
[RBA eyes more interest rate cuts](#) . Update The Reserve Bank has noted sharp drops in **global spending and business activity in recent weeks, suggesting more interest rate cuts to come as the bank battles to avert a recession in Australia.** The view was contained in what economists described as a "mixed set of minutes" of the central bank's board meeting earlier this month, which were [released](#) this morning. That [meeting](#) resulted in the RBA cutting its key cash rate by another 1 percentage point to 3. "Economic conditions in Australia were being affected by these global events," the bank said. 25%, the lowest since 1964. In the minutes, the RBA acknowledged market expectations that interest rates will "trough" at 2% later this year, raising expectations of more cuts in a rate-easing cycle that has broadly matched market expectations. In spite of the nation's resilience, "the headwinds from the global economy were very strong and would continue to have a significant negative effect on the domestic economy in the near term". "The last thing you want to do in this market is shock (it)," said ANZ economist Katie Dean. The savings on an average monthly repayment on a \$350,000, 25-year mortgage amount to about \$824, if the cuts have been fully passed on. The RBA has already slashed 4 percentage points off its key cash rate since September, prompting commercial lenders to pass on most of the reduction to mortgage holders and businesses alike. The RBA, in its meeting minutes said, "Members noted that market expectations were for an easing in the official cash rate of 100 basis points at this meeting, with the trough in the cash rate now expected to be around 2% later in the year. Although the RBA bank hasn't "deliberately" matched market pricing, the "aggressive nature" of investors' expectations "may have given the RBA a green light to be as aggressive as they have because it hasn't shocked the market," said Ms Dean. 78 US cents." The release of the RBA minutes prompted a slide in the Australian dollar, with the currency initially dropping more than one-quarter of a US cent to 64. It's since slid further, falling as low as 64. . Demand stimulated The RBA's rate cuts have come on top of Federal Government efforts to stimulate demand in the economy, including a \$42 billion spending package passed by parliament last week. "Given the speed at which the global contraction had occurred, short-term prospects were thus still for weakness in demand and output. "This stimulus would take time to be effective and could be expected to have only a modest effect on the near-term outlook in Australia," the RBA minutes said. "The odds are the quantum of cuts won't be in the degree we've seen," said economist Su-Lin Ong of RBC Capital Markets." Economists say that while more cuts are likely, the RBA will probably make smaller reductions when it does move. Before the release of today's comments from the RBA, financial markets were betting that the board will slice interest rates by another 50 basis points, or half a percentage point, to 2. "We're obviously closer now than we were months ago" to the trough, she said. Continued... .75%, when it next meets on March 3

[Age of innocence](#) . When Dakota Fanning walks into the hotel room for her interview, she looks like your average 14-year-old - almost. She is wearing an original Marc Jacob dress, which comes with a four-figure price tag. She also has assistants at her beck and call, not that she demands anything. (She was the face of the designer's campaign in 2006). They needn't have worried. And Alicia Keys and Queen Latifah both pop in to make sure she's not nervous. "I get more excited than anything, about getting to meet someone or getting to play a role. "I'm not really the kind of person to get nervous," admits Fanning with a giggle. Four years later she became the youngest member in the history of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences." Fanning made her film debut opposite Sean Penn in *I Am Sam* and became the youngest person, at eight, to earn a Screen Actors Guild nomination. Fanning plays a depressed young girl named Lily who runs away from her abusive father, played by Paul Bettany, and finds refuge in an apiary run by three sisters (Keys, Latifah and Sophie Okonedo). She commands \$4 million pay cheques Fanning's latest flick, *The Secret Life Of Bees*, is based on the bestseller by Sue Monk Kidd and unfolds in South Carolina in 1964 against a backdrop of racism and the Civil Rights movement. "I was drawn to the character and getting to play someone that is so

different from myself but also someone I can relate to because I'm also from the South was fun. "My grandmother showed me the book when I was about 11," Fanning explains." Child stars can be an eerie bunch. A lot of the themes in the story are familiar to me. This can work in their favour, such as when Haley Joel Osment won the lead in Spielberg's Artificial Intelligence after seeing dead [people](#) in The Sixth Sense. They're often so frighteningly mature and serious, you can't help but think "alien being" when you're in their presence. But she's also lively and sweet, and you get glimpses of the 14-year-old, especially when you mention her newest passion cheerleading. Fanning is also unsettlingly mature, with a poise and [confidence that](#) would be striking in someone twice her age. Fourteen is a tricky age for child stars. "It's sooooo much fun," she says rolling those big baby blues of hers. Tatum O'Neal won an Oscar aged 10 in 1973 and ended up a heroin addict. It's when they have to begin the transition to more adult roles - a notoriously perilous journey that many don't survive. Lindsay Lohan, once a promising child star, is now more famous for her offscreen antics. Lindsay Lohan, once a promising child star, is now more famous for her offscreen antics. While it's difficult to imagine Fanning derailing like, say, former Mouseketeer Britney Spears, she's aware of the pitfalls. "I know what can happen to [people](#) my age in this industry," she says solemnly. "I know what's right for me," she says. Meaning that while she doesn't have a boyfriend right now, and there's no peer pressure to drink at parties, it's unlikely that Fanning will be easily led astray. "I've always admired Jodie Foster," she says. "I consider her a role model. She started when she was my age. She's still acting and she went to college and she's a mum. I think they're all goals I would love to accomplish." Foster is a great choice. She never derailed and she's won two Oscars. The Secret Life Of Bees, which will be released on March 5, is exactly the kind of role she would have gone after as well. It's an intense emotional drama that demanded a lot of its actors. Her older co-stars all felt the pressure. Fanning, who's in practically every scene, however, remains unfazed. Not even an onscreen kiss threw her. Fanning was 10 when she held her own against Denzel Washington in Man On Fire, 11 when she gave both Robert De Niro in Hide And Seek and Tom Cruise in War Of The Worlds runs for their money. She was born Hannah Dakota Fanning in Georgia in 1994. Her father Steve is a former minor league baseball player. Mother Joy was a professional tennis player who now manages her daughter's career. Fanning began acting at five after appearing with Ray Charles in a commercial. Her first role was a guest spot on hit TV show ER, which she soon followed up with appearances on Ally McBeal, CSI and Friends. She insists she wasn't pushed into acting and is not a victim of overly ambitious stage parents; nor is her younger sister Elle, also an actress. "I would always play around the house and do all these scenarios," she says. "And my mum put me into this drama program and the head of the playhouse thought that my mum should get me an agent. So she did and I got like three commercials in 10 days." Recently Fanning had to deal with her first bit of controversy. Two years ago she made another Southern drama called Hounddog, also due for release. In that one she plays a 12-year-old who is raped. (She didn't use a body double. . Distributors pulled the film and began a radical re-edit. "It's a movie and it's called acting," Fanning told an English newspaper last year when asked about the fuss. Of course, she's not the first young actress to take on a controversial role. Brooke Shields was 12 when she played a prostitute in Louis Malle's Pretty Baby. Foster wasn't much older when she played a prostitute in Martin Scorsese's grim but masterful Taxi Driver. Her co-stars on Bees insist she can handle the grown-up scenarios. "Dakota's like 14 in age, but she's like 40 in maturity and experience," says Jennifer Hudson. "As you get older, you just gravitate towards different things," says Fanning breezily, clearly unaffected by the dark subject matter. "There are things that you can no longer do and things that you can do that you couldn't do when you were six or 10 or 12. It's important to not ever over-think it or over-analyse it."

[2 arrested over Victorian bushfires](#) .Police have arrested two people in relation to suspicious activity in the aftermath of Victoria's deadly bushfires. Police say detectives responded to a report of suspicious behaviour between Seymour and Yea, north of [Melbourne](#), earlier today.

