



Kaliopi Kotkidas modelling her City of Sydney outfit  
Photo by: LAURIE KLIPPEL

## DesignTECH will astound

AN equipment holster for paramedics, an easy-to-turn key for the elderly and an environmentally sensitive drag queen outfit are among the outstanding HSC projects chosen to feature in this year's DesignTECH exhibition.

Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth announced HSC design and technology students from across NSW would have their projects displayed at the Powerhouse Museum and regional galleries.

One exhibit will be three drag queen outfits designed from recycled material by St Euphemia College student Kaliopi Korkidas.

The Priscilla Queen of the Desert inspired outfits have landed the 17 year old among the 42 students whose work will be displayed at the Powerhouse.

Kaliopi, from Revesby said Green Queens represented the Showy Mountains, City of Sydney and Daintree Rainforest.

The Snowy Mountains will be exhibited and features a bodice or top entirely made from more than 100 clothing labels and shaped as a mountain peak. The bottom half represents a large snow ball shaped by piano wire and covered with old cement bags covered in glitter.

Minister Firth congratulated the talented students whose projects have been selected for the prestigious exhibition.

"The level of ability, initiative and sophistication shown in the projects is remarkable."

"I urge everyone to visit the DesignTECH exhibitions to see for themselves the creative design talent that is being fostered in our schools."

There are projects which address a broad range of challenging issues including road safety, physical disability, environmental concerns and a desire to improve existing designs.

DesignTECH 2009 will be at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney from 26 December 2009 to April 18 2010. Then a number of the projects together with selections of regional projects, will travel to galleries across NSW.

Article from The Torch

## Autism support is growing

The Autism Advisory and Support Service has come a long way since Grace Fava started it in her living room only a few years ago.

Ms Fava had become frustrated by the lack of information available to parents of autistic children.

"We're very lucky now because we have this house at 88 Memorial Avenue", she said. "With the help of our volunteers and donations from very generous local business we've been able to really fix the place up."

"It's very different from what it looked like earlier this year. It was completed gutted when we got here, but now it's amazing".

Ms Fava said advisory service had now introduced new services, including an occupational therapist and a speech

**The Autism Advisory and Support Service launched a social group for young adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome. The group provides a social setting for those of 16 years and over on the autism spectrum and for their families to interact with people of their age who are not autistic. The group gives the young people confidence, encourages them to learn new social skills and taught them how to be more independent. Bookings are essential. Call 9601 2844 or 0432 327 096 between 10am and 2pm.**

therapist.

A psychologist is still needed.

Twenty volunteers work at advisory service and some of them are parents of autistic children.

"We welcome people to come in every day between 10am and 2pm and also have a 24-hour hotline to help parents who need advice on how to look after their children or who are having a crisis".

Ms Fava said volunteers support groups and play groups for families to come along too and are planning a Cantonese support group to

start up soon", she said.

"Parents of children with autism often need a lot of help and guidance, but it can be very difficult to find".

Ms Fava said one of the most difficult things to deal with was the community's attitude to autism.

"A lot of teachers and people in general just don't understand", she said. "They think you have a naughty child, or a spoilt child, or you can't control them."

"The number of children on the spectrum who are still being suspended and expelled from schools is just unbelievable.

"There needs to be much more support for families with autism, more places in schools and more training for teachers as well".

The service will be closed until January 18, but the hotline - 1300 222 777- will be operating.

Article from The Champion



NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos views Canterbury Council's Crime Prevention Plan with Campsie Local Area Commander Peter Lennon yesterday. They were joined by Canterbury mayor Robert Furolo, Campsie crime manager John Betell and State MP for Canterbury Linda Burney.

## Driving down crime

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos visited Campsie Police where he endorsed Canterbury Council's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, aimed at driving down robbery and motor vehicle theft.

The plan was developed in partnership with police from Campsie and Ashfield LAC, community members, and key service providers.

Mr Hatzistergos was joined by State MP for Canterbury Linda Burey and Canterbury mayor Robert Furolo, in welcoming the initiative.

The plan means council is now eligible to apply for \$50,000 in funding per year over three years, for a project that addresses either of the top two crime categories - being motor vehicle theft and robbery.

However since 2005, the number of robberies in the Canterbury LGA has fallen by 39 per cent and motor vehicle theft has dropped by 27 per cent.

As part of its plan, council will conduct safety audits around car parks, shopping centres and other public places where car theft or robbery may be prevalent.

"The information gathered from the audits will help council determine how the design of these areas could be improved to make them more resistant to crime," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"Council's plan to improve visibility in hot spot areas would also help deter offenders as criminals may think twice before committing a crime if there is a strong risk of being caught."

Ms Burney also welcomed council's work on the project.

"The community's safety is paramount and this plan is aimed not only at reducing crime but making sure residents and business owners feel safe and protected," she said.

