

Richard de Crespigny

## Pilot hero backs Qantas over union demands

A HEROIC Qantas pilot has sided with the embattled airline, saying jobs need to head overseas so the company stays competitive. Richard de Crespigny, who safely landed a packed A-380 plane after it exploded mid-air in Singapore, has broken ranks with the union and his workmates as the pay dispute continues. He said moving jobs to

Neil Wilson  
Asia, where the market was "booming", would create more jobs for pilots and engineers, and the pay would go up because those skills were in demand. "I expect Qantas management to enable a long-term competitive advantage," Captain de Crespigny said.

"Qantas has been around for 90 years and we have to get rid of old legacy practices. We don't use manual typewriters any more. We are flying the most modern aircraft in the world." Captain de Crespigny supported Australian jobs, however, it was unreasonable to expect that 100 per cent of the work would be done in Australia, he told

The Australian newspaper. Meanwhile, the Qantas pilots union launched a Federal Court challenge for the right to resume industrial action against the airline. The pilots are asking the Federal Court to rule that the decision of Fair Work Australia terminating all industrial action against Qantas is invalid. The Australian Inter-

national and Pilots Association is arguing that making announcements and wearing red ties did not put the economy in danger and it should be allowed. Latest figures show Qantas, including Jetstar, held its share of more than a quarter of the record 27 million passengers carried in and out of Australia in the past financial year.

# Baby Noah comes first

## Mum puts off cancer treatment

Lucie van den Berg  
medical reporter

AFTER a young Victorian woman lost her first child, she was given a devastating diagnosis.

Doctors discovered tumours the size of 20 cent pieces in her bowel and pelvis caused by a "hidden cancer".

Natalia Hearle is one of an estimated 8000 Australians with neuroendocrine tumours.

Ms Hearle made the brave decision to delay treatment in order to try for a second baby.

Almost five months ago the 31-year-old gave birth to a healthy boy, Noah.

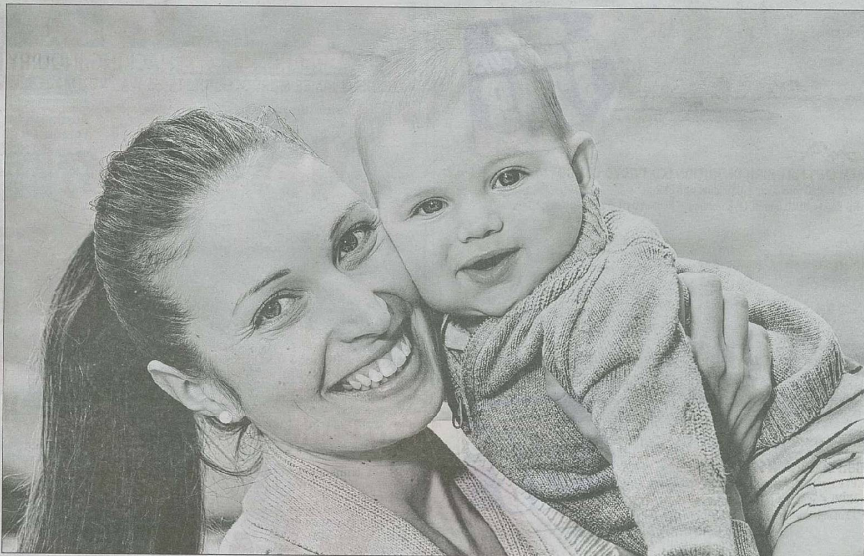
"I decided not to have the treatment given that the cancer was not growing quickly and I wanted to have a baby. It was a hard decision but I've always wanted a family," she said.

The tumours were first detected in June last year in hospital after she had a miscarriage. Further tests revealed they had spread to the lining of her stomach.

"The doctor said for them to go in and do surgery they had to guarantee they could remove 80 per cent of the tumours. But, because of the location and number of mine, they couldn't," Ms Hearle said.

Experts suggested she start treatment. "The treatment is only to stop them from growing, not cure it," she said.

But her urge to start a



Well worth the effort: Natalia Hearle put cancer treatment on hold to have baby Noah. Picture: ELLEN SMITH

family could not be quelled, even if it caused her illness to accelerate.

"They were not telling me when I am going to die, if I postponed having a baby and started treatment I could be on it permanently and lose my ability to conceive," Ms Hearle said.

"You want something so bad, but it's not an easy decision to make especially

**I decided not to have the treatment . . . it was a hard decision, but I've always wanted a family**

when your family is saying we care about you, we want you to be around, put your own health first. Now, they couldn't imagine their lives without him."

A scan after Noah's birth revealed the tumours had not increased in size or prevalence.

Unicorn Foundation chairman John Leyden said

the tumours could affect the pancreas, lungs, ovaries, bowel and gall bladder.

"It's not detected and it has spread to the other organs, life expectancy for five years is only 30 per cent," he said.

Dr Leyden, who lost his sister to the cancer, said this form of the disease was commonly misdiagnosed.

It's a small, slow-growing tumour that affects men and women, peaking between 30 and 50 years," he said.

"I call it the great mimicker, it parades around with a number of symptoms that could be misconstrued."

Symptoms include bloating, diarrhoea and asthma-like symptoms. vandenberg@heraldsun.com.au

## Welcome, but late Tiger is the ticket Vioxx fight goes on

THE Sustainability and Environment Department has taken eight months to account for 22 "welcome-to-country" ceremonies it paid for in the past two years.

Despite admitting it simply inserted the search words "welcome to country" into its finance database to come up with an answer, the department took until this week to answer a Freedom of Information request the Herald Sun sent to every state government department in March asking how many of the traditional Aboriginal ceremonies they had paid

for in 2009 and last year. The DSE ceremonies take the tally across the public sector in 2009 and last year to at least 150 at a cost of more than \$63,000.

Premier Ted Baillieu dropped compulsory acknowledgment of traditional Aboriginal landowners at official events in May.

The change did not affect welcome-to-country ceremonies.

The DSE is the third-most regular holder of welcome-to-country ceremonies behind the Justice and Education departments.

THE Presidents Cup is on track for a sell-out as fans clamour for tickets to the golfing spectacle.

And, while his game may have lagged in recent times, Tiger Woods will still be the star attraction.

More than three-quarters of tickets have been sold a week out from the event and all corporate hospitality packages are exhausted.

Premier Ted Baillieu has accepted an invitation to serve as honorary co-chairman of the Melbourne event — the only city outside the US to host the contest more than once.

"Melbourne is the home of great sporting events and it is an honour for Melbourne to host The Presidents Cup again," Mr Baillieu said.

The Premier will join honorary chair, Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who will be the ninth world leader and first woman to serve in the role.

The event has raised more than \$23 million for charity since it started in 1994.

The tournament will be held at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club for five days from November 15.

Net link: presidentscup.com

A GRANDFATHER who claims an arthritis drug gave him a heart attack is taking his fight against the drug's maker to the High Court.

Last month, the Full Court of the Federal Court ruled Graeme Peterson could have suffered his heart attack for reasons other than taking the drug.

The decision overturned a 2010 Federal Court award of more than \$330,000 compensation to Mr Peterson, who argued Vioxx, which is manufactured by drug giant Merck Sharp & Dohme, caused his heart attack.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, Mr Peterson's lawyers said they had applied to the High Court for special leave to appeal against the Full Court decision.

His lawyers believe the application for leave will be heard before June.

Mr Peterson sued MSD, claiming he was no longer able to work because of the heart attack.

Last month, the Full Court allowed an appeal by MSD, finding Mr Peterson had been at risk of a heart attack "quite independently of his consumption of Vioxx". —AAP

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