Oil be the judge of that
tALK about taking things literally. A woman recently pulled into a Ferry Base servu and asked to buy some engine oil. She went to her car, opened the bonnet and poured the oil over the car’s engine. Blake at the console said there was some serious cleaning required once she left.

Sign of good times ahead
Massive sign hanging from an overpass on one of the busier roads in Sydney’s south west: “Enjoy yourself in Darwin, Bozo”. Now there’s some free publicity.

Near Rebels, with a cause
Cops at the Rebels OMCG poker run raising money and awareness for depression didn’t get any outlaw bike action but their presence wasn’t entirely unwarranted. One officer said: “You know why we’re all here? The number of unregistered cars.” He was only half joking — the cops really are here.

Secret lives of echidnas
Some interesting facts came to light about echidnas from Territory Wildlife Park this week. They’re super-secretive and only come out after 2am. Territory Wildlife Park needed infra red cameras to finally locate one they’d placed in a park enclosure seven years ago. Then there’s the echidna breeding train. Apparently the female of the species leads a train of males on an exhausting hike, all head to tail. The trek continues until there’s just a single committed male left.

Sounds like a good plan
During last week’s siege at the Sin City housing block in Gray one of the pieces of kit police employed to try and dislodge those inside was an MRAD device — a Medium Range Acoustic Device aka sound cannon. When asked about its likelihood of success, Senior Sergeant Mark Stringer responded: “And if this doesn’t work, we’ll blow them with Metallica next.”

BANANA drama still going
More than 500,000 banana plants in the Top End have now been destroyed in the name of protecting the commercial industry. The Banana Freckle eradication team say there are just a handful of properties to go. And they are confident they know the whereabouts of all the remaining banana plants. Why, then, is there at least one Territory Government property with plants still growing in it? The unoccupied Territory Housing property is near Sander son High and the plants are pretty obvious. They’re in the front yard.

Respect would go far
Francis Xavier Kuruppu’s hasn’t been back in the CLP fold all that long. Mr Kuruppu left because he was unhappy about the lack of respect shown to him. Burke wonders whether Mr Kuruppu might now be regretting his return. A press release this week suggests people within the Government don’t know his name, or his electorate. Business Minister Peter Styles put out a press release referring to a “Mr Xavier’, “Member for Arnhem Land”’. Mr Kuruppu is Member for Arakfa. There is no such electorate as Arnhem Land. There is, though, an electorate called Arnhem.

A Clair, or even a Snowie?
A YOUNG French couple were walking their dog on one of Darwin’s more popular streets last week: “Enjoy yourself in Darwin, Bozo.” Now there’s some free publicity.

WORST PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK: Bushranger is all for encouraging business to do their own thing but we think a $16.50 messy kids surcharge is a bit rich, Seafood on Cullen