

Mills and Henderson clash over grog laws

By NIGEL ADLAM

CLP leader Terry Mills and Chief Minister Paul Henderson clashed over the Territory Government's banned drinkers' register yesterday.

About 1300 drunks are on the list, which means they are barred from buying take-away alcohol.

Eight hundred have been refused service.

Mr Mills said he would scrap the register if elected next year.

"I'm not convinced that it's

an effective way to deal with the problem," he said.

"It's based on the confused notion that alcohol is the problem, whereas problem drinkers are the problem. We have to focus on the few who have a serious problem."

But police support the register. Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly said: "Alcohol measures are probably one of the best tools that we've had for combating alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour in the Territory.

"Certainly, we expect that

we will see reductions in alcohol-related crime and in our domestic assaults."

Police believe the system will begin to have a noticeable effect as more and more drunks are added to the list.

Mr Henderson said alcohol management laws would be an election issue.

He said Mr Mills's opposition to the register showed he was out of touch.

"What Terry Mills would see is 1300 people who abuse alcohol, commit acts of domestic violence and get taken

into protective custody night after night, back on tap.

"Eight hundred people who have been refused service would have been given access to alcohol, who would then have gone on to drink and drive, belt their partners, fall down drunk and be taken into protective custody.

"If you're going to be tough on crime, you've got to be tough on grog."

Mr Henderson said the battlelines had been drawn for the next election.



If you're going to be tough on crime, you've got to be tough on grog

Mr Mills said that a CLP government would focus on rehabilitation of offenders, rather than inconveniencing the majority.

Rudd 'nine votes short'

By NIGEL ADLAM

A CLP Senator yesterday stood by his story that a Labor politician had told him Kevin Rudd was plotting a coup against Julia Gillard.

Nigel Scullion said ALP Senator Trish Crossin had said Mr Rudd was nine votes short of becoming prime minister again.

"I shared the information with a Coalition colleague and, sadly, he leaked it to the media," Mr Scullion said.

Senator Crossin accused the deputy leader of the National Party of lying.

"He will say and do anything to advance his own political position," she said.

Senator Crossin said she was talking to Mr Rudd when Senator Scullion "barged" into her office on Tuesday night. She said she was asking the former prime minister to send a letter of support to the Territory Thunder football team before the grand final.

"The conversation had nothing to do with leadership," she said. "For goodness sake, the bloke is recovering from heart surgery."

But Senator Scullion said he walked into Senator Crossin's office and found her talking on the phone to Mr Rudd. After the call, they had opened a bottle of wine and shared a few drinks.

"She said he was nine short. Those were her words."

Mr Rudd denied he was plotting to oust Ms Gillard. The Territory has only two Senators, compared with 12 for the States. The positions have always divided between CLP and Labor.

Man charged over woman found dead in river bed

A MAN has been charged with the murder of a woman whose body was found in a dry river bed in Alice Springs.

Donathan Williams, 35, appeared in Alice Springs Magistrates Court yesterday charged over the murder of the woman, 25, in the Todd River on Tuesday last week.

Detective Acting Superintendent Travis Wurst said Williams was arrested for another matter but further investigations revealed his alleged involvement in the murder.

He said he was questioned by police over an assault on a man, 33, on Monday.

He will appear in court again in December.

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Your choice

THE annual BASSINTEGRASS music festival gains momentum by the year and now fans can have their say in which acts they want to see.

NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson yesterday unveiled a Facebook poll calling for nominations from Territorians of all ages.

In front of a school assembly at Darwin High School he called BASSINTEGRASS a "people's movement".

"This is a chance for the kids to nominate their band - who they want to see in 2012," he said.

"We will do whatever we can to make sure the hottest acts - as voted by you - feature in next year's line up."

Year 12 student Alex Lei said he was unsure if he would use the poll to vote but said it was a great idea to give people the chance to have their say.

Mr Henderson was in no doubt about who he would vote for.

"I'm a rocker and roller and would love to see Jet come back and play," he said.

2011 School Battle of the Bands winners, Ned and Friends, performed after the announcement.



Darwin band Ned and Friends perform after Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, announced the Facebook poll at Darwin High School that will allow the public to decide on which bands they would like to see play at BASSINTEGRASS 2012
Picture: MICHAEL FRANCHI

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Big cash donation set to help dementia patients

A GENEROUS wad of cash — \$10,000 — has been thrown towards helping dementia sufferers and their carers.

Alzheimer's Australia NT will use the funds to expand its range of resource material and set up a dedicated general library for members, carers and

staff. The money came from a passionate reader Marie Gray, 96, of NSW.

Her nephew Bill Hancock lives in Darwin. "My aunt's decision to donate funds... stems from her close relationship with my wife Val, who was diagnosed in her late 50s with early onset

dementia and now resides in a special care facility in Tiwi," he said.

He will be present for the official opening of The Marie Gray Library, at the Alzheimer's Australia NT office in Bauhinia St, Nightcliff, at 10am on Monday.