

## NEWS

## The Canberra Times

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## TIMES PAST

March 5, 1975

In the different ways Canberra is celebrated, on this day in 1975 it was reported Test cricket legend Dennis Lillee was to be crowned Canberra's "King" for the day. The chairman of the Canberra Week committee, Ian Black, was delighted to reveal Mr Lillee had agreed to be a part of the celebration. "This is a unique opportunity for people to meet and see one of Australia's greatest sporting heroes, in Canberra, and we expect a big crowd," he said. "Dennis Lillee has been a national sporting figure for years, particularly with his remarkable comeback after injury to play such a major role in Australia's victory in the recent series against England. "We therefore thought it would be fitting that he



should be honoured in our celebration of the national capital's foundation day." Mr Black said Mr Lillee would ride in the Canberra Day procession around London Circuit with the other guest of honour, the now-disgraced Rolf Harris, before being crowned "King of Canberra" in Civic on the 15th. Mr Black said Mr Lillee was looking forward to meeting as many people in Canberra as he could on the day. Visit: [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/12742500](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/12742500)



Travis Fimmel meets Simon Marshall and his son Hudson, 7. Picture by Elesa Kurtz

## Viking invasion conquers Canberra

Steve Evans

WHEN one of the world's sexiest bachelors turns up in a pub in Kingston, there will be a ruckus - even if the title was bestowed on Travis Fimmel by *People* magazine in the US in 2002.

These days he's more famous playing the lead character in all four seasons of the hit television series, *Vikings*.

So there the Viking warrior was in The Dock pub, dressed in a Brumbies jersey, being his down-to-earth Aussie self - and promoting a new beer from a brewery of which he is one of the founders.

The long line down the board walk seemed endless. The fans just kept coming and coming for selfies. When they reached the old Viking himself, they knew every twist of the adventures of the main character, Ragnar Lothbrok (who was a bit of a pillager in those ancient pillaging times).

"When we heard that Travis was here, we just had to come," Aron de Bear said.

"He's just a brilliant actor," said Katrina Marshall, who was there with her son Oliver. "He's actually embracing everyone like you're the only person in the room."

Oliver added: "It was like he was trying to connect with us."

In truth, the real star of the event was Travis's eyes. They are a mesmerising blue, mesmerising enough to mesmerise the English before slaughtering them in the *Vikings* series.

"They are like the ocean," Katrina Marshall swooned.

"They're like a crystal ocean sea."

Fathers brought sons. "I'm a huge fan of the *Vikings* series," Simon Marshall said, with seven-year-old Hudson alongside, glowing at having met the star.

*Vikings* is more than one man. Fan Kerri Eckhardt said she liked its strong women.

### They are like the ocean. They're like a crystal ocean sea.

Katrina Marshall on star's eyes

"The shield-maidens, they don't take any crap from anyone," she opined. She wasn't surprised Travis was deemed one of the world's sexiest men in 2002. "He's a good-looking bloke. All Vikings are good looking blokes," she said.

But is he still one of the world's sexiest men? There was a pause before: "He's no slob."

As Travis stood and signed autographs and took selfies in the bar of The Dock, it was easy to see how this true blue lad from country Australia was spotted by a talent agent and turned into one of the most successful models - and then into a star of screen, first in music videos and then in TV and then big screen - and then back to TV as it takes off with streaming.

There is a legend he was asked to promote tequila but turned it down because it wasn't Australian enough. He's a beer man.

He was certainly a beer man at The Dock, handing out cans of his new Travla beer, including to the crew of a dragon boat.

The owner of The Dock, Ben Alexander, thought only the Queen exceeded Travis for charisma. And as a former Wallaby, he has met some big names. "I've met some people in my life and, other than the Queen, I've never seen a buzz like this," he reckoned.

After the pub, the Viking headed off to do the Viking Clap with the Raiders, presumably after taking off the Brumbies shirt.

The star's verdict: "Canberra's a lovely city. I'm very proud to be here."

## PM sidesteps Plibersek's leadership assumption

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has brushed aside Tanya Plibersek's suggestion she would have become Labor leader in 2019 had she nominated for the role.

The federal Environment Minister has revealed in a new book her daughter Anna's trauma as a result of an abusive relationship was the reason she withdrew from the contest.

Ms Plibersek believes she would have won the party's top job had she run.

Extracts of the biography, *Tanya Plibersek: On Her Own Terms*, were published on Saturday in *Good Weekend* magazine.

Asked about the claims while campaigning for April's Aston byelection in Melbourne, Mr Albanese stepped around the issue.

"She's been a friend of mine for a very long period of time," he said.

"I was elected unopposed after the 2019 election and I won in 2022, and I'm very proud of the amazing team that I have."

Taking the deflection a step further, the Prime Minister said one of the major differences between his own team and that of the opposition was that it was being led by Peter Dutton "because they can't find anyone better".

"They reluctantly chose him, even though half his colleagues don't like him at all," he said.

However, Mr Dutton's deputy and opposition spokeswoman for women Sussan Ley took the opportunity to side with Ms Plibersek.

"As a woman and a mother, I was incredibly touched by Tanya's story," she said in a statement on Saturday afternoon.

"I particularly want to praise her daughter Anna, who so bravely articulated her story.

"There is no doubt in Tanya Plibersek's mind that she would have won the Labor leadership in 2019.

"And looking at the first nine months under Prime Minister Albanese, there's probably not much doubt in anyone else's mind, either."

Ms Plibersek took to Twitter to explain she and her husband had been devastated to learn about what had happened to Anna and had decided to share the story following the setting up of a volunteer organisation to help other domestic violence victims called Survivor Hub.

## FRIDGE DOOR

DEANNE CALISTHENICS CLUB: Calisthenics is the sport with performing at its heart. We offer a unique combination of dancing, gymnastics and technical skills for all ages from three-plus. We are recruiting now for 2023. Come and try several classes for free at St. John Vianney's Primary School hall, Namatjira Drive, Waramanga. No experience required. Visit [deanne.com.au](http://deanne.com.au) for dates and times.

VIEW CLUB: The next meeting of Gungahlin Day View Club will be held at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club, Nicholls, on Wednesday, March 22. Time: 11.45am. Cost \$35 per head for a two-course lunch. Guest speaker will be Tony Gill, president of the Canberra Bonsai Society. Please phone Julie on 0422 505 771 by 9pm on Sunday, March 19 if you wish to attend.

SUBMISSIONS: If you have a local event coming up, please email details to [fridgedoor@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:fridgedoor@canberratimes.com.au).

## TODAY'S WEATHER

CANBERRA Min 13 Max 29

Shower or two  
Chance of any rain: 70%

## CANBERRA AREA

Partly cloudy. The chance of early fog. High chance of showers, most likely in the afternoon and evening. The chance of a thunderstorm. Light winds.

## LOTTERIES

Thursday Powerball No. 1398: 18, 14, 13, 16, 21, 19, 29. P'ball: 18.  
Division 1: \$40,000,000.00;  
Division 2: \$115,066.75; Division 3: \$5,145.25; Division 4: \$496.85; Division 5: \$172.15; Division 6: \$73.30; Division 7: \$44.90; Division 8: \$18.15; Division 9: \$10.95.

## INDEX

WORLD	15	LETTERS	38
RELAX	21	TELEVISION	44
COMICS	32	WEATHER	45
PUZZLES	33	CLASSIFIEDS	46
TRAVEL	36	RACING	47
FOCUS	37	SPORT	48

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