

The camera that could save lives

By **STEPHEN O'GRADY**

When Aldershot truck driver Rob Nielsen saw the front page of last Wednesday's Chronicle he just knew he was doing the right thing.

A Bruce Highway smash just minutes from his home involving a semi-trailer truck and a station wagon left one man in hospital and another one considering his career as a driver.

"If that truck had been fitted with a black box recorder there would have been an eye witness account of what happened," said Mr Nielsen yesterday.

As fate would have it Mr Nielsen has been developing just such a device for 10 years.

"I was just sick of the road carnage," says the former road instructor for heavy vehicles who has been driving trucks for 35 years.

"The technology has now caught up with my idea."

A state-of-the-art day-night camera has been adapted to work with boxes originally made for security on buses.

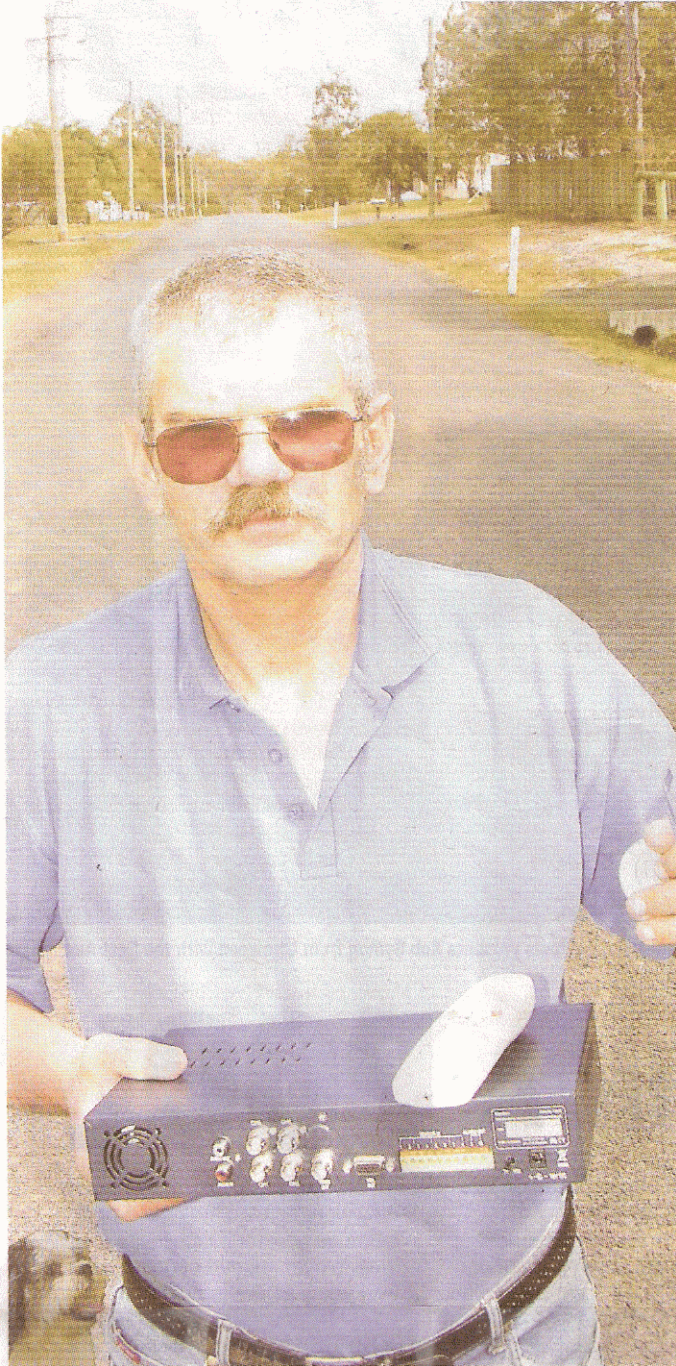
Up to 200 hours of continuous, real-time footage is transferred on to a hard drive.

"Truck drivers are persecuted," says Mr Nielsen who drives a 64-tonne truck for a living.

"Negative stories about truck drivers just make my blood boil.

"What I'm trying to do is educate drivers how to share the road with heavy vehicles."

He hopes that examples of bad driving transferred from black boxes to his website, www.watchtheroad.com.au, can help drivers.



Rob Nielsen has developed a black box-style recorder for heavy vehicles.