



Jordan Paris

### Comic accused of cheating

AN Aussie comedian who has reached the semi-finals of TV hit *Australia's Got Talent* was being accused yesterday of stealing his routine from a British funnyman. Jordan Paris, 22, appeared on the talent quest Tuesday night doing a turn focused on British pop star Robbie Williams' song delivery style. The judges loved his performance and he got through to the next round of the show with a unanimous verdict. The only problem was, it has all been done before. English comedian Lee Mack performed the gag almost word for word four years ago on British stand-up comedy show *Live at the Apollo*. Paris denied ripping off the routine and said: "Comedy's a funny thing... If it's making people laugh then I'm happy."

### Stevedores call off strike

WHARF workers will be advised by their union to "save Patrick from themselves" and cease their industrial action at three major ports. The Maritime Union of Australia had planned a week of work restrictions at Fremantle, Sydney and Brisbane over a pay dispute with stevedore Patrick. But the company has refused to pay its workers for days not worked after it denied them access to the wharfs. Yesterday the company locked out workers at Fremantle after taking similar action in Sydney and Brisbane. The MUA said it would advise its members to stop their limited strike action today.

### Promotion brewing

MAKING tea and coffee for office colleagues could help workers get on in their careers. A survey of 1600 British office workers found most believed there was a direct correlation between making drinks and being promoted. The study by office supplies firm Viking also found more than half of workers were reluctant to offer to make a round of tea or coffee because colleagues had become more demanding with their orders.



**PROUD FAMILY:** Explorer and geologist Dr Jon Stephenson's daughters Frances Stephenson, Sara Bucher and Melissa Stephenson with a photograph of their father who died this week  
Photo: FIONA HARDING

# Explorer's spirit sure to endure

by Barbara Lynch

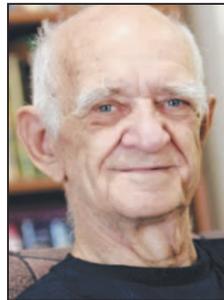


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## His adventurous life

### PHILIP Jon Stephenson's achievements

- Selected to represent Australia in the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition for three months
- Climbed and skied in Switzerland in preparation for Antarctica 1956-1958
- His 1960-1966 expedition included Karakoram Himalaya, Heard Island, New Hebrides and later several adventure tours to the Himalayas with a private company
- He was a founding staff member of what is now James Cook University's geology department
- He was given an Australian Geographical Society 2010 Lifetime of Adventure Award
- He was listed in *Who's Who In Australia* in 2008



PHILIP Jon Stephenson was an adventurer with a thirst for life whose spirit still shone long after he was risking his life in Antarctica.

The well-known Townsville explorer and geologist suffered a stroke and died on Tuesday aged 80.

Daughters Sara Bucher, Frances Stephenson and Melissa Stephenson made it home to Townsville before their father died and his wife Jennepher was also there.

"He was a very modest man and never made a big deal of anything he did," Melissa said.

"I don't think we appreciated what he did until we were adults."

Sara was in Year 2 at Central State School in North Ward when her class was ushered into the library to watch a film.

"This was unusual for us but we started watching a short film about trans-Antarctic expeditions and I saw my father on the screen. I had no idea that's what he did," Sara said.

Known by all as Jon, he loved the outdoors and exploring and his list of achievements is long.

He was appointed the Australian member of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, the first expedition to complete a crossing of the Antarctic continent.

His career started at the University of Queensland where he graduated with first-class honours in geology. He gained his PhD in London and worked in West

Pakistan where he conducted geological research in the Himalayan region.

Jon led an exciting life and used his experiences to influence his young family.

He would take his daughters sailing, they could all sail solo by the age of eight, and trips to Magnetic Island and Hinchinbrook passage were regular outings for them.

Jon and Jennepher took Melissa on a trip to Nepal when she was four.

All three daughters had

an appreciation of nature instilled in them by their Dad.

"He instilled a passion for travel in us as well," Melissa said.

Sara went to the Solomon Islands when she was 22 and will leave for Iceland in two weeks for an eight-day horse-riding trek across the desert.

She spoke of this trip with her Dad on Sunday.

"Dad, being a geologist, was fascinated with the volcanoes in Iceland and was thrilled I was going," Sara said.

Silences were not uncommon between Jon and his family but they weren't considered awkward.

"We all felt very comfortable with him. There could be a silence for hours but that was OK," Sara said.

Melissa said: "He was a very gentle and kind person and even the way he spoke to us was soothing."

"He always had the time for people which sometimes made him late because he'd be talking for so long."

Jon was planning a photographic exhibition from his trips to Antarctica before he died.

His funeral is today at Woongarra Crematorium Chapel.

## Survey reveals 'alarming' cost of living in NQ

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Prices were collected for the broad categories of food, alcohol, tobacco, clothing and footwear, housing, household contents and services, health, education and communication, transportation, recreation, and financial and insurance services.

"This is quite a comprehensive survey," Mr Dwyer said. "The figure for food is alarming... I was surprised because Cairns is only 3.6 per cent more expensive than Brisbane... this indicates that maybe they produce more of their food from the Tablelands."

"Gympie is the cheapest in Queensland and this is probably because it is a rural location and they produce a lot of beef and also have a salad bowl nearby."

Mr Dwyer said, apart from food, Townsville prices were equal to those in Brisbane.

Across all items, Townsville people paid .9 per cent less than Brisbane.

"Townsville is actually 2.6 per cent cheaper for alcohol and tobacco, clothing is 7.1 per cent cheaper and housing is 5.5 per cent cheaper."

The survey was conducted in May 2010 but was released this month.

Mr Dwyer criticised the delay in publishing the information and also the fact the survey was only done every four years.

He said there was a spatial price index report each quarter for Darwin and that the information should be available to Townsville at least each year.

"I think there are a lot of issues associated with the cost of living and this information is needed for decisions to be made," he said.

A spokesman for Queensland Treasurer Andrew Fraser said it was impossible to release the data any more regularly.

"The sheer volume of data requires a comprehensive assessment from economists and demographers," he said.

"It is not a simple undertaking."

Meanwhile, Moranbah, south-west of Mackay, was found to have house prices 65.4 per cent higher than in Brisbane.

Biloela, west of Rockhampton, had transportation costs 9 per cent higher than in Brisbane.

## Hypothermia case in Darwin

A DARWIN woman was diagnosed with hypothermia after temperatures dropped to 12 degrees.

Sue Carpenter, 51, said doctors believed her case was "unusual" but could offer no other diagnosis.

Ms Carpenter has lived in the Territory for 15 years and said she contracted the condition after walking barefoot on cold concrete to the shops at 4.30am on May 13.

"Bugger the mozzies, the cold will get you," Ms Carpenter said.