

Debt sales deal done

THE planned sale of six properties with rates in arrears will no longer go ahead after property owners finally came to an agreement with the Bundaberg Regional Council over the long overdue bills.

Bundaberg Mayor Mal Forman said the council had resolved at a meeting on November 20 last year to sell 22 properties at a public auction scheduled for tomorrow at the Civic Centre.

He said owners of all but six of the 22 properties identified had paid outstanding amounts before the April 20 notification of auction.

"I am pleased to advise that the rating liabilities of the final six properties have now been resolved."

Cr Forman said selling properties was a final resort, only taken by the council to recover rates overdue for three years or longer.

Hear 4 Alana to benefit from annual poker run



POKER RUN: Royal Flying Doctors Auxiliary Service will make the food for the Fraser Coast Social Riders Poker Run.

PHOTO: MAX FLEET BUN020513ALA2

THE Fraser Coast Social Riders will have extra motivation for their third annual poker run later this month with money being raised for both Spina Bifida Queensland and the Hear 4 Alana campaign.

The Hear 4 Alana campaign has raised just over \$50,000 so far to send young Alana Reid to America for much-needed surgery to give her the gift of hearing.

The Fraser Coast Social Riders will be supported by the Royal Flying Doctors Auxiliary Service who will provide food for the event.

Auxiliary Service member Carmel Roden said a simple request from the riders' organisation was all that it took for them to get involved.

"We will be feeding about 100 people," she said.

Mrs Roden said they would provide dinner and breakfast for the riders before they embarked on their 300km journey from Maryborough to Bundaberg and were delighted to be a part of such a worthwhile cause.

Not tolerated: IGA manager hopes footage will help catch culprits

Racist rant exposed in CCTV

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A CITY supermarket at the centre of a racially motivated verbal attack on an ethnic woman by another shopper has released CCTV footage of the confrontation.

The NewsMail ran a story in Saturday's paper after speaking to Wendy Fay, who witnessed the woman being

abused by a drunken man for wearing a scarf inside the Bundaberg Plaza Supa IGA last Wednesday.

Miss Fay said the man had repeatedly yelled, "you're in Australia now, you can't wear that sh*t on your head", while other shoppers watched on silently.

But store owner Kevin Cast said his staff did all they could to help the woman.

"Staff escorted the lady out to the car and stayed with her and packed her groceries away," he said.

"She wasn't abandoned at all."

Mr Cast said by the time the store manager reached the checkouts, the man who carried out the attack and his friend had left the store.

"They were obviously drunk - they never bought

anything," he said.

Mr Cast said releasing the CCTV footage might prompt the woman to come forward, as he was told police could not act unless a complaint was made.

The footage shows two men, the abuser in a black hat at right and a companion, entering the store, walking around and then leaving.

"I don't know who the wo-

man is," Mr Cast said.

"If the woman comes forward, maybe we can do something about it."

"I certainly don't tolerate (what happened) - it's harassment."

Mr Cast said the staff did all they could to ensure the woman left the store safely.

"The store did act - it appeared (in the article) as if we had done nothing," he said.



SNAPPED: The two men were captured in CCTV footage.

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Back to school for councillor

IT WILL be back to school for Bundaberg councillor Vince Habermann today, as he swaps his seat on council for that of principal.

As part of Education Week's Principal for a Day initiative, Cr Habermann will take the top job at Bundaberg High School to get an insight into the challenges of teachers and students.

The councillor said he was looking forward to the experience.

"Schools are an integral part of the community," he said.

Bundaberg High School's real principal Raelene Fysh said Cr Habermann was the natural choice for the principal initiative.

"Vince is our local councillor for the



Vince Habermann.

school and has also has become a host parent for our international students," she said.

Mrs Fysh said the best advice she could offer the councillor was to talk to the students.

"He is a leader in the community and I'm a leader in a fairly complex community," she said.

"I think we have quite a lot in common."

Labor's racing deals in probe

CONTRACTS for racetrack works in regional Queensland will likely come under the microscope after the Queensland Government ordered an inquiry into allegations of "golden handshake payouts" and "murky back-room dealings".

The Commission of Inquiry, announced yesterday, will be directed to investigate Sunshine Coast firm Contour Consulting Engineers which was allegedly awarded 37 contracts through the former Labor Government with only one put out to tender.

The firm completed track work at Caloundra's Corbould Park, was project manager for the \$7.9 million upgrade to the Oora-lea racetrack at

Mackay completed last year and carried out work at Calaghan Park in Rockhampton.

Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie said the inquiry was a response to serious allegations raised in recent weeks about \$150 million "being thrown around" between the former Labor government and the former Queensland Racing bosses.

But Mr Bleijie said he would leave the decision to call former premier Anna Bligh and former treasurer Andrew Fraser, and whether to examine contracts in regional Queensland, to the commissioner he was yet to appoint.

The three-month inquiry will begin on July 1 and is expected to cost \$3 million.