



The Sun-Herald

Power women

Katherine Heigl heads the pack of
TV's leading ladies in 2015

TV Liftout

SMASHING SUMMER

567 runs. Series average: 189
Captaincy suits Steve Smith

SPORT

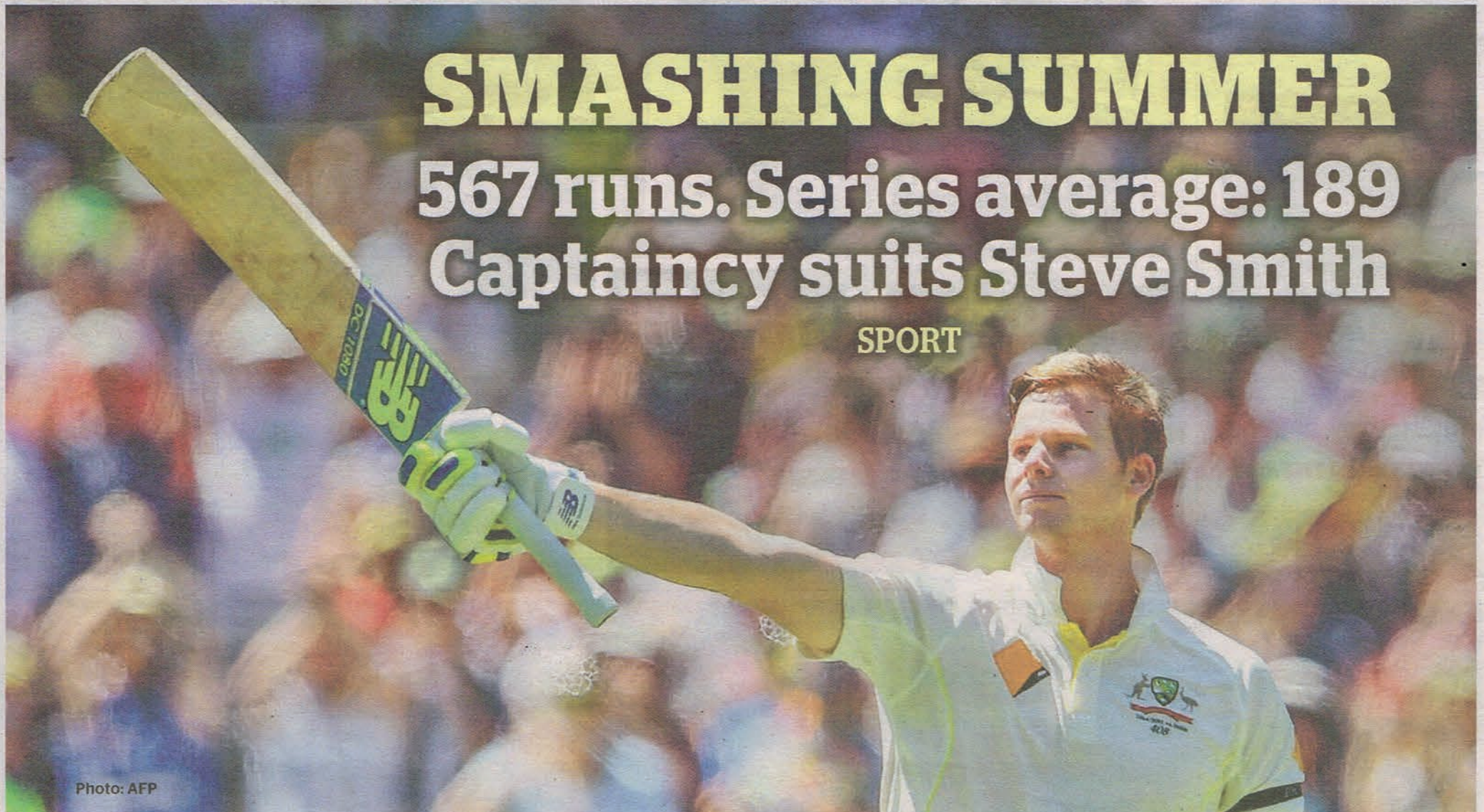


Photo: AFP

'DON'T RELAX LOCKOUT'

Family of one-punch victim Daniel Christie says 3am
lockout for New Year's Eve sends wrong message

» EXCLUSIVE TIM BARLASS

The family of teenager Daniel Christie, who died after a one-punch hit in Kings Cross last New Year's Eve, have condemned the relaxation of this year's lockout laws.

