

THE EDDY FAMILY PRESS

Family stories, memories & moments



INSIDE · STORIES · PHOTOS · CALENDAR · WEATHER · PUZZLES · SONGS · BRAIN TEASERS

THIS EDITION

The view from our balcony has been nothing short of spectacular, with morning coffee overlooking Caloundra and evenings bathed in silver light. Nan's encounter with the beach's resident pelican was a highlight, while the Hartleys created backyard adventures and Josh raced past our cheering signs. Graduation caps flew high, and the Morgans embraced a carefree afternoon in the waves.

The Pelican Who Owned the Beach



Agnes Waters

We met him just after seven on a Tuesday morning, standing at the water's edge like he'd been waiting for us specifically. A pelican — enormous, unbothered, and entirely convinced that the beach belonged to him and we were merely visiting.

Nan spotted him first. She'd walked down for her morning paddle and stopped dead about ten metres short of the water because between her and the ocean stood what she later described as "a bird the size of a small dinghy." He didn't move. He didn't even look at her properly — just gave her the kind of sideways glance you'd give someone who sat in your seat on the bus.

On land, Gerald is comedy on legs — a great shuffling committee of a bird, all beak and bother.

We named him Gerald. No reason. He just looked like a Gerald. Gerald, it turns out, is a regular. The fishermen at the point know him well — he supervises them from a respectful distance every morning, marching up and down the

sand with his wings folded behind him like a building inspector with his hands clasped behind his back. When a fish gets thrown his way, he catches it with a great theatrical snap of that ridiculous beak, swallows it whole, and then carries on pacing as though nothing happened and he certainly didn't need the charity.

The kids spent the better part of an hour trying to get a photo with him. Gerald tolerated this the way royalty tolerates the public — he allowed them to approach within about three metres, posed magnificently against the morning light, and then, the moment little Sophie crouched down for her close-up, turned his back with devastating timing and waddled off down the beach. Sophie was outraged. The rest of us laughed until our sides hurt.

What gets you about pelicans is the transformation. On land, Gerald is comedy on legs — a great shuffling committee of a bird, all beak and bother. But when he finally decided we'd had enough of his time and took off low across the water, he became something else entirely. Wings out, he glided maybe thirty centimetres above the surface for a hundred metres without a single flap, his reflection skimming along beneath him, and for a moment the funniest thing on the beach was the most graceful thing we'd ever seen.

He'll be there tomorrow, the fishermen reckon. Same time, same stretch of sand, same air of complete ownership. We're already planning a rematch for Sophie's photo. Until then, the beach remains, officially, Gerald's.

FAMILY STORY

Beach day Sat 11 April



Sunday fun

On the first warm Saturday of autumn, the Hartley family packed towels, fruit buns and a dented blue bucket before the sun had fully climbed into the sky. Claire said the best beaches belong to the early birds, and for once everybody managed to be ready on time. Ben carried Noah on one shoulder, Ruby balanced the picnic rug, and Oliver insisted he could carry the whole esky even though it bumped his knees every second step. When they reached the sand, the water was glassy and pale gold. Oliver raced the edge of the tide, Ruby hunted for shells striped like tiny rainbows, and Noah squealed each time a wave chased his ankles. Claire drew a giant heart in the wet sand while Ben tried, unsuccessfully, to stop seagulls from eyeing the pastries. By the time the beach grew busy, the family had already filled the bucket, built a lopsided castle and collected enough happy memories to talk about for the rest of the week.

* * *

FROM THE KITCHEN

Reviving stale bread

A slightly stale loaf comes back to life with a quick rinse under the tap (the whole loaf, briefly) and ten minutes in a hot oven. The outside crisps, the inside softens, and it's almost as good as fresh.

Friday evening

One Friday evening, the Hartleys decided they did not need to drive anywhere to have an adventure. Ben dragged the old tent from the garage, Claire found a basket of blankets, and the children declared the backyard an official wilderness zone. Oliver tied battery lanterns through the fence palings, Ruby drew hand-made 'Camp Hartley' signs, and Noah marched about with a saucepan lid, calling himself the bush captain.

As the sun slipped down, they toasted marshmallows over a little fire bowl and told wildly exaggerated stories about possums, treasure maps, and mysterious rustling in the hedge. Claire read a chapter from a favourite book while the lanterns glowed overhead like soft stars. When a cool breeze arrived after bedtime, everybody squeezed closer together in the tent, laughing so hard that sleep took a very long time to find them.



