

# 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



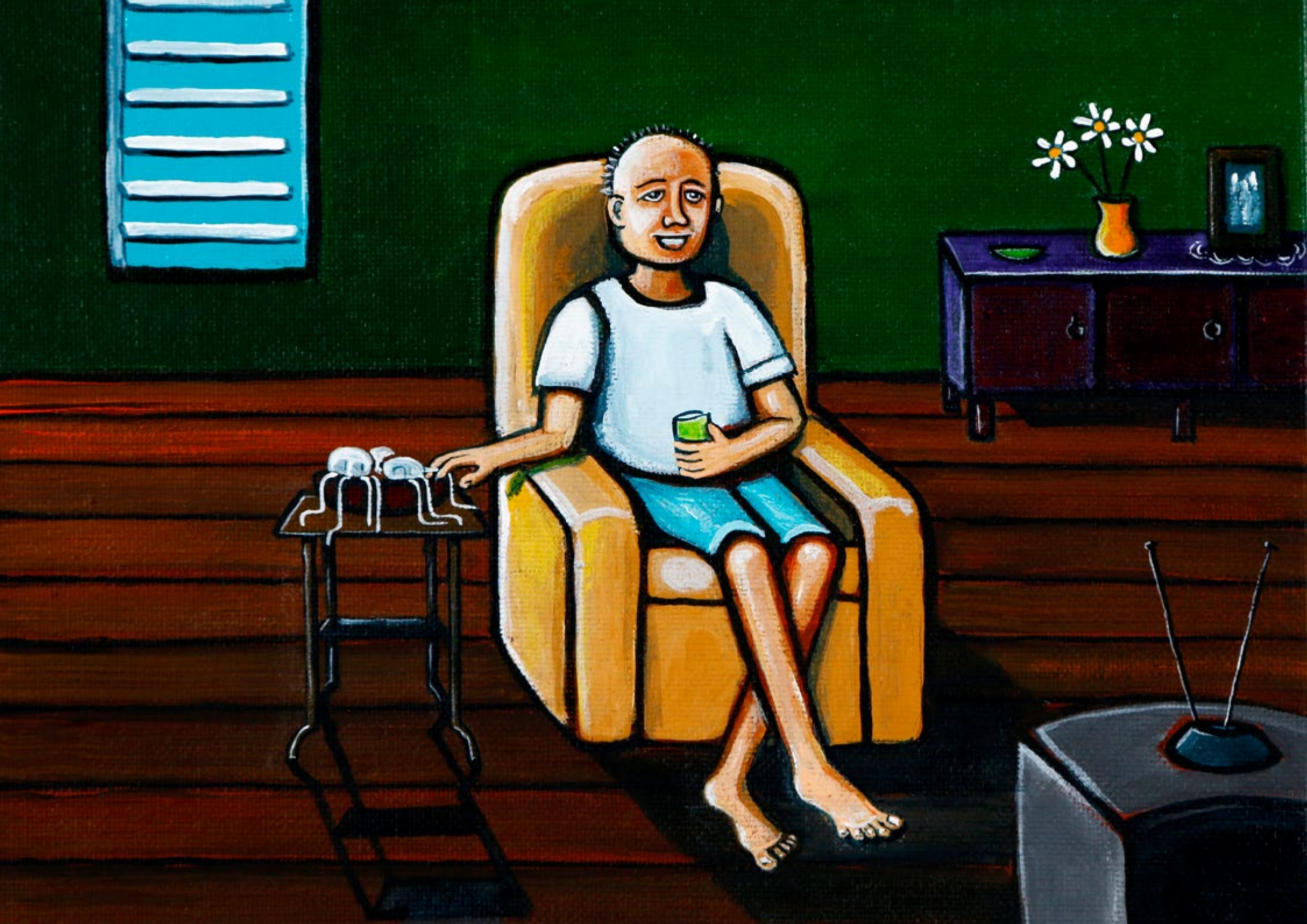


He coughed and sneezed and  
belched and burped  
Then up a baby turtle slurped

