

**DID YOU KNOW** | The Cycle City K4 takes in New Zealand's north island sub-tropical forest, farmland and the Hauraki Gulf coastline ... and 14 major hill climbs.

# Cleaning co in quarrel on student pay claim

Fair Work Ombudsman probing complaints

**Employment** | Liam Ryan

IN a fight for pay he says he is owed, a Holmesglen TAFE student has turned to the federal Fair Work Ombudsman.

Graphic design student Cesar Penuela says a cleaning company owes him more than \$900 from work done in Stonnington in January.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has confirmed it is investigating a number of underpayment complaints made against the company, Over The Top Cleaning Services.

Mr Penuela, who last year came to Australia from Colombia with his wife and two-year-old daughter, said he relied on after-hours work to support his family.

"I worked very hard to do a good job and never had any complaints that my work wasn't good enough," he said. "I need the money from my work to help my family survive."

The Stonnington Leader contacted the cleaning company's owner, Terence Thomas. He disputed the sum outstanding, and said he would pay what he considered to be the "full amount", but would not say what that amount was.

Daniel Bottaro, a lawyer and friend to Mr Penuela, said he had evidence of the hours worked.

Several times they had tried to contact the employer and obtain the withheld pay before they went to the Fair Work Ombudsman, Mr Bottaro said. The employer had

## GET WHAT YOU EARN

### Employers:

- may pay in cash, by cheque or bank deposit
- must pay minimum rates and tax, and honour work absences due to illness or injury
- must not pay "cash-in-hand" by withholding tax

### Employees:

- should be paid at least once monthly and receive a pay slip within one working day
- should not be underpaid for customers' theft, short-changed cash registers or accidental breakages
- cannot be sacked for asking about pay and entitlements, or contacting the Fair Work Ombudsman

Source: fairwork.gov.au

made no effort to meet Mr Penuela to discuss the matter, he said.

► **To complain about unpaid wages, call the Fair Work Ombudsman: 131 394. International students needing legal help can call International Student Care Services: 1800 056 449.**



Amanda Waaldyk is taking part in a 400km one-night endurance bike race in New Zealand. Picture: STEVEN CRABTREE N12MP801

## Pumped up for extremities

IT may have been the scene of Tolkien's Middle-earth, but New Zealand's K4 cycle race is close to hell.

Prahan cyclist Amanda Waaldyk will put pedals to the mettle late next month to attack a 384km endurance race.

Waaldyk's enthusiasm to take part in the Cycle City K4 belies the mammoth undertaking.

"I'm pretty extreme; when I do something I go in 100 per cent," she said. The K4 is a brutal race, promoted as the toughest one-day

cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. Eighteen riders push off at 10pm on October 29 for the overnight race's second running.

Waaldyk, a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, took up serious cycling only 18 months ago. She cycles 600km a week.

Waaldyk will raise money through the ride for the Miracle Babies Foundation, which helps premature and sick babies.

► **Donations can be made through [everydayhero.com.au/amanda\\_waaldyk\\_9](http://everydayhero.com.au/amanda_waaldyk_9)**

## In Brief

### VCAT's quarterly

THE Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal's quarterly report shows the authority determined 38 appeals from Stonnington Council from April to June this year. Of the 38 cases, 31 were wins (mediations were counted as a victory) and six were losses, with one neutral outcome. Of the losses, three were deemed outright defeats and two followed on from council voting against city officer recommendations. Nine cases required external representation with all appeals for this quarter costing \$43,000, not including internal staff hours.

### Join in survey

STONNINGTON Council seeks residents, particularly males aged 15 to 35, to join its survey group. The Stonnington Survey Group is made up of more than 400 households that take part in quarterly questionnaires on a variety of topics. The collated information is used to develop council plans and policies. To register, call 8290 1333 or go to the website [stonnington.vic.gov.au/survey](http://stonnington.vic.gov.au/survey)

### Consult on arts

ARTISTIC residents are invited to consult on Stonnington Council's arts and cultural strategy. The session on Saturday, October 9, will cover a variety of organisations, including youth, multicultural, galleries and other creative industries. Inquire: arts, culture and events co-ordinator Peter Redden, phone 8290 1345 or email [predden@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:predden@stonnington.vic.gov.au)

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