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THE UNDERGROWL

THE STRICTLY UNOFFICIAL NIGHTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

3rd edition of 2017 – Thursday, 25 May 2017



“THOUGHT PROVOKING!”

SOME EARLY TESTIMONIALS

“Can just do things the others can’t!”

Le Bron James

“Revolutionising the way in which we share information!”

Mark Zuckerberg

“Smoking!”

Marlborough Man

“So hot right now!”

Jesinta Campbell

“NCC CRICKET UPDATE”

Apart from the steady progress our ‘**Sunday A-Grade**’ has been making over the past fortnight, the big movers and shakers at Nightcliff has been comeback kid **Huw Spring’s B-Grade**, who has juggernauted themselves into the top-4 on the back of some massive wins.

Two weeks is a long time in cricket and it was just a fortnight ago that we wondered aloud as to whether ‘*Captain Courageous*’ **Huw Spring** would be able to even play lawn bowls this decade, let alone don the Baggy black and gold again this season.

But Huw stepped up like gritty captain **Allan Border** in the 1980s in an absolute must-win clash against Palmerston. After the balmy Palmys carded a highly competitive 7/186 at Nightcliff (**Lachie Baird** snaring 3/33 with his left arm orthodoxy and ‘**Coco**’ **McKinnon** slipped us a tenner to mention his 2/26) and with key bats filling in posts in the Premier Grade (where they put together a Binary code between them, a story for another day), these B’s certainly needed a hero.

Spring purposefully strode out as an opening bat, amidst gasps and coughing from people around the ground (mainly from lawn bowlers, none of whom were even watching the cricket!). Early on in the Tigers’ innings, **Patrick White** (36) threatened to swoop the game away from Palmy, with two towering sixes that had residents of Oleander Street checking up on their home insurance policies. However when he perished at 2-62, there was still plenty of work to be done.

Spring remained a constant in an innings of batting variables as wickets steadily fell around him, including a quickfire 20 from Tigers’ swinger **Goku Vivekanadra**. Batting through the innings for a match-winning **93no**, **Spring** saved the day and arguably the Season for his team. **Lachie Baird** also slipped us an undisclosed sum in a brown paper bag to mention his brave 2no (off 1 ball, a strike rate of 200 for those playing at home), a featurette within this day’s **Spring Carnival**.

Last week the B-52s rolled Southern Districts for 97 (**L.Baird** chiming in like **Big Ben** with 4-19), before **Spring** (14no) once again carried his bat in an unbroken winning opening partnership of 99. This week the Skipper was wearing his helmet as protection against fellow opener **Dean Thiesfield** (rather than any bowler), who went absolutely **Babe Ruth** against some hapless bowling, bludgeoning 80no off 46 balls, with 17 fours and a six.



Huw Spring...things were looking pretty darn grim for him only a fortnight ago!

Having survived the adventures and misadventures of Saturday cricketing exploits, the hearts and minds of a seaside suburb collectively and inevitably turned to the happenings in **Sunday A-Grade**.

The **NCC D's** had a '*Planes, Trains & Automobiles*' clash down at Fred's Pass against Districts to contend with two weeks ago. After the Skipper got his coin-tossing groove back, with an exospheric throw landing perfectly on 'heats' the lads gleefully batted.

On as pitch crumbling like a Christchurch shopping mall, it was **Brion Foley** (58) who steadfastly held the innings together, batting with tremendous concentration and application as wickets reasonably steadily fell around him. Foley found a likely ally in **Stuart Kenny** (36), who lit up the place for a while with his brief fireworks display as they added 65. **Aaron Griffin** (7no) then ensured the Tigers batted into the final over, before the Skipper added a sudden full stop to the innings after a running mix-up (entirely with himself) where he over-estimated his own sprinting capacity after hitting his first cricket ball with a bat since 2013!

The Tigers' 167 proved highly competitive, as Districts fell for 73, with wickets shared amongst the bowlers, but highlighted by **Quaid 'Q-Tip' Carter's** (see **front cover**) efforts in his 100th game for Nightcliff, in a kaleidoscopic bowling spell with a pretty much something for everyone, in which he took an excellent **5-14 off 3.3 overs**, with 1 maiden and 7 wides!


