

# Our rail crime spots

By DENNIS CLOUGH

HIGHER ticket prices earned passengers the right to feel safe when catching the train, RAIL Back on Track spokesman Robert Dow says.

Mr Dow's comments follow the release of figures late last month showing stations at Toombul, Banyo, Northgate and Virginia had the highest incidence of assault outside the inner-city. The figures showed there

## Banyo tops assault rates

were nine reported assaults at Toombul and Banyo stations, eight at Northgate and seven at Virginia in the 2008-09 financial year.

Mr Dow said he understood funding from higher ticket prices would go to more transport services, but action was needed to improve passenger safety.

"We know that the crime rate on the train network is lower than in the general community but if people are being asked to pay higher ticket prices they have an expectation for those services to be safe," Mr Dow said.

Mr Dow said there was a perception the Citytrain

network was not as safe as it should be and security patrols needed to be increased.

Queensland Rail passenger executive general manager Paul Scurrah said the overall figures showed a 12 per cent drop in crime across the network.

But Mr Scurrah said new

recording equipment would be installed at Deagon, Virginia and Zillmere stations during the next year to improve safety levels across those lines.

Stations along the Caboolture and Shorncliffe lines were part of the After Dark program, which provided additional evening staff at rail stations.

These lines included stations at Zillmere, Boondall, Banyo, Carseldine and Toombul.



## Busway beefs

PUBLIC submissions can still be made on the Northern Busway project. Northsiders can email team@northernbusway.qld.gov.au or call 1800 289 210.

## RAAF meets

THE Sandgate Branch of the RAAF Association will meet at 10.30am at the RSL Memorial Club, Keogh St. Phone 3265 4799 or 3261 4788.

## Building call

PEOPLE with concerns about dealing with the Building Services Authority (BSA) are invited to attend a public meeting on Saturday at 3pm at Aspley. Email bldgproblems@yahoo.com.au for information.

## Tick warning

THE Australian Veterinary Association has warned dog and cat owners to check their pets for ticks over summer, especially those animals playing in grassy areas near the coast.

## Blood thirst

THE Australian Red Cross Blood Service reported a need for 5878 extra donations last week. The service needed 3294 extra whole blood donations, 1240 extra plasma donations and 221 extra platelet donations.

## Choir tuning

THE Bayside Divas will hold auditions for their women's choir on Saturday, January 23 at 10am at St Margaret's Anglican Church at Sandgate. Phone 3263 8525 or email admin@baysidedivas.com.au.

## Loppers alert

SANDGATE MP Vicky Darling has warned about people offering to lop trees in Bracken Ridge. She said men "of Islander appearance" reportedly said they would cut large trees for up to \$1000 cash, but they did not have insurance. Anyone with concerns should visit www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au or phone 131 304.

## Babies get hoppin' and boppin' to the beat



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**WE'RE WITH THE BAND:** Julian and Mae Podmore of Alderley, Tracy with Jack and Jessica Dalton of Stafford Heights and Vin Jang and Chahn Blair of Wavell Heights are all fans of the Boppin' Babies music program. **Picture: Josh Woning**

NUNDAH music group Boppin' Babies is getting toddlers and babies moving and shaking over the school holidays.

The Boppin' Babies holiday program involves a weekly 45-minute music session of singing, dancing and playing percussion for

both children and their parents to enjoy.

Organiser and music therapist Claire Weller said the program aimed to encourage bonding between child and parent and enhance child development.

"It's been fantastic so far and is a great opportunity

for children and mothers to meet," she said.

Ms Weller said some of the tunes played were improvised or composed especially for children, while some were well-known.

Instruments used included shakers, drums, chimes and bells and no prior musical

ability was required to take part.

Ms Weller said some proceeds from the program would go towards an orphanage in Mexico.

"I'm looking to raise around \$8000 in total for the orphanage," she said.

Sessions will be held to-

morrow and on January 21 at the Nundah Anglican Church Hall, corner Imbros and Olive streets.

Sessions cost \$10 per family and bookings are essential.

Phone Claire Weller on 0427 625 138 or visit www.boppinbabies.com.au.

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