

DAY JUNE 11 2016

BUSINESS 73

GO FOR STRADBROKE

IT is going to be standing room only at Eagle Farm today as last week's washout of the Oaks ensures one of the biggest racing events in recent years. A total prize pool of almost \$4.5 million is on offer for the 10-race program including the Stradbroke Handicap, Queensland Derby and the Oaks. We hear the \$750 tickets to the new two-storey "Birdcage" marquee have been sold out, with corporate types from Mirvac, BMW, AAMI, James Boag, UBET and Nova all lining up to quaff champagne and cheer the nags on. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, BMW Australia chief executive Marc-Heinrich Werner and David Jones boss John Dixon are all set to attend. The weather forecast is looking good, a major change from last week when a low swept down the Queensland coast putting the kibosh on Eagle Farm's big re-opening day, before causing havoc in New South Wales and Tasmania.

DRUMMING IN JUNGLE

WE hear even the deepest darkest jungles of the Amazon are proving fertile ground for Sentinel Property Group's Warren Ebert. Ebert (illustrated) and his good mate Michael 'The Professor' Sherlock have returned from scouring South America for new

investors. After attending a conference in the US, the intrepid adventurers headed south to Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. Your diarist is reliably informed that Ebert and The Professor won over all those on board a three-day Amazon cruise, with pitches about the Queensland property scene. In between discussing yields and square foot rental costs, the boys claim they dodged the constant threat of piranhas, anacondas, boas and the red poison tree frogs that locals use to blow deadly darts. After surviving the ordeal, they managed to net new investor

enquiries from the USA, Canada, South America, England and Germany.

HOME AND AWAY

QUT science and tech boffin Michael Rosemann left Germany 15 years ago, but his homeland still holds a big place in his heart. Rosemann

has just been appointed honorary German consul for southern Queensland, a job that will entail more than overseeing the issuing of passports. Rosemann tells your diarist that the German community has a lot of cultural events during the year he will be involved in,

including a film festival and poetry readings. There also will be liaison with the local German business and student community. The German community in southern Queensland numbers about 12,000, with its history dating back to the 19th century. Rosemann replaces former QUT Professor Michael Schütz who will head the

Centre for Musculoskeletal Surgery at the Charité University Clinic in Berlin. One task the new consul is particularly looking forward to is the annual Oktoberfest. Nice work if you can get it.

PIPELINE PAVILION

IN a sign of the times, Chinese companies had an entire pavilion booked at this week's Australian Petroleum Producers and Exploration Association conference. Among the Chinese companies spruiking their wares was Tianjin Pipe International Economic and Trading Corporation, the Zhejiang Teyi Valve Co and elegantly sounding Shengli Oil Field Xinda Guanye Science and Technology Development Co Ltd. China is becoming an increasingly active player in global oil and gas markets as Beijing seeks more energy to fuel its economic growth.

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

A CITY Beat reader interested in US politics tells us he signed up to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign news feed. The other day, on his birthday, he was surprised to see a many happy return message from Hillary. The spooky thing is he does not remember telling the Clinton campaign his birthday when he signed up. Is the CIA already working for the presidential hopeful?

CITY BEAT

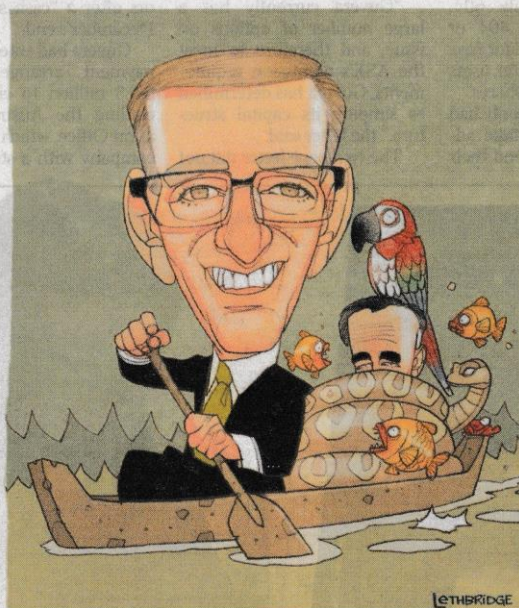
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LETHBRIDGE