

index

news	1-6
opinion	7
celebrations	8
what's on	15
sport	20-24

weather

 Today	17°-29° Fine
 Thursday	19°-28° Fine
 Friday	17°-28° Fine
 Saturday	16°-29° Fine

tides

Townsville

Today	6:17am 1.28m 11:12am 2.51m 5:23pm 0.83m
Tomorrow	12:10am 3.34m 7:38am 1.34m 12:26pm 2.28m 6:33pm 1.11m
Friday	1:27am 3.12m 9:00am 1.30m 2:08pm 2.19m 8:08pm 1.33m
Saturday	3:02am 2.99 10:13am 1.18m 3:43pm 2.28m 9:50pm 1.43m

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 The Advocate is published by The North Queensland Newspaper Company Pty Ltd.
ACN 009 655 690 of 198-238 Ogden Street, Townsville. And printed by the North Queensland Newspaper Co Pty Ltd at Flinders Street West. Registered Australia Post Publication No. QAC 0366.

Ayr liquor concerns

from page 1

In a rare occurrence in business, local liquor takeaway outlet competitors are banding together in an effort to save the town from a monopoly, which, they say, will force locals out of business in retail sectors even beyond takeaway alcohol.

ALH Group spokesman, David Curry said there was demand for a third of the same liquor outlet.

"We believe there is appropriate demand for another BWS store in Ayr and we have provided the ACCC with the appropriate information for their investigation."

However, Juanita Bonke from the Crown Hotel said the introduction would ultimately mean increased liquor prices, should the Woolworths-owned bottle-o expansion be permitted.

She said the effects were already real. "Since the one in Coles opened up, my drive-through takings have been down 20 per cent," Miss Bonke said.

Being the only outlet with a 9am licence previously, Miss Bonke said she was always required to demonstrate a "community need", however both of the current BWS

outlets were given the same early-morning, she says, without the community need, particularly since they are so close in proximity.

"The 9am to 10am virtually dried up," she said, after the licence was granted for the stores.

"This is my family's business. We've been in this hotel for 50 years. These faceless people from Woolworths don't know the community and don't even care about it. They don't care when they put the prices up, because it doesn't affect them."

The local woman said the convenience of visiting BWS stores near the major supermarkets would dry up any business for local retailers like the Home Hill supermarket and local liquor outlets.

She said it demonstrated the power that the big retailers had over local businesses and proved that Woolworths could do whatever it wanted, including pushing competition out of business and then raising prices.

Miss Bonke went further, saying she had witnessed it first hand in a shopping centre in Canberra, where a fruit store was pushed by the major retailers until it was forced

to close, prompting a price hike by the major supermarket chain.

"It's based on my experience in Canberra - I'm not just making it up," the furious publican said.

Steve Nicolaides from the National Hotel agreed.

"They should never have allowed them to put a second one in. They've killed my drive-in. I've had a drive-in here for 25 years," Mr Nicolaides said.

"All I can say is I fully agree with what Gus said in the previous article. You can throw a cast net around the ones in Ayr now."

"The public should be aware that one week they have specials and the next week they don't. The next week, if you go in, they jump the price up."

"But they've done what they've done and I can't see how you're going to stop them. You just can't compete with BWS."

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Long trek for cancer passes through town

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IT IS not every day you meet a person, whose generosity and self-sacrifice sends a shiver down your spine and gives you goose bumps.

Last week, *The Advocate* was given just that, as we spoke one-on-one with a man, whose charity has touched the hearts of many he has come across, while on his trek to raising over \$50,000 for cancer research.

In December 2010, Sydney carpenter, Andrew Cadigan, 31 quit his job, sold his house, car and all of his furniture and set off on a 15,000 kilometre expedition around Australia, to raise much-needed funds for the Cancer Council and the Leukaemia Foundation.

Andrew's target to raise \$50,000 was smashed recently, with the 31-year-old collecting a whopping \$53,000 in donations, with 95 per cent of funds from roadside donations.

He said funds will be put towards research at university in Melbourne.

"I never ask people for money. I put a hat around the pub every now and again, but 95 per cent of money coming in is from people pulling up beside me."

The inspiration for his walk was the death of close mate, Chris 'Simmo' Simpson, who lost his fight to MDS at the age of 24 in 2010.

"I was going to walk the Great Wall of China and then when my friend passed away, I thought I'd do something a bit



LONG JOURNEY: In memory of his mate, Chris Simpson, who died of cancer, Sydney carpenter, Andrew Cadigan commenced a walk around Australia for cancer in 2010 and has raised over \$53,000. **Picture:** Alycia Park

closer to home," he said. "I read a book 'Giant Steps' about a guy who walked around the world, and that's what my walk stemmed from."

Lugging 50 litres of water a day, the 31-year-old has pushed a modified pram 13,000 kilometres around the country unassisted, stopping at destinations in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, the North Territory and Queensland.

However, Andrew's most difficult obstacle yet was his

trek to the Kimberlys in December.

"That was certainly the hardest part of the trip. Walking through 45 degree heat, 100 per cent humidity and drinking 14 litres of water a day. I lost the best part of 20 kgs, my weight went down to 57 kgs."

He has also gone through three-sets of tyres and worn nine pairs of shoes along the way.

His most memorable experience was his trek along

Victoria's Great Ocean Road. "I've met many life-long friends," he said.

"When I tore my shin muscles in Tasmania, I was laying in a cow paddock for a week."

"I met this girl who brought me over eggs for her chook pen. I still talk to her all of the time," he said.

On the home stretch, Andrew is expected to finish-up in Sydney in July. To donate to the Andrew's cause, visit www.ozonfoot.com.