

Police crash lesson

'Don't investigate own'

Kay Dibben

QUEENSLAND Police Service has been criticised for allowing a fatal accident involving a policewoman to be investigated by her local police colleagues.

Coroner Matthew McLaughlin was investigating the death of Jarrod Barton Emerson, who was killed on his 23rd birthday when he was hit by a car driven by an off-duty police officer.

Mr Emerson had been walking home to his mother's Lowood house, near Ipswich, after his birthday party, when he was struck just before midnight on December 22, 2006.

He died at the scene from multiple injuries.

The car was driven by a Lowood policewoman who had just finished her shift, the coroner was told.

The inquest heard that the accident had deeply affected the policewoman, who never returned to duty and later resigned from the police service.

In a statement tabled at the inquest, she said she first saw Mr Emerson when he was in front of her car and had no time to avoid hitting him.

Mr McLaughlin said some

questions put to police witnesses by counsel for Mr Emerson's family suggested the family might have been suspicious of some kind of police conspiracy to conceal evidence.

Mr McLaughlin said there was no evidence of a conspiracy.

He did, however, find it was "an obvious conflict of interest" to have a police officer involved in a fatal accident investigated by police from the same area.

The main investigating officer was based at Ipswich, the nearest major police station to Lowood, and many other police sent to the scene that night were also stationed in the area.

"Where a police officer is under investigation by police in connection with a death, the investigating police should, as far as practicable, be officers from a region not connected with the officer under investigation," Mr McLaughlin said.

Queensland Police Service said policy had since been updated to set out clear procedures and guidelines in relation to the investigation of police-related incidents where there had been injury or a death, including those involving off-duty police.



STEPPING UP: Students Cheryn Tan, Sarah Bennett and Jack Greig are ready to serve as delegates at Brisbane's first Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference at the University of Queensland.

Picture: Campbell Scott

The world's a stage for Gen Y

Samantha Healy

THEY are Generation Y and they want to be heard.

More than 500 university students from Australia and across the world will take part in the six-day Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference, which starts today at the University of Queensland campus in Brisbane.

It will be the first time Queensland has hosted the annual international student event.

The conference will allow

students to take on the role of diplomats, discussing issues such as climate change, human trafficking, the financial crisis and more.

UQ journalism and political science student Sarah Bennett said the conference was a good opportunity for Generation Y — those born in the 1980s and '90s — to participate in a mock dialogue about world affairs.

The 25-year-old from Dutton Park said she was interested in taking part in discussions about the funding of terrorism.

"I'm studying Arabic and want to work in the Middle East and terrorism is a major topic in that region," she said.

Fellow journalism student Cheryn Tan, 20, will act as a diplomat for Lebanon and will tackle issues such as internet censorship.

"Censoring that right (to open debate) would only curtail that freedom," Ms Tan said.

Conference organisers Hugh Jorgensen and Jo Sampford said the conference would be a unique experience for delegates. "AMUNC is an intensive

week of youth diplomacy, leadership development and intercultural exchange designed to enhance the sense of community among the future leaders of the Asia-Pacific region," Ms Sampford said.

Throughout the event, delegates can engage with high-profile guest speakers, including Oxfam Australia chief executive Andrew Hewett, former United Nations economist Fabrizio Carmagni and AusAID Asia Bilateral Branch assistant director general Michael Wilson.

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Let's get physical for your perfect match

Carly Hennessy

IT'S not often you can sweat and grunt your way through the first date — without regrets.

Fitness instructor Erica French is heating up Brisbane's singles scene by bringing her Mega Meet Fit2Date event to Roma Street Parkland on Saturday from 9am.

The event is a two-hour workout combining fitness with a way to meet other singles, and finishes with an *Amazing Race*-style orienteering exercise.

Ms French said the Mega Meet was not just about the game of love.

"We work people pretty hard," she said. "That's my philosophy. You push them out of their comfort zone because then they can say 'well, I may not have met the man of my dreams but I had a great workout', or 'the girls seemed pretty cool, I got a few phone numbers and worked up a sweat'."

"I think people really bond at a different level when you train hard."

Participants must have a standard level of fitness and train at least three times a week.

B105's creative solutions manager Jo Lynch has signed up for



CALL ME: Jo Lynch and Curtis Franks limber up. Picture: Jono Searle

the boot camp.

"It's not about 'picking up' as such, but if you can do a workout and walk away with a few phone numbers then you're doing well," Ms Lynch said.

Ms French started Fit2Date in 2007 and has since launched the concept in New York and is expanding to London, Singapore and Hong Kong.

She said there was no pressure on participants to exchange details after the Mega Meet, but said

that some did end up on dates.

"Everyone says there's a man drought, that's such rubbish," she said. "I wouldn't be able to run my business if there was."

But there is something of a man-drought in Ms French's life. She started the company because she was sick of the singles scene revolving around bars and late nights.

"I've got my eyes wide open, I'm looking forward to coming to Brisbane," Ms French said.

Toll rises in holiday ski injuries

SNOW skiing holidays are now ranked as one of the most dangerous pastimes with the number of serious injuries from snow and ice-related activities maintaining a steady increase in recent years.

Figures from medical emergency rooms and injury insurance claims show skiing, snowboarding and ice-skating injuries now represent more than 3.2 per cent of all sport-related injury admissions.

That has grown from less than 2 per cent a decade ago.

Experts say the increase is partially linked to a growing number of people taking to snow slopes and ice rinks, but also reflects a growing sense of risk-taking and thrill-seeking among participants.

Recent medical insurance claims indicate the most common skiing injury is major soft tissue damage to knees. Chris Mallac from Wilston Physiotherapy said snow-related injuries could take up to six months to recover from and he recommended people taking a snow holiday get in shape before they leave.

Anoska Tucker-Evans