No charges have been laid. They are revealing little about the arrests, other than to say the investigations are in their initial stages and the two people are assisting with their inquiries. Police believe arsonists are responsible for the Churchill fire, in Victoria's east, and possibly the fire which destroyed the township of Marysville, where up to 100 people could have died. The [official](#) death toll stands at 181 today but Victorian police say they expect the final figure could be more than 300. For the first time in five days, no townships are under threat. The arrests come as firefighters try to strengthen containment lines around major blazes which have been threatening to merge. . Earlier today Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced there would be a national memorial service to remember the victims of the bushfires

[Jacobi -Homer Sir abridged - The](#) The Iliad by Homer Read by Sir Derek Jacobi The Epic Story of Troy Translated by Robert Fagles See also Homers Oddessy on Audio Book [click here](#) The Iliad by Homer Read by Sir Derek Jacobi abridged Audio Book CD Brand New : 9 Hours 8 CDs abridged This groundbreaking English version by Robert Fagles is the most important recent translation of Homer's great epic poem. The verse translation has been hailed by scholars as the new standard providing an Iliad that delights modern sensibility and aesthetic without sacrificing the grandeur and particular genius of Homer's own style and language. The Iliad is one of the two great epics of Homer and is typically described as one of the greatest war stories of all time but to say the Iliad is a war story does not begin to describe the emotional sweep of its action and characters: Achilles Helen Hector and other heroes of Greek myth and history in the tenth and final year of the Greek siege of Troy. About Homer Tradition holds that Homer was blind and various Ionian cities claim to be his birthplace but otherwise little is known about his life. There is considerable scholarly debate about whether Homer was a real person or the name given to one or more

[Affirmations L. Audio - Hay CD Book - Louise](#) Self-Esteem Affirmations by Louise L. Hay Motivational Affirmations for building confidence and recognizing self-worth [View all our Lousie Hay AudioBooks click here](#) Self-Esteem Affirmations - Louise L. Hay - Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): 1 CDs Part of the Subliminal Mastery Series this program includes powerful audible and subliminal affirmations to help you create positive changes in your life. With motivational affirmations for building confidence and recognizing self-worth. Includes Music by Jerry Florence and Brain Wave Technology by Dr. Jeffrey Thompson. About the Author Louise Hay RECENTLY DUBBED "the closest thing to a living saint" by the Australian media Louise L. Hay is also known as one of the founders of the self-help movement. Her first book Heal Your Body was published in 1976 long before it was fashionable to discuss the connection between the mind and body. Revised and expanded in 1988 this best-selling book introduced Louise's concepts to people in 33 different countries and has been translated into 25 languages throughout the world. Through Louise's Hay healing techniques and positive philosophy millions have learned how to create more of what they want in their lives including more wellness in their bodies minds and spirits. Her own personal philosophy was forged from her tormented upbringing. Her childhood was unstable and impoverished and her teen years were marked by abuse. Louise ran away from home and ended up in New York City where she became a model and married a prosperous businessman. Although it appeared that her life had turned around it was not until the marriage ended 14 years later that her healing really began. Louise Hay started what would become her life's work in

[Fishermen prosecution wasteful and unfair: lawyer](#) .A lawyer for Indonesian fishermen accused of illegally fishing in [Australian](#) waters says the way the cases are being prosecuted is hugely wasteful and unfair. Legal Aid's Greg Smith says the Commonwealth has withdrawn its consent for the cases to be heard in the Magistrates Court, so they have to be heard in the Supreme Court instead. . "An Australian person, if they were charged for an offence for which the penalty was a maximum of a fine, they'd never be in any kind of custody or detention," he said. He [says](#) even if the fishermen are eventually [found](#) guilty, they can only be given a fine. "That's a cost to the taxpayer of keeping these fishermen fed, guarded, carted round between courts, lawyers paid for both at Commonwealth level and our level,

judges, magistrate, it's a massive cost. "You just don't lock people up when the worst they're going to get is a fine. "Keeping in mind that the thing that they're fishing for is not something that we have much interest in, is trepang, sea cucumbers."

[Nursing home staff take issue with rushed exit](#) .Management at the Rosden Private Nursing Home claims relocation staff hired by the Federal Government are using scare tactics to have residents removed. Ambulances arrived at the Burwood East home to remove seven residents this afternoon and at least a dozen more are expected to be relocated on Monday. The Government has vowed to cut funding next Wednesday, citing unacceptable conditions discovered after a surprise audit. "They're frightened, a lot of them are frightened, they have to make choices on the spot, and that is very unfair, especially when we had the resident relative [meeting](#)," she said. Rosden's operations manager, Tanya Dave, says families are being intimidated into relocating their loved ones straight away. "So even before the appeal's gone in, they've just started to get people out of this nursing home. "They did say that we have an option to appeal, which we've done today, and we've submitted that at four o'clock. They should give us a go. "It was wrong of them to say they've got to move today, very nasty," she said." Employee Margaret Egan [says](#) residents have been forced out by Government representatives."

[Dog dies after being set on fire](#) . A dog has died after being badly burned in Sydney's west yesterday, police said. .30pm, police said. Inspector Slade Macklin from the RSPCA said it appeared the dog had been deliberately set on fire. Police said the man took the dog to the RSPCA at Yagoona but its injuries were so severe it was put down. But a police spokeswoman said Bankstown investigators were following a number of lines of inquiry and had not ruled out the possibility the dog's injuries were accidental. "Unless the dog was in a house fire or if someone turned around and said 'the dog jumped in an open fire', it's sort of unlikely that a dog would [do] something like that," Inspector Macklin said. It is believed police last night made contact with the dog's owner, who lives in the Yagoona/Old Guildford area. The discovery comes after another incident yesterday in Mt Druitt where a dead dog was found hanging from a tree. Inspector Macklin said the dog, which was "only a couple of years old", was in shock when it was delivered to the RSPCA.

[Manhunt Book - Evanovich Audio Janet](#) Manhunt by Janet Evanovich Audio Book read by C.J. Critt Other Janet Evanovich Audio Books [click here](#) Other Fiction Audio Books [click here](#) Manhunt by Janet Evanovich Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): unabridged 4 CDs 4.5 hours Alexandra Scott: Wilderness Woman. It had a terrific ring to it but Alex felt a sudden twinge of terror. She'd traded in her Wall Street job and fancy condo for a cabin in the Alaska woods and there was no turning back! She'd wanted to escape the rat race to go husband-hunting where men outnumbered women four to one but now she was here...and full of doubts. Then she spotted Michael Casey-and the dizzyingly attractive pilot made her want to keep house tuck him into bed...and crawl in after him! Self-sufficient spirited and undaunted by disaster Alex was a delicious temptation for Casey but he had no intention of giving up his precious bachelorhood even for this impudent challenging female who made his heart race and his temperature rise! When fierce attraction led to sizzling seduction Alex had to be shameless. Casey was the adventure she'd come to Alaska seeking-but could she capture the

[Warrnambool blaze contained](#) .Firefighters have contained a fire in the Framlingham Forest close to Warrnambool in Victoria's south-west. The blaze covers about 50 hectares and residents of the Framlingham Aboriginal Reserve and close toby towns are on alert. The chief executive of the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust, Geoff Clarke, [says](#) the community is prepared. "We've got the Hopkins River adjacent to us, so if the fire snakes its way down there that could represent a threat. "Some of the older community members will be evacuated because it could get quite dangerous with the ember attack," he said. Department of Sustainability and Environment spokesman Kevin Monk says fires have the potential to burn quickly under today's conditions. . "They won't be as extreme as Black Saturday as the temperature will probably be cooler in the 36 to 40-degree range, but with still strong south-westerly wind change and low relative humidities," he said.

[House Book Corner The Classic Audio](#) Brand New Audio book The House At Pooh Corner - A A Milne Performed by Peter Dennis Pooh Classics Volume 2 The House At Pooh Corner - A A Milne - Performed by Peter Dennis Brand New (still shrink wrapped) 3 CDs 3 Hours UnAbridged: The House At Pooh Corner A.A. Milne's Pooh Classics Volume Two by A.A. Milne read by Peter Dennis Family Friendly! "One day when Pooh Bear had nothing else to do he thought he would do something so he went round to Piglet's house to see what Piglet was doing." Thus begins The House At Pooh Corner A.A. Milne's wonderful companion volume to Winnie-the-Pooh. You will rediscover Pooh Christopher Robin Piglet Eeyore and all their friends and be introduced to the irrepressible and very bouncy Tigger. Blackstone Audiobooks presents from the unabridged collection A.A. Milne's Pooh Classics the 10 simple and timeless tales of The House At Pooh Corner. This is the only reading of these enthralling stories authorized by A. A. Milne's son Christopher Robin who wrote "Peter Dennis has made himself Pooh's Ambassador Extraordinary and no bear has ever had a more devoted friend. So if you want to meet the real Pooh the bear I knew the bear my father wrote about listen to Peter." As you begin to listen to this beloved book you'll enter that enchanted place on the top of the Forest where

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[Seeking approval: Muslim school plans scale-back](#) .The Quranic Society has confirmed it will scale

back contentious plans for an Islamic school at Camden. The society says has indicated to the Land and Environment Court that it intends to reduce student numbers from 1,200 to 900. A spokesperson, Fouad el Chami, [says](#) it is an attempt to address the concerns of residents and the local council. There were community rallies and national headlines when the school was first proposed last year. "We were advised to reduce the number of students and hopefully it will be approved," he said. But the local council has always maintained its opposition to the school is based on planning and traffic concerns. At one point, pig heads were left at the site. The council expects to receive full amended plans in the next month, which will be publicly exhibited in December. The Labor member for Lakemba, Robert Furolo, and Port Macquarie Independent Peter Besseling were among five [new](#) MPs sworn into Parliament yesterday. - 'Debilitating' - The announcement comes as two of the states' newest politicians highlighted their migrant backgrounds in their inaugural [speeches](#). "Unless we are prepared to stand up on this issue the consequences will be devastating," he said. In his inaugural speech, Mr Furolo told of his parents' decision to migrate to Australia from Egypt and his desire to help create a more cohesive society. "Nothing is more debilitating to a peaceful and harmonious existence than those who choose to exploit ignorance and promote fear based on real or perceived differences in others," he said. Mr Furolo says he wants to see an end to bigotry and cultural prejudice. "We need to recognise the shared values and hopes of people regardless of their language or cultural background. "We need to recognise the shared values and hopes of people regardless of their language or cultural background.