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

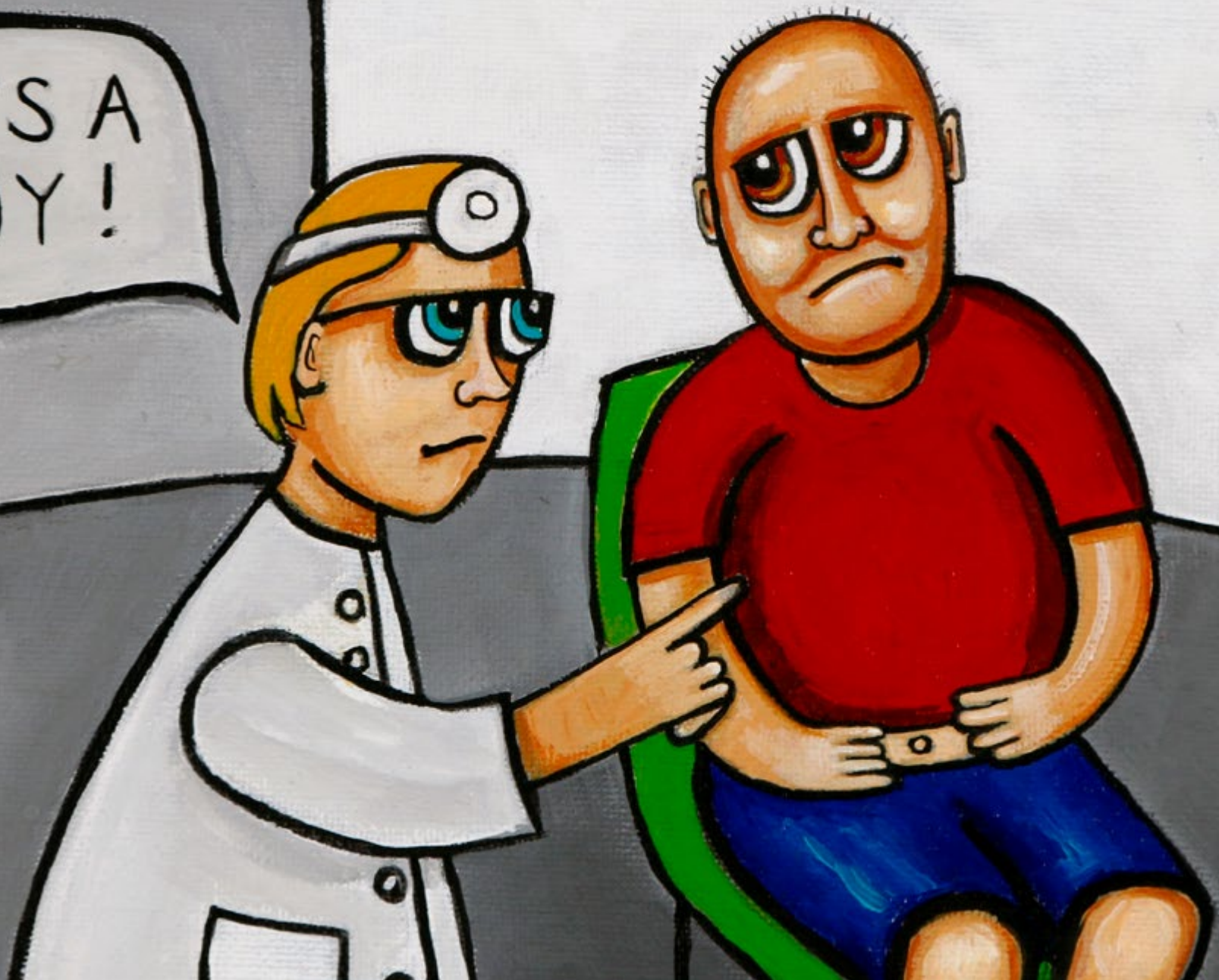
It ate and ate and began to grow  
And Poppy didn't even know

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.



