

ROVE CALLS IT A DAY

TV star announces final show

FILE PHOTO
BY ASH LONG

● **FLASHBACK:** Rove McManus and his late wife Belinda Emmett at the 2004 Logies Awards night at Crown, Melbourne.

BOMBERS IN STRIFE OVER WINDY HILL MOVE

Star's 80th



● Barry Crocker with Hazel Phillips

■ Showbiz veteran **Hazel Phillips** celebrated her 80th birthday at the weekend, and joining her for the celebrations was Victorian-born entertainer **Barry Crocker**.

Barry presented **Hazel** with an artwork compilation from the 1960s comprising photographs from TV shows in which they have worked together particularly at the new Channel 0-10.

Included in the photos are entertainers **John Bonney** and **Don Lane**. **Hazel** recently said she and **Don** were named as a couple in the 60s for publicity purposes.



■ **Essendon Football Club** is in strife over its plans to make improvements at **Windy Hill** oval.

The **Bombers** say they develop a 'state-of-the-art' performance facility the size of the **Melbourne Cricket Ground**.

The facility would take over the land currently occupied by the **Essendon Bowls Club** and the **Essendon Cricket Club**.

Trouble is that the **Bombers** did not inform their sporting neighbours of their plans, which could cost as much as \$20 million.

Ron Hare, President of the **Essendon Bowls Club**, said the football club's plans came as a "shock".

"The football club have put a bit of speed on the move and they'd like it to be over and done within three years," he told a local newspaper.

Simon Tobin, President of the **Essendon Cricket Club**, said: "I am surprised EFC has made this announcement in the absence of any agreement or previous discussions with local clubs." **Mr Tobin** told the *Leader* there would be no decision until more information known.

■ **Rove McManus** shocked the TV world on Sunday night when he announced that would be the final episode in his weekly television series.

He will still be involved in producing shows such as *The 7PM Project* and *Before The Game* for the **Ten Network**.

Another show - *Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?* - produced by his company **Rove Enterprises**, has not received a confirmed go-ahead for 2010.

Rove told his audience on Sunday that he would take a rest after 10 years at the TV host's desk.

His program started at **Melbourne** community station, **Channel 31**, and then was briefly at **Channel 9**, before being signed by the **Ten Network**.

Contradicted

Rove's announcement contradicted comments about the show that he recently made to the *Herald Sun*: "This show is my love and my passion and it's always what I've wanted to do," he said.

"If everything else fell down, as long as I still get to do this thing I love then I'm happy. We have that connection with the audience at the moment and that's where my enthusiasm is coming from."

Rove's private life has been in the headlines in recent years. He married the TV star, **Belinda Emmett**, who was suffering from cancer.

After her death, he courted and married actress **Tasma Walton**, and they married at a private ceremony at **Broome** in June this year.

TV writer **Veritas** says **Rove's** move is a smart one with his audience falling from 1.5 million in June to 800,000.

It is rumoured that **Rove** and **Pete Helliar** will team on radio next year.

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Flashes Around Victoria

Pagan walks away

■ Former North Melbourne Kangaroos coach **Denis Pagan** has walked away from a similar role at the **VFL Northern Knights** side. He will focus on his business pursuits.

Gold kiosks at centres

■ Rising prices of gold are producing a range of gold-buying kiosks at **Melbourne** shopping centres. People are even selling their gold teeth.

\$370m plan change

■ The \$370 million business centre development at **Greensborough** has been thrown into disarray as **Lend Lease** advised it could not commit to **Banyule Council's** timetable.

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