



College fined \$80,000 over gate that killed boy

THE grieving parents of a five-year-old boy crushed by a school gate say they feel vindicated after the Catholic college where he died was fined \$80,000.

Gabriel McBurney, pictured, was pinned under a 100-kilogram gate, which rolled free from its running track at Trinity Catholic College in Lismore four years ago.

His parents, **Mikhalia Gouros** and Greg McBurney, were both with him as he died.

Mr McBurney said they were "satisfied" with last week's judgment in the Industrial Court: "It recognised the role Trinity College played in our son's death," he said. "I am a bit surprised at how low the fine was but ... no amount of money will bring my son back."

WorkCover NSW prosecuted the college in the court, which found the college had not properly maintained the gate. An impact statement by Ms Gouros told of her torment: "There was no apology from the school for over three years. Because of this, I have lost faith in my religious beliefs and find it difficult to trust people generally."

A private prosecution has been settled out of court.

Article from Sydney Morning Herald

Warning on tax scam

A DOOR-TO-DOOR scam in which people posing as tax agents are collecting personal information has prompted a Federal Government warning.

The scammers are recording residents' credit-card, banking or superannuation details by promising them financial incentives including tax cuts.

Assistant Treasurer Nick Sherry said yesterday that people should not give out personal information to

unannounced visitors claiming to be from the Australian Taxation Office. "The offer is a fraud - the Tax Office does not participate in these types of unsolicited activities."

Senator Sherry said anyone who had fallen victim to the scam should immediately contact their financial institution.

The Tax Office is working with other government agencies to detect scams, he said.

"Unfortunately at tax time there is often an increase in people trying to take advantage of honest taxpayers through all kinds of scams," he said.

In June, taxpayers were warned of a similar scam, known as "phishing", in which a bogus Tax Office email promised a refund and bonus as a way of fleecing consumers of their details.

Phone the Tax Office on 132 861 to report scams.

Alex Perry: Tahnee Atkinson deserved model win



Karen Vaggelas and Georgia Hogg at the launch of Alex Perry's spring-summer collection at Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast. July 31, 2009.



Narelle Bellas, Angela Papacostas and Kay Sclavos at the launch of Alex Perry's spring-summer collection at Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast. July 31, 2009. Photographer: Scott Fletcher

GOLD Coast-visit-ing fashion designer Alex Perry has backed Tahnee Atkinson as Australia's Next Top Model winner and has even defended his own behaviour.

"I know I'm thought of as

being a bit bitchy at times on this show but I feel I am saying just what you are thinking in your lounge rooms," said Perry. "Some of the girls are as empty as Britney's underwear drawer. They don't need to be brain surgeons

but they need to think on their feet. "This is a cut-throat business and it is not all glamour. It is hard work.

"I believe we picked the right girl in 16-year-old Tahnee Atkinson. She is absolutely perfect tall,

beautiful, thick lustrous hair, great colouring and a great person as well."

"Yes, Cassi, the runner-up, was also gorgeous but just lacked a few of the qualities of Tahnee. It will be interesting to watch the progress of both these girls.

"Did you know that the final night of Australia's Next Top Model was the highest rating show ever on FOXTEL. We had Kristin Davis, who plays Charlotte in Sex and the City, come to view the show one night and she said she loved it and even preferred to it the American version."

About Alex Perry

Perry is the middle son of three boys of Greek immigrant parents, who ran a hamburger shop in suburban Sydney. His wife Mary is a former fashion model from Greece. Perry launched his first "ready to wear" collection in 1998. Alex Perry Couture signatures of the ready-to-wear collection are boned corsetry, hand ruching and sexy, feminine silhouettes.

Gambling man in more strife

THE man who is suing Melbourne's Crown Casino for \$30 million is facing his own financial setback on the Gold Coast.

A company directed by self-confessed pathological gambler Harry Kakavas has moved into the hands of the corporate doctor after it failed to meet its financial commitments.

Elite Property Investments Group Pty Ltd, which owns and runs a commercial property in Broadbeach, is understood to owe its mortgagee millions.

The appointment comes as Mr Kakavas awaits a judge's decision over a legal stoush involving him and Melbourne's Crown Casino.

Mr Kakavas is suing Crown for \$30 million plus damages over claims it lured him to the tables, despite knowing he was a banned gambler.

Elite Property Investment's mortgagee, Challenger Managed Investments, appointed John Park and Mark Korda as receiver managers. Mr Park said the debt remained confidential but The Bulletin understands it is in the millions. Mr Kakavas's company paid \$9.35 million for the mid-rise on Queensland Avenue in 2005.

Mr Park, who is also the liquidator for a company controlled by embattled IT tycoon Daniel Tzvetkoff, said there was a possibility they could sell the property.

"We are assessing the tenancy mix at the moment and looking at the best strategy for realisation of the property," he said. "We are assessing the quality of the product (before we decide if its going to go to the market)."

The former king of Hedges Avenue -- a name Mr Kakavas was crowned after his prolific buying and selling along 'millionaires row' -- declined to comment.

The judgment over his court case is expected to be handed down within months, with final submissions being heard on August 17.

Mr Kakavas alleges the casino giant seduced him on to the tables knowing he was a self-confessed problem gambler. He is alleging negligence, unconscionable conduct and breaches of the Casino Control Act by Crown Casino.

He claims he banned himself from the casino but said he was lured back with VIP treatment. The former property developer claims to have turned over more than \$1.4 billion during a 14-month gambling binge across Australia from June 2005.

He is also suing the casino's chief operating officer John Williams. Mr Kakavas claims Mr Williams lured him back with VIP treatment. Mr Kakavas also alleges he was flown about 30 times on Crown's VIP jet in 2007, was regularly handed bags and boxes of cash and given a promise of a 20 per cent rebate on all losses.