



**FISHING BAN  
THREAT AFTER  
MINING BID**  
REVEALED >>P5



**NT FUGITIVE  
COUPLE 'HAD  
HELP TO ESCAPE'**  
FULL REPORT >>P3

# 5M CROC SHOCK FOR PROFESSOR

SALTIE SNAPS UP HIS  
RESEARCH FOR LUNCH

**P2**



Picture: PROFESSOR TIM BERRA

**NT**  **News**  
MYSTERY NUMBER

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**NATIONAL: 11**  
CHILD killer Arthur Freeman has lost a bid for the right to appeal his 32-year minimum jail term.



**ENTERTAINMENT: 17**  
MICHAEL Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray was placed on suicide watch on his first day in jail.



**WORLD: 16**  
THE US has warned it will seek to ratchet up pressure and may seek new sanctions on Iran.



**BUSINESS: 24**  
NINE Entertainment chief executive David Gyngell says he is focused on running the company.

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**Tattslotto**

Wednesday 9-11-2011  
Draw No. 3085

36	17	27
34	22	37
SUPPS	25	43

Total prize pool: \$7.4m

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.

**Caught!**



**Angler:** Al Wagner  
**Fish:** Barramundi.  
**Where:** A secret spot.  
**MORE FISHING:** Pages 18 and 39

**Are you on the spot?**

Do you have a news photo or a story tip? If so, we want to hear from you!

**News hotline:**  
8944 9724

Send your news photos to:  
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Include your contact details and a brief description. All emails should be not more than five megabytes.

**Speed cameras**

NT Police speed cameras will be in these areas today:

- Darwin:** Bagot Rd; Gardens Rd; Gilruth Ave; Stuart Highway.
- Northern Suburbs:** McMillans Rd; Leanyer Drive; Lee Point Rd; Vanderlin Drive.
- Palmerston:** Chung Wah Tce; Roystonea Ave; Stuart Highway; Temple Tce.
- Rural:** Arnhem Highway; Cox Peninsula Rd; Girraween Rd; Whitewood Rd.

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# Top media boss goes out in style

By NICK TABAKOFF

ONE of the country's top media executives, News Limited chairman and chief executive John Hartigan, has retired after four decades with the company.

Mr Hartigan will leave the post in just over three weeks.

He will be replaced as News Limited chief executive by Kim Williams, who has spent 10 years at the cutting edge of "new media" as the head of Foxtel.

Rupert Murdoch, the foun-

der of parent company News Corporation, will return as chairman of News Limited, which publishes the *NT News*.

Meanwhile, the company's current digital boss and CEO of *The Australian*, Richard Freudenstein, will replace Mr Williams at Foxtel.

In an email to staff, Mr Hartigan said it was "time to hand over" to a new generation: "I do so with great pride and more than a little sadness." Mr Hartigan started at News Limited as a cadet

reporter in 1970, as the first step in his climb through the company's ranks. He was editor and editor-in-chief of several of its mastheads over the next three decades, and ultimately CEO of the company 11 years ago.

Media analysts said Mr Williams was selected as News Limited chief executive because of his ability to bring a "paid content" model to newspapers, after he had successfully transitioned Foxtel from a relatively small pay-TV business into a

profitable multiple-platform media company.

Mr Williams last night said he was committed to providing "great content through a range of technologies" to newspapers: "It is about having what you want, where you want and through a device of your choosing," he said. "That is the exciting and evolutionary path for newspapers."

However, he also said there was a "very healthy outlook for print".

Channel Nine in debt - P24



Professor Tim Berra shows off his net after its tangle with the 5m croc Agro on the Adelaide River

## Agro the croc's a fast learner

By ALYSSA BETTS

ONE of evolution's most successful and bitey archetypes has been stalking an American evolutionary expert on the Adelaide River.

A 5m croc called Agro has marked out Ohio State University Professor Tim Berra as a source of good eating.

Professor Berra has been floating about in a small boat with a net, as part of his work studying the life history of the nursery fish.

He said his first Agro encounter involved a fake log in his nets on Thursday.

"We saw the floats bob-

bing around from a distance and thought, 'we must have a bunch of fish in the net, we better go release them,'" he said.

"The closer we got to the net we saw this log. All of a sudden this log raises its gigantic head and its got bits of net in its mouth."

Professor Berra said he wanted to try to free the beast from the nets so it wouldn't roll in them, get tangled and drown.

"On the other hand, who wants to unwrap him? That's not what I applied for," he said.

Agro simply tore a "hum-

ingous hole" in the net and got away after having his fill. But he'd memorised Professor Berra.

Agro wasted no time when the man — who is also a Charles Darwin University professorial fellow — went out in the boat on Tuesday.

"He was actually stalking our boat," Professor Berra said. "He was motoring on up to us pushing a bow wave in front of him, heading straight for our second net that was quite full of fish."

He said Agro put his head on the float line, then dived down and spent about 10 minutes underwater gorging

on a captive meal. They wanted to pull the net up but decided against it.

"He's 5m long, I don't need to say any more," Berra said.

Professor Berra works with a number of NT locals, including Dion Wedd, Territory Wildlife Park curator, and Quentin Allsop and Grant Johnson of NT Fisheries. He said nursery fish were one in a number of weird Aussie types he studied.

"They're called that because the males carry the eggs on a hook on their heads," Berra said. "They're politically correct — they share the child rearing."

## China eyes golden riches

By DAVID WOOD  
in Jinan, China

CHINESE investment in gold mining in the Territory will increase on the back of high prices and as a hedge against a weak US economy, Thor Mining chairman Mick Billing says.

Mr Billing was a guest speaker yesterday at an NT Government mining investment seminar in Jinan in Shandong province, about 430km south of Beijing.

The seminar included a talk from NT Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis, who is leading a Government and industry delegation across China.

Mr Billing's company has a tungsten and molybdenum project called Molyhil about 220km north-east of Alice Springs and a small gold project, Spring Hill, near Pine Creek, about 150km southeast of Darwin.

Mr Billing said he was at the seminar to find markets for his tungsten and molybdenum as well as seeking Chinese finance and investment and said there was big interest in gold.

"I think there's an untapped market in China that's just emerging for gold, particularly in the Territory," he said. "The number of gold projects in particular in the Territory discovered in recent times has gone up quite quickly."

"And there is an enormous hunger for gold projects out of China. We have a small gold project about 150km south of Darwin... and we have had tremendous interest in that."

He said the interest came because the price of gold had gone up tremendously in the last three years and was at almost record highs and was not expected to drop much anytime soon.

"It is also, from a Chinese perspective, I suspect it's a hedge against the vagaries of the US economy," Mr Billing said. "China has a lot of money invested in US bonds and they probably don't want any more."

"I'd suggest they'd want to diversify and they're buying assets in lots of parts of the world including Australia, particularly in the Northern Territory."

"Gold has always been considered a pretty good hedge against most things and against the US economy it is probably a very good one indeed."

BOBBY PLAYING LIVE TONIGHT @ THE FOX FROM 9.30PM