

Student film maker earns serious reward for comedy

A FILM made for a school assignment with a \$50 budget has beaten 21 other finalists to claim a prestigious \$20,000 scholarship.

Julian Hartley, 17, a student of St Peters Indooroopilly, was shocked to win The Robin Anderson Scholarship, which includes material and tuition to attend The Sydney Film School, for his 10-minute comedy *Due Back Saturday*.

Hartley, who was assisted by friend Nick Murray, said his teacher entered the debut film after he received an A grade for

the Year 12 project. "I decided to do a comedy because everyone was making depressing and dark movies and I felt like doing something different," Hartley said.

Due Back Saturday is about a video store assistant who likes a girl because of the films she hires until she starts selecting movies that are not to his taste.

Sydney Film School advanced diploma co-ordinator and scholarship judge Kathryn Milliss said this year's field of finalists was incredibly strong.

Fiona Purdon



SHOT OF FORTUNE: Teen film maker Julian Hartley has gained recognition for a school assignment project.

Pictures: Nathan Richter

Wild pigs culled to save parrots

RANGERS have killed 3500 feral pigs to protect a threatened parrot that lives in Far North Queensland.

The feral pigs in the southern Cape York Peninsula's Staaten River National Park were damaging the habitat of the golden-shouldered parrot, Environment Minister Vicky Darling said yesterday.

According to estimates, fewer than 2000 of the parrots remain in the wild in Australia.

The Government's action followed an increase in damage by the pigs to anthills where the parrots nested, Ms Darling said.

Speeding drivers in Clem7 dispute

Robyn Ironside
TRANSPORT REPORTER

DISGRUNTLED motorists hit with hefty speeding fines in the Clem7 Tunnel have begun legal action to clear their names.

Thirteen people, nabbed when the speed limit in the tunnel was dropped to 40km/h on several dates in May this year, appeared in the Brisbane Magistrates Court yesterday.

All but one pleaded not guilty and were given hearing dates early next year.

The other case involved Beatrix Wanrooy, 38, who changed her plea to guilty when the police prosecutor agreed to amend the speed on her charge from 82km/h to 79km/h.

As a result, Ms Wanrooy was fined \$466 and lost six demerit points, instead of losing her licence for six months and being fined \$933.

She was also ordered to pay court costs of \$78.50.

Dozens more people caught out by the variable speed limit signs are expected to launch similar challenges to their fines.

More than 3600 motorists were snapped by fixed cameras speeding in the Clem7 Tunnel in May.

Although 500 were later withdrawn because of a misplaced speed sign, police insisted the rest of their fines would stand because a law change al-

lowed them to enforce variable speed limits.

Speed camera consultant Scott Cooper said he was advising 73 clients who were fighting their Clem7 speeding fines.

"There are issues with the signage being spaced too far apart and the legality of the cameras," he said. "It's all been designed to catch motorists out for revenue. None of this has been designed for road safety."

Mr Cooper said the police manual for speed cameras stated "very clearly they are not able to operate at speeds under 60km/h".

"It's interesting that police expect us to abide by the rules, but they do not seem to be prepared to do the same," he said.

Despite the windfall for the Clem7 fixed speed cameras, others in south-east Queensland snapped fewer leadfoots in the first six months of the year.

Figures provided by Transport and Main Roads showed the region's nine cameras clocked an average 4977 motorists a month compared with 5331 in each month of 2010.

Another four fixed cameras were switched on in August, on the M1 at Loganholme, the Gateway Motorway at Nudgee, and the Bruce Highway at the Glasshouse Mountains and Landsborough.

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Search for teen continues

HOPES have all but disappeared of finding alive a Kenyan teenager who disappeared in the surf at Cabarita on the Tweed Coast as the search today enters a third day.

Sam Macharia should

have been celebrating his 17th birthday, but instead of holding a party, dozens of friends mounted a cliffside vigil at the surfing beach as rescue workers combed the coastline for any sign of the soccer whiz.