

# Granny killers up for parole

**Elissa Hunt**  
chief court reporter

TWO callous killers who bashed and strangled a great-grandmother in her own home will face a parole hearing next week.

Now aged 21 and 22, the men were teenagers when they sexually assaulted and killed Marie Greening Zidan, 73, in her Seaford home on October 15, 2000.

Her disabled son, Peter, was present when Mrs Zidan was punched in the head, chest and back and had her ribs broken before she was strangled.

The killers, who were 15 and 16 at the time, were jailed for nine years with a minimum of six and can't be released until at least October 16.

One blamed the other for the killing and the other denied he was even there. Prosecutors later accepted pleas of guilty to manslaughter and dropped murder charges.

The Supreme Court last month refused a bid by the *Herald Sun* to lift a suppression order banning publication of the identities of the killers when they are paroled, saying rehabilitation was more important than the public's right to know who they are.

Mrs Zidan's family know the killers and have spoken of their fears for their safety and for the rest of the community if the pair, who have never apologised or admitted which one killed the great-grandmother, are freed.

While behind bars the pair left an offensive and taunting message on the answering machine of Jantine Greening, Mrs Zidan's daughter, and one threatened staff at the juvenile centre where he was being held.

# Bone Idol worship



**Bones to pick:** Mark Holden with the Austin's scanning machine. Picture: ANDREW HENSHAW

**AUSTRALIAN Idol** judge and Austin Hospital patient Mark Holden could only dream of equipment this sophisticated in the recording studio.

The Austin's osteoporosis unit revealed yesterday its new bone density scanning machine, the first in Australia.

The machine, one of 12 in the world and the only one in the southern hemisphere, allows doctors to view the three-dimensional architecture of the skeleton. It will greatly advance

the detection and treatment of the bone disease.

Holden has been an osteoporosis patient of the hospital's deputy director of endocrinology, Prof Ego Seeman, for the past three years.

The music producer was the first to test the technology yesterday.

Osteoporosis, a disease whereby the bones severely decay over time, is commonly thought to be a women's disease, but also affects 25 per cent of men.

# Teen wins right to sue school

**Elissa Hunt**  
chief court reporter

A TEENAGER who was blinded in one eye after a schoolyard game has won the right to sue his school for negligence.

Mark Curnow was five when he was hit in the eye by a Hawthorn Football Club mascot in the shape of a hawk with a pointy beak, which was attached to a friend's key ring.

The 1995 incident occurred on the school oval at St John Vianney's school in Mulgrave, where the boys had been throwing the keys as far as they could then running to retrieve them.

Now 17, he is suing the school's operator, the Roman Catholic Trust Corporation Diocese of Melbourne, claiming the children were not adequately supervised by staff while playing.

He lost most of the vision in his right eye and had to take three months off school.

He claims he suffered psychological trauma as a result of both the injury

and the reaction of the other children when he returned to school.

Mark's father, Stephen, who has brought the action on his son's behalf, said in court documents that he sought legal advice two years after the incident and was told he had until 2013 to sue.

He decided not to start legal action until his son, who was psychologically fragile at the time, was ready to handle it.

But in the meantime the legislation changed, meaning Mr Curnow needed to lodge his son's case by October 2003 or it could not go ahead.

He did not learn of the law change until 2005, when time had run out.

Mr Curnow sought an extension of time in the Supreme Court, which was opposed by the defence on the ground that it would prejudice them because so much time had passed and the key ring and the school log

book recording the incident had both been thrown out.

Yesterday Supreme Court Justice Hartley Hansen said Mr Curnow had acted swiftly when he learned of the law change and it was not unreasonable for him to have waited until his son was better able to cope, given the legal advice he received about how long he had to sue.

Justice Hansen said it was also reasonable that he would wait until the long-term effects of the injury were clearer.

He said the defence could call the teacher on duty in the yard that day and the boys who were playing with Mark when he was hurt as witnesses and they could also call evidence from education experts about the appropriate levels of supervision at the time.

The judge ruled the defence would not be unfairly prejudiced and it was just to extend the time allowed for the case to proceed.

# Bye-bye blockbuster



George Lucas

**STAR Wars** creator George Lucas is to stop making big budget movies because he believes the days of the blockbuster are over.

