

# VOICE OF THE NORTH

## Townsville Bulletin

### Police on the beat cut crime

POLICE face a seemingly never-ending battle to combat property crime in Townsville.

During the month of February, police launched an intensive operation focused on taking a tougher stance against crime, with more officers on the street.

Known as Operation Quebec Ironside, it was a trial of "borderless policing" and saw more officers from across the city working together by getting out of stations and on to the streets.

The operation resulted in more than 300 people being charged with drug and property offences and was hailed a success by senior police.

However, as the operation wound down criminal activity began ramping up.

Today we report on police data that reveals in the month from February 23 to March 23 there were 76 cars stolen in Townsville.

This was nearly double the number stolen during the same period last year and was the most for any four-week period in the past 12 months.

It is strong evidence that the only truly effective way to combat this sort of crime is to increase police resources and put more officers on the street.

It is obvious from the success of Operation Quebec Ironside that it must be replicated on a more regular basis.

Ideally it should be implemented full-time, however this would require a greater commitment of staffing from the State Government.

Townsville's resources will be stretched over the next two weeks as officers meet Commonwealth Games demands.

It will be interesting to see what impact this drain on local police numbers has on crime statistics during that period.

Residents should be aware that the surge in crime over the past month is not likely to abate in the short term.

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Responsibility for election material appearing in this newspaper is taken by Anna Cairney, Level 2, 128 Flinders Street, Townsville.

# MPs the bigger cheats

I REFER to the predicament the Australian cricketers find themselves in with regards to ball tampering and worst of all being caught out.

The penalties meted out are very subjective but the penalty of not being allowed to play top grade cricket for 12 months is in my opinion insignificant compared to the stigma of being called a cheat for the rest of their lives.

But now we have absolute double standards and I refer to the article in *The Australian* newspaper regarding the

despicable behaviour of 21 Victorian Labor MPs. The MPs have been named at the centre of a 'rotas for votes' scheme which has been found to have breached parliamentary guidelines which found Labor misused almost \$400,000 in the 2014 election campaign.

It is reported the Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass found that Labor crossed the line in the permissible use of MP entitlements for the 2014 poll.

What makes this situation worse is it reported that the Andrews' government spent

more than \$1 million to try to stop the investigation into the misuse of the money. When that failed Daniel Andrews said, "He apologised for the misuse of the money". Would that be public money?

From the article Mr Andrews apparently said, "I've made it very clear that I'm sorry this had occurred, the most important thing here is to prove we're sincere in our apology and our response".

The cricketers would appear to be quite sincere as well. *The Australian* reported the

amount of fraudulent money used has been paid back, so does that mean that everything is all right now?

Perhaps 12 and nine month bans are somewhat excessive comparing it with the goings-on of the Victorian Labor Party because the cricketers will never be able to walk tall again. Under the circumstances maybe a one match ban is more in line making a comparison with the Victorian Labor Party's grubby dealings. It's just not cricket.

DAVID THOMINE, Cranbrook



GET OVER IT: Disgraced Australian Cricket Captain Steve Smith did the crime and must do the time.

PICTURE: AAP IMAGE

## Sex, lies, hypocrisy: a sorry state of affairs

I WOKE up this Easter Sunday with no intention of giving a sermon but hey, then I turned on the TV and got annoyed at the choice of importance given to the issues covered.

How long are we going to be inundated with the cricket scandal? As if we didn't hear and see enough of the incident while the culprits were still overseas, we then get to see them

repenting on their return to Australia and a few tears is supposed to gain our sympathy.

Now bring the families in. Of course everyone, including the families, is upset. They have lost the benefit of big salaries. But do wrong and pay the penalties.

Even though I would not like to be seen on TV scratching bells with a piece of sandpaper, apparently it has deeper

meaning. "It's just not cricket old chap!"

Then we have a vision of Katy Perry sexually harassing a young male competitor on some talent show on which she is a judge, but the replaying is more promotional than condemning. After the endless allegations of males acting inappropriately, why haven't we heard of charges being considered against Katy

for sexual harassment and possibly even assault, considering she headbutted him to the ground?

Irrespective of how women flaunt their attributes, the rule we must live by is look but don't touch. And we hear about women wanting equality? They couldn't handle it.

JOHN BEST, Boffie Plains

## Improved inland roads key to economic growth

THE Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) working group recently briefed decision makers in Canberra on the importance of reviewing the way in which road and infrastructure decision making occurs.

The working group believes the current method favours capital cities, particularly when it focuses on saving commute times. In rural and regional Queensland, we should be looking at wear and tear on

vehicles, resilient access for communities, the wellbeing of animals being transported and the ability to get goods from producers to markets and consumers without damage. If these broader factors were considered it would provide a much stronger case for further investment in Queensland's inland road network.

The Australian Government is undertaking an inquiry on regional inequality in Australia,

with particular reference to policies in areas including infrastructure. This strongly supports the case that there is actually inequality in investment in regional economic infrastructure.

The IQ-RAP partners have submitted a pre-Budget submission to the Australian Government to take the IQ-RAP to the next stage, which would include critical research to build the economic and social

benefits case for investment in regional roads.

Increasing the quality and accessibility of the inland road network is the key to economic growth in rural and regional Queensland and will also benefit the Queensland and national economy.

CR RECK BRITTON, Chair IQ-RAP Working Group, Mayor of Boulia Shire Council