

# Driving decisions forum focus

■ From Page 1

Mr Cade will be a guest speaker at the *Plan Your Futures Today* — A guide for helping make decisions that affect your driving seminar which will be held tonight at the Mareeba RSL from 7pm.

After the accident, Mr Cade's first clear memory was waking at Cairns Base Hospital covered in blood and cuts. "I'm not entirely sure if it's the shock or if it's an injury, but there's just no memory and there's not a lot I can do to get that back again," he said.

Luckily, the tree that stopped the out-of-control Honda Prelude was positioned only metres from the roadside.

A baker on his way to Atherton to start his work day spotted the crumpled car and alerted emergency services.

By the time the baker spotted the wreck, Mr Cade had escaped the vehicle through the back windscreen.

"I know I got out of the back windscreen and I know that both of my knees were pretty busted up," Mr Cade said.

"It was very fortunate to have someone driving past."

Mr Cade's body still bears the physical scars of the accident — he has large scars on the left side of

his body and right side of his face, and will need a knee reconstruction sometime in the future.

But he believes the emotional effects suffered by those closest to him — his friends and family — are far more painful than the physical injuries. "I know it had an effect on my family — for me to even leave my parents and go driving obviously was something that wasn't very comfortable for them — so it did have ongoing effects," Mr Cade said.

(passengers) in the car because if there was they literally would have been squashed around the tree."

Tonight's seminar is a joint initiative of the Queensland Police and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. Mareeba District Crime Prevention officer, Senior Constable Andrew Osborne, said guest speakers would share their stories and one of the aims was to highlight the differences between 'traffic accidents' and 'traffic incidents.'

**It's better to lose five minutes than to lose your life**

— Accident survivor Michael Cade

"I think it's a shock factor — you just don't expect something that serious to happen to someone in your own family."

Mr Cade narrowly escaped serious injury on the morning of the accident — the entire car was crushed by the tree, leaving only a small space in which he was contained.

Emergency service officers at the scene had not expected anyone in the wreck to be alive.

"One of my first memories was the ambulance officers yelling at me asking me if there was anybody

"We want to get people thinking about the consequences of their actions ... every incident is caused by a conscious decision, and we aim to show the choices you make can affect so many other people," Sen-Constable Osborne said.

Mr Cade is looking forward to sharing his experience with others, and hopes his story will help prevent others from making bad decisions on the road.

"(The accident has) definitely made me aware of when I become tired ... there's been times over the



Senior Constable Andrew Osborne and accident survivor Michael Cade will speak at tonight's driver forum aimed at getting people to think about the consequences of their actions.

last couple of years where I've had to pull over and walk around and get some fresh air," Mr Cade said.

"It is hard to actually stop yourself and get out — I guess you don't

want to waste time — but it's just made me realise that's something you've got to do.

"It's better to lose five minutes than to lose your life."

## Mareeba resort development to cater exclusively for over-50s

TWENTY hectares of vacant farmland just minutes from the Mareeba CBD on Anzac Avenue could soon be transformed into a \$100 million resort catering exclusively for over-50s.

The Savannah Lifestyle Resort is currently in the preliminary stages of Mareeba Shire Council approval, and Conception Designer Noel Mewett said work would begin on the gated community as soon as possible.

"Realistically this will be around May next year, and residents should be in by the end of next year," Mr Mewett said.

Houses at the resort will be priced from just under \$300,000, and will range in size from around 140sq m-170sq m.

The resort will offer five star recreation facilities including a swimming pool, clubhouse with billiards room and dance floor, kitchen and bar facilities, arts and crafts and

fully equipped workshop, a 20 seat mini-theatre, broadband facilities, library, gym and tennis courts.

Mr Mewett said Mareeba was the first choice for developers when searching for a site in North Queensland.

"We saw Mareeba Shire as the best launching place in Far North Queensland because of the weather, sunny days and less humidity than (areas) closer to the coast," he said.

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