

2008 **10**<sup>th</sup> 2017

men's style

# MEN — OF — INFLUENCE 2017

THE 10TH EDITION OF OUR MEN OF INFLUENCE LIST FEATURES A HUGELY DIVERSE COLLECTION OF MEN FROM VERY DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS AND VERY DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE...



**MEN OF INFLUENCE**

'You're not very important so be nice to people. Learn people's names and ask them questions.'



**NAZEEM HUSSAIN**

COMEDIAN // 31

You have to credit a man who helped soften the views of a right-wing shock jock as influential. The creative force behind stage show *Fear Of A Brown Planet* and SBS show *Legally Brown* did that during his stint on *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here* where he forged a surprising friendship with hyper-opinionated Steve Price. Price later credited one of his chats with Hussain for helping him better "understand the pressure Muslim Australians are under". "I'm very irresponsible, and probably not equipped to be influential," he tell us. "I'm actually very easily influenced. My responsibility is therefore to surround myself with people who will influence me positively. I need to drop a lot of my friends."



**NICK KYRGIOS**

TENNIS PLAYER // 22

The most talented Australian player of his generation has also seemed, in the past couple of years, the most troubled. Headline-grabbing incidents in which Kyrgios has been offhandedly rude and dismissive about fans, opponents and even his own interest in the sport have cast serious doubt on his motivation to become one of tennis' next giants. But as he proved during the recent Davis Cup quarter-final win over the Americans in Brisbane, and twice in earlier victories over Novak Djokovic this year, on his day he's Australia's best chance of another major winner. If can just keep injury and his sometimes troubled mind at bay.



**MIKEY ENRIGHT**

BUSINESSMAN // 45

The stylish Brit behind bar/salon The Barber Shop in Sydney's York Street and at Barangaroo has also recently launched an eponymous scented men's grooming range, Enright's Original Gin. "I've been in the hospitality industry for over 25 years but started my career in hairdressing. Since then I've owned a gin bar, grooming product range, The Barber Shop York St and Barangaroo and have another bar in the works. How's that for a full circle in your career?" As for the implications of the 'influence' tag, Enright is direct. "Treat people as you would like to be treated, never sell yourself short and remember, integrity is key to your success. We only get one chance at this!"



**RHYS NICHOLSON**

COMEDIAN // 27

An increasingly regular and distinctive presence on Australia's comedy festival circuit, the camp lad from Newcastle who says he dresses like a "lesbian debutante" nails a bitchy, rapid-fire observational style. Does a high profile bring with it responsibility? "I could word this really carefully, or I could just say don't be a dick," he says. "It's pretty easy not to be a dick. You're not very important so be nice to people. Learn people's names and ask them questions." What would he like his legacy to be? "Either 'He worked really hard on some pretty dumb stuff' or 'Miss Universe 2019!'"



**JADDAN COMERFORD**

FOUNDER & CEO,  
UNIFIED MUSIC GROUP // 33

Comerford started UNIFIED in 2011 to consolidate a number of things he was doing in the area of artist services and is now considered one of the most influential young music executives in the world, encompassing a label, artist management, merchandising, licensing and more. "I take what I do very seriously. People sometimes say we're not saving lives or curing cancer. This is obviously true but at the same time, we are dealing with people's lives, their careers and we are contributing to culture. In the current state of the world, a song or an amazing concert can change someone's life, even if it's only for 45 minutes."



**WILL EDWARDS**

**FOUNDER, ARCHIE ROSE DISTILLING CO. // 28**

When Will Edwards fulfilled his dream of opening a spirits distillery in 2015, it was the first such facility to open in Sydney since the 1850s. Now Archie Rose is already a 'name', both for the whiskeys, gins and vodkas it's producing at the distillery but also for the adjacent bar in inner-city Rosebery.

"In the most romantic sense, what we're trying to do at Archie Rose is make the best quality, most innovative spirits we possibly can while showcasing other incredible Australian growers, producers, coopers, bartenders and retailers," says Will. "I hope we end up being known for first of all, the quality of our spirits, but also the fact that we helped in some way to raise the profile of the Australian Distilling Industry."

**MEN OF INFLUENCE**



**TOBY PRICE**

**ENDURO RIDER // 29**

The first Australian to ever win the famed Dakar Rally in 2016, NSW country boy Price has racing in his blood. A five-time winner of the Bikes category in the famously tough Finke Desert Race in Australia, he also races cars and Stadium Super Trucks, performing to a high level even shortly after a gruelling and seemingly endless list of breaks and fractures sustained during races. Now he'd like the Dakar to come to Australia. "If I can get two or three Dakar wins to my name ... maybe I can convince them into it, bring them on here to Australia."



