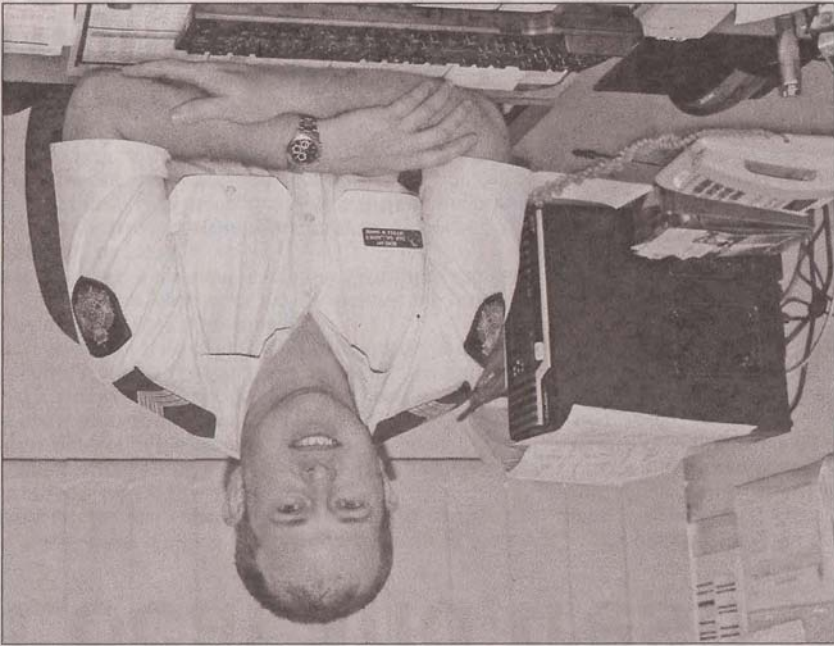


Mission Beach police drive to prevent alcohol abuse



HELPING THE KIDS: Sergeant Dan Gallagher is working hard to achieve his dream of giving the kids of the region a safe and alcohol and drug free environment with his new entertainment programs to be held at Mission Beach.

Sergeant Gallagher is currently raising money for items to make drinks and breakfasts at the events and in a generous gesture to show how serious he is about taking on the project, he presented a cheque at last Tuesday night's Mission Beach Community Association meeting for \$250 to the Inntail PCYC to He also donated \$250 to the Inntail PCYC to go towards the Adrenaline Festival. "I really want this to work and I want everyone to know Mission Beach is not about getting drunk."

val will run on Saturday, October 24 and I hope it will become an annual event. "It will be held at South Mission Beach and will be a weekend of activities for teenagers and will be all about promoting a healthy lifestyle using our best assets; our children, ourselves and Mission Beach. "There will be an aqua-thon, sandcastle building and live bands. "The money we make will go back to the community and shared between the PCYC and the Mission Beach Surf Life-Saving Club."

have here. "The first part of the plan is Boogie on the Beach. "With help from the Mission Beach Resort we are now ready to hold discos at the resort. "Boogie on the Beach will help foster a relationship between the Mission Beach community and the kids, supported by the Mission Beach Resort and the Inntail Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC). "I am presently applying for funding to purchase lighting that will be donated to the PCYC to be used for our children. "The Adrenaline Festival

The dedicated efforts of the Mission Beach police to control alcohol abuse, drink driving and underage drinking has achieved positive results, according to Officer in Charge, Sergeant Dan Gallagher. "When I arrived here the one thing that I was slapped in the face with was the amount of alcohol misuse," Sergeant Gallagher said. "My attitude towards the community is to be part of the community and my strategy to achieve this was to be in everyone's face. "The misuse of alcohol is one of the most outstanding issues occurring at the beach. "Our drink driving statistics were horrific and I was very concerned. "But we have achieved a lot and I am very happy to say 11 months later that our figures show we have significantly reduced the numbers of drink drivers. "Most of the people who were caught were visitors to the area. "Most local residents are now ready to hold discos at the resort. "Boogie on the Beach will help foster a relationship between the kids and alcohol. "So we have now come up with some strategies for these issues because the number one excuse kids give for drinking is that they are bored. "A two part strategy will provide our youth with a drug and alcohol free lifestyle and an opportunity to enjoy what we