



## That's what David Bowie was like, just a really lovely man who happened to be a musical genius as well - Molly Meldrum

**D**AVID Bowie was a genius. He changed the face of music.

His use of sound and visuals was nothing short of revolutionary, he reinvented himself with nearly every album, something no one else was doing at the time.

I fell in love with him when I heard *Space Oddity*.

That's still my favourite David Bowie song.

I was working in London in the late '60s when it was released and I got to interview David for the first time.

I remember I was dumbstruck, I couldn't string two words together when I met him.

Some would say that nothing has changed with my interviewing technique.

He had something about him, even back then. It was fascinating watching him grow as an artist.

By the time *Countdown* started, a lot of acts were clearly inspired by him and the Ziggy Stardust character, which was like nothing we'd seen before.

I know I was, I've now had four dogs named Ziggy, who all owe something to Bowie.

Obviously he was incredibly influential among other musicians, like Madonna, who'd go on to constantly reinvent herself the way Bowie did.

Michael Jackson was a major David Bowie fan.

David's wife Iman was lovely too, and Michael got her to be in his *Remember the Time* video clip — that was partially because he admired Bowie so much I think.

David was the perfect act to watch evolve with a visual medium like *Countdown* was, he mastered the music video right from the start.

He was always so lovely to interview, and a real intellec-



tual — that's obvious when you listen to the way he approached his music and videos and his entire career.

He remembered me from that first chat, and he'd always want to do our *Countdown* interviews in the strangest locations.

We did one on a safari in Africa, there was another one where he wanted to talk at the Watergardens in London.

I thought that would be a breeze by comparison, but it turned out to be harder to get into there than Buckingham Palace would have been.

And then while we were doing the interview they turned the sprinklers on us. But David wasn't bothered, he just kept on talking.

I do regret that fact that one

time he wanted me to interview him on a train somewhere in Siberia. I had something else on and I couldn't make it work, but I still wish I'd done that.

Another time I remember he played at the MCG and it was pissing down with rain, bucketing down, but that somehow made it even more magical.

David Bowie was an incredible performer, some of the concerts he played in Australia were truly special. When he was in Australia I threw a party for him at my house.

It must have been around the time of *Let's Dance* because he was a really big star and I had to tell people to not bother him for photos, I think there was a no camera policy.

He was always a really private person. But of course he comes in and the cameras come out and he just took it all in his stride.

He was an utter gentleman too. When my house burned down in the '80s he called and told me to come and stay with him at his house in Switzerland for a few weeks until I got everything together. And after my accident a few years ago there was the sweetest note from David when I finally woke up.

But that's what he was like, just a really lovely man who just happened to be a musical genius as well. It's a terrible, terrible loss but his music will keep him alive forever.

**MOLLY MELDRUM IS AN AUSTRALIAN MUSIC CRITIC AND ENTREPRENEUR.**

**UTTER GENTLEMAN: David Bowie was a truly inspiring performer and a good friend, Molly Meldrum writes.**

## Has CTP become its own car crash?



**PATRICK BOYLE**

**NONE** of us wake up in the morning thinking that today is the day we will be hit by a car.

And, even if we did, I'm fairly certain that our next thought would be about how much it would hurt rather than worries over insurance and compensation.

Indeed, it's probably not until we are holed up in hospital that we even begin to turn our attention to money matters. Who's paying the doctors' bills? How long will I be off work? How is the mortgage going to get paid? The bills? The groceries?

These are all legitimate questions and that's why Compulsory Third Party (CTP) in-

surance is there to help provide us with some of the answers.

The very reason CTP exists is to compensate us if we are hurt in a car accident that is not our fault.

It ensures we are supported not just straight after the accident but until we are fully recovered.

It is not there to drive profits for a company or revenue for a government. It's meant to be all about us.

Yet, since the State Government started overhauling CTP two years ago, there have been a lot of changes and so far, no one has bothered to ask us what we think.

Here are some examples of compensation for pain and suffering that you might find interesting.

