

Show times are:

Friday 23 Nov 2007

3pm to 9pm

choice of circus shows at either 4pm or 7pm

Saturday 24 Nov 2007

9am to 3pm

choice of circus shows at either 10am or 1pm

3pm to 9pm

choice of circus shows at either 4pm or 7pm

Should you require any further details please contact the Defence (Sydney Region) Christmas Treat Committee.

Contact: Flight Lieutenant Linda Bates,
Flight Sergeant Simeon Prucha

Phone: 02 4587 1250, 02 4587 3494

Email: Linda.Bates@defence.gov.au,
Simeon.Prucha@defence.gov.au ✨



Avoiding the Sting By Laird Darren Gallagher

In a poker game they say, 'If you can't spot the sucker at the table in the first ten minutes, then you are the sucker.' Me? I know I'm the sucker, that's why the only gambling I do is eat at the mess (just jokes folks)

But don't you just hate being 'sucked in'.

I remember going to the agricultural shows as a boy with my father, and we would walk down sideshow alley. He was always reluctant to let me have a go at anything because he knew the score. 'Yeah come on mate. Three balls, all you have to do is knock over this bottle that's got the money in it and the money is all yours' – we've all seen it. The one bottle you want to hit is somehow cemented to the table. Five dollars later and you really aren't all that smarter for the experience.

What I like about these situations is that we always find ourselves saying, 'Well, I won't get caught like that again' – but you will, and you do.

I have just conceded now that every time I go overseas I will get ripped off at least once in the first 24 hours. And it's a relief once it has happened, because then I can just get on with my holiday.

So what's the biggest modern day rip-off do you think?

Petrol? Food? Or maybe anything with the word 'wedding' preceding it?

Personally, I'm very wary of any shop that burns incense. It usually has some kind of South East Indian styling to it – and usually sells swords or pillows, or something. The store is always very crowded and all the isles lead to the cashier who eyes you off as if you are a shoplifter.

Now the danger of these stores is that, before you have done the obligatory 'hot lap browse' of the store, the incense has made you a little disoriented, and somehow everything goes into a little spin. Your vision starts to go a

little cloudy round the edges as though you are in some kind of romantic movie flashback. Then, before you can say 'Body by Jake', you are standing out the front of the shop, holding some kind of fondue accessory kit, something with beads on it and a Samurai sword. You turn around to go back in, but the door is locked with a closed sign on the door.

There is no gag here, folks. Just an overarching warning and a piece of friendly advice. You will always be sucked in, because this is Australia, and we love to catch a sucker out if given the opportunity. It's kinda like being lazy – we're good at it, so we do it. So accept the fact. Being on the move as Defence families makes us more open to being 'touched' at the hip pocket because, just when you work out who all the shysters and 'Honest Rons' are in your neighbourhood, you get posted. So here is a snappy list of things to be wary of when out and about:

1. stores burning incense (ok, so that might not have been a true story);
2. store owners with dodgy moustachios (see *dfm* issue Spring 2005);
3. sideshow alley owners who say, 'It's easy, I'll give you a free go';
4. used cars that smell like cheap aftershave;
5. cheap aftershave with stickers on the box saying, 'If you like Brut 33, then you'll really love Route 69..';
6. Kingwood speakers, Redbock joggers, Suny walkmans and Ockley sunglasses - and, yep, I've bought em all, and no, there are no spelling mistakes in this paragraph; and
7. dodgy articles in *dfm* written by men who have tendencies to dress up as rock'n'roll icons when given the opportunity.

Happy shopping ✨