

# Love Bites wins big

IN BRIEF

Big day for Alana

TODAY is the day of the big reveal for Alana Reid and her family as they view her newly reconstructed ear for the first time since her surgery earlier this month.

As part of the surgery to correct her hearing, Alana needed work to both her internal and external ear.

Mrs Reid said the cute way Alana's glasses sat askew on her face would be no longer with the doctors moving her ear higher during the surgery to align it with her other ear.

The state and extent of her hearing won't be known for a few more weeks until they visit specialists in Palo Alto.

Eye to the sky

KEEP your eyes to the skies this afternoon to catch a glimpse of the members of the Darling Downs Aero Club arriving in town.

The members have arranged a fly-in to help bolster the region's economy following the floods.

The group will be in town until Sunday afternoon and will eat, tour and stay locally to inject some cash into the region.

Their first activity is a barbecue at the Bundaberg Aero Club tonight.

Drug response

DRUG frontline workers, clinicians, survivors and their families and friends are gathering at local events across Australia tomorrow to mark International Overdose Awareness Day.

More than 1000 Australians die from overdoses every year, with many more thousands left grieving for lost partners, parents, sons, daughters and friends.

August 31 is a special day in the year for highlighting this tragedy.

The Youth Alcohol and Drug Program will set up a promotional stand with brochures on drugs, alcohol, and overdose at Hinkler Central.

Rae Wilson  
APN NEWSDESK

## Recognition: Award for helping prevent violence

WHEN a Bundaberg student took what he had learned about domestic violence to his parents and they went to family counselling, it was further confirmation to Danielle Loftus that the Love Bites program works.

The senior constable was instrumental in implementing the Love Bites program, from national child protection agency NAPCAN, to Bundaberg, Childers, Gin Gin, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Rosedale communities, with Gladstone

next on the list.

In accepting the regional award at the Queensland Child Protection Week awards at Parliament House in Brisbane yesterday, Snr Const Loftus said it was a collaborative and partnership approach between many regional organisations.

Love Bites delivers a program addressing domestic and family violence, sexual assault and youth and child protection issues to Years 9-11 students in mainstream schools and disengaged

It inspired me to be a better person.

Love Bites participant

young people in alternative education programs.

Snr Const Loftus said there had been encouraging feedback from students and staff.

"It inspired me to be a better person," one said. "It taught us not to become

victims and know when to get out of relationships" and "I want to take what I've learnt and use it in life", said others.

Snr Const Loftus said the program, among many issues, taught students how to recognise healthy and respectful relationships, how to recognise abuse and age of consent.

She said it could be emotional abuse, being told what to wear or what not to wear, and feeling confident about rejecting their partner's opinion.

Snr Const Loftus said it was important to teach young people as a prevention measure, to stop intergenerational violence.

She said teachers found violence at home could lower children's self-esteem and cause education problems.

Queensland Child Protection Week Committee chairwoman Kelly Bucknall said the awards honoured "the hard work of the champions who work to protect children and young people from neglect and abuse".

## Youth will get a boost with Renay's year in a ute

AS EACH week of the rugby league season has passed weary players have gone home to their comfortable beds, but not Brothers forward Renay Thomas.

Miss Thomas makes the few steps from the dressing shed to her ute where she is spending 12 months raising money for youth projects across the globe.

In a project Miss Thomas called A Year In A Ute For Youth, every cent she saved by living in the back of her Ford Courier is sent to help youth who are helping other youth build a better life.

Inspired by 19-year-old Mitch Williams who is overseas, Miss Thomas said his example gave her the motivation to give up the common luxuries so many people took for granted.

"He gave up employment, family and friends but he didn't know how he was going to do it financially," Miss Thomas said.

"I thought it was a pretty big sacrifice for a teenager to make and I thought is there something I could do to help him and I didn't have a great deal of spare cash either.


"I built the ute for camping and I thought I could live in there. I gave up my rent and every cent I saved was given away."

To get involved with Miss Thomas's project email uteweller@outlook.com.



UTE 'N' BOOTS: Renay Thomas is spending a year in her ute. All money she would have spent that she has saved will be donated.

PHOTO: MAX FLEET BUN290813UTE1




VOTE 1

# Keith PITT

Liberal National for Hinkler

Choose real change  
A stronger government A stronger Australia

Authorised by B. Henderson, 66-68 Bowen Street, Spring Hill QLD 4000.



**LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY**