



Property 'DNA' first

By **TEELA JURGENSEN**

SANDGATE police will trial a Queensland-first project aiming to put the brakes on property theft.

The Idit (pronounced eye-dee it) project, involving microdot technology, will be launched at Sandgate PCYC on Thursday.

However, the success of the six-month project depends on community involvement.

Sandgate crime prevention co-ordinator Senior Constable Cherie Crane

said Idit would involve three areas: traditional engraving; photographic recording of jewellery; and the introduction of microdot technology.

"I'm pretty excited because this is the first time in Queensland that the three facets have been brought together," Sen-Constable Crane said.

"It is also the first time police have used microdot technology."

Described as DNA for

property, microdots are as small as a grain of sand but contain 15-digit identification numbers that can only be seen through a special scope. The microdots, contained in a glue with an ultraviolet trace, are sprayed on property which can't be engraved, such as CDs.

Sen-Constable Crane said Sandgate was chosen for the pilot project because of its strong sense of community and also its natural geogra-

phy that made it similar to a country town.

Residents in surrounding areas were encouraged to participate.

Police were working with second-hand dealers in the Brisbane Metropolitan North police region as well as Redcliffe on the project.

If successful, Idit will be expanded to cover an area from Pinkenba to Brookfield and north to Kallangur.

