

Record in number plate sales

Enthusiasts and collectors paid a record \$2.4 million for 49 rare, numerical NSW number plates in Sydney last week, comfortably exceeding expectations and blowing away any notions of a recession.

Conducted by Shannons for the RTA, the auction resulted in an average sale price of \$51,000 for the 49 plates on offer, easily topping the \$41,000 average achieved at Shannons previous auction of 100 special RTA plates in November 2006.

The top-selling lot of the night was the black and white three-digit plate 215 that made \$115,000. It was followed closely by 214 (\$110,000) and 229 (\$94,000).

Three choose-your-own plates where purchasers could select a personal numeral-only combination sold for \$60,000 (4-digit), \$34,000 and \$30,000 (5-digit).

However, the result that captured most attention was the sale of the NSW Pink Plate 922, with 25% of the sale



Successful Pink Plate purchaser, Sydney lawyer Stephen Aroney, flanked by Shannons hostesses Janey and Lauren.

price going to the McGrath Foundation to help fund breast cancer care nurses and raise awareness in young women in NSW.

Sydney lawyer Stephen Aroney

was the successful bidder, paying \$74,000 for the unique plate, which he plans to keep in the family and ultimately give to his daughter, now aged 3.

"I went to the auction with my brother-in-law who is a passionate collector intending to buy a three digit plate as an investment, but missed out of several I bid for," Mr Aroney said.

"Then the Pink Plate came up; I made a couple of bids; and then the hammer fell I was thrilled to get it. It's the only pink number plate in NSW and I'm planning to keep it in the family."

Shannons national auction manager Christophe Boribon said he was delighted with the result.

"We were astounded with the \$4.1 million outcome from our 2006 RTA plate auction, but this sale has easily surpassed that in average sale prices," Mr Boribon said.

"There were around 250 people in the auction room and they were all there to buy."

"It's great to see plate values bounce back and it would seem that we are now truly shedding the recession blues."



Relatives of Anthony Zervas clashed with supporters of Comanchero president Mick Hawi at Kogarah Court on Tuesday.

Families clash as Comanchero boss faces court

Relatives of the man killed in a bikie brawl at Sydney Airport have clashed with supporters of the man charged with his murder. Anthony Zervas, 29, was the brother of a Hells Angel involved in the fight on March 22.

He suffered multiple injuries and was treated by ambulance officers at the scene but later died at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Bexley Comanchero boss Mick Hawi, also 29, was arrested today at his Connemarra Street home and taken to St George Police Station to be formally charged with the murder. He appeared in Kogarah Court this afternoon but did not apply for bail which was formally refused.

After the hearing Mr Zervas' family and Hawi's supporters confronted each other outside.

A scuffle broke out and they pushed, swore and spat at each other.

Hawi had been on bail for a charge of affray relating to the brawl.

A number of other members of both the Hells Angels and Comanchero motorcycle clubs had also been charged with affray over the incident but until today no charges had been laid in relation to the death of Mr Zervas. Hawi will appear in Central Local Court on July 9.

Article from The Leader

Bride hits back at hurtful online jeers



Kogarah bride: Yanna Elfes' dream wedding became a nightmare after a nasty email campaign.

THERE is a timeless code surrounding weddings that prevents a man from knowing anything about the choice of dress for his bride-to-be.

Yanna Elfes bent the tradition slightly by warning her fiancé to be open-minded on their big day.

"I said to him 'I just need you to know that it's going to be a bit short'.

"I had to warn him a little bit," Mrs Elfes said. "It's the dress from Guns N' Roses' November Rain.

"Ever since I saw that film clip I thought 'that's my wedding dress'.

"I was probably 10 years old."

The Kogarah bride was right in thinking her choice of gown might grab attention when they married at Kogarah Greek Orthodox Church.

"We had so many positive comments on the day," she said.

"Family, friends, everyone knew that it was 'me'. The look was both of us."

But the trouble began when photos of the wedding were copied from social networking sites and flung around the globe in the form of e-mails, forum discussions and feature galleries on news websites.

While daring hemlines, black bridesmaid dresses and a stretched pink Hummer limousine were a hit on the day, they soon became points

of derision as email chains circulated around the world.

Yanna's sister, Leah, performed hair and make-up duties on the day at her Kogarah salon, Spa Sense. While the happy couple was on honeymoon, she asked St George police to investigate the source of mean-spirited emails.

"It hurts," Mrs Elfes said.

"At the end of the day it's wrong."

While nothing came of the police investigation, the couple were adamant they would not change any feature of their wedding and Mrs Elfes said other couples should follow their lead by staying true to themselves. "Just go with whatever you think," Mrs Elfes said.

"It's your day."