



It's certainly game on from now on

I'M NOT sure what came over me, but my behaviour was definitely out of character.

When I'm asked now why I did it, I'm still stuck for a sufficient answer.

All I know is one minute I was leeching all the information I could from the uber helpful store manager and the next I was forking out \$600 for something I swore would never become part of my existence.

This was the week before Christmas. I didn't even wait for the Boxing Day sales but I did first frantically message my better half, telling him to immediately scrap all unnecessary festive expenditure and to prepare for an incoming – and costly – gift for both of us.

Then I made the leap and jumped into the abyss for the first time in my adult life.

I bought a video game console. A Nintendo Switch to be specific.

Now, I haven't owned a console since I had the Sega Master System in 1991 and it was already dated by then. We had four games, none of which I progressed through very far.

My dad mastered the golf and once that happened the console never saw the light of day again.

Fast forward a decade and I was living in a backpacker share-house in Vancouver, Canada, when one

EVE FISHER

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of the housemates uncovered an old Sega with an ice hockey game.

To say it was put to good use would be an understatement. We were obsessed and all as good as each other. We even capped off the year with a championship.

And that is my only foray into gaming. Until two weeks ago.

Now I've been shown what I've missed out on these past 20 years.

Here I was thinking I could flap about and change the actual world when in reality the best I can do is change an open world RPG.

And that's not so bad.

No one told me how glorious the graphics are, or that playing a game like Zelda is like directing an animated choose-you-own-adventure.

No one told me a game like Dying Light would have such a sense of realism that even when

watching someone else play, I feel part of the action. And apparently I haven't even seen true realism yet in the gaming world.

No one told me that I would be best at playing Mario Kart on the fastest setting because I'm a crazy driver in real life. That's not to say I'm good at the game, I just find driving like a psycho comes naturally, even on a screen.

The gaming world is huge and somewhat overwhelming.

I've been learning about the history of the consoles and how they fed into one another.

It's intricate stuff and if you're as ignorant as me in this realm it's almost impossible to get a handle on it all. It's definitely a yawning chasm if you've never been exposed to any of it.

The hype around new releases is something to behold and it

would seem consoles become collectors' items, feverishly held on to for nostalgic purposes or potential earnings on the vintage market.

Who would have thought? Maybe that old Sega of mine would have been worth something.

Or was it a VHS-Betamax moment in time?

There is just so much variety and everyone swears their system is the best.

Apparently the Switch is a winner because of its versatility but has a limited game range.

Finally, let's not forget the music. I had no idea (a common theme here) some games have scores just like movies and just as beautifully composed.

The one's I've listened to are mostly classical and glorious, showing you don't need to play the game to enjoy its creativity.

Turns out I had no idea about gaming in the slightest and I rue that I took such a judgmental view of how people spent their time and money. Particularly when I was completely ignorant of the entire industry.

But now I have been given a glimpse of the gaming world, escapism never looked so well-rendered and realistic.

Excuse me, best be off ... Hyrule is calling.

LETTERS & TEXTS

ALL THIS CARRY ON ABOUT FAST RAIL IS A FURPHY

I AM surprised that Senator Sarah Henderson would even mention the commitment made by Scott Morrison in 2019 for the Geelong Fast Rail Project (G/A 5/01).

As she has stated, the planning stage is now under way. So, it has only taken 2½ years to get to that stage. I wonder if she would like to hazard a guess at a completion date.

With Morrison's propensity to make promises and then never carry them out, and with an election soon, I would not be surprised to see this commitment trotted out again as a fresh promise in coming months.

Ms Henderson's track record with rail is not good. In 2017 she was trying to frighten off Labor voters with a press release saying we would end up with "sky rail" as part of the duplication of the track to Waurin Ponds.

All this "carry on" about fast rail is a furphy anyway. I believe most commuters would be happy with a reliable service, with no stops between Lara and Southern Cross. It's the usual congestion on the track and need to stop at

intermediate stations that increases what could be a 45-minute service to about one hour.
Mike Trickett, Geelong West

THERE'S NO SUCH THING A FREE RAT, IT'S OUT MONEY
ROSS Mueller (GA 6/1) has nailed a few points regarding RATs. Ross brilliantly refers to PCR costs saying "we have been paying for them with our taxes", so there is no such thing as a free RAT as if we are given them at a zero price we are still paying for them.

