

## **Our year in review: A to Z of 2013**

It has been a huge year in news, not just for Victorians but around the world.

From political scandals and celebrity meltdowns to super storms and tragic bombings, we give you everything you need to know to look at the year in review.

Here's the A to Z of 2013.

### **ADRIAN ERNEST BAYLEY CHARGED**

Long after he was etched into the minds of Victorians as one of our worst killers, Adrian Ernest Bayley's sentence made a solemn mark in history. In June Bayley was condemned to life imprisonment with a non-parole period of 35 years for the rape and murder of Jill Meagher - a crime that sickened Australia in September 2012. It came shortly after revelations Bayley had been on parole when the murder happened and was not on the sex offenders' register despite previous crimes. In September Bayley failed in a bid to appeal against his minimum term.

### **ASHES TEST - THE URN RETURNS**

It started as somewhat of a dismal year for the Aussie cricketers. Copping constant flack for lack of heart, lack of courage and even lack of actual skill, our boys in the baggy green stepped up during the Ashes matches and showed their nation what they're really made of. We were glued to our screens during the Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth matches and the year culminated on a high when the urn returned. The nation celebrated as we won bragging rights over those pesky Poms as the Ashes were put back in their rightful place.

### **BAILLIEU'S TAPES**

A series of secret tapes, obtained exclusively by the *Herald Sun*, blew the lid on secret deals between key Baillieu aides and ousted Liberal staffer Tristan Weston during the Victoria Police command crisis. Secret deals, offers and backroom manoeuvring were exposed in the tapes and soon the heat was too much to handle. Ted Baillieu stepped down as Premier just hours after controversial Territory-driving MP Geoff Shaw sensationally spat the dummy and quit the Liberal Party. But Mr Baillieu remains in parliament as the member for Hawthorn. *Herald Sun* state politics editor James Campbell was awarded a Walkley Award for the report.

### **BROWNLOW MEDAL**

Bets were placed, results were speculated on and slabs were bought as we gathered to watch the reading of the votes for this year's Brownlow Medal. It started with the fashionable frocks on the red carpet and ended with a charming acceptance speech from footy's golden boy Gary Ablett Jr, who took out the AFL's top honours for the second time.

### **BOSTON BOMBINGS**

More than 14 people were injured and three died after brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev planted backpack shrapnel bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. The brothers went on the run but were discovered by police. The eldest brother, Tamerlan was shot in the head during a confrontation with police in which

one officer was shot dead. Dzhokar was later found hiding in a boat in a nearby backyard, bleeding from the neck. He survived and was charged in April.

### **BREAKFAST RADIO RETIREES**

Two top breakfast radio duos hit the snooze button on their long-time airwave partnerships, as Hughesy and Kate on Nova and Matt and Jo on The Fox hung up their headphones for the final time. Melburnians faced the prospect of dead-air with the veteran presenters proving a tough act to follow.

### **CHOPPER'S DEATH**

Notorious Melbourne criminal Mark "Chopper" Read died at 58 after a long battle with liver cancer. The infamous underworld figure, who bragged about killing more than a dozen criminals, summed himself up in his Twitter bio, stating, "23 Years 9 Months Jail. Stabbed. Bashed. Shot. Run Over. 60 serves of shock treatment. Certified 3 times. Author. Artist. Actor." Chopper had spent the past 15 years living "the quiet life" with his wife Margaret, painting and writing in the time leading up to his death.

### **CHRISSY AMPHLETT'S DEATH**

Australian rock singer and lead singer of The Divinyls, Chrissy Amphlett passed away at the age of 53 after losing her battle with breast cancer and multiple sclerosis. Amphlett was remembered as a musical pioneer with friend Molly Meldrum saying "she broke ground for women in Australian music, she was amazing and fearless".

### **DAVID WARNER'S TWITTER RANT**

Before he was the golden boy of cricket after his stellar Ashes offering, David Warner was in hot water for some questionable tweets aimed at News Corp sports journalists, Malcolm Conn and Robert Craddock. Cricket Australia investigated the extraordinary expletive-laden Twitter tirade and Warner was fined \$5750 and forced to apologise.

