

Letterbox bombers warned of curtailed travel

Terror laws alert

By KRISTY GRANT

WANGARATTA police say the perpetrators of letterbox bombs in the city could have a black mark issued against their passports making future overseas travel difficult.

Acting-Sgt Chris Hume-Cook said terrorism laws meant anyone charged with bomb-making would be treated with extreme caution in relation to travel.

In the early hours of yesterday morning, police were called to the latest letterbox bombing in the city.

A Wangaratta couple were woken after midnight by a loud explosion and found their letterbox had been extensively damaged.

Sgt Hume-Cook said police had discovered several deodorant cans had been placed in the letterbox along with a quantity of paper.

He said they had been ignited and exploded.

"This just shows a total disregard for not only members of the public but also a disregard to their own safety," he said.

Sgt Hume-Cook said often

devices were planted and set off with the perpetrators remaining in the area to hear the explosion and "watch their handy work".

He would not elaborate further on the incident for fear of copy-cats.

"If there is a recommendation that someone has made bombs then there is nothing to stop something being flagged on their passport in relation to the incident," he said.

"There are serious ramifications and charges for this type of offence."

Sgt Hume-Cook said the incident had shocked the couple, who had been asleep in the Bowser St house at the time of the explosion.

He said police were led to believe this had not been the first time the house had been targeted.

In November last year police conducted extensive investigations into a spate of soda-bomb attacks on houses in Wangaratta.

In one incident a Wangaratta boy, 5, discovered an unexploded bomb in the family letterbox.

The bomb, placed in the letterbox in Sloan St, had been wrapped in newspaper and foil.

The owners told police at the time that their house had been targeted by letterbox bombers in previous months.

Sgt Hume-Cook said no one had been arrested in relation to the November attack although inquiries were continuing.

Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or Wangaratta police on (03) 5723 0888.

● Editorial — Page 10



Goddard to rescue

LONDON: A restaurant owner has told how television celebrity Trisha Goddard, above, went to the aid of a woman diner who was choking on a piece of steak.

Mr Dario Danesh, who owns the Merchants of Colegate restaurant in Norwich, said the chat show host and one-time *Play School* presenter helped the woman cough the food up during an incident one recent night.

"Trisha was sitting close by when the lady started choking. She put her arms around the lady, and the lady coughed the piece of steak out," he said.

Goddard, 47, lives in Norwich.

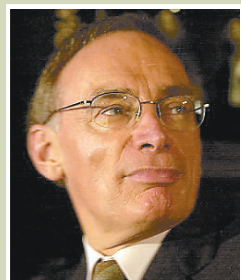


Exchange of complaints

NSW Opposition Leader Mr John Brogden, above, was a whinger who had not released a positive policy since he was elected, NSW Premier Mr Bob Carr, below, said yesterday.

His comments follow the release of a report card by Mr Brogden on the 10 years of the Carr Government.

Mr Brogden said the Government had caused the deaths of 195 people through mismanagement.



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● The Van De Stadt family after yesterday's ceremony — Terrence, 10, Clinton, Sandra and Jessica, 6.

Picture: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

Lucky 13 now call Australia home

A FAMILY who migrated from South Africa to Albury more than two years ago were among 13 people to become Australian citizens yesterday.

Clinton and Sandra Van De Stadt and their children, Jessica, 6, and Terrence, 10, attended a citizenship ceremony conducted by Mayor Cr Arthur Frauenfelder that also marked Harmony Day.

Mr Van De Stadt and his father, Pieter, operate Four Square Graphics in Lavington, Mrs Van De Stadt is a dance teacher, and the children are students at St Patrick's Primary School.

"We decided about five years ago to come to Australia and chose Albury after visiting here on holiday," Mr Van De Stadt, 40, said.

"We did it for the children because we felt there was more opportunity here and Australia offered them a better life."

Local sporting facilities had also been a factor.

— HOWARD JONES

Dream job all an illusion

STUDENTS from impoverished backgrounds have little concept of the education level required to achieve their dream job and needed more career counselling, a report has found.

The Smith Family surveyed 4000 Australian Year 8 and 9 students from disadvantaged families about attitudes to work.

It found that 23 per cent of these students expected to get a job in their chosen field despite the mis-

match in their education and career plans.

Almost a third of all male students misunderstood the level of education required for their preferred job compared to 21.9 per cent of female students.

Those with an unrealistic view of career options tended to report below average results at school, have low levels of vocational activity and were sad and keen to leave school, the report found.

But Smith Family strategic research and social policy national manager Dr Rob Simons said the news was not all bad.

"These students are seeking jobs across a wide spectrum of occupations, demonstrating they are not marginalised or demoralised about their future prospects," he said.

"The research highlights the importance of helping students better align their study plans with their chosen field."



● Mr Brazier

Killer shark search abandoned

POLICE have called off the search for a six-metre shark that fatally mauled the skipper of a luxury boat as he snorkelled off the West Australian coast.

Witnesses said Mr Geoffrey Brazier, 26, of Perth, was bitten in half when the shark lunged at him on Saturday afternoon.

The catamaran Matrix had been anchored near the Abrolhos Islands, a chain of islets located off Geraldton, 500km north of Perth, when the attack occurred in view of other crew and passengers.

Other snorkellers in the water at the time of the attack were unhurt but deeply shocked.

Western Australian Fisheries and police, assisted by volunteers, immediately began an extensive search for the shark, said to be a great white or a tiger shark.

Sgt Graham Clifford said yesterday the search for the shark and Mr Brazier's remains had been abandoned.

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