

Hitting the heights



CLOWN DOCTOR: Jean-Paul Bell with wife Maggie Haertsch, left. And in the Himalayas, above.

FROM the hospital to the Himalayas, Jean-Paul Bell has been making people laugh for more than 30 years.

A former clown doctor and Humour Foundation co-founder, Mr Bell is one of four Aussies and Kiwis taking part in a trek across some of the world's steepest country to take Western circus tradition to Nepal.

"The tour is well under way, turning out to be

a remarkable journey with extraordinary trekking across the mountains," Mr Bell said. "The shows are gaining momentum.

"Word of mouth is spreading with the biggest audience yet in Kharikhola, where children and parents walked for hours to see it."

Mr Bell said the Kharikhola show was so popular the start was delayed by an hour as more and more people flocked to the school grounds.

"We have also had coverage by the national TV in Nepal and the national radio station where reporters walked three hours to cover it," Mr Bell said.

The trek also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Himalayan Trust's Khumjung school, with the "magic show" team, as they have become known, expected to take part in the celebrations next week.

Art of giving

FORMER Newcastle Grammar School student Kate Hansen is doing her bit for her old stamping ground and adolescent mental health by contributing to the Nexus Art Exhibition opening at the school tonight.

The artist joins a slew of others in the exhibition of more than 140 works, including ones by ceramic artist Jan Downes, jeweller Brian Cox, lithographer Anne-Maree Hunter and painter Jane Parkes.

The exhibition raises funds for John Hunter Hospital's Child Adolescent Mental Health Unit, as well as for the Newcastle Grammar School art department.

It opens tonight at 7pm in the school's Holland Building on Newcomen Street, Newcastle.

It is open on Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 3pm, or on May 28 and 29, 11am to 3pm.

Devil's in the detail

DESPITE being painted by a devil, this artwork isn't the least bit



PAWS FOR THOUGHT: The devil's work goes to Belmont Christian College.

devilish. In fact, we think it's pretty cute.

It's a Devil Art Masterpiece painted by a Tasmanian devil from the Australian Reptile Park, which will soon adorn a wall at Belmont Christian School.

The school will be awarded the artwork and the privilege of naming a Tasmanian devil from the Australian Reptile Park today after pre-selling the most Entertainment Books.

A ballot of the students settled on the name Mike, after the park suggested the name start with the same letter as the joey's mum.

The park offered the artwork and

naming rights prize to raise awareness of its Devil Ark project at Tomalla Station in the Barrington Tops. The conservation project is designed to stop the extinction of the species due to facial tumours.

Reply meter is running

WE'RE assuming the parking meter must've been fixed quicker than the reply from the council.

Newcastle Herald motoring aficionado Brent Davison emailed the City of Newcastle on February 4 reporting a faulty parking meter on King Street, Newcastle.

The days, weeks and eventually

months passed and our correspondent had all but forgotten about it until a letter arrived a few weeks ago from the council.

It was dated May 9, more than 13 weeks after the faulty parking meter was reported.

We haven't received a parking ticket lately (fingers crossed) but we're pretty sure the council would be chasing an overdue parking fine quicker than it replied to that email.

Bottling sensibilities

NBN Television's back and forth about screening British comedy *Come Fly With Me* sparked intense discussion about the sensibilities of us regional folk.

But a Mayfield reader pointed out to us the Thirsty Camel Bottle Shop ads have been pushing the boundaries in recent weeks, without so much as a raised eyebrow.

Indeed a flyer landed in our letterbox this week with the phrase "I'll hump to that!" while last week's apparently featured "For your humping pleasure".

birthdays

James Stewart, US actor (1908-1997); **Joe Cocker**, British singer (1944-); **Cher**, US actress-singer (1946-); **Buster Rhymes**, US rapper (1972-); **Stirling Mortlock**, pictured, Australian rugby union player (1977-).



history

1259: King Henry III of England gives Normandy to France.

1506: Christopher Columbus dies in poverty in Spain.

1536: King Henry VIII of England marries Jane Seymour.

1770: Captain James Cook sights and names Fraser Island, Queensland.

1874: Levi Strauss markets blue jeans with copper rivets.

1927: US aviator Charles A. Lindbergh begins solo flight across Atlantic Ocean.

1993: An estimated 93 million people tune in for the final first-run episode of *Cheers* in the US.

1998: Private funeral of Frank Sinatra, who died almost a week earlier at 82.

trivia by Grahame Marjoribanks

1. Who won the English FA Cup this year?
2. What three instruments figure in a piano trio?
3. Which ousted Romanian leader was executed on Christmas Day, 1989?
4. In what human organ are your amygdala and thalamus?
5. How old was Michael Hutchence when he died?
6. Which US athlete won 122 straight 400-metre hurdle races?
7. In which NSW country town did Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, pictured, grow up?
8. Phar Lap was from the mare Entreaty. Who was the sire?
9. Who was the first British monarch to travel by train?
10. What is the most malleable metal?



Answers: 1. Manchester City 2. Piano, violin and cello 3. Nicolae Ceausescu 4. Brain 5. 37 6. Edwin Moses 7. Barellan 8. Night Raid 9. Queen Victoria 10. Gold

fact



Charles Babbage designed a mechanical computer in 1837 that was more advanced than machines 100 years later but size and expense prevented production.

text

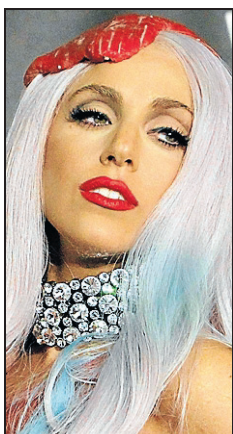
Glorious, majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

Psalms 111:3

star snap

Gaga has it over Oprah

LADY Gaga has ended Oprah Winfrey's four-year reign at the top of the annual *Forbes* magazine Celebrity Power 100 List. The singer earned \$US90 million (\$84.6 million) with a tour and ruled social media with 32 million Facebook fans and 10 million Twitter fans.



what's on

■ Catch Melbourne rock outfit Trial Kennedy at The Cambridge Hotel tonight. The band is touring to celebrate the release of their second album *Living Undisigned*. Supported by Numbers Radio and The Ilys.

■ Hear acts Gay Paris, The Early Birds and The Good Ship at The Great Northern Hotel.

8pm until late, free entry.
■ Head to the first of the French Film Festival Screenings at Greater Union Newcastle. Presented by Alliance Francaise, the festival runs for three days, starting today. *Together's a Crowd* screens tonight 7pm. Call 4926 2233 for tickets or visit greaterunion.com.au.

odd spot

Pony tries to hitch a lift

SECURITY cameras have captured a man trying to board a train in Wales with his pony. Images show the man leading the large, white pony along a station platform and then waiting patiently for a train. The man and horse left the station after being declined access to the train.