### **DAYS OF OUR LIVES AXED**

After 45 years on our television screens, Channel Nine made the devastating decision to axe long-running soap opera Days of Our Lives. The beloved soapie staple was cut from Nine's offerings as the network planned a future revamp of its daytime programming.

### **ESSENDON DRUG SAGA**

Were the Bombers flying high in 2013? In fine form on the field, the Essendon Football Club was embroiled in serious doping allegations off the field. It was accused of supplying its players with banned substances and "bringing the game into disrepute". In the saga running throughout the season, coach James Hird, assistant coach Mark Thompson, club doctor Bruce Reid and football manager Danny Corcoran faced charges after an ASADA investigation.

### **ELLEN DEGENERES COMES TO MELBOURNE**

Hysteria hit Melbourne the moment talk show host Ellen DeGeneres announced her trip Down Under. Despite delaying her visit due to illness, more than 5000 diehard fans, including teenagers who wagged school and adults who put work on hold,

queued and even camped overnight to catch a glimpse of their idol at Birrarung Marr. Rolling out the red carpet for the star, Qantas temporarily renamed a plane in her honour, while the Grand Hyatt hosted a VIP black-tie party to celebrate. The 55-year-old also dropped in unannounced at Geelong-raised wife, Portia de Rossi's high school, Melbourne Girls Grammar, to the screams and tears of stunned students.

### **FEDERAL ELECTION**

This year our nation managed to cycle through three Prime Ministers, including one from our very own home state of Victoria. Julia Gillard gave us our first female PM and Kevin 07 made a come-from-behind return as Kevin 13 - but it wasn't enough to stop Tony Abbott and the Coalition storming to a win on September 7. After six years of Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government, the Coalition won 90 seats to Labor's 55, sweeping the ALP from power, with a bit of help from Abbott's sometimes-reluctant daughters. In the election former PM Julia Gillard vacated her Victorian seat of Lalor and controversial mining magnate Clive Palmer gained the seat of Fairfax. After the election Kevin had to zip for the final time and quit parliament.

### **FRANKLIN GOES TO SYDNEY**

It caused quite the stir among the football faithful and broke the hearts of many Hawks fans, when their star player Lance "Buddy" Franklin announced his departure from the club to head north and nest with the Sydney Swans. Buddy's \$10 million deal was caused controversy, with the Swans agreeing to pay the young gun the entire contract, even if he gets injured.

### **GRAND FINAL**

Ghost towns were created across the state as Victorians stopped to watch the biggest footy game of the year. Hawthorn took on Fremantle in an AFL Grand Final that was anyone's game. The Dockers fought hard but the Hawks battled back, desperate for redemption after the previous year's loss to the Swans. The Dockers went down to the tune of 15 points and they were a happy team at Hawthorn once again.

### **GRAND PRIX**

While debate raged over the cost to taxpayers to keep the international Grand Prix race in Melbourne, Finnish contender Kimi Raikkonen took out the top honours. When the show was done and dusted for another year, it was revealed the 2013 Grand Prix cost the Victorian taxpayers an estimated \$50 million. But it's not all bad, the crowds were the biggest seen since 2005 and the losses sustained were \$6 million less than 2012 event. So should we keep it?

### **GAY MARRIAGE**

The ACT became the first government in Australia to approve a gay marriage Act, which would let same-sex couples wed in Australia. However, it was later overturned by the High Court.

Other countries around the world took the step forward, as France, New Zealand, England and Wales passed laws allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry.

### **HAIYAN**

The world watched on in horror as Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Philippines, destroying homes and taking lives as the devastating super storm struck. Residents

and tourists bunkered down in buildings as winds of up to 275km/h and raging flood waters swept a path of destruction through cities. An estimated nine million people were displaced by Typhoon Haiyan, four million thought to be children. There was much debate over the climbing death toll, predicted to be anywhere between 2000-5000 lives lost.

### **INDONESIAN SPYING SCANDAL**

Australia's diplomatic relationship with Indonesia was tested when US intelligence fugitive Edward Snowden leaked information in secret documents that revealed Australian spy agencies had tried to listen in on the phone calls of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, his wife and other senior ministers. Australia agreed to a new six-point plan of communication to appease tensions with our neighbour.

