

Hurtle the Turtle

by Mick Palmer

Illustrations by Marnie Jay





Poppy was tall and wasn't fat
His hair was long his tummy flat

Until one day when the sun was hot
He went and done what he should've not



He said to himself at a whim
“I think I’ll go for a swim”

So there and then he drove his car
To the beach, it wasn’t far



He ran and jumped in the water
Something that you shouldn't oughta

He played and splashed and swam a lot
Till salt water up the nose he got

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

ACCHHOOOO

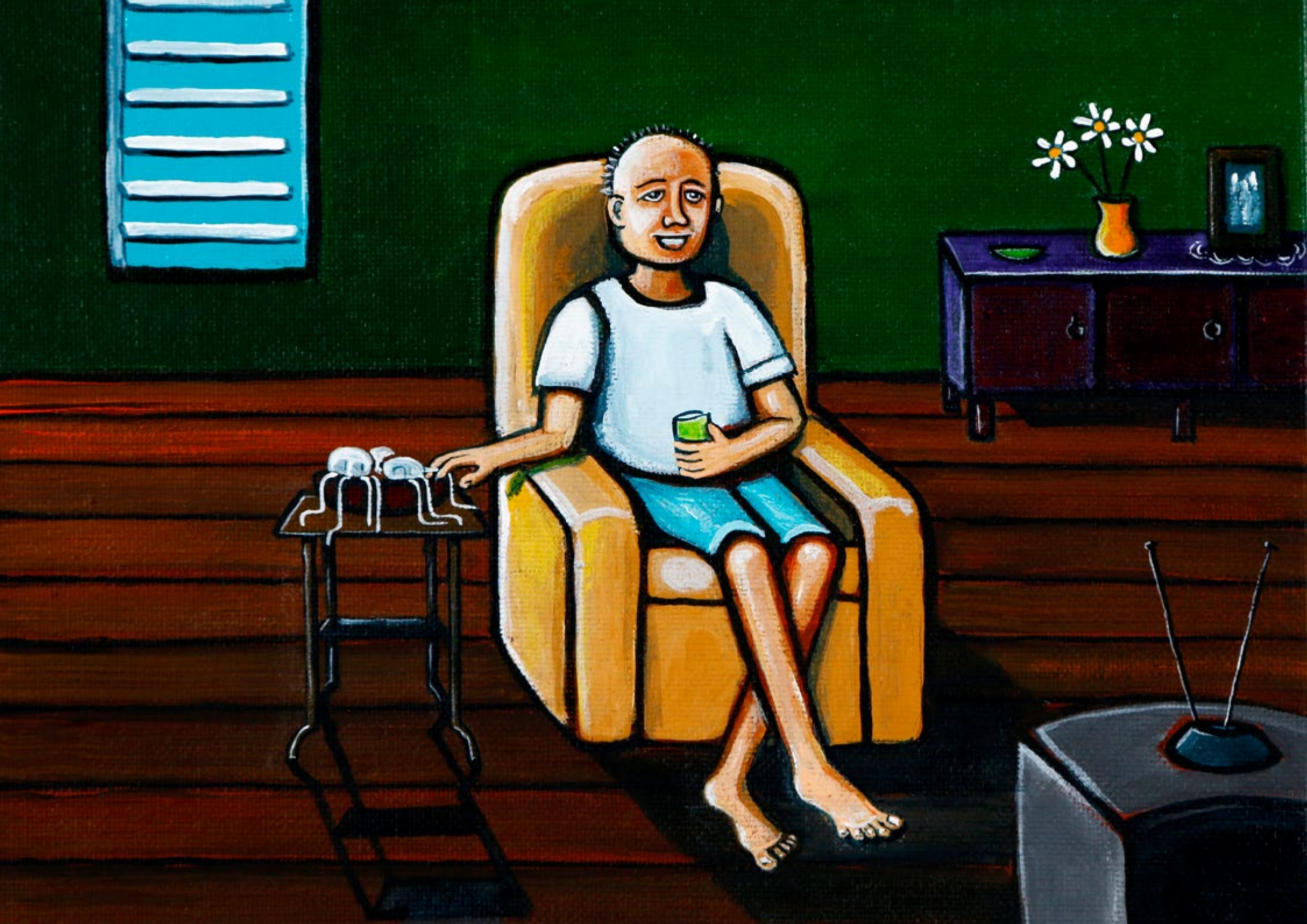
BUUURP



He coughed and sneezed and
belched and burped
Then up a baby turtle slurped

It was only small a little one
He didn't know what he'd done

Out of the water and over the sand
With his old beach towel in hand



Now Poppy did things strange and queer
He ate only jelly fish with beer

A funny thing you couldn't beat
That's what baby turtles eat

R D H
BELLY SCAN
RIGHT VIEW



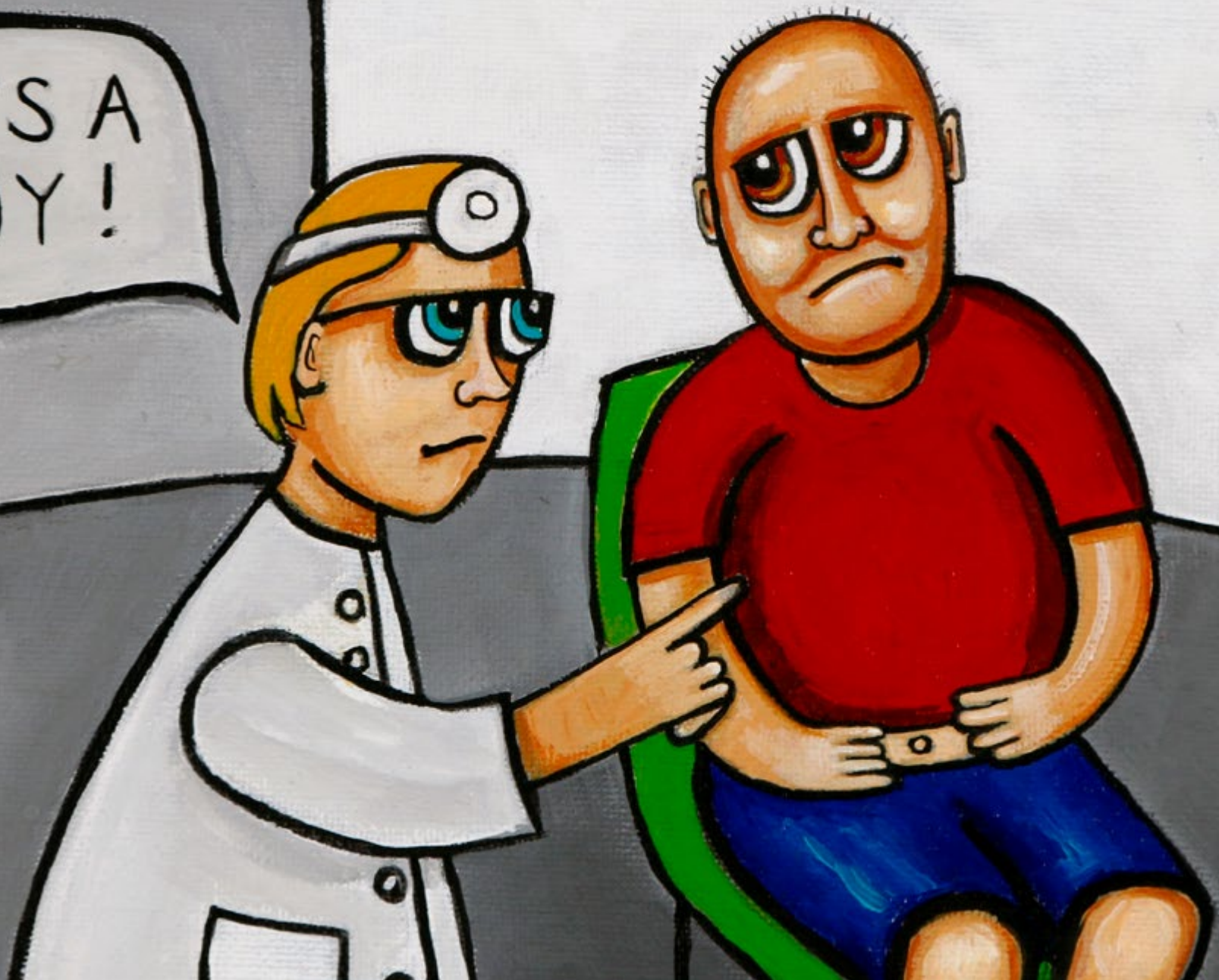
So there it lived in his belly
Eating beer with fish of jelly

It ate and ate and began to grow
And Poppy didn't even know

As the turtle he got bigger
Unkind people began to snigger

X-RAY DEPT →

IT'S A
BOY!



Then Poppy's doctor found the turtle
So they called it little Hurtle

And other people who didn't know that
Would always say poor Pop was fat

It wasn't nice it wasn't fair
None of them were even there



DOCTORS ORDERS

BEER ☒

