

Upgrades on track but police beg drivers: 'Slow down on country roads'

By ZOE SINCLAIR

COUNTRY drivers have been warned to drive cautiously on older sections of highway and around roadworks as the Dawson Highway upgrades continue.

Two accidents occurred in the Biloela and Theodore area at the weekend and, while the investigations into their causes are yet to be completed, drivers have been urged not to hastily blame the roads.

Roadworks have continued in the Calliope and Biloela areas and Calliope police officer-in-charge Sergeant Mick Despot

said the improvements had made a vast difference to the area.

"It's a massive improvement compared to the old road," Sgt Despot said.

"People have to remember there are older sections of the highway.

"You must reduce your speed to your car's capability."

Biloela officer-in-charge Sergeant John Edwards also warned against country drivers becoming complacent about driving long distances.

"Generally the road is good for the area," he said.

"More than anything there

tend to be long distances involved for country drivers and they need to watch out for fatigue."

Main Roads Central District Director Terry Hill said construction crews had finished work on the first 35 kilometre section of Dawson Highway between Biloela and Banana and started upgrading the remaining 36 kilometres between Calliope and Biloela.

"The completed section of Dawson Highway is a much smoother and safer drive now that it has a standard seal width of nine metres, and improved visibility at intersections and

private property accesses."

Mr Hill said the \$64 million project to upgrade 71 kilometres of the Dawson Highway between Calliope and Rolleston, and to replace seven timber bridges by the end of the year, was running well on course and had delivered some major milestones since it began in August.

"Not only has half of the Dawson Highway been reconstructed, two new concrete bridges at Zamia Creek and Clovernook Creek are now open to traffic, and works to replace the remaining five timber bridges between Calliope and Biloela are continuing at a good pace."

IN BRIEF

Theodore on TV

RESIDENTS of Theodore watched curiously when a travel show rolled into the Central Queensland town last Thursday.

The visitors from Channel 7's *Queensland Weekender* spent part of late last week filming the Theodore Hotel as part of a story on Queensland's historic hotels.

Residents were told the show was expected to go to air in about two months.

Snapshot

A SNAPSHOT of Queensland will be generated from a public opinion phone survey to be held mid-2007.

The Population Research Laboratory, based at CQU, will conduct the Queensland Social Survey (2007 QSS) in July and August this year. The survey offers community and academic researchers the opportunity to access large-scale population-based research for a fraction of the cost associated with stand-alone surveys by sponsoring questions.

For more information regarding the survey please contact Christine Hanley on 07 4930 6335.

Lester returns

FORMER Member for Keppel Vince Lester is returning to the state's political landscape.

Mr Lester, who retired in 2004, will join the team of Queensland Nationals Senator Ron Boswell.

"He is a great campaigner and a great politician - so if he has got the skills, you should use them," Senator Boswell said.

"He will be getting the office into shape and doing a bit of constituency work."

Mr Lester was a state Nationals MP for 30 years, representing Belyando and Peak Downs before becoming Member for Keppel.



Australian Technical College - Gladstone Region chief executive officer David Gilmour discusses Michael Cameron's future as an Australian School-based Apprentice with NRG. nrgs140307-1

Michael plugs into a career

TOOLOOA State High School student Michael Cameron is on the path to success after being signed this week as NRG Gladstone Operation Services' first Australian School-based Apprentice enrolled through the Australian Technical College - Gladstone Region.

The Year 12 student said he could not believe his good fortune in being placed in an electrical apprenticeship while still at school.

"I have wanted to do electrical engineering for some time and my family, who are all from trade backgrounds, have been encouraging me to consider a trade first, so this is the perfect opportunity and one for which I am grateful," Michael said.

As an Australian School-based Apprentice with the Australian Technical College - Gladstone Region, Michael is required to complete three subjects at school, relevant trade coursework and attend NRG two days a week until the end of the year when he continues as a full-time apprentice.

College Chief Executive Officer David Gilmour said Michael had undergone rigorous testing and training in preparation for his Australian School-based Apprenticeship. "We put all our students through a work readiness course and Michael showed great aptitude for an electrical career," Mr Gilmour said.

"He excelled in his understanding of mechanical ideas."

Meanwhile, Mr Gilmour said Michael's appointment was a major coup for the college.

"We have placed more than 30 apprentices since starting last year but this is the first in heavy industry in Gladstone," he said.

"Michael's placement shows NRG is pro-active in addressing skills needs in our community and I applaud all those involved for effecting this arrangement."

NRG Manager Maintenance Mark Zammit said NRG was pleased to support the college in developing apprenticeships for young people and saw this program as complementary to the existing apprenticeship program which has been running at NRG for many years.

Missed your local news lately?
Catch up on what's been happening on our new website:
www.gladstoneobserver.com.au
Log on today!!

investing? INVESTMENT GRADE RATED by STANDARD & POOR'S

term deposit \$20,000 or more for 12 months interest paid on maturity **6.3% pa**

cash management account over \$50,000 with daily access and interest paid quarterly **6.15% pa**

real people real smiles real service

1300 wide bay business hours 9 4 3 3 2 2

to a local branch

- Goondoon Street
- Stockland Gladstone
- Tannum Central

wide bay AUSTRALIA LTD banking your way

Wide Bay Australia Ltd ABN 40 087 652 060 AFSLN 239686 issues these Accounts. To decide if they are right for you please read 'Your Guide to Wide Bay Australia's Accounts and Banking Services' available at our branches or www.widebayaust.com.au. Offer current 23/11/06 but may change without notice.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER HAS BEEN EXTENDED

\$75 OFF

GHD HAIR IRON EXCHANGE

über.hair

ghd

4972 2602

offer expires 30th March 2007

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT A

PART-TIME APPRENTICE

WITH MOTIVATION & FOCUS

We have students who have undertaken suitability assessment and work readiness programs available to start in these trades:-

- Automotive
- Carpentry
- Diesel Fitting
- Electrical/ Systems
- Electrical/ Instrumentation
- Electrical/ Refrigeration
- Fabrication/ Boilermaking
- Fitter & Turner
- Plumbing

The Australian Technical College - Gladstone Region is 100% focused on providing apprentice training that delivers quality trades people of the future to your business.

It's time to act!

Australian Government Australian Technical College Gladstone Region

1/28 Beckinsale St, Gladstone. Phone: 4972 3655