

Truck will get firies to front line faster

FIGHTING grass fires has been made easier for crew members at the Charters Towers Fire Station since the arrival of their new truck.

QFES Charters Towers officer-in-charge Brett Holmes said the team has been pushing to get the new four-wheel drive for the past couple of years and it has come at a time when the grass fire season is about to start.

"We can get really good access to grass fires now," Mr Holmes said.

"Rather than sacrificing a large area to let the fire come to us, we can actually get into a paddock and put it out."

He said this hasn't been the case in the past, because the other two vehicles at the station can't be taken off road.

"Out here, because we are

quite isolated, it is perfect for us and it is also suited for the wet season," Mr Holmes said.

Bowen firefighter Rees May had a short change of scenery to help out the Charters Towers fire station recently due to crew members away on leave.

He said the Bowen crew has the same vehicle, which they have found great for dealing with both fires and floods.

"You can put an inflatable boat on the back when there is floods, so it becomes a versatile vehicle," he said.

Mr Holmes said anyone interested in joining the auxiliary firefighters can drop into the Charters Towers Fire Station and get an information booklet. Training for auxiliaries is on Mondays from 7pm-9pm.

— SOPHIE KESTEVEN



Firefighters Michael Hall, David Ryder, Brett Holmes and Rees May welcomed the arrival of a new truck ahead of the grass fire season.

Picture: SOPHIE KESTEVEN

Mental health aid falling short

More children seeking help

MORE than 1600 people sought mental health treatment with the Charters Towers Mental Health Services in the past five years, many of them children.

Queensland Health statistics revealed of those 1600 people who sought mental health treatment, 450 were youths aged 18 years and under.

The statistics come as mental health week approaches and the community's growing concern about the number of young people going untreated.

A local mother who approached *The Northern Miner* recently said she was on one hand frustrated and at other times pleased with the services available to families.

The woman, who cannot be named, recently took her son to seek medical assistance within the region for his mental health.

When seeking assistance for him, they were told by the individual, that they didn't have time to fill out the paperwork and instead the mother and son would have to come another day.

The mother said it was very frustrating because it was hard enough getting her son there in the first place.

She said on a separate occasion they were told they would get all the assistance they needed.

Charters Towers Rehabilitation Unit director of nursing and facility manager Thelma Eather said she was disappointed to hear the mother

and son had encountered such an incident.

"If she had taken her son with asthma, would they have said they didn't have time to see him?" Ms Eather said.

She said it was negligent on the individual medical specialist's behalf and the mother should escalate her complaint.

"If people have any signs of symptoms which are dismissed you need to escalate it, because there are avenues where people who treat this as insignificant are accountable."

Ms Eather said mental illness is such a sensitive area and urged anyone with a friend, family member or partner who has signs and symptoms of illness to access Beyond Blue.

"There is help out there and we need to encourage people to access help," she said.

Rural Doctors Association of Australia vice president John Hall said there is very much a community perception that mental illness is a flaw in personality or a sign of weakness.

"I say to people, we treat mental illness as seriously as someone walking through the door with chest pain or a suspected heart attack," he said.

"So many young people die needlessly of this. It is such a serious condition and it's imminently treatable and fixable."

"No one would expect someone with a heart attack to go home and fix themselves,

yet it is this common perception that people should somehow be able to fix themselves with depression."

Mr Hall said a good doctor will never let someone seeking assistance walk out the door unless they have done a formal suicide assessment.

"If we do that assessment and deem their suicide risk is not high it is OK to put them off."

"And sometimes it is OK to do that because you can then dedicate more time to them."

"If they have done the proper suicide assessment that is

OK, but if they haven't that is a real concern."

Mr Hall said the best thing a young person could do is get in and see their GP for mental health assistance.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service chief executive Julia Squire said the Charters Towers Community Mental Health Service (CTCMHS) provides specialist mental health services for people with moderate to severe mental illness and their families.

People seeking support or advice from a mental health care team can self-refer during business hours on 4787 0342 or after hours on 1300 MH CALL (1300 64 2255).

WHAT'S ON AT THE WORLD THEATRE and Cinemas

ANDREW VIEVERS: DEPARTURES. SPANISH GUITAR (LIVE)
2014 New Album Tour | SAT 13 Sep 7.30pm
Adults : \$25pp - Child / Student /
Conc / Groups 10+ : \$20pp
Guitar workshop 1-3pm \$15pp –
limited spaces available BOOK NOW



LIVE IN CONCERT
AMBER LAWRENCE WITH SPECIAL GUESTS KAYLENS RAIN

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER @ 8pm
Tickets : Adults \$20pp Conc / Student \$14pp

GALLERY EXHIBITION
"My Country" by Lloyd Hornsby Gawura
Showing until Friday September 26

PROGRAM INFOLINE 4787 4337
OFFICE 4787 4344
Email: WorldTheatre@charterstowers.qld.gov.au

BUDGET
\$8 pp

"AND SO IT GOES"
(M) 94 MINS
WED 10 Sept (2D)
6.40pm
FINAL SCREENING

FATAL HONEYMOON
(M) 99 MINS
FRI 12 Sept (2D) 8.40pm

EXPENDABLES 3
(M) 130 MINS
WED 10 Sept (2D)
10.15am & 8.30pm
FINAL SCREENING

IF I STAY
(M) 106 MINS
THURS 11 Sept (2D) 7pm,
FRI 12 Sept (2D) 6.40pm

THE HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY
(PG) 125 MINS
WED 10 Sept (2D)
10.30am & 6.30pm
FINAL SCREENING

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (G) 101 MINS
THURS 11 Sept (3D)
PREMIERE SCREENING 7.10pm
FRI 12 Sept (2D) 6.30pm & (3D) 8.30pm

THE INBETWEENERS
(2) (MA15+) 100 MINS
WED 10 Sept (2D)
8.45pm
FINAL SCREENING

THE MAZE RUNNER (M)
PLANES: FIRE & RESCUE (G)

Like us on facebook /WorldTheatreChartersTowers
http://worldtheatre.blogspot.com.au/

**COMING
SOON**

