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The Aussie genius who gambled everything on revolutionising casinos - and your morning coffee

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PUBLISHED: 12:29 AEDT, 10 November 2025 | UPDATED: 12:29 AEDT, 10 November 2025

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When a Melburnian was made to wait 25 minutes for a coffee, he created the perfect solution on a napkin.

Bill Purton has always been full of good ideas - just don't tell him his solutions to simple problems are easy to come up with.

A lot goes into working out how to make life simpler and Mr Purton is a bloke who puts his money where his mouth is.

Born and bred in country Victoria, Mr Purton developed a taste for quality coffee while working around Carlton's inner-city precinct.

It is a world away from where he made his mark on the back of some ingenious inventions in an industry better known for dishing out complimentary beers than cappuccinos.

Mr Purton went from **Melbourne** to Monte Carlo, **Hong Kong** to **Las Vegas** selling high-tech solutions to some of the planet's largest casinos.

It all began in Melbourne, where he ran a modest plastic-moulding business in the 1980s.

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With a scientific background, Mr Purton was working in the research department at the Royal Children's Hospital when he decided to take the plunge.

His little company grew from 11 to 125 employees by 2005 when he sold it to a United States company.

While he initially made plasticware for lab use, he studied polymer technology at RMIT to enhance his expertise.

His work drew him into the casino industry, developing plastic racks for chips and wheel checks - non-value chips for roulette - innovating to give chips a distinctive 'clay' texture and sound.

Unfamiliar with the casino world, he sank \$38,000 into a tool, only to learn Melbourne's Crown Casino expected to pay \$5 per rack - a \$5,000 return on his hefty investment.

Undeterred, the inventor's ingenuity won the casino over.

This evolved into creating secure, microchip-embedded gaming chips, overcoming technical challenges like signal collision, using advanced frequency-hopping technology from a Western Australian firm.

Mr Purton's innovations improved casino security and table game tracking.

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He told the Daily Mail his casino ideas came simply from chatting to a dealer.

'This fellow said "you know, it's not as easy as you think. We have real pressure. You know, we work 10 or 12 hour shifts. And then at the end of the shift, we have to count all the cards in a shoe. There's 416 cards",' Mr Purton said.



© Supplied **Bill Purton had already made a name for himself with inventions like the 'Deck Checker', which is used globally in casinos**

Mr Purton said he felt sorry for the dealer and promised to make him something that would deal with the problem.

'So although I've never been trained as an engineer, I'm not a bad engineer, but where I don't have skills, I will always ask,' he said.

Bringing in brains from New Zealand - the CSIRO bogged him down with an 80-page contract - Mr Purton came up with the technology to scan and count the cards, streamlining a process that had burdened casinos and dealers across the world for decades.

The 'Deck Checker' used optical character recognition, scanning and sorting casino cards in seconds and eliminating human error in a process plagued by the brain's love for patterns.

Crown funded the project with \$100,000, and the Deck Checker became a hit at trade shows, further solidifying Mr Purton's reputation as a problem-solver.

Fast forward to today and Mr Purton's masterful solutions to simple problems are now being used by some of the largest companies on the planet, including Hungry Jacks, Brunetti's, Krispy Kreme, United Petroleum, BP and Pacific Group.

His latest invention, Caffe Assist, is aptly named for the job it does.

'I believe a name should do what it says it does,' Mr Purton said.

The machine is streamlining the way milk is heated in cafes, addressing inefficiencies he observed while waiting in a South Australian cafe.

The device ensures consistent milk quality, self-cleans, and reduces barista workload, allowing better customer engagement.

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The Caffè Assist is making life easier for baristas and cafe owners and will soon make its way into ordinary households

It's programmable for various milk types and has been adopted by chains around the world with a view to roll them out to both large and small cafes across the globe.

'I was waiting for 25 minutes for a takeaway coffee. And there were only six customers in the cafe,' Mr Purton said.

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'And the person behind the machine was a bit of a novice, and I made the mistake of coming up and trying to help them and said "look, if you do it this way. You know, you don't have to do milk one serve at a time".'

Mr Purton had previously owned a small coffee company, so he of course knew what he was talking about.

Fuming at the wait, Mr Purton sat down and worked out a solution right there and then on a napkin.

'I did the same thing I did with the card scanning machine. I designed that literally on the back of an envelope, and this time, I was sitting in the cafe in South Australia and I designed it on a napkin,' he said.

'So that led me into the field of steaming milk and there's a lot of science behind steaming milk and I think I always take it one step further.'

