

Business women keep battling

Successful business women will be celebrated in this year's Telstra Business Women's Awards – nominations close on 19 June with national winners to be announced in November – but it seems the glass ceiling is still a lot lower than we might expect.

While nominations for the awards have been increasing steadily in recent years a new report, compiled by business group Chief Executive Women in conjunction with Dun & Bradstreet, found that more than 75 per cent of small to medium-size firms had no women in their senior management teams and 74 per cent of CEOs did not intend to appoint a female to a senior management position in the next three months.

The report also found that 68 per cent of CEOs did not require female candidates to be included on the shortlist to fill a senior management position in the next six months.

"More needs to be done to support small and medium-size businesses, which represent the largest employer by number in Australia, increase female participation in management," says CEW president Belinda Hutchinson.

For more information about the Telstra Business Women's Awards see www.telstrabusinesswomensawards.com.

Crash time

We've all heard of Mondayitis but it seems Fridays hold their own peril – new research from NRMA Insurance has shown that drivers are more likely to crash on a Friday than any other day.

Motorists around the country are 18 per cent more likely to have a bingle as their working week ends, and the time between 3pm and 5pm is the worst, according to Damien Butler from NRMA Insurance.

"We think that's because people are getting more tired towards the end of the week and, because of that, they're less focused, less attentive, people are rushing around to get things done and pick up their kids from school," he says.

Saturdays also fare badly, with crashes spiking between 11am to 1pm. Alternatively, people are less likely to crash on a Monday – after a weekend of rest motorists are alert and more aware, according to Butler.

The most common types of accidents during these times are merging collisions, roundabout crashes, collisions at traffic lights and reverse parking bingles. Butler says drivers should make sure they are well-rested before taking the wheel, don't rush or play with mobile phones, and take the time to get to the destination safely.

5 OF THE BEST

Ways to think green
Compiled by Laura Nolan



2 Eco warriors of the future

A sustainable future is in the hands of our kids, and they can weigh in to the debate with clean energy ideas in the Future Sparks competition. School students aged 8 to 13 can enter either a two-minute film or persuasive writing text on sustainable energy concepts, from wind turbines to using the kinetic energy of soccer balls to light a bulb, for a chance to win \$1000. Enter before 16 July at futuresparks.org.au.



Photography by: Nick Stephenson

4 Speed date a designer

If you can pick a life partner on a speed date, why not a sustainable home designer? That's the premise behind the Alternative Technology Association's event on 26 May that will bring together 16 leading Queensland eco architects and building designers with local homeowners. Each 'date' gives people 10 minutes to discuss their sustainable building or renovation ideas with the experts. From 1pm to 3pm at the State Library of Queensland, free entry. Must register online at sdsd.ata.org.au.



5 Humans vs animals

Award-winning artist Michael Zavros explores animals as trophies in his painting *Thoroughbred/Panthera pardus*, on display with more than 20 other works by contemporary Australian artists, in the new exhibition *Animal/Human* at the University of Queensland Art Museum, St Lucia. Other work comments on endangered species, environmental impacts of fishing and includes an homage to primates in space. Until 22 July, see www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au.



Green day out

It's World Environment Day on 5 June and the Redlands IndigiScapes Centre will celebrate with its Indigi Day Out on 2 and 3 June. There will be environmental stalls, thousands of native plants for sale, native animal displays and kids activities. See indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au for the full program.



1 Sweet and sustainable

The collapse of honey-bee colonies is bad news for the environment and electronic giant Philips is working on a solution in its Urban Beehive, built for city homes and apartments. Bees enter via a flower pot on the outside into a glass vessel with honeycomb frames on the inside. The hive is part of Philips' Microbial Home Project, which presents futuristic design concepts for a sustainable approach to energy, waste, lighting, cleaning and more. See www.philips.com.au.

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