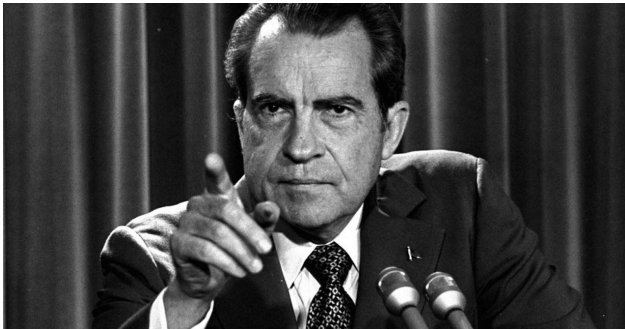


Save the Murray! With the ball repeatedly bouncing so low at Fred's Pass and striking him on the body so many times, Keeper **Murray 'Muzzler' Hooper** is updating his keeping gear for the next game at Fred's Pass.

The D's then fronted up to the Den for a key clash against **PINTs Green** at the Den. After the Skipper won the toss, the Tigers batted. The lads were tied down early, but **Brad Hatton** underpinned the innings with a well-constructed 61, ably supported by the '**Muzzler**' **Hooper** (36). **Johnny Fryar** scored one of the more extraordinary ducks of all time, after probably the best struck ball of the game was not called a boundary as the PINTs fielder picked it up infield and, despite a bright red mark allegedly seen on the boundary fencing, claimed it had not crossed the boundary!

The lads then did the business with the ball, reducing PINTs to 6-35 (Skipper taking 4-22) before putting the baby to bed, dismissing them for 108 (C.Parker 2-11, A.Griffin 2-32). The highlight in the field was the absolutely inspirational catch for the first wicket taken by **Cammo 'The Ammo' Collins**, who ran and dived full length to miraculously but safely pouch a skied ball at mid off.

“THEY SAID IT” - QUOTABLE QUOTES

<p><i>"There's plenty of PINTs in D-Grade!"</i></p>	<p>This from the D's Skipper responding to his inquisitive daughter, explaining that in D-Grade, there is not only just a PINTs Green side, there is a PINTs Gold outfit, a PINTs Dravidians and even a garden variety PINTs team. Bottoms up!</p>  <p>There's little Nightcliff D's loves more than turning up to play cricket on Sundays at the Den and smashing pints!</p>
<p><i>"He was utterly without ethics or morals or any bedrock sense of human decency."</i></p>	<p>In the shadows of Trump's 'Nixonian' actions in dismissing the head of the CIA (shooting the messenger?), we were reminded of Hunter S Thompson's (author of '<i>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas</i>') quote from off the long Michael Holding run up about his long-time adversary, '<i>Tricky Dicky</i>' Richard Nixon. Ah Nixon, if he were any more crooked he would have almost been a perfect circle!</p>  <p>Richard Nixon - "<i>I am <u>not</u> a crook! No, wait, um, hold on a sec... Oh yeah, actually I totally am.</i>"</p>
<p><i>"Tails"</i></p>	<p>This utterance from Districts D's skipper was the moment 'Snella' got his groove back as a heady toss-winning Skipper, as he strives to maintain his 65% career toss-winning record as NCC Skipper!</p>

THE NCC COMMITTEE FINANCIAL TIP OF THE WEEK

Avoid purchasing real estate on Facebook or Snapchat.