[It's a little bit Reese Witherspoon](#) . Anyone can do Sarah Palin's voice, says comedian Tina Fey, who has done a pretty good job of it herself. "Not since Sling Blade has there been a voice that anybody can do," Fey said. "Anybody can take a swing at this voice. "It's a little bit Fargo, it's a little bit Reese Witherspoon in Election," said Fey, adding she also borrowed the midwestern accent of her friend Paula's grandma, "a sweet, sweet old lady from Joliet, Illinois." Appearing on CBS Late Show with David Letterman scheduled to air today, Fey shared her formula for having spoofed the Alaska governor in recent Saturday Night Live (SNL) sketches. She explained to Letterman other ways she captures Palin's distinctive speaking style: dropping g's and loading sentences with r's. She would always say, "Ohhhh, this and that and stuff like that!" Fey, the star of the NBC comedy 30 Rock, was formerly a writer and cast member at SNL, where she has made a splash with guest appearances this fall making sport of her resemblance to the Republican vice presidential hopeful." "She's digging those r's," Fey said. There was no word on whether Fey would be appearing. . AP

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[Developers 'misled investors', court told](#) .A class action has been launched in the Federal Court against two developers, accused of allegedly misleading investors on the New South Wales central coast. The law firm Morris Blackman is representing 46 investors who bought holiday units in the Pacific International Resort at The Entrance about eight years ago. The investors say developers Landillo and Austcorp, and two real estate agents, guaranteed them a return of up to 8 percent for 10 years, and that the guarantee was crucial because they borrowed money to pay for the units. The investors say they have been left with overpriced units they cannot sell and want compensation for their financial loss. They are arguing they were misled because the contracts had a hidden clause that guaranteed returns for only 12 months. . Austcorp has issued a statement [saying](#) the action is without foundation

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[And Husband Death Life Mighty Pearl Mariane Heart The](#) A Mighty Heart - The Brave Life And Death Of My Husband Danny Pearl Audio Book CD Read by the Author - Mariane Pearl The Movie Stars Angelina Jolly produced by Brad Pitt A Mighty Heart - The Brave Life And Death Of My Husband Danny Pearl by Mariane Pearl Audio Book CD Brand New Abridged (5 CDs 6 Hours): In A Mighty Heart an astonishingly courageous woman tells the terrifying and unforgettable story of her husband's life and death. For five weeks the world watched and worried about Danny Pearl a reporter for the Wall Street Journal kidnapped in Karachi Pakistan. And then came the news of his shocking and brutal murder. Danny's reasons for being in Karachi the complete story of his abduction and the intense effort to find him are told here for the first time. Mariane and Danny Pearl were working in South

Asia as they had been elsewhere in the world because they believed that good reporting is essential to our understanding of ethnic and religious conflict around the globe. They knew the risks inherent in the life they chose and took conscientious precautions. The courage of Danny and Mariane is extraordinary yet we are dependent on brave journalists everywhere to produce news coverage that educates us. There are many mighty hearts in the Pearl story many brave people who helped Mariane in her search for her abducted husband. This account is riveting illuminating and heartbreaking. We learn through the urgent tracing of Danny's last movements about the terrorists' methods ideologies and ruthless violence. As soon as Pearl was discovered missing a global effort began to locate him and identify his captors -- a race against the clock that spanned the dangerous fissures of culture and politics and language that separate Islamic terrorists a

[Audio Classics A CD Winnie Book](#) Winnie-the-Pooh - A A Milne - Performed by Peter Dennis Boxed Set **Winnie the Pooh The House at Pooh Corner When we where very young Now we are six Unabridged Winnie the Pooh - A.A. Milne - Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped) 8 CDs Unabridged: Blackstone Audio presents the unabridged collection of A.A. Milne's Pooh Classics performed by Peter Dennis. This is the only reading of these immortal stories authorized by A.A. Milne's son Christopher Robin. This audio set includes the ten stories of Winnie-the-Pooh the ten stories of The House At Pooh Corner the forty-four poems of When We Were Very Young and the thirty-five poems of Now We Are Six. This is the only reading of these immortal stories authorized by A.A. Milne's son Christopher Robin who wrote "Peter Dennis has made himself Pooh's Ambassador Extraordinary and no bear has ever had a more devoted friend. So if you want to meet the real Pooh the bear I knew the bear my father wrote about listen to Peter." Awards won by these authorized audio readings include AudioFile Earphones Award Parents' Choice Gold Award Ohio State Award of Merit and The Corporation for Public Broadcasting Silver Award. "Dennis expresses the multitude of emotions in a childlike tone which is key to the success of the program. All ages will enjoy this marvelous performance of Milne's words."—AudioFile Peter Dennis brings to these remarkable readings a quality that goes beyond professionalism into an area we can't even begin to define.... --Los Angeles Times Nobody brings A.A. Milne's timeless Winnie-the-Pooh tales alive like actor/orat**

[NEW Book](#) Alice Cooper Golf Monster - Audio Book CD A Rock 'n' Roller's 12 Steps to becoming a **Golf Addict Other Golf Audio Books click here Alice Cooper Golf Monster - Audio Book CD Brand New(Abridged): 4 Hours 4 CDs The man who invented shock rock tells the amazing and yeah shocking story of how he slayed his thirsty demons—with a golf club. It started one day when Cooper was watching a Star Trek rerun between concerts bored and drunk on a quart-of-whiskey-a-day habit; a friend dragged the rocker out of his room and suggested a round of golf. Cooper has been a self-confessed golf addict ever since. Today he and his band still tour the world playing some one hundred gigs a year . . . and three hundred days out of that year Cooper is on the course. Alice Cooper Golf Monster is Cooper's tell-all memoir; in it he talks candidly about his entire life and career as well as his struggles with alcohol how he fell in love with the game of golf how he dried out at a sanitarium back in the late '70s and how he put the last nails in his addiction's coffin by getting up daily at 7 a.m. to play 36 holes. Alice has hilarious touching and sometimes surprising stories about so many of his friends: Led Zeppelin and the Doors George Burns and Groucho Marx golf legends like John Daly and Tiger Woods . . . everyone is here from Dalí to Elvis to Arnold Palmer. This is the story of Cooper's life and also a story about golf. He rose from hacker to scratch golfer to serious Pro Am competitor and on to his status today as one of the best celebrity golfers around—all while rising through the rock 'n' roll ranks releasin**

[Opposition voting against protecting jobs, Swan says](#) .Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan has accused **the Opposition of political opportunism by voting against its \$4 billion investment partnership. . The Opposition does not support the package because it argues the Government should not be in the lending business. The scheme will involve \$2 billion of Federal Government money and \$2 billion from the four major banks to prop up the**

commercial property sector. "I think the attitude of the Opposition is simply opportunist. Mr Swan says the Opposition is effectively voting against protecting jobs. "The Opposition has tried to suggest that there is too much risk but they know we have incorporated safeguards in this legislation and governance arrangements. They'd rather see the commercial property sector fail than see this government's plans succeed," he said." Mr Swan has conceded the volatility in the commercial property sector means there is risk in the plan. "If they don't support this bill and projects fail and jobs are lost it will be entirely on their heads. "I want to stress this, I say the Rudd Government is not willing to stand idly by and do nothing while commercial property prices tumble and jobs are wiped out by events in financial [markets](#), that is what is driving the Government with this measure," he said. But he says there are safeguards built in and he insists it is necessary.

