

# Attacks 'linked to roadwork'

JOSH ZIMMERMAN

A SURGE in vandalism at the South West Institute of Technology may be linked to roadworks on Somerville Drive, according to SWIT facilities and services manager Rod Smith.

Mr Smith said that SWIT had been targeted by vandals every weekend since construction began in February to connect Robertson Drive and Somerville Drive.

"We've had some damage to property every weekend for six weeks now," he said.

"The back of the TAFE is visible

from the new road and that's where they've been cutting the fence to get in."

The vandalism has increased in ferocity over the past two weekends with a three-hour rampage Friday before last followed by another attack on Sunday morning, leaving a combined damage bill in excess of \$150,000.

Security vision from the Friday night attack shows what appears to be four male youths smashing car windows and slashing tyres before moving to the newly constructed automotive centre where they destroyed glass panels, damaged

walls and upended tins of paint and hydraulic fluid.

The vandals appear to be growing in confidence, too, with neighbouring Manea Senior College also attacked on Sunday.

"I've spoken to the people responsible for the roadworks and they say they've also been targeted — my guess is it's the same group of people running amok weekend after weekend," Mr Smith said.

City of Bunbury engineering manager Jason Gick confirmed that the Somerville Drive roadworks had also come under attack from vandals.

"There have been some instances of vandalism over the last few weeks including the plant on the Somerville Drive job," he said.

"The contractor undertakes regular out-of-hours inspections of the project but has not yet caught anyone in the act."

Mr Smith said SWIT had stepped up security since the last attack.

Security officers now patrol the campus from 6pm to 6am Monday to Friday and a guard will be stationed outside the automotive centre over the weekend.

Police are investigating the vandalism.



Broken glass at SWIT's new automotive centre.



Brice Rowe and Heal for Life coordinator Linda Nabben celebrate his win of the foundation's inaugural Volunteer of the Year award.

PICTURE: DAVID BAILEY

## Volunteer honour for endless hours of 'loving' care

A BUNBURY man has been unanimously chosen as the recipient of an inaugural award for service to an organisation that helps childhood trauma victims.

Brice Rowe has been volunteering at the Heal For Life Foundation for 10 years, offering his IT knowledge and skills to set up and maintain their database.

The foundation helps survivors of childhood trauma through mental health issues such as depression, suicidal thoughts and anxiety.

Mr Rowe received the foundation's first Volunteer of the Year award, but he said he was not expecting it.

"I was surprised and embarrassed when I found out," he said.

"There are a lot of other people who volunteer and each are just as deserving."

Mr Rowe said it was nice to do something useful with his skills since he had retired.

The foundation's chief executive and founder Liz Mullinar said Mr Rowe's contributions to the database would allow the organisation to help people into the future.

"Everyone who had a hand in deciding the winner almost simultaneously said there can only be one person and that was Brice," she said.

"He was chosen for the endless hours of loving care, helping set up the database and he never hesitates when asked if he can fix something.

"It is people like him that make the world a wonderful place and make Heal For Life the organisation it is."

## Chalise back in Bluey's saddle, but mauling fresh in memory

LESS than two months ago, Chalise Lange was confined to a hospital bed after a savage dog attack left her with a deep wound to her leg and her horse with horrific injuries to its neck.

Just last week the 17-year-old took her horse Bluey on his first ride since the attack, which took

place on Cathedral Avenue at Leschenault on January 27, after receiving the all-clear from doctors.

She said the attack still affected her and Bluey, who had been cautious of dogs when they had been out on walks.

"I went for a walk the month after the incident and there were

some dogs without leads and one was running around Bluey, which freaked him out and made me scared," she said.

She said she still thought about the attack and had been reminded about the incident the first time she got out the saddle Bluey was wearing when it took place.

"It's just the little things that hit you and make you realise what happened," Chalise said.

Following the attack, Chalise was rushed to hospital where she received a skin graft on her right leg and was unable to put weight on it for three weeks.

"I am so happy with all the nurs-

es, doctors, rangers, vets and bystanders — they all did a really good job to help me," she said.

The dog involved in the attack was destroyed, but Chalise said that did not offer her much relief because there were still owners who could not control their animals.

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