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MANLY Northern beaches techies set up Local Rain Check website to help businesses during coronavirus

A group of techies have come up with a way to make a real difference to businesses struggling during through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Julie Cross, Manly Daily Subscriber only | May 10, 2020 12:00am

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A group of techies have put their heads together to create a website to help northern beaches businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Simon Horrocks, of Freshwater, came up with the idea of a gift voucher website called Local Rain Check because he wanted to do something that would actually make a difference for businesses struggling through this crisis.

"This is a gift voucher system, so you can buy vouchers for yourself or others and the business will get the cash right away," he said.

"It can really make a difference because it helps with cash flow."

The digital vouchers are valid for three years.



Independent Member for Warringah Zali Steggall. Picture: Mick Tsikas.

Mr Horrocks said the group of techies have given up their time for free to create the not-for-profit venture which is being endorsed by Warringah MP Zali Steggall.

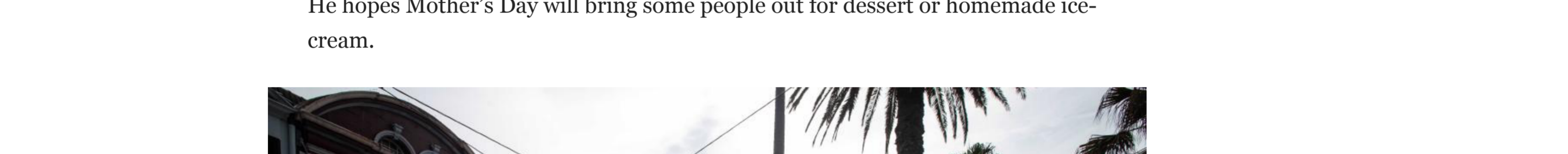
Local business owner Matteo Dominici, 32, who co-owns Mr Gelato by Matteo which opened in Freshwater in 2018, hopes people will support his business by either popping in or buying a voucher.

He said trade was down 50 per cent.

"Every day I cross my fingers tat we will have a good day," he said.

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He hopes Mother's Day will bring some people out for dessert or homemade ice-cream.



Businesses across the peninsula are struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic as people stay at home. Picture: Julian Andrews.

The team behind the website includes Tim Quinn, who also lives in Freshwater and has a website design company in Manly, Adam Marshall, of Manly who is a software developer, Bronwyn Hallis, from Kings Cross, who did the graphics and her dad John Hallis, who lives in Perth and has worked in the technology side of the payments and gift voucher industry.

Mr Horrocks said they hav around 40 businesses that have signed up for the website so far and are ready and waiting for supporters.

So far it's mainly northern beaches businesses, but it was open to businesses Australia-wide.

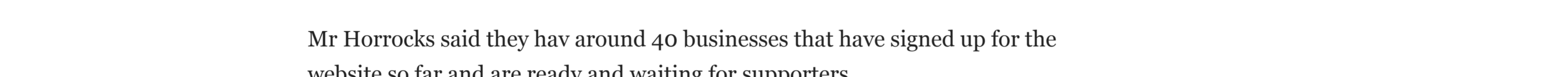
Mr Horrocks said he wanted businesses to sign up, as well as people in the community to support them.

Ms Steggall, a supporter of the LocalRainCheck scheme, said so many businesses in Warringah are doing it "very tough".

She said by buying a voucher you can help businesses keep afloat.

Go to localraincheck.com.au

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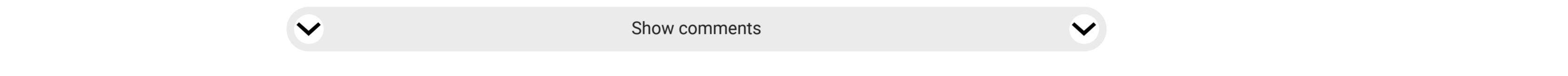
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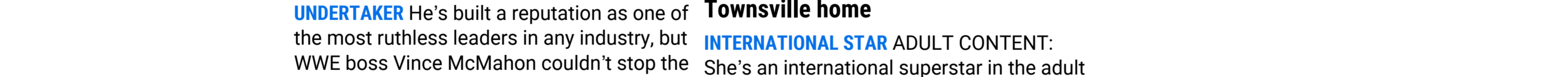
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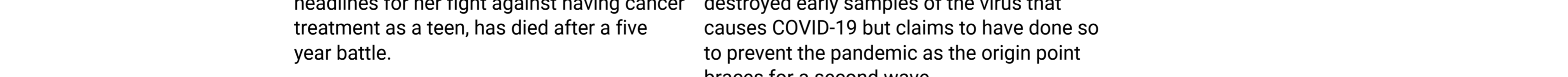
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