

## Borallon inmates chip in to assist 14 struggling families



**INSIDE OUT:** Borallon Correctional Facility custodial officer Luke Massey and corrections officer Juanita Zuna gather 14 hampers put together by offenders for The Queensland Times Adopt a Family Appeal.

Photo: Rob Williams

# Christmas spirit is thriving... in prison

CHRISTMAS offers everyone the opportunity to do a good deed, even those who are repaying their debt to society.

The offenders at the Borallon Correctional Centre have taken their chance to brighten Christmas for 14 families under the QT Adopt-a-Family appeal.

The offenders followed up their efforts from last year and over the last month have bought food with their own funds for the Christmas hampers.

They put in their food orders via a catalogue a month ago and this week started to put the hampers together.

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The offenders live in residential quarters within the facility, which is a reward for good behaviour.

The list of families was shown to the offenders and again they decided to lend a hand.

Correctional Supervisor Juanita Zuna said giving to the community was an important part of the rehabilitation process.

"They chose the families and are quite passionate about it," she said.

Pat, an offender taking part in



the appeal, was pleased to make a difference to someone's Christmas.

"There are a lot of struggling families out there, a lot of single parents who are struggling," he said.

He said they had put together hampers of non-perishable foods, Christmas cakes, powdered custard, lollies and chips.

Borallon Correctional Centre Director Scott McNaim said the economic downturn has hit many impacted on families at Christmas.

"I am really impressed by the efforts of staff and offenders involved in this project aimed to help relieve financial stress and pressure faced by many families this time of year.

Communications and Recruitment Officer Carlie Sheehy said the appeal was massively popular with the offenders.

"Giving back to the community is part of the reparation - giving back and making amends for past crimes," she said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Driver escapes excavator rollover

AN EXCAVATOR driver escaped unharmed after rolling his machine at West Ipswich yesterday.

Police said the excavator had arrived at a Clay St address about 1.45pm to dig out a swimming pool, but crashed as it was being unloaded from its trailer.

No injuries were reported.

A heavy vehicle tow truck was called to move the 13-tonne excavator.

Workplace Health and Safety was advised of the mishap.

#### Boy charged over slingshot attack

A WOMAN is in danger of losing the sight in one eye following an attack allegedly carried out with a slingshot.

Police said the 40-year-old woman was hit in the eye by a stone during a disturbance at her Wulkuraka residence about 1.30am yesterday.

She was rushed to the Princess Alexandra Hospital for treatment.

A 16-year-old boy was later charged with grievous bodily harm, entering with intent and assault occasioning bodily harm while armed. He appeared in the Children's Court yesterday.

#### P-plater guilty in illegal 'trifecta'

A P-PLATER caught driving unregistered and uninsured was also over the legal alcohol limit, Ipswich Magistrates Court heard.

Cohen Edward Thomas Thamm, 19, was pulled over on Springfield Lakes Blvd on November 3 at 2.10am. He was breath tested and blew 0.072.

Thamm told the court it was a "silly mistake" and pleaded guilty to drink driving while on a provisional licence, unregistered and uninsured. He was fined \$450 and disqualified from driving for three months.

#### Meatworker's driving licence gets the chop

A MEATWORKER will be off the roads for three months after being caught driving more than twice the legal limit.

Ipswich Magistrates Court heard Riki Amosia Ellia, 23, blew 0.115 when pulled over on Henty Dr, Redbank Plains on November 19. Ellia pleaded guilty to drink driving and was also fined \$400.

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