

# Smacking Dani a winning deb

By PROFESSOR MATT SANDERS

THE majority of parents smack their children at least occasionally.

But research tells us that the more you smack your child the more likely your child will develop further behaviour problems.

Smacking may serve as a model of aggression the very behaviour we want our children to be able to control.

While an occasional single smack is not likely to turn your child into an aggressive adult it is ultimately a negative approach to dealing with misbehaviour.

So how do we deal with misbehaviour?

Parents will usually first experience disobedience when their child becomes a toddler.

Toddlers are mobile and just beginning to learn independence and assertiveness.

They may start to resist you. When you say "No" it can be like a dare to them.

It's important to deal with this disobedience firmly and decisively. However misusing or overusing smacking to deal with disobedience is unhelpful and can cause harm.

Look for practical and effective alternatives.

With young children, when you see problem behaviour occurring, stop what you are doing and move to within an arms length of your child and bend down to their eye level.

Gain their attention by using their name, hold their hands firmly and say "No" in a firm calm voice while frowning and shaking your head from side to side.

Make sure you don't give too many instructions.

Be clear in what you are saying and ensure that your child understands exactly what is required. If your child is busy watching their favourite television show accept that you have a better chance of calmly and effectively gain their full attention when the program is over.

With older children you should tell your child specifically what you want them to stop doing and what they should do instead.

Be consistent with how you deal with misbehaviour and choose a logical consequence if your child does not do as you ask.

Where possible remove the activity or toy that is at the centre of the problem and explain why you are doing this: "Frank, you have not done as I asked. TV is off for 10 minutes".

Above all, don't forget to praise and reward your children when they behave well.

□ Professor Matt Sanders is a clinical psychologist at the University of Queensland and founder of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program.

If parents and carers are interested in more information about the Positive Parenting Program contact Julianne Boddenberg, program facilitator at Community Health, Charters Towers Hospital, phone 4787 0361.

## Big driving fine

By TRUDY BROWN

A TOWNSVILLE woman found driving an uninsured and unregistered vehicle while unlicensed has been fined nearly \$900.

Kerry Leanne Stibbs, 26, of Condon pleaded guilty to the three charges before Magistrate Laurie Verra in the Charters Towers Magistrates Court last Monday.

Police pulled Stibbs over for another reason in Mosman Street at 5.45pm on November 20 while driving a blue Ford hatchback and upon checking discovered the vehicle was unregistered and therefore uninsured.

Stibbs told police she had re-registered the vehicle, but was not sure that it had actually been re-registered.

Further checks showed Stibbs' licence had expired 14 days earlier. She told police she thought she had until December to re-new her licence.

Asked about the offences, Stibbs told the court it was an oversight on her part.

For driving unlicensed Stibbs was convicted and fined \$153.

For driving an unregistered car she was fined \$240 and for driving an uninsured vehicle \$400.

By SIMON CRASE

A CHARTERS Towers angel has flown in to Townsville and returned to town with two awards.

Dani Mitchell was crowned Angel Flight debutante of the year and most popular debutante at the event at Riverway Arts Complex.

"I was shocked, but very happy at winning, as I've never gone in anything like this before," Dani said.

"It was for a good cause and I'd definitely encourage other girls to go in the Angel Flight deb of the year next year.

"It gave me a chance to wear the dress again, and it was a good experience."

Dani said her family believed in the Angel Flight cause was a worthy one and supported it, and she raised a fantastic \$1300 on the Saturday of the competition simply walking the streets in the Towers.

The dress Dani wore was originally bought for the Catholic deb ball earlier in the

year from the Fashion Gallery in Townsville.

Angel Flight co-ordinator Gwen Barr was thrilled with the representation from Charters Towers, which included competitors in the bride of the year and other debutantes including Sarah Smith and Kendyll Currin.

"All the girls looked lovely, the brides were gorgeous, and I was very happy with the Charters Towers entrants and the money raised for the event," Mrs Barr said.

In 2010, Angel Flight will be holding its own debutante ball in Townsville and Mrs Barr hopes a contingent of Towers lasses enters the event.

A young models and face of the future competition will be re-introduced next year as well.

"Many years ago a five-year-old by the name of Rachael Finch was one of the winners," Mrs Barr said.

"I'm looking forward to it, as it's a new challenge for me, and businesses are already willing to get behind it."



AWARD WINNING DEB . . . local Dani Mitchell took out the Angel Flight debutante of the year and most popular awards at the event in Townsville.

## Ravenswood's clean up day



CLEAN UP DAY . . . parents Mandy Ruskin and Tracey Josselyn with students Kasia Kennedy, Jorgia Ruskin and Charlie Ruskin clean up part of McCrossan Street in Ravenswood. The group were part of the Clean Up Australia effort organised by Ravenswood State School.

## Trip to shop costs driver big dollars

By TRUDY BROWN

A TRIP to get cigarettes for his father has landed a Charters Towers man in court.

Anthony Douglas John Budby, 28, was pulled over driving a red Holden Commodore sedan on November 20 this year and placed on four charges.

He appeared in the Charters Towers Magistrates Court last week where he pleaded guilty to driving an uninsured vehicle, driving without a licence, using

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false number plates and driving an unregistered vehicle.

Police prosecutor Sergeant Dave Blundell said police pulled over Budby for a random breath test at 7.05pm that night.

He told them he did not have a licence and had never held one.

Checks showed the vehicle had no registration label and that the number plates on the vehicle belonged to a white Holden Barina and had been cancelled in 2008.

Sgt Blundell said Budby told police he did not own the vehicle although he knew that it was unregistered.

Defence solicitor Peter Coombe said Budby's father had purchased the vehicle two weeks before the offence was committed.

"On this occasion his father was drunk and asked (Budby) to go down to the shops and get some cigarettes for him," Mr Coombe said.

"He made a foolish decision - under some pressure obviously."

Mr Coombe said Budby was going to try to get a licence in the near future.

Magistrate Laurie Verra told Budby if he wanted to drive he needed to get his licence.

"There's a lot of better things you can do with your money than pay fines," he told Budby.

Budby was convicted and fined \$446 for driving without a licence, \$240 for driving an unregistered vehicle, \$400 for driving an uninsured vehicle and \$240 for using number plates that belonged to another vehicle.