

Tucker with company on the side

MANLY Street Cafe's one-year anniversary was celebrated with a \$2000 grant which will be used to buy catering equipment.

The cafe provides meals for homeless people in Manly on Saturday nights from outside the Manly Uniting Church on West Promenade.

Eight to 10 volunteers man the stall which is visited by about 20 to 30 people every weekend.

The street cafe is run by Street Mission, which works with disadvantaged youth and the homeless on the northern beaches.

Manly Street Cafe president Tania Atchison said she hoped more people in need would make use of the food service.

"There are a few regulars but now that the word about us is getting around we are seeing more faces," she said.

"We give clients a hot meal and fruit and sandwiches so they can eat all weekend."

Street Mission founder Alan Clarke said the street cafe was about more than just food.

"We provide these people with friendly company and conversation," he said.

"The street cafe gives them somewhere they know they are always welcome."

The cafe operates on Saturdays from 6.30-9pm rain, hail or shine. The grant was donated by the National Australia Bank.



Tania Atchison of cafe to the homeless - Manly's Street Cafe. Picture: VIRGINIA YOUNG

Porn jail sentence quashed

BELINDA LAWTON

A TEENAGER arrested during Australia's biggest investigation into child pornography has escaped a jail sentence after an appeal in the District Court yesterday.

Maximillian Edward Rabie, 19, of Frenchs Forest, was sentenced in Manly Court in May to two years' jail, with a non-parole period of 18 months, after pleading guilty to possessing child pornography.

His barrister, Stephen Hanley, said the sentence was inappropriate and District Court Justice Reg Blanch agreed.

Yesterday Justice Blanch confirmed the conviction, but slashed the university student's sentence to 12 months with a non-parole period to six months, which he then suspended.

As long as Mr Rabie adheres to a good behaviour

bond over the next two years, he will not spend any time in jail.

Justice Blanch attributed the offence to "a degree of immaturity particularly in relation to these sorts of matters".

"In my view, it's not a case where he should be required to go to jail at all," Justice Blanch said.

"Obviously there is some significant community concern about child pornography. If people access it, in terms of paying for it, they're encouraging the people who make it and distribute it.

"However it's not every case of possession of child pornography that should result in a prison sentence.

"It appears that when he (Rabie) was about 17 he accidentally came upon some child pornography sites and downloaded some images."

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