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Powerball
Thursday 14-1-16
Draw No. 1026

23	34	12
19	37	36
POWERBALL		20

Total prize pool \$4.26m

The NT News has taken all possible care but cannot accept responsibility for any errors, whether due to equipment fault, staff handling or any other cause

FUEL WATCH

Darwin ULP
Average 125.1
Lowest 124.7
Multiple locations

Darwin Diesel
Average 135.3
Lowest 129.9
Multiple locations

Alice Springs ULP 138.9
Diesel 138.9

Katherine ULP 123.7
Diesel 135.8

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Include your contact details and a brief description. All emails should be not more than five megabytes.

Northern Territory Government

2016 CROC CAPTURES

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BE CROCWISE

www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise



Jared Archibald with a kolopsis femur - the diprotodon's is three times bigger Picture: IVAN RACHMAN

A real bone of contention

HAYLEY SORENSEN

WHEN a call came through from the manager of a remote cattle station that the fossil of a prehistoric beast had been found, Museum and Art Gallery NT's Jared Archibald was sceptical.

Such calls are relatively frequent and rarely turn out to be anything of importance.

But while initially written off by experts as an expired horse, closer inspection showed the fossil belonged to a diprotodon - essentially a giant wombat - the last of which died out 40,000 years ago.

The find, at Auvergne Station near the WA border, was

the first in the Territory and the most northerly specimen ever uncovered.

The fossil included the animal's complete vertebral column and pelvis and part of a leg. Its skull and other legs had weathered away.

"It's a highly significant specimen. Even though it's not in great condition, it's the only one we've got," Mr Archibald said.

But unearthing the giant marsupial proved a difficult task. A first attempt was abandoned and the second almost cost Mr Archibald his life.

He and the museum's collection manager were at the site in November 2013, with

the first storms of the wet season rumbling nearby.

To reach the site, they had to cross the swollen East Baines River. They did so successfully in the morning but on their return their vehicle was swept about 20m downstream.

"You just have to hang on. You wonder if you can get out of an upside down Troopy at night in a river full of crocodiles," Mr Archibald said.

The diprotodon fossil is now homed at Alice Springs.

Mr Archibald first told the story of the diprotodon dig at storytelling event SPUN in December. Visit spunstories.net which goes live next week.

Crossing madness tempts calamity

KIERAN BANKS

SEVEN people clung to dear life for more than three hours after an attempt to drive through the croc-infested waters at Cahills Crossing went terribly wrong.

In the dark of night, the driver of the four-wheel drive attempted to cross the flooded East Alligator River.

Jabiru officer-in-charge Rob De-Vos said the car became stuck on rocks, trapping the five adults and two children in the middle of the river at 2am yesterday.

He said Kakadu National Park rangers used a flood boat to rescue the stricken motorists as officers kept watch for a large saltwater croc spotted nearby.

"The East Alligator River is prolific with crocodiles, like any other waterway in the Northern Territory," he said.

Sgt De-Vos said the occupants climbed through the car windows to the safety of the flood boat.

He said the group, from a community in Arnhem Land, were boated to safety on the banks of the river.

They were taken to Jabiru Health Clinic and treated for exposure but otherwise escaped their ordeal unharmed.

Sgt De-Vos said the condi-

tions of the East Alligator River and the presence of crocodiles made the rescue particularly dangerous.

The car was flooded up to its windows, remained on the crossing and would likely be removed by contractors, he said.

The rescue comes only weeks after a man waded into the river during another failed attempt to make the notorious crossing.

Horrified motorists watched on as the man splashed around in the water and swam back and forth four times in mid-December.

Motorists pleaded desperately with the man as he playfully splashed around in the murky waters and mimicked being dragged under by a croc.

Sgt De-Vos said it was only a matter of time before another person was fatally attacked by a crocodile.

"That potential is always there. The road is closed and it's closed for a reason," he said.

He said despite clear signs motorists continued to ignore the warnings and take the risk.

"Every wet season we get these types of things happening. We let people know do not attempt to cross any water."

Sgt De-Vos said Cahills Crossing, also called Oenpelli Rd, remained closed due to flooding.

Apology

In the Woolworths catalogue, on sale Wednesday 13th January 2016, the Ocean Chef Steam Ezy Spanish Olive Oil Garlic & Herb or Tomato & Basil Fish Portions 700g on page 17 was advertised with the incorrect CUP.

The correct CUP is \$17.14 per kg.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Woolworths

Police hit trouble spot

A MINI-OPERATION at Nightcliff's John Stokes Square on Wednesday targeted unlawful occupancy and anti-social behaviour.

The Progress Drive location has been a hot spot for dodgy dealings in the past.

Casuarina Police led a number of agencies in engaging with local tenants.

Uniformed and plain-clothed officers from multiple

police units as well as public housing safety officers attended the units.

Acting Senior Sergeant Tanya Mace said the operation was in response to a rise in anti-social behaviour in the area.

As a result, one man was arrested. There were two notices to appear, one traffic infringement notice and eight liquor infringement notices issued.

Putting our planet first

DARWIN Convention Centre has achieved the Bronze benchmarking standard for EarthCheck, the world's environmental management and professional services group for the travel and tourism industry.

Centre general manager Janet Hamilton said it had worked to improve its performance as an environmentally sustainable events venue.

"As a large venue ... it has been a key imperative to introduce a number of sustainable practices and programs to minimise the environmental footprint of the centre," she said.

"We are a major venue in one of Darwin's most popular visitor destinations, so it is important that we showcase sustainable leadership and help protect this beautiful environment."