

COURIER QUICK QUIZ

- 1 In which city are the Olympic Games to be held next year?
- 2 Where did the homes for children known as Barnardo originate?
- 3 Australian actor (NZ-born) Russell Crowe has already won an Academy Award Oscar. Name the film and year.
- 4 In which year was the first Rugby (union) World Cup (RWC) played?
- 5 How and when did the Order of Australia originate?
- 6 Name the Australian author of *A Town Like Alice* and *On the Beach*.
- 7 In medical terms, what are paediatrics?
- 8 Name of the ship of British admiral Viscount Horatio Nelson in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805?

Compiled by Adrienne Dodd

Answers on page 38

IN BRIEF

BRIDGE CAMERAS New thermal-imaging cameras will be installed on Anzac Bridge and the Sydney Harbour Bridge to increase security. Minister for Roads Carl Scully said the Government would call for tenders in October to install the latest thermal-imaging technology that will provide surveillance in places where there is little or even no light.

Private eye brought to book

Report **NICOLE TRIANTAFILLOU**

The real life of a private investigator couldn't be more removed from fictional portrayals, according to Warren Mallard, who runs Lyonswood Investigations in Drummoyne.

The former goldsmith and policeman, who has been in the business for more than 20 years and employs 58 operatives, is quick to fend off comparisons with the glamorous world of *Magnum PI* or the crusty characters of other television dramas.

"The perception of a private investigator is someone who wears a deerstalker hat and trenchcoat, smokes a pipe, lives out of a foam cup, has a blonde bimbo secretary who files her fingernails waiting for the phone to ring and is a disgraced police officer who interviews people by beating them into submission," Mr Mallard said.

"The reality is it's 99 per cent boredom and 1 per cent adrenalin. There's a lot of waiting around and hard work before a case can be closed and the worst part of the job is being a surveillance operative where you sit in a vehicle, have to be completely silent, you can't leave your position for hours and you have to take your food and water with you."

And there is nothing clandestine about the



Warren Mallard, private investigator.

Photo: Melanie Fabbro

way Mr Mallard advertises his business. He has a street shingle marked with an eye and drives around with number plates that read "detect". For Mr Mallard, it's all about demystifying the business, something which has motivated him to contribute to the latest edition of *The Private Investigator's Handbook*, written in collaboration with colleague Ashley Keith. The book is to be launched this month and Mr Mallard will appear as part of a panel of authors at the NSW Writer's Centre for the "Spring into Murder" seminar.

While much of the bread and butter of his

work comes from insurance and fraud cases, Mr Mallard sees about a dozen clients a week who want to investigate their partners on suspicion of infidelity. One client hired him to find his pet tarantula which went missing after a home robbery.

"A fellow came in and he had imported into Australia - illegally - a rare, ruby-haired tarantula from Chile," he said. "It was a huge spider and was apparently, according to him, the only one in the country."

"A friend coveted the spider so it was our job to ascertain whether the spider was with his friend. We had a guy posing as a courier go to the friend's house asking to use the toilet and as he went in he saw some tanks and masqueraded as a collector.

"He identified the ruby-haired tarantula and got the guy on hidden camera saying it's the only one in the country."

Mr Mallard solved the case but then had to hand the client over to customs for illegally possessing the spider.

Mr Mallard will speak at the "Spring into Murder" seminar at the NSW Writer's Centre in the grounds of Rozelle Hospital, Balmain Road, Rozelle, on Saturday, September 27 at 10 am. Phone 9555 9757.