

Quick news



WINDSOR FUN: Tony Windsor has poked fun at his fellow federal independent MPs, exposing the unusual contents of Bob Katter's briefcase and his thoughts during Rob Oakeshott's decision speech.

"There's toilet paper in it, you know," he said. After Labor and the coalition each won 72 seats at the August 21 election, the decisions of the three men became critical to who would form a minority government.



POKIE PROMISE: Clubs in NSW have welcomed the state Opposition's plans to cut pokie taxes, saying there will be a wide benefit for the community. Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell yesterday announced

his plan to reduce the tax burden on registered clubs by \$300 million over four years if the Coalition wins office at the March state election. In return, the clubs would be expected to do more for the community.



Stacey Prieur tries the seafood risotto after viewing the menu on her iphone. Photo: BRENDAN RADKE

Security in boom

JESSICA JOHNSTON
johnstonj@goldcoast.com.au

SECURITY guards are beefing up their operations across the Gold Coast as they prepare for a multimillion-dollar Schoolies-generated security boom.

High-rise apartment complexes are forking out up to \$50,000 to protect their buildings during the annual influx of school leavers.

"In two-and-a-half weeks the security industry will turn over several million - it is very lucrative," said Paradise Security Australia managing director Andrew Csabi.

"It can be seasonal on the Gold Coast, we're now entering the peak season, with V8s, Schoolies, Christmas and retail... it won't slow down until March."

The State Government expects the number of school leavers headed for the Coast to exceed the 35,000 who attended last year.

Mr Csabi will triple his staff to cater for the demand, with apartment complexes the major clients.

"We've got nearly 20 buildings with six to eight guards, 24 hours a day," he said.

While guards are hired to protect property and permanent residents, those at the coalface of the annual school-leavers' party-zone in Surfers



Security guard Danny Topalov

Paradise say counselling drunken youngsters was the most important skill required.

Guard Danny Topalov, who has worked 15 schoolies festivals, said befriending the kids was their secret weapon.

"We try to build a good rapport - that's our biggest weapon," he said.

"If you get on the right side of them 98 per cent will co-operate."

"When they are in Surfers, that is their safe haven and they know they can run back to the building for help."

"We are there to protect the building for the client, but it's about being there for the kids, looking after them."

GC Guards business development manager Julie Cuff said demand had increased tenfold in eight years.

1two3 goes hi tech to attract diners

MERRIN JAGTMAN
jagtmannj@goldcoast.com.au

A SLOW recovering economy is forcing Gold Coast restaurants to look at new ways of driving consumer traffic.

Restaurant and Caterers Association Gold Coast committee member Glen Day said many local restaurants were embracing new technology and social media in a bid to fill more seats.

"This year has been a flat one for Gold Coast's restaurants with quite a few restaurants closing,"

said Mr Day. "People are watching what they spend and we have seen less tourist activity."

"Restaurants need to think outside the box to entice their customers."

Broadbeach restaurant Itwo3 is doing exactly that.

The dining and lounge bar recently launched its own smart phone application which it claims is the first of a kind.

Justine Clarke, the restaurant's marketing manager, said the free application included sample menus with images, weekly enter-

tainment line-ups and links to the restaurant's facebook and twitter accounts.

"There are thousands of apps that review restaurants, help people find restaurants, search for recipes and so on but this is very different," she said.

"There is a special section called 'My Itwo3', where you can book a table online or if you prefer to speak with the restaurant directly, there is also a 'click to call' button that will call the venue for free."

Ms Clarke said the application took three months to create.

Jessica's mum vows to help others

LEAH FINERAN
fineranl@goldcoast.com.au

HER daughter is now at peace but Karen Dunne has vowed to help other families struggling with brain-damaged children.

Two years ago, Jessica, then 19, was struck down with meningococcal which left her unable to walk, talk or eat independently.

Jessica's fight for life ended on Wednesday when the 21-year-old died in her sleep.

The impact of her life has steeled her mother to use her knowledge and research to help others in similar situations.

At the top of her list is a plan to



Jessica's mum Karen Dunne and sister Monique Dunne

donate a community-funded Geiger exercise machine for a rehabilitation room at the future Youngcare Apartments planned for Coomera.

"It's a \$20,000 piece of machinery that was paid for by the sup-

port of Gold Coasters who were touched by Jess and wanted to help her," she said.

Ms Dunne said she also hoped to use her knowledge to volunteer through Youngcare and local charity Dream Workers.

At Jessica's memorial service at the weekend, Ms Dunne wept as she thanked the Gold Coast community for their support during the past two years.

"I've never known such a community - thank you Gold Coast, thank you so much from the bottom of my heart," she said

Jessica's service photo gallery at goldcoast.com.au

CUT THIS OUT

AND YOU COULD...

WIN

MAJOR PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS

Each day this week (Mon 11th to Sat 16th October) the Gold Coast Bulletin will publish two letters from the words 'Hardly Normal'. Collect all the letters and attach them to the entry forms (appearing Saturday 9th and Monday 11th of October) to spell 'Hardly Normal' - fill out the coupon and drop the completed entry form into the Bulletin Barrel this weekend at Harvey Norman Electrical/Computer departments Ashmore Road, Bundall - it's that easy! There will be giveaways all that weekend with the major prizes drawn Sunday 17th October at 4pm. You can enter as many times as you like, entries must be on original Bulletin entry forms.

