

# Malcolm Burt researches why rollercoasters exist

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**YOU'RE flirting with death and you have only a limited time to run, but you don't.**

Your heart is racing and your palms are sweaty and you hear deafening screams.

You take a weak step closer to the thunderous roar ahead of you and panic sets in.

These are the feelings Malcolm Burt believes all people crave, as scary as it sounds.

Mr Burt, a rollercoaster enthusiast, has been obsessed with the rides all his life, ever since he was a "fat, awkward kid".

"I viewed these rides as a real escape," he said.

"I wasn't very good at sports and I lived in a small country town and these rides showed me I could be brave and tough."

Mr Burt has travelled around the world defeating some of the world's most terrifying coasters, he even went to Disneyland for his 40th birthday, and he has realised the love people have for them is actually kind of insane.

"It's normal to queue for about two hours to go on a 60 second ride and we do it," he said.

Mr Burt has figured out the real reason we go on rollercoasters and basically it's because we are lazy.

"We live in a very lazy, consumerist society where we binge watch Netflix," he said.

"We're not going to go and climb Mount Everest, but rollercoasters give you the same biological reaction.

"Basically you feel like you've achieved something incredible and you're in the zone.

"People go on rollercoasters over climbing Mount Everest because they work and



Malcolm Burt sits at the front of a flume ride at Sea World when he was young. Source: Supplied

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