



## POLICE REPORT

### Information sought on pharmaceutical warehouse robbery

Police investigating an aggravated robbery at a pharmaceutical warehouse in Sydney's west last month are appealing for public assistance.

About 3.15am on Tuesday 15 March, a black Holden Commodore utility was reversed into the roller door of a warehouse on Walters Street, Blacktown, causing the door to buckle. Three men armed with a screwdriver, iron bar and bolt cutters exited the utility and ran into the building before threatening a male cleaner.

The men removed a number of boxes containing medical supplies, loaded them into the utility and drove from the scene.

Police arrived a short time later and established a crime scene. The cleaner was uninjured. CCTV of the robbery shows the offenders were wearing distinctive black clothing but had their faces covered.

Two of the men were further described as being of Mediterranean/Middle Eastern appearance. The utility used in the robbery, which had been reported stolen, was found burnt out at Canal Road, Leichhardt the following day, along with the stolen medical supplies. All the stolen items have been accounted for; leading police to believe the three men could have mistakenly targeted the wrong medical supplies.

### Armed robbery at pizzeria

A pizzeria worker has been struck with a gun during an armed robbery at Kingsgrove last night.

About 10.30pm, two men armed with a shortened firearm and with their faces covered entered the restaurant on Stoney Creek Road through a rear service entrance. The men confronted several staff and demanded money. One of the staff, a man aged 43, was struck to the side of his head with the weapon. He suffered minor bruising and lacerations. The two offenders ran from the scene through the rear entrance after stealing an amount of cash. Police from Hurstville Local Area Command established a crime scene and spoke with the staff members. The two men are believed to be of Middle Eastern/Mediterranean appearance, wearing dark clothing, hooded jumpers, scarves covering their faces and dark sunglasses. Investigators will view CCTV in a bid to further identify the two men involved.

### Arson suspected in shop fire

Police are investigating a suspicious shop fire at Arncliffe this morning.

Shortly before 1am, a passer-by noticed flames and smoke coming from a mixed business on Belmore Street.

The woman ran and alerted a number of residents who were sleeping in several units above the shop. All eight residents managed to escape the building unharmed.

Emergency services were called to the scene and the fire was extinguished with damage limited to the shop.

At this stage, the fire appears to be deliberately lit and investigators are currently examining the crime scene. They are appealing for anyone who noticed any suspicious activity to contact Crime Stoppers on

1800 333 000. Callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous and may be eligible to a reward of up to \$1000.

### Teenager arrested following stolen car pursuit

Police have charged a teenager after the pursuit and crash of a stolen car at Glebe last night. About 6.20pm, an officer from the Dog Squad was driving along Derwent Street when he spotted an allegedly stolen Subaru Impreza.

When the officer signalled for the car to stop, it sped off onto Parramatta Road.

A pursuit then began under lights and sirens. A short distance away at the intersection of Parramatta Road and Glebe Point Road, the Subaru collided with a Mazda 323. The two young male occupants of the Subaru ran from the scene.

The officer, with the help of his police dog 'Demon', was able to track down one of them hiding in bushes a short distance away. The four occupants of the Mazda were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

The teenager, aged 15, was taken to Newtown Police Station and charged with being carried in conveyance without consent. He has been bailed to appear at Bidura Children's Court on Monday 2 May.

Investigations are underway to identify the other young male allegedly involved.

### Man charged following death of woman at Tamworth - Homicide Squad

Homicide Squad detectives have arrested and charged a man following the suspicious death of a woman at Tamworth in March.

About 12.30pm on Sunday 10 April, Homicide Squad and Oxley Local Area Command detectives attended a home on Corrong Close at Umina Beach, where they arrested a 53-year-old man.

He was taken to Gosford Police Station and charged with murder. He was refused bail to appear at Gosford Local Court today. The arrest relates to the discovery of a woman's body in her home on Cameron Avenue at Kingswood, about 7.40pm on Monday 28 March this year. The deceased was identified as 55-year-old Maria Devrell, also known as Lou. Strike Force Initial was established to investigate the circumstances surrounding the woman's death, and comprises detectives from the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad with assistance from Oxley Local Area Command.

### Police appeal after firearms, ammunition stolen

Police are appealing for public assistance after a number of firearms and ammunition were stolen from a property north of Newcastle last week. Between 4.30pm on Thursday (7 April) and 8am on Friday (8 April), a property on Nelson Bay Road at Salt Ash was broken into after thieves smashed a window of the rear shed. Police say 11 firearms, including some high-powered rifles, and ammunition were stolen from a gun safe in the shed. Police were notified after the property owners became aware of the theft. Officers attached to Port Stephens Local Area Command attended and established a crime scene.

## \$805,000 AND CLIMBING DAILY!

'SCHOOL AID FLOODS RELIEF APPEAL' RAISES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR FLOOD AND CYCLONE AFFECTED SCHOOLS.

The Schoolaid team meets next week with mayors, principals, schools and children throughout Queensland, gathering stories and witnessing firsthand both the devastation, and the rebuilding - to ensure the needs of kids in flood and cyclone impacted communities are understood.



Following the unprecedented success of the 'SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal', where over 1700 Aussie Schools have sent a clear message of hope to flood and cyclone - affected schools by raising funds for friends, neighbours and families overwhelmed by the January 2011 floods.

SchoolAid's founder, Sean Gordon, a part of the team next week, said: "Queensland is currently undertaking a massive recovery and rebuilding effort following the January floods. Whilst its one thing to read about the damage, and see images on a TV screen, it's another thing to actually visit the community, meet with the principals and kids, and really get a firsthand account of the impacts of this disaster, both psychologically and in bricks and mortar terms. SchoolAid strongly believes in the need for face-to-face conversations and consultation with disaster affected communities, to ensure we get our grant-making right, and really help 'kids in need'. Congratulations to the 1700 odd Aussie schools who have stood up to date to raise money for the 'SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal'! We look forward to more support for our 'Christchurch Earthquake Appeal' and the 'Japan Disaster Appeal' in term 2 from our schools in Term 2!"

In addition, SchoolAid is working closely with both the NSW DET (who have directed their fundraising to the SchoolAid Appeal) and QLD DET. A highlight of the trip will be Brassall State School in Ipswich, welcoming the SchoolAid team and the QLD Minister for Education, Hon. Cameron Dick MP, next Wednesday, 13 April to watch the schoolkids enter their rebuilt and refurbished classrooms! From there we will visit Bundamba State School with Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale, another flood affected school in the SE QLD region.

We continue to urge every Australian school to get involved in the SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal.

Visit <http://www.schoolaid.org.au/projects/schoolaid-floods-relief-appeal.aspx> for all the details. Funds will be distributed to communities, children and schools most in need via SchoolAid's trusted charity partner network.

Consultation with flood-affected schools and communities in Victoria and NSW to assess need will take place in May/June.

## Decision on Greek Minority Property in Turkey

The Turkish Education Ministry has decided to withdraw its supervision from 15 long-closed primary and secondary Greek minority school buildings.

Pantelis Vigas (photo), an ethnic Greek of Istanbul and a member of the Turkish Supreme Council of the General Directorate for Religious Property, praised the decision

saying that "the school buildings in question can now be repaired and used to host cultural events or meet other ethnic Greek minority needs." Up until now, the Turkish government had not formally registered the ceasing of operation and continued to appoint headmasters, although the schools have been closed for years, maintaining that the Treaty of Lausanne did not permit the administrative recording of the real status of the buildings.



**ANY PERSON WHO CAN ASSIST SHOULD CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS ON 1800 333 000**