

A round-up  
of news  
from  
around  
your region

# COAST & COUNTRY

## REGIONAL ROUND-UP



**BEREAVED:** Ms Daley's parents, Tony and Sue, who followed proceedings from the rear of the courtroom.

## Bloody knife in Daley case

**GLADSTONE:** When police searched Gladstone woman Kathryn Daley's accused killer's home, they found a black plastic bag containing a kitchen knife with what appeared to be blood on it, a court heard yesterday.

According to a police witness who took the stand on day one of a committal hearing at Gladstone Magistrates Court yesterday, Ms Daley's driver's licence, a mobile phone, a sim card, one black Billabong thong, a light coloured bra and what appeared to be men's underwear were also found in the bag.

A man, 31, has been charged with murder and two counts of rape in relation to Ms Daley's death after her body was found on February 18 last year.

He cannot be named by law unless committed to stand trial over the allegations and is not required to enter a plea at this stage.

Yesterday 15 witnesses took the stand and each were cross-examined by the defendant's solicitor, Paul Smith.

Ms Daley's parents, Tony and Sue, looked on from the rear of the courtroom.

Detective Sergeant Peter Robb told the court the defendant had "nominated a black plastic bag" in his bedroom to police during a search of his Gladstone home on May 3 last year.

The Brisbane homicide detective said inside the bag was a single black-handled kitchen knife, which ap-

peared to have blood or another red substance on it, and the other items including Ms Daley's driver's licence.

Ms Daley, 21, was last seen leaving Player's nightclub in the early hours of February 17 last year before her body was found in bushland near Callemondah.

The court heard yesterday before any search warrants could be obtained, Queensland detectives involved in Ms Daley's case had to "solve" a break-and-entry crime in New South Wales to corroborate DNA evidence from the scene.

Detective Sergeant Shane Stirling said DNA from the Gladstone crime scene was sent to New South Wales authorities. It was determined the DNA from the Daley crime scene matched that of an unknown male who had committed break and entry at Campbelltown on November 19, 2001.

Detective Sergeant Stirling went to NSW to brief police on the Daley case.

A "covert warrant" was obtained to search the accused killer's Emmerdale home, and DNA samples were taken from a toothbrush and razor, the court was told.

The court heard the same DNA was allegedly found on some black binding used on the victim, and her jeans.

The committal hearing continues today. Magistrate Mark Morrow must make a decision as to whether the defendant will stand trial.

## Kemp Beach erosion forces closure of access route K2

BECAUSE of severe erosion at Kemp Beach and the subsequent need for continued maintenance, the Rockhampton Regional Council has closed access point K2 permanently.

Local beach-goers are being asked to use the

nearby beach access points K1, K3 and K4 instead.

For convenience, the council will shift the shower adjacent to access point K2 (situated 150m north of the toilet block at Kemp Beach) to the nearby access point known as K1.

## Biloela man fell off bike before he died

**BILOELA:** Police are investigating the cause of death of a man, 44, whose body was found at Biloela Showground on Sunday.

People driving past the Showground at 2pm called police when they noticed the man's body lying on the ground near a loading ramp.

Police said it appeared that the man had fallen from his bike and suffered fatal injuries.

Biloela officer in charge Senior Sergeant Nick Paton said the man was still wearing a helmet when he was found and did not appear to have any visible injuries.

Senior Sergeant Paton said the man might have died of a heart attack and the police were not treating the death as suspicious at this point.

He said a post mortem examination was expected to show the cause of death and results should be known by

the end of the week.

Yesterday police informed the man's family.

Senior Sergeant Paton said police had taken statements from the last people to see the man alive and were investigating to learn if there were any witnesses to his death.

## Yacht voyage spreads word

**YEPPON:** Dario Schwoerer is a man on top of the world.

In Yeppoon for a few days as part of a round-the-world trek, Dario, his wife Sabine and their two children, with the third on the way, are on the "Top to Top Global Climate Expedition".

They set off from Switzerland in 2002 and are travelling the world by boat spreading a positive message about the environment.

The only time the Schwoerers use their engine is to park their vessel, a 15m yacht, in the each harbour they visit.

Otherwise they use sail power and also pedal power, because when on land they ride bicycles.

Part of their adventure is to go to all the climate zones around the world, and in each continent to climb the highest mountain.

They even rode their bikes, complete with a trailer to carry their two young children, from Sydney to Mt Kosciuszko before climbing it.

"We've covered about 4000 kilometres of Australian on pushbike," Dario said.

They also visit schools. Already they have spoken to more than 9000 students in Australia alone, and Farnborough State School was lucky to have shared



**SAIL STORY:** The Schwoerer family members are sharing their round-the-world adventures and positive environmental story with the world.

their experiences yesterday.

Dario said they were simply a platform for students to express their ideas and solutions for saving the environment.

"Children, they are the future of this planet," he said. "Their hard drive is empty with experience, but they are full of creativity."

The family did have some hesitations about our country, particularly with our snakes and spiders, but they now declare Australia is one of the best countries they have seen.

"The people are so hospitable, it's incredible."

He said there had been so many examples of generosity, including Keppel Bay Marina offering them a free berth during their stay on the Capricorn Coast.

"And we hardly ever had to put up our tents while cycling."

Dario worked as a climatologist and a mountain guide back in Switzerland.

"My office is the glaciers in the Swiss Alps."

He said watching the glaciers melting away had prompted him to do something for the environment.

He said his homeland was now leading the world with renewable technology, but with so much sun and wind resources in Australia, he believed we could easily become world leaders.

"Australia is such a blessed country, with so much sun and wind."

School and service groups who would like to hear their story can e-mail dario@toptotop.org or call 0423 450 255.

More information on their adventures can be found at www.toptotop.org

— *Sharyn O'Neill*

## MACKAY

### Mines plan for major expansion

TWO mines near Moranbah, about 200km north-west of Rockhampton, will more than triple their production as one of the world's largest miners, Peabody Energy, pushes ahead with massive expansions in the face of harsh global conditions.

The Millennium Mine, 22 km east of Moranbah, will lift its annual production rate from two million

tonnes a year up to 7.5 million tonnes, while the Eaglefield Mine's expansion will lift its maximum production capacity from 5 million tonnes of coal a year to a huge 18 million tonnes a year.

Both the expansions are going through environment impact assessment by the State Government.

A spokeswoman from Peabody Energy said the company was expecting Millennium to begin production by the end of the first quarter of 2011.

She said the Eaglefield

and Millennium expansions could require 200 new staff per mine.

## GLADSTONE

### Tourism ready for flu attack

AS the threat of swine flu looms closer to the region, Gladstone Area and Promotion Development Limited is using past experiences to prepare for possible cases in Gladstone.

GAPDL chief executive Glenn Churchill said this was not the first time tou-

risms had been threatened on a local or national scale.

"(Examples include) the SARS virus, the bird flu virus and the tragedies and fear from September 11 terrorist attacks," he said.

Lessons had been learnt from these events.

"From a tourist perspective and also local small business operators, we need to make sure we can counteract any potential decline to ensure there is no major downturn in the local economic vibrancy and safety of our region," Mr Churchill said.