

## ROBBERIES SPIKE



More armed robberies have been reported in the first few months of this financial year than the whole of the previous year.

## CLEAN UP

Moreton Bay Regional Councillor Julie Greer (Division 4) is urging residents to promote a sense of pride in their area by disposing of litter in parks, bus stops and shopping centres. Residents can report abandoned shopping trolleys to 1800 641 497.



**UP NEXT:** Dam safety campaign launched.



**PAGE 8:** Find out what the hot topics of conversation are.



**ONLINE:** The latest news at [www.questnews.com.au](http://www.questnews.com.au).

# Officers looking forward to spacious new digs

IT is the end of an era and a new beginning for Pine Rivers District Police as they prepare to move into their new home at Petrie.

Inspector Lee Jeffries, who will be based at the new headquarters, said it would allow for general duty officers at Petrie Station to have more room.

Support services and community contacts, including crime prevention, domestic and family violence and police liaison officers, will be based at the new site.

"It is a lovely building with a lot of history in the local area and it will be very convenient to have everyone working together," he said.

Superintendent Des Lacy said he was looking forward to "everyone being under one roof".

"Since 2002 when Pine Rivers became a district of its own, the district staff have been in the Petrie police station," he said.

"We were over-crowding the Petrie station and putting a lot of pressure on general duty officers.

"For the first time Pine Rivers District staff will have their own office which will also include a major incident room."

Metropolitan North Police Region Assistant Com-



**'GOOD FIT':** Assistant Commissioner Peter Martin and Superintendent Des Lacy look over the new headquarters at Petrie.

missioner Peter Martin visited the building last month and was surprised and impressed by the new digs.

"I was there a few weeks

ago and it was looking very good," he said.

"Things are progressing really well and we are looking forward to the official

opening when Police Minister Neil Roberts is expected to attend.

Assistant Commissioner Martin said the new building

was a "very good fit for policing in the area".

"You will be very surprised by what they've done inside to an old building," he said.

# Man loses leg as car hits shop

A 64-year-old Strathpine man had his leg amputated over the weekend after he was hit by a car that crashed through the front of a Clayfield newsagency on Friday morning.

Sonia Smith was working at Junction Rd Newsagency beside the Eagle Junction train station just before 5.30am serving the Strathpine man when a car veered off Junction Rd and crashed through the front of the store.

The driver of the car was a 65-year-old man.

Ms Smith said she knew the "friendly" man only as Ken and that he was a regular customer at the newsagency.

"Every day he pops in to get the paper," she said.

"I was working behind the counter at the time and Ken was in the shop.

"I was with him when it all happened.

"It was really scary."

The 64-year-old was taken to the Royal Brisbane Hospital with serious leg injuries and was in a critical condition on Friday afternoon.

The Forensic Crash Investigation unit attended the scene.

# Spike in armed robberies

**WORRYING STATISTICS:** ARMED ROBBERIES ARE WELL UP AND WE ARE NOT EVEN HALFWAY THROUGH THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

MORE armed robberies have been reported in the first few months of this financial year than the total amount last financial year.

The Queensland Police Annual Statistical Review showed 12 armed robberies were reported in the 2010/11 year, four more than the previous year.

Already this year at least 19 businesses have been targeted, the latest at the weekend.

Pine Rivers Police Superintendent Des Lacy said: "In tough economic times we see more people willing to take more risks to get money."

"We've seen a spike in this district in armed robberies over the last few months."

In the latest armed robbery, two men armed with a handgun entered a service station at Old North Rd, Warner, at 10.30pm on Sunday and demanded money.

The male employee complied and the two offenders fled on foot with a sum of cash and cigarettes. It's the fifth time the store

has been hit in two years.

Inspector Lee Jeffries said it was important "to remove the risk of becoming an easy target".

"Installing well-signed CCTV cameras is a way to reduce the risk of being targeted as well as helping police investigate if you do become a victim."

Supt Lacy said any person approached by an armed robber should not resist.

"Take notice of any clothing or features and which way they go when they leave. "This information helps police investigate."

Supt Lacy advised businesses to increase security and retain less cash.

## NEWS PACK

### WORKING GROUP

Moreton Bay Regional Council may set up a working group with State Government departments to look at traffic changes around high schools when Year 7 moves to high schools in 2015.

### LEGACY DONATION

Moreton Bay Regional Council will donate \$73,250 to Legacy. It was payment from the Federal Government for the service of a council employee, an army reservist, in Afghanistan.

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