Lucas, who was also behind such hits as the Indiana Jones series, believes that with the internet, multi-channel television and video games fragmenting the entertainment audience, there would be a huge revolution in the industry.

"We don't want to make movies. We're about to get into television. As far as Lucasfilm is concerned, we've moved away from the feature film thing because it's too expensive and it's too risky," Lucas said in an interview in *Daily Variety*.

# Officer reinstated

POLICE Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon has reinstated a policeman after the officer successfully argued he should not be sacked under her no-confidence powers.

The officer, a senior-constable from a metropolitan station, was one of three policemen suspended between April and May under Ms Nixon's discretionary powers.

A statement released by police, without naming the officer, said: "Ms Nixon, upon considering the member's response, has today decided the member should be allowed to remain in Victoria Police."

He will return to work on October 8.

## Higher Mass Limits

Existing arrangements for operating at Higher Mass Limits on the Newell Highway will soon change.

The *Higher Mass Limits Notice 2006* will be repealed effective 1 November 2006.

From 1 November 2006, the RTA requirement is that vehicles operating at Higher Mass Limits on any road in NSW must first be pre-enrolled for Higher Mass Limits under the Intelligent Access Program.

Operators who are currently operating under the Higher Mass Limits Notice should pre-enrol as soon as possible.

Vehicles that pre-enrol will be issued with a permit to operate at Higher Mass Limits on approved routes in NSW as a transitional arrangement prior to the availability of the Intelligent Access Program.

Further information can be found at:  
[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) / phone 1300 364 847 or  
 email [intelligent\\_access\\_program@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:intelligent_access_program@rta.nsw.gov.au)

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Herald Sun **Sunday**

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Join us for an **Information Evening**  
**When:** Tuesday 31 October 2006  
 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm  
**Where:** 465 Elgar Road, Box Hill  
 Refreshments provided.

To register your attendance,  
 contact Heather Harvey at  
[h.harvey@bhtafe.edu.au](mailto:h.harvey@bhtafe.edu.au)  
 or phone **9286 9535**.  
 For further information  
 visit [www.bhtafe.edu.au/teachers](http://www.bhtafe.edu.au/teachers)

## Electrical Safety Recall

Clipsal Australia Pty Ltd hereby provides notification of a fault with the **CLIPSAL CLASSIC SERIES FOUR GANG POWERPOINT CATALOGUE NO. C2015D4 IN WHITE ONLY**.

**Product Issue:**  
 Up to 500 of the white Clipsal branded C2015D4s (four gang powerpoint) have been distributed with the red and green terminal identification markers incorrectly placed on the back of the powerpoint during the marking process. (The terminals may have been incorrectly colour marked.) These powerpoints were distributed to electrical wholesalers throughout Australia since July 27, 2006.

**Safety Issue:**  
 If wired in accordance with the colour markings, the affected powerpoints can create a potential electrical safety hazard. An electric shock, death or property damage may result.

**What to do - householders:**  
 If you have purchased or had this powerpoint installed since July 27, 2006 and:

- your appliances are working perfectly, then the powerpoint is safe but Clipsal would still like to inspect the installation to ensure that the powerpoint is correctly marked. Please call us at your convenience
- you have not used the powerpoint, or you have tried to use it and your appliances were not operational, then the installation may present a potential safety hazard. Do not touch any appliance connected to this powerpoint and contact Clipsal immediately on the **CLIPSAL CONSUMER HOTLINE on 1800 198 015** between 6am-10pm AEST UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU TOUCH OR CONNECT ANY APPLIANCE TO ANY POWERPOINT THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY THIS RECALL.

**What to do - electrical contractors:**  
 If you have:

- stocks of these powerpoints, purchased since July 27, 2006 please ensure that the terminals are correctly coloured. If the terminals are incorrectly coloured please do not install them. Contact us to organise free replacement stock
- installed the affected powerpoints since July 27, 2006, please notify us immediately with the details of these installations on the **CLIPSAL TRADE HOTLINE on 1800 800 876** between 6am-10pm AEST EVEN IF YOU INSTALLED THE POWERPOINT CORRECTLY, WE NEED TO REPLACE IT IN CASE FUTURE REWIRING OCCURS.

**NO OTHER CLIPSAL ITEMS ARE AFFECTED.**

See [www.recalls.gov.au](http://www.recalls.gov.au) for Australian Product Recall Information