

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robberies linked

POLICE believe a man who robbed a bank in Maryborough on Tuesday was the same thief who stole \$4000 from a bank in Buddina last week. The man entered the Maryborough bank about 3pm, approaching a teller and demanding money. The teller did not comply with the demands and the man left the scene. The man was described as aged about 20 to 30, tanned and about 175cm tall. He was wearing a blue jumper, shorts, cap, thongs and black sunglasses.

Bli Bli sparklers

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a property in Bli Bli after reports of two loud explosions yesterday. On arrival, the explosions were found to have come from two "sparkler bombs", which were believed to have been lit by juveniles. There was no fire reported for the area, although police were called.

Motorcycle crash

A MOTORCYCLIST has been taken to Nambour General Hospital with head injuries after slamming into a guard rail on Maleny-Kenilworth Rd at Conondale. The crash happened about 3pm yesterday when the rider turned a corner and came off the bike. Ambulance crews were first on scene and worked to stabilise the man, who had suffered a head injury. He was in a stable condition.

Charity thief jail

GUIDE Dogs Queensland has welcomed the sentencing of a Sunshine Coast man to three months' jail after he was caught stealing the charity's donation tins. Guide Dogs Queensland CEO Chris Laine said the man's actions were an insult to the community.

RAILROADED? | What it's like riding on the Coast line

They do this every

Passengers do with less and for a higher price

By KATHY SUNDSTROM

WAKING up at 4.44am to get to work is an absurd idea.

But it is around this time that many Sunshine Coast commuters who catch the 6.14am train from Nambour to get to work in Brisbane need to get up.

With well-paid, full-time work on the Sunshine Coast a luxury few enjoy, the number of commuters continues to increase.

Queensland Rail estimates about 1000 people are making the trip on the train each day.

Many more have ditched the train and would prefer to drive rather than deal with the prospect of delays, rail buses and no sitting room, never mind the lack of toilets.

I joined the 6.14am journey yesterday to experience first-hand their daily commute.

Thankfully I managed to score the last available car park at Nambour, or else I would have had to add a minimum of \$7 for car parking on top of the \$30.16 it would cost me using a Go Card to get to Brisbane.

That fare would increase to \$43.80 if I didn't have the card - almost enough to fill the tank of my car and drive to Brisbane and back twice.

Public transport is definitely no longer cheap, particularly if travelling as a family.

Palmwoods dad Jeff Addison has been making the journey to Brisbane for 12 years.

In that time, he has watched the level of service from the Sunshine Coast decline while the cost increases.

Calls to address it appear to be heard by politicians only when they are in Opposition.

Mr Addison and Rail Back



LONG DAY: The Wednesday afternoon train from Brisbane arrives at Nambour railway station at 7pm.



CROWDED HOUR: Awaiting the 7.28am at Landsborough.

on Track have tried to keep the poor rail service on the government's agenda.

He keeps logs detailing train delays and the inadequacy of toilets.

It is not a job he likes doing, but it is the only way he can prove that his frustration is not personal but based on recorded fact.

I can't help but feel for Queensland Rail staff, as does Mr Addison. They are not to blame for late trains, lack of toilets and inadequate service, but often they have to front the anger.

The first thing I noticed on boarding the train was that the toilet on my carriage was taped and locked up with an out-of-order sign on it.

This could create a problem, as I did not have time before racing to Nambour to flush out my breakfast and cup of coffee.

At Landsborough, we were joined by several other "regular" commuters. There was David and Deborah and a handful of others who have become friends on the long journey.

Like Mr Addison, they make the sacrifice of often leaving in the dark and getting home in the dark to support their families.

"I took a 40% pay cut moving from Sydney to Brisbane and I would have to do that again to get a job on the Sunshine Coast," David said.

They're used to seeing distressed people, particularly the elderly, looking for a toilet. Mr Addison said there is another toilet on the train,