

Brumby in road rage at Casey

THE State Opposition Leader, Mr Brumby, has described the Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road as "disgraceful" when compared with the standard of most modern roads.

"It's a horse-and-buggy-day road for the 1990s and the road is an absolute disgrace," Mr Brumby said.

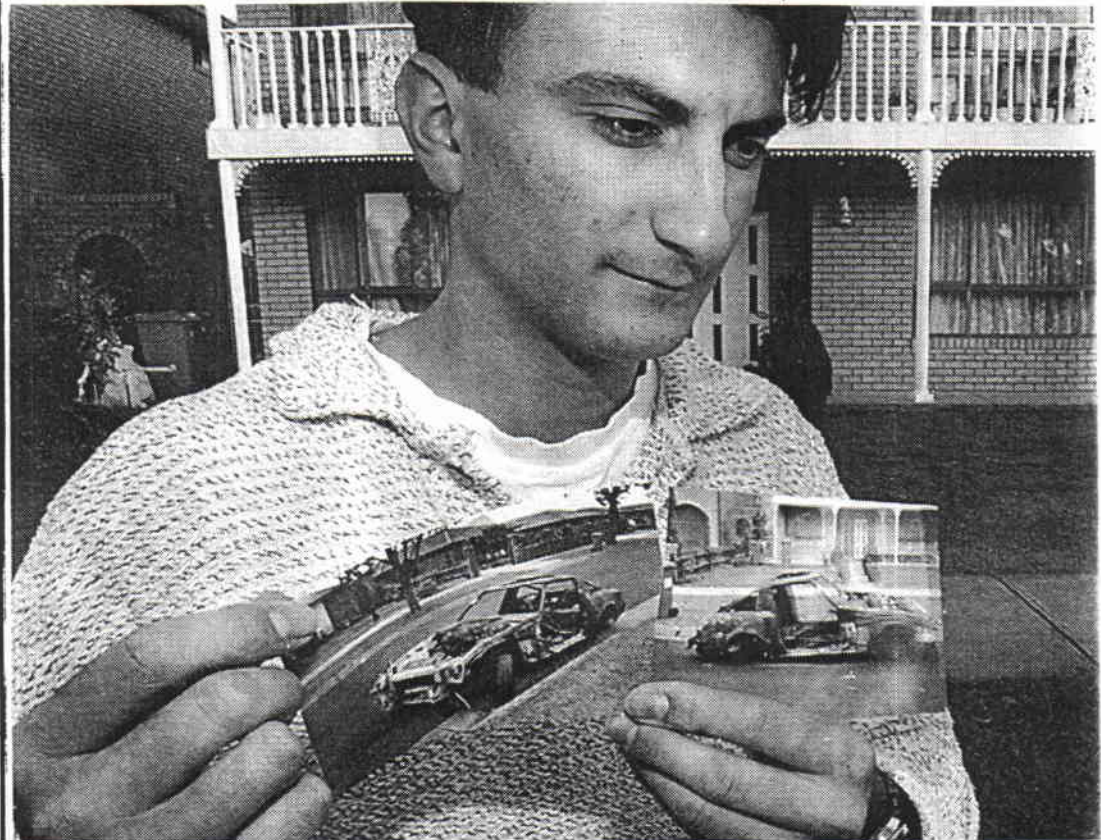
"What's worse is the three cents a litre (on petrol) that you all pay to contribute about \$7 million a year, when you only get about \$700,000 back to maintain roads," he said.

Mr Brumby said the shadow Cabinet intended to raise the issue of road maintenance for Casey when Parliament resumed in September.

"We will support 100 per cent the efforts your council makes to get a better deal on road funding.

"In Melbourne's central business district millions of dollars have been spent, but in the suburbs you're not getting your share of the infrastructure dollar of the highest taxing State in Australia," Mr Brumby said.

Trapped by repair bill



HELD to ransom: Safet Dauti is in a no-win situation.

By Alice Archer

A DANDENONG man has been asked to pack back more than \$4000 in insurance for a car he says he does not own.

Mr Safet Dauti, 24, is embroiled in a battle with the NRMA insurance company which has refused to pay for his father's stolen car. It says Safet is the real owner.

His father's car was stolen from Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre on March 29, dumped and torched.

NRMA has refused to pay the claim and has closed the policy, saying Mr Safet had paid repair bills for the car and must be the real owner.

NRMA said it would not con-

sider the claim unless Safet paid \$4367.10, which is what he should have paid as a driver under 25.

Mr Safet says he does not own the car and only paid for some repair costs because the engine "blew" when he was driving it once.

NRMA's special claims manager Mr Paul Smith said it was a common problem for insurance companies in which drivers under 25 insured their cars in the name of their mother or father to get a lower premium.

A Dandenong insurance claims agent, Mr John Pennant, of JP Auto Recovery, says insurance companies "find any excuse" to get out of paying a claim.

"I receive hundreds of complaints a month from disgruntled policy holders and currently have 86 court cases pending

"In my experience, most of the complaints are against NRMA and RACV," he said.

A spokeswoman for NRM, Victoria says the company "falls over backwards" for clients with genuine claims.

"Genuine claims are processed as quickly as possible," she said.

"When we avoid a claim, we do so after going through all the right rejection procedures.

"We have a very sophisticated detection system for screening claims."

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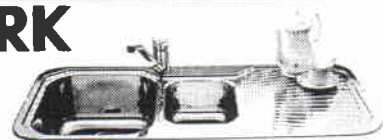
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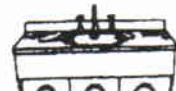
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