But the family have declared they "don't hate" the man accused of the attack, Shaun McNeil.

The 18-year-old died after 11 days on life support at St Vincent's Hospital. His death was partly responsible for introduction of the new lockout laws.

Since the laws came into place, there has been a 40 per cent drop in alcohol-related assaults at licensed premises in Kings Cross.

The laws introduced 1.30am lockouts and a 3am cease in service of alcohol across the Sydney CBD but the lockout is relaxed to 3am on New Year's Eve on Wednesday.

On Saturday a central coast man was left in a serious condition after a one-punch hit in a car park next to a pub in Erina.

Daniel's father Michael Christie said the relaxation was sending the wrong message.

"I am disappointed that in spite of all these good things that have happened, the government is now saying, 'because it's improved, relax it,'" he said.

"Because we aren't all getting killed on the roads are we going to up the speed limit? It just doesn't make commonsense."

Told of Mr Christie's concerns, Deputy Premier Troy Grant said the decision to lift the 1.30am lockout for the night had received support from the police and the City of Sydney.

"This measure ensures people celebrating on

the harbour foreshore and on vessels have adequate time to make their way into a licensed venue at a time where there will be large crowds and traffic and transport congestion."

Counter-terrorism units will be based at the police operations centre on New Year's Eve in support of a "record" police presence following heightened security fears.

Assistant Police Commissioner Michael Fuller said it was common for counter-terrorism officers to be involved in New Year's Eve celebrations but they were not always based at police headquarters.

Mr McNeil pleaded not guilty to murdering Daniel Christie, with the case to return to court in February.

► Full report — News, Page 3



**NO running!
NO dunking!
NO bombing!**

**Summer at
the pool**

NEWS, PAGE 16-17

Best Finds

From page 7

17-19 BEST FESTIVALS Montreal Jazz Festival, Canada

Imagine a festival without mosh pits and queues. A place where music-loving adults can catch great live shows in comfort. The city of Montreal did just that, and came up with the Montreal Jazz Festival, a concept so successful, it's still going strong after almost four decades.

For 10 days every summer, Montrealers enjoy an unrivalled series of acts from across the musical roster – Bebel Gilberto to Diana Ross, St Vincent to the Melbourne Ska Orchestra.

Five open-air stages in the city centre host one free concert after another. World-class performers, no attitude: it's heaven for music lovers. See montrealjazzfestival.com.

UJ

First Coat Festival, Toowoomba, Queensland

Toowoomba CBD. 19 artists. 17 walls. One weekend. Earlier this year the inaugural First Coat Festival was a shock success, taking the Australian cultural landscape by storm.

Over two days some of the most talented international and home-grown street artists transformed walls around Toowoomba beyond recognition, turning jaded brick and plaster facades into explosive, colourful murals. A joint initiative between the arts community, Toowoomba Regional Council and, ironically perhaps, GraffitiSTOP, the project was welcomed by the wider community at large and is scheduled to take place again in May 2015. See firstcoat.com.au.

