

LABOR BLOCKS

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16-year-old Belinda Nunn (above) is the winner of newspapers' Model Search. Belinda defeated some Queensland's brightest modelling talent at the nightclub last night.

She was one of five finalists who paraded the latest fashions from Stagers' winter wardrobe. The girls joined three professional models from Buckingham Model Management and a gridiron football team.

Stagers' jeans and shirts were presented to the beat of dance music, with the visual display built around a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Photo: TERRY HORDERM.

SECRET PROBE

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Nats' blunder

A secret judicial inquiry into the troubled John Oxley youth detention centre set up by the former National Government in its last few weeks of power has been scrapped after a legal bunglo.

All documents and material tendered to the inquiry have been destroyed.

By MILES KEMP

Retired Brisbane magistrate Noel Helner was commissioned to head the inquiry by then Family Services minister, Beryce Nelson, last November.

After four weeks of secret sittings into the operation of the youth centre - described by critics as "a zoo run by the animals" - the hearings were called off in January.

Labor's Family Services Minister Anne Warner said the inquiry had not been properly constituted.

This had left Mr Helner open to civil action by staff accused of corruption and velvet glove treatment of inmates, she said.

The problems came to light when Mr Helner asked for clarification of his legal position from Ms Warner.

Ms Warner said State Cabinet had rushed to give Mr Helner indemnity from prosecution because of the bunglo.

"In setting up the investigation no statutory protection from subsequent civil action was

provided to either Mr Helner or informants to the inquiry," she said.

But Cabinet's destruction of all documents and material gathered for the inquiry has provoked claims that grave problems at the centre had been swept under the carpet.

Ms Warner said: "Because the inquiry was terminated there was no point in retaining the information."

Mrs Nelson said the internal departmental inquiry she established was never intended to be a full judicial inquiry.

"It sounds to me like the Minister is trying to get herself off the hook because she abandoned a much-needed inquiry," she said.

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**OFFICIAL:
BIG WET
WAS WET**

Story P3



Jackson: dropped

Origin turmoil

QUEENSLAND State of Origin selectors face a growing list of worries for the opening clash with NSW next month.

The problems were heightened by Peter Jackson's dramatic relegation to the Broncos' reserve bench on Saturday against Penrith.

Jackson found himself allocated jersey No 27 last night when coach Wayne Bennett named his team.

Jackson's exit from the Broncos, the certain loss of rugged Test prop Sam Backo through injury, Wally Lewis' hamstring injury scare and Gene Miles' exemption from representative duties, all add to the selection turmoil.

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on centre stage mums kept coming up and asking where their children could find my sports store," McDermott said.

It was by chance McDermott got into his new venture and he's finding private enterprise just as challenging as getting batsman out.

