

Youth service boss fights her sacking

THE former manager of St George Youth Services, Valentina Angelovska, appeared at a NSW Industrial Relations Commission hearing this week to fight for the reinstatement of her job.

Ms Angelovska was dismissed by a new board headed by chairwoman **Vicky Petrakis** last December. Ms Petrakis attended the hearing, which started on Monday, with Jobs Australia agent Christopher Godfrey representing the youth service.

Tendering Ms Angelovska's timesheets and emails to and from her work account as evidence at a hearing on Monday, Mr Godfrey alleged Ms Angelovska was undertaking services in an Australian Welfare Association while she was working for the youth service.

He said this was a "misappropriation of resources and funding" from the service.

The Australian Services Union barrister Tony Slevin, representing Ms Angelovska, said email evidence was not admissible because it constituted retrospective surveillance of an employee under legislation. However, it was agreed some correspondence was made.

When cross-examined, Ms Angelovska said she would check and review documents for the association and such duties would take no more than 10 to 15 minutes.

Ms Angelovska said the majority of her work for the association was undertaken at home, after hours or during time in lieu.

Mark D'Astoli, who was St George Youth Services chairman between 1999 and 2007, said when cross-examined the board was aware Ms Angelovska was a voluntary member of the association's committee for

10 years and membership of other community boards was a "common thing" with staff.

He said there was "no significant concern" about whether this was a conflict of duties because the association and the youth service did not compete for funding and sometimes participated in joint community projects.

Ms Angelovska's dual roles did not affect her work for the youth service, he said.

Commissioner Bishop said the main issues were the extent of Ms Angelovska's work for the association, whether it was approved by the youth service committee and whether it affected her work for the youth service.

A decision is expected by the end of the week.

BY MARIANNA PAPADAKIS

Article from *The Leader*

Perry's parade

DESIGNER Alex Perry based at Kingsgrove showcased his bridal skills during the weekend. Perry, alongside Australian designers Lisa Ho, Akira Isogawa and Jayson Brunsdon will present their creations in a high-fashion catwalk event at the Royal Hall of Industries, Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park.

Perry also joined forces with Diva by introducing a range to the accessories label, which will be launched in August.

Rings, chandelier earrings, corsages and elaborate bracelets will no doubt be pieces together in the style Perry is best known for.



Branching out: George and Laura Spiridon heard a "crashing" noise when a large branch from a collapsing tree pierced their roof. Picture: Jane Dyson

One branch pierced the roof, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage. "We were lucky this time," Mr Spiridon said.

"The tree does not look like it had strong roots. "Maybe the branches were heavy from the rain during the past week."

NSW Fire Brigades attended the scene after a triple-0 call and specialist tree removalists spent more than two days cutting back heavy branches before assessing removal of the trunk.

BY MARIANNA PAPADAKIS - article from *The Leader*

Lucky escape

ONE family had a lucky escape after a neighbour's tree came crashing through their roof, causing extensive damage last week.

George and Laura Spiridon of Bexley were asleep when they heard "cracking noises" and then a "boom" as the fallen tree hit their roof about 9.40pm last Wednesday.

Mr Spiridon said their children Christina, 10, Mathew, 7, and Patrick, 2, were screaming with fear.

The children regularly played on a trampoline in the backyard and it was "just lucky" the incident happened at night.

Dog owners await new law

CAFE d'dogge may have its limitations, but dog lovers think it's "pawsome".

The makeshift facility, by the water at Como, enables them to get around the ban on dogs at outdoor cafes until the law is changed.

Legislation before State Parliament will allow operators of outdoor eating areas to decide whether dogs are welcome.

Nancy Parker, of Jannali, spent \$500 on fold-up tables, chairs and an umbrella for the makeshift cafe, which has a sign reading, "Cafe d'dogge - all welcome."

Takeaway coffee is bought from the adjoining Como Marina Cafe, where Ms Parker and many others used to relax and chat with their pets at their feet.

That changed late last year when Sutherland Shire Council, responding to complaints

from other members of the public, threatened to impose fines of up to \$55,000 if dogs were found in outdoor eating areas.

Ms Parker got permission from the marina to set up outside the cafe area, and its owners, Sam and Teresa Bonanno, were happy with the arrangement.

"It's just a little dog-friendly area, with water bowls and thick rubber mats so the dogs don't have to lie on the cold cement," Ms Parker said.

She is delighted the law is being changed.

"When the council started threatening Sam and Teresa with big fines, it disadvantaged a lot of fairly isolated older people, who used to come down here for a walk with their dogs and then have a cup of coffee and a talk," she said.

Miranda MP Barry Collier



Canine-friendly: (From left) Como Marina Cafe owner Sam Bonanno with pet owners, Pamela Delasey, Nancy Parker and Michelle Macris, plus pooches. Picture: Lisa McMahon

told State Parliament Ms Parker had sent him a petition with 215 names on it objecting to the Como cafe crackdown.

One man had told her he brought his wife, who was in a nursing home, to the cafe each week.

"We've been coming for

years. I don't know where we will go now," he had said.

Ms Bonanno said while a lot of customers wanted to bring their dogs, she was aware that many objected.

"We will probably still have an area that is dog-free," she said.

"As business owners, we are trying to please everyone."

The plan for pets

Under the Companion Animals Amendment (Outdoor Dining Areas) Bill, operators of outdoor dining areas will be free to decide whether to allow dogs under a licence agreement, or a development consent from their council.

The area must not be enclosed and must be able to be entered by the public without passing through an enclosed area. Dogs must be on the ground at all times and, while they may be given water, they must not be given food.

They must be restrained and on a leash, and dangerous and restricted dogs will not be permitted.

BY MURRAY TREMBATH

Article from *The Leader*