### **IPHONE 5S/5C RELEASE**

Apple released its latest offering of iPhones and for the first time received mixed reviews. Some were disappointed with the last iPhone project in which legendary CEO Steve Jobs was involved before his death the year before. And many Australians were disappointed with the huge price disparity between buying the same model iPhone here (\$739) as in the US (\$US549).

### **JAMES HIRD**

There's barely been a day on the 2013 calendar when James Hird didn't have cameras waiting on his Toorak doorstep. The banned Essendon coach again came under the microscope amid revelations he was still being paid by the club while on a 12-month suspension. After wife Tania spoke out, claiming that AFL boss Andrew Demetriou knew about the arrangement, a deal was made in which Hird was given a lump payment of \$1 million ahead of the 2014 season. The deal avoided potentially damaging court action.

### **JA'MIE RETURNS TO TV**

Controversial comedian Chris Lilley made an epic comeback on our TV screens, reviving bitchy private school girl Ja'mie. The show had mixed reviews - some praising the homegrown funny man's take on a teen girl, while others criticised the show saying it promoted bullying, homophobia and racism. The final episode aired on the ABC was seen by more than one million viewers and was also shown in the UK and the US.

### **'KING' GEORGE IS BORN**

It was the most talked about birth of the year. When news spread that the Duchess of Cambridge had gone into labour, the world waited with bated breath to get the first glimpse of the newest heir to throne and future King of England. When Prince William and Kate emerged with their little bundle, women everywhere praised Kate for appearing as any "real" new mother would - with a post-baby bump.

### **KENYAN MALL SHOOTING**

Sixty-seven people died, including 61 civilians and six members of security forces when Somali al-Qaida-linked al-Shebab rebels stormed a popular shopping mall in Nairobi, throwing grenades and showering innocent shoppers with bullets. Almost 200 people were wounded during the four-day-long ordeal before security forces

eventually took back control. Five of the attackers were killed in shootouts with police and 11 were taken into custody.

### **LOGIES**

This year's Logie Awards was a high fashion affair as our TV stars donned their Sunday best to pose on the red carpet. Golden girl and *Offspring* star Asher Keddie took out the gold Logie after her third consecutive nomination. Deborah Mailman from *Mabo*, Steve Peacocke from *Home and Away*, Hamish Blake from *Hamish and Andy's Gap Year* and Anthony Hayes from *Devil's Dust* all took out silver gongs. Nine Network created controversy when *The Voice* judge Joel Madden took out the award for "Best New Talent", with many claiming as he wasn't an Australian, so shouldn't be allowed the Aussie television award.

### **LONDON MACHETE ATTACK**

An off-duty British soldier was hacked to death in the streets of London as he walked just a few blocks from his barracks. Lee Rigby was set upon by two men who attacked the soldier with meat cleavers in the streets of Woolwich. Photos of the attackers with blood-covered hands were distributed around the world. It isn't known if the two men had terrorist group affiliations.

### **MELBOURNE BASEBALL STAR SHOT DEAD**

Talented young baseball star Christopher Lane was callously gunned down by teenagers as he jogged along the streets of Oklahoma. Melbourne-born Lane was left to die on the side of the road in what was described by his grieving parents as a "senseless attack". Lane was remembered in Melbourne by his family, friends and former baseball teammates in a memorial service at Essendon Baseball club. Lane's American girlfriend, Sarah Harper, also attended.

### **MANDELA'S DEATH**

The world stopped to mourn when Nelson Mandela died at the age of 95. Mandela was the first black person to be elected as president in South Africa after he spent 27 years in prison. The anti-apartheid fighter was revered for uniting the people of South Africa. His funeral, attended by world leaders, was overshadowed by controversy when the sign language interpreter was accused of being a fraud and making up hand signals.

### **MARGARET THATCHER'S DEATH**

Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher died of a stroke in April this year aged 87. The "Iron Lady" was known for her controversial economic reforms, including the deregulation of the UK's financial system. At the news of her death, some mourned the country's only female and longest-standing prime minister, while others rejoiced in the streets, sipping champagne and singing "Ding dong, the witch is dead".

### **NFL DRAFT**

Gridiron football fans eagerly awaited the NFL draft to see if Melburnian Brad Wing and Jesse Williams from Brisbane would make the jump from college football to the big league. After nervously waiting for five rounds it was announced Wing would be recruited to the Philadelphia Eagles, while Williams would be playing for the Seattle Seahawks. Go Aussies!

