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THIS WEEK IN THE TERRITORY



SUNDAY, JULY 9

CHEERS!

Darwin Lions Beer Can Regatta (above), Mindil Beach, 10am until 5pm, free

TWO-WHEEL TREAT

Australian Superbikes Championship, Hidden Valley Raceway, from 8.30am, from \$15

ART BEAT

Tactile Arts Dragonfly Craft Fair, Bicentennial Park, The Esplanade, 9am until 3pm, free

DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES

Sista Set, featuring musicians and music from MusicNT's Saltwater Divas program, Happy Yess, 4pm, \$10

MONDAY, JULY 10

ONLY FRIENDS

Mistaken For Strangers, rock documentary, Darwin Entertainment Centre, 7pm, \$14

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Transitions Film Festival shows *Power to Change: The Energy Rebellion*, Deckchair Cinema, 6pm, \$16, and *Riverblue*, Goyder Square, Palmerston, 7pm, free

TUESDAY, JULY 11

LIFE'S A DRAG

Drag Queen Stole My Dress, comedy, Hotel Darwin, 7.45pm, \$19, repeats Saturday, 7.30pm

REBELLION IS IN THE AIR

Fascismo, musical commentary on Australian politics, Happy Yess, 8.45pm, \$15, repeats tomorrow, 8.45pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12



WHO ARE WE?

Terror Australis (above), a tour into the Australian psyche with Leah Shelton, Accomplice Arts Space, Coconut Grove, 7pm, \$35, repeats until Saturday

DANCING IN THE DARK

No Lights, No Lycra, dance jam in the dark, Happy Yess, 6pm until 7pm, \$7

LIZARD LOVE

The Ecology of Slater's Skink Tal with Dr Claire Treilibs, Higher Ed lecture Theatre, CDU Alice Springs Campus, Grevillea Drive, 7pm, free

THURSDAY, JULY 13

A STAND-UP MAN

Comedian Cameron McLaren: Live in Darwin, Hotel Darwin, 7.45pm, and Saturday, 9pm, \$25

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

McMinns Lagoon Bush Restoration Day, Dreamtime Drive, McMinns Lagoon, 8.30am until 3.30pm, free

AT THE COLE FACE

Singer Nancy Cole, Brown's Mart Courtyard, 5.30pm until 7.30pm, free

A TASTY TREAT

Eat My Words: Taste and Tales of Tropical Cooks, five-course meal under the stars with GULP, The Mulch Pit, Rapid Creek, 6pm until 8pm, \$40

TURN A PAGE

Book Club Trivia, Darwin Trailer Boat Club, 6.30pm until 8.30pm, \$20

A PRINCELY PORTRAIT

The Recurring Misadventure of Prince Pout III, cabaret and comedy, Rorkes, 7.30pm, \$15

FRIDAY, JULY 14

BLISS OUT

Bliss N Eso: Off the Grid Album Tour, Discovery Darwin, 7.30pm, \$59.90

BLOODY GREAT

Dracula, Darwin Entertainment Centre, 8pm, \$45

WAR OF THE WORDS

Word War Wu, wordplay in a game show format with Darwin comedian Ange Wu, Happy Yess, 7pm until 8pm, \$15

A LITTLE BIT FRENCH

Bastille Day with the Alliance Francaise of Darwin, music and more, Cafe de la Plage, Darwin Surf Life Saving Club, Casuarina, 6pm, free

SATURDAY, JULY 15



STONE THE CROWS

Melbourne v Adelaide Crows, AFL Round 17, TIO Stadium, 7.10pm, from \$25 adults, \$5 children

RACE INTO THE DAY

Darwin Cup Chief Minister's Cup & Family Day, Darwin Turf Club, from 10am, \$20

A MIGHTY SEND OFF

Mega Annual Viking Funeral, including burning of the boat, Dinah Beach Cruising Yacht Association, from 7pm, free

A WINNING FORMULA

The Darwinning Game Show, an homage to family entertainment from yesteryear, Happy Yess, 7pm until 8pm, \$15

FESTIVAL FEELING

Health and Wellbeing Festival, Darwin Waterfront, 10am until 3pm, free

DANCIN' THE BLUES

Youth Blue Light Disco, for ages 11-17, OLSH Marian Centre, Alice Springs, doors at 6pm, free

ANGELA MOLLARD OPINION



They're the coolest kids on the planet with an alluring combination of beauty, wealth and influence.