[Brooke Satchwell tells of Mumbai ordeal](#) . · World leaders condemn attacks · At least 80 dead and 900 injured · [Bride tells of city lockdown](#) · [Cricket Australia response](#) [Brooke Satchwell](#) , her boyfriend [David Gross](#) and seven [other Australians](#). English and Americans are trapped in a hotel in south Mumbai, unable to get help and increasingly afraid for their lives. Satchwell was forced to hide in a two-by-three metre storage cupboard in the lobby of a hotel during the attacks in Mumbai . "I can't even get my leg dressed, we can't to the airport, that's been bombed, we can't go to the police centres, they've been bombed," Mr Gross said from a hotel room - which he asked not to be identified. Mr Gross cut his leg escaping from Cafe Leopold as terrorists attacked. "Neither the consulate in Mumbai ior the Embassy in Delhi are answering their phones," he said. Mr Gross, the son of Sydney QC Bernard Gross, was concerned information would alert the gunmen to their location. "We don't know where to go, because we haven't been told where we need to go at this stage. "Our local driver has said it's too dangerous to drive on the roads, and if we do we'll be sitting ducks, with nine of us in two small taxis trying to leave. A British woman in their group, Caroline, is suffering from shock and is being cared for by Ms Satchwell, Mr Gross said." Their group includes Anthony Rose, a [Sydney](#) television director, as well as photographers, camera [people](#) and other staff. "The gun battle is ongoing, there's army on top of the building . The situation around their location was still perilous, he said..." Satchwell who had gone downstairs for a cigarette when the shooting began. we were told by hotel staff that commandos were forcing the terrorists towards the top of the Taj hotel. They hid in an unstairs room but suddenly the sounds of gunfire and grenade explosions got much closer and they decided to escape through windows. Harrowing Mr Gross endured four harrowing hours at the Cafe Leopold while the terrorists fought with authorities.. "We knew they were closer than they had been for the whole four hours, there were grenades going off, we started breaking the windows and ripped down curtains to make a rope . people were sliding out, like you're taught to do "I was wearing sandals, and that's how I cut myself. "I was wearing sandals, and that's how I cut myself." Satchwell also had a narrow escape, he said. "[Brooke] was very lucky, that area got blown up,the main lobby of the hotel where she escaped." Satchwell, who spent about an hour hiding in a bathroom cupbaord with other terrirfied people, was escorted out of the Taj Mahal hotel by armed security officers through the lobby. Grenade blasts "She thought it was all over and she got out to a distance and then major grenade explosions started going off in the lobby and it was destroyed. Earlier Satchwell told 3AW's Neil Mitchell about their ordeal at the Taj Mahal hotel. "A couple of the male staff were sticking their heads out, which was absolutely terrifying. "They were coming back reporting that there was a dead body out the front of the bathroom and that they were seeing people getting shot in the hallway." The actress had been outside the hotel smoking and stepped into the ground-floor toilets when the attack started. "As I stepped into the bathroom you could hear machine-gun fire start up in the lobby and everybody in there just froze," she told 3AW's Neil Mitchell. "People started locking themselves in to the toilet cubicles, which clearly wasn't a very good idea at the time so we were trying to find somewhere else to hide." Stuck in cupboard Hotel staff directed the group into the service cupboard, where Satchwell

waited for up to an hour, hearing bursts of gunfire. "Some of the hotel security came and ushered us very quickly down the corridor and across the lobby, clearly no one had a very good idea of what happened ... or where we were meant to be heading at that stage. "I ran out down the steps and past a few more dead bodies and then up the side street and I ran into an American tourist ... and [we] made our way to a hotel, they were all in lockdown ... we ran up onto another level," she said. At least two Australians have been injured in a series of shootings and blasts, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said. About 80 people have been killed and 900 injured. Gunmen tossed grenades into restaurant Australian Steve Smith called the Seven Network from a "dingy little room" at the back of the Taj Mahal hotel where he hid after seeing two gunmen toss grenades into the restaurant in which he was having a beer just hours earlier. .40pm I was having a beer in the Leopold Cafe - luckily I was with some friends upstairs - when two gunmen coming downstairs threw two grenades into the restaurant and then opened fire for about 10 minutes with AK47s [semi-automatic assault rifles]," Mr Smith told Seven. "I wedged the door down the bottom with a table and then went straight upstairs until the police came. "[When they came] we went to where we thought was a safe place - the back of the hotel we were staying in, but it's under siege at the moment." Desperate Mr Smith said he was now desperate to find a way out of the hotel with a Japanese woman and two German air stewards with whom he was hiding. "I don't have a weapon, or a firearm ... I don't know what's going on., I don't have access to a television or anything," he said. "I'd like someone to tell me what's going on so I can make a plan to get out of here with these guys. I'm about a block from the harbour and my plan is just to go." Mr Smith said he became separated from an Australian man and woman when he went back downstairs to lock a door cutting off the terrorists. He described one of the gunmen as examining about 17 or 18. Interview cut short Mr Smith's interview was cut short so he could be put in contact with DFAT in the hope it might be able to help him. At least 20 Australians were in the Oberoi hotel at the time of the attack, all of them members of a NSW trade delegation organised by the Department of State and Regional Development. Of the 20, there are 15 business delegates, four travelling companions (understood to be spouses) and one department of state and regional development employee organising the tour. Only four of the group have so far managed to contact either the government or their families by phone or text message to assure them of their safety. A DFAT spokesperson said the Australian Government was trying to confirm the safety and welfare of all Australians who might have been caught up in the attacks. The department has contacted the families of the two injured Australians and is providing consular assistance in Mumbai, he said. "Mumbai police have stated that the attacks are terror related," he said. "The Australian Government unreservedly condemns these atrocious attacks on innocent people." A NSW Department of State and Regional Development spokeswoman said the Australian trade delegation, including representatives of 18 businesses plus two departmental staff, had been told to evacuate the Oberoi. All were believed to be unharmed, she said. ----- Australians worried about relatives and friends in Mumbai can contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade emergency contact number 1300 555 135. ----- Software company Debraneys sent its managing director, Debra Bayne, along for the four-day trade tour. Debraneys' technology director, John Tregaea, said Ms Bayne was in her hotel room at the time of the attack. "She said she'd been tired and stayed in her room and hadn't gone down to the restaurant," Mr Tregaea said from Sydney this morning. "She thought a number of grenades had exploded in the restaurant." Gunmen are 'young boys' A man taken hostage by the gunmen described them as "young boys" casually dressed in jeans, and said they were after anyone with a British or American passport. Rakesh Patel, a businessman from London who lives in Hong Kong, told The Times Of India he and another person escaped and ran down stairs after being taken hostage by two gunman. "They were young boys, maybe 20-25 years old ... they were basically saying they wanted anyone with British or American passports," he said. One of the men had a rifle and the other had a machine-gun, he said. "They took us up the stairs ... they

were trying to get us to the roof I think. "We went to the 18th floor and then it became very smoky ... they went up and we [Mr Patel and another] escaped around the back and ran down the stairs." He said another three also escaped down the stairs after him. He did not know what had happened to the rest. Of the 15 people taken hostage, seven were foreigners, he said. He said the gunman looked like ordinary "young boys", and had not covered their faces. Gunmen on loose Lisa Davies, an Australian living about two kilometres away from the Taj Mahal hotel, said a group of her husband's colleagues were holed up in a "secure room" in the hotel. "They said they were in a secure room but the hotel is on fire and we lost contact with them about an hour ago," Ms Davies said. She said the situation was still dangerous and she feared for her family's safety. "We can hear gunfire still and an explosion only 10 minutes ago," she said earlier today, more than four hours after the attacks began. "A lot of the streets are closed, the gunmen are on the loose so they're just trying to block off streets. I can see no cars going anywhere." City in chaos An Australian bride caught up in the attacks said Mumbai was in chaos. Chloe Papazahariakis told the Nine Network that Mumbai was in "total lockdown". "I've just moved to this beautiful city to marry my husband in four days and I've got about 20 friends here for the wedding in the midst of all this chaos," Ms Papazahariakis said. "We just can't believe it." Ms Papazahariakis was speaking from the restaurant where her reception was to be held. She said a nearby hospital had been bombed by terrorists. "They are targeting every suburb in this city but the most tragic thing is that for the first time ever they are targeting big-time foreigners and five-star hotels," she said. "There have been a lot of bombs in India and they normally target marketplaces and the poorer society but where we are at the Taj Mahal hotel, a historic hotel, they have eight foreign hostages. "They've got hand grenades and police are very worried they are suicide bombers. "They are on a rampage - it's full-on and they are not stopping." 'Really scary' Another tourist in the restaurant at the Taj Mahal hotel said the situation was frightening. "It was really scary. It was like the sound of loud crackers, not one but several. we just ran out of there," said Janice Sequeira. Sajjad Karim, a British member of the European Parliament, told Britain's Press Association news agency that he and several other lawmakers were barricaded inside the Taj Mahal hotel. "I was in the lobby of the hotel when gunmen came in and people started running," he said from the basement of the hotel. "A gunman just stood there spraying bullets around, right next to me. I managed to turn away and I ran into the hotel kitchen," he said. Mr Karim was part of a delegation of European lawmakers visiting Mumbai ahead of a forthcoming EU-India summit. Escaped bombs, gunfire Australian Laurence Samuel had been driving back to his hotel next to the Oberoi after dinner with his wife, their five-month-old baby and a friend, when police told them to turn around. Mr Samuel said he told the taxi driver to drive around to the back of the hotel but a group of people stopped them and then the sound of gunshots convinced them to flee. "We drove about one kilometre and we were examining back at our building and then another bomb went off ... and you saw all this white light and smoke coming off the bomb," Mr Samuel said. "We were a kilometre away but was so loud that we all dived to the ground and then drove north as fast as we could." Georgina Robinson, Arjun Ramachandran, Matt Wade and agencies