## **NORTH KOREA**

How do you sum all that happened in North Korea this year? The nation's newest dictator, Kim Jong Un, tried to show off his newly gained power and exert his dominance with repeated nuclear threats towards the US and constant military propaganda. His former girlfriend was executed by firing squad for breaching the country's pornography laws and Kim Jong later ordered his uncle to be executed for trying to take over.

## **OSCAR PISTORIUS**

South African Paralympian Oscar Pistorius landed himself in front of a judge after the death of his model girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. Pistorius was accused of shooting Reeva four times in the bathroom of their home on Valentine's Day this year. He pleaded not guilty, claiming he thought Reeva was an intruder. The Blade Runner athlete has been ordered to stand trial in March.

## **PINK LOVES MELBOURNE**

Melbourne became pop singer Pink's biggest market in the world per capita when she sold out 18 shows at Rod Laver Arena on her "Truth About Love" tour this year, breaking the venue record. Pink said the achievement was "the most amazing moment of my life, apart from (daughter) Willow's birth". Other acts who graced Melbourne stages this year were Beyonce, Rihanna, Taylor Swift, One Direction, Justin Bieber and Bon Jovi.

## **PROTESTERS CLASH WITH POLICE**

Victoria Police had their work cut out for them in 2013 when the force clashed with angry protesters. Students hurled shoes and abuse at officers as they rallied against proposed higher education funding cuts from the Abbott Government. The students created traffic chaos as they marched through the CBD and set an effigy of Tony Abbott alight in the streets. Demonstrators again clashed with police as they protested against the planned East West Link tunnel.

## **POPE RESIGNED**

In an unprecedented move in the modern history of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI resigned from his position, stating his age was preventing him from carrying out his duties. The 85-year-old was the first pontiff to abandon his post in almost 600 years. Australian George Pell was an outside chance to take over the position, however Pope Benedict was succeeded by Pope Francis from Argentina.

## **QANTAS JOB CUTS**

The flying kangaroo came in for a very bumpy landing earlier this month as chief Alan Joyce announced 1000 job cuts, pay freezes and further slashes, totalling \$2 billion. Pilots, flight attendants, maintenance workers and back-office staff were among those put on the block in one of the deepest cuts in the airline's history. Mr Joyce's \$3.3 million pay packet also took a cut of about 38 per cent. As aviation, much like the auto manufacturing industry, struggled against market factors, government and private assistance to Virgin Australia was partly blamed for the cuts.

## **RACES - MELBOURNE'S SPRING RACING CARNIVAL**

The Spring Racing Carnival was all about the fashion and the fillies as Victorian punters laid down record bets at this year's Spring racing carnival. The Melbourne

Cup was a hot topic during the carnival, with race favourite Fiorente, ridden by veteran jockey Damien Oliver, crossing the line quickest on the day, delivering Gai Waterhouse her first win.

### **STEPHEN MILNE CASE**

Former St Kilda footballer Stephen Milne was ordered to stand trial on three counts of rape after he was accused of raping a then 19-year-old university student at a home shared by teammates Leigh Montagna and Justin Koschitzke after a St Kilda supporter's family day in March 2004. The case was reopened after a fresh investigation into the matter. Milne pleaded not guilty to all charges and the case will be heard in August 2014.

### **SOCCCEROOS**

The Soccceroos scored a new coach this year in the form of Melbourne Victory man Ange Postecoglou, after previous coach Holger Osieck was unceremoniously sacked for a run of poor performances from the Soccceroos. It was revealed in early December the boys will open their World Cup bid against Chile, followed by the Netherlands and Spain, with some calling the group "the draw from hell" for our team.

### **SYRIAN CIVIL WAR**

The civil war in Syria, which has been running for more than 33 months, has shown no signs of ending. The low point this year was the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Governmemnt in the suburbs of Damascus in August. Then in a surprise concession, President Bashar al-Assad let international inspectors destroy the country's chemical weapons. There are growing fears that the conflict will spread to neighbouring countries such as Lebanon as they struggle to cope with the huge flood of refugees fleeing the conflict.

