

Cartoonist James Foley talks Quokka

Bright eyed, bushy tailed and brought to life by one of WA's most talented young cartoonists, James brings the humble quokka to life as if they are human beings. They can be seen competing in the Olympics or posing for a picture, selling everything from cowboy boots to Commodores.

Cartoonist James Foley adds a quirky smile and a gentle human spirit to one of our most revered marsupials, the Rottneet quokka, in his front page

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illustration illuminating WA’s biggest classified newspaper, The Quokka, every week. James has been making us all fall in love with the little creatures for five years now.

The boy from Fremantle fell in love with drawing and illustration at a young age,

remembering the times he would flick through his father’s massive Footrot Flats comic collection and pour over the work of political cartoonists such as Pickering and Rigby.

“It’s always hard to ask a cartoonist why they like drawing, I guess because they always remember doing it,” he said.

“There’s just something about how you put together a drawing and come up with a gag. You get that instant appreciation from people when you show them, which can be pretty addictive. I think I’m still finding my style and I’m also deciding if drawing will become my career.”

Drawing his first cover for The Quokka in June 2003, James has been following a path of cartooning from a young age, penning and illustrating his own stories in primary school, before creating comic strips for the student newspaper in high school.

Later whilst studying at university, James created cartoons for the Curtin University newspaper, The Western Independent, as well as a comic strip called ‘Quasi’ for the Quasimodo student paper at Notre Dame University.

Running drawing workshops with primary school children inspires James as he finds that the kids have a free spirit and an uninhibited style. But rubbing shoulders with famous cartoonists is also a great thrill like at the Cartoonists Association Awards in Coffs Harbour last year.

“I came back from that completely inspired, it’s great to meet your heroes from the industry and to see their work and chat,” he said.

James’ dream for his talent would be illustrating and writing children’s literature, a desire he has nurtured

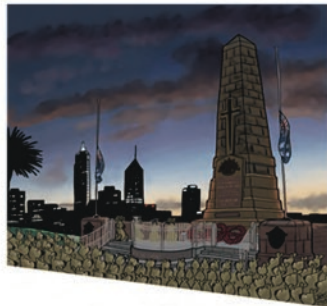
since his own childhood.

Already James is working on the release of a graphic novel, although is very tight lipped about the story line.

“It’s for primary school kids, but there’s not much more I can say about it at this stage, so watch this space,” he said.



James has some favourite covers from 2008, these include;



Anzac Day - April



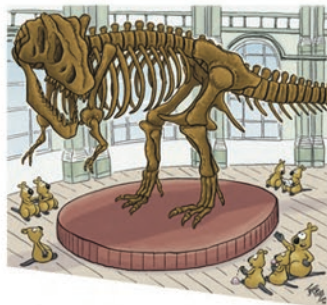
Back to School - Road Safety - Feb



Bibblumun Track - Sept



Fire Rescue - April



Dinosaur - Oct



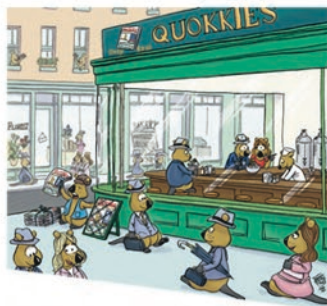
Bird Watching - Nov



Mother’s Day - May



Movies By Burswood - Dec



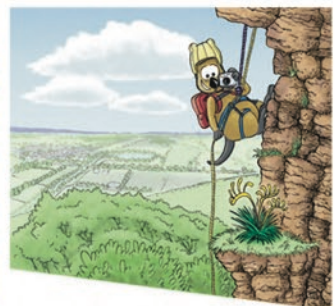
Nighthawks - Aug



Surf Lifesaving - March



Olympics - Table Tennis - Aug



Wildflowers - Sept