**CHARLES CROUCHER**

**JOURNALIST // 29**

The Nine political correspondent and sometime *Today* presenter is a relatively fresh face on our screens but already has a few exclusives under the belt. "As a reporter, the greatest influence you can have is presenting facts and letting viewers make up their own mind," says Croucher. "These days there are so many so-called influencers yelling at cameras, bashing at a keyboard and blindly pushing their cause, the challenge has become sifting through the bullshit."

What's something we don't know about him? "My first job was in a bottle shop at age 14. You could do that in a small town."

**DANNY HARLEY**

**MUSICIAN/PRODUCER // 27**

Probably better known as The Kite String Tangle, the multi-instrumentalist and vocalist from Brisbane gained attention after releasing "Given The Chance" in 2013, a song that put him on the music festival circuit, led to acclaimed solo shows, and even made Triple J's Hottest 100.

Now Harley has started a label, Exist. Recordings and released new work, "Selfish" on the back of a sold-out national tour, confirming him as one of the most influential exponents of new electronic music in these parts.



"I hope I can be the role model I needed when I was a kid struggling to come to terms with who I was."

**JASON BALL**

**ADVOCATE // 29**

Ball achieved something of a national profile after he took on the not inconsiderable challenge of combatting homophobia in sport, most notably by starting a change.org petition directed at the AFL in 2012. Ball, a lower level AFL player, had earlier come out as gay. Since then he's become an ambassador for beyondblue, a Greens candidate in the 2016 Federal election and Victoria's Young Australian of the Year 2017.

"Growing up, I thought being gay was the worst thing a person could be," he says. "I didn't have any positive gay role models and therefore I didn't see a future for myself. I guess I hope my legacy is that I was able to be that role model that I needed when I was a kid struggling to come to terms with who I was."



**BRENTON THWAITES**

**ACTOR // 27**

The former *Home And Away* star originally from Far North Queensland has a veritable stack of new film work coming up, including a chunky role in *Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* alongside your Depps, Rushes and Blooms. Later, the lead in an intense WW1 drama *Ghosts Of War*.

"One minute you're auditioning and you're unemployed, the next minute, you've booked a huge movie," the father-of-one told AAP of his States-side experiences. "I don't know how actors do it man, [but you've] just got to relax, take it easy, wait for the next thing to come and don't freak out."

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**BEN LUCAS**

FOUNDER, FLOW ATHLETIC // 38

Personal training followed an NRL career and led Lucas to establish Flow Athletic with Kate Kendall in 2014. As well as working with corporates and TV presenters, Lucas has spread the healthy living message via a Youtube channel and concepts such as Flow After Dark, 30 Days Clean and Sofa 2 Surf.

"I'd like to be remembered as a leader with integrity and a strong moral compass who took risks and had a genuine drive to help others succeed," he says.

Lucas ran 37 full marathons between 2007 and 2011.



**ISAIAH FIREBRACE**

SINGER // 17

The angelic looking indigenous kid with the amazing, soulful voice from small-town Moama in southern NSW is currently gaining international exposure as Australia's representative at Eurovision 2017.

It follows some 'growing-up-in-the-spotlight' years where he painfully crashed out of *The X Factor* competition as a 15-year-old when he forgot some lyrics, only to return as a 17-year-old and win the television talent show.

A rare talent, Firebrace shapes as an interesting artist to watch mature in coming years.



**SCOTT GRIFFITHS**

RESEARCHER // 28

Currently at the University of Melbourne, Griffiths works in the area of male body dissatisfaction and eating disorders, including muscle dysmorphia, anorexia nervosa, body dysmorphic disorder and anabolic steroids. He'll speak on these subjects at this year's TEDxSydney conference in June.

"People more readily assume I'm right about things, including outside my area of expertise," he says of being influential. "I've been wrong countless times and will be in the future. It's important people call you out when you're wrong, and to listen to what they have to say."



**DAMIEN RINALDO**

HAIRDRESSER // 41

Rinaldo was recently named Australian Hairdresser of the Year in recognition of his work at his Boris The Cuttery salon in Adelaide.

"I'd like to be thought of as someone who pushes the perspective of beauty in my creative work," he says, when asked about a legacy. "But also simply just being a good father, boss and friend to everyone I've had the privilege to come across in my life."

