



Quick weather



DARWIN
Mostly sunny, possible early morning shower

MAX
33



ALICE SPRINGS
Cool overnight and sunny, hazy

MAX
33

FULL WEATHER REPORT: PAGE 59



Young Cats purring

NEW Geelong pin-up boy Allen Christensen puts his surge in form down to the mentor role being played by the club's older players. The Cats tackle West Coast in today's AFL preliminary final at the MCG.

FULL STORY IN SPORT: PAGE 58



WINE AND DINE ON SUNDAY

Sunday Serenity – Enjoy an il lido "assaggi di salami tapas platter" with two glasses of house wine included for only \$20. One coupon per 2 people. Offer only valid on Sundays. Offer valid until September 30, 2011.



Retailers see red at net

EXCLUSIVE
By PHIL JACOB

Online factor sparks the try-on fee



I've got to now pick the people who won't screw me over

A RAPIDLY growing number of retailers are threatening to impose "fitting fees" on shoppers to prevent them from trying on items in-store — only to buy them online for less.

Fed-up sellers of everything from cameras to wetsuits, ski boots and wedding gowns say they have been forced to consider charges to protect themselves from what they see as exploitation by consumers.

The retailer revolt comes as an NT News survey of more than 1000 people reveals 61 per cent have tried a product in a store and later bought it over the internet.

Hanna Kossowska, owner of Hanna Couture in Surry Hills, NSW, said she was contemplating charging brides-to-be a fee of \$300 for work on their gown.

"It's just becoming impossible to work in this industry any more," Ms Kossowska said yesterday. "I'm now lucky to get one job from ten fittings because girls tell me they can get either the same dress or a similar dress on the web for less." Camera-store owner Craig Mackenzie said he had been forced to charge a

\$30 "explanation fee" to customers just looking to test his high-end cameras without giving any real indication of purchasing them.

"I've got to now pick the people who won't screw me over," Mr Mackenzie said.

Steve Collinson, manager of Heritage Surf in Manly, said "online cannibalisation" was a major factor in his decision to close his doors in two weeks.

"People can just now go on their iPhone to actually look up prices in comparison — all

while they stand right in front of you," Mr Collinson said.

"It's something that's really resonating throughout the entire surf industry, to the point that surf stores have had big meetings with RipCurl recently to decide whether or not to start charging people for testing wetsuits in-store."

And earlier this year, Sydney ski store Inski made international headlines after announcing it would charge \$50 for a boot-fitting, refundable on purchase.

Nearly two-thirds of all re-

spondents to the survey said they had bought more goods and services online in the past year. The findings are supported by a recent study by Macquarie Equities Research, which found 18 per cent of visitors to shopping centres preferred to window-shop, before making the final purchase on the internet.

Charlie Arnot, 22 — one of the survey respondents — said she shopped more on the web than ever before.

Ms Arnot said while she could understand the logic be-

hind stores charging people for trying on items, it was going to be a tough sell.

Choice spokeswoman Ingrid Just said retailers were playing a dangerous game.

"... You could argue it could prevent people from going into that store and that's a potential sale they may lose at that time," she said.

Sash not a model driver

A TERRITORY model has pleaded guilty to driving an unregistered and uninsured car without a driver's licence.

Sasha Lee Greenoff, who was selected for the second series of *Australia's Next Top Model*, was fined \$600.

Prosecutor David Buganey told Magistrate Michael Carey that Greenoff had been pulled over by police on East Point Rd, in Fannie Bay, on July 28.

He said the car was not registered or insured and that Greenoff's driver's licence had expired five days earlier.

But Greenoff, a North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency personal assistant, said she had just returned from an overseas trip and was unaware her mother's car was not registered or insured.

Greenoff was selected as one of 12 hopefuls to star in the national reality television series in 2006.

She was chosen from a pool of about 600 models.

But the beauty was the first to be eliminated from the show after the contestants were judged on their army skills.

Greenoff was also in the RAW 2008 Aboriginal Woman's Calendar.

But she is the second Territory model in as many weeks to go through the Darwin courts.

Former *Make Me a Supermodel* contestant Sara Longman, 20, appeared in Darwin Magistrates Court charged with drug and weapon offences last week.

Ms Longman allegedly had cannabis and methamphetamine, in a rural caravan park earlier this month, as well as bullets and a crossbow.



Sasha Greenoff in the RAW 2008 Aboriginal Women's Calendar

Picture: BRUCE JOHNSON

Lunacy on road

POLICE yesterday lashed out at drunk drivers after catching another six motorists over the legal limit.

Senior Sergeant Garry Smith said drink-driving was "totally unacceptable".

"The message is obviously not getting through to some people," he said. "We're banging our heads against a brick wall."

"We plead with people just to think about what they're doing."

Snr-Sgt Smith said drink-driving was a "recipe for disaster".

"Our boys and girls are sick of going to crashes and having to pull out bodies," he said.

The highest blood-alcohol reading overnight was .154, recorded by a 40-year-old man af-

ter he was stopped at a road breath-testing station in Wishart Rd, Palmerston.



A 32-year-old man blew .128 on Tiger Brennan Drive. And a 22-year-old motorcyclist returned .115 on Chung Wah Terr, Palmerston.

A 27-year-old man recorded .166 on Bagot Rd. A 28-year-old man was stopped after police saw him accelerating and losing traction in Devine Rd, Humpty Doo. He blew .079.

And a 51-year-old woman returned .085 after being stopped at a road breath-testing station on Vanderlin Drive.

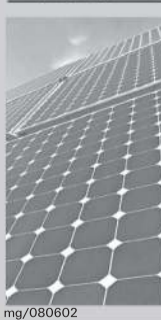
"She should have known better," Snr-Sgt Smith said. "She probably thought she wasn't over the limit. Don't take the risk."

Training Courses

Split System AC Installation Course
Certificate II Engineering
Darwin - October 8 - 10

- For plumbers, electricians, building/mechanical trades, apprentices
- On completion refrigerant handling license can be obtained
- 3 day course
- \$1980 total cost



Solar Grid Connect Design and Install Course
Katherine: Oct 31 - Nov 3
Darwin: Nov 5 - 8

- For licensed electricians
- Enables Clean Energy Council accreditation
- 4 day course
- Course materials, 2 standards and text books provided
- \$1980 Darwin & \$980 Katherine total cost

For enrolment info visit - www.skillbuildtraining.com.au
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