

GP MUST NOT PRESCRIBE DRUGS

At 'Cats' opening night



● Pictured (from left) at the opening night of *Cats* at the Regent Theatre, Melbourne, on Saturday night, are Gary Bartholomew, John Walsh, John-Michael Howson and Alfie Duran. John-Michael and Alfie have just returned from a three-week tour of America with Anne Rogers of Wings Away Travel. The tour included Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Palm Springs, Las Vegas and New York. In LA, tour guests stayed at the Ramada West Hollywood run by Melbourne businessman Alan Johnson. The tour included Hollywood studios and downtown Manhattan.

PSYCH. DISQUALIFIED

■ The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has published its finding that psychologist Margaret Schirmer had "engaged in unprofessional conduct of a serious nature".

Ms Schirmer, 40, obtained registration as a psychologist in 2005, worked part-time for Windemere Child and Family Services, also building

2 YEAR BAN AFTER SEX WITH PATIENT

her private practice.

The Tribunal heard that 'Mr RA' sought her professional assistance following an assault.

He had 25 sessions and was described as "a very troubled individual".

He complained of

loss of confidence and self-esteem, persistent sadness, suicidal thoughts, poor sleeping patterns, no appetite, flashbacks, constant worry and increased startle responses.

Ms Schirmer said she became attracted

to the patient, and she started to receive e-mails from him described as "subtly seductive".

Faced with her own problems, she decided to separate from her husband and phoned Mr RA to get support. They met at a pub, and commenced living with him from the time. They soon began a sexual relationship.

"Not only had she very seriously crossed professional boundaries and created a dual relationship, counselling simply ceased," the VCAT finding says.

"Ms Schirmer made no attempt to refer Mr RA to another professional in circumstances where he was still emotionally fragile."

The pair smoked marijuana fortnightly, and also included use of 'speed' and heroin.

"Ms Schirmer also had problems with alcohol which further exacerbated the situation."

Some 18 months later, Ms Schirmer went to Police alleging she had been assaulted by Mr RA.

Ms Schirmer accepted she undertook an inappropriate relationship with Mr RA.

She has been disqualified for two years from applying for registration.

■ Victorian medico Dr Stephen Graeme Larkins has been banned from prescribing 'Schedule 8' drugs to patients, after being found guilty of "unprofessional conduct of a serious nature".

The ban, which is in force for at least three years, followed a Medical Practitioners Board hearing that found that Dr Larkins "on five occasions inappropriately prescribed large quantities of a drug of dependence", Ritalin, to a patient to Mr GT.

The panel, comprising Dr L A Shapero, Dr A Bendrups and Ms C Hazlewood, found that the drug prescribing "was not medically warranted".

The panel found that Dr Larkins failed to make adequate enquiries as to whether Mr GT was drug dependent. No appropriate treatment plan was put in place for the patient, and the doctor was found to have failed to have kept adequate medical records of the consultations.

In order to keep practising, Dr Larkins has to provide Statutory Declarations every three months, attesting to the fact that he has prescribed 'Schedule 8' medications.

"He prescribed large quantities despite firm advice in writing from the Department of Human Services concerning the prescribing of Ritalin," the panel found.

The panel was told that Mr GT was a first time patient from overseas, requested the medication, and that there was no easily verifiable condition.

"By his own admission, Dr Larkins failed to make adequate enquiries as to whether or not Mr GT was drug dependent ... Dr Larkins also failed to contact the Department of Human Services' doctor shopping hotline".

It's All About You!

Melbourne Observer

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 Melb. Confidential: Singo spends up Page 9
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 Melb. Extra: Cats spectacular review Page 12
 Magazine: Secret men's business Page 13
 Yvonne: Cats lover united Page 14

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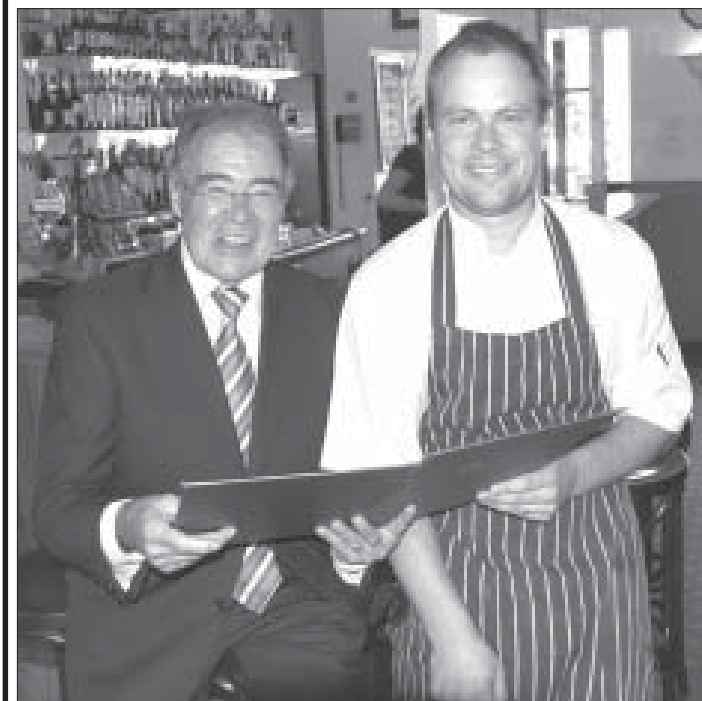
■ Melbourne's weekend floods had an impact on radio stations. The Fairfax radio news which feeds 3AW and many other stations had to be evacuated, to be replaced with bulletins from Sydney. At GOLD-FM, Emily Hoskins provided half-hourly flood updates by phone.

Rapist arrested

■ Police swept on a central Albury house on Friday and arrested convicted rapist Dion James Johnson, reports the *Border Mail*.

Albury Insp John Wadsworth said an anonymous tip-off from the public led to the arrest of the fugitive, which was carried out without incident.

Autumn menu launch



● Melbourne entertainment guru Bobby Johnson was with chef Michael Gwizek for the launch last week of the new autumn menu at the Kingston Hotel in High St, Richmond. The hotel is owned and operated by Chris and Jonathan De Fraga. More on Page 38.

Flip Shelton's natural muesli

I believe there's nothing more important than starting the day right - and that means dipping into a bowl with delicious and colourful ingredients to charge me with energy for the day.



Flip Shelton's Natural Mueslis are different to others on the market for several reasons. I developed them to satisfy my taste, to be nutritious and importantly to be visually appealing: breakfast needs to look inviting for you to dip your spoon again and again.

Flip Shelton's Natural Mueslis delight discerning food lovers by combining wholesome, premium quality ingredients to create a delicious, balanced start to every day.

In February 2006, I released three blends of muesli - 'the one with fruit and nuts' (the most popular), 'the one with with nuts and seeds'. They all have a 35% fruit and or nut component - the highest of all gourmet mueslis, and Australian ingredients are always chosen before imported products.

For Winter 2008 I launched my five-grain porridge which as well

as having the traditional ingredient rolled oats, also includes the heirloom grains spelt, rye, triticale and barley flakes.

Most recently, April 2009, I added a gluten-free muesli, approved by the Coeliac Society, to my range. With 1 in 100 Australians suffering from Coeliac Disease - including my husband, two god-children and three friends I had been on a mission to create a muesli for them. They were all wonderful guinea pigs and gave this blend the thumbs up but of course you don't need to be Coeliac to enjoy this muesli!

Eat like a king at breakfast with Flip Shelton's natural mueslis and porridge.



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