



PAGE 6
**THE KINDNESS
OF STRANGERS**

PAGE 3
**TYALGUM DESIGNER
AT FASHION WEEK**

PLUS: DEVELOPER TAKES KATIE MILNE TO COURT: PAGE 5

EXTRA DOLLOP: Lismore MP
wants you to pay more for your
daily pint at Coles supermarkets

GEORGE SOUR OVER CHEAP MILK

By Peter Caton
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SUPERMARKET giant
Coles, which last week
slashed the price of its
Homebrand milk, is under
fire from National Party
To Page 2



MILKED BY SUPERMARKETS: Corey Crosthwaite, on his farm outside Murwillumbah, is one of Tweed's few remaining dairy farmers who are being squeezed by lower milk prices.
Photo: Scott Powick D130545

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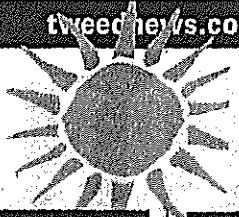


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WEDNESDAY



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SPECIAL



JOKE OF THE DAY

SHERLOCK Holmes and Dr Watson were camping and pitched their tent and went to sleep. During the night Holmes woke Watson and said, "Look up and tell me what you see". Watson said, "I see millions of stars". Holmes said, "What do you deduce from that?" Watson replied, "Well, more planets and possibly life". Holmes said, "Watson, you idiot, it means someone stole our tent".

WEIRD WORLD

A NEW Polish board game reminiscent of Monopoly has been launched to help young Poles understand the hardships of life under communism. Players try to buy basic goods, but food supplies run out before they reach the counter. If a bed is needed, they are offered stools. The makers say the game shows hardships previous generations endured before communism ended in 1989.

Price war hurts dairy farmers

From Page 1

MP Thomas George for sparking a price war he fears will hurt farmers.

Mr George, whose state electorate of Lismore includes Murwillumbah, has called on Coles to reverse its decision to slash the price of its own-brand milk to \$1 per litre.

Coles cut the price for a two-litre bottle to just \$2 last Thursday in a move immediately matched by Woolworths.

On Friday Aldi followed suit.

Yesterday Mr George's criticism was backed by Murwillumbah dairy farmer Corey Crosthwaite - one of just eight remaining on the Tweed - following decisions by others during the past decade to abandon the industry.

Mr Crosthwaite said farmers had already suffered a 20 cents a litre cut to the farm-gate price for milk in the past nine months.

And although that price cut came via their co-operative Norco, Mr Crosthwaite said, "It's actually the supermarkets who are doing it."

"If you don't accept their price you lose the market."

"Most of the farmers were in their 70s or 80s. It doesn't hurt the old blokes as much but anyone that's young has such a massive investment and gets nothing back at the end of the day."

"If you get a flood or a drought it hurts us, but it doesn't hurt Coles or Woolworths."

Coles has said it would wear the loss and not pass on cuts to farmers, but Mr George argued the move was "irresponsible".



COLES CHALLENGE: Thomas George wants a better price for farmers.

"Even though it (Coles) says it will absorb the price cut, in the long run this will cause a price war between brands, which ultimately comes back to the producers," Mr George said.

"The dairy industry on the North Coast is still getting over deregulation, together with years of drought and now floods."

"Many farmers have left the industry and those that remain have had a hard time maintaining viability."

"This is a time when we should be supporting dairy farmers."

Mr George said the cost of feeding cows was increasing because of the flood damage to many crops.

"I again call on Coles to reverse its decision and return money to the farm gate by renegotiating its current contracts to increase the price by five cents per litre to the producer," he said.

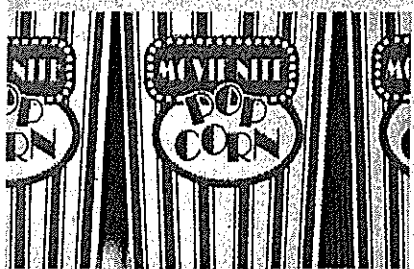
If you get a flood or a drought it hurts farmers, but it doesn't hurt supermarkets

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REGULARS

Classifieds	20
Comics	18
Finance	17
Funerals	20
Letters	12
Nation	9
Sport	22
Stars	18
TV Guide	27
Weather	2
World	11

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