Asked for a little known fact he'd care to reveal about himself, he confesses: "I always hated getting my hair cut. If I had a choice of going to the dentist or getting my hair cut I would choose the dentist."

'My thumbnails are wide. Unusually wide. I've been using them as an ice-breaker for years, but now I'm 28 I feel it's time to move on.'



**DAVID CAON**

DESIGNER // 40

Bringing design principles to industrial processes, Caon has been responsible for a number of significant projects including Qantas aircraft interiors and lounges, as well as tableware, architecture and furnishings for workplace and home.

"Any designer wants to be known for designing an iconic project and I'm no different," the

former Marc Newson protege says. "Ultimately, however, I would like my legacy to be what our studio could become locally and internationally, both the work and the process..."

Away from his Sydney studio, Caon is obsessed with golf and classic Italian cars. "And I'm completely aware that one is cool and one isn't."



**BRYAN WRENCH**

LAWYER // 29

Working for high-profile and sometimes controversial Sydney solicitor Chris Murphy means that Bryan Wrench, with his square jaw, powerlifter's frame and dapper bouble-breasted suits, is often seen alongside high-profile, sometimes controversial clients as they try and escape TV cameras while leaving court.

Next up – the Anthony Bell divorce case which has all of Sydney talking. How does he handle the idea of being influential? "You can never have a bad day and, if you do, Scotch." How would he like to be remembered? "A lawyer who died on his feet, not on his knees." What's a secret he can tell us? "I sometimes carry an empty briefcase. If you can't be good, look good."

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**DEVON TERRELL**

ACTOR // 24

Born in the US but raised in Perth, the 2013 NIDA graduate gained immediate notice for his portrayal of Barack Obama in last year's autobiographical film of the former President, *Barry*. Terrell's mastery of Obama's vocal cadences and personality traits marked him as a gifted young actor to watch.

"I read the story and I had such an emotional connection to it and I said, 'that's me, someone just summed up my life,'" Terrell has said of the Obama role, his first official acting credit. "I've had very similar experiences, moving to Australia and having to change my accent and go to school."

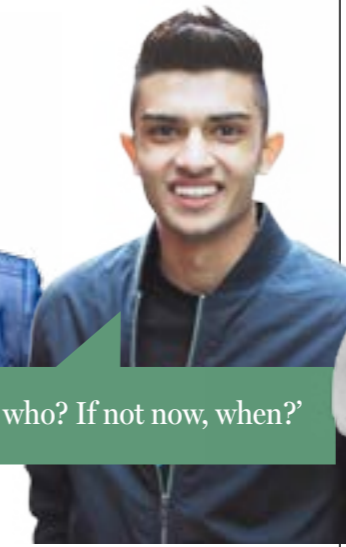


**JORDAN NGUYEN**

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER //

The UTS Sydney graduate has become a frequent and passionate presenter on his pet subject, the use of innovative, intelligent and assistive technology to improve lives, particularly for those with physical disabilities. Nguyen gained exposure for his PhD project, a mind-controlled wheelchair.

"I'm of the mindset that instead of trying to change the world myself, greater impact comes from empowering those around me towards realising we can all take part in shaping our future," says Nguyen.



**TAJ PABARI**

FOUNDER, FIFTYSIX CREATIONS // 17

Brisbane teenager Pabari is the founder of a social enterprise which helps children "build and create tech, rather than just consume it". Tabari's FiftySix Creations provides component tablet kits which kids put together, like "Lego for the 21st century".

"I want all young people in Australia to know that age is just a number and they too, have the power, the mindset and the resources to create the world we live in, rather than merely consume it," says Pabari. "We [can] raise awareness around issues and be a driving force to solving them. If not me, who? If not now, when?"



**PATRICK KIDD**

FOUNDER, PATRICKS // 39

From Bondi to the world, Patrick Kidd has taken an iconoclastic approach to building a high-end, beautifully packaged range of men's hair products.

"I hope to leave people inspired to become self made because there is a lot of pride in that," says Kidd. "It took many years, prototypes and redesigns, two failed manufacturing attempts, blown deadlines, surviving corporate sabotage and a whole lot of hustle, but we've grown from a small start-up to a multi-million dollar business with award-winning products stocked by some of the world's best stores."



**LUKE GRANA**

FOUNDER & CEO, GRANA // 33

Sydney-born Grana has created an ambitious fashion e-tailer based out of Hong Kong, with a focus on clothes for men and women in superior fabrics (think Japanese denim, Irish linen, Italian flannel).

