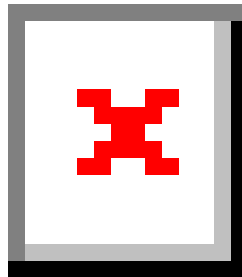


From: The Australian
Sent: Tue, 13 Apr 2021 06:06:00 +1000
To: Jeff Pope
Subject: AM Edition + your daily COVID-19 briefing

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Good morning and welcome to your exclusive subscriber-only newsletter featuring the best stories and commentary from The Australian.



CHRISTOPHER DORE
Editor-in-Chief

1. ‘Lewd crew’ star now to fix special forces culture

A senior officer whose new job will be to help reform special forces culture has been [implicated in lewd exploits](#) at an unauthorised on-base bar in Afghanistan.

The officer — now a colonel based in Sydney — was a squadron commander who partied with junior soldiers at the infamous Fat Lady’s Arms at Australia’s Tarin Kowt headquarters.

The colonel, whom The Australian has chosen not to name, was photographed at the Fat Lady’s Arms cheering on a non-commissioned officer who is kneeling beside him and pretending to engage in a sex act with plastic protruding through the ranking officer’s fatigues.

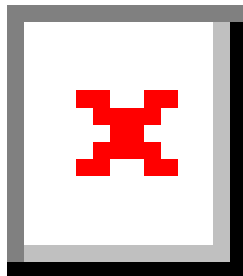
READ MORE: [Network sticks by war hero after TV claim](#) | [War hero hits back at bombshell report](#)



Defence acknowledges that the Afghanistan inquiry highlighted significant failures in culture, leadership, performance and individual accountability.

DEFENCE SPOKESWOMAN

2. Coronavirus briefing: Job vacancies hit 12-year record; ‘Act on job or lose economic war’; Green light for rapid COVID test



National job vacancies are at a [12-year high](#) even though the number of people on JobSeeker is 500,000 more than before the arrival of COVID-19. Job vacancies surged by 19 per cent — or 38,200 — to 238,700 in March, new data from the National Skills Commission shows. Hospitality industry giant Merivale, which employs about 2500 people, including chef Michael Luo, Chee Chan and Auxane Lebon, pictured above at Mr Wong restaurant in Sydney, is looking to hire a further 200 staff, according to its head of human resources, Jessica Furolo.

Business is demanding the Morrison government commit to a new timeline for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and reconsider taxpayer-funded industry support, warning Australia “risks losing the economic war” as other countries plan their reopening. Keep up with the latest in our [live blog](#).

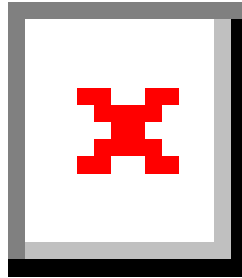
COVID-19 has been a revenue bonanza for companies that helped to save lives, propped up government services or clipped tickets along Josh Frydenberg’s emergency ramp to recovery. From big pharma and budding medtechs, to providers of surge workforces, IT support, customer services, coronavirus testing and a reserve army of bureaucratic brain power, corporate Australia has [won in excess of \\$10bn in pandemic-related contracts](#).

Qantas is holding firm on its [planned return to regular international services on October 31](#), despite the Prime Minister’s admission the majority of Australians will not be vaccinated against COVID-19 until next year.

The pace of deals on office buildings is picking up, with two deals struck by international buyers on properties worth more than \$220m in total. The most telling transaction was in Sydney’s central suburb of Haymarket, with a [Chinese buyer showing its keenness for local assets](#) as it secured a tower for about \$75m that it was last year deterred from purchasing.

And Brisbane biotech firm AnteoTech will roll out its rapid COVID-19 test in Europe over the next few months joining fellow Queensland startup Ellume in the fight

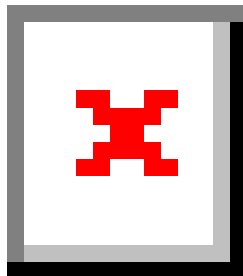
against the pandemic. ASX-listed AnteoTech said Monday it had received CE mark registration for the [test that can detect the virus within 15 minutes](#) and process up to 60 patients an hour.



We believe we have a superior test with high sensitivity. We can be ready to start production in April from facilities in Spain. It will allow us to capture a share of the growing and evolving antigen rapid testing market in Europe and the UK.

DEREK THOMSON, ANTEOTECH

3. Kathy's career: from fraudster to bankrupt to millionaire



Convicted union fraudster Kathy Jackson will [inherit up to \\$3m](#) after a NSW Supreme Court judge ruled that the final will out of dozens signed by the late prominent Sydney barrister David Rofe QC was legally valid. Among other beneficiaries was Nick Llewellyn, self-described as the barrister's "virtual son".

Judge Geoff Lindsay accepted in a decision handed down late on Monday that Rofe had knowledge of his actions and was not unduly influenced by others when he signed his final will in December 2014, despite his health being in serious decline after he had been diagnosed with dementia four years earlier.

IN OTHER NEWS:

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WORLD:

- [Blinken opens twin attack on China](#)
- [Minneapolis cops shoot dead black motorist](#)
- [Junta's killing of the news would do North Korea proud](#)
- [Bali to be shut down for festival](#)

4. In Business today

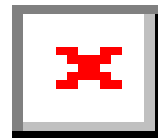
Lenders circling \$US2.7bn owed by BHP and Vale's Samarco iron ore operations in

Brazil say the company has [‘entirely failed to negotiate’](#). There are [changes afoot](#) for Australian investing legend Chris Cuffe, reports **Margin Call**. And two of China’s biggest payment providers, which are also used by thousands in Australia, are able to [bypass anti-money laundering rules](#) and transfer funds virtually undetected.

