



Police pleased with New Year's Eve crowds

Issued at 2.15am Saturday 1 January 2011

NSW Police have arrested 40 people who have been charged with 44 offences in what was largely a family-friendly New Year's Eve in Sydney.

Central Metropolitan Region Commander, and commander of Operation Arch, Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch, said despite the arrests, the vast majority of revellers were able to enjoy their celebrations without incident.

"Operation Arch was about enabling people to come into Sydney, watch the fireworks and return home safely," Assistant Commissioner Murdoch said.

"There were hundreds of thousands of people around the Harbour tonight and the overwhelming majority of them looked after each other and enjoyed their night.

"We tasked more than 2500 police to patrol metropolitan streets tonight, and I think this high-visibility presence has gone a long way toward ensuring an enjoyable evening."

The NSW Police Rescue Unit was deployed to McMahons Point to assist in the rescue of two teens after they fell several metres onto train tracks, and later to a man who was seriously injured after falling near the Tarpeian Way near the Sydney Harbour Bridge shortly after midnight.

Police from Redfern are interviewing a man after he was arrested at a hotel about 7pm. When the man was searched, police will allege they found 20 bags of cocaine and \$10,000 cash. He has been taken to Redfern Police Station to be interviewed.

In separate incidents, Redfern police also arrested two people for drug possession, one for offensive conduct, and one for a domestic violence-related assault.

In the city's CBD four males – aged between 13 and 22 – were arrested with three being found in possession of knives about 8.30pm.

A 14-year-old youth has been issued with a juvenile caution; a 22-year-old man has been charged with possession of a knife; a 13-year-old is waiting for parents to arrive from Maitland before he can be interviewed; and, a fourth youth, aged 16, will be charged with possessing a spray can of paint and breach of bail. In a separate incident, a man was arrested for wilful and obscene exposure.

**Visit our website at www.police.nsw.gov.au
Ph: (02) 8263 6100 ● FAX: (02) 8263 6312
Level 14, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000**

In Darling Harbour eight people were arrested, two for drug offences, five for affray and assault, and one for wilful and obscene exposure.

Police at Auburn arrested four people shortly before midnight. One juvenile was arrested for possession of fireworks while three men were arrested and charged with offensive language, resist arrest, and malicious damage.

Police at The Rocks arrested one person for indecent assault and drug offences, a second person was arrested for offensive behaviour and a third for domestic violence assault.

Police from St George LAC arrested one man for fireworks offences and one for breach of bail.

A police officer suffered serious cuts to his left hand when a glass bottle shattered as it was being emptied out at Blues Point. He was taken to Royal North Shore Hospital for treatment.

Officers from Marine Area Command patrolled the Harbour as thousands watched fireworks from the hundreds of pleasure craft.

Shortly before 10pm Police divers entered the water and retrieved an intoxicated man who was reportedly seen swimming under Sydney Harbour Bridge. A Water Police vessel was deployed to search for the man, after calls from people on boats nearby who saw the man swimming.

At least a dozen children were reported missing to police at various locations across the Sydney metropolitan area; all were re-united with their parents, usually within minutes.

Assistant Commissioner Murdoch said he was pleased with the attitude of those returning home at the end of the night.

“What we saw tonight demonstrated how hundreds of thousands of people can enjoy themselves – despite the crowds and its consequences – with grace and good humour.

“Sydney showed the rest of the world how to have a good time, safely,” Assistant Commissioner Murdoch said.

Issued by NSW Police Force Media Unit (02) 8263 6100
Authorised by Assistant Commissioner Murdoch, Operation Arch Commander
(Ref:je:meddocs/medrels/2011/January/NYE wrap.010111)

**Visit our website at www.police.nsw.gov.au
Ph: (02) 8263 6100 ● FAX: (02) 8263 6312
Level 14, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000**