



# NEW BUSINESS IS LOOKING SO GOOD FOR ERIN

MAKE-UP ARTIST TO THE STARS: SEE PAGE 3



## Tradies follow their rock 'n' roll dream



GUITAR MEN: Ipswich guys Darren Yarrow and Greg Stephenson are aiming for the big time after cutting their first CD. FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 6

## The \$100m flood plan to protect the Lockyer

THE Lockyer Valley council has developed a \$100 million plan to help protect Laidley and other towns from future floods.

The plan would see drainage in the region improved while levees and even relocation considered. It has been submitted to the State Government with the council looking for external funding.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 5

## Investment hotspots revealed

DINMORE leads the way in gross rental yields in Ipswich after the release of Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) figures for the December quarter.

Bundamba, Silkstone and Newtown followed close behind as it emerged investors were once again coming back into the Ipswich market in droves.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 7

## Ipswich tumbles down list of state's most obese regions

# WE ARE THE BIGGEST LOSERS!

Peter Foley  
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JUST three years after Ipswich became the fat capital of south-east Queensland, the city has trimmed down its unwanted reputation.

In 2010, a statewide health survey revealed a whopping 62.4 per cent of Ipswich people admitted to being overweight or obese.

That meant Ipswich was second only to Mt Isa as the fattest city in Queensland.

But latest figures show Ipswich has dropped well down the fat league table - to 10th out of 15 areas - with 60.3% overweight or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Footy star's journey of redemption

CHARLES Tonga's journey from jailbird to NRL star and coach of Tonga is one of the great redemption stories of rugby league.

The Springfield-based Tonga will coach Tonga against Samoa today in Penrith. His inspiring story is not to be missed.

FULL STORY: SEE WEEKENDER

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# 'Living the dream' the real rhyme and reason

Two musicians, but one vision – don't let life pass you by. Peter Foley meets an inspiring pair

LIVING the dream. It's a common sarcastic answer these days to the work colleague's habitual question: "How are you going?"

For Darren Yarrow and Greg Stephenson, the realisation they weren't living their dream was the catalyst for life-changing decisions.

Separately but somehow together, Darren and Greg decided to try as hard as they could to live their dreams of being musicians.

For Darren, a Peak Crossing cattle farmer and electrician, the trigger for change was talking to an 86-year-old man in a nursing home who broke down saying, "I've done nothing in my life."

"It made me think, life's not a rehearsal for something else. You've got to start living your dreams and doing what you want to do; otherwise, like this 86-year-old, life will pass you by," Darren said.

"I always wanted to see Mt Everest so I got into training and trekked up to base camp at Mt Everest and the next year I climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, then did Kokoda and trekked through Nepal and did a lot of other treks.

"The last 10 years we've both been travelling. I've been to every continent bar Antarctica at this stage.

"I just wanted to see how other people live and what other people do and I came to the conclusion everyone's the same; we want the same things.

"We might just look a bit different or sound a bit different."

While Darren was on his voyage of discovery, Greg – a builder – was pondering his own journey, travelling around Australia.

"I worked as a tradesman for 10 years and used to sit there at smoko listening to all these stories



SONGS WITH MEANING: Greg Stephenson and Darren Yarrow are Crashing Tomorrow.

PHOTO: ROB WILLIAMS

about travelling Australia and I thought that would be really good but the reality was I had a job and a wife and house payments," he said.

"My family would say, 'You're doing really well Greg,' but I wasn't happy.

"So I went home one night and we sold the house, bought a campervan and my wife and I drove around Australia for five years – playing, writing and recording music along the way."

After two years in Bourke and three years in Roma, he and his wife moved to Peak Crossing and bought a house.

It was then the paths of two strangers with common dreams and passion collided.

"I called Darren to do some electrical work after seeing an ad in the paper," Greg said.

"We started talking about music but then we started having some

**“It made me think, life's not a rehearsal for something else.”**

– Musician Darren Yarrow

really deep conversations about living the dream and we were very similar in that way.

"How many people are living their dream? How many people want to do it but aren't?"

"We had this common vision. Doing something by yourself is difficult but with someone else – and your family around you, it's different. And our families have been very supportive.

"This is our moment; this is it. We're going to give it everything.

"I built a recording studio and that's where we rehearse. It's full-on."

Crashing Tomorrow was born with Darren Yarrow on vocals and Greg Stephenson on guitars, writing songs with a message drawn from their life experiences.

Last August they put their first three songs on a CD as a teaser for what they can do. In two weeks, they will have finished recording the CD.

Crashing Tomorrow is a deliberately ambiguous name all about living for today and starting something new. "It's not negative; it's party music; it's music to get you back up and change your life too," Greg said.

They are building a web page and the band has a Facebook page.

Two of the songs – Never Apart and Transition Song – have been realised on iTunes and YouTube.

The Other Side is being realised next Friday (April 26).

The men are also organising a film clip.

## Spring Mountain peak waits for name

THE Ipswich community is invited to have their say on a proposal to officially name a hill just south of Augustine Heights.

Ipswich City Council has put forward a proposal seeking to officially name the hill Woogaroo Peak, which sits on the south side of the Centenary Mwy and east of Woogaroo Creek at Spring Mountain.

Copies of the proposal plan can be downloaded from the Queensland Place Names section at [dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://dnrm.qld.gov.au).

They can also be viewed at the Ipswich DNR Business Centre, Division 9 Ipswich City Council office and the Ipswich City Council Service Centre.

Submissions in writing should be sent to the executive director, South Region, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, PO Box 864, Ipswich Qld 4305.

## Unlicensed teenager caught at the wheel

A TEENAGER who was caught driving while disqualified through both a demerit points and a high-speed disqualification will be off the roads for the next six months.

Dylan Anthony McPherson, 19, pleaded guilty to driving while on a high speed disqualification in March in Redbank Plains Rd, Bellbird Park and for driving while disqualified due to demerit points in April in Michael St in Ripley

On March 23 McPherson's Toyota ute was pulled over by police for a licence check.

Police found McPherson was serving a high-speed disqualification.

His licence was suspended for six months for the two infractions, to be served concurrently and fined \$600.

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