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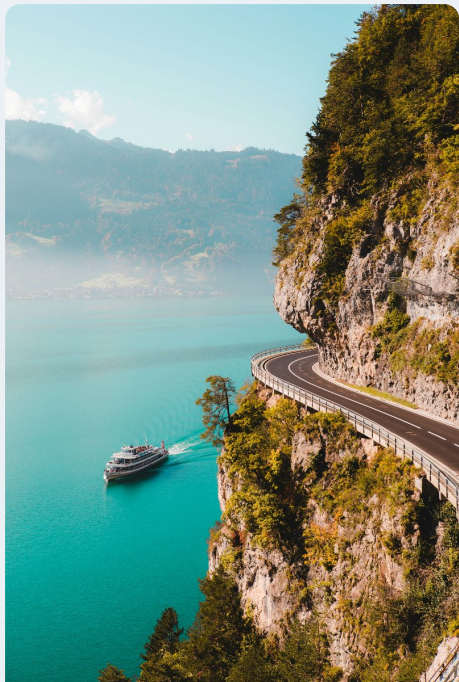
PETS & WILDLIFE

What dogs really need

Behaviourists summarise the needs of a dog as: a job to do, a routine to follow, and a person to share it with. Most behavioural problems in pet dogs trace back to one of those three being missing.

A "job" can be as simple as a daily walk on a set route, training a new trick each fortnight, or carrying a small backpack on the walk. Routine — meals, walks and bedtime at roughly the same times — gives them a sense of safety. And the company of their person, more than any toy, is what they're built to value.

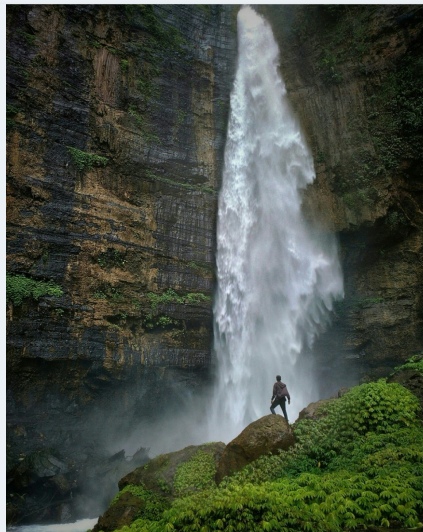
Holidays



Cliff road and turquoise lake

After a muddy hike and several wrong turns, they finally heard the roar of the waterfall before they saw it. The children declared it their greatest expedition yet, and Dad stood on the rock below like he'd just discovered a brand-new world.

The family had never seen water that blue before, so Dad pulled over three times before anyone even complained. By the end of the drive, the children had decided the little



Waterfall adventure

boat below was on a mission to find a lost city hidden beneath the lake.

When they reached the garden, the children were told to be quiet so they wouldn't scare away the ducks — but instead they discovered the pond was so still it reflected the trees like a painting. For a few rare minutes, the whole family stood silently together, as if the place had cast a spell over them.

* * *

PETS & WILDLIFE

Two bowls, not one

Cats prefer their water bowl separate from their food bowl, often in a different room. It's an instinct from their wild ancestors avoiding water contaminated by a nearby kill. Try it and watch them drink more.

Graduation caps in the air



Graduation caps in the air

After years of assignments, late nights, and second-guessing themselves, the girls stood outside the old brick building and tossed their caps high into the air. For one bright moment, the future felt wide open and completely theirs. Now the fun begins as they let down their hair and start getting rid of some of that built up stress and tension. They have beach breaks planned and lots of partying.

* * *

Walking into the sea

The Morgan family had promised that no one would check the time that afternoon, so they wandered straight into the water fully dressed for adventure and stayed until the sun began to fade. The boys squealed every time a wave rushed in, while Mum and Dad pretended not to notice how cold it really was.



Family walking into the sea

* * *

View From the Top



The view from the unit balcony this morning — Caloundra turning it on again. Coffee tasted better up here, watching the ships line up along the horizon and the early walkers tracing the shoreline below. Some mornings you don't need plans. You just need a balcony.

* * *

FAMILY STORY

Caloundra

Same balcony, different show. By evening the water had gone silver and the sky did that thing where it can't pick a colour, so it picks all of them. We stayed out until the streetlights came on. Nobody said much. Nothing needed saying.



* * *

GOING PLACES

Local currency, small notes

Arriving in a new country with a hundred-dollar note and nothing smaller is a quiet kind of trouble. Ask the bank for some smaller denominations when you change money — taxi drivers and small shopkeepers everywhere prefer them.

WELLBEING

Glass of water by the bed

Leave a glass of water on the bedside table at night. The morning sip rehydrates after eight hours of dry breath, and it's there if you need it during the night without fumbling to the kitchen.

Cycling race



Cycling race

The family lined the roadside with handmade signs as Josh rode past in the middle of the pack, legs burning and heart pounding. He didn't win that day, but he said hearing them cheer his name felt even better than a medal.

