

# Plastic just fantastic

## It's safety first in Broadie

by Melissa Townsend and Leah Fineran

ALL Broadbeach restaurants plan to switch to shatterproof glass or plastic cups by 10pm daily as part of a push to make it the city's safest party precinct.

Restaurateurs, bar owners and the Broadbeach Alliance are working to introduce the safer drinking vessels by the end of the year after the Gold Coast was branded the glassing capital of Queensland.

The three restaurants already with plastic or shatterproof glass are 1two3 Mediterranean, Onyx Restaurant/Tapas and Cocktail Bar, and Satin Loungebar and Restaurant.

They have followed the lead of the precinct's two nightclubs East and Platinum which swapped their glassware for plastic earlier this year.

In a presentation to council this week Broadbeach Alliance CEO Jan McCormick and chairman Adrienne Readings revealed a strategy to convince all venues to get on board.

Under The Collaborative Approach to Liquor Management (CALM) strategy, all venues that make the switch to plastic after 10pm and consider other safety measures including bouncers and ID scanners will receive free marketing from the alliance who will promote their business as a safe, well-managed venue.

"Before long all venues who have not committed to CALM will sign up as a result of our marketing of their competitor's venues," said Ms McCormick.

She said the move would help prevent glassings in Broadbeach and uphold the precinct's 'safe' image.

"Everyone is trying to work together to keep Broadbeach safe and



Bartender Ashley Straney serves cocktails in plastic glasses at 1two3 Mediterranean

● Picture: Kate Czerny

secure, as much as we can," she said.

Onyx Restaurant, Tapas and Cocktail Bar manager Michael Robson said 70 per cent of drinks were served in plastic glasses on busy nights after 10pm and few patrons could tell the difference.

"It helps with breakages and they're really good quality - when they are chilled you would never know," he said.

1two3 Mediterranean owner Andrew McElhone said the venue had phased

in plastic glasses in the bar section and shatterproof glass in the restaurant four weeks ago, and they now used them every day at all hours.

He said they had decided to take a proactive stance on glassings.

"You read about it every day and we just didn't want to take that sort of risk," he said.

"We want to offer a safe and secure environment.

"I think restaurants that have a busy bar area should follow our lead," he said.

## Switch defies industry call

THE Broadbeach restaurant switch has flown in the face of a plasticware rejection from the wider restaurant industry.

Earlier in the week, Restaurant Catering Queensland president Peter Summers said plastic cups would ruin fine dining and potentially destroy tourism and the food and beverage industry.

When he heard about the plan in Broadbeach, Mr Summers said individual restaurants were

entitled to make the switch, but he did not believe it would set a precedent for other restaurants to follow.

"The industry at large doesn't support plastic, but that doesn't stop individuals from doing what they want to do," he said.

The move has been welcomed by community leaders such as Tourism Minister Peter Lawlor.

He said the restaurants should be congratulated for being proactive on safety.

## Breath test for dancers

ST Edmund's College in Ipswich will conduct random breath tests to keep its annual school dance trouble free.

But the move has been criticised as excessive by civil libertarians.

Principal Brendan Lawler said students arriving at the dance would be chosen randomly for testing as a condition of entry.

Random testing throughout the night would ensure alcohol was not spirited into the venue on October 23.

Parents of students testing positive will be called to pick them up.

## Moti case faces delay

THE child-sex trial against Julian Moti may face long delays if his lawyers are successful in stalling their current application to have the charges dropped.

Charges against the former Solomon Islands attorney-general relate to the alleged rape of a 13-year-old girl in Noumea and Vanuatu in 1997.

Mr Moti's lawyers are arguing in the Supreme Court in Brisbane for the charges to be dropped.

Justice Debra Mullins is expected to rule on the adjournment today.

## Love claim rejected

A FORMER Grafton school principal has told a judge he thought he was in love with a 16-year-old student he had sex with at his home on five occasions.

The victim's mother rejected his claim: "Perhaps he needs to have a lesson in what love is ... I find that a real joke."

Frank Bailey, 44, former principal of a Christian school at Grafton has pleaded guilty in the NSW District Court to five counts of sexual intercourse with a girl under his care over four days in 2007.

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