in the streets. "[There is] underfunding, under investment by Government to cope with any increasing need," she said." New South Wales Opposition health spokesperson Jillian Skinner says the Government should have foreseen the baby boom and planned for it. "But seriously, maternity hospitals just like any hospitals in the public sector need investment as well. . "This maternity unit was supposed to be for the future." New South Wales Health Minister John Della Bosca says the baby boom will continue. "In this case, clearly that's not happening. But he has rejected the Opposition's claim the Government should have foreseen the jump in the birthrate. "Obviously we're going to needing to make more provision," he said.