

Melting ice cap shrinks towards record



No ice, baby: a polar bear seen during an aerial survey of the Alaskan coast this month. Picture: REUTERS

THE Arctic ice cap keeps melting under the effects of global warming and in August saw its second-largest summer shrinkage since satellite observations began 30 years ago, US scientists said yesterday.

Measurements on August 26 showed a 5.26 million sq km ice cap, just below the 5.32 million sq km observed on September 21, 2005, making it the second-biggest summer Arctic ice-cap melt in history, said the National Snow and Ice Data Centre.

Since the start of August, the Boulder, Colorado, based centre said the Arctic polar cap shrank by 2.06 million sq km.

Melting is so fast and extensive it could shrink the ice cap to below the 4.25 million sq km reached in the summer of 2007, the smallest it had ever been observed by satellites, the centre said.

As the end of the Arctic summer and the start of the freezing autumn is several weeks away, it said, the ice cap could dwindle even more than it did in 2007.

At the end of the northern summer 2007, the Arctic ice cap was 40 per cent smaller than the average 7.23 million sq km observed from 1979-2000, the NSIDC said.

The North Pole melting season begins in mid-June.

The cap shrinks to its smallest area by mid-September and grows the most in winter by mid-March.

The North Pole itself could even become free of ice next month for the first time in modern history, setting a new milestone in the effects of global warming on the Arctic ice shelf, NSIDC glaciologist Mark Serreze said in late June.

Board confirms Kossmann registration

Surgeon can operate again

Geoff Wilkinson

CONTROVERSIAL trauma surgeon Thomas Kossmann could be back at work within weeks.

Dr Kossmann has been cleared to work as an orthopedic surgeon, but will be subject to restrictions if he performs spinal or pelvic surgery.

The Medical Registration Board confirmed yesterday it had approved Dr Kossmann's medical registration after accepting his undertaking to work within specific conditions.

His registration was approved despite a continuing investigation by the board into Dr Kossmann's professional conduct.

"The board has no evidence at this stage of its investigation that Dr Kossmann's practice of medicine within the terms of the undertaking poses a risk to the health and safety of the public," a spokeswoman said.

Dr Kossmann said yesterday he was delighted by the decision.

"I would like to reiterate I totally reject the flawed findings of the Alfred Hospital peer review and I see the board's decision as a positive step in fully restoring my professional reputation," he said.

If the former head of the Alfred's trauma department practises spinal or pelvic surgery under the terms of his new registration it must be closely supervised by a



Thomas Kossmann

surgeon approved by the board.

The supervising surgeon will provide a second opinion before any spinal or pelvic surgery is performed.

He will be able to veto a proposed operation if he disagrees with Dr Kossmann's recommendation.

A spokeswoman for Dr Kossmann, who is overseas, said yesterday he planned to resume work in private practice.

She said about 80 per cent of Dr

Kossmann's work in orthopedic surgery was in general trauma rather than spinal or pelvic surgery.

Dr Kossmann has not performed surgery since he stood down from his position at the Alfred last November pending the findings of a review of his work.

He resigned as the Alfred's trauma director in April, a month before a peer review panel accused him of rotting the TAC, performing harmful and unnecessary surgery and undertaking surgery he was not qualified to perform.

An Ombudsman's investigation into allegations against Dr Kossmann was not yet complete, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

That investigation, headed by retired senior barrister Jeffrey Sher, QC, is examining billing arrangements between Dr Kossmann, the Transport Accident Commission and the Alfred.

A separate investigation by the TAC has been examining allegations that its insurance scheme was rorted by doctors, including Dr Kossmann.

A draft TAC audit reportedly identified inappropriate claims worth millions of dollars by more than a dozen surgeons between 2001 and 2007.

Dr Kossmann has denied all allegations against him and is suing the Alfred.



Meryl Streep

Sing along with Abba

ABBA fans have reason to sing, with a karaoke edition of the hit film *Mamma Mia!* about to arrive in Australian cinemas.

Universal Music said "due to overwhelming demand" a sing-along version of *Mamma Mia! The Movie*, with lyrics on screen for each musical number, would be released in theatres so audiences could join in with their favourite Abba songs.

The film, which stars Meryl Streep, Colin Firth and Pierce Brosnan and features classics such as *Dancing Queen* and *SOS*, has earned \$27.5 million at the local box office since it opened on July 10. More than three million Australians have seen the film.

DailyDeals.com.au

Massive August Clearance This Week

OPEN Saturday-Sunday

- TVs • PCs • Kitchen Appliances •
- Homewares • Manchester • Groceries •
- Clothing • Hardware and much more...

<p>Tempered Glass Digital Scales</p> <p>Ultra Thin, 4-Point Precision Sensor</p> <p>SAVE \$20</p> <p>\$9⁹⁵</p>	<p>German Steel Gourmet Slicer!</p> <p>WOW!</p> <p>SAVE \$30</p> <p>\$9⁹⁵</p>	<p>Gym Set</p> <p>HALF PRICE</p> <p>WAS \$399</p> <p>\$199</p>
<p>Mini Remote Control Helicopter!</p> <p>AMAZING</p> <p>RRP \$49.95</p> <p>\$14⁹⁵</p>	<p>Hi-Fi Wireless Headphones</p> <p>RRP \$69.95</p> <p>\$9⁹⁵</p>	<p>High Definition Digital TV Receiver</p> <p>SAVE HEAPS</p> <p>\$89⁸⁰</p>
<p>Fitted Sheet Sets</p> <p>CRAZY</p> <p>\$9⁹⁵</p>	<p>6 Piece Whiskey Glass Set</p> <p>BE QUICK!</p> <p>\$2</p>	<p>Full Computer System Windows Installed</p> <p>HALF PRICE</p> <p>\$399</p>

2215 Princes Hwy, Mulgrave
Between Springvale and Westal Roads

Melway Ref: 79 A3

DON'T MISS THIS SUNDAY

WIGGLES DVD

JUST \$2 WITH YOUR SUNDAY HERALD SUN