[Unabridged by William](#) A Midsummer Night's Dream 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](#) A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare - Unabridged Audio CD Brand New : Unabridged 2 Audio CDs 139 minutes The play features three interlocking plots connected by a celebration of the wedding of Duke Theseus of Athens and the Amazonian queen Hippolyta and set simultaneously in the woodland and in the realm of Fairyland under the light of the moon. In the opening scene Hermia refuses to follow her father's Egeus's instructions for her to marry his chosen man Demetrius. In response Egeus quotes before Theseus an ancient Athenian law whereby a daughter must marry the suitor chosen by her father or else face death. Theseus does not want this young girl to die and offers her another choice lifelong chastity

worshipping the g

[Were our chances of victory punted?](#) . [AUSTRALIA's](#) slack over rate might have cost Ricky Ponting much more than the \$2600 he is likely to be fined by the International Cricket Council; it might have cost his country the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The Australian captain finished the series decider two overs behind the required over rate, having avoided a suspension for next week's first Test against New Zealand, but came under stinging attack for tactics that were said to have cost the Australians a chance of victory. Former [Australian](#) captain Ian Chappell was critical of the fact Ponting had again allowed himself to be in the awkward position in the first instance while former batsman Mark Waugh said the battery of coaches who had sat with Ponting at tea and agreed on the decision to use part-timers instead of front-line bowlers were equally deserving of blame. Former Indian player Ravi Shastri accused Ponting of putting himself ahead of the team for preferring to try to beat the over rate to avoid suspension rather than focusing on defeating the opposition when the Test - and the series - was alive. Ponting faces a fine of 20percent of his match fee, about \$2600, for the slow over rate. Waugh further wondered why none of the fast bowlers had an alternative short run for such circumstances.5 overs down. Captains can be banned at the discretion of the match referee, in this case Chris Broad, if they are more than six overs in arrears, and Ponting was [informed](#) at the tea break on day four that he was 8. While Sutherland ruled out disciplining Ponting, he said CA was generally annoyed with slow over rates and would take up the issue with the ICC. Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said he would ask Ponting and team management for an explanation of what had occurred before commenting on the decisions taken. Shastri said winning should have been the primary issue for the captain and not safeguarding his own place in the next Test. "In a broad sense, I have major concerns about over rates in international cricket and, generally speaking, the public deserves better by way of over rates and it is certainly something we will be taking up with the ICC," Sutherland said. That is the way Australia should have attacked it at least for the first 40 minutes after tea," Shastri said on Fox Sports. "I think team should have come before individual □ what you saw was if Ponting wanted to finish things off he should have been prepared to miss the first Test at the Gabba against New Zealand and put the team interest in front of him. On "the most bizarre day of cricket ever seen", Chappell asked: "How the hell can he keep making the same mistake?" "He has been fined and he has been warned about the slow overs but here we are again," Chappell wrote on Cricinfo. Chappell was bewildered Ponting had not learnt from past mistakes and allowed the team to fall so badly behind on the over rate. But by putting himself in that position all the momentum was gone. "It was a situation from where Australia could well have won the Test had they continued to push the Indians as they had in the second session. "We have a coach, a bowling coach, a statistician, a manager," Waugh said on Fox Sports." Waugh was amazed no one had alerted Ponting sooner to the dire situation. "Ricky gambled with the part-timers and it didn't pay off. "How can't they work it out before then that they are so far behind the over rate? For me, that is unforgivable. . He was obviously thinking he definitely wanted to play in the next Test against New Zealand but I am all for playing in the moment and winning the Test match you are in. It was the second time in the series Ponting has been unable to use his best bowler because of the sluggish over rate; an on-field row developed with Brett Lee in Mohali when he left him out of the attack for an entire session. It was the second time in the series Ponting has been unable to use his best bowler because of the sluggish over rate; an on-field row developed with Brett Lee in Mohali when he left him out of the attack for an entire session. Australian coach Tim Nielsen rejected the suggestion Ponting should have been prepared to cop a ban and use his best bowlers to attack India at 6-166. "I don't think for one second Ricky hasn't pressed for the win," Nielsen said. "The challenge we've got is to get through 90 overs in a day that's required in the spirit of the game □ otherwise there are consequences. We're aware of that and we're doing our best to achieve it."

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[Accused bushfire arsonist to face court](#) .The first person to be charged over Victoria's deadly bushfires will face the [Melbourne](#) Magistrates Court today. The man, who cannot be identified, is accused of lighting the Churchill-Jeeralang fire which killed 21 people in Gippsland, in Victoria's east. The man was arrested last week and charged with arson causing death, [intentionally](#) lighting a bushfire, and possessing child pornography. The fire started in plantation near Churchill and quickly spread to nearby communities. The police prosecutor raised concerns about the man's safety and said he may need to be separated from other prisoners. The man did not attend a brief court hearing in Morwell on Friday, but his lawyer told the court the man was in a fragile mental state. The judge also ordered that he be assessed by a psychiatrist. The man was moved to an undisclosed location in Melbourne on [Friday](#) night. . Police are still urging anyone with any information on the fires across the state to come forward

[Silver CD - Unabridged of Audio The Book Narnia](#)) The Silver Chair by C. S. Lewis performed by **Jeremy Notham - Audio Book Unabridged (many copies being sold elsewhere are Abridged) The Silver Chair by C. S. Lewis performed by Jeremy Northam -Audio Book New Unabridged 5 CDs 6 Hours Narnia...where the owls speak where evil weaves a spell where sorcery enslaves the land. Narnia is in peril and only Eustace and Jill can help. Along with Puddlegum a gloomy but valiant Marsh-wiggle they are sent by the mighty lion Aslan to find Prince Rilian heir to the throne. Their quest leads them past hungry people-eating Giants and deep into the dark underground. But the true test for this noble band of friends comes when they face an evil witch and her deadly enchantments. About the Chronicles of Narnia The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels for children written by C.S. Lewis. It is considered a classic of children's literature and is perhaps the author's best known work. More than 95 million copies of the books have been sold in 41 languages. Written by Lewis between 1950 and 1956 The Chronicles of Narnia contains Christian themes and borrows from Greek and Roman mythology as well as traditional English and Irish fairy tales. The**

[Planes delayed, passengers stranded: Airport chaos](#) .Authorities say an electrical fault may have caused the evacuation of [Perth](#) International Airport this morning.. The Fire and Emergency Services authority arrived a short time later. . "What we are concerned about is that we don't know what caused and its quite possible it could happen again, that's why firefighters are actually on site, are actually in the building, all ready with breathing apparatus," he said. The Authority's Alan Gale [says](#) while the smoke has dissipated crews have not [found](#) the exact cause. "Aircraft are still currently standing off the terminal, as soon as the terminal becomes available those aircraft will reberth and those passengers will be processed," he said. Airport spokesperson Malcolm Bradshaw says one flight has been delayed and three aircraft are on the tarmac with passengers on board. . Staff have returned to the terminal as engineers continue to test electrical circuits

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[Polls open for Qld election](#) .More than 1,700 polling booths have opened across Queensland for an historic election that opinion polls predict will be a knife-edge contest. The final Newspoll of the campaign, in today's Weekend [Australian](#), shows Labor regaining some ground on the LNP. The ALP is now just a hair behind in the two-party-preferred vote; 49.1 per cent.9 per cent to 50. "I think many people often feel that one vote doesn't make a difference," she said. Anna Bligh will be Australia's first elected female Premier if Labor wins a fifth term today, but she admits it will be a close race. "What we know from the polls is that every single Queensland vote will count, so Queenslanders get out there and have your say. "I look forward to Queenslanders deciding." Ms Bligh says the ALP has the better plan for the economy and says the worst outcome would be a minority government relying on independents. The Premier started election day with a run and voted in her seat of South Brisbane at East [Brisbane](#) State School. It's a very important choice between jobs and cuts," she said.3 per cent swing and 22 extra seats to form a majority government. Factoring in last year's boundary redistribution, the LNP will need an 8. LNP Leader Lawrence Springborg says the election is about the health of Queenslanders and the health of the economy, and he is offering a plan for the future. LNP Leader Lawrence Springborg says the election is about the health of Queenslanders and the health of the economy, and he is offering a plan for the future. "They've put Queensland into record debt lost out great AAA credit rating, have no plan for the future. "If you want more of the same you vote for the Labor Party, If you want change in Queensland you vote for the LNP. - Independents - Queensland's independent MPs say both major parties will be scrambling to do a deal in the event of a hung parliament." Mr Springborg will campaign in seats throughout Brisbane this afternoon, after voting in his home town of Yelarbon on the Southern Downs, west of [Brisbane](#). Mr Springborg says he will not deal with independents to form a minority government. Both Anna Bligh and Lawrence Springborg have been trying to convince Queenslanders that a minority government would not be in the state's best interests. "The worst possible outcome for Queenslanders going forward would be a minority government dependent on independents and One Nation," she said. Ms Bligh is also keen for a clear mandate. "A lot of people are saying that's the option they would prefer," she said. Nanango's Dorothy Pratt says voters do not agree. "I think both of them need to understand they've got to accept what the voters of Queensland deliver," she said. "I think both of them need to understand they've got to accept what the voters of Queensland deliver," she said. There were six independents in the former Parliament. Those hoping to join the cross benches include Pauline Hanson in Beaudesert and former LNP member for the scrapped seat of Cunningham, Stuart Copeland in Condamine. - Voting arrangements - Polling booths will be open until 6:00pm and Electoral Commissioner David Kerlake says anyone refusing to vote faces a fine. "If people don't vote - if they have a reasonable excuse that's fine and we do treat each case on it's merits - but if they don't vote and they don't have a reasonable excuse then they're liable for a \$75 fine," he said. "They can reduce it right down to nothing just by ensuring that they vote some time during the day." The Electoral Commission says it could take up to 10 days to find out which candidates have won marginal seats. It says pre-poll and postal votes can only be counted once booths are shut. Mr Kerlake says there has been a 50 per cent rise in requests for postal votes this election. "The figure at the moment is about 213,000," he said. He also says candidates are allowed official supervisors in every tally room. "That's been pretty important to make sure the process is entirely transparent," he said. The official tally room at the Brisbane Convention Centre will be open to the public from

6:00pm (AEDT) today.

