

Brother of man bashed to death in bikie brawl at Sydney Airport gunned down

The Hells Angels brother of a man bashed to death in a bikie brawl at Sydney Airport has been gunned down outside his Lakemba home.

Peter Zervas, the 32-year-old brother of Anthony, was shot three times as he tried to park his car in an underground car park at a Punchbowl Road apartment block about 11.45 last night.

He had got out of his car to open a mesh security gate allowing entrance to the car park when he was shot.

He was treated by ambulance officers and taken to St George Hospital in a critical condition.

As of 4am he was being operated on but was in a stable condition.

"A 32-year-old-man stopped his motor vehicle in the driveway of a unit block ... a number of shots were then fired, hitting the man," Campsie local area commander, Superintendent Paul Lennon, said.

"Another man was seen ... running from the unit block."

That man was described as being about 175 centimetres tall, of large, muscular build, with collar-length



dark hair and wearing dark jeans and a dark, long-sleeved jacket.

He was seen running across Punchbowl Road after the shooting.

"A [white] motor vehicle ... had to sound its horn to avoid colliding with the gentleman running across the road."

Police want to speak to both the driver of the white

car and the man who ran across Punchbowl Road.

It is not yet known whether another motorcycle club is responsible for the shooting.

The shooting comes only two days after Peter Zervas, along with family and members of the Hells Angels and Bandidos, buried his brother.

It is also the latest in a string of bikie-related shootings that has swept south western and western Sydney.

Both Zervas brothers were involved in a brawl with about 10 Comanchero Motorcycle Club members at Terminal 3 of Sydney's domestic airport on March 2, along with Hells Angels Sydney Chapter president, Derek Wainohu, and other club members.

Anthony Zervas was killed after being hit with a metal bollard used in the fight.

Officers attached to Strike Force Raptor - the new squad created to combat bikie violence - are leading the investigation.

Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Dylan Welch is The Herald's Police Reporter

Piraeus-Sydney port twinning

MELBOURNE- Deputy Merchant Marine, Aegean & Island Policy Minister Panos Kammenos proposed the twinning of the ports of Piraeus and Sydney during a meeting with NSW Minister for Finance, Infrastructure, Regulatory Reform, Ports and Waterways Joseph Tripodi during his visit to Australia that was wrapped up on Thursday.

Kammenos also met with NSW Minister for Fair Trading, Citizenship Virginia Judge, who is also the Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, and outlined the dynamism of the recent Greek port policy emphasizing that through international partnerships Greece has become a major gateway for international trade and transportation in SE Europe.

In a meeting with Archbishop Stylianos of Australia, Kammenos referred to the potential of Greek expatriate student tourism to Greek isles.

Kammenos also attended a reception hosted by the Greek consul general in Sydney on the occasion of the March 25 Independence Day and met with NSW Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Industrial Relations John Hatzistergos as well as representatives of the ethnic Greek community.

Chooky's Zorba joins the funfare

IT WAS a motley line-up at last night's annual Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala at the Princess Theatre as a medley of local and international acts peddled their comic wares ahead of next week's festival opening.

But without doubt it was unlikely internet sensations the Chooky Dancers, from remote Elcho Island in Arnhem Land, who brought the house down, opening the show with their interpretation of the Zorba the Greek dance, "Yolngu-style".

The group rose to fame after their dance was posted on YouTube in late 2007. They have since appeared at festivals around the country and are set to visit Greece, where Zorba composer Mikis Theodorakis has invited them to perform.

Dressed in loincloths and daubed with ceremonial ochre, they performed their number in true showbiz style, complete with tickertape and disco lights.



The Chooky Dancers perform their Zorba dance in a taste of what's in store at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Photo: Pat Scala

Comedian Shaun Micallef hosted the Gala, which had short acts from 25 of the comedians with shows in the festival, including Arj Barker, Dave Hughes (who perhaps unwisely made jokes about bikie gangs), Denise Scott, Tim Minchin and Rich Hall, who appeared as his redneck alter-ego Otis Lee Crenshaw.

The Gala, a fund-raiser for Oxfam, reflected the breadth of acts at this year's festival with magic, singing,

some naughty ventriloquism and, in perhaps the biggest stunt of the night, Irish comedian Jason Byrne cling-wrapping himself and a volunteer from the audience to burly men and competing to see who could roll across the stage fastest (Byrne lost).

The Chooky Dancers returned for the show's finale, a reprise of their Greek-indigenous hybrid act, which Spicks and Specks host Adam Hills referred to as their "kebaboriginal" number.

Despite the current economic crisis, gags about the global financial meltdown were noticeably absent, although it seemed there were few topics considered taboo, with Twitter, divorce, creepy father-molesting clowns, crap skit comedy and even a punchline about a smoking vagina (hello, Denise Scott), all getting a look-in.

Whether or not the comics were saving their most uplifting material for the festival itself remains to be seen when it officially beings on April 1.

The Festival Gala screened on Channel Ten on March 30th.

The Age is a festival sponsor.

Toxins found in children's shampoos

A REPORT by a US health advocacy group has named Johnson's Baby Shampoo as one of 32 baby products found to contain small amounts of carcinogenic and allergy-producing chemicals. The study, conducted by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, laboratory tested 48 children's products that traded on claims of being pure, natural or gentle.

More than 80 per cent tested positive for the chemical compound formaldehyde and almost 70 per cent for 1,4-dioxane, a contaminant linked to cancer and birth defects in animals under repeated exposure. None of the products tested listed the contaminants on the ingredient labels because they were toxic byproducts of the manufacturing process. Johnson's Baby Shampoo was found to contain 210 parts per million (.021 per cent) formaldehyde and 1.1 ppm 1,4-dioxane.

While the trace levels in all the products tested were similarly

low, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics said such dangerous byproducts had no place in infants' shampoos and soaps that were used daily, and parents were not in the position to make informed decisions because labelling of the byproducts was not required.

The report has prompted accusations of scaremongering from the US Personal Care Products Council and ACCORD Australasia, the group representing the cosmetics industry here.

An ACCORD spokesman said the research was the work of a politically motivated anti-cosmetic campaign and the allegations were baseless.

"There is no formaldehyde in any of these products whatsoever, these claims are patently false," he said. "This is mischief-making which just creates concerns for parents when there is absolutely no need for concern."