

BOXPUZZLE



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* See Brainwave for solution



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AUSTRALIA

Adelaide	19	27
Alice Springs	25	38
Broome	27	30
Cairns	24	31
Canberra	19	32
Darwin	25	32
Melbourne	19	24
Hobart	15	21
Perth	16	31
Sydney	23	35

THE WORLD

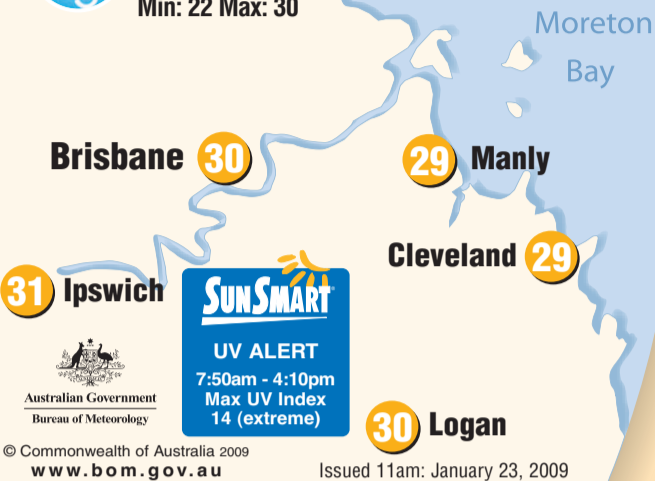
Athens	15	18
Auckland	13	23
Bangkok	23	32
Denpasar	25	30
Hong Kong	16	20
Kuala Lumpur	25	32
London	5	10
Los Angeles	15	17
New Delhi	12	20
New York	-5	2
Paris	3	7
Rome	4	11

Tomorrow's forecast

FOR LATEST WARNINGS:
www.bom.gov.au/weather
1300 659 219 (cost of local call)



A shower or two.
Min: 22 Max: 30



UV ALERT
7:50am - 4:10pm
Max UV Index
14 (extreme)



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THREE-DAY OUTLOOK



Sunday: 30 Mostly fine.



Monday: 29 Mostly fine.



Tuesday: 29 Mostly fine.

Very unboaring gift ideas.



Oxfam
Unwrapped

oxfamunwrapped.com.au

HOTEL RENO

New life at night for CBD

Alex Dickinson

Brisbane CBD's "dead" night-life is set for a booster shot with today's reopening of the Exchange Hotel in Edward St.

The hotel reopens after an 11-month, multi-million dollar renovation.

Operations manager Dustin Osbourn said the hotel would try to pull weekend revellers back from Fortitude Valley after a mass-exodus from the CBD last year.

The usually busy nightclub area from Edward St to Charlotte St and down the Eagle St Pier became deserted on Saturday nights after the Victory Hotel burnt down and the Exchange shut its doors in February.

Fridays and the Port Office Hotel are also renovating and Osbourn said CBD regulars had to find new drinking holes in the already busy Fortitude Valley or at the Normanby Hotel in Spring Hill.

"I was working with (hotel affiliate) the GPO Hotel when

the Exchange was closed and we saw a massive, almost unmanageable, increase in Fortitude Valley," Osbourn said.

"Now we're looking to bring them all back to the city.

The new two-level Exchange Hotel has modernised its decor, ceased student nights and is catering to a more corporate crowd.

It now hosts four bars and an open-air rooftop terrace.

Fridays and Jade Buddha at the nearby Eagle St Pier have remained popular for Friday night drinks for the corporate set and Osbourn said the Exchange would be looking to attract that clientele.

"We love it for everyone to want to come to the Exchange for the post-work drinks," he said.

A VIP launch party for more than 1000 guests is planned at the Exchange for late February.

A spokesman for the Victory Hotel said he hoped the hotel would reopen by the end of February.



Nick Siddle, 25, and Phoebe Denham, 22, check out the renovated Exchange Hotel.

SALES LEADER

Oz game for Nintendo DS

The Nintendo DS was the best-selling gaming console in Australia last year.

Industry figures reveal Australians bought more than 800,000 of the hand-held DS units last year, with 212,000 snapped up in December alone.

The Double Screen, which features touchscreen controls, has become increasingly popular with non-gaming adults on the back of titles like *Brain Training*.

Australians bought 685,000 Wii consoles last year, 191,000 in December alone.

POWDER PUFF

Worker fails taste test

A Sydney council worker sparked an emergency this morning when he tried to identify a mystery white powder by tasting it.

Hazardous materials fire-fighters were called to investigate a drum full of white powder at Marrickville just after 8am.

When they got there, they found the council worker had opened it and tasted the powder.

A NSW Ambulance spokesman said the worker showed no ill effects but was being assessed.

STAR BULLIED

Rice reveals school pain

Triple Olympic gold medal winning swimmer Stephanie Rice was bullied as a schoolgirl.

The 20-year-old told *The Australian Women's Weekly*: "I was bullied and picked on as a kid.

"It started when I was about 10. I guess I was an easy target as I had no self-confidence.

"I went through a stage where I didn't have a lot of friends - just one or two - and the popular girls used to call me names, tease me and do nasty things.

"I would go home and cry. It was really upsetting and I felt helpless."

GROWING TREND

Mental health risk cuts the cannabis cool factor

Australians are turning their back on cannabis, with less than 10 per cent thinking regular use is fine.

New research from the University of New South Wales has found the number of Australians using and condoning the drug has dropped by more than 15 per cent in the past four years.

More than a quarter of Australians supported regular cannabis use in 2004.

Associate Professor Alison Ritter said she believed the reduced acceptance was linked to an increased awareness over the past 10 years of the clear link between the drug and mental health issues.

Ritter said support for the

legalisation of cannabis had dropped along with consumption of the drug.

"The high watermark for support of cannabis legalisation was around 1998, but since then, the appetite in Australia for the legalisation of cannabis appears to have waned," Ritter said.

"But, importantly, the con-

servative shift in attitudes towards cannabis use and its legal status has not been accompanied by greater punitive responses towards drug users.

"Most Australians support less spending on law enforcement responses and want more spending on education and treatment."

What the? *

Do the names Sasha and Malia ring a bell? Of course, they're US President Barack Obama's daughters. Now, the company that made Beanie Babies is hoping for another winner with dolls named "Sweet Sasha" and "Marvellous Malia". But Ty Inc officials insist the names were chosen because they sound "beautiful" and have nothing to do with the Obamas. The dolls cost about \$15 each.