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1952: Age photographer Neville Bowler watches Hugh Tayfield's South Africa defeat Australia by 82 runs.

Neville's pictures worth a thousand words

NEVILLE Bowler remembers standing up to his waist in gushing water, in the middle of Elizabeth Street. Cars were floating slowly by and the swelling waters of the Yarra River were quickly encroaching into the Melbourne city centre.

Neville fumbled around for his trusty film camera before snapping a few stunning photos and dashing to a higher platform before the water got any higher. The year was 1972 and Neville Bowler was a respected photographer at *The Age* newspaper.

It was the middle of February and Neville and his brother were developing photos in the newspaper's dark room when the call came through about the floods. They had to make their way to Elizabeth Street, attempting to avoid the water – but they didn't stay dry for long. **Continued Page 2>**



Neville Bowlers
Walkley Award
winning photo of the
Elizabeth Street
floods.

Snapping up history

>From Page 1

Neville and his brother approached the floods. “I gave him my wallet because I had to go into the water,” Neville told *The Times*. “I had to take the pictures and get out again as soon as I could.”

And it was those pictures that gave Neville a Walkley Award, one of his proudest achievements, he said. But that is just a brief memory for Neville in his photographic career, which spanned 40 years – mostly at *The Age*.

From covering court cases to photographing car crashes, Neville’s pictures brought Victoria the news, in an era when television



was in it’s infancy. Just one year after being crowned, Queen Elizabeth II travelled to Australia for her first royal tour in 1954 – and it was Neville’s job to photograph every moment of it.

“It was hard work. I had to keep travelling up and down the East coast,” he said. The Queen was known for her ability to rush through towns and meet and greet hundreds of people in a short amount of time. And it was Neville’s job to keep up. He would take the

photo’s and “submit them all over the place,” although that was all worth it when he finally met Elizabeth personally in Sydney at Government House.

“She was a nice woman.” But that wouldn’t be the last head-of-state Neville would come across.

Neville was on tour with Lyndon Baynes Johnson, Australia’s PM during the Vietnam War.

He thinks things have changed from those days. The photographers could easily approach the Prime Minister, without having to worry about security.

Neville even developed a good **Continued Page 3>**

'I took the photos as they were'

From Page 2>

relationship with Harold Holt, so much so that he was invited to his sixtieth birthday party. Unfortunately, Holt never made it to that milestone, as we all know; he disappeared off Portsea in 1967.

"I've still got that invitation though," he said.

Neville tries not to associate himself with the darker side of photography, the paparazzi.

"I didn't take any notice of that.

It was different back then, I would always ask... I took the photo's as they were," he said.

After many years' at *The Age*, he eventually became their chief photographer; however taking pictures still remained his passion.

Neville remembers "mucking around with the boys from *The Herald*, *The Sun* and *The Argus*."

Despite them being competition for his newspaper, he still made friends with them.

Neville also had a passion for sport, and what better way to get up close to the athletes of the



day than to photograph them from the sidelines.

Apart from winning a British sports photography award for a picture of Hawthorn's Peter Knights taking a spectacular mark in 1972, he enjoyed many great sporting events, especially the cricket.

In an age where photo's can be captured and sent to newspaper offices in just seconds, Neville says things have changed dramatically and he has lost his passion for photography.

Now living in Tocumwal and in his eighties, Neville still has a collection of all his cameras that he used, including the one he retired with in 1988.

Neville's memories of the photos he took may fade, but history will be grateful to him for capturing some of the most important events in Victoria in the past 50 years.

Briefly...

Street

- OCTOBER has brought some excellent Spring rains, with 10mm recorded to have fallen in the past few days. The downpour has been scattered throughout the week, with much of it bucketing down in the afternoons. The rain reached the catchments and has been welcomed by dairy farmers across the district.

Local

- A BUNNINGS Warehouse is set to open in Echuca, ending years of rumours about what might be built in the Saleyards property. The warehouse is expected to create 80 jobs when it opens in late 2010. The store will be built on a 2.26 ha site and is expected to start a hardware war between rival retail chain, Mitre 10.