Governments mistakenly treat spending as if it is their money, it is not, it is ours.

Kerry Packer nailed it when asked about his company's tax – minimisation schemes he stated: "Of course I am minimising my tax. And if anybody in this country doesn't minimise their tax, they want their heads read, because as a government, I can tell you you're not spending it that well that we should be donating extra!"

Scotty it is our money not yours. Mueller's prediction of a backflip has already partially occurred.

Ross what are the Tattslooto numbers please?

The issue is where is the health advice and research that advises we pay for a RAT test?

Where is the provision of a RAT at zero cost compared to the costs of greater infection spread, deaths, hospitals closing and refusing treatment (already effectively happening), shortages of products due to Covid, employees off work, health workers off work and it currently being almost impossible to get a drive-through test, delayed test results and fear spreading in our society.

Treasurer Frydenberg should get his calculator out and do the fiscal cost benefit analysis. Oops, I forget we don't now follow any independent health advice or see any health advice, nor true budget figures or costs from our state Labor government. Must be that epidemic spreading to the federal government.
Ross Kroger, Barwon Heads

NOVAK CAME TO PLAY, REFUGEES CAME FOR HELP
DESPITE his family's claims, Novak Djokovic was not being held as a prisoner. He could have left the Park Hotel Immigration Detention Centre any time, to

safely return home. This is in stark contrast to the other people held at the same facility.

Refugees, by definition, cannot return to their homelands without risking their lives due to persecution based on their ethnicity, religion, social group or political opinion.

Djokovic was being temporarily held while his visa requirements were sorted out.

The refugees are indefinitely detained like political prisoners, now in their ninth year of detention.

He came to play tennis. They came to ask for safety.
Linda Cusworth, Armstrong Creek

SCOMO-CRON CAN ONLY BE ELIMINATED BY ELECTION
LOOK out Omicron, here come's ScoMo-cron!

Definition of ScoMo-cron: A blight on society that defies the rules of commonsense and creates chaos and anxiety wherever it goes.

This disease can only be eliminated by an election. If ever your vote counted ... it's now!

David Hunt, Barongarook

Geelong Advertiser

GRINDING TO A HALT

The widespread shortage of rapid antigen tests (RATs) continues to be a major issue for Australians as they try to do the right thing.

The nation is now bogged down with staff and supply chain strains as Covid numbers soar. We need RATs to keep the economy ticking over. We need tests for people's peace of mind.

In the coming weeks, more than six million concession cardholders will be able to access 10 free tests over a three-month period.

But the federal government has put the onus on sourcing the RATs back on the pharmacies. That seems like passing the buck once more and terribly unfair on the pharmacies.

There won't be enough stock for weeks yet. So we wait and wonder.

There were huge queues again outside pharmacies on Tuesday as people searched high and low for RATs.

Facebook groups have been set up in many of the nation's cities to help users locate and source RATs in their local areas.

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese lashed out at the government for failing to secure supply of RATs when the drug regulator gave the green light in September. Mr Albanese said the situation had become "diabolical".

It appears both state and federal governments have been caught out by a failure to plan. Meanwhile, the economy is paying the price and the community is stuck going nowhere fast.

ON THIS DAY

1836 The survey ship HMS Beagle carries naturalist Charles Darwin's into Sydney Harbour.

1879 The Zulu War begins as the British seek to impose control over Zululand in eastern South Africa. Despite early setbacks, British forces defeat the Zulu army after six months.

1953 For the first time in NSW a woman sits with three men on a jury in the Supreme Court. The NSW Jury Act prevents the publication of the identity of the Juror and the woman will be known as "Miss X".

1962 Australia accepts Indonesian sovereignty over West New Guinea with Prime Minister Robert Menzies saying Australia would respect any Dutch/Indonesia agreement made without duress.

1965 The bodies of two missing girls, Christine Sharrock and Marianne Schmidt, both 15, are found at Sydney's Wanda beach. The crime remains unsolved.

1970 Cheryl Grimmer, three, disappears from Fairy Meadow beach, NSW. Her parents receive a ransom note but the kidnapper fails to show and the case remains unsolved.

1976 Crime novelist Agatha Christie (pictured) dies in Devon, aged 85.



WRITE TO US

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