Grana sees his legacy as "making quality accessible to everyone, not just in apparel but encouraging people to ensure quality exists in every experience they have in life whether it be big or small.. it's why I started Grana."

Had he not done this? "Back in Manly I almost became a professional tennis player!"

**PATRICK DANGERFIELD**

FOOTBALLER // 27

Apart from Sydney's Lance Franklin, Dangerfield is arguably the biggest name in AFL these days after his transfer from the Adelaide Crows to high-profile Geelong in 2016.

The reigning Brownlow Medallist has a tireless work ethic backed up by some sublime skills and his influence has already been felt at the Cats, who were jointly



atop the AFL ladder at the time of print.

Beyond the field Dangerfield is also a polished media performer – articulate and measured – who also now writes a regular column for the *Herald Sun* in Melbourne.

Will his influence bring Geelong another premiership? There's every chance.

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'You have a responsibility to be true to the ideas that made you start doing what you're doing...'

**CLANCY OVERELL & ERROL PARKER**

BETOOTA ADVOCATE //

In the age of fake news, the 'reports' by satirical Australian website Betoota Advocate are not only fake but very, very funny. The work of Clancy Overell and Errol Parker, who claim to have met as cadet journos in Townsville and now run "arguably Australia's oldest newspaper" based in the Queensland Channel country, the Betoota can be relied on by a growing online audience to prick pomposity, highlight absurdity and generally take the piss, be it politics, culture, society or sport.

In March they even managed to get PM Malcolm Turnbull to sit on a couch with them and drink beer, though the invitation to go out on the balcony and "share a dart" went unaccepted.

Of course they were drinking their own beer, Betoota Bitter.

**SAM MCCLURE**

CHANNEL 7 AFL JOURNALIST // 25

Nicknamed "Scoop", McClure has been a bright new presence on Seven's AFL coverage having been an Age journalist, radio regular and winning the 2015 Clinton Grybas Rising Star award at the AFL Media Association Awards.

"My responsibility is to break stories and report them accurately and fairly," he says. "One of my mentors Caroline Wilson always says that it's the story that someone doesn't want you to write that can be the most significant one. Reporting stories that upset people in the industry is something journalists struggle with on a daily basis, but it's part of the job."

Was journalism always his passion? "Yes, but I was a striving thespian when I left school. I unsuccessfully auditioned for the Victorian College of the Arts after school and it was then that I turned to media."

**OMAR MUSA**

POET & AUTHOR // 33

Broaching the worlds of hip hip, rap, poetry, slam poetry and literature, Musa is a growing voice on the Australian cultural scene.

His debut novel *Here Come The Dogs*, about disempowered and disaffected multicultural youth in suburban Australia, was long-listed for the Miles Franklin Award and well reviewed, following on from a rap poetry performance of incredible verbal dexterity at TedxSydney in 2013 which drew a standing ovation (watch it on Youtube).

The lad from Queanbeyan also has three books of poetry under his belt and last year released *Dead Centre*, a hip hop EP in which he collaborated with other Australian artists.

**SEBASTIAN GOLDSPIK**

CURATOR // 43

The Sydney-based independent curator is the man behind the artist-run ALASKA projects space in Sydney's Kings Cross and specialises in emerging art. Since opening in 2011, the space has seen 500 artists across 100 exhibitions. Goldspink has also curated exhibitions nationally in Australia and internationally in Los Angeles, New Orleans and Christchurch.

"Influence means you have a responsibility to do good and also to be true to the ideas that made you start doing what you are doing," he says. "My job has lots of aspects but at its core it's about creating dynamic exhibitions for audiences and working with artists to realise their visions."

And away from the day job, what should we know? "My nerdy secret is that I'm passionate about Vexillology, which is the study of flags."

**DANIEL CONN**

F45 DIRECTOR // 31

There are plenty of ex-NRL first graders who move into the fitness industry once they leave the field for the last time but few become a global phenomenon like F45, the team training method used across an ever-growing number of studios here and internationally, and for which Conn has been the face... and body.

"I practice what I preach with regards to fitness so it's easy to keep it real," says Conn. "I always try to display a positive attitude and sense of self through health and fitness, encouraging people to be aware of their own mental strengths and weaknesses."

Where does he take it now? "I've always wanted to work in the film industry – acting or presenting. Strangely, I feel at home in front of the camera." **ms**