

Tourist dies on tricky corner

by Katrina Jones

A SYDNEY tourist was killed after he apparently lost control of his motorcycle and was thrown on to an oncoming car at Mount Nathan yesterday.

The 33-year-old was travelling along Clagiraba Road with a number of other motorcyclists when he failed to negotiate an S-bend. He died at the scene.

While investigations continue, police believe speed and lack of familiarity with the road may have contributed to the accident.

District duty officer Gary Oliver said the man was travelling along the Hinterland road with a tour group about 1pm when the accident occurred.

"We believe the man, who was driving a Honda 800cc, was heading up the hill when he started to lose control of the bike," he said.

"Further up the road the driver of a Mazda sedan had stopped when she noticed the motorcyclist in trouble."

Police said the motorcycle then collided with the front of the sedan and the rider was thrown off his machine.

"There was nothing the driver could do and sadly she was just in the wrong place," said Mr Oliver.

"We don't believe he was travelling over the speed limit but, for a section of road like this, he was travelling at a high speed for this to occur."

"The fact that he was not a local played a big part. He would have been unfamiliar with the road."

Police said the man was a qualified driver who had experience on motorcycles.

"No matter how experienced you are though, when you don't know the road it can be deadly," said Mr Oliver.

"The bends can come up really quickly even if you're doing a slow speed."

"Motorcyclists need to be more aware if they



Above: The motorbike involved in the accident which claimed the life of a 33-year-old Sydney man on Clagiraba Road yesterday

Right: Police direct traffic around the accident scene

Left: Companions of the dead man in shock after the accident

● Pictures: Sarah Marshall



Airport arrest over double-death crash

A MAN arrested at Brisbane International Airport has been remanded in custody over the deaths of two young women in a Christmas Day car smash.

Tony Martin, 20, was allegedly driving a Ford Fairlane that hit a traffic light and then smashed into a power pole at Underwood, in Brisbane's south, about 4.30am on Sunday.

Two backseat passengers – Mandy Lea Morrell, 19, and Casey Debbie Jones, 20 – were killed.

Mr Martin, a New Zealand national who lives at Sunnybank Hills, and a male front-seat passenger, suffered minor injuries.

He had been treated in hospital on Monday for the injuries.

Mr Martin appeared in the Beenleigh Magistrates Court yesterday charged with dangerous operation of a vehicle causing the two deaths after being arrested at Brisbane airport on Monday night.

No application was made for bail.

don't know the area well. "It might be fun but it can be deadly at a high speed and behind those powerful machines anything can happen."

Police said the man was visiting family in Warwick for the Christmas holiday and had joined some friends for a 'casual ride'.

This latest death takes the Queensland Christmas road toll up to

seven, following the death of a five-year-old boy and 19-year-old man who lost their lives in separate road accidents yesterday.

The boy died when he was struck by a rubbish truck while playing on a motorised scooter about 8am in Moondarra Crescent, Mooloolaba, on the Sunshine Coast.

The teenager was killed in a head-on

collision on the Bruce Highway near Howard, north of Maryborough, also about 8am.

● The national road toll for the holidays which began on Friday is now at 21.

There have been five deaths in Victoria, four in NSW, three in SA and two in WA.

No deaths have occurred in the NT, ACT and Tasmania.

Boaties take the drink-drive message on board

by Tony Wilson

GOLD Coast boaties and jet-skiers have heeded the drink-drive message more than their land-lubber counterparts.

That's the word from the Gold Coast Water Police who have found only two people above the 0.05 limit after conducting more than 240 random breath-tests on the water this month.

Sergeant Mark Kelly said the two over the limit were in the lower range.

"We are happy with that and we have not had a positive reading in the past few days," he said.

With *The Gold Coast Bulletin* aboard on the Broadwater yester-



Sergeant Mark Kelly tests Daniel Hopkins

day Sgt Kelly and Constable Derek Taylor were greeted by friendly jet-skiers and boaties as they did safety and licence checks before the breath-test.

One boatie told Sgt Kelly he had consumed a 'couple of rum

and cokes' a few hours earlier, but his reading was a row of zeroes, said Sgt Kelly.

At this time of year there were three water police boats on patrol until midnight. Some operations were carried out in conjunction with the Fisheries Department and Maritime Safety Queensland.

Sgt Kelly said the water police were also selling the message that boaties and jet-skiers need to be boat SMART.

"S is for safety equipment, M is for maintenance, A is to keep the alcohol consumption under 0.05, R is for the responsibility of the master of all vessels and T is to remind you to tell someone where you are going," he said.




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