

# Boy, 12, 'in show attack'

By Allan Murphy  
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## Police oppose bail because of risk

A 12-YEAR-old boy on bail over an alleged armed robbery has again been released from custody after he was arrested over an assault and theft at the Mildura Show this month.

A Children's Court was told the boy was among a group of youths who attacked a 17-year-old girl, who was at the show with her 10-year-old sister, for giving him a "dirty look".

The court was told one of the youths became involved in a verbal altercation with the female teenager before the group began following her about 8pm on Saturday, October 19.

A co-accused grabbed the girl around the head before other members of the group began to punch and kick her at a ticket booth, the court was told.

Police prosecutor Senior Constable Kristen Simm told the court the alleged victim dropped her wallet containing about \$200 during the assault.

It is alleged the 12-year-old boy picked up the wallet and divided the money with others.

The boy was interviewed about the incident at a police station on Monday.

The court heard the boy was also facing other charges arising from earlier this year, including an incident in which two men were taken to hospital with serious injuries after one of them was slashed across the face with a Stanley knife.

Sen-Constable Simm said the 12-year-old boy and two co-offenders – aged 11 and 17 – were riding scooters when they confronted the men in Thirteenth Street last month and demanded "empty your f\*\*\*ing pockets".

The prosecutor said the youths tried to lure the men into a fight before a co-accused used a Stanley knife and attempted to slash the throat of one of the victims, but missed.

However, the co-accused swung the blade

at the man again, striking him to the side of the face, the court was told.

Sen-Constable Simm said the man suffered a 10cm laceration running from his nose to left ear, which required 12 stitches.

The court was told that a week later the 12-year-old was at a local school when he held a 25cm knife to his own neck and performed a throat-cutting gesture towards another student.

The prosecutor said the student began to cry and shake in fear that the boy would carry out the threat.

The court heard that in July this year the boy was riding around Mildura's streets with two co-accused when they accosted a victim in Twelfth Street – who was asked to hand over his phone or he would be stabbed – before riding off.

In opposing bail for the boy, Sen-Constable Simm said his alleged offending had escalated in its severity and he would

be an unacceptable risk to the community if released.

She said he had been residing in part with his grandmother but she no longer wanted him in her care because she could not control him.

The boy's counsel said the accused had handed himself in to police voluntarily and if released there could be opportunities for him to engage with Youth Justice and continue his schooling.

"It doesn't seem to have worked in the past," Magistrate Gregory McNamara responded.

Mr McNamara said the accused had no reliable accommodation and bail could not be granted in the hope that measures could be explored thereafter.

The magistrate adjourned proceedings so the boy's counsel could make further inquiries before the matter returned to court.

Mr McNamara, however, agreed to release the boy on bail on conditions including that he engage with Youth Justice, abide by a 9pm to 7am curfew and not return to his previous school.



With One Voice Mildura singers Win Moser, Kelvin Menzel, Helen Healy and Cassandra Menzel when the choir formed last year.

## Song goes on with spirit

By Caitlyn Morgan  
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A CHOIR promoting social inclusion has proven a massive hit in its first year.

More than 70 people have joined the choir, With One Voice Mildura, which tackles loneliness, isolation, depression and disadvantage in the community.

"There is a real growing awareness of how good singing is for your mental health," choir conductor Catherine Threlfall said.

"In rural communities people

are really wanting to be involved in the community and feeling like it is important for them to be involved."

The first birthday of With One Voice Mildura and the second birthday of Out of the Box Sunraysia will be celebrated in a joint event, The Big Busk Birthday Bash.

"The choir is very committed to local people and what they can offer," Ms Threlfall said. "We thought it was a perfect pairing as music and food go super well together."

"The choir has had a pretty healthy start, it has grown much more quickly than I thought."

Ms Threlfall said not only had there been a lot of support with people joining the choir but the community had "really embraced" the group.

"We have been really excited by just how strongly the community has come out in support of the choir," she said.

The Big Busk Birthday Bash will be held at Nowingi Place on Friday, November 8, from 6pm

It is a busking fundraising event for With One Voice Mildura and the group will collect loose change donations.

## \$145,000 in drugs 'for Mildura sale'

By Sarah Harman  
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DRUGS found in the roof lining and scattered throughout a car had a street value up to almost \$145,000, and were intended to be sold entirely in Mildura, a court has heard.

Rochelle Mattiazzo pleaded guilty to trafficking methamphetamine after agreeing to drive her co-accused to Melbourne for the purpose of buying two ounces of ice, in exchange for one gram for her personal use.

Before Mildura Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, Magistrate Gregory McNamara acknowledged the 22-year-old was not the ring-leader of the operation, but said she knowingly assisted in trafficking meth, which did "enormous harm" in the community.

On July 3 this year Mattiazzo and her co-accused were travelling back from picking up the drugs in Melbourne, when they came across a random breath test near Carwar and pulled over in an attempt to avoid detection.

They were approached by police and arrested after a small deal bag of ice was found in the car.

Officers carried out a further search of the vehicle at

the police station and found a total of 144.8g of ice, the majority hidden in the car's roof lining.

The court was told the large quantity had a street value of \$72,400 to \$144,800 and equated to 1448 single uses.

Mattiazzo told police she was not involved in trafficking the drug, but was a user herself.

She said there may be other drugs under the bonnet of the car and the co-accused had told her during the trip he intended to sell them on the streets of Mildura.

Defence counsel Peter Delorenzo said she was charged with trafficking two ounces while her co-accused was charged with trafficking five ounces and given her "limited involvement", guilty plea and age, asked she be considered for a community corrections order.

Mr McNamara sentenced her to 60 days' jail, served in pre-sentence detention, and placed her on a community corrections order for 12 months.

She must undertake 50 hours of community work, which can be attributed to any treatment she receives for drug abuse, mental health issues or offending behaviour.

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