

Staff was 'amazing' in rescue

ACCIDENT |

TIM WILLIAMS

QUICK-thinking staff at Tea Tree Plaza helped rescue a four-year-old boy who suffered severe head injuries after pulling down a stand of teacups.

Christopher Stavrou suffered a hole in his forehead the size of a golf ball and lost consciousness several times after an inquisitive reach for a teacup at the Harris Scarfe checkouts turned to disaster on Thursday, August 12.

As the crockery stand came crashing down, showering him with broken cups, the Ridgehaven boy fell out of mum Michelle's shopping trolley to the floor and took his toddler sister, Stephanie, with him.

Mrs Stavrou, 27, says she initially feared for her son's life as he lay "like in a murder movie, with the victim in a pool of blood".

"I'm a nurse and I've never seen that much blood before," she said. "The staff were grabbing \$20 towels off the shelves to stop the bleeding."

She praised the shop staff and especially Westfield security guard Max, who held



THANKFUL: Michelle Stavrou with son Christopher, who survived crashing into a display of teacups.

H0306566

Christopher as another guard repeatedly called for an ambulance. "When he did lose consciousness, Max talked to him and helped wake him up.

"They were really, really amazing."

Christopher was rushed to Modbury Hospital, where doctors first feared he would never move his eyebrows or frown again due to nerve damage. Unable to have a general

anaesthetic after a head injury, Christopher had 16 local anaesthetic injections to numb his forehead for stitching. Some scarring will likely be the only long-term damage.

Christopher returned to Tea Tree Plaza last week to give Max a thank-you card and a flower, bringing him to tears. "I never thought I'd see that in a big, tough security guard," Mrs Stavrou says.