

Police Rounds

Great Lakes

Police search for hooded thief

POLICE are looking for a person seen wearing a purple hooded jumper, black tracksuit pants and white runners during the early hours of Thursday morning.

Between 1.15am and 1.20am the person was caught on CCTV breaking into a Forster licensed premises. Smashing a window of the premises the person proceeded to steal several bottles of alcohol.

Thieves target power bands

AN estimated \$600 in merchandise was stolen from a Forster business in an early morning break-in on Friday. Between 3.50am and 4am thieves broke in through the front door of the Wharf St business stealing several jumpers and power bands. The bands are used by athletes for improved performance and are worth around \$60 each. Police said no one was seen at the time of the theft.

Bootawa man charged

A 35-year-old Bootawa man has been charged with stealing from a Forster business on Thursday. Police said the man stole items from the display of the Beach St business between 5.30pm and 5.35pm as well as a four pack of alcohol.

Author shares puggie's patience problem

ALEESAH Darlison has worked hard to realise her dream of becoming an author and is thrilled to see it become a reality.

The Tinonee local returned to the Manning recently to launch her debut picture book Puggie's Problem to an appreciative audience at Taree Library.

She spoke to the crowd about picture books and her path to publication and also spent some time with the Taree Scribbler's Club, speaking about the publishing industry and her journey.

As part of her promotional tour she will return at the end of the month for three days to make a number of other appearances.

Aleesah grew up locally and attended Tinonee Public School and Taree High School.

Writing has always been a favourite pastime, but it wasn't until her teens she really started to get into it.

In 1988 some of her poems were even published in a local anthology called We are the Future.

All the adults in her life warned her off becoming a writer, saying she would



FOR THE KIDS: Author Aleesah Darlison enjoys writing for young people and will visit Angus and Robertson, Stockland Forster, on Saturday July 31 where she will talk to children about echidnas and her new picture book (which is about a baby echidna) called Puggie's Problem.

never make any money.

So after high school she went to university for three years and studied a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in marketing.

She worked for 10 years but was always busy writing some 'big novel' on the sidelines, spending a lot of time at the State Library.

When she had children she said it was a natural

progression to focus on children's books.

"I guess that's the age my kids are at".

She is married with three children, aged seven, five and two, and for the past four-and-a-half years has dedicated her time to writing.

She sent off Puggie's Problem to a publisher who liked it, and then illustrator

Sandra Temple came on board.

Seeing her words brought to life in pictures has been a thrill for her.

Aleesah really enjoys writing for young people.

"It's a fun age to write for. It's limitless and you can get away with a lot and really reach the children".

Puggie's Problem follows Pipp, a baby echidna

'It's a fun age to write for. It's limitless and you can get away with a lot and really reach the children.'

Aleesah Darlison

(known as a puggie), who can't get his spikes to grow so sets out on a journey asking his friends what the secret is.

"It's about patience and perseverance and all those developmental milestones that kids are trying to reach...and the competition between them".

Aleesah believes the message of patience is an important one for young people of today.

"I think in today's society it's hard for kids to be patient and wait for things. We live in a wealthy society and people get what they want straight away."

Puggie's Problem is her first published book but

she has about 13 in the pipeline including a junior novel (she has had two series' accepted), some more picture books and a chapter book.

Her marketing background has been beneficial in promoting her books and she said the ability to market yourself is a factor publishers look at when taking you on.

Aleesah will visit Angus and Robertson, Stockland Forster, on Saturday July 31 from 11.30am - 12.30pm, where she will talk to children about echidnas and her new picture book (which is about a baby echidna) called Puggie's Problem.

Lakes Way's a hot spot

THE Pacific Highway at Cundletown and the Lakes Way have both been listed as locations being targeted by the new mobile speed cameras.

The cameras came in to operation last week and will target the State's high risk crash areas.

Six mobile cameras are initially operating, with the program ramped up to 12,200 hours of enforcement a month by this time next year.

The Roads and Traffic Authority this week released a list of almost 150

locations across NSW which will be priority sites for the cameras, developed by the RTA's NSW Centre for Road Safety in consultation with the NSW Police Force and NRMA Motoring and Services and based primarily on crash history.

The Lakes Way at Forster made the list, with statistics showing that 60 crashes had been recorded between 2006 and 2008, with five people killed and another 27 injured.

The Pacific Highway at Cundletown

will also be a target area, having recorded 21 crashes - with one lost life and six injuries - in the same period.

Minister for roads, David Borger, launched the program this week and said the road toll for 2009 was 460, 86 more than in 2008.

Almost half of these fatalities, or 46 per cent, were caused by speeding.

Information on the locations of mobile speed cameras is now available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Operation hammers home urban zones

MANNING-Great Lakes Police will continue its ongoing traffic operation throughout 2010.

Operation Back Off is a high profile operation that is supported by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and Greater Taree City Council.

Sergeant Tim Pepper from the Manning Great Lakes highway patrol said the primary focus is to target motorists who are exceeding the speed limit.

"This will be done by conducting high profile stationary and mobile speed enforcement throughout the Manning Great Lakes area, targeting all the main roads including 50 and 60kph areas," he said.

During 2009, RTA figures showed that there were 76 speed related crashes in the

Manning-Great Lakes area, resulting in 89 injuries.

Police figures show that during 2009, 490 people were detected exceeding the speed limit by over 30kph, 96 people were detected exceeding the speed limit by over 45kph and 36 people were charged with driving in a speed or manner dangerous to the public.

"It would appear that many people still do not realise that the default speed limit in built up areas is 50kph," Sgt Pepper said.

"This means that the area does not need to be sign posted with 50kph signs. Any street or residential area that is not sign posted is automatically a 50kph area."

Police are encouraging all motorists to drive within the speed limit and consider road and weather conditions.

Glamour takes centre stage

FLAIR 2010 will be all about glamour.

As entries start to flow in from across the nation for the biggest fashion awards held in country Australia, coordinator Jo Meldrum said the overall emphasis on garments is very glamorous.

"From what I can gather they are really good quality and of a high standard," she said.

The pieces are also innovative and exciting. "There's a lot of denim,

in the Rags to Riches category in particular, and a lot of beading as well."

Eighty per cent of the overall entry pool has again come from colleges including RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology), Australian Institute of Fashion Design in Queensland, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE Queensland, Sydney Institute of Fashion Design at Ultimo and it is understood Coffs Harbour TAFE

is gathering up its entries for inclusion. This year's Flair Awards will be held at the Winning Post Function Centre at Taree Wingham Racecourse on Saturday, August 28, with a full dress rehearsal, open to students and Centrelink recipients, the night before.

The week leading up to the Flair Awards will include complementary events, including a luncheon for women in business and a model workshop.

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