

Kogarah has change of heart on parking fines

KOGARAH Council has offered to reconsider parking fines given to St George Hospital staff and patients last Wednesday.

Police cut access to the car park on South Street, Kogarah, from 6.30am that day after a woman threatened to jump from the roof.

She came down at 4.05pm but the incident caused parking chaos in the CBD where parking inspectors had fined drivers.

Mayor Nickolas Varvaris said: "On the day, council officers ... avoided areas affected by the police operation, as requested, for safety reasons.

"We have been in constant communication with the hospital throughout the period.

"We've ensured they're across the process for any

patient or doctor who feels they have been the victim of Wednesday's circumstances to have their infringement reconsidered on compassionate grounds."

Cr Varvaris said inspectors issued 28 fines on the day, an average number.

A hospital worker, who did not want to be named, said rumour had it that no one would be fined because of the parking problems caused by the incident, but this had not been the case.

"I saw council parking officers writing tickets in the side streets immediately surrounding the hospital," he said.

"When challenged ... one stated: 'Well, the cops won't let us any closer so we're booking people out here'."

All hospital staff received an email at 9.40am listing streets parking inspectors would avoid.

General manager Paul Woods said police had asked the inspectors to stay away from hospitals, but the council chose to fine drivers who parked away from the hospital to ensure parking spaces remained in the business district.

"Officers have been requested to focus on traffic management, and safety issues resulting from the police operation, with an appreciation that there could be understandable pressure for overstaying in timed parking areas," he said.

Hospital staff said there were no spaces nearby so workers and patients had to walk more than a kilometre after finding a parking space.



The new Archaeological Museum of Patra...

The new Archaeological Museum of Patra, located on the northern outskirts of the city, was inaugurated on Saturday. The 8,000-square-meter museum, which cost 21.5 million euros to build, is Greece's second-largest after the new Acropolis Museum and was designed in order to highlight Patra's past, from prehistoric times up to the Late Roman period.



Jacko tribute, Territory style

SIX-year-old Lauchlan Baker has become an overnight internet celebrity. The youngster from Milingimbi - a remote community about 500km east of Darwin - doesn't say much, but he has shown the world that he can dance.

Lauchlan and his fellow Milingimbi Dancers wowed the crowds at the Royal Darwin Show over the weekend with their tribute to pop legend Michael Jackson.

The Northern Territory News filmed the group's rehearsal on Friday. It has now been viewed more than 20,000 times at ntnews.com.au, news.com.au and on YouTube. See it here

The video's popularity

ensured a huge crowd was on hand at the show on Saturday night to watch the dance troupe's encore performance.

The group's amazing dance skills have wowed people from across the nation in the same way the Chooky Dancers - a group of Aboriginal dancers from Elcho Island - did in 2007 with their interpretation of Zorba the Greek. See it here

Milingimbi Dancers coordinator Jeremiah Larrwanbuy Baker - Lauchlan's grandfather - said children in the remote community learnt to dance from a young age.

"It's a dry community - no drugs, no alcohol," he said. "You will get everybody in the community doing their best."

He said the dancers had been huge fans of Michael Jackson after watching him on ABC TV show Rage.

"If it wasn't for the man, MJ himself, being on video clips that reached the remote communities then none of us would have been dancing, I guess," he said.

Mr Baker said the dance group had toured around Arnhem Land but hoped to take their tribute to Jackson around the country.

Hagia Sophia's angel uncovered



Experts have uncovered one of the six angel mosaics within the world-famous Hagia Sophia Museum after it had been hidden for 160 years behind plaster and a metal mask.

The mosaic, which measures 1.5 meters by 1 meter, was last seen by Swiss architect Gaspare Fossati, who headed restoration efforts at the museum between 1847 and 1849, and Ottoman Sultan Abdolmecid. Experts were surprised to see that the mosaic, believed to date from the 14th century, was so well preserved. The mosaic's true age will be assessed after an analysis by the Hagia Sofia Science Board compares it to similar mosaics.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Sultan Abdulmajid commissioned Gaspar Fossati and his brother with the restoration of the Hagia Sophia. The two Swiss architects removed the paint and cement layers from the mosaics, thus

uncovering the images and restored them. They were later covered in paint again and were, until recently, only known from the album made by Fossati.

The six-winged seraphim make their first Christian appearance in the Book of Revelation iv. 6-8, where they are forever in God's presence and praising Him constantly: "Day and night they never stop saying: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.'"

These angels, said to be the caretakers of God's throne, belong to the highest order, or angelic choir, of the hierarchy of angels.

