

No bail for accused laneway robber after ... Court told of gun threat

A MAN who allegedly brandished a pistol and threatened to "put a hole" in another man has been committed to stand trial in the District Court at Albury.

West Australian man Mr Terry John Ayers, 52, threatened three central Albury business employees with a black pistol in a laneway after allegedly breaking into one of their cars.

Mr Ayers was committed for

trial on a charge of assault with intent to rob when armed with a dangerous weapon.

In police facts tendered to Albury Court yesterday, magistrate Mr Tony Murray was told a woman spotted Mr Ayers inside a fellow female employee's car with a box full of goods about 2pm on Wednesday, December 8 last year.

The woman went and explained the situation to the

owner of the car and both returned to the car park off Globe Lane.

The two women followed Mr Ayers down Globe Lane until he disappeared from sight.

The women continued to follow the direction Mr Ayers had walked when he emerged from an alleyway and confronted the pair with the pistol.

Mr Ayers asked the women who they were hassling and grabbed at the strap of one of

the women's handbags in an unsuccessful attempt to take it from her.

The woman held on to her bag and Mr Ayers fled down Globe Lane.

The women's employer, now aware of the theft, entered Globe Lane from Dean St and spotted Mr Ayers with the cardboard box.

When the man accused Mr Ayers of being the person involved in the theft from his

employee's car, Mr Ayers again produced the pistol, raised it to the man's chest and threatened to "put a hole" in him.

The man retreated and Mr Ayers walked to the Commercial Club where surveillance footage recorded him entering with the cardboard box.

A short time later Mr Ayers was seen crouching between two cars in the club's car park and he was arrested by police.

Mr Ayers has also been

charged with three counts of theft, possessing an unregistered firearm and threatening to use an offensive weapon to prevent lawful detention.

Those charges have been adjourned for mention in the District Court on a date to be fixed when Mr Ayers appears for arraignment on the more serious charge.

No application for bail was made for Mr Ayers and he was remanded in custody.

Pictures: KYLIE GOLDSMITH



● Finlay Campbell, 2, of Albury, listens to the sounds of the didgeridoo, played by Owen Stanley, of Albury.

Sounds of diversity on didgeridoo

By NICK HIGGINS

THE didgeridoo was not always the didgeridoo, according to Owen Stanley.

The musician and Albury Department of Community Services worker says the traditional Aboriginal word for the instrument is "yiddarkki".

The explanation for didgeridoo is that the first white man to hear it being played thought he heard the

word didgeridoo coming from the instrument.

Yesterday Mr Stanley and his didgeridoo, or yiddarkki, were part of the Cultural Diversity Day celebrations at Albury Botanic Gardens.

"I enjoy being a part of the festivities," Mr Stanley said.

"For me it serves two purposes, I love teaching and have taught the didgeridoo and also it's about the culture itself," he said.

While he has made his own didgeridoos the instrument he played yesterday was found, after much searching for the right tones, at a market in Darwin.

The Department of Community Services organised yesterday's morning tea to promote cross-cultural understanding and the importance of non-racist Australian communities.

Joining community ser-

vices staff yesterday were Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care workers, related agencies, young people and families.

Dancers from the culturally and linguistically diverse community performed.

Cultural Diversity Day coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Living in Harmony Day.



● Hanessa Blanza, 10, from the Philippino Mabuhay Dance Group.



● Katie Stojanovic, 8, performs a South Pacific dance.

Outfoxed yet again

LOS ANGELES: Oscar winner Jamie Foxx has again been honoured for his screen portrayal of music legend Ray Charles in the biopic *Ray*.

He's won an outstanding actor gong at the 36th annual National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People Image Awards announced yesterday.

Ray was up for a total of seven awards and took home four, including outstanding film.

Veteran star Morgan Freeman, who won an Academy Award for *Million Dollar Baby*, took the NAACP award for best supporting actor.

Move aids AFL lure

A \$15 million upgrade to a sports facility in Sydney's west could help the city secure a second AFL team, NSW Premier Mr Bob Carr said yesterday.

The work at Blacktown Olympic Park would also allow for regular Pura Cup and one-day cricket matches, he said.

"These will be fantastic community sporting facilities that could also provide first-class training grounds for a second AFL team in Sydney, should the AFL decide to add to the league in the future," Mr Carr said.

The upgrade includes a stadium seating 10,000.

A super confusion for most employers

EMPLOYERS are struggling to understand upcoming legislation that will allow employees to choose where their compulsory superannuation payments are invested, new research has shown.

Cameron Research yesterday said 93 per cent of medium-sized businesses across Australia were aware the Choice of Fund for superannuation would begin on July 1.

However, the research has found more than half of the businesses wrongly believed all Australian employees were eligible to be offered the choice.

The legislation will provide 5.7 million employees with the superannuation choice, but there are a number of large employee groups — including public sector employees, and some benefit fund members — who will not.

Cameron Research director Mr Ross Cameron said employers of businesses

with between 20 and 500 staff were ignoring the information being provided to them about the changes.

"The vast majority of employers are aware that the legislation is coming in July, but understanding of who actually qualifies and what is involved is actually quite poor," Mr Cameron said.

And he said almost 40 per cent of businesses in Australia already offer a total choice to employees.

"But of those that don't currently offer total choice over half think that everybody needs to be offered it, and that is just not true," he said.

Mr Cameron said time was running out to educate employers before the deadline, with companies facing large penalties for non-compliance.

"The employers have a very significant role to play, they have to read the information and implement it," he said.

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