COCO'S CORNER

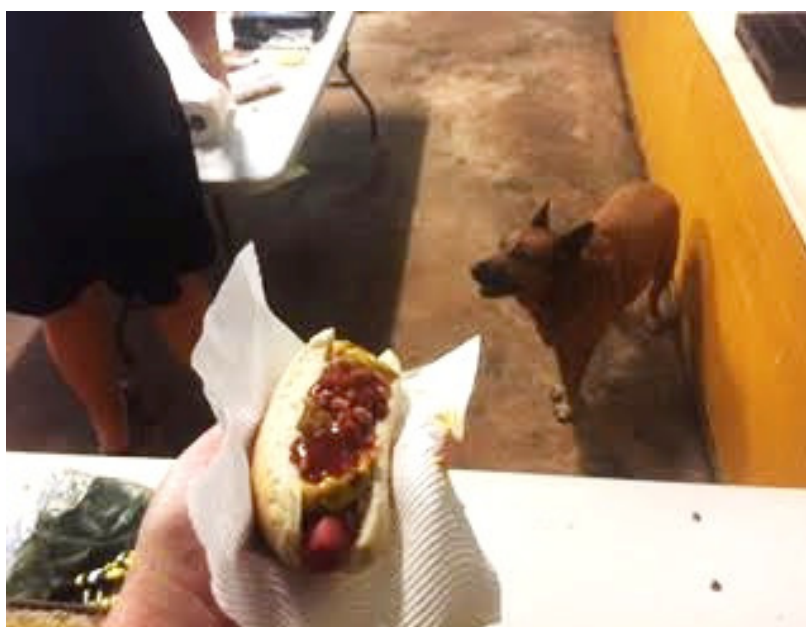


Our man ‘Coco’ McKinnon has had an exciting and busy few weeks, working in the Donga as well as plying his trade and taking wickets back in NCC B-Grade, much more of a natural habitat for him.

But in an *UnderGrowl* exclusive (except for the fact the news was splashed all over *Facebook* earlier this week), we can confirm that in furtherance of his interest and talents in young children’s development, ‘Coco’ recently successfully completed a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care. And he *still* makes time to help feed the masses at the Donga on any given Thursday.

“I just love kids. They are big people-in-waiting really, with their cute little developing personalities and what-not. You know, I used to be a kid once.” Coco said when asked about the motivations behind his recent success.

Reclusive ex-cricketer **Corey Sinclair** would not come to his front door or even draw his curtains when we approached him for comment on Coco’s achievements. *“F#@k off!”*



Left - Paper beats scissors *and* rock in this case – well done **Coco!**
Right – There was something just *so authentic* about ‘Coco’s’ Donga hot dogs...

SHARK ATTACK!

Sharks. They sure do cop a bagging at the hands of a fear mongering media. At the end of the day (at the beach), they are just fish with teeth.

Well, when we say 'teeth', we mean about 300 of them in your average Great White, in about 15 rows of jagged fury.




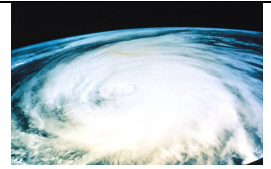
It turns out that there are only an average of about 10 fatalities annually worldwide from shark attacks. Sure, some people lose bits and pieces from their person as well after encountering these 'can openers of the sea', but it is not as if they are actively hunting us down.










Not like **crocodiles**, who will mercilessly hunt and kill you and your children whilst you sleep!

We're not suggesting for a second that you paddle out to give one of these savage beasts a hug, we are just saying that sometimes if you swim in their world, you might cop the occasional 'nip'. So we also thought we would compile a shortlist of 11 things that kill more people than sharks every year.

There are plenty more than 11 things, but hey, this is a newsletter, not an almanac.

Who makes a list of 11 things anyway? We do, Cochise, so if you want a nice orderly even-numbered list, go scribe your own newsletter.

11 'ODD' THINGS THAT KILL MORE PEOPLE ANNUALLY THAN SHARKS		
1.	Coconuts - Falling coconuts cause about 150 deaths annually . Whilst you are keeping an eye on those sharks (and crocodiles!), don't forget to look up occasionally.	
2.	Mosquitoes - These bitey little snipers knock off about 800,000 every year, mainly with their glaring malaria riddled disposition.	
3.	Cows - I know! Mainly from blunt-force trauma, but these seemingly docile bovine milk-carriers knock off about 20 people a year, if they fail to 'mooo-ve' out of the way in time!	
4.	Wind - without counting the untold casualties from domestic flatulence, cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes and the like knock off over 100 people a year.	

