

# Campaign to snub trains

## Fare costs set travellers into boycott action

By NICOLE FUGE

WHEN Toni Carroll received her pay rise this year she gave it to TransLink.

But it wasn't out of goodwill, it was to cover the increase in her train fare since annual tickets were abolished to make way for the Go Card.

The Glasshouse Mountains resident has grown increasingly frustrated with the timetable amendments, increasing prices and service cancellations.

"They notified us they were redoing the timetable and the prices were going to increase as of January this year," Ms Carroll said.

"It didn't bite us until the annual tickets went away." Ms Carroll went from paying \$2340 for an annual ticket to more than \$4000 to catch the train five days a week into Brisbane.

And while she was perturbed by her own adversity, she spared a thought for those living further north whose hip pockets would be burned even more.

"There are going to be 15% increases each year, by 2014 they're going to be paying \$8000," she said.

"It wiped out my pay rise so on top of everything else, electricity, petrol, water, our fares have gone up."



Ms Carroll said commuters who previously held an annual pass were hit with a 75% while those on periodic tickets experienced an increase of at least 50%.

Ms Carroll and her fellow train users requested a forum with former Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan, who said she knew what the issues were and declined.

A wits' end, hundreds of commuters on the north

line out of Caboolture have banded together to boycott the system on Thursday, March 17.

"I've been surprised with the amount of support. We've been handing out fliers on the train and people have been saying, 'oh yes, it's about time'," she said.

"If they don't stop the fares, I for one will be getting off the trains," she said.

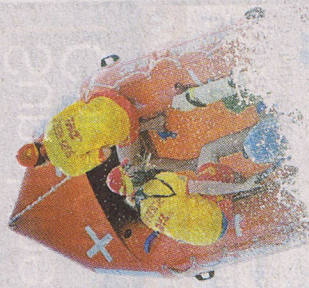
Rail users are calling on TransLink to reduce the increase, bring back periodic tickets or introduce a rolling discount, and give access to off peak fares.

A TransLink spokesman said their five-year fare strategy was released in October 2009 and they regularly reviewed public transport services and welcomed feedback.

"In the past we've responded to customer

feedback by providing new Go Card ticketing products, such as the two-trip daily cap for seniors, pensioners and veterans and the half price cap after 10 weekly trips," he said.

"All revenue from January's fare change is going towards adding 305,000 seats and new public transport services on the TransLink network across South East Queensland this financial year."



## Surf clubs come to rescue

AT the height of the Brisbane floods, surf life saving inflatable rescue boats (IRBs) from the Sunshine and Gold Coasts, in conjunction with the SES, were tasked to carry out evacuations and assist essential services to get around.

Mudjimba SLSC was a part of this flotilla, supplying two IRBs, along with drivers, crew and duty officers.

"Our hearts go out to those affected by this disaster and it was our privilege to be able to answer the call and assist the people of Brisbane," Club Captain Dean Hore said.

Club President Kaitlyn Akers said when the club's sponsors, Nambour RSL, heard of the damage to the IRBs they quickly offered to pay for a new boat and motor.