

# CCTV fees decision on hold

By ROSS TYSON

GRIFFITH City Council has suspended its controversial CCTV fees pending a report on the effect of charging for the footage.

At Tuesday night's meeting, councillors rescinded a previous decision to impose hefty charges on the police and public for CCTV recordings following fears the cost would prove prohibitive and discourage access to the crime prevention tool.

Council's general manager Peter Brooks will now prepare a report for council to consider regarding the impact of charging

police, organisations and individuals for copies of the footage.

The issue of CCTV fees came to a head last month when it was revealed a local man had been slugged nearly \$1200 for three DVDs worth of footage, while the police had received it for free.

In an attempt to address the imbalance, council resolved to end its policy of providing police footage free of charge, which in turn raised concerns from Griffith Local Area Command crime manager Detective Inspector Paul Smith that crime rates would rise if police could not afford to pay for the recordings.

Councillor Christine Stead, who along with Bill Lancaster and Peter Taylor lodged the rescission motion, said she was pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

"It needs an in-depth report because the fees that have been charged have been huge," Cr Stead said.

"There should be a charge, but it should be a minimal charge not an extravagant charge like what's in place now."

Mr Brooks said he and acting mayor Dom Testoni had met with the police last week and all parties were confident a resolution could be reached.

One of the recommendations to be con-

tained in the forthcoming report will be that a select group of authorised police officers be allowed to view the footage without council staff having to provide them with copies.

"Instead of council cloning long periods of footage for police to look at as part of their investigative process, the authorised officers will be able to view the footage themselves and council will only make copies if the matter goes to court," Mr Brooks said.

"That will cut down on staff time while also providing the police with what they want."

## Muso pens Mackay song

By TANYA PATTISON

A LOT has been written about Donald Mackay since his death 32 years ago.

Now, in a moving tribute to the legendary anti-drugs campaigner, a song has been penned.

The country song titled *The Man Who Made a Stand*, written by former local Doug McIntyre, was unveiled for crowds this month at the Hillston Australiana Bush Festival.

As a contemporary Australian country writer, Doug said it was a passion to compose and perform stories about this great country that inspired him.

"I grew up with the Donald Mackay story," he said.

"The black and white photo of his kind face is etched in my mind.

"He was an Australian hero who made a stand against some big problems. His death occurred in the shadows and precise details remain hidden in the shadows."

Doug may have only been an innocent five-and-a-half-year-old growing up in the small town of Goolgowi when one of the nation's most enduring mysteries unfolded, but over the years he's heard plenty of stories.

"A child listens to adults, watches TV, and looks at the paper being read," he said.

### THE SONG

*The Man Who Made A Stand*

#### VERSE 1

Well it's Friday night outside  
the pub in Griffith  
The daily grind has faded  
with the sun  
And waiting in the shadows  
is a stranger  
He's thrown away his soul  
and bought a gun

#### VERSE 2

And in the light there  
appears a tall man  
The stranger's beady eyes  
are lookin' round  
A muffled shot is sucked up  
in the silence  
And the tall man tumbles to  
the ground

#### CHORUS

Ah the old men who were  
young men won't forget him  
His gentle face caught in  
black 'n white  
He blew their cover - they  
were out to get him  
Ah the man who made a

stand for what was right

#### VERSE 3

The smell of powder lingers  
in the night air  
The stranger wipes his brow  
and drives away  
No one saw what happened  
in the darkness  
And all mouths were shut in  
the light of day

#### CHORUS

#### BRIDGE

Well he died a thousand  
times in all the papers  
And still they speak his  
name across the land  
This cover binds the pages  
of an old tale  
Tall men cut down when  
they make a stand!

#### CHORUS

Ah the man who made a  
stand for what was right

"There was a strong awareness among everyone of what had happened.

"People either knew Don or someone closely associated with him. The matter continued to be quite prominent in the media during my teenage years."

Now based in the Southern Highlands and working as an

ambulance officer, Doug is in the process of releasing the song as a demo.

"*The Man Who Made a Stand* is a humble tribute and thank you to Don Mackay," Doug said.

"His story is one for Australians to be proud of, particularly Riverina people."



TRIBUTE SONG: Former local Doug McIntyre performs the song he penned as a tribute to anti-drugs campaigner Donald Mackay at the Hillston Bush Festival this month.

## Point trio charged over home invasion

THREE Darlington Point men will front Griffith court next month after being involved in an alleged home invasion on Friday night.

Police claim the men went to a home at about 10pm and attempted to force entry and then threatened to assault the occupants. A car parked in the home's driveway was also allegedly damaged during the incident.

Police were called and arrested the three men a short distance away from the

### POLICE BRIEFS

house.

All three have been charged with affray and have received conditional bail to appear in court on August 12.

TWO GRIFFITH men have been charged after a confrontation with police at a local hotel in the early hours of Saturday

morning.

Officers were conducting a walk-through of the hotel at about 2am when two heavily intoxicated men objected to being asked to leave.

One man has been charged with assaulting police, resisting arrest, intimidating an officer, offensive behaviour and failing to quit a licenced premises.

The other has been charged with offensive behaviour.

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