

A PERTH LAD FETED IN ITALY AS A LEGGY LASS IS A NEW TV STAR, POLO FEVER SET TO HIT, TELETHON TALENT GOES DOWN SOUTH, TWO TOP LOCAL MUSOS HEAD EAST AND HEIDI MIDDLETON IS BACK.

Boys will be girls

Neil Hansen is arguably Australia's most famous Italian export aside from fellow West Aussie Megan Gale.

Hansen was a superstar in Italy in the '70s and '80s as a member of the drag trio, Le Sorelle Bandiera (The Flag Sisters), though he is little known in his hometown.

His unexpected career led him to be dubbed the redhead with the best legs in Europe. Now Hansen's life is to be the subject of a WA-made documenta-



AMANDA VANSTONE, NEIL HANSEN AND MAURO BRONCHI AT THE ROME RECEPTION

ry called *The Fabulous Flag Sisters* – commissioned by SBS and set to screen next year. A team has been in Italy conducting interviews and filming as Hansen revisits the people and places associated with his glittering past. WA writer Barry

Strickland came up with the idea for the documentary, which is being directed by Franco di Chiera and made by Mago Films. "Neil Hansen is a friend and I always thought this story would be worthy of a documentary," Strickland says. "A



Perth boy goes to Italy and becomes a superstar in women's clothing." Hansen was working as an actor in Italy

when he fell into a gig with The Flag Sisters, who became superstars. The film crew was given a reception by Australia's Ambassador to Italy, Amanda Vanstone, at her Rome residence. Guests included The Flag Sister's inventor, Renzo Arbore, and Mauro Bronchi, the other surviving Flag Sister.



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followed by matches in Sydney and Melbourne. Paspaley Polo in the Park has been organised by event co-founders Janek Gazecki and international polo player Ruki Baillieu. Gazecki says top Aussie polo players will be flown in to play alongside the best West Aussie players. Local tycoon Ric Stowe is providing many of the ponies for the event. Corporate marquees are available for the event from \$2500 and seats in the VIP tent are available for \$290 each. Phone 9321 1955, email polo@magenta.net.au or hit www.polointhecity.com.au.

Bunbury bound

Prison Break star Chris Vance is one of 28 Channel 7 stars expected in Perth for the 40th Telethon this weekend. While there's plenty

Gemma's jeanetics

It may not be the sort of cossie you'd wear to Cott, but West Aussie supermodel Gemma Ward did