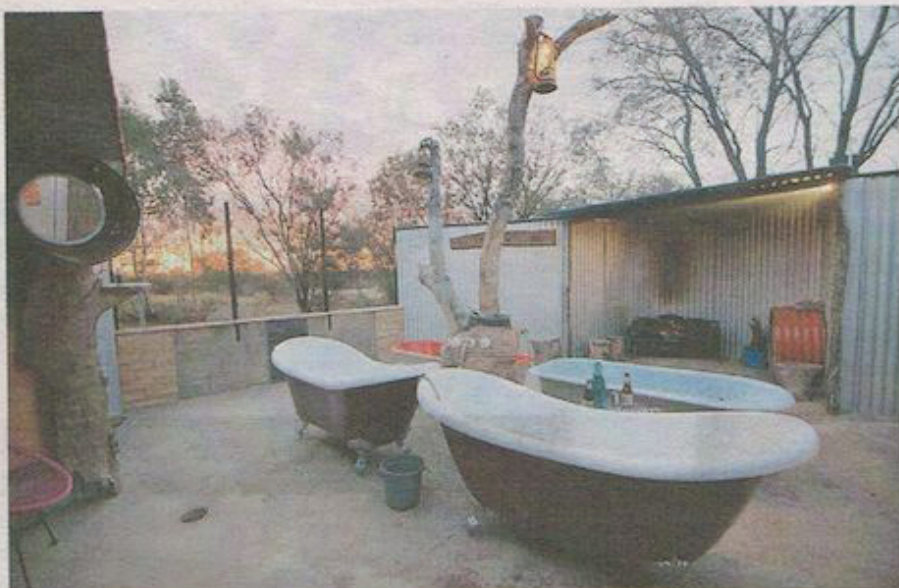
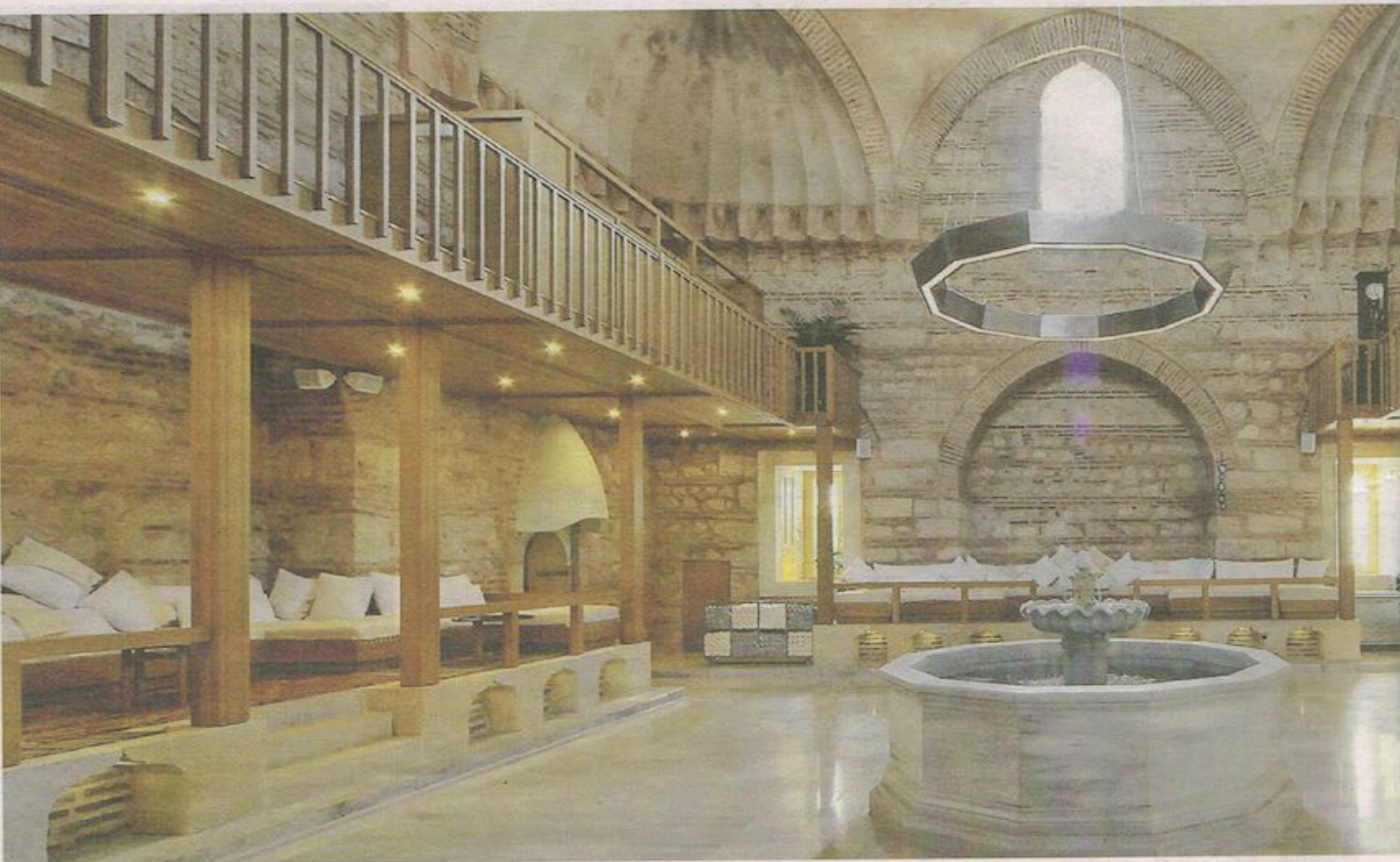
GW

Tjungu Festival, Uluru, Northern Territory

In the Anangu language Tjungu means "meeting together", and this year for the inaugural festival, Casey Donovan sang, model Samantha Harris paraded, Wakagetti dancers performed, and chef Mark Olive held a bush tucker masterclass on the grounds of Ayers Rock Resort.

