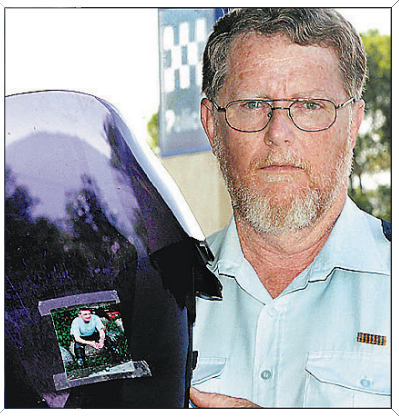


# Tragic twist to fatal crash



Above: Sergeant Garth Crank shows the poignant tribute on the bike's windscreen

Below: Boky's mate Ben Manton



Darren 'Boky' Bokenham, who was killed in a motorbike crash in the Hinterland this week

## Biker dies on ride in honour of mate

by Shannon Willoughby and Katrina Jones

WHEN Darren 'Boky' Bokenham was killed in a motorbike accident at Mount Nathan this week, he had one of his best mates with him.

The 33-year-old rider from Sydney had a picture of friend Ben Manton taped to the windscreen of his bike when it crashed on Tuesday.

Mr Manton died in a bike crash in NSW just weeks ago.

The picture was stuck to Mr Bokenham's motorcycle as a tribute to the experienced rider.

Sergeant Garth Crank, from the Gold Coast accident investigation squad, said it was a tragic coincidence and a timely reminder to take care on the roads.

"It was a tragedy of huge proportions," he said.

"We found the picture stuck to the side of his windscreen and thought he might have been on a personal memorial ride."

Sgt Crank said Mr Bokenham

was the leader of a group of eight people who were on a joyride through the Hinterland.

The former soldier was travelling on Clagiraba Road when he lost control on an S-bend and was thrown on to an oncoming car. He died at the scene.

"By the time the second rider came around the bend, the man (Mr Bokenham) was already off his bike," said Sgt Crank.

Fellow rider Chris Cootes, who was travelling behind Mr Bokenham, said his friend was an experienced motorcyclist.

"He had been riding for 15 years and was a very well respected, trained and experienced rider," he said.

"He was an extremely safe rider. Both he and I have shared many kilometres."

Mr Cootes said they had been out for a holiday spin with bike enthusiasts from around the country when the Mount Nathan incident occurred.

"(After the ride) Darren was to return to his family in

Warwick and then head back to Sydney," he said.

"Darren will be sorely missed. He was in good spirits. We had had a great day and were looking forward to having a drink and a chat when we got home.

"Darren passed away quickly and was surrounded with his friends doing their best for him. "Rest in peace, Darren."

Sgt Crank said it was the third major accident – and the second fatality – involving motorcyclists on the Gold Coast in the past three weeks.

A 55-year-old Gold Coast motorcyclist was killed instantly when he collided with a sedan on the Pacific Highway near Tallebudgera on December 17.

A Gold Coast motorcycle dealer said yesterday bike-riding was becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity, particularly in the Hinterland.

"We have a lot of people come in and buy bikes because they want to ride them in the Hinterland," he said.

## Speeding, drunken drivers face stupidity quiz

QUEENSLAND Premier Peter Beattie wants speeding and drunken drivers to be asked why they 'were so stupid'.

Yesterday, he flagged a questionnaire asking just that question in a bid to curb road fatalities.

Mr Beattie said a questionnaire could be used to understand why offending motorists needed to flout the law.

If a motorist was caught drink-driving, they would have to explain to the court, in written form, the reasons why they did.

"And for speeding, we might require you to actually fill out a form and explain why you are being so stupid," said Mr Beattie. "That information may give us some better understanding as

to why people are just behaving irrationally on the road."

Mr Beattie said he was 'in despair' over Queensland's high Christmas road toll, especially when some states were fatality free.

Mr Beattie said the Government may have to review its penalty system for drivers.

"On Boxing Day we

held a press conference making an appeal to drivers to drive more carefully, but people still haven't listened.

"We're not a draconian government wanting to bring in more and more penalties, but drink-driving is off the planet.

"Definitely don't complain if you get a ticket."

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