

Sam made my day, says Will

SAM Thaiday is literally willing to give the shirt off his back to help sick children.

The Broncos star has donated a jersey to brain cancer charity The Cure Starts Now in Townsville.

The jersey was auctioned at a charity golf day organised by Apex Townsville last Friday.

Successful bidder John Arnell bought it for his footy-mad son Will, seven.

Thaiday himself presented a delighted Will with the signed jersey yesterday before the Broncos second rower geared up for the derby match against the Cowboys.

The golf day raised \$15,000 for the international charity.

The charity's local branch was founded by Townsville man Ren Pedersen, who lost his nine-year-old daughter Amy to the aggressive cancer last year.

Thaiday said he was happy to help support The Cure Starts Now.

"It was easy enough for me to find the shirt in my cupboard and I'm happy to help," he said.

"We do a lot of charity work with the kids in the hospitals and it's always sad to see them suffering at such a young age."

Apex Townsville president Michael Bradbury said the service club had supported the charity and was pleased with the success of the golf day.

"A lot of our members have kids and it really tugs at the heartstrings when you think of what they go through. We couldn't think of a better cause," Mr Bradbury said.

Will said he was a supporter of both the Cowboys and Broncos but was cheering for Brisbane last night after meeting Sam.

"Broncos and Cowboys are both my favourites but I'm going for Broncos tonight because Cowboys are at the bottom of the ladder," Will said.

To support the charity visit chapters.thecurestartsnow.org/australia.

— EMILY MACDONALD



CHUFFED . . . Will Arnell with his prized jersey and, from left, Greg Fitzgerald of Apex, Michael Bradbury, Sam Thaiday and John Arnell

Photo: SCOTT RADFORD-CHISHOLM

Child hurt

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy fell off the back of a quad bike at Yabulu about 7 o'clock last night. Ambulance crews were called to assist, but the boy was not seriously hurt.

Condon crash

ONE person was taken to Townsville Hospital with minor injuries after a crash at Condon. The incident happened just before 9.30pm in Gollogly Lane.

Big grassfire

IT took more than three hours for fire crews to put out a grassfire at Stuart last night. The 15ha blaze was on Queensland Rail land in Jurkey St. No property was endangered. A passer-by noticed the blaze just before 7pm.

Car ablaze

AN abandoned car went up in flames in Mount Isa last night. Fire crews were called to Kurrajong St just before 9pm.

Biker off

A MAN, 40, was thrown from his motorbike at Kirwan last night and taken to hospital with minor injuries. The incident happened on the corner of Burnda St and Thuringowa Drive.

Condon's title fight

Anti-Mooney advertising campaign to hit road again

By ANDREW STRUTTON

POLITICAL assassin Chris Condon has relaunched his aggressive anti-Tony Mooney advertising and propaganda campaign that helped topple the former mayor in the amalgamated council election.

Mr Condon, the Townsville Showgrounds manager, yesterday re-launched his anti-Mooney advertising truck that will be positioned at "strategic thoroughfares" across the city until polling day.

The roving A-frame is the final prong to his radio and television-centric advertising arsenal this time aimed at derailing Mr Mooney's Herbert tilt.

Mr Condon said the latest campaign had been re-jigged from his

2008 effort, but remained centred on Mr Mooney's alleged administrative failures.

The majority of material revolves around images depicting Mr Mooney "asleep at the wheel".

"As I've said before I don't believe he's the right man for the job," a fired-up Mr Condon said yesterday.

"He was mayor of the city for 19 years in which he ran the city into more than \$100 million debt.

"At the same time he was paying the (council) CEO more money than the prime minister of Australia was on . . . and claiming more than 20 per cent superannuation a year.

"He also racked up \$38,000 in allowances in his last year, and I

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have the Freedom of Information (documents) to prove it."

The attack came as no surprise to Mr Mooney, who said he knew the "dirt campaign was coming".

He contested Mr Condon's debt claims, saying audited figures showed Townsville debt at 2008 was \$61 million.

"I think everyone is entitled to their opinion, it's a democracy," Mr Mooney said.

"But one has to ask who (Mr Condon's) backers are and what his real motivation is.

"It's well known there's a group of local LNP business people in close contact with Mr Condon . . . and I'm confident the voters of Herbert will see exactly who is behind this latest effort."

Mr Condon admitted his spat with Mr Mooney had furthered his zeal to pursue the candidate, but maintained he was primarily driven to "educate the voters".

"Tony Mooney picked a fight with me in 2005 . . . and at the time I knew it was a championship fight, not a two-round fight," he said.

"But the fact is the bloke hasn't got the credentials to administer Herbert, and now he's trying to get back in on a taxpayer-paid gravy train and get his gold card.

"I don't think he should be al-

lowed to do it, and that's my opinion, and I'm entitled to campaign against him."

He also dismissed suggestions of political bias, saying he held no favour for any of Mr Mooney's competition and had self-funded the campaign.

However, he would not disclose the cost of the campaign or the previous one saying it ran into the "tens of thousands of dollars".

Moreover, he claimed his 2008 election donor disclosure form had been lodged with Townsville City Council, and lost.

The council yesterday said it had no record of the form ever being received.

"We just need someone new in there, someone capable, that's what this is about," he said.

Lifesaving in a sea of dengue

Presented by Professor Scott Ritchie
Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences
James Cook University

We live in a sea of dengue. Our tropical neighbours to the north are suffering from ever growing epidemics of dengue and increasingly, we are having outbreaks. Every year, a rising number of travellers import dengue viruses into North Queensland. Last year, we had 6 outbreaks causing over 1000 cases.

Dengue is poised to become naturally entrenched in North Queensland, a Singapore scenario of constant importations and outbreaks of dengue.

Professor Ritchie will discuss what "lifesaving" strategies we – from local residents, to governments and scientists – can utilise to cope with the increasing tide of dengue affecting North Queensland. James Cook University is well poised to lead an international effort to prevent dengue from becoming permanently established in the north.

Sunday 8 August at 2.30pm, Shores Room,
Shoredrive Motel, Strand Headland, Townsville
For more information: mia.vaudrey@jcu.edu.au