National

- PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd has not been swayed by an emotional plea from a Sri Lankan refugee whose boat was intercepted by Indonesians at Rudd's request. "Please help us and save our lives," the girl plead. The ships occupants have now gone on a hunger strike in protest.

World

- FRENCH health watchdogs have warned against long term exposure to mobile phones, saying that phones with electromagnetic transmitters could be potentially harmful. "Lets not wait until the indications become pathologies," a spokesman said.

Council 'unbiased' on upcoming Bridge vote

THE Shire of Campaspe council has not yet been biased on a decision on the Mid-West Bridge option, according to its mayor. A vote will take place on November 17 and will be open to the public, but Mayor Peter Williams will not vote on the Bridge because of a conflict-of-interest situation and will step out of the room. "The (other) councillors will make a decision as they see fit," Cr. Williams told *The Times*.

Cr. Williams will not comment as to what will happen if they vote against the alignment, saying "it's far too early to speculate." According to councillor Kevin Simpson, the council has not been presented the finalised reports by VicRoads, despite a public information display already giving the basic details last week.



Cr. Simpson attributes this delay because "They've (VicRoads) tried to keep it under wraps as much as they can, so it doesn't dirty up the reports."

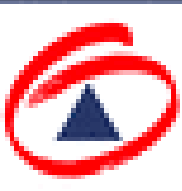
He would not reveal what his voting intention is currently.

Cr. Williams believes that his councillors will make an unbiased decision on the Bridge, after they are

appropriately educated on the issues.

"They are genuinely working through all of the issues to see what's best for the community," he said. Independent consultant group Crosby Textor will soon randomly survey Echuca and Moama residents about the Bridge, and the results from this survey will also be presented to the council.

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SPORT



Echuca is set to play Moama today.

Moama in the balance in Echuca clash

MOAMA is on a knife edge at 5/68 in a clash between Echuca that still has the potential to go either way.

Echuca won the toss and elected to bat, with openers Grant Harrison and Joe Varcoe being quickly dismissed by Moama's Ralph Siede.

Echuca captain Simon Maddox and Ryan Hon then took to the field to make a 48-run partnership. Hon, who made 39 runs, showed off his batting skills and made seven boundaries.

After Maddox was dismissed soon after Hon, Wade Johnson (16), Steve Tonkin (21) and James McQuillian all had short stints at trying to boost Echuca's score, but had difficulty.

It was then up to Brendan Prendergast to save his team. Prendergast teamed up with Chris Russell (13) and batted 48 runs off 58 balls, including six boundaries and one six. By tea time, the score was at 7/99 and it will be Moama's chance to even it up this weekend at Vic Park.

The lead up to the 2009 VicSuper Murray Marathon kicks off today, with a 50km canoe, kayak or outrigger course from Barmah to Vic Park, which will begin at 11am.

EDITORIAL

Politicians pay

I GET ten dollars of pocket money each week, and I used to believe that was a lot of money. But it isn't really. Inflation wrecked everything, and now we have to carry notes around instead of trusty coins.

Maybe you should get a job, my mum suggests, but I'm making no comment on that issue. Money is at the centre of every issue nowadays, and it's almost impossible to do anything free of charge.

I mean, who'd do a job for someone else for free? Well, if we look back 90 years, our politicians did their jobs for free – out of pure passion for their jobs, amazing! Not today, however. Things have changed slightly. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd receives \$370,704 a year – a reasonable amount, considering how hard he actually works. Rudd sleeps just 3 hours a day, according to his wife, and probably deserves a lot more money, although taxpayers are still weary of boosting politicians pay.

Campaspe Shire councillors are each remunerated with just \$30,000 a year (with the

Executive Bernie Madoff swindled billions of dollars through an investment racket. He was arrested and sentenced this year.



Mayor getting \$60,000), although they work much less than their federal counterparts.

But politicians are grossly underpaid when compared to the passive executives of Australia. Our business leaders get 50-100 times the average weekly wage, while in the US they get over 200 times that.

Executive salaries have been a massive issue during the financial crisis, with the US Government imposing a \$500,000 limit on CEO's

pay. But even when the Government bailed out some financial institutions, executives were still being given the same lavish amounts, angering the US tax payers who footed the bill.

