Survivor host pet topic in vetting line-up

IT'S months until filming begins on Ten's version of Survivor, but rumours are already swirling about who'll host the big-budget show.

Late last year, the early tip was that fitness guru and reality star Steve Willis was on the presenter shortlist.

And the Commando's schedule is now wide open, with The Biggest Loser being shelved. But a new whisper doing the rounds is that television vet and host Dr Chris Brown could be a contender for the island-based gig.

Brown is a hugely popular personality at the network, featuring in Bondi Vet. The Living Room and I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!

When asked if he'd been approached about Survivor, he was decidedly coy.

"I don't know if the wardrobe department could handle my sky-blue shirt design," Brown laughed. "But it's true, I do already have the cargo." 

Jeff Probst, the iconic host of the US version of Survivor, has set a very high standard for whoever takes the reins on the Aussie incarnation, he said.

"Probsty's a tough act to follow. He committed to the show so much he married someone involved in it.

"But it's like a cult, the Survivor thing. I have a few friends who, at the moment you bring it up they're like, 'Oh I love that show and I haven't missed a series. It's quite something."

He and jumpy buddy Julia Morris are due to fly to South Africa soon for Celebrity. The series kicks off on February 1 and runs for several weeks.

Production on that wraps less than a month before work on Survivor begins, on the remote Malaysian island of Pulau Tiga.

Loretta Kung puts family first in new gig for SBS

A NEW show giving insight into Asian-Australian culture will air this month on SBS, featuring Darwin-raised actor Loretta Kung.

The Family Law is adapted from a memoir by Benjamin Law and set on the Sunshine Coast, based around his sprawling Chinese-Australian family across an episode.

Kung plays Daisy, an aunty figure who is quite the gossip. She's a housewife who likes to gossip and judge people, but in a subtle way," Kung said. "It was a really interesting role."

Kung, who has featured in TV commercials in Australia and overseas, said the show was a blend of cringe-worthy and overseas, said the show.

"It is called the silent death. It is a normal thing, she said. "It's a normal experience," she said. "It's a normal cultural experience, disaster relief and evacuation duties in the region.

The Defence facility is a colossal dispatchers being talked through CPR.

While the family was too grief-stricken to speak yesterday, a connection to the little boy said he was a normal fun-loving kid who especially loved Spider-Man.

The NT News understands the Hotter home in Darwin's rural area where the boy died was not his usual residence.

The Swimming Pool Safety Act, which requires a barrier around swimming pools and spas, only applies to properties smaller than 1.8ha.

The size of the property where the boy drowned is unknown.

St John Ambulance officer Craig Garraway said the loss of life was a tragedy, and brought to the surface a near-miss in his own life.

"It is called the silent death. You can't be watching everything all the time," he said. "I had an experience myself where I nearly lost a four-year-old – it is that quick. The parents will be blaming themselves ... it is a horrible thing."

CAMP Quality and Wisdom Bar and Cafe have made a plea for help to make the Australia Day charity auction a success.

The event is Mitchell Street's biggest auction event, where there will be a burger challenge, raffles, party games, two auctions plenty of competitions and the sounds of the triple j Hottest 100.

The charities use the auction to aid Northern Territory children and families living with cancer. They need donations including items and vouchers for the live and silent auctions. If you can help, go to Camp Quality at nt@campquality.org.au or call 8985 4433.

Japan still holds sway

JAPAN remains the Territory's top trading partner for imports and exports.

In the year to November 2015, the top three countries the Territory sourced its international imports from were Japan, $4.8 billion, mainly iron and steel; China, $293 million, manufactured metal products; and Thailand, $49 million, largely preassembled modules related to Kiteshys project. The Territory's top three export destinations in the year were Japan, $2.7 billion, reflecting LNG exports from the Darwin LNG plant; China, $1.3 billion, mostly mineral ores; and Thailand, $522 million, mainly petrochemical products from the Montara Oil Field.

In November 2015, the Territory recorded an international goods trade surplus of $214 million.

DREDGING operations associated with an $8 million Defence multi-user barge ramp are being conducted at East Arm. A dredge pipeline has been installed from the construction site to the East Arm Wharf. The pipeline is marked with yellow marker-buoys and yellow flashing lights. Mariners are advised to be aware of the changed harbour conditions.

The Defence facility is a collaboration with the Land Development Corporation. The works will provide Defence watercraft around-the-clock capability to load and unload helicopter docks, other amphibious ships and explosive ordnance irrespective of tidal conditions in the harbour.

It will also allow Defence to provide humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and evacuation duties in the region.

East Arm dredging alert

As a little boy with a big imagination, Bob Catley used to pretend he was racing round the world in his dinky canoe propelled by a bedsheet sail on Sydney Harbour. Now he is free to sail forever.

"I'm dead at my Sydney home yesterday."

The self-made Australian billionaire, coffee grower and winemaker was a big participant his entire life in the world of sailing and international yachting, and today those worlds mourn a man of enormous passion and generosity.

His beautiful yacht Wild Oats XI will sail on to Hobart without him this year, the first time since he launched her.

"I'll be back, of course I will be back," Catley said when his "beauty" took a record eighth line honours win in the world famous race last year.