

local

Thieves strike Two teenage burglars crawled through an airconditioner vent and smashed an office window with a bowling ball at Cairns Goldpin Lanes.

PAGE 9



national

Top pop Almost a year after his celebrity son's death, Bob Irwin has been named Queensland's grandfather of the year.

PAGE 11



world

Britney battles K-Fed Britney Spears is being investigated for child abuse as she prepares to fight her ex-husband Kevin Federline for custody of their two sons.

PAGE 20



sport

Skill fine tuned Basketball ace Martin Cattalini loves to play but his view on pre-season training is another matter.

PAGE 62



QUICKFIND

Local news.....P1-9	Comics.....P46
Viewpoint.....P12-13	TV Guide.....P47
Nation.....P11, 14-15	Classifieds.....P48-57
World.....P17, 19-20	Passport.....P63
Business Week.....liftout	Sport.....P58-62, 64

VIEWPOINT

Never too early Cairns Mayoral candidate Val Schier reckons it's never too early to start election campaigning.

PAGE 12

WINNING NUMBERS

Oz Lotto (706, 28/08/07) 9, 16, 18, 22, 28, 31, 43. Supps: 40, 32.
No dividend results were available last night.

CONTACT US

www.news.com.au/cairnspost

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

4052 6666

ACCOUNTS

4052 6943

ADVERTISING

4052 6662

CIRCULATION

4052 6665

EDITORIAL

4052 6658

News: 4052 6627
Sport: 4052 6637
Business: 4052 6606
Features: 4052 6659

Port Douglas/ Mareeba office
4099 8596

Innisfail/ Atherton office
4061 5870

CLASSIFIEDS

4031 3333

classifieds@tcp.newsltd.com.au

► To find an article: go to www.news.com.au/cairnspost and click on newstext
► To place an advertisement: CALL 4052 6662 or visit www.news.com.au/cairnspost
► To arrange home delivery or back copies of the newspaper: CALL 4052 6665 or visit www.news.com.au/cairnspost
► To buy a copy of a photograph: CALL 4052 6666 or visit www.news.com.au/cairnspost



COPYRIGHT: All images displayed on The Cairns Post website and printed publications are protected by copyright laws and cannot be copied, reproduced or transmitted in any form without obtaining prior permission. If you wish to reproduce any photographs you will need to contact the copyright administrator copyright@tcp.newsltd.com.au to organise copyright clearance. Fees will apply.

Wooshka is word for city's property boom

► From Page 1

The result was "wooshka" for the property market, Herron Todd White Independent Property Advisors' research director Rick Carr told the Cairns Chamber of Commerce yesterday.

"Three years ago we were saying the property market was settling and we've been saying it for three years - but the word for this year is wooshka," he said.

"The market in Cairns has experienced vigour in the past 12 months, sales are up and agents are telling me they would sell more if they only had more stock to sell."

Mr Carr, an experienced economic researcher who is often used as a specialist by various levels of government, along with leading economist Bill Cummings, both addressed the first of three Cairns Chamber of Commerce luncheons sponsored by *The Cairns Post's* Business and Property Review and Business Week, yesterday.

The property boom is good news for home owners and investors, with the median house price rising by 17 per cent since June last year to a record \$359,000.

Residential property sales have only been higher during the 2003-04 period,

when they rose almost to 10,000 sales during the period. Herron Todd White statistics indicate, sales for 2006-07 peaked at about 7500 sales.

A combination of higher employment levels, economic advances and low rental vacancies have all helped the property boom.

"And we can't see any black clouds on the horizon, that are going to change this pattern," Mr Carr said. Mr Cummings said Cairns was in a strong economic position, with the mining industry beginning to expand, allowing Cairns to not have to rely solely on tourism to turn a profit.

Flight path fight taken to Qantas's door

ANGRY residents picketed the Qantas office on Shields St yesterday as part of a campaign to end trials of a take-off flight path over the Esplanade.

Twelve residents staged a peaceful protest, wielding signs demanding Qantas scrap the trial and asking passers-by to sign their petition.

Residents action group leader Gail Seymour said she hoped Qantas would get the message.

"The noise is excessive - this is going to affect the future of the city," she said.

Qantas contacted police to complain about the protest outside their office.

The group was not removed after police ruled they were peaceful and not stopping anyone from entering or leaving. Qantas has permission to trial the path that takes 737-800's over the Esplanade and through the Mulgrave River valley until January 2008.



Protest: Flight path noise protesters take their fight to the street outside the Qantas office. Picture: MARC McCORMACK

Pair refuse to clash

Bronwyn Cummings

cummingsb@tcp.newsltd.com.au

MAYORAL candidate Val Schier will not run against current Port Douglas Mayor Mike Berwick if he puts his hand up for the Cairns Regional Council election.

Ms Schier said she was "in discussions" with Cr Berwick about the March 2008 election, when voters would be given the option of preferential voting.

She said "sharing the same views" and running against each other ran the risk of splitting the vote.

Cr Berwick said he put the idea of running "on ice" but agreed with Ms Schier's sentiments about running against each other.

Meanwhile, more than six months out from the Local Gov-

Council polls interest known shortly

QUEENSLANDERS could know as early as next week whether they will be given a say on forced council amalgamations in an October postal ballot.

Local Government Association of Queensland president Paul Bell yesterday announced the likely date for a plebiscite as October 20 and vowed to continue fighting

against the government's decision to slash councils.

Mr Bell said he expected many councils would decide this week whether they would participate.

ernment election, some candidates are already pounding the campaign trail.

While the Cairns 1st team, headed up by Ms Schier, is announcing new candidates and developing policies, the Unity Team, fronted by Mayor Kevin Byrne has not yet started campaigning.

"We'll be running - rest assured we'll be running," Cr

Byrne said yesterday. "But there is no point in running a campaign now when the federal election is running a campaign."

Ms Schier said it was never to early to start, with the 1000 hits a week on the Cairns2008 blogsite confirmation people were interested in Cairns's politics.

"In some ways the federal election is in the way but the

amalgamation has generated a lot of interest," Ms Schier said.

"It's not too early at all - we are having candidates meetings, developing policies and will be running a steady six month campaign."

Richie Bates, Kirstin Lesina, Mark Buttrose, Robert Pyne, Dianne Forsyth and Paul Matthews are confirmed members of the Cairns 1st team.

NEWS CHASERS

ARE YOU ON THE SPOT...?

Do you have a news tip or news photo? We want to hear from you.

The Cairns Post Weekend Post

NEWS HOTLINE: 4052 6658

EMAIL: editorial@tcp.newsltd.com.au

FAX TO: 07 4052 6633

WEBSITE: www.news.com.au/cairnspost

NEWS PHOTOS:

email your pics to: postpics@tcp.newsltd.com.au
Include a brief description and your contact details.

THE TOTAL SIZE OF ALL PICS BEING SENT CANNOT EXCEED 5MB

