



Coffee chain targeted by thieves

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A GOLD Coast businessman has slammed "unAustralian" thieves who systematically robbed three of his coffee chain franchises in one night.

Kenton Campbell, who heads the Gold Coast-based Zarraffa's cafe chain, arrived at his business' Oxenford headquarters early yesterday to find it had been broken into and robbed.

His mood turned even darker when he learnt two other franchises, at Palm Beach and Crestwood, had also been robbed overnight.

The latest heists took the total of Zarraffa's robberies to six in the past six weeks, with the thieves making off with an estimated bounty of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Zarraffa's, a Gold Coast born-and-bred chain, now has 35 franchises stretching from Sydney to Bundaberg.

Mr Campbell said thieves targeting small businesses during the current economic climate had no heart.

"To attack small business when the economy is the way it is, I think it's unAustralian," he said.

"For the individual franchisees who got robbed it's the same as if they hadn't bothered to open their doors for two weeks."

He also vowed to make life much tougher for any would be robbers in the future.

"I'm not a vigilante, but I'm not going to let this keep happening," he said.

"We're certainly going to get a lot more savvy with our security and if I have to sleep in the office here to keep them away, I will."

At least two other Oxenford businesses in the same complex as the Zarraffa's headquarters were hit by robbers on Thursday night.

