

Diamond Valley


BANYULE EDITION

Leader

diamondvalleyleader.com.au

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

\$1 Incl. GST



THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT: YALLAMBIE

In your Property liftout

BOOM TIMES AHEAD?

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



OFF BALANCE BUT ON TRACK: Extreme teens from Balance Gymnastics set for television stardom thought they would be forced to tread water after their Research gym was flooded on Christmas Day, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars' damage. But the Off Balance team's training is on track, thanks to nearby Eltham Martial Arts Academy. ► **Report, p9**

Picture: JASON EDWARDS N29DV201

Copping it sweet

Safety | Shaun Campbell

NILLUMBİK has been overlooked for extra police officers in the latest rollout because of its relatively crime-free status. The State Government announced 275 new officers for stations across the state last week. Northwest metro division 5 — covering Banyule, Nillumbik, Darebin and Whittlesea — was allocated 21 new officers. Nillumbik was the only area in that division to miss out on extra officers. Police Association secretary Insp Bruce McKenzie said it was disap-

No extra police, but there is good news

pointing for the area because it was “desperately short of police”. “While we understand that the police shortage is a statewide problem that can’t be solved overnight, we would hope that Nillumbik will receive its share as part of the next allocation,” Insp McKenzie said. Nillumbik Police Insp Tom McGillian said the decision reflected the area’s low crime statistics, which show it had fewer than half as many assaults, bur-

glaries and drug arrests as Banyule, Whittlesea and Darebin. “By state standards, Nillumbik is a very safe community to live in,” Insp McGillian said. “The local police are handling offending and public order issues quite well.” Banyule and Whittlesea each got nine officers and Darebin four. Northwest metro division 5 Supt Dean Stevenson, who allocated the new officers, said Whittlesea’s population projections and

Darebin’s increased crime rates supported the need for extra resources. He said Banyule’s nine police — including one uniform and six general duty officers, as well as two detectives — would service the Nillumbik area if needed. Police Minister Peter Ryan said the extra police were an important step towards delivering on the Government’s promise of 1700 new officers by November 2014.

Latest crime stats for every 100,000 people (from September 2010 to September 2011)

ASSAULT	Nillumbik	277.3
	Banyule	544.1
	Whittlesea	628.6
	Darebin	611.5
DRUGS	Nillumbik	68.6
	Banyule	178.7
	Whittlesea	334
	Darebin	218.2
BURGLARY	Nillumbik	222.8
	Banyule	437.8
	Whittlesea	678.2
	Darebin	759.8

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