

# Flashing blamed on drink spike

A FLASHER claims his drinks were spiked with the supposed aphrodisiac Spanish fly, causing him to expose himself in public.

The claim was heard in Cairns Magistrates' Court yesterday as Kelly Richard Tamwoy, 21, of Cairns North, pleaded guilty to one count of wilful exposure on Monday at Cairns Central shopping centre car park.

"I had a drink with my friends, my cousins, and they put that Spanish fly in it," Tamwoy said.

Spanish fly is a powder often marketed as an aphrodisiac.

Tamwoy, dressed only in tracksuit pants, was spotted at the busy car park by customers concerned about him hiding behind parked vehicles.

Prosecutor Sen-Constable Cheryl Sayer told the court police were called to the car park and followed Tamwoy up a fire escape stairwell.

When he reached the top they saw he had his pants down and was exposing himself to any people on the top level car park.

They took him to the station where they found a vibrating sex toy and a bottle of a purported aphrodisiac in his possession.

Tamwoy, who spent Monday night in the lock-up, pleaded guilty to wilful exposure and a previous charge of causing a public nuisance in the CBD on June 30.

Magistrate Margaret Cassidy recorded a conviction on both counts and fined him \$500 and \$550 respectively.



# The land of plenty

**Farming mecca:** A. L. Romeo manager Frank Genovesi says access to water was a key factor in the vineyard's decision to move to the Mareeba Shire.

Picture: JENNIFER ELIOT

**Jennifer Eliot**

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SOUTHERN farming ventures are moving to the Tableland chasing water as drought strangles Australia's traditional agricultural regions.

Irrigators in Victoria and New South Wales face the prospect of having allocations stripped as the drought worsens, while the Far North is seen as having plenty of water.

Table grape producer A. L. Romeo, with operations in Victoria and cen-

## North's water lures farmers

tral and eastern Queensland, is the region's latest arrival. The company has planted grapes on 40ha east of Mareeba in a bid to take advantage of the region's water supply.

Manager Frank Genovesi said the company had looked at Carnarvon in Western Australia but chose Mareeba.

He said farming was plagued by risk but having access to water and an excellent climate helped to eliminate some risk.

"It's a bit risky in NSW and Victoria at the moment and those regions could be in real strife if allocations are cut," he said.

Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers chairman Joe Moro said the region could handle a substantial increase in farming and it would be a boon to the economy.

Banana and pawpaw production has already made a significant shift to the Tableland and there was still plenty of land and water to expand

citrus, grape and vegetable production. "Tinaroo is fully allocated but 30-40 per cent of water allocated is not being used," he said.

"We don't know how much water tobacco farmers own and don't use and there is also insurance water, which is a surplus, so there is a real potential for people to access water.

"There is a percentage of water that could be leased and other allocations could be sold."

Mr Moro said the only inhibitor to mass expansion was water pricing and a government review of water policies was needed.

## Cane train comes off rails, blocks road



Clean up: A crane clears derailed cane bins near Babinda.

Picture: MELISSA HUMPHRIS

MANGLED metal bins and sugar cane lay scattered on railway tracks near Babinda yesterday as workers cleared the wreckage of a derailed cane train.

Bartle Frere resident Melissa Humphris said at least a dozen heavily-laden cane bins derailed just before 7pm on Monday.

The nearby primary school's P&C meeting was cancelled when Menzies Rd was blocked by the twisted wreckage of the train.

Mrs Humphris said most of the committee lived in the same street and they were unable to drive to the meeting.

One resident was forced to park his car at the road-block overnight and walk home.

The clean-up continued yesterday along with repairs to the damaged tracks.

"They had a crane in at 11pm to remove three bins that were blocking the road access and then left to come back in daylight," Mrs Humphris said.

"Today, the workmen were trying to clear away the horrific mess of crumpled bins

"They had three loaders and about a dozen workmen all on the task to clean it up."

Babinda police confirmed yesterday that police were not called to the incident.

South Johnstone Mill was unavailable to comment.

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