



EXPOSURE

From October 26, climbing Uluru will officially be banned. The looming prohibition has sparked a soaring rush of tourists, scaling the rock against the wishes of its traditional owners. Photographer Mark Daffey took this picture one morning in July, as visitors began scrambling over the sacred site. “By 7am, people had already begun to mill at the foot of the rock, waiting for a park ranger to open the gate.” Then, he says, a race began among them to get to the summit, and many were caught off-guard by the steep incline: “It wasn’t long before they were hunched over, catching their breath.” Since the 1950s, 37 people have died climbing Uluru; the most recent casualty was a 76-year-old Japanese tourist last year. “For the Anangu people who call this land home,” says Daffey, “it’s a sacred men’s site – a message that’s been slow to sink in over the decades.” *Michael Harry*

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Fishy business

BY TIM ELLIOTT



People tend to think of cooking as a trade or a craft, or, worse, a chore. But great cooks perform a type of magic, producing meals that are more than the sum of their parts. Groundbreaking chef Josh Niland, who grew up in regional NSW and survived cancer as a boy, is one such cook. “I’m not a foodie, but what Josh is doing is so experimental and extraordinary,” says writer Tim Elliott. “Being up close to it inspired a desire not only to understand his work but even, god forbid, try it myself.”

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Out of the ruins

BY CHRIS RAY

Islamic State destroyed or mutilated countless antiquities in central Syria’s ancient city of Palmyra. Will the World Heritage-listed site rise again?

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Reflections

BY KONRAD MARSHALL

A music festival fan who hates live music? Sounds odd – but not everyone finds harmony in paying top dollar for nosebleed seats to listen to a band *not* playing its greatest hits.

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Travel

BY STUART McDONALD

Reaching the habitat of Borneo’s orangutans requires a leisurely boat trip deep into the jungle. When they finally appear, the magic begins.

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 Email goodweekend@goodweekend.com.au Advertising inquiries (02) 9282 2252 Advertising production support 1300 666 326 Fairfax Syndication photographs fairfaxsyndication.com.
 Published by Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd (ABN 33 003 357 720), 1 Darling Island Road, Pyrmont, NSW 2009, Australia. Pre-press and production by Magazine Operations, Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd.
 Printed by Fairfax Media Print and Distribution, 159 Bells Line of Road, North Richmond, NSW, 2754. *Good Weekend* is free with Saturday’s edition of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and it must not be sold separately.
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