

Would-be terrorists face jail

THEY were urged to do 'maximum damage' by committing violent jihad on Australian soil, but now five Muslim men face possible life sentences after being found guilty in the nation's longest terror trial.

A NSW Supreme Court jury was told that between them, the five men — and four other men who previously pleaded guilty to related offences — 'possessed large quantities of literature which supported indiscriminate killing, mass murder and martyrdom in pursuit of violent jihad'.

Raids on the men's homes revealed a stockpile of firearms, ammunition, chemicals and a 'substantial amount' of camping equipment which the crown said was 'for lying low or disappearing either before or immediately after the commission of a terrorist act'.

Extremist literature and 'instructional DVDs' about building homemade bombs and suicide bomber's belts found in their homes showed the men had violent intent, crown prosecutor Richard Maidment SC said.

Notorious Melbourne cleric Sheikh Bakr was secretly recorded telling some of the men they had to prepare to 'die or be jailed'.

"If we want to die for jihad we do maximum damage, maximum dam-

age. Damage their buildings with everything, and damage their lives, just to show them," he said in one conversation played to the jury.

After a 10-month trial in a purpose-built court in Parramatta and following four-and-a-half weeks of deliberations, a jury returned with its unanimous verdicts yesterday.

The men, aged 44 to 25, were each found guilty of a charge of conspiring to commit an act, or acts, in preparation for a terrorist act between July 2004 and November 2005.

After the jury handed down its verdict, Justice Anthony Whealy thanked the five women and seven men for their 'significant and unique achievement'.

Immediately outside the overflowing courtroom — where a television screen streamed live images to family members and waiting media — one man swore and shouted as the foreman read out the verdicts.

The brother of one of the convicted men said the verdicts would spell trouble for Australia.

"If they think this will stop terrorism, imprisoning these people, I don't think it will stop terrorism," he said.

"I think it will increase the threat on Australia."

The men face sentencing in December.



OUTRIGGERS . . . Joe Hoolahan, Anthony Contarino and Ren Pedersen are raising money for The Cure Starts Now Foundation
Photo: SUZANNE LOWE

Challenge to help find cancer cure

REN Pedersen is using his involvement in The Cure Starts Now Cancer Research Foundation to help keep his mind busy after tragically losing his daughter Amy earlier this year.

The charity will receive proceeds as part of this weekend's Corporate Outrigger Challenge.

Mr Pedersen said as well as raising money for the foundation they were looking to raise greater awareness of the debilitating disease.

"We are primarily about awareness and what we are

more or less doing is trying to encourage institutions to get on board," he said.

"There is nothing being done in Australia at the moment and we are looking to show the greater public this is a very important issue."

Residents are urged to attend the event and lend their support to the foundation.

It is also run in partnership with the Magnetic Island Outrigger Club and is the main event on the club's calendar.

Achieve business development manager Joe Hoolahan said the day was

designed to promote awareness on a number of levels.

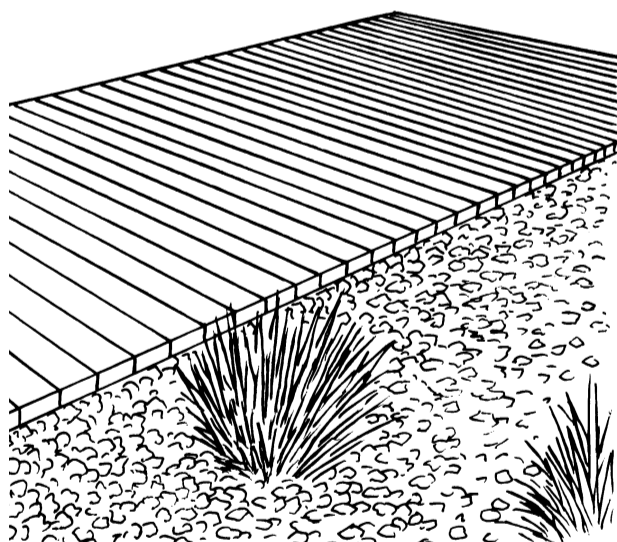
"This is the main event of the year to drive membership and participation in the sport of outrigger and also as a fundraiser," he said.

"Every year we look to donate proceeds to charities and this year the outrigger club will be donating to The Heart Foundation and Achieve has got on board with The Cure Starts Now Foundation."

The Corporate Outrigger challenge will be held on The Strand from 9am until 1pm Sunday.

Kiln Dried Merbau Decking

90 x 19mm.



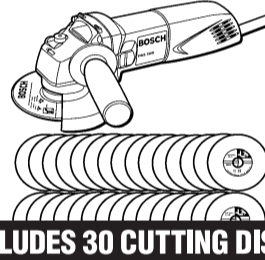
\$4.98 PER LINEAR METRE

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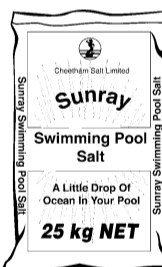


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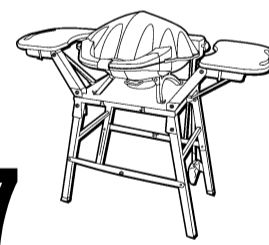
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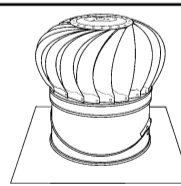
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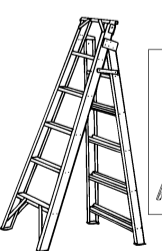
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FREE ADULT D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
11am: How to select your colour scheme
2pm: How to prepare walls for painting
SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
11am: How to lay ceramic wall tiles
2pm: How to lay ceramic floor tiles

FREE KIDS' D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 17TH & SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
Mosaic workshop
Bookings essential. Contact your local Warehouse for times.

FREE ACTIVITIES

EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Face painting
Contact your local Warehouse for details.

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