

# The Canberra Times Outdoor Art Show

March 7-15, 10am to 5pm

Glebe Park, (near the Band Rotunda)

There are over 570 paintings in the show. All paintings are for sale.

Win a painting by well-known Canberra artist, Judy McConchie.

"Quiet Corner of the Lake" valued at \$500 is the prize in The Canberra Times Outdoor Art Show raffle. Tickets are on sale at the information tent at the show.

The commission from the sale of paintings, all proceeds from catalogue and raffle ticket sales will be used to build a fitness trail for the intellectually handicapped students at Koomarri Special School, O'Connor.

Assisted by Cyclone Boral Fencing and the Apex Club of Belconnen.

Canberra Festival '92



## Office-block sales trouble Vic Govt

MELBOURNE: The Victorian Government's decision to sell off nine city office blocks in just four months — and at the height of the recession — again underscores its mighty budget problems.

News of the giant sell-off was sandwiched between confirmation that the Budget deficit continues its apparently unstoppable upward climb and a report from the respected Moody's credit-ratings agency citing uncontrolled government spending as the state's biggest problem. The triple dose of bad news should have been enough to wipe out the euphoria Victorians had been feeling after their kind treatment from the Prime Minister, Paul Keating, in his economic statement.

But both the Premier, Joan Kirner, and her Treasurer, Tony Sheehan, were apparently unfazed by the bad news. They rejected any suggestion that spending be trimmed because of the fall-off in revenue, despite their repeated promises last year that the state would live "within its means" in the future. They also shook their heads emphatically at suggestions that the asset-sales program be delayed at least until the property market showed some signs of picking up.

The Government wants whatever revenue it can get from those sales by June 30 — just in time to partially reduce the size of the Budget deficit it will have to report when final accounting for this financial year is completed. Ordinary Victorians would not have known of the asset-sales program but for the leaking of



Joan Kirner... secrecy is a commercial necessity.

a list of the buildings to several media organisations.

The Government does not need parliamentary approval to sell off its assets — apart from setting a \$400 million target for asset sales in 1991-92 — has no intention of telling anyone what is on the market. Mrs Kirner said the secrecy was a commercial necessity, but the Opposition Leader, Jeff Kennett, said it was a travesty.

The Government gave six real-estate agents less than a week to come up with a proposal to sell the buildings, which it is promising to lease back from their new owners for the next 10 years.

The rush is understandable. The Government has forecast a \$1.5 billion defi-

cit this financial year and according to Budget figures issued last week might well go beyond it. In the seven months to January, the Government spent \$1.18 billion more than the revenue it received.

The big spenders were again the transport and education departments, but on the revenue side the level of asset sales and payroll taxes indicated continued low economic activity. But it was the Moody's Investors Service report which was probably the most depressing to those Victorians who are desperate to see some signs of recovery in their state, which so often these days is referred to as the country's economic basket case.

Moody's said Victoria faced a long haul out of the recession and "contrary to the Government's claims" its main problem remained the Government's inability to control spending. It said there was "clearly scope for fiscal adjustment in Victoria's... current expenditures" — in other words, cuts in spending — and said the state's public-sector trading enterprises were exacerbating the problems by reporting annual billion-dollar operating losses.

Mrs Kirner agreed that Government businesses, such as the State Electricity Commission, and the troublesome Public Transport Corporation — were not pulling their weight.

But she was not prepared to buy the line on government spending, especially not as the countdown to the state election and Labor's judgment day gathers momentum.

## The days of 'ego-nomic resorts' are over

SURFERS PARADISE: If you believe the estimate of the federal Opposition spokesman on tourism, David Jull, tourists visiting Australia will rocket to 10 million a year by the end of the decade.

Even the more conservative predictions of 4.8 million by the Minister for Tourism, Alan Griffiths, and 6.5 million by the Australian Tourist Commission, mean the 160,292 hotel and motel rooms in Australia will have to be increased dramatically to meet the demand.

However, the days of the "ego-nomic" luxury resorts, built to fulfil the rampant egos of some developers, are over, according to a tourism analyst and associate at Townsville's James Cook University, Richard Bramley.

In a paper delivered to a national tourism conference on the Gold Coast last week, Mr Bramley said most hotel and resort projects in the 1980s were developer-driven to satisfy the motive of profit, not to fulfil accommodation, recreation and leisure expectations of tourists.

He said developers planned to make their profit by "developing a site and on-selling", completely unrelated to whether it would become a successful tourism operation.

