

## Gun found at hospital

ONE of Sydney's biggest hospitals was forced into lockdown yesterday after a gun was found in a patient's room.

Police were called to St Vincent's Hospital following reports a gun had been spotted on level nine at 3:50pm.

Staff ordered the hospital into lockdown as police secured the area.

Officers spoke to the male patient and two other people before seizing the weapon.

The patient was arrested but remains in the hospital under police guard.

Police said no one was threatened with the gun and the hospital reopened a short time after the man's arrest.

## Coles in hoax offer

SUPERMARKET giant Coles has become embroiled in a Facebook scam, which the chain yesterday warned customers to avoid.

The scam involves an offer for a "Free \$500 Gift Card for Coles" that requires consumers to share a link and provide their personal details.

On its own Facebook page yesterday, Coles issued a warning that the gift card offer was not genuine.

"Please be aware that these are a hoax and have no connection to Coles," the supermarket stated.

"It's also a reminder to be careful when sharing personal details."

## Arrest for grooming

A MAN will face court today charged with organising to meet what he thought was a 13-year-old girl he had been conversing with online.

The 36-year-old from Woodcroft was charged by detectives attached to the sex crimes squad after he thought he was arranging to meet the teenage girl.

Police allege there were numerous online dealings between police — posing as the girl — and the man, and that explicit photographs were sent. The man was arrested in a car park at Parramatta yesterday. He was charged with using a carriage service to procure a person under 16.

## Bowling bonanza

A HANDYMAN walked away with a handy \$1.74 million after scooping Keno at his local bowls club.

The man was with friends at the Tenterfield Bowls Club after his wife headed south for the Melbourne Cup carnival.

He scooped the major prize after all 10 numbers came up.

The man from Wallangarra on the NSW-Queensland border said he didn't know about his jackpot win for several hours after leaving the club and returning home.

He later returned to the club, shouted the bar and promised to give each staff member \$1000.

# Banks might buck Cup day rates cut

Phil Jacob

TREASURER Wayne Swan has said there is now "no excuse whatsoever" for Australia's big four banks not to pass on any interest rate cut in full — despite growing speculation that they won't.

Most tipsters began forecasting a cut in official interest rates last week, after figures showed Australia's underlying inflation grew at its slowest quarterly pace in nearly a decade.

Mr Swan said while interest rate decisions were made by the independent central bank, the Reserve Bank made it clear a couple of weeks ago

### You can take it to the bank

Stays the same	\$1.75	(out from \$1.50)
Down by 0.01 - 0.25%	\$1.90	(in from \$2.50)
Down by 0.26 - 0.50%	\$10.00	(out from \$9.00)
Down by more than 0.51%	\$15.00	(out from \$14.00)
Any increase	\$21.00	(Source: Centrebet)

there was still room to move. It would be the first rate cut in 2½ years, and the first move since last November when the Reserve raised the cash rate to 4.75 per cent from 4.5 per cent.

That was an increase the major banks almost doubled when adjusting their variable loan rates, much to the public's anger.

Yellow Brick Road chairman Mark Bouris said if the Reserve cut its rate it would be "intolerable" for the big banks not to pass on the saving. His small lending firm yesterday guaranteed it would pass on any reduction.

"Last year the banks said they couldn't pass savings on because the cost of their own

borrowings had risen," Mr Bouris said. "A year later and the cost of funds has now dropped, so what do you see? Record bank profits?"

NAB boss Cameron Clyne last week failed to confirm his bank would pass on any rate cut in full, insisting they would only "remain competitive" on mortgage rates and bank fees.

The comments angered some, who pointed to the bank's reported 24 per cent jump in annual profits to a record \$5.22 billion as a reason to remain in accord with the Reserve Bank.

UBS chief economist Scott Haslem said the unexpectedly

low inflation figures gave the Reserve yet another reason to cut rates.

"It is just simply a question for the RBA why policy needs to be in a mildly tight or mildly restrictive above average setting when inflation looks likely to be in the middle of the band and there is still some question marks over the outlook near term for growth," Mr Haslem said.

He is forecasting a rate cut but said it will be a close call. "History tells you that the RBA doesn't like to change direction ... it has tended to go from very easy to very tight, and we are in the middle of the range at the moment."



Hello world: Violet Bransgrove and her proud parents Jasmin and Cardin at Sydney's North Shore Private Hospital

Picture: Brad Hunter

## Violet wrapped in the fact she's one in 7 billion



Celebrate: Cake for baby Danica

Letitia Rowlands  
Family Reporter

EVERY parent believes their baby is one in a million, but little Violet Bransgrove's mum and dad are pretty sure their new daughter is one in seven billion.

Violet was born just after midday yesterday at Sydney's North Shore Private Hospital, on the day the world's population hit seven billion.

The little girl was one of about 816 babies born across Australia and 262

in NSW who arrived on the momentous day.

"It will be a nice way to remember the day of her birth, absolutely," mum Jasmin Colley, who went into labour one day before her due date, said.

"And it is also Halloween, so we'll always have that too."

Violet is the second daughter for Ms Colley and partner Cardin Bransgrove, and a sister for Bonnie, 16 months.

According to official UN record keepers, it is just over 12 years since the world's population passed the six

billion mark. Based on the current growth rate of 1.1 per cent the global population should reach eight billion in 2025.

Australia is on track to hit the 23 million mark next July.

But Australia is not the only country claiming to be home to the world's seven billionth occupant.

The Philippines also celebrated yesterday after the arrival of little Danica May Camacho — her proud parents Camille and Florante marking the moment with a cake.