

Trio to have a hoot and save a species



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GIVING BACK: Lolly Cornish, Jono Hills and Alana Helbig are holding a comedy night to raise money to volunteer at conservation projects in Costa Rica.

A NIGHT of fun at Red Hill is set to benefit endangered animals half a world away.

Paddington resident Alana Helbig hopes to raise \$10,000 with a comedy evening, featuring

Australian comedian of the year Chris Wainhouse.

The event will fund a two-week volunteering trip to Costa Rica in January.

Ms Helbig, 28, will be

joined by Jono Hills and Lolly Cornish from Auch-enflower.

The trio will help research teams collect critical scientific data for conservation projects.

Ms Helbig said the pro-

jects could benefit sea turtles, spider monkeys, toucans or native flora.

"I'd been very fortunate in my life and up until now I hadn't given anything back. It was time for me to do that," she said.

The comedy night starts at 8pm on October 1 at the Broncos Leagues Club, 98 Fulcher Rd, Red Hill.

■ Tickets from \$30. Call 0434 260 615 or visit www.myriadtech.com.au/blog/Alana/CostaRica.

Stores close doors

By ANNA HILTON

ASHGROVE is ruing the loss of two long-term businesses this month, with the closure of Video Ezy and Red Rooster.

Increased development and rent rises are believed to have driven the closures.

Michael Kain, managing

director of a group of 10 Video Ezy stores, said rent on the Ashgrove premises was to go up by 25 per cent.

"It wasn't an unrealistic rise compared with other rents in the area, but our business model couldn't support it," Mr Kain said.

"We looked but there were no viable options for mov-

ing the store to another location in Ashgrove. The big problem with the current space was a lack of access for customers."

Red Rooster head office said in a statement the franchisee had elected not to renew the lease.

But a nearby shop owner said the franchisee had been

under pressure from the fast food chain to expand.

"Those guys hadn't owned it long at all, but their head office had been pushing them to expand the store and put in a drive-through," the man said.

"Neither option would have been possible in their current space and any

change would have needed a huge cash injection."

The Gap Chamber of Commerce president Phil Ander-ton said it was sad to see established businesses close.

"It's a sign the economy is much tighter than statistics might suggest," Mr Ander-ton said.