



# today's topics

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# This raid OK by me

WOMEN of Newcastle – you could see someone walking along the street in your clothes, but it's likely you'll be happy about it.

Thousands of local women have been flocking to Raid My Wardrobe (RMW) events over the past year where they can buy and sell unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories.

Broadmeadow mum and RMW founder Rachel Prest launched the concept a year ago.

She told Topics that she never dreamt it would be so popular, with women travelling from the north coast and Sydney to attend the Newcastle event.

She plans to expand the event to Sydney after she gives birth to her second child this year.

"It surprises me how far women are prepared to travel to sell their no longer-worn quality clothing or to come on a guilt-free shopping trip," Ms Prest said.

"Many women are becoming more and more environmentally conscious and socially aware of the impact of fast fashion and the fashion industry."

Raid My Wardrobe celebrates its first birthday this Sunday at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, from 10am to 1pm. Entry is \$3.

## HELLO POSSUMS

ANOTHER day, another animal yarn.

This time it's possums on the prowl at the University of Newcastle.

There's even a Facebook group dedicated to the critters titled Bin Possums of the University of Newcastle.

Sightings on the page range from a possum which lives near the School of Engineering and can be seen in daylight hours to nocturnal dwellers near the maths buildings. There are even sightings of wiley possums in the rafters of



READY: Rachel Prest with some clothing. – Picture by Simone De Peak

Mamadukes as recently as last week.

The possums seem to have adapted to the university lifestyle (we'll let you decide if that's a good or a bad thing) with posts on the Facebook page including "Saw one sipping from a coffee cup on a bin a few weeks back", "walking back to on-campus accom one night, there was a possum chillin on a bin eating a cheese and bacon roll" and "I've heard stories of bin possums throwing apples and V cans at people passing by."

But the best comment on the page, especially given the political events of the past few weeks, goes to Colin Baker who said, "I wonder if bin Possums is related to bin Laden?"

## QUIETLY FUND-RAISING

TEACHERS at Hillsborough Public School will have at least a few minutes of guaranteed silence today thanks to the school's Hush-a-thon.

Kids are sponsored on a per minute basis to keep quiet, up to a maximum of 25 minutes.

The flyer, which landed in our inbox, suggests: "This may be a hard take for some when in the company of friends," followed in bold by what was sure to lure in many parents: "Many parents have the children practise at home."

Money raised will go towards the school's newly-installed airconditioners.

We wonder how long it will take



## Storm in a teapot

READERS would have realised by now that Teana Teapot who appeared on *Australia's Got Talent* last night was not the same person who appeared in the *Newcastle Herald* yesterday. Amid the flutter of feathers, Prime TV sent us the wrong image. The real Teana Teapot is pictured.

for more schools or simply more parents to adopt this novel approach to fund-raising.

## A TOWN OF LEGAL HIGHS

YESTERDAY'S *Newcastle Herald* revealed the dangers of legal synthetic drug Kronoc, but a look through the Newcastle, Australia, Facebook page shows users were searching for the substance earlier this month, asking "who sells legal highs in newcastle???"

Newcastle, Australia, replied: "The best legal highs in Newcastle can be found in the many amazing activities and destinations that Newcastle is renowned for. A great place to start would be the following website. <http://www.visitnewcastle.com.au>."

Another facebook user chipped in with "The Barrington Tops are quite high... or Mount Sugarloaf! They are also very legal. I would recommend them HIGHLY."

## birthdays

**Dame Nellie Melba**, Australian opera singer (1861-1931); **Nancy Kwan**, US actress (1939-); **Pol Pot**, Cambodian dictator (1925-1998); **James Reyne**, pictured, Australian musician (1957).



## history

**1554:** France's King Henry II invades the Netherlands.

**1849:** Irishman William Hamilton arrested after firing blank shots at Queen Victoria in London.

**1930:** White women are enfranchised in South Africa.

**1964:** Forty microphones are found hidden in the US Embassy in Moscow.

**1994:** Death of former US first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

**2004:** The world's first embryonic stem cell bank opens in Britain.

## trivia by Grahame Marjoribanks

1. Who was the first contestant to be voted off the TV show *Dancing with the Stars* this season?
2. Who wrote *The Man from Snowy River*?
3. Who invented the phonograph?
4. What is the name of the military base near Seymour in Victoria?
5. What is the lightest type of wood used for commercial purposes?



6. Who, pictured, wrote *The Hobbit*?
7. What novels make up the trilogy *Lord of the Rings*?
8. What is the relationship between Bilbo Baggins, the hero of *The Hobbit*, and Frodo Baggins, of *Lord of the Rings* fame?
9. Who founded the Flying Doctor Service?
10. Which heavyweight boxing champion's autobiography is entitled *The Greatest: My Own Story*?

Answers: 1. Nathan Bracken 2. Banjo Paterson 3. Thomas Edison 4. Puckapunyal 5. Balsa 6. J.R.R. Tolkien 7. *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King* 8. The wattle 9. John Flynn 10. Muhammad Ali

## fact



Homing pigeons are believed to navigate via odours.

## text

Freely you have received, freely give.  
**Matthew 10:8**



CAMPAIGN: The Facebook page.

## star snap

### Shriver talks to Oprah

MARIA Shriver appeared at the taping of Oprah Winfrey's final talk show, the same day it was revealed her husband Arnold Schwarzenegger fathered a child with another woman. Shriver told Winfrey she had given her "love, support, wisdom and truth".



## what's on

Stamp collectors can head to the Newcastle Philatelic Society sale by tender tonight at 7.30pm at the Mayfield Ex-Services Club. Call 6572 2577.

Newcastle Permanent's Wacky Wombat will be at Stockton Library at 10.30am today as part of a literacy program for under 5s, bringing

books to life using puppets, songs, craft and games. Cost \$3.

Head to the Playhouse at the Civic Theatre's *This Is Hardcore* show, tonight 7.30pm. Features two plays, *Punkplay* as well as *Shopping & F\*\*\*ing*. Runs until Sunday May 22. Tickets \$18 concession and \$22 adults.

## odd spot

### High hopes for that hat

The Wiggles have bid \$26,760 on the internet for Princess Beatrice's bizarre royal wedding hat. Blue wiggle Anthony Field said the Australian children's singing group wore some crazy costumes but the hat beat them all and "could bring about an Australian republic all by itself".