[Evanovich Big Ten Janet](#) Ten Big Ones by Janet Evanovich - A Stephanie Plum novel Audio Book read by Lorelei King **Other Janet Evanovich Audio Books click here Other Fiction Audio Books click here Ten Big Ones by Janet Evanovich Audio Book CD Brand New (still shrink wrapped): abridged 3 CDs She's accidentally destroyed a dozen cars. She's a target for every psycho and miscreant this side of the Jersey Turnpike. Her mother's convinced she'll end up dead...or worse without a man. She's Stephanie Plum and she kicks butt for a living (well she thought it would sound good to put it that way...) It begins as an innocent trip to the deli-mart on a quest for nachos. But Stephanie Plum and her partner Lula are clearly in the wrong place at the wrong time. A robbery leads to an explosion which leads to the destruction of yet another car. It would be just another day in the life of Stephanie Plum...except that she becomes the target of a gang. And the target of an even scarier more dangerous force that comes to Trenton. With super bounty hunter Ranger acting more mysteriously than ever (and the tension with vice cop Joe Morelli getting hotter) Stephanie finds herself with a decision to make: how to protect herself and where to hide while on the hunt for a killer known as the Junkman. There's only one safe place and it has Ranger's name all over it-if she can find it**

[Nelson at odds with Hull, advocacy group on guest workers](#) .As splits emerge in the federal **Opposition over the Government's Pacific guest worker scheme, an advocacy group says the scheme will not take jobs away from Indigenous Australians. Workers from four Pacific Island countries will soon be eligible for a visa to [Australia](#) to harvest fruit and vegetables for up to seven months of the year. The pilot scheme will allow up to 2,500 workers to fill the chronic worker shortage in [Australia's](#) horticulture [industry](#). He has criticised the plan to bring in people he describes as "dirt poor Pacific islanders" to help farmers, and has echoed calls for unemployed Aboriginal people to be encouraged to take harvest labour jobs. Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson says there should be enough unemployed Australians willing to work. Ms Hull says many fruit growers in her southern New South Wales electorate are in desperate need of pickers and would welcome the Pacific islanders. But federal Nationals MP Kay Hull has defended the plan. She says they have tried for many years to attract Australian workers, with little success. "None of the endeavours that have been put in place have resolved it. "There is an absolute recognition for years and years and years that there has been a labour crisis and a shortage in this electorate," she said." She says she is not sure where Mr Nelson's opposition to the plan is coming from. My growers deserve a fair go. "I'm only too happy to have the most rigorous of criteria put in place. "I am not sure where the advice is coming on this and I am aware that if there were concerns about health issues and criminal checks and et cetera, that there are significant guidelines and criteria to be put in place to cover all of those aspects," she said. Just put the criteria in place, give my growers an option. Just put the criteria in place, give my growers an option." - Indigenous workers - Some groups have criticised the scheme for not including Indigenous people, but the Edmund Rice Centre supports the pilot program and says alternative initiatives are needed to tackle Indigenous unemployment. But our efforts for the past at least 10 years that I've been the Member, have all failed. "It's a very different issue, I think, the Indigenous needs, but they're certainly extremely important and they [Pacific Islanders] are taking nothing from them," she said. The centre's Jill Finnane says the Government needs to address unemployment in Aboriginal communities through other initiatives." Ms Finnane says the scheme will help those likely to be severely disadvantaged by global warming. "Our Pacific Islands neighbours have needs as well and we're a large, rich country, with plenty to share for all. "But they're also examining to how they're going face the bigger problem of what climate change is going to do to the very survival of their nation and what happens to their people. . Mr Mundine is calling for the Pacific Worker scheme to be offered to unemployed Australians, including Aboriginal people in remote communities." - Welfare cuts - And Aboriginal leader Warren Mundine says unemployed Australians should have their dole payments cut if they do not accept job offers to take seasonal work harvesting fruit and**

vegetables. **"There's a lot of disincentives in the system at the moment and we need to remove them and we need to put in place that if you can work - if there's a job and you don't take that job - then you should lose your welfare payment," he said. "There's a lot of disincentives in the system at the moment and we need to remove them and we need to put in place that if you can work - if there's a job and you don't take that job - then you should lose your welfare payment," he said.**

[Book Audio Doyle Sherlock Conan Arthur](#) Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - Audio Book MP3-CD Unabridged Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - Audio Book MP3-CD Unabridged 10.25 Hours on MP3 CD - This will not play on a Car/Portable CD player unless it plays MP3 disks - it is however suitable to be copied to iPOD portable mp3 player Mobile Phone or any other device that plays MP3s (more information on MP3-CD [click here](#)) A Scandal in Bohemia by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 01:05 The Red-Headed League by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:59: A Case of Identity by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:45 The Boscombe Valley Mystery by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:53 The Five Orange Pips by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:41 The Man with the Twisted Lip by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:51 The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:41 The Adventure of the Speckled Band by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:54 The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:42 The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:44 The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 01:00 The Adventure of the Copper Beeches by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - 00:59 About the Author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Arthur Conan Doyle [Ex-husband to front court over Keem's murder](#) .A man is due to appear in a [Sydney](#) court this morning charged with the murder of former wife, Lisa Keem. Richard Giardina, 39, was arrested by police at Sydney Airport on Sunday. The badly burnt body of Ms Keem was found the previous month in state forest close to Kempsey on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. Giardina then left Sydney on an [international](#) flight on June 17, but was arrested by police yesterday at [Sydney](#) Airport on a flight from London. . He will appear in Kogarah local court today where Queensland police are expected to apply for his extradition so he can face charges in the Hervey Bay Magistrates Court later this week. He was charged with murder.

[PM heads to Washington for G20 summit](#) . Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says China and India should play a greater role in G20 discussions to find a solution to the global financial crisis. Mr Rudd, who left Australia this afternoon for the summit in Washington, dismissed suggestions the group's membership was too big and unwieldy to produce any effective strategies. "I believe China and India do deserve a greater place at [the international](#) table," Mr Rudd today told Television in his only pre-departure interview." That would depend in part on how Friday and Saturday's meeting is managed. "One of the ways in which that can be secured is through the continuation of the G20 into the future. The [meeting](#) will examine ways to stem the crisis that has started eating away at the real economy, and put the brakes on global growth. If it was a success, Mr Rudd said the G20 could continue as a vehicle to deal with longer-term challenges and include the major emerging economies of China, India, Brazil, Mexico and possibly others such as Indonesia. But the mammoth task of finding a circuit breaker to the turmoil was evident as world markets again headed south, spooked by changes to the \$US700 billion Unites States government rescue [strategy](#). Few nations have been spared the pain as the steamrolling credit turmoil has jumped from financial markets and begun to impact jobs, growth and business confidence, leading some to speculate the world is heading for its worst slowdown since the Great Depression. Negative global market sentiment worsened after US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson scrapped plans to buy toxic mortgage securities in a refocus of the government's massive financial rescue plan, raising fears the US economy may be deteriorating rapidly. Mr Rudd arrives in Washington this evening and will join Treasurer Wayne Swan, who has been holding meetings in New York and the US capital over recent days. US President George W Bush will host the G20 summit of developed and developing countries on Saturday, but the man who will lead America for the next four years, president-elect Barack Obama, will not be there. Mr Swan told CNN

International any response to the financial crisis required coordinated global action. The prime minister will have a series of bilateral meetings with other world leaders as well as financial and economic decision makers tomorrow before sitting down at the G20 forum with international counterparts including Britain's Gordon Brown, France's Nicolas Sarkozy, China's Hu Jintao and Japan's Taro Aso. "Action when it comes to strengthening the economy through fiscal policy and monetary policy, and also action when it comes to strengthening financial systems," he said. "Action when it comes to strengthening the economy through fiscal policy and monetary policy, and also action when it comes to strengthening financial systems," he said. . " Many countries have begun pump priming their economies, including Australia with its \$10. And just as there's been coordinated action across the globe to cut interest rates in response to the financial crisis, Mr Swan is calling for similar action on fiscal policy. The US is examining to re-target its \$US700 billion bailout package, putting more money into frozen credit markets, making it easier for Americans to access consumer finance, while Beijing will attempt to stimulate the massive Chinese economy with a package worth nearly \$US600 billion (\$A940 billion). "You've seen coordinated action from time to time when it comes to monetary policy. "I do believe there is common ground when it comes to the need for fiscal policy action," he said. "These are all very, very important questions, and I believe they will be centre stage this weekend in Washington. "And I do believe we can find the consensus in terms of the reform of the international financial architecture. ." The US is expected to use the summit to also push for a resolution to the long-running Doha round of world trade talks, which some believe could be the tonic to help the globe out of its current slump

