



**Quick weather**



**DARWIN**  
Sunny and dry



**ALICE SPRINGS**  
Sunny

MAX  
**31**  
MAX  
**24**

FULL WEATHER REPORT: PAGE 39



**A motley crew**

A FOOTBALLER, a feminist, an actor, a reality star and a politician. While it sounds like a well-worked intro to a somewhat tired joke, it is in fact the line-up for Nine's new series *Celebrity Apprentice*.



FULL STORY: PAGE 16



**FREE BEVERAGE**

Dine in at Hot Rock Restaurant & Bar for lunch or dinner, and receive a FREE selected beer, wine or soft drink when presenting this coupon. One person and offer per coupon. Offer valid until Sept 30th 2011. Hot Rock Restaurant & Bar 28 Mitchell St Darwin, 0800 08) 8941 0884



**Knife used to rob bus: Lawyer**

By **MEAGAN DILLON**  
Court Reporter

A TEENAGER threatened the driver of a minibus with a knife demanding she return his \$12 fare, a court heard yesterday.

The 16-year-old boy, whose name was suppressed, pleaded guilty in the NT Supreme Court to armed robbery.

Crown prosecutor David Dalrymple told Justice Peter Barr that the teenager demanded the driver return his fare and give him the rest of the night's takings.

He said he took off with \$104, which he then spent on cigarettes, cannabis and food.

Mr Dalrymple said the minibus driver, whose name was also suppressed, picked up the teenager from a house in Driver on March 14. The teenager then asked to be taken to Moulden in Palmerston.

He said the teenager handed her \$12 for the fare.

But she had "difficulty" finding the house in Moulden and the teenager repeated that it was a bit further up the road.

The teenager told the driver to stop and then opened the side door to the mini bus to get out about 3am. "(But) he turned around to face the victim and was holding a 20cm kitchen knife," Mr Dalrymple said.

He said the teenager pointed the knife at her and said: "I'll have the money back that I gave you and whatever else you've got in there."

She handed over the cash before he fled through a nearby park.

Mr Dalrymple said the teenager told police it was "split-second decision" and he didn't think he would get caught. His lawyer Ambrith Abayasekara told the court he needed to get a psychiatrist to assess the youth before making submissions.

He will next appear in court in October.



Territory croc Cassius was almost a film star but ended up in captivity in Far North Queensland

Picture: BRENDAN FRANCIS

**Our Cassius could have been a star**

By **NIGEL ADLAM**

THE saltie at the centre of the Croc War between Darwin and Cairns was to have been a film star.

Cassius, once named by *Guinness World Records* as the biggest crocodile in captivity, was caught in a trap on the Finiss River in 1984 by Grahame Webb.

The plan was to use the 5.6m monster in a feature-length movie based on the zoologist's novel *Numanwari*, a thriller about a rogue croc.

But Cassius was never used and was sold to a north Queensland croc farm.

The *Cairns Post* announced that the giant was a world record holder under the headline: Suck it, NT!

Dr Webb, who owns Darwin's Crocodylus Park research centre and zoo, said the Townsend pastoral family nominated Cassius for capture because he had dangerously taken to attacking fishing boats. Then La Belle cattle station owner Hilton Graham built a special enclosure for the saltie.

"It's a shame Cassius was never needed by the film producer," Dr Webb said. "He was a magnificent croc — and must be huge by now."

Experts say the Territory will undoubtedly win the Croc War.

NT salties are far more buff than their scrawny Queensland cousins because they have been under less hunting pressure.

Croc shooting was banned in the Territory in 1971 but not in Queensland until three years later — and only then when the Federal Gov-

ernment refused to give export permits for trophies.

Illegal killing continued in north Queensland for many years — and reached a renewed frenzy after store-keeper Beryl Wruck was taken by a croc on the Daintree River in 1985.

Dr Webb said even Territory crocodiles were small compared with those in central Borneo.

"That's optimum croc country," he said.

➔ **Vote for the NT News in the great Croc Off at ntnews.com.au**

**HE SAID IT**



**GRAHAME Webb**  
NT croc expert

It's a shame Cassius was never needed by the film producer. He was a magnificent croc — and must be huge by now

**Troy may plead self-defence**

A FORMER Darwin solicitor and professional rugby league player charged over an alleged assault at a pub might plead self-defence, a court heard yesterday.

Former Parramatta and Sydney Roosters player Julian Demonde Troy, formally from Ward Keller Lawyers' Darwin office, was



Julian Troy

charged with aggravated assault and unlawfully causing serious harm against carpenter Jeff "Squizzy" Taylor in March.

His lawyer Michael Burrows told Magistrate John Lowndes that he needed to

cross-examine the officer-in-charge of the investigation because eye-witnesses had not been questioned.

He said there were "inconsistencies" between the statement made by Mr Taylor and witnesses.

Mr Troy, who was excused yesterday, will appear in court in November.

**CLP accused of mine backflip**

THE CLP was yesterday accused of supporting a uranium mine near Alice Springs.

The party campaigned against the Angela-Pamela operation at a by-election last year.

But the Arid Lands Environment Centre said Opposition environment spokesman



Peter Chandler

Peter Chandler told a public meeting on Saturday that a CLP government would support the mine if it "stacked up environmentally".

Centre co-ordinator Jimmy Cocking said: "This

shows that the CLP still doesn't recognise that most people in Alice don't want the mine."

Mr Chandler told the *NT News* last night that he had not come out in favour of Angela-Pamela.

He said the public meeting was full of greenies: "I would have been rocked to death."