

EXCLUSIVE: AIRPORT PLANS REVEALED

IN BRIEF...

Motorist flees

A KURRIMINE Beach man ran from his car after police tried to pull him over at the weekend. The 30-year-old was charged with evading police and drink-driving after allegedly blowing 0.15. A Silkwood man was also charged with drink-driving after the return of blood tests taken three months ago following a single vehicle accident. He allegedly recorded a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.22.

Drunk drivers

A MAN, 30, will face Innisfail Magistrates' Court after allegedly driving with a breath alcohol concentration more than five times the legal limit last night. Port Douglas police charged two men with drink-driving on Sunday night. Both were stopped as part of random breath tests. One driver, 43, blew a reading of 0.152 and a second driver, 19, returned a reading of .079.

Free tip trips

FOR four days residents will be able to dispose of their green vegetation waste at Cairns Water's transfer stations at Portsmouth, Smithfield, and Gordonvale for free. Cairns Water general manager Bruce Gardiner said the free offer applied to domestic users only, with cars, utes and/or trailers and light trucks up to four tonnes. The offer is available from Thursday to Sunday.

Mill legal fight

FORMER shareholders of the South Johnstone Mill still face a long wait in their legal action against the mill's receivers, who sold South Johnstone Mill to Bundaberg Sugar six years ago. A second directions hearing is due for early December in Melbourne.

Sharing stories

TRADITIONAL and contemporary Indigenous culture from the Cardwell region will be explored through a dance troupe and story teller tour guides thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Regional Arts Fund. The Sharing Our Stories - Dreaming Our Dreams project will run from January to July 2008.

Student expo

A CAREERS and leisure expo for students with special needs will be held next month. More than 40 service providers will be on display on November 9, from 9am to 1pm, at the Cairns Colonial Club, Behan St.



First class: Work has begun on Cairns airport's \$200 million makeover that will include extra parking, shops and bigger terminal space (inset).

\$200m terminal revival

THIS is the Far North's first look at the sleek new \$200 million makeover of Cairns airport's domestic terminal.

The redevelopment will include expanded shopping outlets, bigger terminal space with new baggage handling equipment and more car parking spaces, including some undercover.

Architects also incorporated new security elements in the redesign, with taxis and buses dropping off passengers at a separate area to the general public.

Gavin King

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The airport will be decked out in three themes of reef, rainforest and outback to match the region's Change Your Latitude branding.

Cairns Port Authority chief executive Neil Quinn said the airport was last redeveloped in 1997 when about 1.8 million passengers passed through the domestic terminal.

Mr Quinn said an estimated three million passengers were expected

next year. "Construction has commenced at the former Qantas arrivals end at the southern end of the terminal, and a complex staging process will go through to December 2009," he said.

"Parts of the redevelopment will be delivered through that time, underlying the requirement to maintain an operating terminal throughout the construction phase."



Neil Quinn

Mr Quinn urged people using the airport to allow an extra 15 minutes for their visit in case of delays caused during the construction period.

"It's a long construction period, the terminal will change through that time, and we appreciate everyone's tolerance and patience.

"We will end up with a product that's absolutely first class."

The redevelopment is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Mr Quinn today will reveal his vision for the airport and seaport at a Cairns Chamber of Commerce lunch.

Tourist says sorry after pulling knife on boaties

A SYDNEY tourist has apologised for pulling a knife on two men and two children after stealing their crab pot - but is still pleading not guilty to armed robbery.

Gavin Ronald Confoo, 41, was committed to a District Court trial on the charge yesterday after his legal team unsuccessfully argued he should instead be charged with stealing and common assault.

In the Magistrates' Court hearing, a letter of apology was tendered in which the Balmain real estate agent said he was sorry for stealing the pot and "upsetting the children" while on holiday in Cairns at Easter.

The court heard Mr Confoo was caught on

the morning of April 6 with the crab-pot in his boat by its owner Bruce Edward Morris, his friend Wayne Patrick Quirk and Mr Quirk's two children, aged four and three, as he was leaving a tributary of Smith's Creek.

The men, who gave evidence at yesterday's hearing, said they chased Mr Confoo in their boat and as they drew close he showed a 25cm hunting knife and said "f... off or I'll cut you".

Mr Quirk said the knife came within 1m of him as Mr Confoo waved it around.

The men quickly pushed their boat away from Mr Confoo's boat and left the scene, they said.

A date is yet to be fixed for the trial.

Man gets two years' jail for concrete attack on woman

DISFIGURING his partner's face by hitting her with a piece of concrete has resulted in two years' jail for a New Mapoon man.

Frank George Daniels, 31, pleaded guilty in Cairns District Court last week to inflicting grievous bodily harm on his partner.

Crown prosecutor Steve Carter said the pair had a dispute after the woman, 40, returned from obtaining cigarettes.

Medical evidence and photographs tendered to the court indicated a 6cm jagged wound

to the right side of the woman's forehead. Mr Carter said it was initially suspected the victim could have sustained a fractured skull or brain injuries.

The offence occurred while Daniels was already serving a suspended sentence for two previous assaults on the same woman.

Judge Sarah Bradley said he had a lengthy record of violence against three different women.

Daniels was jailed for two years and will be released on parole on June 19 next year.

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