



Hole lot of trouble Burglars stir a coffee shop boss to revenge

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THE CEO of the Zarraffa's coffee shop chain will be drinking more of his product than usual if he carries out a threat to catch persistent thieves.

Kenton Campbell says he is ready to sleep in his Oxenford headquarters following six robberies at five different franchises across the Gold Coast.

Three of the robberies occurred on Thursday night at the Crestwood and Palm Beach stores and the Oxenford HQ.

A neighbouring pool-light business and a Big Chief Flame Grill Burger shop at Oxenford were also robbed, possibly by the same people.

The Crestwood franchise and a Worongary Zarraffa's store were also robbed three weeks ago.

In some of the break-ins the thieves broke through the roof and in others they smashed their way in before stealing safes.

The thieves escaped with thousands of dollars.

"This isn't the great heist, it's probably easy money," said Mr Campbell.

"We were probably an easy target. We're not any more.

"We're going to get savvy and we're not going to stand by while this happens." Mr Campbell said if he needed to he would spend nights at his stores to keep watch for thieves breaking in.



"I'd rather be here sleepless, and if they don't want confrontation then they'd better think about that," he said.

"Fight or flight. I suppose it is in the old animal world and unfortunately I'm a fighter."

The Oxenford headquarters in Siganto Drive were left with three large holes in the roof following Thursday's robbery.

"The holes in the roof and walls create hours in clean-up and repairs, and impact on the store's ability to serve customers and generate an income," he said.

Many of the Zarraffa's stores are owned by franchisees and Mr Campbell said it was frustrating for small business owners who were already doing it tough.

"It's just not fair and it's not just us," he said. "Picking on small business during an economic time like this is not Australian."

"I don't think any small business should stand by and let this type of scum take advantage of hardworking Australians."

Police are investigating links between the Zarraffa's robberies and five others on the northern Gold Coast in past weeks.