

Owners put beloved cafe on the market

Couple forced to give up on dream

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WANTED: Buyers who can carry on the monkey business on Sheridan St.

The Flying Monkey Cafe is up for sale and the current owners Jo Hammond and David Shea would love like-minded operators to bring a local touch to the eclectic cafe.

The British expats took over the funky venue last year but have been forced to part ways with their beloved spot due to unforeseen circumstances.

"We came to the sad conclusion that we have to sell the cafe," Ms Hammond said.

"We have posted it on Facebook and told a few regulars; they have been really sad."

The decision to pack up stumps was not an easy one for the pair to make and has proved an emotional one.

"We are absolutely gutted," Ms Hammond said.

"This is what we wanted out of life, but it is not going to be, unfortunately."

Since its establishment, the cafe has become a popular hub for local artists and students at the neighbouring Cairns State High School.

"Since we have been here we have watched the kids at Cairns State High grow up – they are going to be adults in no time," Ms Hammond said.

"Seeing them grow up has

been pretty cool."

If the couple could pick their successors, Ms Hammond said, they would choose similar souls.

"This isn't your usual cookie-cutter cafe," she said.

"This cafe has character and so do our customers."

"Our packaging is recyclable and our eggs are organic."

"Hopefully, we'll find someone with the same motivations as us and who wants to sell really good quality coffee."

It is no surprise that leaving their customers has pulled at the pair's heartstrings.

"Everyone who comes in the morning and the afternoon – I'll miss asking about how their day has been," Ms Hammond said.

"Even holiday makers who come in – people feel comfortable to hang out and read a book."

"It is a really comfortable place."

The couple moved to the tropics from Brisbane to take on the venture, which was founded by Rick and Kristy Beresford in 2013.

"We didn't come to Australia to spend our lives in suburban Brisbane," Ms Hammond said.

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UNPLANNED DECISION: Flying Monkey Cafe owners Miss Jo Hammond and David Shea have put their cafe up for sale following unforeseen circumstances.

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY



ONLINE: Darren Stoter with some of his equipment.

Undersea tool sales go global

PETE MARTINELLI

INNISFAIL lad Darren Stoter has not let distance get in the way of making a sale.

The business development and sales manager from Nemo Tools has been Skyping his way into boardrooms, militaries and the NASA training program with the Nemo range of underwater power tools.

Now living in Cairns, Mr Stoter joined Nemo while living in Israel.

"I was driving diggers and wanted to start a company," he said. "A friend of mine said 'you have to meet my mate – he's a real entrepreneur'."

Nemo Rotem met Darren Stoter and Nemo grew from strength to strength.

"He just started to kick the company off when I met him and had around 10 dealers set up," Mr Stoter said.

"Now we have over 200 dealers and exclusive distribution all over the world, and sell over 15 different types of under water power tools."

Their tools have been adopted by NASA for its Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) program, where astronauts live in an underwater laboratory.

"The Nemo drill was used for capability evaluation during the NEEMO missions," a NASA spokesman said.

"That drill was selected because of its ability to operate underwater."

Mr Stoter has also pitched a tool to NASA called the grabber – which as the name implies, is designed to help astronauts grab items in space.

All he needs is a laptop and an internet connection.

"As long as you have internet access, you can do anything," said Mr Stoter.

Cust virtually leads way to Hemingway's Brewery

FAR North businesses are embracing a new generation of technology to help them more effectively market their products and services.

Hemingway's Brewery Cairns recently engaged Vir-

tual tour owner Greg Cust to create a virtual tours of their new establishment on Cairns Wharf.

The 360-degree tours can feature colour 2D and 3D floor plan designs, 3D walk-

throughs, and images and are able to be viewed on the Apple iPhone and iPad.

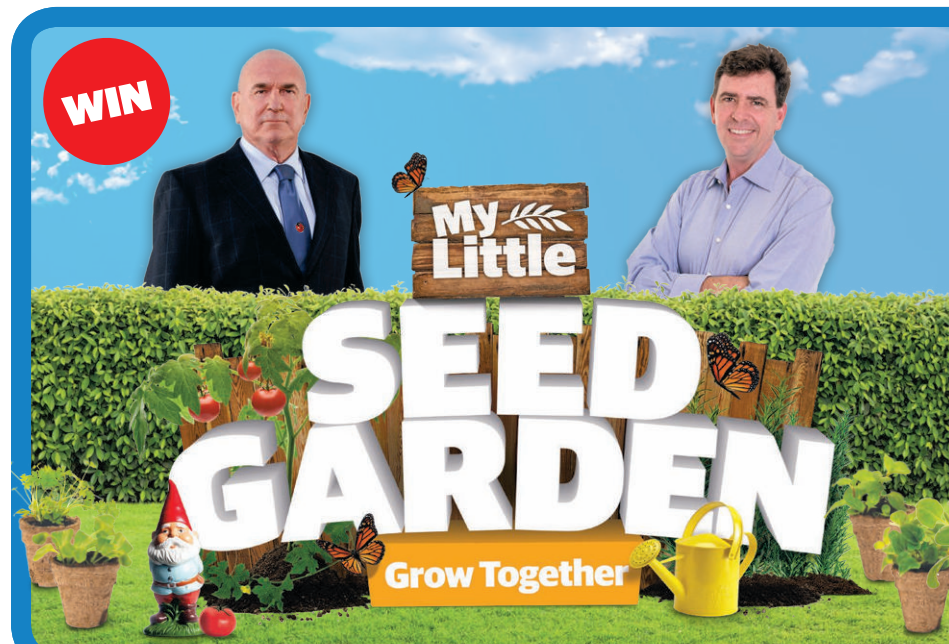
"Of the 20 to 64-year-old age group 93 per cent are now using computers to research everything including where to

eat, shop, get married and go on holidays," Mr Cust said.

"If a business doesn't have a website, we can create a domain name and point a virtual tour to that address."

Mr Cust has worked with

such businesses as Sheraton Mirage Resort Port Douglas, Salsa Bar & Grill, Lure Restaurant Bar & Grill, Tin Shed, Port Douglas Yacht Club, Supremo Cairns and Port Douglas Catering & Events.



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