But if loans to build the projects were not serviced, the developer was gone.

"Ask Christopher Skase. He's gone to Spain," Mr Bramley said, adding that the end result was a lack of confidence in tourism projects by financial institutions.

Mr Bramley said the solution could lie in developments by owner-occupiers, as was the case years ago in Australia and New Zealand, with large insurance companies filling this role.

The director of Queensland's Foreign Investment Secretariat, Steve Edwell, said that although overseas funds had fallen off since the boom of 1989, foreign ownership of Australian tourist facilities was expected to increase.

"Foreign investment will continue to be a major source of capital, but from a more diversified flow which will include South Africa, South-East Asia, Korea and Taiwan," he said.

Investors were likely to aim for lower-priced existing venues before embarking on new resort projects.

Mr Edwell said domestic funds were less certain, and local institutions becoming involved would adopt a more controlled approach and pay more attention to detail than they did in the 1980s.

The chief economist at Commonwealth Funds Management, Dr Paul Kelly, warned that Australia's multi-million-dollar superannuation industry was not investing in tourism projects because of high risks in the short term.

They would be interested, he said, if projects were in growth areas of tourism and capable of dominating market niches.

"The financial structure of the project is more important than developers' dreams," he said.

The vice-president of the Gold Coast Development Association, Alan Midwood, said another problem was developers and financial backers looking at past trends in weighing-up the potential of a new project.

"It takes three years to produce a new hotel, and a 15 per cent growth rate for three years will increase room demand by 50 per cent, and this puts a complexion on feasibility studies that is often not considered," he said.

Mr Midwood said Australia's overseas debt was increasing by \$15 billion annually — "enough to build 15 four-lane highways from Surfers Paradise to Sydney a year" — because Australia could not afford to pay the interest on the nation's previous borrowings.

Australia's tourism industry, now worth \$26 billion a year, earning \$7.3 billion a year in export funds and already employing 450,000 people, would help claw back the foreign debt.

## Great Australian scientist's work is remembered

SYDNEY: Few Australians realise that it was a Sydney eye surgeon, Norman Gregg, who first linked German measles (rubella) in mothers with birth defects such as blindness.

Even fewer were aware that Saturday was the centenary of Dr Gregg's birth.

Those who rate Dr Gregg's discovery as perhaps the finest in Australian medical science are urging the University of Sydney to acknowledge one of its greatest medical graduates by setting up a permanent display in the medical faculty and holding an annual oration.

It was Dr Gregg who, in 1941, noticed unusual cataracts in the eyes of newborn babies.

Many also had congenital heart defects and were smaller than average.

Troubled by what he was seeing, he got his first lead when two mothers in his waiting room expressed concern about the rubella they had had early in their pregnancies. Australia had had a severe rubella epidemic in 1940-41.

Dr Gregg, then senior ophthalmic surgeon at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney, promptly consulted colleagues across the country.

Gathering 78 children born with cataracts in the first half of 1941, including 13 from his own practice, he found 68 of the mothers had had rubella in the first two months of pregnancy or just before the pregnancy had been confirmed.

"Fifty years on, when men

have landed on the moon and genes have been spliced, his original paper stands up to careful scrutiny as one of our finest pieces of clinical research..."

Dr Margaret Burgess, of Sydney's Children's Hospital, said in a recent tribute to him in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

The director of the Australian Institute of Health National Perinatal Statistics Unit in the medical faculty, Associate Professor Paul Lancaster, said Dr Gregg stimulated the development of a whole new discipline — teratology, the study of birth defects.

He said very few people were aware that Dr Gregg stood alongside fellow great Australian medical scientists Howard Florey, co-discoverer of penicillin, and Sir Frank MacFarlane Burnet, a Nobel Prize winner for his work in immunology.

Even Sir Frank said in 1981 that he believed Dr Gregg's discovery was "the most important contribution ever made to medicine in Australia".

According to Dr Burgess, Dr Gregg's work took a long time to be noticed because it occurred during World War II.

"We calculate that at the time rubella vaccination was introduced, there were about 200 infected children born each year. Now, after 20 years of vaccination, there are about 10 to 20 in Australia."

Dr Gregg received numerous awards in Australia and overseas and was knighted in 1953. He died in 1966, aged 74.

## Third Reich's horrors about to be recounted

ADELAIDE: A sombre courtroom in South Australia's city of churches is half a world and half a century removed from the terrors of the Third Reich.