<p>5.</p>	<p>Bees - these cute stripy little guys still finish in front in terms of their global contributions, but on the negative side of the (Heath) ledger, they account for over 100 people a year.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Bees sting!</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Icicles - <i>'Ice Ice Baby'</i> - stop, collaborate...and you're dead! Over 100 people in Russia alone perish each year from these water daggers. Winter is Coming...to kill you!</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Hippos - as cute as they are in a plumpy kind of way, their annual death toll is a staggering 2,900 people annually!</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Being Left-handed - Claims are out there that about 2,500 deaths occur annually from left-handed people attempting to use products designed for right-handers.</p> <p>Sounds dodgy, but we reckon that in any event, this risk of harm increases exponentially if they also attempt to play Saturday cricket!</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Champagne corks - These bad boys pop off about 24 people annually, which would be a bit of a fizzer on that special occasion.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Beds - Safer to stay in them once you are there, as up to 450 people each year die falling out of them!</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Lightning - about 24,000 people annually are killed by lightning each year. Cull that, (shark) haters!</p>	



2017 AFL SEASON SNAPSHOT

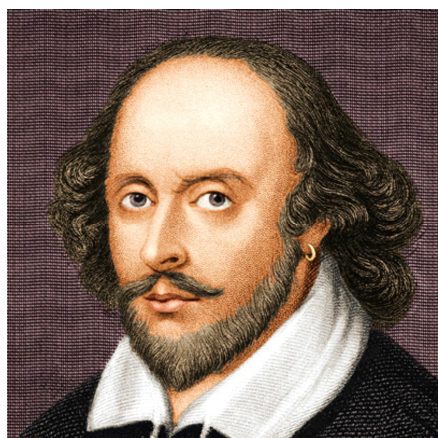
The Brutes are back in town! As predicted here on the pages of your own *UnderGrowl*, a galvanized and refocused **Sydney Phoenixes Swans** are emerging from the ashes of a 0-6 season start and are stealthily building towards a miracle finals appearance in 2017.

On the back of dismantling **BrisVegas** three weeks ago (a bit like colliding with a space shuttle disaster half an hour after impact), the Swans produced two signature demolitions of the **Kangaroos** and an improved **St Kilda**, to send a message with a throttle to an otherwise even competition.

It is probably only a matter of time before the rising Swans pass a calamitous **Richmond**, on the way down after they had risen to the dizzying heights of 5-0, partying like it was the end of WW2. The last two minutes of Richmond's last two games have been apocalyptically funny for differing, yet strikingly similar reasons, as they have clinically snatched agonizing defeat from the lock jaws of certain victory against **Fremantle** and then **GWS**. The last 35 years of Richmond football encapsulated in 4 minutes!

The hash tag **#ohrichmond** is already making the rounds, and the Musical (**Baz Lurhmann** is reportedly feverishly working to gain the movie rights!) is surely only months away. Hospitals are now issuing warnings that if you have a pacemaker, you are forbidden from holding Richmond Club Membership! **In other AFL snippets:**

- * **Nathan Buckley** has only moved half of his stuff back into his parents' house as the Pies' season remains on life support. Masquerading as finals contenders, removalists are on standby.
- * The **Bombers** and **Eagles** both continue to thrill and perplex fans in any given week, but signs are there that both sides can play Finals in 2017.
- * **Fremantle** and **Port Adelaide** continue to confound the *UnderGrowl*, who still cannot have either of them finishing in the Eight, despite a growing body of work suggesting otherwise.
- * The **Kangaroos** are beginning to excite fans about their future prospects, even if that will not include 2017 finals participation.
- * AFL footballing prospects in Queensland continue to look as appealing as **Donald Trump's** sweaty, pasty chin folds, with promising players still disappearing like Mafia trial witnesses.



L - **William Shakespeare**. Probably shattered that he died 400 odd years ago with a muse like Richmond around now!

R - Eagles players got right around **Drew Petrie** when he told them they had no more MCG games in 2017!

JOKES

Did you hear about the bloke who complained about the lighting in
the Chinese restaurant?

The Manager said he'd dim sum.

Had to quit my job at the Helium factory the other week.

I told Management that I refused to be spoken to in that tone of voice!

What to you call a woman with beer flavoured...bodily parts?

Joy

THE FIGITAL AGE

The '*fidget spinner*' is a new fandangled toy that sits like a propeller on a person's finger, with blades that spin around a bearing.

It's mildly interesting and was initially designed with children with ADHD or on the Autism spectrum in mind. However they have also been hijacked by basically every kid with a pulse. Pop-up stores are selling them are everywhere you look.

We imagine that conservatively, about 75,000,000,000,000 of them have been ordered to be delivered and sold at the **Darwin Show** this year.

Some of them also glow, which is a tiny bit groovy. However your kids now collectively and individually think they're cooler than an Eskimo's icebox though. But are they? Are they really?

