

NEWS

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» **COMMUNITY**

» **EDUCATION**

» **GIVEAWAY**

**A PEEK
INSIDE PCYC**
PAGE 35

**CLASSROOM
CHATTER**
PAGES 50-53

**STAY INFORMED
WITH BRITANNICA**
PAGE 38



JOBLESS JUMP

But cycle can be broken

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the rise in some pockets of the northern Gold Coast – the area going against the state and nationwide trend. The worst figures were recorded in the suburbs of Eagleby and Beenleigh. But it isn't all bad news. After being unemployed for 18 months, Mark Simpson, pictured, of Edens Landing is back on the job and loving it.

■ See page 3



UNEMPLOYMENT	Sept 06 (%)	Sept 05 (%)
Beenleigh	7.4%	6.7%
Bethania/Waterford	6.0%	5.1%
Eagleby	8.8%	8.0%
Edens Landing/Holmview	6.4%	5.9%
Mt Warren Park	6.8%	6.2%
Waterford West	7.1%	6.2%

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Suburb	Sept 06 (%)	Sept 05 (%)
Beenleigh	7.4%	6.7%
Bethania/Waterford	6.0%	5.1%
Eagleby	8.8%	8.0%
Edens Landing/Holnview	6.4%	5.9%
Mt Warren Park	6.8%	6.2%
Waterford West	7.1%	6.2%

Jobs go begging

By JUDITH MAIZEY

WHILE the latest official figures state unemployment in the Beenleigh and Eagleby areas is on the rise, employers continue to scream out for workers.

The *Small Area Labour Markets Australia* report for the September 2006 quarter was released last week and revealed Beenleigh's unemployment rate is 7.3 per cent while Eagleby's is 8.8 per cent.

closeup labour crisis

■ Unemployment figures rise.
■ Eagleby double the state average.
■ Jobs available "if you look".

The Queensland average is 4.3 per cent while the Australian average is 4.6 per cent.

Mark just loves being back in the workforce

AFTER 18 months of being unemployed, Mark Simpson of Edens Landing is back on the job and loving it. Starting last October as a

forklift driver at the Brisbane Markets, Mr Simpson said he had found it hard to find another job because of his disability.

"My leg was a big hurdle for some employers," he said. Mr Simpson, who is married with four children,

had his right leg amputated when he was 11 because of bone cancer. He said once he got his forklift ticket he was found

a job straight away through Job Placement. He said there were plenty of jobs out there "if people were willing and able to work".

Both Beenleigh and Eagleby's unemployment rates are slightly higher than the same quarter in 2005, but are considerably lower than the traditionally high unemployment areas of Woodridge (16.6 per cent), Kingston (16.5 per cent) and Inala (14.3 per cent).

Yatala Enterprise Area (YEA) business officer Kay Turley-Gros said it was "incredibly difficult" to get staff for the Yatala precinct because unemployment was

at an all-time low in Australia and there was a skills shortage. "YEA is also growing so fast and demand (for staff) is very, very high," she said. While Ms Turley-Gros said it was difficult to source staff locally, she declined to comment on those who said they could not find a job.

She said one YEA business had to limit its growth because it could not get workers. "And that's extraor-

inary," she said. Job Placement Ltd's Logan/Beenleigh team leader John Dawson said if people wanted a job, they could get a job. "There are jobs out there if you're really willing to get a job, you just have to do the hard yards."

In Beaudesert Shire, unemployment is 4.4 per cent while it is 6.4 per cent at Edens Landing-Holnview and 6.8 per cent at Mt Warren Park.

briefly

Challenge set
LOCALS are being encouraged to get on board the Queensland Cancer Fund's (QCF) Challenge for Cancer campaign, which kicked off last week. The fundraising campaign, which runs until September, brings people from all walks of life together to raise money, through both individual community events and QCF's major events. To get involved, phone 1300 656 585 or visit www.qldcancer.com.au.

Pet decline
LATEST figures have shown a decline in dog and cat ownership across Australia. A report released by the Australian Companion Animal Council revealed that the 2.43 million dog population had been in decline since 2002 and the 3.75 million cat population since 1997. The Australian Veterinary Association said fewer back yards and restrictive council restrictions could be to blame.

Mock rescue
A MOCK rescue scenario on the Logan River last week gave Beaudesert and Logan SES volunteers a chance to hone their water search and rescue skills. The flood boat training exercise had the teams "searching" for teenagers supposedly in trouble after jumping from a bridge into the Logan River. Beaudesert Shire SES controller Brendan Guy said the new skills would be put into practice during flood evacuation, body retrieval or land or water searches.

Shire study
RETAINING the natural ambience of Beaudesert Shire was the subject of a study by landscape architects Chenoweth, commissioned as part of the shire's new draft plan. Their report suggested ways of carefully handling "sensitive" land to limit the impact of development on the region's landscape. Community consultation ends on Monday, April 16 with information displays across the shire during that time. Phone 5540 5452.

Mobile Mania - Does Your Head Hurt?

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Consumers trying to make sense of mobile phone plans are often faced with the daunting task of making decisions between hundreds of offers from a multitude of companies. The Telstra Licensed Shop Beenleigh has a team of highly trained professionals that will help you make the right decision. "We take the time to understand how people use their mobile phone and then make a recommendation that best suits their needs and requirements," says Chantal, the Telstra Shop Beenleigh store manager. The mobile phone industry is a highly competitive market and there are plenty of "good looking deals"

that often entice consumers into a plan that doesn't match their individual needs. Chantal continues, "We can analyse your current mobile bill and make a recommendation that matches your usage, in many cases this will save you money or give you better value than you currently receive." Key considerations for consumers when choosing a mobile phone plan are

- Network coverage
- Suitability of the plan
- Quality of the handset
- and ongoing service quality

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