JELLY
FISH ☒



The Doc said “Pop you’ve got to know
Hurtle he just has to go”

“Jelly fish and beer has got to stop”
Oh how that upset old Pop

But Poppy then was pleased to hear
“Just the jelly fish not beer”



And big fat Hurtle he got small
Not so wide and not so tall

And then with just a little shout
Hurtle Turtle he jumped out

Poppy took him to the sea
And set our little turtle free



Now Hurtle swims and sings a song
Of all the things that went wrong
Of jelly fish and beer so yummy
And his time in Poppy's tummy

And at last old Pops not so fat
His hair's long gone but his tummy's flat

The End

Hurtle the Turtle

For: *Chloe*
Lachlan
Rosie
Quade
Dana
Maverick

Hurtle came about as a result of Chloe's concern about her Poppy's girth and the story he told her about going to the beach and swallowing a turtle.

Satisfied with that, and the explanation that both Poppy and Turtles ate jellyfish, Chloe with great authority, has passed on the story to the others.

With thanks to the illustrator Marnie Jay.



The Author

Mick Palmer is an Alderman on the Darwin City Council, a former Member of the NT Legislative Assembly and Minister in the NT Government.

He has long written nonsense verse as a source of self amusement, unfortunately much of which is not fit for publication.

The writing of Hurtle the Turtle came about through exasperation at not being able to find unusual or special Christmas presents for his grandkids.

