

Message of hope for Allan Border

Madeline Crittenden

News of Allan Border's battle with Parkinson's disease has sent shockwaves through the sporting world, with fans offering their messages of support to the 68-year-old.

Border, among the greatest captains to lead the Australian men's cricket team, announced his battle with the disease yesterday, after quietly battling the illness for the past seven years. Parkinson's is the disease affecting Michael J Fox.

Stories about the former cricketer, as well as kind messages of support and sympathy flooded social media following the announcement, with many commenting on Border's genuine nature and love of the game.

"He's the nicest and most genuine person you could ever hope to meet," cricket fan Francis Payne wrote on Twitter.

"Had the pleasure of working with him many times and was lucky enough to catch up for a long chat at the SCG last summer."

James Wishart said Border was his "childhood hero" and commented on his shock at finding out about his health struggles.

"Very sad news. Still remember the first time I met AB at the WACA as a young fan," he posted online.

Dan Redford said he knew Border would put up a good fight against the disease.

"Gut wrenching to read that former Aussie skipper Allan Border has been suffering from Parkinson's disease for the past seven years," he wrote online.

"As the ultimate Aussie battler, hoping, like everyone else, that he gives this horrid little disease a real fight."

Speaking at a press conference from the UK, Australian cricketer Mitchell Starc said Border, better known as AB, had the full support of the team and cricketing community.

"He's one of the greats of Australian cricket, and certainly a big character in the world of cricket," he said.

"Wishes go to AB and his family as well."

Education hope for kids

Students who have poor academic results in primary school can catch up by high school, new research has shown.

The study examined patterns of growth in literacy and numeracy in more than 60,000 Victorian students using NAPLAN results for the same cohort in years 3 and 9.

It found students starting with below average results made more progress from

year 3 to year 9 compared with those starting above average.

The "compensatory growth" pattern was seen in both reading and numeracy, but was particularly strong in reading.

Lead researcher Sally Larsen, from the University of New England, said the research contradicted the belief that achievement gaps widen as children develop.

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Controversial Battery Point proposal back on council agenda



Fight against 'elites' over river walkway

The design of the Brisbane river walk, above, would be a hit, a city councillor says.

Sue Bailey

A Hobart city councillor wants the controversial Battery Point walkway revisited and says council should not be afraid of taking on some of "Hobart's elite" to get the project going.

Ryan Posselt, who has recently been in Brisbane and used the New Farm river walk - which he said was built in front of some of the "most expensive real estate in the city" - said the council needed to show courage and reinvestigate the walkway from Castray Esplanade to Marieville Esplanade.

"I have absolute faith that the majority of Hobart would benefit from a Battery Point walkway and want one and I think that the majority should always be at the forefront of what we do on coun-



Ryan Posselt says it is time to reopen debate on a Battery Point walkway.

cil," he said. "I think previous councils haven't wanted to truly take on some of Hobart's elite. Often the most well organised, most well-resourced groups live in the most affluent suburbs.

"I'm sure there are many Battery Point and Clarke Ave residents that are supportive of a beautiful waterfront

walkway." A report on the walkway, requested by councillor Mike Dutta in March last year, is due to go before council on July 17.

The project has been discussed for decades without reaching fruition.

The Brisbane City Council, Mr Posselt said, had worked with the Queensland and federal governments and local residents to "build a significant length of public walkway in front of privately owned land".

He said the Brisbane walkway was used by tourists and locals as both a transport link and for recreation.

"It has a great design, with cyclists separated from pedestrians and covered rest stops along the way that allow users to have a break, a drink and take in their surroundings," he said.

"I understand that private property owners love the walkway after initial reservations and some have private access from their waterfront property directly to the walkway."

He said a Battery Point walkway would have health benefits, be a key transport link, reduce traffic congestion and help 15,000 residents of Sandy Bay and Taroona to ride or scoot to work.

"Waterfront walks can build a healthy community, encourage tourism, improve traffic and strengthen the economy," he said.

Mr Dutta said as well as relieving traffic congestion, there would be economic and health benefits from the walkway.

"A foreshore walkway can serve as a means to showcase

and educate visitors about the local heritage, landmarks, or significant sites along the coast," he said.