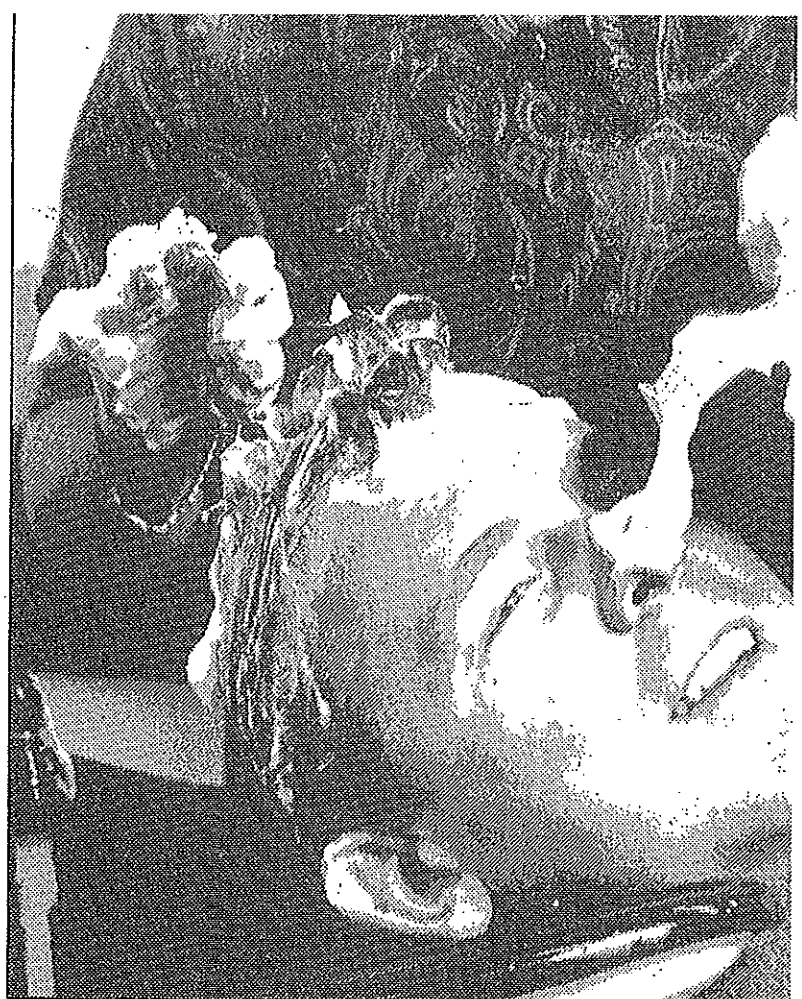
"I was looking to get into something and my accountant has been doing Garry Jackson's (the owner of Price Attack Australia) for years and he mentioned this opportunity in passing conversation," McDermott said.

"You have got to be right on the ball. Your shop appearance needs to change constantly."

McDermott, who works as an area manager for Carlton and United Breweries, captured 54 first-class wickets at 25.4 last summer — becoming the first Queenslander to take 50 Sheffield Shield wickets in a season.

McDermott will enter hospital after the Easter break to fix a cartilage problem in his right knee.

—MITCHELL MURPHY



Queensland paceman Craig McDermott gets into the spirit of his new business — Burden — the manageress of his Price Attack store at Capalaba Park.

Inquiry blocked by ALP

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"It wasn't an inquiry into the whole system — it was a magistrate's review of staffing and other matters at John Oxley."

The destruction of documents has brought a storm of protest from the Opposition, witnesses — who say they put their jobs on the line — and those who were named at the inquiry.

Problems at the centre were highlighted on the weekend with a violent riot and escape of seven teenagers.

A similar riot last year brought allegations of staff misconduct.

Allegations at the inquiry centred around charges of corruption and misconduct by two youth workers.

Two witnesses at the inquiry claimed today serious allegations of funding rorts and jobs-for-the-boys had been raised before Mr Heiner.

City squeals into new year

SOGGY Brisbane has suffered one of the wettest first quarters of the year since rainfall levels were first recorded in 1929.

And the second quarter is set to shatter records, with rainfall in the first nine days of April already topping the total recorded for January.

Freak rain levels in January, February and March were among the 16 highest recorded totals for Brisbane in the past 61 years.

The Weather Bureau said Brisbane had suffered seven wet weekends since the beginning of the year.

Total rainfall recorded at Brisbane airport for January, February and March (679mm) was 224

By
JULIAN BURKE

above the median level (455).

The second quarter is set to break records, with rainfall in the first nine days of April (140) already exceeding January's total.

The Brisbane Area Water Board said all three major catchment areas were full.

Capalaba has been hit with the highest rainfall in the Brisbane area with 729mm up to the end of March.

Archerfield, Enoggera and Kalinga also recorded totals above 600.

But a Weather Bureau spokesman said the totals recorded in Brisbane's latest Big Wet were still only about



Water rush

half the highest ever recorded for first quarter.

He said during the disastrous 1974 floods Brisbane was hammered with 1347mm of rain the first three months.

Brisbane Area Water Board spokesman Martin Ramsay said three dams at Somersville and Saratoga