

EXCITING TIMES



The Civil Partnership Bill has been welcomed by locals Jason Midgley and Matt Woods.
FULL REPORT BELOW

DRUG TESTS

Seven swabs returned a positive result for drugs in the Pine Rivers district this year by the end of September. Local police conducted 485 tests on local roads this year up to September 30 which represents a massive increase from the 287 conducted in 2010.



UP NEXT: Domestic violence is on the rise.



PAGE 11: Our readers share their views on hot local topics.



ONLINE: Latest giveaways at www.questnews.com.au.

Gift drive brings festive cheer to children in care

THE challenge has been set for Pine Rivers families to put as many presents as possible under the Christmas tree for the 8000 Queensland children in out-of-home care. The catch is we only have one week to do it.

A tree set up at the Strathpine Child Safety Service Centre will attract gifts for the thousands of children who will spend Christmas away from their home and in care through no fault of their own.

Child Safety Minister Phil Reeves said: "By donating a gift, we can brighten Christmas for Queensland's most vulnerable children".

"Any gift considered appropriate for a child in care will be greatly appreciated by children who may be in need of that little bit of extra joy this festive season."

This week Mango Hill siblings Eli, 2, and Zoe, 10, donated stationery so other children could enjoy Christmas as much as they do.

"It is nice to be able to give presents to children that are not as lucky as me," Zoe said.

"I gave some Smiggle stationery, which is my favourite I also gave a chicken to Oxfam this year."



EASY TO BEAR: Little Hayley from Wamuran at the Department of Community Safety's Christmas appeal launch. Picture: RUSSELL BROWN

Northern lights are sparkling

BURPENGARY Christmas lights displays are among the best in the north.

Two houses in the suburb won second and third prize in this year's North Residential 4KQ Christmas Lights competition.

The Zielinski family took out second place for their interactive display at 25 Addison Crt and Scott and Pam Fraser came third at 36 Blackbutt Crt.

While there were no outright winners in Pine Rivers, several displays were highly commended, and the best environmentally friendly display gong went to the Martins of 4 Gordons Crossing Road East.

In Petrie, the Clemsons of 33 Rue Montaigne and the Schlatters at 14 Vaucluse Crescent were highly commended.

Other highly commended Pine Rivers displays were at 12 Elm Drive, Murrumba Downs, 68 School Road, Kallangur, Doon Street, Kallangur and the Pine Rivers Uniting Church, Kallangur.

➔ See a full list of local Christmas lights displays on page 49 in our ABW section

Union result welcomed

PARLIAMENT SPEAKS: KALLANGUR MP SAYS SOCIETY WILL BE IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF NEW CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS LEGISLATION

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THE CIVIL Partnerships Bill will allow Jason Midgley and Matt Woods to be legally recognised as a couple but their dream of being married is still a long way off.

"It was fantastic news and we were pretty excited," Mr Midgley, 37, said after the Civil Partnership Bill was passed in the Queensland

Parliament on Wednesday, November 30, 47 votes to 40.

"It is not marriage which is our true wish but a win is a win and we will take it. "We will no doubt sign up in the near future."

Mr Woods, 31, said there had been a lot of questions and confusion surrounding the bill and what it actually meant.

"I still do not think the wider community quite

understand what this legal recognition means to us as a couple," he said.

"Civil unions are a legal validation of our relationship."

"Yes we are recognised as de-facto, but ask any engaged bride why she is getting married and her answer will be because she wants to be more than just a de-facto. "It is the same for us."

The couple, who held a

commitment ceremony earlier this year, said they were not activists but felt this issue was important.

"Hopefully gay marriage will come soon."

Local MPs Mary-Anne O'Neill (Kallangur) and Carolyn Male (Pine Rivers), both Labor, voted in favour of the bill.

In addressing the House, Ms O'Neill said: "I understand that there are people in

our community who feel deeply about their particular religious beliefs and have a genuine concern about the community. I would say to them that our society will not be any worse for this legislation.

"In fact, it will enhance our society and recognise the importance of strong, stable, loving relationships between couples, regardless of their gender."

NEWS PACK

NOISE MOVE

State MP for Kallangur Mary-Anne O'Neill tabled a petition in parliament on November 30 requesting the House install noise barriers along the Bruce Highway between the Murrumba Downs exit and North Lakes exit. There were 56 signatures.

SPORT TALK

The State Government is interested in what residents think about the sporting future in the Moreton Bay region. Have your say at communities.qld.gov.au/sportrec.

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