

# Beer sales cool as temperature drops

Story: Jannette Parke

A HARD-EARNED thirst needs a big, cold, beer – but first you need those sweltering 32 degree-plus days to get a thirst parched enough to want to quench it.

Days and nights cooler than expected for November are having some unexpected side effects, with beer sales reported to be down at pubs across the region.

With this month's maximum temperature sitting at a comfortable 27 degrees, air-conditioning installers are also saying trade is not as brisk as normal for this time of year.

Bureau of Meteorology records show it was a decade ago, in November 2000, that the region had a similarly cool start to summer, with an average maximum temperature of just 26.5.

But you have to search back 94 years to find the coldest.

November 1916 recorded a maximum average temperature of just 26.3 degrees, notably only .7 of a degree cooler than the current average.

However, with temperatures likely to sit around 28 degrees for the last days left this month, weather experts say it's unlikely 2010 will break the 1916 record.

The bureau has predicted that cooler than normal daytime temperatures for most of the region



**COLD ONE:** Ray Jones reckons yesterday's 27 degree maximum temperature was warm enough for a beer. Renee Pilcher

will continue, saying the pattern as cool conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean associated with the current La Niña event.

## Police's role in rescue

TIN Can Bay Coast Guard Commander Jim George has moved to clarify some comments made by a boat owner published in Tuesday's edition of *The Gympie Times*.

Commander George said his crew was called about 10.30pm on Monday to a fire on a boat moored at the pontoon where the old Tin Can Bay jetty used to be.

He said police requested the Coast Guard attend a boat fire in the interest of safety and to make sure the nearby houseboat didn't catch fire.

"It was at the sergeant's request that we actually attended with our rescue vessel and it was the Gympie police officer who asked the occupants to leave the houseboat, not us," Commander George said.

"Coast Guard does not have the authority to remove people from their premises."

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Maryborough area director Craig Lovell said the fire appeared to have started in the electrical wiring.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Member interviews

FEDERAL Member for Wide Bay Warren Truss will be available for constituent interviews in Gympie, the South Burnett and the Cooloola and Sunshine Coasts.

"If you are concerned about any Federal Government area of responsibility including Centrelink, Veterans Affairs, immigration, education or taxation, please make an appointment to meet me at one of the locations listed below," Mr Truss said.

Goomeri SES Office (December 7, 11.30am), Gympie Council Office (December 3, 10.30am), Kilkivan Council Office (December 7, 10am), Rainbow Beach SLSC (December 3, 2pm), Tin Can Bay RSL (December 3, 3.30pm), Widgee Community Complex (December 7, 4pm) and Woolooga Community Hall (December 7, 9am).

### Late bills ruin credit

THOUSANDS of Australians are

unaware that not paying a simple phone bill on time could impact their ability to obtain credit for five years, according to a national credit file repairer.

Graham Doessel from MyCra.com.au said it was surprising how many people were out there with needless defaults on their credit rating due to unpaid bills on utilities, phone and rates.

"It's not until people apply for credit and are flatly refused that they comprehend the real cost of leaving these bills unpaid," he said.

"Any bill which is more than 60 days late can be referred as a listing with credit reporting agencies." One third of debt referred for collection in the June quarter was for amounts under \$200.

**To get a good credit rating:**  
☐ Pay bills on time  
☐ Keep address up to date with creditors  
☐ If you can't pay bills on time, contact creditors and make a payment plan  
☐ If you have defaults check if they can be removed

# Dugong controversy

Story: Jannette Parke

THE names and addresses of people poaching dugongs in Queensland and selling the meat for profit have been given to the State Government and police, the opposition says.

Traditional owners in Queensland have permission to hunt dugongs but Shadow Minister for Sustainability Glen Elmes said some were breaking

the law and he had proof.

"To hunt the animals for traditional purposes is fine but when you are poaching and onselling the meat for profit that is when it is against the law," Mr Elmes said.

Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said Mr Elmes should be careful about generalising about traditional owners.

Mr Elmes wants a blanket ban on dugong killing. "Overwhelmingly, everyone, indigenous and

non-indigenous, wants a total moratorium on the taking of dugong and turtles until the surviving numbers are known and a sustainable take for in-

digenous people by traditional means for traditional purposes can be reinstated," he said. <http://dugongandturtles.webs.com/>

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