

FAIR TRADING GIVES EASTER EGGS AND SHOWBAGS THUMBS UP

The Minister for Fair Trading Virginia Judge today gave the all clear to show bags and Easter eggs at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Ms Judge said Fair Trading inspectors had checked 294 showbags and more than 1200 Easter eggs and will be carrying out compliance checks on Sideshow Alley during the opening day of the show.

"I am very pleased to report that every show bag and Easter egg has met stringent safety standards," Ms Judge said.

"Fair Trading has been working very closely with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW for many years to ensure that consumers remain protected.

"Exhibitors cannot supply children's toys at the Royal Easter Show unless they provide test reports that show they comply with Australian Standards.

"The contents of showbags are usually on display

and parents should be vigilant and carefully consider whether the showbags are suitable for their children," she said.

Ms Judge said inspectors have also been busy weighing and measuring Easter eggs to ensure consumers are not being ripped off.

"Nobody wants to miss out on chocolate over Easter which is why our inspectors check the weights of products and their labels so you're getting what you pay for.

"Easter confectionery can also contain novelties inside eggs and ingredients that pose a risk to children, so the details and descriptions on the packaging must be correct."

Ms Judge said inspectors will be out in force on the opening day of the show to ensure no unsafe products are being offered for sale or as prizes in Sideshow

Alley.

"The NSW Government is serious about protecting children and ensuring that only safe toys and novelties are being supplied," Ms Judge said.

"Over the last five years there has only been one minor compliance breach in sideshow alley.

"However, if an operator is supplying non-compliant toys or items they can incur fines of up to \$22,000 for individuals or \$110,000 for corporations."

The Office of Fair Trading produces a Toy Safety Checklist of the features parents should look for when buying toys, which is available by calling 13 32 20 or online at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

*Minister for Fair Trading Virginia Judge MP
Minister for Citizenship
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts*



Golf Australia

NSW HOLDS LEAD WITH SOLID WINS

New South Wales have retained their lead at the Australian Boys' Interstate Teams Matches at Alice Springs Golf Club after another two rounds of action on Easter Monday.

In the morning round, the NSW team made short work of the Northern Territory team with a 5-0 victory. Daniel Yu, Jordan Zunic and Dimi Papadatos all had comprehensive victories.

The afternoon was an equally productive session for the NSW squad with a 4-1 win over the Australian Capital Territory team to move to a three match and one contest lead over Queensland who leapt from a tie for fourth into second place.

Queensland's rise began in the morning as Cameron Smith, Maverick Antcliff, Nathan Kinch and Simon Worrall won to defeat Victoria 4 1/2 to 1/2. Smith, Antcliff and Kinch continued that good form into the afternoon with a 4-1 win over the ACT team to move three matches clear of Victoria and into second position.

Victoria's morning loss to Queensland was offset by a 3 1/2 to 1 1/2 win over South Australia in the afternoon with Geoff Drakeford and Nathan Holman putting in solid rounds.

South Australia slipped back to fourth on the leaderboard after the afternoon loss to Victoria despite a 4-1 win over Tasmania this morning. South Australian Sam Gava won both his matches.

Western Australia moved up to fifth position after back-to-back wins made up for a challenging position from the opening day.

The WA team were particularly impressive with their morning 5-0 win over the ACT with Jamie Warman, Daniel Hoeve and Ben Kemp all winning 5&4.

Tasmania sits in sixth position after losing both contests today.

The NT and ACT teams complete the rankings with both squads losing their round three and four contests.

Vasili gets 'em up and growing

VASILI Kanidiadis was an unknown when he first began spruiking traditional Mediterranean gardening and cooking on Melbourne radio 3XY.

Nearly seven years on - and with a Channel 31 and SBS TV program to his name - his rise to stardom has been swift and the Greek green thumb now has a cult following.

Vasili, cap on head, maroon shirt and signature call sign "maresi" (meaning 'I like it' in his mother tongue), travels to gardens and meets gardeners around Victoria - all are Mediterranean and all garden according to ancestral tradition.

"I feature a lot of Greek and Italian gardeners but other nationalities practice similar techniques," says Vasili, who has penned his first book *Vasili's Garden*: If you're not growing it,

don't eat it.

"And now the next generation is very much in tune with what is going on, especially the young ones.

"They are soldiers - environmentally and nutritionally - they understand food needs to be good for the body and the world."

While Mediterranean gardens are his passion, he has become an unofficial spokesperson for environmentally sustainable living.

"I'm called on a lot to talk about the environment but basically my philosophy has always been (to) grow what you can and eat what you grow, and avoid using chemicals. It's garden, to kitchen.

"This is the kind of thing most Australian grandparents did before WWII, but the baby boomers were exposed to fast food and technology so we lost so much of that tradition.

"I now say you can grow anything in any space. It can be limitless."

Vasili was born and raised in a residential Coburg street, where there now stands the family gar-



dening business, Munro Street Nursery, which is largely run by his parents thanks to his TV and speaking duties.

Vasili and his wife and family of four children live

on a small block on the fringe of Melbourne in Greenvale, which has 70 fruit trees, numerous vegies and four chickens.

He says he spends a couple of hours every second day a week in the garden.

"We hardly ever buy fruit and veg and everything we eat is 100 per cent organic.

"I put straw down and water and then let the mulch from the plants turn into compost naturally and I turn the branches into wood chips.

"Gardening is easy. It should involve little effort. Two times a year I'll heavily prune for two days, but that's it.

"I don't over-water and I don't over-fertilise - they're two big mistakes made by gardeners."

Article from Weekly Times

Ancient columns found at Greek junkyard; 2 arrests

Police in northern Greece say they have seized six sections of ancient marble columns from a junkyard and arrested the owners for antiquity smuggling. The sections of the 2,300-year-old columns are up to 13 feet (4 meters) tall.

The suspects, aged 21 and 28, told police they imported the antiquities legally from neighboring Bulgaria - but the claim is being treated with suspicion after police examined their documents.

The two men were arrested Tuesday near the northern town of Veroia, 305 miles (490 kilometers) north of Athens, and are being held in police custody until they are formally charged.