



Cartoon: Holli Maynard

Great whites have great rights as well

EDITORIAL

By **ALLANAH BOX, JULIA ANDREWS, AMALIE SVIHLA, ZAC LANG, JOSH PAJTL** and **CHLOE ASQUITH**

SHARK sightings near popular beaches in the Hunter including Nobbys, Redhead, Merewether and Bar Beach, a spate of shark attacks and shark culling, particularly in Western Australia, this summer have caused hysteria and widespread panic amongst beachgoers.

As a consequence, commercial fishermen in Western Australia are now legally allowed to hunt these misunderstood giants of the ocean. Extinction looms for many rare and endangered shark species if authorities don't fully consider the impact of these changes.

Culling of sharks is unsustainable and is increasing since fisherman began decades ago. Ninety per cent of the shark population has been wiped out with an estimated 25 great whites and 900 tiger sharks killed annually.

Australia needs a consistent approach to shark management.

Sharks do not understand territorial borders and the risk of being killed by humans near Australia relates to a line on a map. The Australian community and government also needs to

have a global role in providing safety for these incredible creatures. After all, the sea is their domain, not ours.

Interestingly, shark attacks around the shores of Australia accounted for two-thirds of the fatal shark attacks in the world last year; however statistics indicate that there is more chance of surfers or swimmers winning the lottery or a vending machine or coconut falling on their head or being hit by a car than to be attacked by a 4-metre shark in the ocean. Despite its fearsome reputation, sharks rarely attack humans and would much rather feed on fish and marine animals, which are its staple diet.

The frightening reality is, like them or not, sharks play a crucial role on this planet. Remove sharks from the oceans and we are tampering with our primary food chain. Sharks keep our largest and most important ecosystem healthy. Our existence, in part, is dependent upon theirs.

They are a critical component in an ecosystem that provides one-third of our world with food, produces more oxygen than all the rainforests combined and controls our planet's temperature and weather.

Exterminating this misunderstood mammal will lead to further extinction. It is simplistic, selfish, has no explanation and needs to stop.

Knocking all records right out of the ring

By **CAMPBELL BRYSON, JACOB HILL, LACHLAN HODGES, JEMMA HARDY, JASMINE WILSON** and **BEN HODGSON**

AMAZING, awesome and impossible are some of the words that have been mentioned about the world breaking, mind-blowing bout between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr this weekend.

This fight has been dubbed the "Fight of the Century" and for good reason. Through advertising, ticket sales and sponsorship, the fight is set to generate over \$500 million.

Floyd Mayweather said "I've wanted the fight for a long time and now the time has come".

No wonder, Pacquiao and Mayweather will earn between them over \$180 million just for entering the ring, making them among the richest athletes on the planet.

Mayweather is the early favourite with an unbeaten record of 47 fights for 47 wins. Pacquiao on the other hand has had 57 fights with two losses. Both fighters are very different both in and out of the ring, which is why this battle is captivating so many people.

MGM Grand in Las Vegas will host the fight and high demand for the 15,000 tickets is expected to smash all records for gate takings with a projected \$74 million to be made. The cheapest tickets start from \$1500 with ringside tickets fetching up to \$10,000 a head, though recent



The two contenders Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr, who will battle it out on May 2.

reports on American website TMZ stated that one company is selling ringside tickets for \$87,000.

The main source of revenue will be pay-per-view sales with over \$300 million set to be made in the USA alone. Sponsorship deals are also expected to break previous records. One example of this is Tecate beer, which has paid

\$5.7 million to be the major beverage sponsor.

On top of the huge money they will already receive, the winner of the fight will receive a newly created belt by the World Boxing Corporation. The belt is valued at \$1 million and is an exact replica of the current belt, but has hundreds of emeralds in place of the gold plating.

NBN's rapid internet is ready to roll out

By **AIDAN MCDONALD, MATTHEW DIEDERICH, LILLI REAY, CHLOE HOY** and **JAIDA PRICE**

THE controversial, long-awaited National Broadband Network will launch in the Hunter this year and will give residents a first-hand experience of the power of this high-speed internet connection.

The NBN is an upgrade to Australia's existing telecommunications infrastructure.

Rolls and rolls of fibre-optic cable are being

installed all over the region. The first were laid in Belmont, Boolaroo, Morisset and Gorokan last November.

Eventually, it will replace the old copper networks that are currently used for home phone and broadband services.

The NBN's fibre-optic cables will better suit the Australian environment, as data speeds over this



A worker installing the fibre optic cables for the NBN broadband.

type of cable are not affected by rain and extreme heat the way existing copper lines are.

The aim is to enable access to fast reliable and affordable internet service from a range of providers.

Once launched it will provide families, businesses and schools the opportunity to save time and experience the internet that other countries around the world have had for years.

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