### **TENNIS - AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

A staple on every Melburnian's calendar, all eyes were on the Australian Open Grand Slam tournament as Victoria Azarenka and Novak Djokovic took out the women's and men's titles. And now Melbourne is gearing up for yet another stella tournament in 2014 with the line-up said to be the strongest in the event's history, with every top player committed to take the court at the Tennis Centre on Swan St.

### **US SHOOTINGS**

The world watched on in horror as a gunman opened fire at a primary school in the US. Adam Lanza, 20, entered Sandy Hook Elementary School where he massacred 20 first-grade students and six staffers, including his own mother who was teacher at the school. Debate over tougher gun control raged on in the States when yet another gunman opened fire at a US navy base in Washington, leaving 13 people dead, including the shooter. The US suffered through multiple other shootings throughout the year, including a boy who opened fire at a middle school in Nevada killing a maths teacher and two other students, a shooting rampage in Alabama that left 10 people dead, and a gunman who opened fire at a shopping mall in New Jersey.

### **US GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

For the first time in nearly two decades the United States came to a grinding halt when Congress was shut down for two weeks after Republicans and Democrats

failed to reach an agreement over how to fund the country. About 800,000 workers were forced into a temporary leave of absence (without pay) and the world waited while the politicians debated how best to fund the country.

### **VICTORIA'S BIKIE WAR**

Tensions simmered across Victoria as the bikie war between the Comancheros and the Hells Angels heated up. Police fears continued to grow over the escalating bikie wars when a bomb was discovered at a Hallam gym and the Hells Angels fired shots at a rival clubhouse. The war became tit-for-tat when shots were fired into a Hells Angels clubhouse in Seaford and all attention was turned to our state's newest crime threat. Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Ken Lay described the simmering bikie tension as "a beast with many, many heads" but one the force would tackle with determination.

### **VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION SHOW**

Gap-toothed Australian model Jessica Hart was the only Australian to grace the catwalk of the famous Victoria's Secret Fashion show, dressed in the latest lingerie. The iconic parade was broadcast to more than 180 countries and included Victoria's Secret staple stars Candice Swanepoel, Adriana Lima and Alessandra Ambrosia, with performances by Taylor Swift and Fall Out Boy. Hart debuted at the event in 2012, when Australian model Miranda Kerr turned her back on the catwalk to focus on her family.

### **WEATHER**

Always a hot topic, Melbourne's weather is as unpredictable as the lottery. Cold one minute, scorching the next, locals often joke that you need to be prepared for all four seasons in a day. Slipping on a singlet, slopping on some sunscreen and slapping on a hat is just for the brave. Only if your bag is packed with a jumper, scarf, gloves and umbrella are you truly ready to face the outdoors. Our bad meteorological reputation isn't doing us any favours, with rival Sydney laughing at us, sports players complaining about us and even musicians singing about it.

### **X FACTOR AND OTHER REALITY TV SHOWS TAKE OVER**

Whether you want a night of laughter, tears, sweat or jealousy, reality TV has got you covered. From singing competitions such as *The X Factor* and *The Voice*, to cooking shows such as *MasterChef* and *My Kitchen Rules*, from life-changing transformations on *The Biggest Loser* to home renovations on *The Block*, and from finding love on *The Bachelor* to, well ... *Big Brother*, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Proving to be a big force on the ratings charts and dominating prime time TV, reality shows won't be disappearing from our screens any time soon.

### **YUMMY MUMMY NIGELLA LAWSON MAKES HEADLINES**

Original yummy mummy Nigella Lawson appeared to have a life that was the envy of women everywhere with her "Domestic Goddess" title. But that soon changed when pictures emerged of the TV chef being grabbed by the throat by her then husband Charles Saatchi in a London restaurant. The pictures went viral among the media. Lawson ended the relationship and the pair later ended up giving evidence in court over accusations their former assistants embezzled money. Lawson's terrible year was capped off with rumours she had a covert cocaine habit.



## **ZOO TRAGEDY**

Keepers and visitors at Melbourne Zoo were stunned by the tragic death of baby elephant Sanook. The calf died in early December after becoming tangled in his favourite tyre toy, unable to breathe. The herd reportedly mourned for days. In a hopeful twist just days after the tragedy another member of the herd gave birth to the zoo's second elephant calf, which was born happy and healthy.

- with *Jamie First and Alex White*