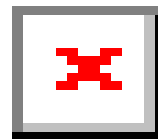
Sign up to business newsletters from The Australian Business Review [here](#).

5. In Commentary today

Even the republicans among us soon may miss some of the values of Prince Philip: stoicism, strength and the belief that it is better to give oneself rather than to ponder one’s own reflection, writes [Brendan O'Neill](#).



Vaccine passports are the least-cost way to put COVID restrictions behind us. Far from banning them, governments should help set up a way for the vaccinated to prove their status so they can get on with their lives exempt from lockdowns and mask mandates, writes [Adam Creighton](#).



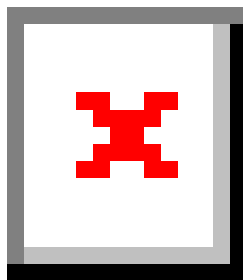
I braced for a rugged few days after my shot but I didn’t feel even the slightest side effect. In fact, in clinical trials only one in 10 people reported any side effects at all.

ADAM CREIGHTON

The Editorial: The Morrison government is demonstrating a quiet determination to progress the nation's climate change response through [good process and considered action](#) rather than grand gesture and public posturing. The appointment of former Business Council of Australia president and Origin Energy chief Grant King to head a re-energised Climate Change Authority shows the government is serious about finding an economically and technically feasible pathway to net-zero emissions.

Delve into **Letters to the Editor** [here](#).

6. Life & Times: A trip down memory lane



Stanley Tucci did something he shouldn't have done when he first read the script for *Supernova*. He was deeply moved by the story of Tusker and Sam, a long-married gay couple who find themselves facing a terrifying young onset dementia diagnosis.

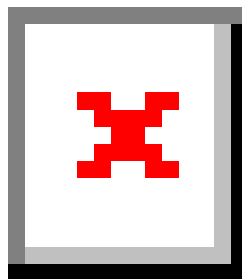
He arranged a meeting with writer and filmmaker Harry Macqueen — but before the pair first met, [Tucci broke the rules, just a tiny little bit](#). He passed the script onto a good friend of his, a person he thought would be the perfect actor to star alongside him in the film as the Sam to his Tusker — British actor Colin Firth.

7. Tuesday focus: Technology

Telcos, satellite firms and communication providers are preparing to [battle it out](#) in a land grab for a slice of Australia's fastest 5G spectrum, writes **Chris**

Griffith. Australia's competition regulator says it is aware of an [alleged secret Google program](#) in which the tech giant boosted its own ad-buying systems over competitors. And Facebook [denies it intended to bully the government](#) and intimidate parliament when it removed news from its platform.

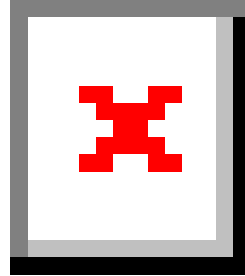
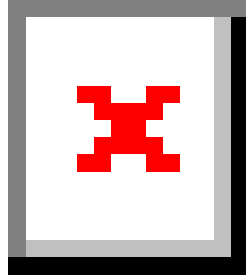
8. In Sport today



The bottom line is that Hideki Matsuyama got away with one on Monday, writes **Will Swanton**. He became Japan's first men's major champion after an ordinary back nine in which he stumbled home like a drunken sailor with four bogeys that nearly blew the sort of lead Greg Norman choked on in 1986. [Still, who cares? He won the Masters.](#)

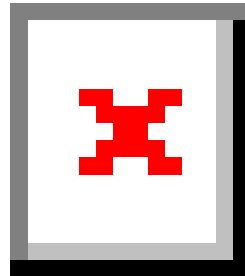
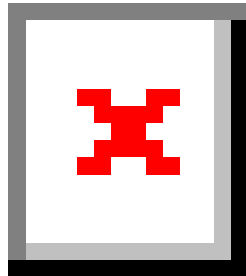
In NRL, Penrith assistant Cameron Ciraldo has [fielded an informal approach to join the Sharks](#) next season to work alongside Craig Fitzgibbon. And in AFL, Melbourne's Steven May had to go to hospital after an accidental elbow at the MCG on Sunday [left him looking like he'd been in a boxing match](#).

Mind Games and more



**Read today's paper as it
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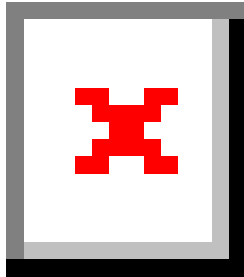
**Novel: Oh Matilda, Who
Bloody Killed Her?**



**Flex your cranial muscles
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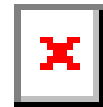
Today's Cartoon



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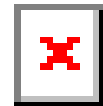
HEARTBREAK

‘Frustrating’ Masters Sunday leaves Aussie short



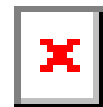
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Covid worth \$10bn in business deals



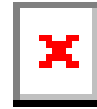
FUNDS

Barrenjoey adds former minister to board

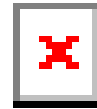


MASTERS HISTORY

Matsuyama’s poetic choke, then glory



Young penguins losing ocean battle



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