We can probably never image a lifestyle where our jobs drag in daily bucket loads of cash, like our executives, but when we get \$10 of pocket money a week, it would be nice to have a bit of extra dough every now and then.

ODD BOX A beauty contest with a difference is about to get under way in Hungary — only women with fake breasts and facelifts can enter. The Miss Plastic contest features patients of cosmetic surgeons, to whom judges will award prizes for their handiwork.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you ask me anything I don't know, I'm not going to answer.
Yogi Berra

JOKE BY JAKE A panda walks into a bar, orders a sandwich and sits down. When the panda is done with his sandwich he pulls out a gun shoots the waiter then gets up to leave. The bartender stops him and says "you just shot my waiter and now your going to leave" and the panda replies "dude look it up" so the bartender pulls out a dictionary and looks up panda bear. It said "an animal that lives in Asia. Eats shoots and leaves."

HOROSCOPE



I'VE MADE an important discovery, but it's a discovery you can only exploit when you are young. If you can't cook, don't worry. You can cook basically what ever you want and serve it to your parents. It could be a carrot cake that turned out blue and tastes like rubber. It could be a salmon dish that is still raw and smells like a fishing boat. It could even be a pavlova that is completely flat and looks like tomato sauce has been added somewhere. Anyway, the point is that what ever you cook, your parents are going to go "Mmmm, this tastes really good!" And then you feel all good inside, like you've actually cooked something edible. Although the skill to do this gets worse as you get older, youngsters reading this should use it while they can!

“Do you think we should use nuclear energy?”



Lucas De'bello

“Oh sure, go ahead. Don't worry about any minor side effects... it's all clean!”



Montgomery Burns

“Why aren't you already? Don't listen to all that nuclear waste nonsense... we can find 'suitable' places to dump our waste. Don't you worry...”



Bob Brown

“Well nuclear's bad and so is coal. Solars too expensive, we don't have any water for hydro... We don't *really* need power, do we?!”

Critic's choice

Destroyed in Seconds Channel 7, Monday 7.30pm

IT SEEMS rather ironic that Grant Denyer – the man who almost died in a monster truck crash – is hosting a show about things that crash. A show, probably aimed at boys under the age of 10, all about things that go bang, smash, wallop and kaboom. Like a helicopter crashing into the ocean and earthquakes rocking high rise cranes.

Today Tonight

Channel 7, 6.30pm weeknights

MATT White has gone missing somewhere, so Channel Seven is throwing in anyone they can find to host *Today Tonight*. Natalie Barr had the unfortunate job to do so on Thursday night (something she probably repulsed) and then ex-*Saturday Disney* star Sara Grouen hosted it last night. We'll probably see Seven's accountant on next.

NCIS: Los Angeles

Channel 10, 8.30pm Tuesday

I WISH my name was LL Cool J. I'm pretty sure his parents didn't call him that, but that's what he's registered as, as the new star of *NCIS: Los Angeles*. The new show, obviously a spin-off of *NCIS*, is much different to its Washington counterpart, with a lot more raw sex appeal. But it's good to be different, and it's the only crime show I know which has a sense of humour.

“Flash forward”

IF I FLASHED forward I'd probably see exactly the same thing as I was doing now: Writing a useless piece about a useless show. I'd probably be writing about how *Flash Forward* had just been axed due to the people watching it getting massively weirded out. Sort of like what happened to *Lost*. Anyway, *Flash Forward* has a good concept for a show: the entire world blacks out for 2 minutes and 17 seconds for know apparent reason, and they discover one man didn't actually black out!

When the population is blacked out, however, they witness the future 6 months from now (some time in April 2010), and people begin to panic. Of course, during the black out lots of helicopters and planes crashed, cars fell off bridges and patients died mid-way though surgery. Quite horrific. But now a team of FBI investigators is investigating the “flash forward” and why it happened. Most people think it was God, but apparently there's a deeper reason. And it's this reason, I think, which will weird everyone out. The show will drag on for years, with only the neo faithful fans watching in the end, when the show begins to demise. It's slightly unbelievable to think everyone would black out, but it still makes for all right television (when nothing else is on). But savour *Flash Forward* while it's still relatively normal.

