

# Malcolm Turnbull's winningest first week back

By *Martin Hirst*

11 February 2018



**After a week of winning, Prime Minister and chief winner, Malcolm Turnbull must be looking forward to next week with barely concealed nervous excitement. Political editor [Dr Martin Hirst](#) reviews the Fizza's record-breaking first week back at work.**

FEDERAL PARLIAMENT resumed this week, marking the official start of the political year in Australia. Ah yes, those hardworking MPs and senators. Most of us have been back at work for a month now, but these upstanding public figures need their beauty sleep, or at least to spend more time in bed.

At the end of 2017, Prime Minister Turnbull [promised that 2018](#) would be the "year of rewards" and that all of us would prosper from the trickledown impacts of cutting company taxes.

So far, it's just been a continuation of the chaos that dogged the Coalition last year —

and the year before that and the year before that one too.

The only person who seems to have been rewarded so far in 2018 is George "Bookshelves" Brandis who has [been promoted](#) to the plum and coveted role of Australia's official representative at the Court of St James.

Brandis spent \$15,000 of tax payers' money on bookshelves, which were too big to fit in a new office he moved into not long after <https://t.co/GfmbYOIkaw>

— Pirate Party Australia (@piratepartyau) [December 19, 2017](#)

Brandis Act on the 5th of February 2018, today after del... The... under valedictory... But... the... a) veiled warning... b) colleagues... rightwing... rightwing... Australia... Australia...

"Increasingly, a vicious battle of late powerful elements of right-wing politics have abandoned the liberalist... the individual... as a respect... belligerent... shows... of individual..."

But it is the white supremacist bone in his body."

Was this Brandis the bridge at his colleague's, Jim Firth, feet? Many could not see the point so. And perhaps it is coincidence that the same day coincided with the hearing of a alleged racist and Islamophobic, General Molan replaced As a deputy, of the section 44, Peter Dutton is According to credible sources backed up by his own memoir, Jim Morrison's responsibility for war crimes, a high-ranking official in the this is shared by the to the scandal, home. of them Molan's videos Donald Trump this potential opportunity by the agile and nimble Prime Minister. We know from the

Joyce story that if the Fizza took the opportunity Molan loudly and in a shouty voice. lurking just below the surface.

PM Malcolm Turnbull has launched a passionate defence of Jim Molan. #AUSPOL #9News <https://twitter.com/9News> won't be prime minister at — Nine News Australia (@9NewsAUS) February 6, 2018 He won't be beaten in an election, because the Coalition will want to cling on to the bitter

end. Fizza will be Asked if he apologised for his actions, Senator Molan said: "No I don't. No, because I didn't do it. It will become appalling if a minister and the ago. "Butcher of Fallujah" will get a cabinet post. "Anyone who thinks I am anti-Islamic is a racist, in my view. My allegations were made yesterday and The Sydney Morning Herald is starting your raving rant. It is not effective to be a racist for years," the former vainglorious major general said, referring to his role on missions in Muslim nations such as Iraq.

PS: I haven't had the space to mention the Banking Royal Commission, which starts next week, but it doesn't take a stable genius to know that about the issue in September 2016. unless there is some dramatic

whistleblowing, it will be a whitewash. Jungle Jim is just another example of Australia's seemingly willing and blind slide into open Trumpism in our politics. Malcolm Turnbull is also willing to let this happen on his watch.

We also learned this week that the Turnbull Government has learned nothing from Australia's disastrous military adventurism in Iraq and Afghanistan on behalf of our Indigenous Australians is getting bigger. That is a win of Trumpian some of his no doubt deep

expertiseproductissue.

The Job **You can follow**  
govern **political editor Dr**  
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already crowded global  
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ordnan **A** that kills people – is  
to be the new highway to  
economic nirvana and a bright  
new future for Australian  
industry. It's a joke, but the  
punchline is you get **blown to**  
**bits**.

Yep, Malcolm is winning and  
winning this week. However,  
perhaps his greatest victory –  
the sweetest victor of all – was  
his sterling and spirited  
defence of embattled Deputy  
PM Barnaby **#BeetRooter**  
Joyce.

The week began well for  
Bananaby, the *Daily*  
*Telegraph* splashed his happy  
baby news on the front page.  
Oh how delierously delighted  
the nation was at that point. A  
true champion of family values  
had finally been blessed with a  
family.

BREAKING:  
New biography  
of Malcolm  
Turnbull  
released: 'From  
Utegate to  
Rootgate'.

Oh what? Really? **Have** already  
had a family and **the**  
babymama was **@davesst** staff  
member, and she **February 10,**  
and... **2018**

Well, that quickly turned into a  
shit sandwich for everyone  
concerned.

And, of course, it is under  
these arduous and adverse  
conditions that Malcolm truly  
knows how to win. He gallantly  
dived in and took a great big  
bite of the sandwich, declaring  
through gritted teeth, and with  
an unpleasant look on his face,  
that Barnaby would make a  
good father and at least he  
hadn't left his babymama to  
bring up the love child on her  
own.

He added that he really **didn't**  
**want to talk about it:**

*I'm very conscious of the  
distress this causes to others,  
in particular Natalie Joyce and  
her and Barnaby's daughters,  
so he it is a private matter, a  
tough matter, and I don't have  
any more to say about it.*

*Lucy and I are very conscious  
of the hurt occasioned to  
Natalie and their daughters in  
and particular. So that's why I  
don't want to add to the  
discussion about it.*

And, no wonder Fizza didn't  
really want to talk about the  
BeetRooter's baby. It seems  
that – despite self-serving  
media bleating about no real  
public interest in the matter –

there may be more to come about the Deputy PM's trysting with a former staff member.

A lot of people have been asking why the *Daily Telegraph* would publish this story now. And it's a good question. I think I have at least part of the answer.

As regular readers of Independent Australia would know, the rumours about Bananaby's extramarital nookie have been around for a while. [We covered the story back in November](#) last year, but back then the [mainstream ignored it](#).

The real target of the NewsCorpse machete attack on Joyce was not the Deputy PM. He and his family are just collateral damage.

The real target is Turnbull himself.

Now it has been revealed that Turnbull's office – and therefore the PM himself – helped move Mr Joyce's girlfriend into [a well-paying job](#) in Matt Canavan's office, he is firmly in the firing line.

Well, there we go.  
Your taxes at work.  
<https://t.co/ZtD5o1BrFB>

— Anthony Element  
(@observationpt)  
[February 10, 2018](#)