

● NUMBERS GAME

Wiki-ed way to guess

BOX-office takings from unreleased movies can be calculated in advance by analysing Wikipedia traffic, researchers say.

Physicists from Budapest University of Technology and Economics have found a way of predicting earnings by measuring the activity of the encyclopaedia's users, according to a paper published in journal *PLOS ONE*.

They road-tested the formula on more than 300 movies attracting first weekend takings from \$100,000 to \$100 million and estimates were within a few per cent of the actual earnings.

● JOBS CHECK

Rights turn for the cafe

INNER-city cafes will be the focus of audits by the Fair Work Ombudsman aimed at ensuring workers are receiving their full entitlements.

Brunswick, Carlton and Fitzroy all feature on a list of locations for pay audits at 1500 restaurants, cafes and catering businesses around the nation.

Fair work ombudsman Natalie James said the accommodation and food services sector generated the most complaints.

She said the sector employed many young and foreign workers who were vulnerable if they were not fully aware of their rights.



Pretty in blue

Model Jena (Giant Management), wearing an Aurelio Costarella dress and with hair by Biba, sets the fashion for a special high tea at the Park Hyatt on September 8. See melbourne.park.hyatt.com.

Picture: NICOLE CLEARY

● CRASH AND CARRY

Back to bed for homeless

Lachlan Hastings

THE charity Swags for Homeless today called on the next federal government to buy everyone sleeping rough in Australia nation a life-saving backpack bed.

The "Stop Death Zones" campaign was launched today in Melbourne's Federation Square with a photographic display symbolising deaths of homeless people due to exposure.

Swags for Homeless co-founder Tony Clark said politicians needed to understand that homeless people needed help now to protect them while awaiting shelter.

"It's inhumane to have someone turned away empty-handed from a shelter, and we only need \$2.1 million to help over 21,000 Australians sleeping on the streets," he told *mX* today.

Clark said the \$77 backpack bed was used by more than 300 Aussie welfare agencies and was proven to give dignity, improve health and get people back on their feet faster.

"It's waterproof, it's got a built-in mattress (and) it's a backpack, which means people can just put it on their back and they won't look like they're homeless."

Clark urged supporters to tweet PM Kevin Rudd, Opposition Leader Tony Abbott or their local MP using #stopdeathzones.

There are 105,237 people in Australia who are currently homeless, according to Homelessness Australia, with 22,789 of those in Victoria.

And according to latest data, at least 40,878 people are forced to sleep rough each year.

See stopdeathzones.org.