Holy gimmickry Batman, this is so fricken boring, we've actually just fallen asleep writing about this. So it all ends right here. And now.



Fidget spinners - well at least they're not playing computer games 24/7 or stealing your cars!

EMPATHY & IRONY – THE UNBELIEVABLE BELIEVABLE STORY OF JOANNE LEES.

Empathy. Such an important human quality to strive for, both professionally and personally.

One of our favourite characters (**Atticus Finch**) in one of our favourite books (**To Kill a Mockingbird**) said instructively to his young daughter Scout, that the best way to strive to better understand a person is to "*stand in his or her shoes*" and to try walking around in them for a while.

So come for a quick stroll with us in time, back to July 2001, in the outback Northern Territory, in the shoes of a traumatised and isolated English tourist named **Joanne Lees**.

In her chilling, compelling and accepted account of events from the cold, dark night of Saturday, 14 July 2001, **Joanne Lees** and her boyfriend **Peter Falconio** were driving north in their orange kombi van about 11kms north of Barrow Creek Roadhouse at about 8.30pm. An old Toyota ute drove up beside them in the night, indicating to pull over, suggesting something was amiss with the back of their van. After pulling over, Falconio got out of the van to speak with the stranger and then asked Lees to rev the engine. Joanne Lees never saw him again. Ms Lees was started the engine of the van and then heard a 'shot', which she believed at the time to have been the van backfiring.

The next thing she saw was the hulking, vile figure of **Bradley Murdoch**, pointing a gun at her.

Lees was grabbed whilst screaming and struggling, tied and put into the back of Murdoch's vehicle. Whilst it is presumed he was disposing of Falconio's body, she managed to escape from the back of the vehicle, into the absolute pitch darkness of the surrounding scrub, where she hid for five hours, petrified for her life. Murdoch, with his dog and his torch had attempted to find her, but in vain. It was suggested that having the instinct to run straight out and then to the left about 30 metres had probably saved her life. "*It was either run, or be raped and killed.*" Lees said years later.

Using the same primal survival instinct that aided her to escape, Ms Lees emerged from the darkness and found the highway again. With grazed knees and wrists and her (and crucially someone else's) blood on her shirt, she desperately flagged down a road train by running out onto the road. The driver saw Ms Lees' raw emotions at the time and how distressed she was. He believed what she said she had experienced. Barrow Creek Pub proprietor Les Pilton and his partner Helen Jones called Police and took initial care of Ms Lees.



The 'danger signs' were there – and driving on an outback Territory road at night was not ideal.

Immediate Aftermath

Isolated and alone again and thrust into a living nightmare back in Alice Springs (but at least now able to see), Joanne Lees did not receive support or counselling from Police or any other service. Investigating police had seized her possessions and she had no family or friends there.

After a large Police manhunt, media presence swelled to Biblical numbers immediately, like jackals looking to feast on a juicy developing story. The story was by now world news. But Ms Lees remained elusive and would not speak with media, would not feed the beast. Police encouraged her to speak with media, perhaps to even make a public plea for help.

As Ms Lees would not speak with a predatory media to give them her story, they fueled their own stories, largely based upon conjecture. Lees, who had received no advice or assistance in dealing with media, appeared to them aloof and cool and inaccessible, with the media describing her as appearing 'emotionless' at times. Ms Lees was taking the sedative valium to help her cope. **Lindy Chamberlain** reading her morning papers at this stage would have experienced an acute sense of *de ja vu*.

When Joanne Lees was interviewed by Police in Alice Springs for four hours, she was asked direct questions as to whether she was herself 'involved' in Falconio's disappearance. Having already experienced the horrors of 14 July 2001, Ms Lees understandably felt 're-traumatised' by now also being openly treated as a suspect. Instinctively and logically Police would have considered and investigated all potential possibilities in the course of investigating Falconio's disappearance, but to question her directly in this manner and at that time was itself a questionable measure.

At times Joanne Lees has come across as not being particularly grateful for the assistance she did receive in Australia. This includes, understandably, initially when she would have been experiencing post traumatic stress and isolation. But this has also manifested itself over later years and after lucid reflection when Lees has spoken to media and even written a detailed book. In various forums, Helen Jones (Les Pilton's partner who took Lees in initially in Barrow Creek and aided her beyond that) and the Prosecutor Rex Wild QC expressed a sense of disappointment in Ms Lees' apparent lack of gratitude for care and support she did receive.

