

SUNDAY MAY 17 2020

NEWS 09

CORONAVIRUS FIGHTBACK

Too close for comfort

A MAN beat a woman over the head with a bottle after she asked him to socially distance in a southwest Sydney supermarket queue.

The pair were standing in line for the supermarket checkout in Miller on Friday morning.

The 59-year-old woman says the man stood closely behind her, so she asked him to step back.

He later allegedly approached her from behind and hit her over the head with a bottle, which did not break, and fled the store.

The woman was treated by paramedics and taken to Liverpool Hospital as a precaution.

The man was not located by police and is described as of Indian appearance, aged in his 40s, of slim build and sporting a beard.

Grants hit right note

SOUTH Australian artists, bands and live music venues hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic will receive state government support with a \$1 million package.

The Music Development Office Project will help musicians who write and perform original music as well as local businesses who support those artists' development, delivery or production. Grants up to \$5000 are available to artists while music businesses can apply for up to \$20,000.

Applications will be assessed by an industry panel.

Innovation and Skills Minister David Pisoni said the creative sector as a whole was important to the state's economy and social and cultural structure, contributing about \$170 million and employing more than 2300 people.



New owners Surender Singh, Deepak Sharma and Pradeep Kumar Picture: CHE CHORLEY

Eatery gets taste of recovery

THE hospitality industry has been hit hard by coronavirus but that's not stopping a couple of ambitious Darwinites from opening up a new restaurant.

Business partners Surender Singh, Deepak Sharma and Pradeep Kumar will be taking over the Outback Jacks Bar and Grill and re-

opening the venue with a whole new look on June 4.

"During the lockdown we were able to do a lot of upgrades so inside everything looks totally different," Mr Sharma said.

"We're going to be changing up the menu as well, all those steaks everyone loves so much will still

be there but we'll be adding a bit of fusion with some Indian curry dishes as well.

"We know there won't be any tourists coming in because of COVID-19 but we think there's enough local customers. We know things are tough but we have hope hospitality will be able to bounce back."

Push to speed up itinerant camp bid

JASON WALLS

THE Gwalwa Daraniki Association is hoping to fast-track its proposal for a new itinerant camp in Darwin in anticipation of a flood of remote Territorians returning to town once biosecurity zone travel restrictions are lifted.

The organisation - which controls the 300ha Kulaluk lease on Dick Ward Dr - is in talks with the NT Government to establish the facility as part of a \$1.2 million land swap deal.

GDA consultant secretary and Country Liberal Party candidate Steve Doherty said the association would meet with top government bureaucrat Jodie Ryan at the end of the month to discuss fast-tracking the project.

"The initial infrastructure on the temporary side of it would just be a slab with a shed, fencing around it and then a men's ablution, a women's ablution and cookout area," he said.

"Then it would take a year or two or three even to complete the works on the other stage that would be a more permanent transient community arrangement post-COVID."

Mr Doherty said the facility would provide long grasses with a place to quarantine if necessary and access to virus testing and other health services which was often the reason they came to Darwin.

"The pandemic raises the need for this even more because hygiene's even more in need and people coming to town need somewhere to go to the toilet, they need somewhere to cook and somewhere to sleep," he said.

"Set half of it up as a temporary medical hospital where you come in and do your 14 days quarantine and then get your temperature checked and everything and then you're directed by agencies to whatever it is you're in town to do."

A spokeswoman for the Chief Minister's Department said the government would continue to work with the GDA to progress the proposal.

"However, there is a significant body of work to be undertaken before a final decision can be made. This work includes land surveys, a detailed assessment of the proposed business model and an understanding of the wider community's response," she said.

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