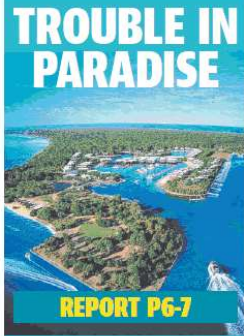




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## TROUBLE IN PARADISE

REPORT P6-7



## FIRING UP AT BROADIE'S NEW BAR

NEARBY residents are fuming at a new Broadbeach bar in their midst, claiming Saturday's wild launch with fire cannons, dancing on tables and loud music until late was an "unacceptable" new level even for the tourist hub. **REPORT 15**



### BORDER LINE CALL

A RENEWED push to reopen the Gold Coast border to Greater Sydney is being mounted, with warnings keeping it closed much longer will lead to devastating economic damage. **REPORT P7**



# PALAZZO PETROL BOMBSHELL

### GM: 'Rather douse myself and be set alight than keep listening to gripes'

ALISTER THOMSON

PALAZZO Versace's general manager would rather be "doused in petrol" and set alight than deal with "abuse" of wealthy condo owners. The statement is in an email from Jane Kingston to condo owner and millionaire Sarina Russo's lawyer. It adds fuel to an escalating dispute

between condo owners and management of the swanky hotel over what they consider excessive management fees. "It may be easier for you to douse me in petrol and perhaps (a body corporate member) can light the match. It'd quite honestly be less painful than the constant barrage of abuse," Ms Kingston writes. **REPORT P5**

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Sana Latona, 7, of Brisbane, and Savannah Perugini at Kidchella. Picture: Jason O'Brien

## KIDCHELLA A HIT

KYLE WISNIEWSKI

YOU'RE never too young to party and a Gold Coast kids festival proved that when Kidchella hit the Gold Coast over the weekend.

On Sunday a sellout of 500 kids went to Broadbeach's Oracle Boulevard for a day of fun activities, a live DJ and mocktails and food to

celebrate the end of the school holidays.

Broadbeach's Phillipa and Anthony Perugini took their kids Isabella, 8, and Savannah, 5, to the event.

"It was well organised. My husband and I enjoyed a drink at Bavarian while watching over kids who had great fun with flower band making and temporary tattoos," she said.



# Emails add more fuel to Palazzo feud

ALISTER THOMSON

PALAZZO Versace's general manager fumes she'd rather be "doused in petrol" and set alight than deal with a "barrage of abuse" from wealthy condo owners.

The extraordinary statement is contained in an email from Jane Kingston to condo owner and recruitment millionaire Sarina Russo's lawyer David Ormesher.

It adds fuel to an escalating dispute between condo owners and management of the swanky hotel resort over what they consider excessive management fees.

The latest argument blew up when Mr Ormesher emailed Palazzo Versace general manager Ms Kingston on January 19 complaining condo owners were not notified via the speaker system that the cause of a "total blackout" at 12.52am was not because of an emergency such as a fire.

"Owners would reasonably be on alert there may be an emergency situation such as a fire," he said.

"Accordingly, the customary process with commercial and most residential buildings is initially there is advice over the speaker system as to the nature of the outage and of course, any instructions such as to evacuate."

He said Ms Russo was unable to contact security and in the circumstances was left with no choice but to call triple-0 "to verify if they were aware of the nature of the emergency".

"In Sarina's conversations with triple-0 services, they too confirmed they had tried several times unsuccessfully to contact Versace security," he said.

"Naturally, this is a disappointing response against reasonable expectations. It is appropriate this is duly put on record and a response is pro-



Jane Kingston.



Sarina Russo.

vided from the hotel and/or body corporate regarding the non-functioning of the speaker system and the delayed security response."

Security manager Peter Carmody then responded to Ms Kingston, in a message forwarded to Mr Ormesher, that he did not agree the outage was a "significant incident", stating it happened when most residents were asleep.

He said to use the emergency speaker system to inform residents "would amount to be a non-justifiable action taking into account there was in fact no emergency situation causing imminent danger to life or property".

"Guests and residents who were awake at the time, had no problem contacting the security mobile, which is all logged," he said. "There is no log of your client contacting security. To suggest there was non-functioning of the speaker system and a delayed security response is nothing short of a complete slur upon the integrity of the security department."

Ms Kingston then sent a message to Mr Ormesher that a requirement to qualify his actions under the gaze of a "critical audience" was becoming tiresome.

"Perhaps instead of the consistent public flogging and interrogation hotel team members including myself are subjected to, it may be easier for you to douse me in petrol and perhaps (body corporate

committee member) Nicky Fitzhenry can light the match as it would quite honestly be less painful than the constant barrage of 'abuse' that is received," she said.

Ms Kingston said the hotel was still providing security despite unpaid management fees.

"If this email is a further attempt to discredit the hotel services and operation, it should be noted we are fully aware of some condominium owner's (sic) intent to disengage all hotel services which we have no objection to.

"However, it should be noted this will come at a significant expense to all condominium owners, considering the necessary hardware and software that will be required should you discard the hotel services."

The Bulletin made multiple requests to Palazzo Versace for comment but received no response.

A Palazzo Versace owner said there was an ongoing dispute between owners and management over what they considered excessive fees.

"Condo owners are not happy with the level of service," the owner said. "What they are trying to do is make the hotel accountable in terms of its maintenance."

He said that was difficult when the body corporate committee was dominated by the hotel, with three representatives to the owners' two.

The dispute has been brewing for months.

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