



Vol. 6 No. 4 – Not Just a Game

I am going to share with you today a story that recently circulated via social media. It was brought to my attention by someone over forty years my junior, which probably explains why I missed the story myself! As for most of the content of the story, I had to have this young man explain that too.

The story centres around a small Adelaide business that specialises in all things Pokémon. What is Pokémon? I'm still not really sure, so I'll let you find your own young person for a lesson. It seems to be some sort of fantasy universe that has developed and diversified over many years. Some information sources that I consulted talked about TCG and ETB, as if these three-letter initials were as well known as PTO and RTS. My young friend said ruefully, "Trading Card Game" and "Elite Trainer Boxes". I decided to ask no further.

Let me instead quote from the Google Search result for Cardz Mate. (Retrieved 22 June 2026.)

"Cardz Mate is a local trading card shop based in Kilkenny, South Australia, specialising in genuine Pokémon Trading Card Game products and anime collectibles. Conveniently located in Adelaide's western suburbs, we stock a wide range of Pokémon sealed products, singles, graded cards, Elite Trainer Boxes, collection boxes, and essential TCG accessories including sleeves, binders, and protective supplies. We also offer a carefully curated selection of anime figures, from prize figures to display collectibles, suitable for both casual fans and dedicated collectors. Every product sold at Cardz Mate is 100% authentic."

On 4 May 2026, the business posted this Community Alert on their Instagram site (@cardzmate).

"Yesterday at the SA Card Show, while we were flat out serving multiple customers, an older gentleman (roughly 50s to 70s), male, pulling a blue grocery trolley, approached our table wanting to do a quick trade.

"He offered what appeared to be sealed Pokémon products, a Celebrations UPC and ETB, in exchange for a high value slab: 2000 Pokémon Neo Genesis 1st Edition Pichu Holo ...

"Everything looked legitimate on the surface. In the rush of the moment, and trusting the situation, we went ahead with the trade.

“Later on, when we finally had a chance to properly check ... our hearts just sank.

“Both boxes were fake, filled with metal screws and old bulk cards.”

This sort of swindle can be catastrophic for a small business of this sort, a business that had been begun by a migrant couple to Australia and built up by sheer hard work to what it is today.

On 5 May 2026, the business posted again on their Instagram site.

“We honestly don’t even know where to start with this...

“After everything that happened at the @sacardshow , we were still pretty shaken. Not because of the money, but because of how disappointing the whole experience felt.

“Then something we didn’t expect at all happened today. Jarrod from @card.traders.australia came by the shop and gifted us a Celebrations UPC. He saw what happened, felt for us, and simply said he was in a position to help.

“He didn’t have to do that. Not even close. But he did.”

Another example to us of how to follow the Jesus Way!

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