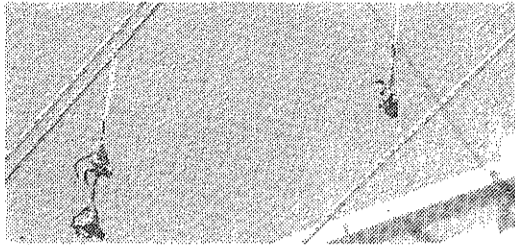


Richardson Report



WITH first impressions so important, perhaps someone up Cooloom so could do something about the off-putting sight pictured above — cane-toads tied together and slung over power lines at the entrance to the town on the Yandina-Cooloom Road near the school.

Daily chief photographer Ted Robinson tells RR this has been a frequent sight over the past couple of years, but no one seems to have done anything about it.

Maybe next year.

NAMBOUR Aquarium and Pet Centre proprietor John Woodrow would like to thank the mystery person who alerted the fire brigade to the fire which destroyed his shop last week.

Sadly, all the stock was lost, but the fire was prevented by Nambour firemen from spreading throughout the Bury Street block, thanks to the mystery man who disappeared after raising the alarm at the fire station.

BIRD-WATCHERS are a meticulous lot — they have to be, so Nature in Profile column co-ordinator Janet Whish-Wilson called to draw our attention to an error in last Tuesday's column about the Fairy Wrens.

The young of both sexes resemble the female, not the male, as stated in the article.

Now we can all rest easy.

RRReader Albert Haines, of Maroochydhore, is still shaking his head in disbelief after learning that it would cost \$5 to have a piece of fish cooked.

His wife had selected a nice piece from the display fridge at a Coast outlet, and asked to have it cooked, only to be told that it would cost extra. Fair enough . . . but \$5?

The Haines promptly changed their mind about what might be nice for tea.

RRReader Eric Orpin supplies a bit of food for thought on the subject of ambulance service.

Noting that shortage of funds has been quoted as the reason for the non-introduction of two-person ambulance teams as standard, he recalls that in Hobart, the ambulance was operated by the city council and thus funded by ratepayers (and other residents through their rents).

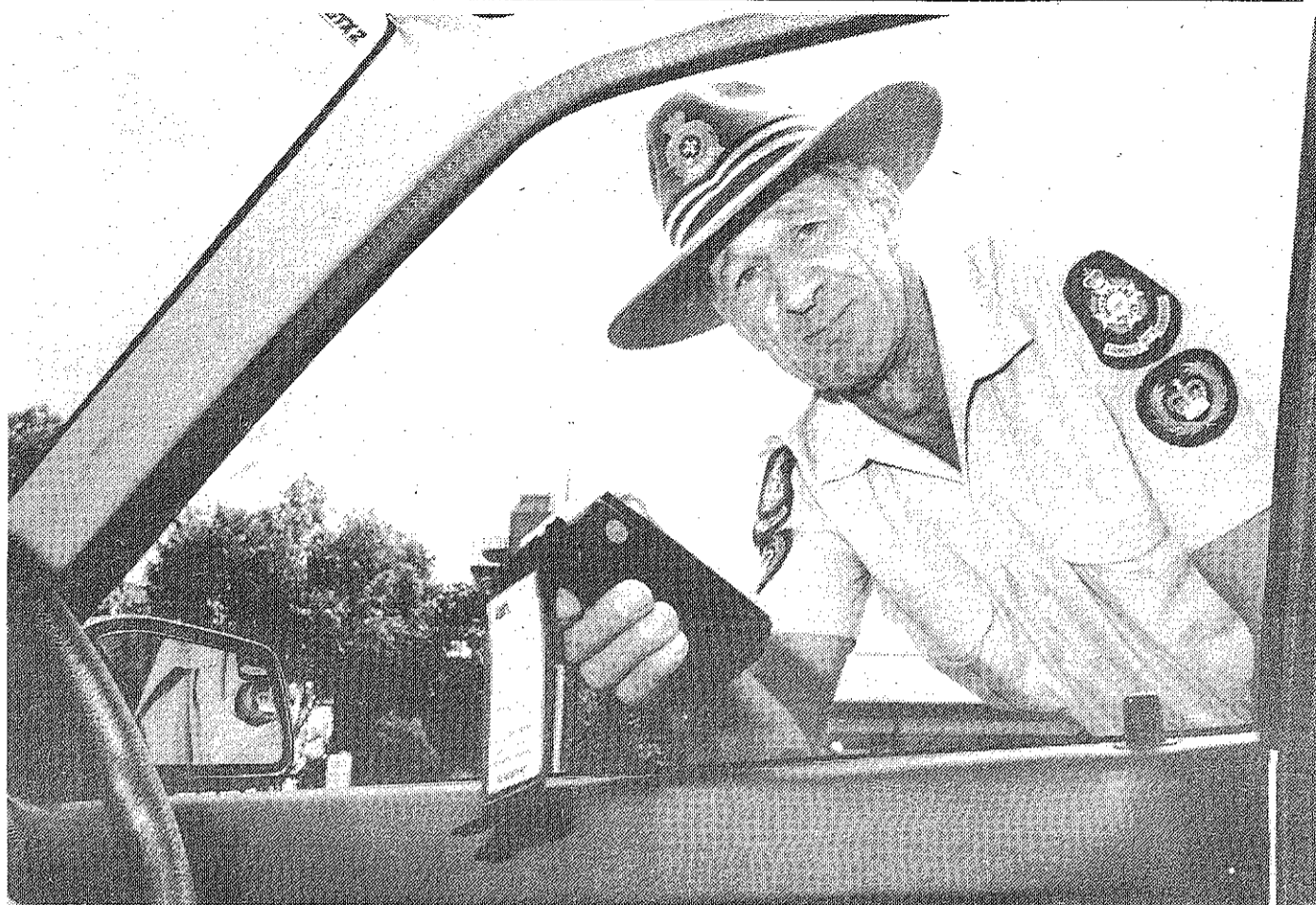
Such a system, he says, would do away with the situation in which QATB members subsidise the emergency care of those who make no contribution.

