

Officer disarmed robber

Dash of heroism came with pizza

By Emma Partridge

WRESTLING an armed robber to the ground was the last thing Hurstville's Sergeant Garry Keir expected to be doing as he picked up a pizza on his way home from work.

Sergeant Keir's actions were recognised during a police awards ceremony at Hurstville late last month.

He received a region commendation and also a clasp for his 35 years of service.

At the end of a long day in April 2010 Sergeant Keir could not believe his eyes when he saw someone wearing a bull-clava and wielding a large knife approach the counter of Engadine Pizza Hut.

"I happened to be off duty and my wife asked me to go and grab a pizza," Sergeant Keir said. "I came in, was sitting there and I thought 'you're kidding me'."

He said the woman brushed past him on her way to the counter and he said he was shaking his head in disbelief.

"[She] then started threatening them [staff] so I've come up behind, restrained her, knocked the knife out of her hand and then put her on the floor," he said.

Sergeant Keir said his wife found the experience a bit hard to believe.

"She could not believe that that was the reason I was so late."



Off-duty mission: Sergeant Garry Keir received an award for arming an armed robber at Pizza Hut.

To see a full list of police awards visit theleader.com.au

Picture: Jane Dyson

They decided to give themselves a 4 per cent increase, the maximum permitted.

This equates to a total salary of \$58,250 for the mayor, of which \$8747 will be paid to the deputy mayor, while the annual salary for councillors was fixed at \$21,170.

By Jim Gainsford

SUTHERLAND Shire councillors have been told to donate their annual pay increase to charity if they don't want it.

They were debating their pay levels for 2011-12 when the suggestion came up.

are taking a levy," he said.

He was seconded by Cr Kent Johns, who said the council should forgo the rise, which totals about \$15,000 among all members, and instead send \$8000 of it to Jannali Before and After School Care, and the balance to Sylvaniavale.

This was defeated, but after a lively debate the original motion for a pay rise was adopted eight votes to six.

Cr Lorraine Kelly said several councillors had suggested the same thing last year. "They were told by the general manager that they could

write a letter any time to not take the increase, or any part of the allowance," she said.

"No letters came from any councillor.

"It will be interesting in a few months to check who writes a letter to give their increase to charity."

Councillors decline to pass on pay rise to charity