

Stan the lawnmower man cut down

Stan the lawnmower man has vowed not to cut another blade of Randwick Council grass after he was hit with a \$2000 fee to display mowers in front of his shop.

For the last eight of his 32 years at 390 Malabar Rd, Maroubra, Stan Thrasyroulou, the manager of Andrews Lawnmowers, has picked up bottles and rubbish littered around the shop, mowed public grass and even nurtured a small garden in exchange for the use of a strip of council grass.

"The mayor visited me eight years ago and said, 'If you keep the area clean we will waive the fee', and I thought that was fair," Mr Thrasyroulou said.

"So I've maintained the whole area, which has probably saved the council thousands, and now they hit me with this." A council spokesman said last week there was no agreement and confirmed Andrews Lawnmowers would be charged the annual fee of \$1943.18, which was in line with the council's fees and charges policy.

"All businesses in Randwick City who display goods or conduct business on council footpaths are required to gain authorisation and apply for the appropriate licence," the council spokesperson said.

Mr Thrasyroulou sought compassion from the council, which Labor council-

lor Geoff Stevenson attempted to draw.

Cr Stevenson suggested that in exchange for free use of the strip, Mr Thrasyroulou instruct local kids on the finer points of landscaping, which could then lead to employment.

"If he can organise community activities for some of the young people in Lexington Place and teach them weeding and hedging, perhaps we could waive these fees," Cr Stevenson said.

The motion was unsuccessful, and Cr Stevenson said the council was simply revenue raising by charging the fee.

Mr Thrasyroulou said the fee could not have come at a worse time.

"I pay rent here, so this has forced me



to put my prices up. My mum's sick and I have to get her chemotherapy . . . it's a whole ball of things," he said.

Article from the Southern Courier



Fishmongers win gold

IT'S a fishy family affair at the Fish Market @ Maroubra, which received the honour of being named Randwick's small business at the Randwick City Business Excellence Week.

The business also won best fish shop in Randwick.

Owner Barry Hadjiparaskeva is at the helm of the Pacific Square shop that his father, Con, opened more than 30 years ago.

Con is still there and it is their combination of experience and a connection of the freshest produce in the Eastern Suburbs, that caught the eye of the judges, at the business awards. "Our customers trust us. We go to the market six days a week and because there is such a high turnover we supply a great product - the freshness is there", Barry said.

Barry, who has been working at the Fish Market @ Maroubra for 14 years, is the man to ask about what is fresh right now. His suggestions are:

Silver Dory fillets: pan-fried and lightly dusted with flour;



Barry Hadjiparaskeva of the award winning Fish Market @ Maroubra.

School prawns with lemon.

Leather jacket: Lightly pan-fry or bake in the oven.

Deep sea perch: grilled, with no bones or skin. It's great for the kids.

Tuna: eat raw, sushi style, barbecue or boil it to make tuna salad. Tuna normally retails for \$36 but it is down to \$29 and will go lower.

Article from the Southern Courier

OTHER WINNERS

- Cafe Nostimo Deli
- Fast food/Takeaway: Ambrosia on the Spot
- Bakery/Cake Shop The Sweet Spot Patisserie

Expatriates on Greek Islands 'bearing up well'

Expatriates who chose to move to the Greek islands appear to be weathering the financial storm better than those in other locations, a local property magazine has said.

According to Quest Greek Islands, expatriates are finding it more difficult to pay for their regular expenses but few have been panicked into selling as it appears some people in Spain have.

"There are some Britons thinking of going back but we're not," says Pat Walker who lives on Corfu. "We love it here and still reckon we are much better off even though it is hard to make ends meet at the moment".

Many expatriates have been harshly affected by the changing interest rates, but still vowed to stay on and wait for a recovery.

"It's tough," Mr and Mrs Bates from Islington told the publication. The pair admitted "any ideas of luxury items like a holiday are being put on hold. But it will change and the pound will improve, we just have to wait it out".

Expatriates are still able to claim the same allowances they previously did, but should make efforts to check how they will be covered by private insurance companies.

There is still plenty of space for would-be expatriates - of the 1,400 Greek islands only 169 are inhabited.

5 lucky readers can win a double pass to the preview
of **Eden is West** - a film by Academy Award Winner Costa Gavras.
valid from Friday August 14 until Sunday August 16
Call now on 9550 1088 to find out if you are a lucky winner!!!