

Despite its political and economic upheaval, Russia is pushing ahead with plans to launch a radio-telescope satellite into space in 1996.

Named RadioAstron, it will carry four radio receivers, each tuned to a different segment of the spectrum of radio noise that

back on Earth create a radio telescope more than six times the diameter of the world.

constantly rains down on Earth from all parts of the universe. One receiver was built in Adelaide by British Aerospace Australia.

Its highly sophisticated microwave electronic system was subcontracted to Mitec, in Brisbane. The \$2 million receiver, financed by the CSIRO and the Federal Government through the Australian Space Office, was delivered to the Russians in December.

Australian receiver on the Russian satellite, who also leaves for Russia this week, said it was only a coincidence that both missions were now planned for 1996.

But scientists were now working to see if the projects could co-operate to create an even better window on the radio universe.

cosmic targets. Computer processing will allow "images" to be produced.

Dr David Janney, a senior astronomer with the CSIRO, who left for Russia yesterday for talks with RadioAstron scientists, said the project represented a major opportunity for Australia.

## Council gives beach logo idea the flick

By AMANDA MEADE  
Local Government Writer

Mosman Council has decided to reject a controversial proposal to allow corporate sponsorship at Balmoral Beach because the notion of stamping a corporate logo on the harbour beach has been seen as distasteful.

The Town Clerk, Mr Viv May, and the Mayor, Alderman Dom Lopez, had recently agreed to let a sponsorship company, Lightning Rod, secure a company to "adopt" Balmoral Beach in return for money for capital works.

However, when the secret deal was revealed in the *Herald* last week, the

aldermen were horrified and voted unanimously to reject the idea.

The council resolved to review its policy on confidential matters and adopt a plan of management for Balmoral Beach, including commercial and community usage, sponsorship, traffic, parking, signs and maintenance.

Ald Lopez admitted in a mayoral minute after confidential talks with the sponsorship agency that he had authorised Mr May to "agree in principle to Lightning Rod Pty Ltd acting on behalf of council for the period 1 October, 1992, to 30 June, 1993, in an endeavour to secure sponsorship of Balmoral Beach".

## 'It's not safe for elderly people'

By NICK PAPADOPOULOS

Frail Mrs Juana San Martin de Rodriguez, 72, used to enjoy her daily five-minute stroll from her small Housing Department unit to the Eastlakes Shopping Centre. But she has vowed never to walk alone again.

On Monday, when she was returning home, she was knocked down by two men, dragged along a footpath and had her handbag, containing \$25, a passport and other documents, stolen. She dislocated her shoulder and tore ligaments.

Mrs San Martin de Rodriguez said she automatically tried to hang on to her bag. She prefers to live alone, is just over 125 centimetres (4ft 1in) tall and weighs about 35 kilograms. She is considering moving to another suburb because "it's not safe for elderly people here".

"They [the robbers] deserve to die because they are really bad people," she said yesterday, speaking through her daughter, Raquel.

Although no police figures are available on the incidence of bag snatching in the State, the director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Dr Don Weatherburn, said robberies of people where weapons were not used had increased by 21 per cent over the past three years.

"I would be extremely surprised if that didn't include an increase in bag snatching," he said.

Dr Weatherburn said the elderly were particularly vulnerable because they were less likely to offer resistance.

A crime prevention officer, Senior Constable Rick Simpson, advised women:

- Carry your bag with you at all times, as close to your body as possible.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, credit cards or personal papers in your handbag.
- Never place your bag or purse inside a shopping trolley.
- Never leave your purse or bag on a vacant seat beside you.



Knocked down and robbed by two muggers... Mrs San Martin de Rodriguez, with her daughter, Raquel.

## Greiner turns his hand to business consultancy

By SUZANNE MOSTYN

The former Premier, Mr Nick Greiner, has accepted an appointment as chairman of a new business consultancy company, corporate Change Communication, a joint venture between a public relations consultancy, Turnbull Fox Phillips, and Mojo advertising agency.

The company is to deal with changes resulting from privatising, commercialising and corporatising government and semi-government operations.