[- Like Rotella](#) Putting Like a Genius - Dr. Bob Rotella read by the Author Putting Like a Genius - Dr. **Bob Rotella -Audio Book Brand New: Still shrink wrapped 1 CDs One of the leading performance consultants in America Dr. Bob Rotella has tutored some of golf's greatest players including Nick Price Tom Kite David Duvall and Brad Faxon. Now Rotella or Doc as most players refer to him shares his wisdom on the most mental aspect of the game - putting. In Putting Like A Genius Rotella tells you how to tune out extraneous factors such as anger fear and other emotional responses that often cause you to leave the ball short or run it by the hole. Rotella's tips feature a series of exercises and techniques that will help you visualize success on the green and gain more confidence in your putting stroke. And his conversational style and straightforward approach make his audio programme an indispensable tool for every golfer. Filled with inspiring stories and tremendous insight Putting Like A Genius will improve your game and make it more enjoyable. About the Author Dr. Bob Rotella Internationally-recognized sports psychologist Dr. Rotella creates an attitude and mindset necessary for achievers in all areas of life business and sports. He is a mental coach for some of professional tennis and golf's greatest players as well as successful singers entertainers and leading business executives. His team sport experience is extensive and includes the New Jersey Nets the Texas Rangers a leading NASCAR team and the U.S. Olympic Ski and Equestrian Teams. Rotella is author of several best-selling books including Golf is Not a Game of Perfect and his latest book Success is an Attitude. He is creator of the cassette series Playing to Win an**

[Brul AudioBook Jack Corsair and Clive Du Unabridged](#) - Corsair by Clive Cussler and Jack Du Brul - **AudioBook CD A Novel of the Oregon files Get other Clive Cussler Audio Books click here Corsair - Clive Cussler and Jack Du Brul - Audio Book CD Brand New: Unabridged Still shrink wrapped 11 CDs For five novels Clive Cussler has brought readers into the world of the Oregon a seemingly dilapidated ship packed with sophisticated equipment and captained by the rakish one-legged Juan Cabrillo. And now the Oregon and its crew face their biggest challenge yet. Corsairs are pirates and pirates come in many different varieties. There are the pirates who fought off the Barbary Coast in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the contemporary pirates who infest the waters of Africa and Asia and the pirates . . . who look like something else. When the U S Secretary of State's plane crashes while bringing her to a summit meeting in Libya the CIA distrusting**

the Libyans hire Cabrillo to search for it. The crew locates the plane but the Secretary of State has vanished. It turns out Libya's new foreign minister has other plans for the conference ones Cabrillo can not let happen. But what

[Child rapist walks free, DPP appeals](#) .The New South Wales Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) will appeal against the two-year suspended sentence given to a man who raped a four-year-old girl in the state's north. The 24-year-old man pleaded guilty in a Sydney court last month to breaking into a [house](#) north of Grafton and sexually assaulting the girl as she slept in 2007. He was allowed to walk free from court last month, after spending at least 14 months in remand awaiting his trial. "The maximum penalty that is available for sexually assaulting a child under the age of 10 is 25 years. State Attorney-General John Hatzistergos says the DPP will argue that the sentence is manifestly inadequate. . The standard minimum sentence is 15 years," he said." Shadow attorney-general Greg Smith SC also spoke out against the sentence earlier today. Earlier today, a spokeswoman for the DPP said the department was waiting for remarks from the sentencing judge and would consider an appeal within the next few weeks. "I just can't understand what possesses someone to give such a light sentence," he said.

[7 CD -Stephen Sharpen - Covey Habit Saw AudioBook the](#) Habit 7 - Sharpen the Saw - Dr Stephen R Covey Brand New : 70 minutes 1 CD LEARN THE HABIT OF SELF-RENEWAL FROM THE AUTHOR HIMSELF World-renowned expert in leadership and organization Dr. Stephen R. Covey presents an in-depth look at Habit 7 of The 7 Habits Sharpen the Saw. Filled with never-before-released material from Dr. Covey this CD includes new and insightful examples in the author's trademark engaging speaking and teaching style. * Peace of Mind: Habit 7 is about recognizing the importance of taking time regularly to take care of yourself - physically spiritually socially/emotionally and mentally. In this in-depth audio program Dr. Covey teaches you how to create a full and satisfying life through investing in yourself. * More Than an Audio Book: This is not a reading of the Habit 7 chapter from The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Instead this content is drawn from a variety of recordings of Dr. Covey teaching this important principle. The result is an intimate and thorough exploration of what it means to "Sharpen the Saw " including relevant current examples to i

[Torrens weir sabotage possible: Lord Mayor .Adelaide](#) City Council [says](#) it is examining at all possible reasons for a weir gate malfunction at the Torrens lake, including sabotage. . Lord Mayor Michael Harbison says some groups think the Torrens lake should be returned to its natural state. "They would prefer to see the river to restored to its natural course and whether they have taken the law into their own hands remains to be seen. "There are people who say that we shouldn't have a Torrens lake," he said." Until now, it had been suggested that a burnt-out motor was the likely cause of the gate malfunction. "We have seen this before from environmental groups who have attacked non-native trees in the parklands. Since the lake drained, it has partially refilled with groundwater. . A plan to divert water from a quarry to refill the lake is under consideration, as Adelaide prepares to host the Fringe festival and the V8 Supercars event

[Govt 'must act quickly' over ABC Learning closures](#) .The Federal Opposition [says](#) the Government must act quickly to reveal its plan for children [attending Learning](#) centres that are faced with closure. Learning's receivers have revealed a list of about 400 centres that have an uncertain future. The receivers say they need more time to investigate the centres and will be able to provide more information next week. "There are other industry players in the profit and not-for-profit sectors who could be approached and should be being approached to be part of the solution," she said. The Opposition's child care spokeswoman Sophie Mirabella says the Government needs to do more to secure the future of those centres that are at risk of closing. . "You can't solve this solution without having people who are already involved in the industry to see where they can help. "It's important so close to the end of the year, so close to [Christmas](#) for the minister to reveal what incident plan she said she had and she said she had been working on for several months," she said.

['Meh' - the really boring buzz word](#) . At least someone is excited about "meh". The expression of

indifference or boredom has gained a place in the Collins English Dictionary after generating a surprising amount of enthusiasm among lexicographers. The origins of "meh" are murky, but the term grew in popularity after being used in a 2001 episode of The Simpsons in which Homer suggests a day trip to his children Bart and Lisa. Publisher HarperCollins announced on Monday the word had been chosen from terms [suggested](#) by the public for inclusion in the dictionary's 30th anniversary edition, to be published next year. The dictionary defines "meh" as an expression of indifference or boredom, or an adjective meaning mediocre or boring. "They both just reply 'meh' and keep watching TV," said Cormac McKeown, head of content at Collins Dictionaries. The dictionary's compilers said the word originated in North America, spread through the internet and was now entering British spoken English. Examples given by the dictionary include "the Canadian election was so meh". "Internet forums and email are playing a big part in formalising the spellings of vocal interjections like these. ." "Meh" was selected by Collins after it asked people to submit words they use in conversation that are not in the dictionary. A couple of other examples would be 'hmm' and 'heh'. Other suggestions included jargonaut, a fan of jargon; frenemy, an enemy disguised as a friend; and huggles, a hybrid of hugs and snuggles. AP

[Concerns raised over GM food approvals](#) .Australia's food regulation authority is being accused of failing to respond to concerns about the safety of genetically engineered foods. Greenpeace's Louise Sales [says](#) all applications for 50 genetically engineered foods were approved over the last eight years. "The only other regulator that's got a similar record is the Philippines. "The Australian regulator FSANZ is one of only two regulators in the world to have approved every single GE food that's come across the desk," she said. "What you find is a tremendous amount of assumption-based reasoning rather than asking for clear scientific studies," he said." [New](#) Zealand genetic biologist Professor Jack Heinemann says the reasoning behind GE food approvals is questionable. . "There is an appalling lack of will to test and where there has been a preliminary evidence of harm it has not been properly followed up. "All GM foods are assessed for safety on a case-by-case basis and only those found to be safe are approved for sale," she said. But Lydia Buchtman from Food Standards Australia New Zealand has defended the body's approval process. These approaches are also used by other countries and endorsed by international bodies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO). "The safety assessment process for GM foods is based on [internationally](#) accepted methods and approaches. "The Greenpeace report contains a number of incorrect statements such as illegal GM foods being allowed for sale in Australia, which they are not, or some GM foods banned in Austria, while not mentioning that they are approved not just by FSANZ but also other regulators such as the European Union US, Canada, and Japan." She says the overwhelming scientific evidence is that GM foods are safe."

