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**NEWS 05**

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**Good Oils touch for chilled out new single**

DARWIN musician Leah Flanagan has teamed up with the man responsible for writing some of Midnight Oil’s biggest hits and the finished product is a single about “un-conditional love”.

Flanagan launched her latest single, Everything, at Nightcliff’s Pavonica Place on Saturday night before playing a record show on Sunday.

She performed “in duo mode with local guitarist Glen Forrest” to a sold-out house.

“The beautiful Netanela Mizrahi joined me for a song,” Flanagan said.

“It [was] a special show at a beautiful venue in my home town, where I don’t get the chance to perform much.”

Flanagan, who lives in Darwin and Sydney, said everything was inspired by love.

“It’s chilled out, folkie, soul with motown strings,” she said.

“I was listening to Bill Withers at the time of writing that song. (I want listeners to feel) full of hope and happiness.”

Flanagan said her new material was recorded and co-produced by Jim Moginie (Midnight Oil) and Niall Anderson (Gin Wigmore).

“Jim and Niall have also been helping me arrange my songs and teaching me more about the recording process,” she said.

Moginie has worked and performed with musicians including Silverchair, Sarah Blasko, Neil Murray, Kasey Chambers and Neil Finn.

Flanagan said working with the industry heavyweights was “extremely positive”.

“I have learnt so much about the arranging and production processes,” she said.

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**Fillies, fashion and finery**

**By MARIA BILLIAS**

ONE of the most highly sought-after gigs for Territory fashionistas and aspiring racing personalities is up for grabs.

The search for the 2014 Darwin Cup Ambassador is under way in Darwin, with many up-and-coming fashion hopefuls expected to apply for the coveted position.

The role provides significant media coverage and a full social calendar during the thick of dry season racing carnival festivities.

Competitive fashionistas have marked the Darwin Racing Carnival with controversy in the past, notably at the 2010 Ladies Day event when one race-goer threatened to stab another for wearing the same red dress in the Cup marquee.

Darwin Turf Club marketing manager Carly Archer will be hoping for a less controversial start to this year’s Cup season, with the ambassador to be front and centre of Darwin Turf Club’s marketing.

“The ambassador role is a highly sought-after position and the person selected will be instrumental in helping to promote the Carlton Mid Darwin Cup Carnival not only locally, but interstate, nationally and even internationally,” she said.

“Featuring in much of the media and promotion, the chosen ambassador has the opportunity to increase their profile and that of the carnival through various photo shoots, media interviews, race day presentations and social events.”

The successful ambassador will fill the high-heeled shoes of outgoing ambassador model and budding fashion designer Kahila-May Gepp.

Ms Gepp has successfully used the position as a launching pad for her fashion career, earning a spot at a prestigious fashion college in Melbourne.

“As ambassador I was proud to do my bit to promote what I believe is one of the best, most unique events anywhere in the country,” Ms Gepp said.

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**Childcare red tape over haul to benefit families**

By LAUREN WILSON

A TROUBLED certification scheme which had forced childcare centres to sideline experienced staff and direct valuable time away from child minding has been wound back under a federal and state government deal to slash red tape.

The deal means parents could be in line for some hip-pocket relief with the Australian Childcare Alliance claiming the scheme was pushing up the costs of running childcare centres by $2.04 million in certificate fees alone.

The supervisor certificates were introduced under the former Labor government, as a part of its National Quality Framework, and required at least one staff member with an approved certificate to be on site at all times.

Although the certificates were meant to be approved within 90 days, many centres complained of delays of up to a year, forcing childcare centres to spend hours on paperwork, make certified staff work overtime, and in some cases operate illegally.

“Australasian Childcare Alliance president Gwynn Bridge said the administrative burden placed on childcare services and staff applying for the certificates had, “directed valuable time and resources away from the actual time devoted to the children and families.”

Federal Assistant Minister for Education Susan Ley said the mountains of paperwork and delays involved with the scheme, “meant services had to sideline experienced staff while they wait for their piece of paper to arrive.”

“This is another step in our plan to address the unnecessary Labor red tape strangling childcare centres and state and territory governments alike,” Ms Ley said.

Labor’s spokeswoman for early childhood Kate Ellis said it was “a basic bureaucratic change.”

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**No butts, they make our roads a load of rubbish**

THE Territory’s highways and roads are being wrecked by littering, according to the latest national research by Keep Australia Beautiful.

The organisation’s chief executive Peter Capp said out of all the rubbish collected in the NT, 30 per cent was from the highways.

“This trend was recorded right across the country with highways the top litter spot in every state except Victoria,” he said.

“For some absurd reason when people are travelling in their vehicles they don’t have much respect for keeping our country beautiful,” Mr Capp said.

Territorians and tourists had to make an effort to be conscious of their habits this Easter weekend.

From the research collected, cigarette butts were the worst offender.

“With 367 collected so far, cigarette butts make up nearly 58 per cent of the total amount of rubbish in NT,” he said.

“Smokers just aren’t getting the message to not throw cigarette butts on the ground.”

The final results from the annual National Litter Index will be released later this year.

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**Discrimination act scrutinised**

A COMMUNITY forum on the proposed amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) will be held in Darwin.

The Northern Territory Anti Discrimination Commission and the Multicultural Council of the NT (MCNT) are hosting the event which will discuss the proposed amendments to the RDA 1975.

The NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sally Svev will speak at the forum.

Members of the public are invited to attend and have their say on the matter.

A Community Forum, MCNT, Malak Shopping Centre, 6.30pm to 8pm, Tuesday April 29

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