



Party safely and don't become history on Australia Day

Issued at 8.30am, Sunday 23 January 2011

NSW Police are advising everyone to celebrate and party safely - and don't become history on Australia Day.

Operation 'Vine', utilising general duties officers from various Local Area Commands plus specialist police from the Public Order Riot Squad, Mounted Police, Dog Squad, PolAir, Licensing, Highway Patrol, and Marine Area Command, will be deployed within Sydney's CBD and across the metropolitan area to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable day.

Sydney Harbour and its foreshores will be the main focal point for events on Wednesday (26 January 2011), with over a million people expected to travel into the city for the festivities and evening fireworks spectacular.

Large crowds of people are also expected to attend a number of events throughout the day and evening which will be staged in a number of local government areas across Sydney, particularly at Parramatta, Manly and the northern beaches, Bondi and the eastern beaches area, and Cronulla.

Operation Commander, Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke, says recent successful results from New Year's Eve celebrations prove Sydneysiders can party in a responsible manner.

"On New Year's Eve we experienced a family-friendly event with minimal instances of irresponsible and anti-social behaviour," Asst Commissioner Clarke said.

"We want the people of Sydney to show us they can do it again - only this time, do it even better !!"

"Like any other major event, police want Australia Day to be family-friendly."

"Australia Day should be enjoyed and celebrated by the public in a safe and secure environment without fear of being subjected to anti-social behaviour or alcohol-related crime."

"Our message is clear - if you try to spoil everyone's party and act in a drunken or aggressive manner, or indulge in criminal behaviour - you will be arrested."

"Be sensible and be responsible - make sure you or your mates don't become history on Australia Day."

**Visit our website at www.police.nsw.gov.au
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“Acting in a dangerous, criminal, or anti-social manner puts not only YOUR life and safety at risk, it also threatens the well-being of others.”

“Drunken violence won’t be tolerated under any circumstances, and police will act swiftly to prevent or minimise any acts of aggression.”

“Police will also enforce alcohol and glass restrictions to make sure celebrations stay safe.”

“Our focus isn’t only the large public events - I’m also appealing for everyone to act responsibly if you’re attending smaller gatherings.”

“Whether it’s an Australia Day backyard barbecue with family and friends, or joining a few mates in the lounge room to raise a glass – when alcohol is involved, tempers can flare and things can get out-of-control very quickly.”

“All too often, police and other emergency services are called to these private gatherings and see the results of parties that have got out of hand due to alcohol and anti-social behaviour.”

“The message is clear and the message is simple – no matter where you are on Australia Day, celebrate safely and don’t drink yourself into oblivion.”

“On the roads, Highway Patrol officers will be out in force to target drink-driving and again, the message is simple - if you plan to drink, don’t drive.”

“Leave your car at home, catch a taxi or public transport, or have a designated driver.”

“Both marked and unmarked police vehicles will be patrolling all major roads and back streets, so if you take the risk and drink-drive, you will be caught.”

A number of road closures will be in place within Sydney’s CBD.

For special event traffic information and live traffic reports, people should visit the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

People are encouraged to use public transport, leave unnecessary valuables at home and keep personal belongings close by.

Visit www.131500.com.au or call 131500 for the latest public transport timetable and ticketing information.

Issued by NSW Police Force Media Unit (02) 8263 6100
Authorised by Asst Comm A Clarke, Operation Vine
(Ref:ns:meddocs/medrels/2011/January/Australia Day.Op Vine.230111)

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