

Honour flutters all the way from Japan

By DAMIEN MCCARTNEY

A LEADING Top End butterfly expert will be presented with a prestigious international award at a function in Japan.

Dr Michael Braby, an entomologist and invertebrate conservation biologist with NRETAS, will be presented The Hayashi Award from The Butterfly Society of Japan in Tokyo next month.

The award was named in honour of famous Japanese lepidopterist Kei Hayashi.

Dr Braby will receive the award for his works, including *Butterflies of Australia: their Identification, Biology and Distribution*; *Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia* and a piece he had published in the journal *Entomological Science* in 2006.

Dr Braby said that receiving the award would be a "great honour".

"It's not every day you re-



It's not every day you receive an award from a society overseas

ceive an award from a society overseas," he said.

"I'm pretty chuffed about it."

To make the awards ceremony in Tokyo, Dr Braby had to re-route his flight home from a trip to Melbourne.

"I'm now going Melbourne to Darwin via Tokyo. It's a bit out-of-the-way, but I think it will be OK," he said.

Dr Braby has been working in the field for about 22 years, and will receive the award on December 10.



A 'common crow' butterfly comes under the watchful eye of Dr Michael Braby

Picture: PATRINA MALONE

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15FH08/11

Drink price rises early

By DAVID WOOD

THE Territory Government says it will refer Coca-Cola Amatil to the ACCC over the company increasing its prices a month before the new container recycling scheme begins.

Drink containers sold before January 3, when the new Territory-wide scheme begins, cannot be recycled for a 10c refund.

But the company last month sent a letter to retailers saying the price of products in the Territory would rise for all deliveries from December 5 to "fund the scheme's operation".

The letter did not state what the price rise would be and said it "may need to adjust pricing again to reflect any changes that are passed on to us as the scheme matures".

It did state the scheme would involve manufacturers paying the 10c deposit plus a handling fee on each container to cover the cost of running the

scheme. Territory Environment Minister Karl Hampton said if the claims of increased prices were true he was "very disappointed but not surprised by the company's latest move and will be raising this with the ACCC".

"Cash for containers works in South Australia and Territorians want it here," he said.

"The Territory scheme starts on January 3, 2012, so for Coca-Cola Amatil to increase its prices now is typical of a company that is driven by profits and not corporate responsibility. SA prices are no different because of cash for containers so the company needs to explain why Territorians are being treated differently."

One retailer who received the letter said the increase would have to be passed on to the public. "I am going to have pay an extra 10c and the customer who buys it between December 5 and January 3, by law cannot get that money back," he said.



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Toddler, 3, drowns in floodwater

A THREE-year-old boy has drowned as rising floodwaters across northern NSW leave residents stranded and force others to prepare for evacuation.

Tragedy struck shortly after noon yesterday when the youngster was swept into a stormwater drain at Bingara, near Warialda.

He was pronounced dead less than an hour after he had gone missing from his family home on Gwydir St.

Heavy rain hit the state for 24 hours into the early afternoon, cutting off up to 450 people in rural properties.

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