Fishos cast doubt on a flipping good story

By DAMIEN MCCARTNEY

Fishos have thrown doubt over claims made by two men that their commercial fishing boat was flipped over by a gust of wind, forcing them to cling to the hull and swim 2km through croc-infested waters.

The two men claim they were asleep off Finke Bay, between the mouths of the West Alligator and Wildman rivers, when their 6m boat was "flipped over" by a gust of wind about 8pm Tuesday.

One commercial fisherman, who didn't want to be named said it would have taken more than a gust of wind to flip the boat over.

"It's a big boat to be flipped by wind," he said.

Weather bureau severe weather forecaster Billy Lynch said there was nothing meteorological in the area that could have produced a strong enough gust.

He said microbursts – strong, sudden downdraughts which reached ground level – were common in the tropics, but associated with rain and thunderstorms.

"Forecasters said there weren't any of them around, so based on that we can rule out a microburst," he said.

"If we're looking for a wind strong enough to flip over a boat, a cyclone comes to mind, too, but it obviously wasn't one of them.

"We couldn't say for sure what sort of wind would be needed to flip a boat over but we can't explain it."

By DAMIEN MCCARTNEY

Tiwi girls find joyous way to tackle futures

YOUNG Tiwi girls are building brighter futures one footy game at a time.

The Toll Tiwi Bombers Youth Girls team was reformed this season to encourage indigenous girls, mainly from the Tiwi Islands, to play football in the NTFL Youth Girls competition.

The players, mainly aged 13 and 14, are boarders in Darwin at St Johns College, Kormilda College and Marrara Christian College. Each week, players are selected to travel in from the Tiwi Islands who are nominated by their schools – Xavier College and Tiwi College.

Starwin Social Enterprises has partnered with Tiwi Bombers to deliver the program this season, and said there was strong support from Good Sports NT, Boots for All and the NT Government.

"It's a good feeling knowing we are contributing to keeping this group of young women engaged in school and pursuing their dreams," said Karina Gray of Starwin Enterprise.

Toll Tiwi Bombers team members Arthurina Moreen, Jerrica Heenan, Christina Puruntatameri and Jasmine Brooks

Northern Territory Government

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The Northern Territory Government would like to hear from you on infrastructure projects that could be funded through the possible sale of the Territory Insurance Office (TIO).

If sold, TIO could help unlock our potential, creating the jobs and industries of the future.

We are keen to hear your ideas.

• Is there a new road or a new bridge that you think could open up your region?
• Is there a new sporting or cultural venue needed in your community?
• Do we need better facilities to support families such as new health or education infrastructure?
• What ideas do you have for projects that will create jobs and opportunities now and be an investment in our future growth?

To tell us how you think the possible sale of TIO could help us grow, go to www.buildingourterritory.nt.gov.au

Breath test man ‘just wanted a drink of water’

THE owner of a popular Darwin health food store refused to take a breath-alcohol test because police “wouldn’t give me a drink of water”.

Mal Green, who owns Greenies at Rapid Creek, was banned from the road for 18 months when he “grudgingly” admitted he failed to provide police with a breath sample at Darwin Magistrates Court.

“I didn’t like their attitude,” he said.

“All I wanted was a drink of water. I believe they wouldn’t give me one because they wanted the highest possible reading.”

Prosecutor Richard Burton said Green, 59, was drinking at the Buff Club before his Toyota Hilux was pulled over doing 70km/h in a 60 zone on the Stuart Highway.

Green was convicted and fined $800.

Henderson in favour of TIO and port moves

MOVES to sell TIO have been backed by former Labor chief minister Paul Henderson.

Mr Henderson co-authored a report, tabled in Parliament that also called for the privatisation of the Port of Darwin.

The Giles Government has flagged it could look to unload the insurance office and offer a long-term lease for the port.

“At the end of last year, the Economic Development Advisory Panel made 37 recommendations to Government about the economics and actions we could take to promote further growth,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

He said Mr Henderson’s report recommends the Government “should act immediately to establish a process for privatising the Darwin Port Corporation to release capital to fund future port capacity expansion”.

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