

BENTLEIGH

Owner thinks change is rank

TAXI INDUSTRY REFORMS TO HALVE LICENCE FEES

Jessica Bennett

TAXI drivers fear they will go bankrupt under a proposed revamp of industry regulations.

The Taxi Industry Inquiry, conducted by Prof Allan Fels, calls for major reform in the industry, including cheaper taxi licences to owner-operators.

For owners that would mean a licence worth \$470,000 a few months ago could lose more than half its value.

Bentleigh's Jacob Revzin, who has invested in a number of licences, said if licence costs dropped he could lose his home.

"My income will drop, probably to zero," Mr Revzin said.

"There will be so many cabs on the road, drivers will struggle to get work.

"I would have to sell my house to pay the mortgage and become a full-time pensioner and the government will have to pay for me.

"I'm financially independent now, it doesn't make sense for them to do this to us."

Mr Revzin, 71, said he had worked an average of 100 hours a week without com-



Jacob Revzin

plaining and now felt he was "being punished for it".

"I understand the government needs to make reforms, but they need to be smart, not stupid," Mr Revzin said.

Prof Fels handed his final report to the State Government last week.

He said the proposed reforms "aimed to balance the interests of all parties whilst making important improvements to driver pay and conditions, service availability and choice".

"It will push up standards, restore customers' confidence in taxi services and save the industry from further decline," Prof Fels said.

BENTLEIGH EAST



Courtney McKnight is taking part in Cupcakes for Cancer.

Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN N15MS701

Cooking up a cancer cure

LOCAL women are joining the fight against cancer — with cupcakes.

Bentleigh East resident Courtney McKnight and sister Morgan registered to host a "donate and decorate" cupcake fundraiser as part of newly formed national association the Cupcakes for Cancer's inaugural campaign.

Hosts provide plain cup-

cakes, some icing and decorations, so guests can enjoy decorating cupcakes while donating to help young people with cancer.

"We were inspired to host an event when our friend, who is only 20 years old, was diagnosed with cancer recently," Ms McKnight said.

"We can't even begin to imagine what it must be like to face such a terrible dis-

ease at such a young age and just felt we had to do something to help."

The sisters will host more than 40 guests, bake dozens of cupcakes and have already received more than \$2000 worth of donations including \$1000 of prizes.

The campaign runs throughout October.

Details: cupcakesfor-cancer.org.au

fast lane

Spring festivities

GLEN Eira residents are invited to welcome spring with a series of free musical events in local parks. The next will be on Sunday, October 14, from 2.30pm at Harleston Park, Elsternwick, featuring Jen Hawley. Another will be Sunday, October 21 at Marlborough Reserve, Bentleigh East, featuring Geamala. Details: 9524 3333.

Cup Eve concert

THE Accordion Orchestra of Melbourne is coming to Bentleigh. The Bentleigh organ music club will host its 16th annual Cup Eve concert with classical, modern, jazz and pop numbers. The event is on Monday, November 5, 8pm at the Coatesville Bowling Club, East Bentleigh. Admission is \$10, includes supper. Details: 9528 2539 or 9889 4089.

Meet candidates

GLEN Eira residents are invited to meet the candidates for the local government election. A "meet the new candidates" session will be held at the McKinnon Hotel this Sunday at 4pm. Twenty-five newcomers have nominated, along with eight of the nine existing councillors. The Glen Eira Council 2012 general election is on October 27. Voting is from 8am to 6pm.

Seniors travel free

SENIORS Card holders will be given free travel on the state's public transport network during the 2012 Victorian Seniors Festival this week. Reservations are required on long-distance V/Line services and seniors should phone 1800 800 007 to book their seats.

Rotary Club talk

JOURNALIST and author Iola Mathews will speak at the Rotary Club of Caulfield next week. Ms Mathews will discuss her book, *My Mother, My Writing and Me*, on October 18, 12.30pm, at Barcelo Cafe, 312 Glenhuntly Rd, Elsternwick. Cost \$2. Bookings essential: 9568 7190 or email rotarycaulfield@gmail.com



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