Kylie Jenner, Bella Hadid, Dakota Johnson, Bambi Northwood-Blythe, Sofia Richie and our own Jordan Barrett may not be names you've heard of if you're over 40, but to the Snapchat generation they are icons of their era. Who they hang out with, what they wear, what they like and what they do is of such importance to their young fans that icons of old such as Marlon Brando, Marilyn Monroe or even The Beatles look positively amateur.

Which is why it's alarming these stars with the world at their fingertips have taken up smoking and posting images of cigarettes hanging from their lips and smoke curling around their face. To anyone who's lost a loved one to lung cancer it's laughably contrived artifice — the brainless actions of those with too much money and too little sense.

But to millions of impressionable and malleable teens the message being absorbed is that smoking is glamorous, sexy and as innocuous as other Instagram trends like pouting or posing in a bikini.

SMOKE SCREEN When so-called 'influencers' are seen puffing on a cigarette on Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook and more, we need to call it out for what it is — vile

No one expects 20-year-olds to be wearing cardigans and sipping on a cuppa. But when you've been afforded a following simply because of your impressive cheekbones or agenda-setting eyebrows then you can show a modicum of responsibility and not undo three decades of excellent anti-smoking awareness and education.

I wish I'd been in the bathroom at the Met Gala in May — even as a cleaner. As the likes of Rita Ora, Bella Hadid, Dakota Johnson and Frances Bean Cobain filed in and proceeded to light up then Instaboast their oh-so-cool rebellion, I'd have pulled out some Kodak prints of my grandmother.

"Here kids, check out my Grandma Peg aged 50 puffing away at every family occasion."

"Oh, and here she is at 60 — yes that tube in her nose and oxygen tank behind her are helping her breathe."

"Look, here's another one of her at 65. She can barely inhale and her skin is grey and she's in constant pain and she can't go on that cruise with all her friends, but instead has to sit all day in her green recliner. Oh, that's my grandad beside her — he loves her but his life has been ruined too."

They wouldn't have listened. But these kids need to be shamed for their stupidity and flagrant disregard for the messages schools and governments have been investing in for years.

My teenage daughters have learned from the earliest years of primary school that smoking kills. The Healthy Harold van would rock up each year to reinforce the message and TV advertising drove the reality home. If they ever choose to buy a packet of cigarettes, they'll not only pay a fortune but be faced with harrowing images thanks to our nation having adopted some of the toughest packaging laws in the world.

In short, our generation has done the work and now a bunch of overindulged and arrogant upstarts is carelessly undoing it. These "influencers" — with millions of followers between them — will do anything they can not to follow the mainstream yet, ironically, they're effectively doing Big Tobacco's marketing job for them. I'm all for freedom of speech and freedom of image, but when these totems of social influence blithely post pictures of themselves smoking as if it were as harmless as acai bowls and green smoothies, we need to call them out. Sponsors, who pay huge sums to have these influencers endorse their products, need to insist on no smoking images in their contracts. Likewise advertisers and magazines need to spearhead a new aesthetic where smoking is not sexy but sad.

When Bella Hadid takes a drag of a cigarette then stares sultrily into the camera in the new Chrome Hearts clothing campaign, the artistic

director needs to be brave enough to call "cut". Fashion is full of recycled trends, but to reignite smoking as a sellable prop is lazy, unimaginative and ignorant.

Carrie Goldberg from *Harper's Bazaar* argues there's an "inherent sex appeal in seeing someone smoking in a photograph" and that it's a mistake to ban the use of such images. "That slim curl of smoke carries your eye up or along the frame of a photo — a subtle yet stunning component of any photo's composition." What nonsense. We need to screenshot such images and repost them with our own captions: "Young woman attempts to get cancer" or "She may look good in that coat, not so much on a nebuliser."

With figures in Australia showing the number of adolescents who smoke has reduced by 70 per cent in 20 years we cannot afford to have such progress compromised. Since 1999 teenagers have overwhelmingly rejected experimenting with and subsequently taking up smoking. But fashion is fickle. If those who steer popular culture collectively decide to adopt a behaviour — and thus normalise it — we'll be facing something far more sinister than stirrup pants. If only my Gran could Snapchat from her grave.

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