



Mark Latham

# US wary of ALP FTA amendments

AUSTRALIA'S free trade agreement with the US has finally won parliamentary approval — but now must clear another hurdle.

The US yesterday warned it would carefully scrutinise Labor amendments to legislation that activate the deal to ensure they were acceptable.

Prime Minister John Howard said he was ready to argue the case for the legislation, if necessary.

## Michael Harvey

"I do not want the agreement to fall over," he said.

"I mean, I believe in it, I've worked for this. I've poured myself into it and the last thing I want to do is to see it fall over."

The Government ended two weeks of Senate debate by reluctantly supporting ALP amendments designed to protect access

to cheap generic medicines. Both parties then combined in the House of Representatives to pass the amended legislation.

Subject to each nation certifying the other's legislation, the FTA is sure to come into effect on January 1, 2005.

Mr Howard hailed passage of the laws as a historic achievement and said only his Government could have pulled it off.

But Opposition Leader Mark Latham pointed to his success in winning support for Labor's amendments.

"If we can achieve all these things in opposition, imagine how effective we will be in government," Mr Latham said.

The Labor leader was unconcerned when the US Trade Representative's office said America reserved the right to abandon the

deal if Australia breached the original deal.

"We've made it clear that the United States must certify that the implementation language fulfils the obligations under the FTA before the FTA can come into force. We reserve all our rights in this process," said the spokesman for the US office, Richard Mills.

Washington had given no support to the Australian amendments, he said.



John Howard

## Footy trip on outer

Shaun Phillips

A FOOTBALL institution — the footy trip — is on the wane at elite level.

Officials from seven AFL clubs yesterday said there would be no booze-fuelled mass holiday at season's end.

Some clubs where players are organising trips say numbers are not what they once were.

As few as five clubs are going overseas, compared with 11 two years ago.

About a dozen Carlton players are going to Greece, while 15 to 20 Brisbane stars plan to celebrate a fourth consecutive flag in Hawaii.

The trip culture remains robust at Kangaroos and Essendon. All bar one of 39 Kangaroos players has signed up for five nights in Las Vegas, where the Bombers are also heading.

"The trip is something the Kangaroos players have always been big on," veteran David King said.

The trip culture is also alive and well in the suburbs and in the sticks.

Breakfree Holidays expects to book 620 footy trips this year, including 250 from Victoria.

"It's more than we had last year," footy trips manager Andrew Growth said.

"With low airfares, places like Cairns and Airlie Beach and Perth are really popular with Victorian clubs."

A group of Hawthorn players is off to Bali — the first AFL contingent to return to the island since the 2002 bombings.

Football clubs of all descriptions dropped Bali last year after Kangaroos, Melbourne, Geelong and Fremantle players were caught up in the bombing.

# Happy hour's back

## Mates seek out bargains

Terry Brown

FOR Melbourne mates Chris Canty and Tom Redmond, happiness comes in many forms.

Mostly, however, it comes in pots, schooners, pints and jugs.

For them, beauty is not so much in the eye of the beholder as the beerholder — and the bar can't be set low enough for their liking.

In 1985, the hole in the ozone was undiscovered.

The wreck of the *Titanic* had still not been found, but a \$1 pot? That was a different matter.

The recommended retail price did not top the feared dollar mark until around Christmas. It has since risen to about \$3.

But history, like a late night souvlaki, sometimes repeats.

And the dollar pot is back — if you know where to look.

In March, Chris — an academic and travel writer — returned from six months in Estonia, home of the \$2.30-a-litre beer and, he says, the world's worst souvlakis.

With Tom, he visited a Fitzroy pub known for its cheap happy hours.

The pair were dismayed. The happy hour was off. They say they didn't know where to turn, and then an idea started flowing.

Since then they have become diehard beer hunters, a budget

### BEER ON A BUDGET


#### HAPPY HOUR "PITFALLS"

- 1 Staff who stall so you miss the happy hour by only two minutes
- 2 Happy hours that don't last an hour
- 3 Leaving it late to shout and having to pay full price after everyone else got their drinks cheap
- 4 Happy hour venues with table service and waiters who come only every 70 minutes
- 5 Misreading signs that say, "One for the price of two"



#### WEEK OF BARGAINS

<p><b>Monday</b> <b>Public Bar</b>, Nth Melbourne: \$1 pots all night. <b>Pure</b>, Fitzroy: \$1 pots, 5pm-1am</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>Caseys</b>, Hawthorn: Toss the Boss, 8pm-5am</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>Commercial Club</b>, Fitzroy: Paper Rock Scissors for free beer, 7pm-midnight</p> <p><b>Thursday</b> <b>Billboard</b>, city: \$1 pots, 9pm-4am, (\$10 entry). <b>Laundry</b>, Fitzroy: \$1 pots all night</p>	<p><b>Friday</b> <b>Loft</b>, city: Two free drinks on arrival, 5-6pm</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>Young and Jackson's</b>, city: Free beer tasting, 3.30pm</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> <b>Dallas</b>, city: \$1.50 pots all night</p>
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Source: [thehappiesthour.com](http://thehappiesthour.com)

boozer's best friend.