With Australia's hospitality industry facing 50 per cent staff turnover, Mr Purton said Caffe Assist ensures consistency and frees baristas to chat with customers, boosting discretionary sales by 7 per cent through repeat business.

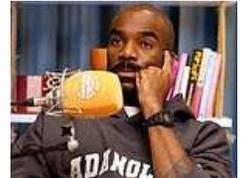


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Can't stop clearing your throat?



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Bill Purton took on some basic work for Crown Casino, which ended up changing the way casinos did business around the globe

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After my husband died, I tried dating for the first time. Yet a mistake in the bedroom



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Bill Purton revolutionised the way casino chips worked

Mr Purton's patents on milk detection and self-cleaning tech are keeping his competitors at bay, with his small company now eyeing global domination despite stiff competition from Swiss and Italian push-button machines.

His vision is clear: streamline processes, use minimal materials, and make life easier.

Whether it's a casino chip or a flat white, his inventions are about precision and practicality.

Melbourne

aged 63 led to a humiliating situation I never saw coming. This is what a...



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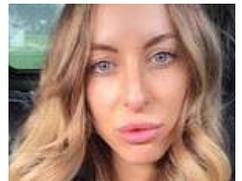
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▶ after duchess used it as promotional pop-up



▶ Khloe Kardashian satisfies her sweet tooth with a donut after mum Kris Jenner's star-studded birthday bash



▶ Orlando Bloom faces ex-fiancée Katy Perry's wrath as he cosies up to actress Rachel Lynn Matthews who mocks singer with Halloween costume



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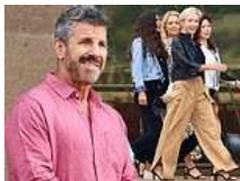
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▶ **No shirt, no problem! Landon Barker shows off tattooed torso as he departs Kris Jenner's birthday bash attended by billionaires Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg**



▶ **Solemn Kate is sophisticated in all-black ensemble as she joins the Royal Family for Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph and pays a heartfelt tribute to her veteran grandfather**



▶ **Celebrities including Russell Crowe, Kyle Sandilands and Richard Wilkins lead emotional tributes to John Laws after radio legend's death at age 90: 'An inspiration to so many'**



▶ **EXCLUSIVE Mission Possible! Moment Tom Cruise defies protesters to chopper in to Scientology fundraiser**



▶ **Jennifer Aniston's boyfriend Jim Curtis shares dating tips (and the advice he may have followed to land the Friends star!)**



▶ **Princess Anne pays tribute to fallen soldiers during special commemorative service in Sydney - as she continues her visit to Australia**



▶ **Kelly Brook and Lisa Riley are the first stars to touch down in Australia ahead of this year's UK I'm A Celebrity as they arrive at Brisbane Airport**



▶ **Hilary Duff breaks silence on 'family drama' after years of feud rumors with sister Haylie**



▶ **Meghan Markle and stern Prince Harry lead star parade at Kris Jenner's 70th birthday bash held at Jeff Bezos' \$250million mansion in Beverly Hills**



▶ **Nathan Cleary opens up about the secret addiction he shares with thousands of Aussies - as footy fans turn on him**



▶ **Motor racing great James Courtney makes shock career move**

▶ amid 'fear of divorce' from his model wife



▶ Gordon Ramsay says there is 'no way' he will offer 'Ozempic tasting menu' saying 'the problem' is with diners for 'eating too much in the first place'

▶ Big Brother Australia viewers deliver their verdict on the new cast and return to old format - as early favourites emerge: 'Gen Z is not ready'



▶ Ariarne Titmus like you've never seen her before! Olympic swimming legend puts on a racy display in stunning new photoshoot



▶ Big Brother is back - and viewers are all saying the same thing about new host Mel Tracina after she replaced Sonia Kruger



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▶ scrambling to save iconic show



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Jennifer Lawrence calls out 'annoying'

▶ **Kourtney Kardashian: 'She drives me nuts'**



▶ **Prince George joins the King and Princess of Wales at Festival of Remembrance as Royal Family put Andrew scandal behind them to pay tribute to the fallen**



▶ **War of words after Travis Kelce's ex 'trolled Taylor Swift' turns nasty as alleged racist and homophobic posts emerge**



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▶ Roxy Jacenko reveals the diet and workout routine behind her insane figure in recent lubed-up photos - as she shares never before seen images from the shoot



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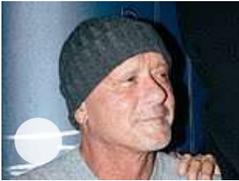


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