

2009 Discount Directory sent to 930,000 NSW Seniors Card members

Almost one million NSW seniors will be able to access a wide range of special discounts through the NSW Seniors Card 2009 Discount Directory which is now available...

NSW Minister for Ageing, Paul Lynch, said that the new directory had been posted to all 930,000 NSW Seniors Card households.

"With nearly 20 per cent of the State's population aged over 60, the Discount Directory is a practical way of helping Seniors Card members get the most out of their retirement or semi retirement.

"Apart from increasing the buying power of NSW seniors, the Directory

puts businesses in direct contact with seniors, who are the fastest growing consumer segment in Australia."

Mr Lynch said that the 2009 Discount Directory provided information on:

- NSW Government public transport concessions for seniors
- Discounted entry into national parks, museums and zoos in NSW,
- Thousands of discounts ranging from travel, cafes and restaurants, chemists, movies, insurance, to dentists, trade and other professional services.

"It also contains two great prize competitions for members, a trip for two on the Indian Pacific, and holiday for two to Norfolk Island," Mr Lynch

added.

The Discount Directory is produced in five regional editions:

- Sydney and Surrounds
- Central Coast and Hunter
- Northern NSW
- Southern NSW and
- Western NSW

For the first time, all discount offers are 10% or more, a statewide travel discount section is included and the five regional Discount Directories are available online at www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au as well as in printed format. The online Discount Directories enable members to browse any of the five regional directories as well as to find discounts by business name or business category.

Mr Lynch said that the NSW Government acknowledged the sponsorship of Evergreen Tours who had partnered with NSW Seniors Card to distribute the directory.

The NSW Seniors Card program is free to join. It is not assets tested and does not require seniors to disclose their income. To qualify, seniors must be a NSW permanent resident aged 60 or over and work no more than 20 hours a week in paid employment.

The Seniors Card program is administered and funded by the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. All other Australian states and territory governments operate Seniors Card programs that are similar to the NSW program.

'Random violence' arrest: taxi driver stabbed

Bellinda Kontominas

She allegedly stabbed a taxi driver in a "random act of violence" but police say it was only after Andrea Perivolaris left a trail of disguises, including a wig, purple clothing and the legs of her jeans which she had cut off with a knife, that they were able to track her down.

Perivolaris, 35, of Glebe, appeared at Central Local Court, wearing a white police-issue jumpsuit to face charges of being armed with intent to commit an indictable offence and recklessly wounding another while in company.

According to a police fact sheet tendered to the court yesterday, Perivolaris and a 15-year-old teenager from Canley Heights, who cannot be named for legal reasons, hailed the taxi at about 12.30am yesterday morning from Glebe, asking the driver to take them to the city.

As the taxi drove under the bridge towards Hickson Street at the Rocks, Perivolaris allegedly stabbed the driver, Md Bhuiyan in the neck, causing a five-centimetre cut which was just millimetres from causing significant damage, according to the document.

"At the time of the incident the victim held genuine fears the he would be killed or seriously injured," police said.

Mr Bhuiyan told police that Perivolaris tried to stab him again and a struggle ensued, during which the teenager punched him in the temple before both fled.

A police dog later found a wig and a "purple coloured female garment" believed to have been discarded by Perivolaris to avoid apprehension, the court heard.

Police also found a knife and the legs cut out of blue jeans.

Perivolaris was later found by police in the city, wearing a bikini top and cut-off jean shorts. She denied any involvement in the stabbing.

"There is no motive for this offence and it appears to be a random act of violence involving a knife," police said. In court yesterday, Perivolaris in-

dicated she wished to plead guilty to the attack, however, the court reserved her right to enter her plea until later this month, once the Director of Public Prosecutions decides whether to prosecute the matter in the District Court.

Police said in the fact sheet Perivolaris, who is unemployed, had a lengthy criminal history, including robbery with

wounding, resisting and assaulting police officers and public mischief.

Perivolaris did not apply for bail.

The teenager was formally refused bail at Bidura Children's Court after being charged with common assault.

Article from Sydney Morning Herald

Dancing Greeks give locals a scare

The Kalandar tradition is an old one and some say it is of Orthodox Christian Greeks origin, who returned to Greece in the population exchange last century. Tourists performing a Kalandar dance scares some locals in the Trabzon province. Debate broke out after a group of Greek tourists visited a village in the Black Sea region of Trabzon a week ago to celebrate the local Kalandar new year. Their activities created concern among locals who saw it as a missionary activity, while most others said it was an innocent celebration, controversial only because the visitors were Greek. Kalandar is the name of festivities to celebrate the new year according to the Gregorian calendar by people in Turkey's Black Sea region.

While there are some variances among regions in the Black Sea, in Trabzon on the morning of Kalandar, one person from each household gets up early to sprinkle water around the house and boil corn to feed the children.

People believe angels visit their homes on the morning of Kalandar and that is why they open all the windows and doors during the day. Children at night sing and dance, and go around collecting sweets. Some people wear scary outfits, especially of Karakoncolos, a terrifying looking, but harmless genie, to frighten children. The Kalandar tradition is a centuries old tra-

dition and some say it was a tradition of Orthodox Christian Greeks who returned to Greece in the population exchange earlier last century. It is seen as the Anatolian version of Halloween. Soon after the photos of the 60 Greek tourists, who came Jan. 2 to celebrate Kalandar, appeared in the local newspapers, letters of criticism and condemnation began. The tourist group visited the village of Yazlık in the Manika region, dancing in their traditional clothes and staged a play celebrating Kalandar that they said was a Greek tradition.

The debate started after some locals wrote letters to local dailies stating the Greeks were promoting their culture and conducting missionary activities. The Greek tourists returned to Istanbul after the festivities. One opinion published in a local daily read: "We will of course show traditional Turkish hospitality to them. However, we should not be deceived by the missionary activities of such groups."

The muhtar, or village head, of Yazlık, Turgut Yılmaz, said some people were trying to exaggerate what happened. "Nothing adverse happened. The governor's office and the local gendarmerie knew the group was here. They just had fun and then they left. They stayed around for three hours. I was not bothered and I do not think anyone else in the village was either," he said.