But the alleged horror of the slaughter of hundreds of Jews in the German-occupied Ukraine in World War II may be relived in the Adelaide Magistrates Court today as Australia's first European war-crimes case resumes with its first alleged eyewitnesses.

An Adelaide pensioner, Ivan Timofeyevich Polyukhov, 75, is charged with the murder of 24 Jews and with being involved knowingly in the murder of up to 850 others from the Serniki ghetto in 1942 and 1943.

The committal hearing, to determine if Polyukhov will stand trial, began in late October last year amid a burst of publicity.

It attracted protesters who deplored Australia's war-crimes legislation and was hampered by the illness of Polyukhov, who suffered dizzy spells. At the beginning of proceedings the court heard evidence from members of a joint Australian-Soviet forensic team that had exhumed a mass grave in Serniki in June, 1990.

Graphic video footage showing the grave, containing hundreds of bones, 553 skulls and rotting flesh, was shown.

Now the first witnesses from North America, Canada and Israel have arrived in Adelaide to give evidence in the case.

Special Prosecutor Greg James, QC, said at the beginning of the hearing that eyewitnesses would tell the court they had seen Polyukhov take part in herding about 850 people from the Serniki ghetto to a mass grave outside the village, where they had been shot or beaten to death. Witnesses would give testimony also of seeing Polyukhov take part in hunting down Jews who had escaped the execution, and killing them, Mr James said.

Mr James said witnesses included

relatives and friends of Polyukhov.

The Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Greg Niemann, said at the time that the DPP would bring 11 overseas witnesses to Adelaide, all aged between 57 and 80 years.

The first group had arrived last week, Mr Niemann said, but no details about the overseas witnesses would be disclosed before the hearing resumed, to protect their privacy.

He said more witnesses from the Ukraine were expected to arrive in Adelaide in the course of proceedings.

Defence counsel Michael David, QC, has said that under Australia's war-crimes legislation the prosecution must prove each part of the case against Polyukhov.

This would involve showing that Polyukhov had committed the alleged crimes, while adhering to the occupying power's policy of exterminating the Jewish people and silencing Ukrainian dissidents.

### Law list

**FAMILY COURT**

Before Judicial Registrar Knibbs in Court 2, at 9.45am: 2630/91 David.

At 10am: 1058/91 Bellette/Alvarez, 2869/91 Redmond.

Not before noon, 2818/90 Vaughan.

Before Registrar Jenkins in Court 3, at 9.45am: The Registrar's Duty List.

784/92 Savage and Williams, 1999/91 Hadfield, 2033/91 Kirkpatrick, 2542/91 Breitkopf, 3780/89 Leemhuis, 1168/87 Kyle, 2998/91 Bryon, 3017/91 Reynolds, 746/92 Avery, 2978/91 Bowley and Deavall, 1537/87 Thomson, 2615/90 Sewell, 2037/91 Carugno, 2417/91 Arcidaco, 2467/91 Nineham, 761/88 Gabbellone, 773/92 Pino, 1768/87 Stevenson, 1786/87 Harrison, 2433/90 Gard and Osburn-Gard, 811/92 Eadie and Madge, 411/87 Panagos, 118/88 Boekenstein, 1588/90 Brill.

**A.C.T. SUPREME COURT**

Before Chief Justice Miles in Court 1, A.C.T. Law Courts, at 9.30am:

Motion: Lazzio Fabian v ADS Mag-nall and others.

Before Justice Gallop in Court 1, at 10am:

Hearing: Valerie Gouge v Australian Capital Territory Community and Health Service; Slavko Bradac v Commonwealth of Australia.

Before Justice Higgins in Court 2, at 10am:

Trial: R v R.C. (part-heard).

Before the Registrar in Court 6, at 10am:

Decision: In the matter of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

Motions — Civil Jurisdiction: Domain Constructions P/L and in the matter of the Companies Act; MCG v Lansley; MCG v Storer; Nonas v Timmor P/L; Amcor Ltd v Shindalong P/L. In the matter of Hyades P/L; Buja and others v Milberg and another; Thistlethwaite P/L v Computer Power Group Ltd; Burman v Dosaco P/L, trading as Can-Fab Engineering P/L; Burns v ANU and another; Harrison v ACT Brake Service P/L; Prykiel v Atlas Handling Equipment Sales P/L; Leonard Smith P/L, trading as Raine and Horne (Canb) v Winnel trading as R. and B. Constructions and others; Smith and another; The Piret Townhouses P/L and others; Wally P/L and in the matter of the Corporations Law.