"It can promote cultural appreciation, tourism and a sense of community pride.

"The presence of a walkway may attract more visitors to the area, increasing spending and creating employment opportunities."

Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said she had been a supporter of the project for years but any redesign needed to overcome the Planning Tribunal rejection of it in 2015.

"My suggestion is that we run a design competition for a new design," Ms Reynolds said.

"We'll need innovative ideas to find a great design solution that's also robust and affordable."

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Fan's Swift shock on tickets

An Australian woman has revealed she accidentally spent \$10,000 on Taylor Swift tickets.

Swift's Australian leg of her Eras Tour begins on February 16 when she will perform her almost three-hour set at the MCG.

When ticket sales opened, millions of fans battled for one of the 630,000 tickets, setting a new national record for online demand.

On Monday, Georgia Rose logged on for the American Express VIP package pre-sale, which ranged in price from \$349.90 to \$1249.90.

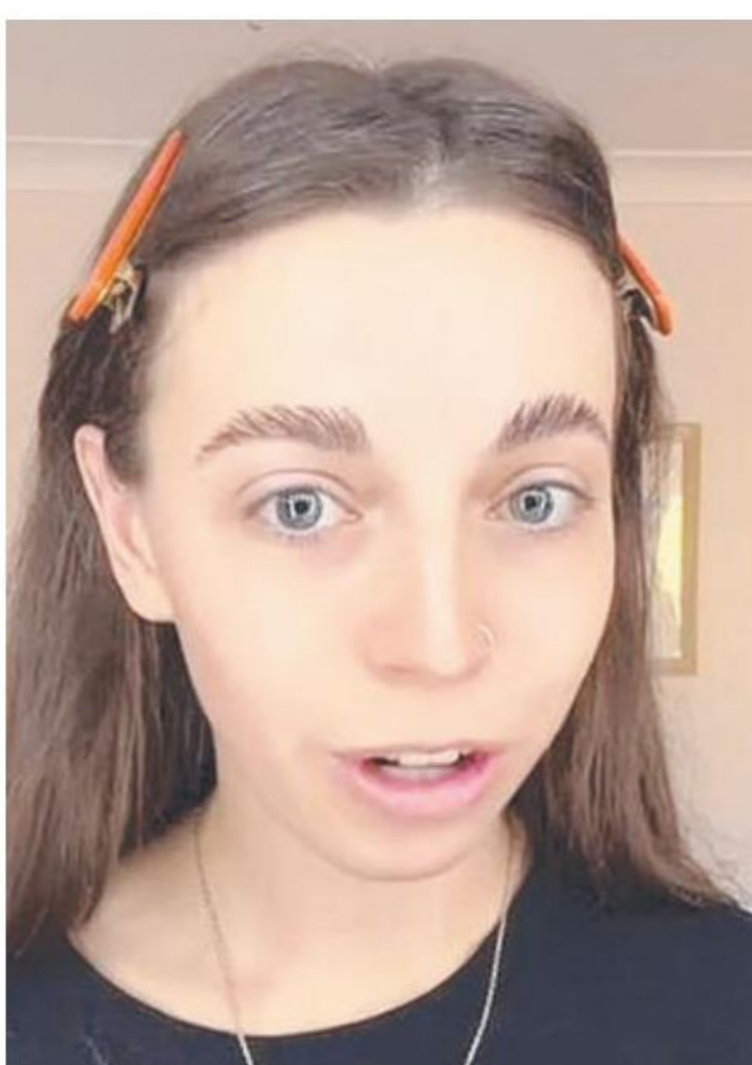
The dedicated Swiftie was hoping to get her and her sister the most expensive package. But she made one crucial error which saw her dad's credit card charged \$10,000.

"I am a moron," she said in a TikTok video.

She said her desperation for tickets combined with the chaos of the morning meant she didn't realise how many tickets she had in her basket.

"As the wheel is spinning to process the order I look in the background and it says \$10,000," she said. "I froze, my heart literally stopped."

She had accidentally bought eight VIP packages, which she has since been able to sell to friends and family.



Georgia Rose