

## *Hasten Slowly and Soak Up What You Can*

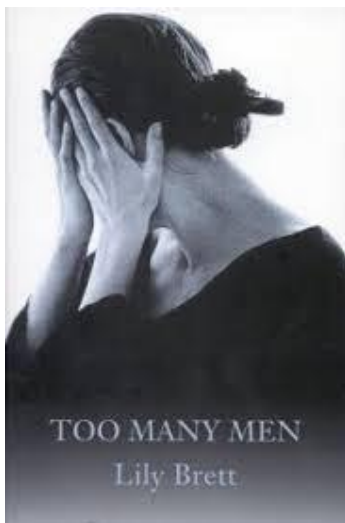
The Jetty Road Weekly Blog

Edition Two Sunday 23/3/25



The Hawksbill Turtle

Slow to mature. Lives on a Diet of Sponges



### Too Many Men

Lily Brett's novel about a daughter and her Birkenau Holocaust survivor father revisiting Poland in the 1990's.

Lily reveals to us through her character Ruth the paradox of resilience and vulnerability, as well as the frustration and anger, that is intergenerational trauma.

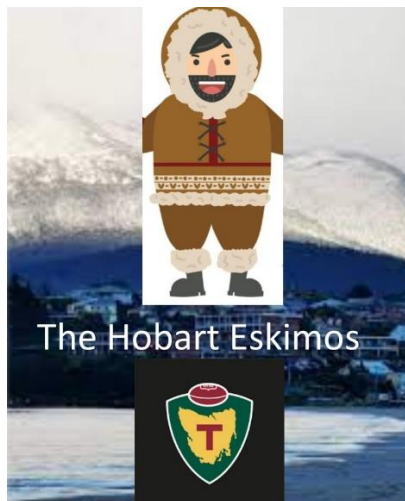
Source: Wikipedia

As a child Ruth is aware of the unspeakable and a witness to the unspoken. Her traumatised parents now living in Melbourne, self-censure everything - from the death camps to the pre-history of their murdered extended families - to protect themselves and her. With her parents there is no past that can ever be discussed. There is only the uncertain and fearful future; and the magical. Ruth lifts her foot up and down and counts to ten to ward off bad luck. She has insights, the knowledge of which cannot be explained. She has conversations with the SS Commandant of Auschwitz who resides in hell.

Coincidentally I was listening to a book interview on Radio National with Bernhard Schlink who has a new book out called *The Granddaughter*. Schlink was discussing the feelings and recent history of former East Germans being treated as second class citizens in modern Germany. He was saying it would take several generations to work things through.

There are echoes of the Voice referendum in both of these books. Here in Australia we dismiss intergenerational trauma as either woke or something we were not responsible for in the first place. There can be no doubt that it is real.

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## AFL – The Hobart Eskimos

It is the 10th April 2027 and the AFL are about to get their come-uppance.

Composite – ABC, Various

Newly elected Premier Jacqui Lambie, leader of the Stick It Up Your Arse Party, has laid out her manifesto for our belated entry into the national competition. Extracts from her press release below are verbatim:

'We are no longer the Tasmanian Devils. We will fall into line with the other states and be named after our capital city. The new team will be called the Hobart Eskimos. Why? Because there will be no bloody roofed stadium. You Mainland pussies don't like our weather. Tough! What's more we have appointed a new coach from the North West, Banger Newman, a distant relative of the notorious Frog Newman and a no bloody nonsense, straight up the guts, hard arse. Our home strip will not be a strip at all. We will play bare chested with the map tattooed on the front and a 'stick it up your arse' screed tattooed on the back just under the AFL logo. They will have some protection of course. Duty of care and all that. We are utilising a thermal balm of mutton bird oil with a tincture of roadkill. A recipe of Banger's from his halcyon days at Upper Castra. As Banger tells it: 'They can't tackle ya and they don't want to get close enough to tag ya'. I reckon Banger's a genius. Yes I know what you are thinking, what about the women? They will be clothed of course. Do you think we are Barbarians down here?'

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## The HODS

APPM's version of too many men

Source – Nicholson, The Monthly May 2014

It's Burnie in the late 1980's and I am at the pulp mill, tasked with addressing the HODS about Employee Assistance Programs. HODS being shorthand for the Heads of Department. They are all men. Some have been there for 30 years plus. Individually I suspect they are all decent blokes. Collectively they exude an air of quite resignation. As Don Walker might have put it: 'There's no change, there's no pace. Everything within its place' It's hard going. A little quirk in my mind cannot let the HODS go. I think of them as Tolkien characters. A beige interpretation of the Seven Dwarfs perhaps and let me tell you there were more than a few Grumpys and Sleepys in that room. And then along came Trump, Duterte and Putin, and let's not forget our Tone the shirt fronter. There is nothing Disney about these characters. They are HODS on steroids. This song was recorded back in 2018.