A 47-year-old female cyclist was hit by a car and broke her leg and collarbone putting her in hospital for more than six

weeks. She endured a very painful rehab process and, of course, an extended time off work. In 2013, before the CTP changes, she would have received up to \$45,900 compensation. In 2015, she's entitled to a maximum of \$5000.

A 60-year-old woman was

out walking when she was hit by a car, fracturing her hip, resulting in blood transfusions and a heart attack during her 11 days in hospital. In 2013, she would have got up to \$30,600. In 2015, she got \$14,000.

It makes me wonder if the changes have gone too far, if the compensation cuts have gone too deep and if the gap between our expectations and what we actually receive is now too wide.

But who is going to stand up and ask the question?

If you are injured at work, your union will fight for your rights. If you are hurt in a robbery, the Commissioner for Victims of Crime will come rushing to your aid.

But if you are the victim of a

car accident, there's no one who can take a stand on your behalf.

And, with the biggest changes still to come in July 2016, when CTP is handed over to private providers, alarm bells need to start ringing.

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## THE LAST WORD

**WITH MARTY SMITH**



### MOUTHING OFF

- (1) Hybrid: If you cross Bambi with a ghost, you get bamboo.
- (2) Chinese proverb: Do not employ handsome servants.
- (3) From the comic strip *Ginger Meggs*: "Everyone seems normal until you meet them."
- (4) In the Twittersphere: "I can only imagine how long the line would be if Apple financed *Star Wars*." - US actor Albert Brooks.
- (5) I am not making this up: A US judge has ruled that a monkey who snapped a selfie a few years ago does not own the copyright to the photo.

### INSIGHT

"If it works, don't fix it." - bumper sticker.

### QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"I consider every character my new therapist." - English actor Idris Elba.

### KEEPING COUNT

**7259** - the distance, in kilometres, of the air route between Sydney and Taipei, the capital of Taiwan.

### JUST A THOUGHT

"Money doesn't grow on trees" is something rich people say so you won't find their money trees.

### REMEMBER WHEN

Today is January 12, National Youth Day in India and the 12th day of the year. There are 354 days remaining until the end of the year. On this day: **1956:** The film *Geordie*, directed by Frank Launder and starring Bill Travers, Alastair Sim and Paul Young, opened at the Plaza in Arcade Lane, city.

**1962:** US doctors warned dancing the twist could cause knee injuries.

**1963:** US actors Lynn Noy and Michael Lund were married in Mexico. After their divorce in 1982, she founded a support group named *Life After Divorce Is Eventually Sane* - **LADIES**.

**1964:** Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**1976:** Author-playwright Dame Agatha Christie, who once said "Coffee in England always tastes like a chemistry experiment", died, aged 85, in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

**1988:** Chinese scientists announced it was possible to breed test-tube pandas.

**1994:** From *The Advertiser*: "The State Bank will announce today a fixed home-loan interest rate of 6.25 per cent, the lowest rate offered by a bank in South Australia."

**1998:** From *The Advertiser*: "The 'little bugger' finally did it. Against all the odds, 16-year-old tennis sensation Lleyton Hewitt pulled off one of the sport's most remarkable wins yesterday. In winning the Australian Hardcourt Championships at Memorial Drive, the Immanuel College schoolboy boosted his earnings of \$US7034 by \$US45,000. And he has decided - with his parents' permission - to quit school and embark on a full-time professional career on the tennis circuit."

**2004:** For the first time in more than a decade, a woman was shown singing on Afghan television. Wearing a red dress and sporting a headscarf, pop star Salma performed an ode to the beauty of the Afghan mountains.

**2007:** Former Australian politician Sir James Killen died, aged 81, in Brisbane.

**2010:** A catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti, killing over 200,000 people and destroying much of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

**2011:** Speaking about his high-profile move to coach AFL club Essendon, James Hird said: "(There's) no nerves."

### TODAY'S THOUGHT

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 Bible for Today**