



# Schools call in the dogs

Melanie Maesele | 20th July 2011

SECURITY dogs are being recruited by schools in the region to put a stop to after-hours crime on their grounds.

An increase in vandalism, trespassing and inappropriate behaviour on school grounds has triggered the introduction of heightened security measures.

CK9-SAS, a dog security company, has been contracted to protect the premises of Gatton State School – a school that is one of the latest to join a growing list of educational facilities registering for the service.

Company owner Arthur Marcinkowski, who has worked in the industry for the past two decades, said there was a growing demand for his company's services.

"These dogs are highly trained, very sensitive and very social," Mr Marcinkowski said.

"They can indicate where a person is from several metres away, before the person even knows we are nearby."

Mr Marcinkowski said the company was monitoring two schools in Gatton, as well as dozens in Ipswich and surrounding districts.

"The feedback we are getting is that crime is dropping since we started," he said.

Darling Downs and South West Regional Director for Education Queensland Gregory Dickman said the security service had been engaged in the past month to carry out patrols.

"The security measures in place in state schools are determined by the needs of the individual school and its community," he said.

"This security service, which has the capacity to utilise security dogs ... attends school grounds intermittently," Mr Dickman said.

"Security dogs would always be controlled by their handler if at any stage they were taken onto a school premises."

Mr Dickman said the security service was after-hours.