(Presumably the QATB does not recover all its costs when answering emergency calls involving non-members.)

What do readers think of the idea?

PETER RICHARDSON

RANDOM BREATH TESTING BECOMING COMMON SIGHT



● ABOVE: Senior Sergeant Stan Lenord, of Noosa police, demonstrates the random breath testing procedure, which is fast becoming a common sight around the Sunshine Coast since legislation was introduced this month. RBTs have been responsible for a fall in drink-driving and accidents over Christmas this year, according to Sunshine Coast police.

Police praise behaviour of motorists

By ROBYN BORNHORST

SUNSHINE Coast police today gave motorists a "p. back" in appreciation for good behaviour over the Christmas long weekend.

Police spokesmen at Caloundra, Nambour, Maroochydhore, Noosa and Caboolture said the number of car accidents was down on last year, probably because drinkers had been scared off the roads by random breath testing and heavy police patrols.

No major accidents had been recorded on the Coast since Friday's two-vehicle fatality outside the Sunshine Plantation, in which a 50-year-old woman was killed.

The Coast followed an overall trend which saw drink-driving arrests in South-east Queensland fall 40 per cent on last year's Christmas weekend.

Maroochydhore officer-in-charge Senior Sergeant Ken McDonald said police — including officers from the Brisbane Traffic Branch, Main Roads and State Transport departments — blitzed the Coast over the weekend.

Main Roads and State Transport netted some motorists for regulation breaches. However, road patrols and RBT teams made less than 10 arrests out of more than 170 random breath tests, he said.

"We have been getting lots of 0.00 readings. We've had no major accidents in our area and almost no minor

one — perhaps because there are no drink-drivers on the roads," he said.

Noosa police reported a "ridiculously quiet" Christmas long weekend with no accidents and no drink-driving arrests.

Caboolture police reported 13 arrests from RBT patrols and a minor accident. Nambour and Caloundra police agreed that RBTs and police patrols had made Christmas safer on the roads this year. There had been few drink-driving arrests, they said.

Brisbane Traffic Branch Superintendent Vince Murphy said yesterday 1000 motorists had been booked for speeding by RBT squads in South-east Queensland, but only about 27 for drink-driving.

Among the highest readings found by RBT teams were at Donnybrook, where two motorists with blood-alcohol levels of 0.29 and 0.24 were trapped.

Random breath testing also took to the sea over Christmas with a visit to the Coast from the Brisbane Water Police.

Recent legislation to allow random tests of motorists also includes drivers on the ocean waves, as a few surprised boaties learned yesterday. A Water Police spokesman said they had all the power of traffic police.

YOUNG HERO IN 'TRADITIONAL' BELT RESCUE

By ALISON WALSH

A 17-YEAR-OLD Sunshine Coast lifesaver was proclaimed a hero by a fellow club member yesterday after he brought in a capsized catamaran by traditional belt and reel at Mooloolaba Beach.

Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club treasurer Ken Rufford said he and the youth, Brendan Cleaver, had taken a club Inshore Rescue Boat to assist two men whose catamaran had broken its mast after capsizing about 200 metres off the breakwater at Point Cartwright.

A two metre swell made it difficult for the IRB to tow the boat in. One man aboard the catamaran was brought in to shore and the other stayed with the boat.

After returning to shore Brendan swam 800 metres with a surf belt and line so the vessel and other man could be reeled in.

Mr Rufford said Brendan's swim had been an "heroic thing" in difficult surf conditions.

Brendan said it was an unusual experience to use the reel and belt as they had been superseded by the Inshore Rescue Boats.

He said two lifesavers had payed out the line and assisted while he swam out and secured the line. There were plenty of people to help pull the boat in.

"It was a hard swim because the one to two metre waves kept knocking the line down into the sand, which made it stick," Brendan said.

The swim back was also difficult because of a strong rip.

Brendan said he did not think he had done anything particularly heroic. "It was just part of being a lifesaver," he said.

Police issue warning

□ From page 1.

A PLAINCLOTHES police patrol combed Currimundi Beach and searched the nearby Currimundi Special School but found no trace of the man, who they described as "tanned, aged 30-40 and with a beer gut".

The description is similar to a man who chased a woman and her young children at Dicky Girls in November, and who watched two young girls at the Currimundi Lake women's toilet earlier this month and was later seen behaving indecently.

The spokesman said children should not be allowed to walk to the beach alone.

"Parents should keep an eye on their children. Don't allow kids to walk to the beach alone. And women should make sure that they are sunbaking near other people," he said.

In a separate incident, the police beach patrol arrested a man on a charge of behaving in an indecent manner yesterday.

City heart facelift begins with Bulcock Beach work

CONSTRUCTION has started on the Bulcock Beach boardwalk in Caloundra.

The boardwalk, between Tay and Otranto Avenue, forms a major part of Caloundra City Council's central business district revitalisation program. The work on the Bulcock Beach section, to be carried out in three stages, is due to be completed by Christmas next year.

Stage one involved the resealing of the Bulcock Beach carpark, construc-

tion of the first section of the boardwalk and upgrading the two intersections on the Esplanade. Stage two is due to start next March and includes the construction of the boardwalk down to the Ithaca Surf Life Saving Club and rebuilding the clubhouse.

The third and final stage includes a new walkway to the Bulcock Beach carpark and upgrading of picnic facilities. The council is also investigating the possibility of a restaurant overlooking the beach.

Sunshine Coast Daily

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