Before the Deputy Registrar in Court 6, at 9.30am:

Return of Subpoenas — Civil Jurisdiction: Cook v ACTHA; Byrne v Serbian Orthodox Church Community-Parish St Sava Incorp; Colnary v Barac; Bridson v K. and S. Freighters P/L; Van Den Deval v Classic Shop and Office Fitters P/L; Rackham v LDS General Services P/L; Crnac v Concrete Consts P/L and another; Graham Kemp P/L v CBA.

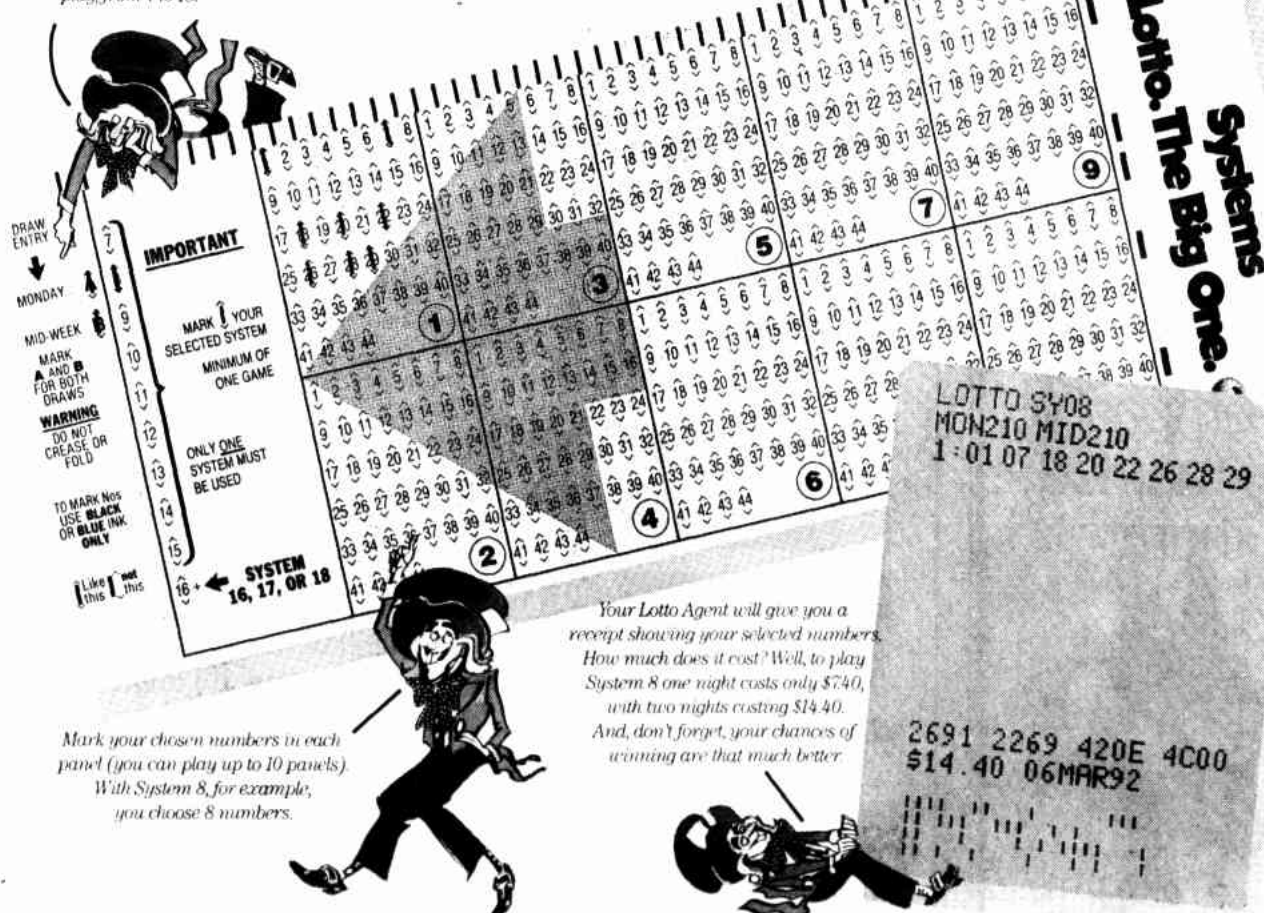
**NOTICE TO JURORS**

Jurors serving in the trial of R v R.C. are required today at 9.30am.

Persons who were summoned to attend the Supreme Court on March 9 are not required today but will be required tomorrow at 9.30am.

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