The concertina effect of a carnivorous predatory media and an accusatory police force not appearing to make any great investigative progress would not have helped Ms Lees' disposition. She left Australia frustrated and angry, weary and wary of police.



Detective Superintendent Colleen Gwynne was appointed to take over the investigation 5 months in.

Renewed investigation

Five months into the Falconio disappearance investigation, **Detective Superintendent Colleen Gwynne** was appointed to lead the investigation. Detective Gwynne had been part of the team working on the investigation from the outset, but she immediately and critically reprioritised the investigation and ensured the right people were placed on her team.

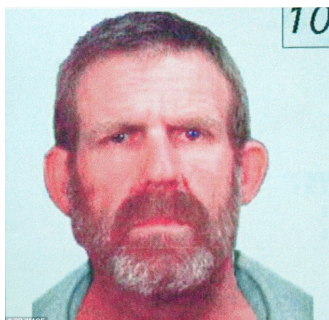
"We (Police) got a lot of things wrong." Det. Gwynne admitted. She gave quite a frank and unflattering assessment of the NT Police investigation up to that point (which we won't delve into at this point), but said regarding Joanne Lees, "*People expect victims to act in a particular way and when they don't do that they then create a bit of mistrust around them...she (Lees) knew that some of the people investigating the matter didn't believe her.*"

As part of the investigative reset, Detective Gwynne and her team revisited the scene. She had her team drop her off after dark, where she placed herself in Lees' shoes when sat behind the salt bush alone, engulfed in darkness and gained a some small, but real sense of what it might have been like for a terrified and vulnerable Joanne Lees on that night.

The next step of the investigation was to travel to the UK and speak with Lees personally, which she did for about 12 hours. Detective Gwynne gained not only a sense of Ms Lees' lack of faith in NT Police's ability to solve the crime, but also developed a rapport and gained a sense that she (Lees) had an extremely good recollection of events of that night.

After her empathetic and effective reset and after just over half a year of hard Police work and the wonders of DNA evidence and profiling, they identified their man. Murdoch (already known to police) was in custody in South Australia (on other sexual allegations), arrested after a trial he faced for other matters and the evidence was then hair-tied together and taken to trial in Darwin. The trial ended in a clear 'guilty' verdict in **December 2005**, which was spectacularly unsuccessfully appealed against by Murdoch. Lees also later proved to be an excellent witness in Court and perhaps even showed some of the outpouring of emotion she had been unfairly criticised for not displaying in the immediate aftermath of the crime.

Detective Gwynne and her team secured a guilty verdict on the back of strong leadership and hard work from the outset. The investigation really flourished from the point she took the time to stand in another person's shoes.



Bradley Murdoch...any grubbier and he'd be standing for the Federal Liberal Party!

TOO DEADLY!

More than happy to 'pump up the tyres' of a cycle repair business we recently discovered on Bennett Street in Darwin CBD (near corner of Cavenagh Street, opposite the ABC building, where **Happy Yess** used to be) called '**Deadly Treadlies**'.

Don't worry about the '**Mad Max**' look proprietor **Brian** has got going on inside there (*below, right*), if you are looking for insightful, cheap and accommodating service, his service is absolutely 'top drawer'.

One of our Editing staff (well the *only* one, he's also our in-house lawyer and coffee maker!) recently copped two flat tyres within a week and Brian was able to essentially fix them on the spot and even gave sound recommendations to improve and take care of the bicycle.

In a cut-throat world where so many others are just looking out for themselves and making a quick (or a glacially slow) buck, **Brian** and '**Deadly Treadlies**' are a delightful diamond in the rough.



HEY NATHAN JURY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY AVOCADO, BRO?



Um, '**Kiwi**'...what the actual #&%! are you doing there, bro?

LOOKALIKES



NCC D-Grade's entertaining new opening B1 & B2 – Brion (Foley) & Brad (Hatton)!



One of these is a noxious creature extremely harmful to any environment it enters into and remains. The other is a cane toad.

SIX LEGITIMATE DELIVERIES. OVER.