FROM THE KITCHEN

Bringing onions to gold

Properly caramelised onions take forty-five minutes, not the five minutes most recipes suggest. Cook them slowly, with a pinch of salt to draw out the moisture, on the lowest heat that still does anything. Stir them occasionally; don't let them stick.

What you're after is a deep gold colour and a sweetness that almost surprises you. They turn an ordinary mince into something worth talking about, lift a pizza, and folded into mashed potato are a small revelation. Make a double batch and freeze half.

WELLBEING

Slow breathing for tension

Breathe in for four seconds, out for six. Do it for two minutes. The longer out-breath shifts the nervous system toward calm. It works in a doctor's waiting room, a difficult phone call, or the small hours.

Photo Gallery



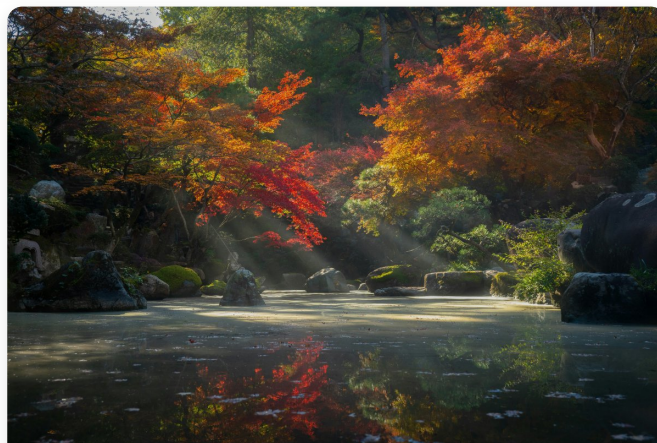
Holiday unit at Caloundra



Ranga, visiting for the night



Family dinner



Autumn garden and pond

Weather Forecast

7-Day Forecast for Brisbane

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Overcast	Light drizzle	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast	Partly cloudy	Overcast
14°-22°	14°-21°	14°-21°	12°-20°	14°-22°	13°-24°	15°-20°

Expect temperatures between 14°C and 21°C in Brisbane this week. Conditions will include overcast, light drizzle, partly cloudy.

Songs of the 1980s

1. Men at Work — Down Under
2. INXS — Need You Tonight
3. Kylie Minogue — The Loco-Motion
4. Crowded House — Don't Dream It's Over
5. Cyndi Lauper — Girls Just Want to Have Fun
6. Cold Chisel — Khe Sanh
7. Australian Crawl — Reckless
8. Icehouse — Great Southern Land
9. John Farnham — You're the Voice
10. Madonna — Like a Virgin
11. Dragon — April Sun in Cuba
12. Mental As Anything — Live It Up

Brain Teasers

Can you solve these? Answers on the back page!

1. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
2. What can you catch but never throw?
3. What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?
4. What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
5. A father and son are in a car accident and rushed to hospital. The surgeon says, 'I can't operate on him — he's my son!' How is this possible?

What's Coming Up

July 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4 Barrys Birthday	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Dentist Appointment	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Paul's Birthday	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sudoku

HARD

		7				3	4	5
	8	6						
3					9			
5				2	3			8
		4	1	8	7			
					5			
					1		6	9
	6							
4	2	9					5	1

Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find the word that matches each clue.

1. NAEEREOHYT

Nectar-loving garden bird
2. BAOUHRR

Safe water for boats
3. AMREOPNGHO

Wind-up music machine of Grandma's day
4. TTFBYUREL

A caterpillar's glamorous second act
5. URSFONWEL

It turns its face to follow the light
6. PLVAOAV

Meringue dessert we and New Zealand both claim
7. EVSTHRA

Gathering in the ripened crop
8. EDHANAVR

Shady spot for an afternoon cuppa

Puzzle Answers

Riddle Answers

- 1. The word 'short' — add 'er' and it becomes 'shorter'
- 2. A cold
- 3. A postage stamp
- 4. The letter M
- 5. The surgeon is his mother

Sudoku Solution

9	1	7	2	6	8	3	4	5
2	8	6	5	3	4	9	1	7
3	4	5	7	1	9	6	8	2
5	7	1	6	2	3	4	9	8
6	9	4	1	8	7	5	2	3
8	3	2	4	9	5	1	7	6
7	5	3	8	4	1	2	6	9
1	6	8	9	5	2	7	3	4
4	2	9	3	7	6	8	5	1

Word Scramble Answers

- 1. HONEYEATER
- 2. HARBOUR
- 3. GRAMOPHONE
- 4. BUTTERFLY
- 5. SUNFLOWER
- 6. PAVLOVA
- 7. HARVEST
- 8. VERANDAH

Lots of Love from all of us.

Hope you enjoyed this month's stories

*Keeping families connected,
one story at a time.*



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