

# Man caught red handed, court told

Adrian Ballantyne

A CLARINDA burglar's luck ran out when Clayton Bowls Club staff walked in on him trying to steal more than \$1000 from the clubrooms.

Adam Rawling, 23, was jailed for three months after pleading guilty at the Moorabbin Magistrates' Court last Tuesday, May 26, to charges including burglary and assault.

The court heard Rawling ransacked the bowls club in Springs Rd, Clarinda, after forcing open a sliding window about 7.15am on April 27.

Police prosecutor Cameron Cunningham said Rawling broke into two locked safety boxes and took \$1115, which he shoved down his underpants.

But he was caught out when the club's manager and assistant manager arrived to open for the day.

Leading Sen-Constable Cunningham said the club manager and his assistant had found Rawling in the bistro area.

He told the court Rawling tried to leave when he realised the

police had been called and pushed one of the managers into a window, causing glass to shatter. "The manager and the victim then restrained the defendant until police arrived."

The court heard Rawling had a long history of drug dependence and had received a jail sentence for an aggravated burglary last year.

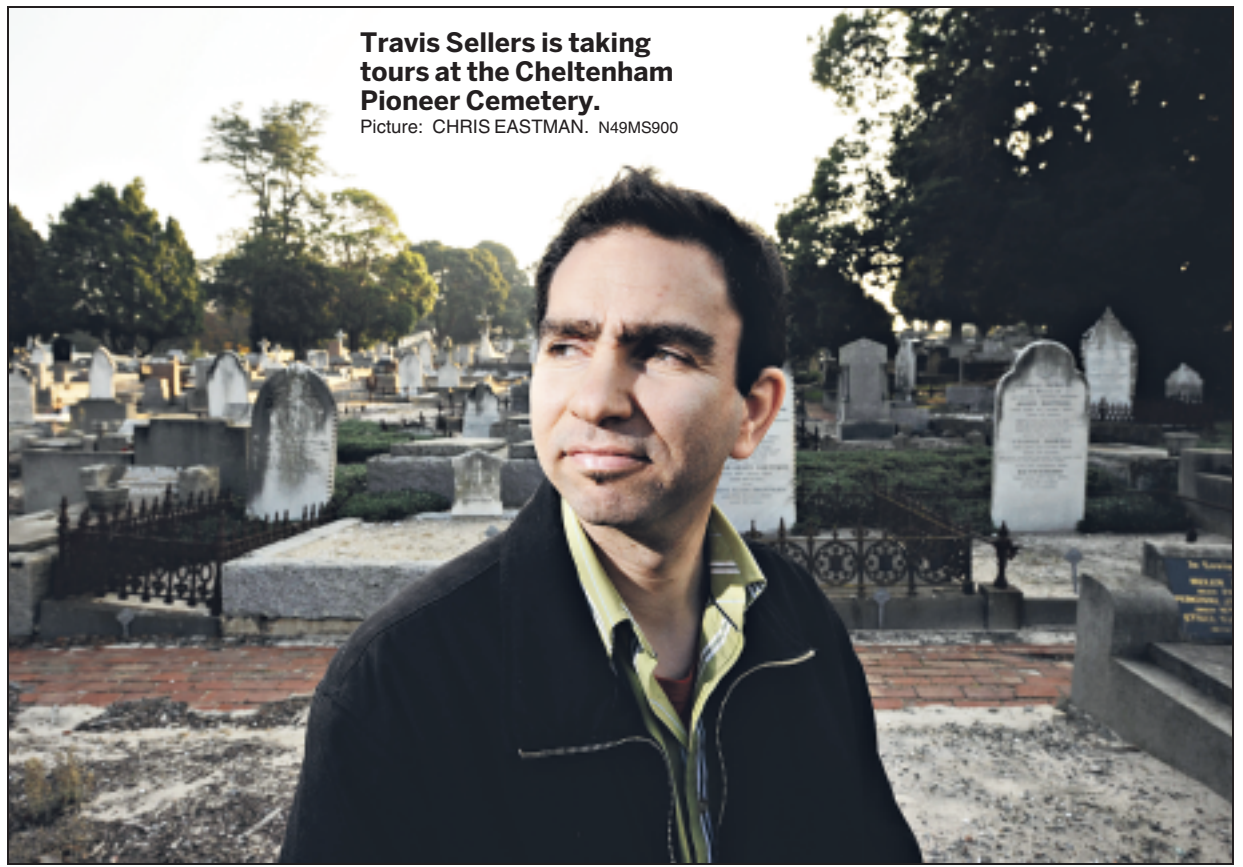
His lawyer, Samantha Poulter, said her client had a brain injury as a result of a car accident in his teenage years.

Magistrate Paul Smith said it was clear Rawling needed help in overcoming his addiction and problems.

"Until he sets out the issues associated with the brain injury he's always going to be in trouble," he said.

In sentencing, Mr Smith said he had taken into account the 69 days Rawling had already spent in custody.

Rawling also received a one-month jail term - to be served concurrently with his other sentence - for possessing cannabis and stealing a pair of sunglasses from a store at Southland.



Travis Sellers is taking tours at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

Picture: CHRIS EASTMAN. N49MS900

## Spot of '30s daredevils in graves tour

Lisa Edgerton

IN 1932, the new and adventurous world of motor cycle racing was shaken when Australian Grand Prix champion James William Wassall was tragically killed in front of 25,000 spectators.

The Melbourne Motordome, where he died, subsequently earned the name "Murderdome".

Wassall now lies peacefully at the

Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery on Charman Rd with many other daredevils killed in the 1930s when the combination of speed and new technology invited danger.

Friends of Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery will hold a special tour of the cemetery, entitled *The Tragic '30s: Decade of Adventure*, on Sunday, June 21 at 2pm.

Before his death, Wassall, a Sandringham resident, spent nine

years with the Royal Australian Navy including four at HMAS Cerberus. But it was his bravery for which he was most recognised when in April 1924 he saved a young girl from drowning in Sydney Harbour.

Friends' president Travis Sellers said the tour would explore stories of tragedies that emerged from the Great Depression.

Details: focrc.org/tours.htm or 5420 7671.

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