There was a moonlight cinema showing of indigenous short films. Add to this dot painting, boomerang throwing and cultural tours of the national park and it makes for four days of good food, learning and great company. Harris and Olive will make another appearance for the 2015 festival and there will be an *Indigenous Australians at War* exhibition. The Tjungu Festival runs from April 23-26. See ayersrockresort.com.au/tjungu.

AB



20-22 BEST AND MOST IMPROVED AUSTRALIAN CITIES Adelaide

Small city, big stadium, huge change. The new 53,000-seat stadium – fashioned from the old Adelaide Oval – is heroic, historic and slap-bang in the centre of a sports-mad city.

Overnight it has brought in more cash, more people and, best of all, more energy (there's also a public tour of the Oval and its museum).

Sitting on the rapidly rejuvenating river precinct, it is only a short walk across the new river bridge to the neighbouring eat streets, including always-reliable Rundle Street and the nascent lane-life in Leigh and Peel streets.

To confirm that Adelaide really has got the best of all worlds, scoot just 25 minutes (and 1000 metres) up the freeway into the bucolic Adelaide Hills – a wine region of 50-plus cellar doors that actually starts inside metropolitan boundaries.

See visitsouthaustralia.com and adelaideoval.com.au.

MA

Brisbane

What you see is what you probably always get in terms of Sydney and Melbourne but Brisbane, still basking in its G20 afterglow, is a different proposition entirely.

The Queensland capital is evolving more rapidly than any other Australian city and gradually shedding its overgrown country town image without losing its appealing easy-going nature.

In addition to its growing embrace of the culinary and cultural arts, it is pleasing to see the city actively restoring its glorious Queenslander homes, particularly for purposes of upmarket accommodation.

The nine-room Spicers Balfour, owned by Graham "Skroo" Turner, founder of Flight Centre was the first with the more modest, though no less impressive, Heal House, a three-bedroom upmarket guesthouse-cum-boutique hotel, recently following.

See visitbrisbane.com.au, visit-queensland.com, spicersretreats.com, healhouse.com.au

Anthony Dennis

Canberra

OK, so it may have been pushing it a bit (make that a lot) when a few months ago the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development declared it to be the world's most liveable city.

But there's no doubt that, with an impressive array of boutique and design hotels and some new attractions, such as the edgy Hotel Hotel and the stunning National Arboretum, the bush capital is well on its way to achieving the ambition of its new Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, of Canberra becoming the world's coolest little capital.

Watch out, Wellington. See visitcanberra.com.au, nationalarboretum.act.gov.au, hotel-hotel.com.au.

AD

23-24 BEST BALI ALTERNATIVES Philippines

Cheap – tick, cheerful – tick, colourful – tick. The 7200 islands of the Philippines easily give the island of Bali a run for its money (and indeed your money).

The nation of 100 million has a flourishing tourism industry catering to domestic (and South Korean) demand for resort holidays that are heavy on the white sands, palmy jungles and turquoise blue seas. Pretty, yes. Overrun, no.

Socially, the Filipinos are pretty

laid-back and their culture is as hybridised as their cuisine. Spanish colonial rule has left the biggest mark, not least in terms of architecture, and the dominance of the Catholic faith, making for a curious twist on the Asian holiday.

Rather like Bali 40 years ago, remote corners are still being discovered by adventurous travellers. And how cheap is cheap.

Well, top-notch resorts charge for a local beer while locally manufactured western brand goods – Vans, Levis, Wrangler – can be found for about half the price they sell for here. (Let's face it, Bali's outlet stores charge prices comparable to outlet stores back home.)

See itsmorefuninthe philippines.com

Langkawi, Malaysia

No bogans, no booze (well, just enough to keep everyone jolly) and no brats (read: Schoolies). Oh, and add to that, a relatively small population and comparatively little development. Just a short flight from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, Langkawi is an island destination those who want it get away from the above. It's also home to a massive see wildlife-rich system of mangroves, classified as a UNES