In June, thehappiesthour.com was born, a non-profit site devoted to listing Melbourne's best beer bargains.

"We made it for backpackers and students," Chris said.

But it didn't stay that way long. Within weeks, the site was seized upon by city office workers, many of them women.

"One Friday between 5 and 7pm, we had 4000 hits," Chris said.

Close to 1000 Melburnians have signed up for a weekly e-mail which arrives at 3pm Fridays.

Bars offer cheap or free drinks to subscribers.

Chris and Tom are looking to expand to Sydney. An SMS services has also been mooted to find

drinkers on the move the nearest cheap drink.

To get a plug, bars must sell pots for \$2 or less and pints, \$4 or below.

The pair refuse to charge drinkers for the service, but hope bar owners and publicans might be willing to pay to publicise their offers.

"There are people who don't understand the culture of the happy hour," Chris admits.

"We're not saying to drink twice as much when the pots are half price. What you save on a beer, you can spend on a souvlaki."

The Australian Hotels Association is sceptical about the site, and the availability of cheap beer.

"I would think you'd be struggling to find a \$1

pot," AHA State President Brian Kearney said.

"There's a difference between a price on a website and the price in a bar. If you want quality, you've got to pay for it."

A *Herald Sun* road test of bargains found Tooheys New, Fourx Gold

and what tasted a lot like Geelong Bitter out of a Carlton tap. One happy hour had changed days and another ended two minutes earlier.

But it did find dollar beers and \$4.50 jugs, and you've got to be happy about that.



Gracie Sharpe

## Slain pair farewelled

THE bodies of slain mother Anna Kemp and her two-year-old daughter Gracie will be taken back to New Zealand this weekend after the pair were farewelled at a private memorial service in Mt Martha yesterday.

Ms Kemp's devastated brothers, Gerald and Joe,

from Dunedin, arrived in Melbourne on Tuesday to take the remains of Ms Kemp, 41, and Gracie back home for burial after a funeral on August 21.

The brothers, with New Zealand family priest Father Tony Harrison and Dunedin police officer Constable John Wood-

house, yesterday joined friends of the killed pair for the memorial service.

Ms Kemp's husband John Miles Sharpe, 37, has been charged with two counts of murder.

Gerald Kemp described his sister as vibrant and lively and said she had a wicked sense of humour.

## Hunt goes on for Tatts winner

THE search continues for the winner of the \$5 million first division prize in Thursday night's Powerball draw.

The winning entry was submitted at Avondale Heights but has not been claimed.

Tattersall's has been unable to contact the winner as they do not have a Tatts Card.

## Factory damaged by blaze

FIRE caused extensive damage to a Preston factory yesterday afternoon.

Smoke hampered firefighters' efforts but damage was contained to a single building in Oakover Rd.

The cause of the blaze is not yet known.

## Workers take flak

AUSTRALIA'S main supplier of military hardware has locked out 300 workers during a dispute over pay and conditions.

Tenix Australia, which supplies clothing, helmets, boots and flak jackets to Australian troops, locked the workers out of their Wodonga workplace after a breakdown in enterprise negotiations.

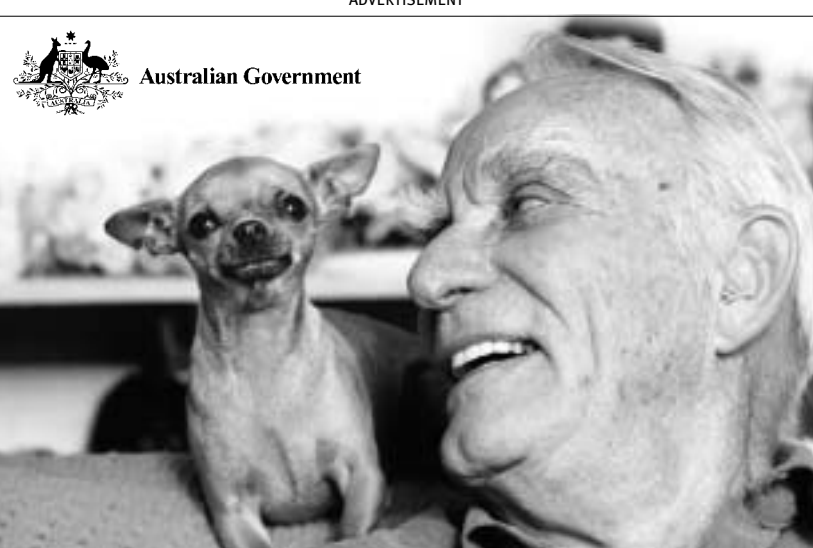
The company rejected a 15 per cent pay claim over three years, instead offering 12.85 per cent.

Tenix has been negotiating with the National Union of Workers and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union for about two months. But NUW Victorian secretary Martin Pakula said members were ready to step in if military personnel were put at risk.

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