[Bikinis and budgie-smugglers that made history](#) . Some people go to the cinema to laugh. Some go to be frightened, to be thrilled, challenged, stimulated, entertained, educated and generally have their minds expanded. The whole point of proper film stars - as opposed to character actors - is that they are a lot better looking than real [people](#). The rest of us go to look at the pretty people. One of the ways in which we expect them to be different from - and better than - us, is how they look on the beach. But unlike supermodels, they are a perfect version of normal, rather than a slightly freakish breed apart. Which is probably why there is a whole subculture of paparazzi dedicated to catching shots of film stars looking blobby on the beach, when they are off duty. We want them to be utterly gorgeous at all times and from every angle, but we have particularly high expectations in the swimwear department. We might want to perve - as men under 30 seem to be doing with Jessica Alba and women of all ages are with Daniel Craig - or we might simply want to admire and aspire. But while we may enjoy having a gloat at such celebrity cellulite snaps in the trash mags, once the cameras are rolling we demand perfection. Whichever it is, we expect them to be better at it than we are. We might also want to laugh. Do they deliver? I reckon so. Or give us our money back. Go fish. And after extensive research, we have gathered together the 10 most memorable movie swimwear

moments, for your own expert perusal. Ursula Andress in *Dr. No*. 1. It's not just her glorious Amazonian body - the flat stomach, the curving waist to hip, the silken thighs, the just-big-enough bosoms - it's her skin, the way she holds her shoulders, her entire demeanour. No Not just the greatest bikini moment on celluloid, this is one of the most arresting moments in the history of film. She wears it with total ease, like it's part of her, completely [comfortable](#) in her body. Like the character in the original book (I've actually read it), Honey Ryder, Andress is a creature of the sea, as at home in her bikini as a turtle in its shell. This is also one of the great bikinis, with the combination of feminine constructed bra-style top with the rugged belt below (large knife optional), a style that has been often revived (see Halle Berry at no. 2). As this is diametrically opposite to how most of us feel in swimwear, this is awe-inspiring to observe. 2. Bo Derek in *10* Ursula may have had a body of pulsating feminine allure but I think Bo Derek had the official Perfect Body, in a dog show, best of breed kind of way. Long, slender legs, high boobs, stomach like a surfboard, [strong](#) shoulders, round bum, golden skin. Tick dem boxes. But the really striking thing about this scene is how flimsy that skin-coloured one-piece was, with not a hint of support. In the running-along-the-sand dream sequence, the more cuddly Dudley Moore wisely wears a grey tracksuit but even through the thick fabric his man boobs have more bounce than Bo's girly ones. Fascinating to observe. I've no idea if they were real and I don't care. They're marvellous. But it remains a miracle how she avoided blinding herself with those stupid shell braids flying around. 3. Grace Kelly in *To Catch A Thief* and Grace Kelly in *High Society* Cary Grant, the Riviera, the open-top Sunbeam Alpine, Grace Kelly's nose ☐ *To Catch A Thief* is such an elegant film but the bathing scene is pure camp, as she stalks through the hotel lobby in something you don't see very often these days - a full matchy-matchy beach outfit. There's a black high-neck backless halter cossie and matching capris, worked back with a white split-front overskirt with a black swimming cap tucked underneath a large straw hat, all finished off with a white tote, white cats'-eye sunnies and classic wooden-soled slide mules. Priceless. By contrast, in *High Society* Kelly gives us one of the most elegant swimwear moments on screen. She drifts poignantly to the pool (this is long before she gets squiffy and snogs Frank Sinatra) in a white halter-neck cossie with a demure integrated skirt with side slits. It's divine - but even better is the floor-length, white silk-jersey, Grecian-style robe she wears over it. Pure class. And the languid way she undoes the silk cord belt is very, very sexy. 4. Raquel Welch in *One Million Years B.C.* Who could forget this bikini made of furry chamois car-wash leathers? Who knew that Stone Age Man - or rather, Woman - had such a knowledge of underwiring? I would really love to see the cantilevering inside that top, as it is quite a triumph of engineering stacking up Raquel's impressive boobature almost to chin level. I've secretly always wanted a bikini like this. 5. Sacha Baron Cohen in *Borat* All hail the mankini. . There are just so many ways to love this moment, not least of which is all the glorious outrages it has subsequently inspired. These include a very large and hairy man wearing a mankini offering free hugs a la Juan Mann - and getting loads - and British football fans threatening to wear mankinis en masse when their team played a friendly against Borat's national team of Kazakhstan, at Wembley in October. So disappointing that the wouser organisers issued a warning that anyone turning up in this most athletic of garments would be barred from the stadium. By the way, if you don't already have one, mankinis are still widely available on the internet. Oh, go on, give us all a laugh on the beach this summer. Pleeeeeease. 6. Deborah Kerr in *From Here To Eternity* Probably the most famous sexy surfside moment in film - but what a shocking cossie. I must confess that I had never seen the whole film until commissioned to write this piece, when I duly watched it to put the big beach pash moment in context. I'm afraid it rather destroyed it. When Burt Lancaster, playing sleazy, old seducer 1st Sergeant Milton Warden, suggests a dip, Kerr coyly replies: "Well, I'm already wearing a costume under my dress ☐" Actually she's wearing another dress under her dress. She whips off the wraparound skirt to reveal a buttressed swimsuit with a skirt longer than anything Venus Williams would countenance. It is one of the unsexiest swimsuits I have ever seen - and clearly designed to be that way, so the censors would pass the steamy

scene. In the novel the film is based on, it's clear the characters get it on for real among the crashing waves, so this highly upholstered cossie is nothing more than a celluloid chastity belt. But clearly Burtie boy - sporting a pair of sturdy waist-high jersey shorts himself - didn't think so. His biographer claims Lancaster and Kerr became "romantically involved" during filming. 7. Jude Law in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* Filmed while he still had an unchallenged thatch atop his beautiful head, Jude Law is the male equivalent of Bo Derek in this film, as he hops about boats, beaches and terrazzos, completely at ease in his cool 1950s trunks. And his cool 1990s body. A male perfect 10. Sigh. 8. Daniel Craig in *Casino Royale* Unlike most of my female pals, I don't really "get" Daniel Craig in a hose-me-down-sister kind of way but when he walked out of the sea in these trunks I admit it was the most arresting beach landing since Ursula, all those Bond films before. I instantly loved him because he looked so homo. Gay trunks and a total body wax - what's not to love? That's the kind of guy I like to lie on a beach with. He won't judge my body and I won't distract male attention from him. Beach blanket bingo, baby. Pass my cocktail, would you? 9. Halle Berry in *Die Another Day* Some people reckon Halle was the best Bond girl of all time. Clearly they have only seen the one film. That orange bikini with its wide, white belt was a witty tribute to Ursula's classic and did inspire a whole new generation to embrace the cargo bikini style but for me the naff nylon triangle top just doesn't cut it. So, yes, Halle's got beautiful skin and a great figure but I don't think this is an Oscar-winning coz. But what do I know? Last year it was featured in an exhibition at London's Imperial War Museum, to celebrate Ian Fleming's centenary. 10. Jessica Alba in *Into The Blue* I've spent a lot of time on Google researching this piece (did you know there are websites for people with a fetish for wooden slide shoes as worn by Grace Kelly - as mentioned earlier? I didn't) and it has become clear that Jessica Alba has the most-admired bikini body of the moment. Golden skin, flat stomach, slim legs, just enough boob action - and a gorgeous Latino butt. And boy do we have plenty of opportunity to look at it in this film. In one particularly gratuitous moment we see her casually crawling up the bed on hands and knees to chat to her chap, wearing just flimsy undies, while the camera virtually gives her a colonoscopy. So both wet and dry, on a boat and underwater, Alba's body is mighty fine. Shame it's wearing such a dull bikini. Just a boring bit of old, blue nylon. The only good thing about it is the unmatching top and bottom scenario, inspired by the mix-it-up trend started by Kate Moss. Now there's somebody who looks great in a bikini. Maggie Alderson's new novel *How To Break Your Own Heart* is out now.

[Fatal REICHS Secrets+Fatal Books Audio Bones A Voyage+Bare](#) Brand New Audiobook Grave Secrets - Kathy Reichs *Fatal Voyage* - Kathy Reichs *Bare Bones* - Kathy Reichs read by Michele Pawk and Katherine Borowitz *The Fatal Audio Collection* Kathy Reich Audio Book CD Brand New: abridged Still shrink wrapped 15 CDs Grave Secrets - Kathy Reichs On a summer morning in 1982 soldiers enter a Guatemalan village and massacre its women and children. Terrified of meeting a similar fate returning relatives quickly bury their dead in makeshift graves. Today these families refer to their lost members as "the disappeared" and human rights teams are trying to find them. Dr. Temperance Brennan international forensic anthropologist has been asked to investigate one of the most heart-breaking cases of her career. As she digs in the cold damp soil clues emerge: a hair clip a tiny sneaker the hip bone of a child less than two years old. Something savage happened in the highlands two decades ago and something savage is happening today. Four girls are missing from Guatemala City and the victims may be linked. An American human rights investigator is murdered as Tempe listens to her screams on the phone. Will Tempe be the next victim in a web of intrigue that spans decades? As she did in her earlier bestsellers Reichs has woven cutting-edge science throughout the novel—from analysis of fetal bone structure to septic tank chemistry. *Grave Secrets* is gripping chillingly realistic and showcases a q