Both Turnbull Fox Phillips and Mojo operate nationally and have collaborated to advise a number of mutual clients undertaking significant corporate change.

This latest appointment follows a range of positions held by Mr Greiner, including directorships of QBE Insurance, Cole, Myers, Defence Mills, National Westminster Bank and Stockland Trust.

He is also a member of the Prime Minister's Republic Advisory Committee.

Under a ministerial code of conduct set up by Mr Greiner in 1988, a minister is prevented, without the Premier's approval, from accepting employment from people or companies working for the Government or receiving government financial assistance for two years after retirement or resignation from the Cabinet.

However, a spokesman for the Premier said yesterday that Mr Fahey "had previously said it was the spirit of the code which counts".

The spokesman said Mr Greiner was a man of integrity and he had a right to use his abilities.

"The Premier has also said previously that Mr Greiner does not have to seek approval for every appointment he is offered. If Mr Greiner found himself in any conflict of interest, the Premier would expect to be informed."

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## Acquitted: sobbing Polyukhovich walks free

From Page 1

given to German soldiers who were involved in the slaughter of up to 850 Jews from Seriki in September 1942.

The DPP had alleged that Mr Polyukhovich asked for buckets of water, towels and chairs to be brought for the comfort of the German soldiers during the mass killing.

On the second count, the prosecution alleged the defendant had been in the company of two policemen when a woman, known as the miller's daughter, and two children, were executed.

Justice Cox, summing up the eight weeks of evidence last Friday, warned the jury to be careful of the defence's attempts to avoid being influenced by the atrocities which occurred "that appalling day in September 1942".

The execution was simply horrifying... it is hard not to have a great sense of revulsion," he said. "But take care not to be influenced, particularly adversely to the accused."

Justice Cox told the jury that the defendant should not be convicted on doubtful or insufficient evidence. He outlined the unusual circumstances of the case, that the offences had allegedly occurred in a foreign country and that 50 years had elapsed before the defendant was charged.

However he also cautioned the jurors not to be swayed by the fact the defendant was an "old man". "It would be dangerous to convict without being sure of the truth and accuracy of the prosecution evidence," he said.

Justice Cox took less than two hours to sum up the evidence heard from more than 40 prosecution witnesses - from Ukraine, the United States and Israel - and that of Mr Polyukhovich's first wife, Maria Stepanovna Polyukhovich, for the defence.

Many witnesses from Seriki, accompanied by their mayor, travelled to Adelaide from their village, where most homes do not have electricity or running water. On seeing the three-star motel they were to stay in, the mayor told interpreters she had finally "been to Paradise".

The Polyukhovich prosecution produced some notable firsts in Australian criminal proceedings - that the crime had allegedly been committed in a foreign country, that 50 years had elapsed from the time of the alleged offences and that an Australian court went to Europe to take evidence. On a defence application,

Justice Cox, his associate, three members of the defence, three prosecution members and an interpreter held a bedside court in Seriki to take evidence from Mr Polyukhovich's first wife, who has Parkinson's disease and could not travel.

A day before his original magistrates court committal proceedings was due to start in June 1990, Mr Polyukhovich suffered a shotgun wound to the chest.

The DPP alleged he had shot himself in an apparent suicide attempt. The defence team, headed by Mr Michael David, QC, and Ms Lindy Powell, never accepted this claim.

Proceedings were delayed again when the High Court considered a defence challenge on the validity of the amended War Crimes Act of 1988. In August 1991 the High Court, in a split decision, dismissed the challenge and

voted four to three that the amendment to the Act were valid.

In November 1991 Mr Polyukhovich was rushed to hospital after a suspected heart attack. This was the first of several admissions because of the defendant's failing health.

The former Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, said yesterday he had no regrets over his efforts to create the war crimes legislation that so far has failed to gain a single conviction.

He said he would not comment on the Polyukhovich trial because particular trials and their outcomes were not the issue.

You don't judge principles by the outcomes of trials," Mr Hawke said. His Government had embraced the principle that genocide must be redressed when it enacted the War Crimes Act in 1987.

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