



Police launch 'Operation Vintage' – Bathurst 1000

Issued at 1.30pm, Thursday 7 October 2010

Police have officially commenced 'Operation Vintage', the police operation for the Bathurst 1000 today, as fans begin their pilgrimage to Bathurst for the great race.

The Commander of Operation Vintage, Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke said that police will be out in force this weekend to support the event and to make sure everyone enjoys their time at the race.

"This iconic event is unlike any other, and it attracts enthusiasts of all ages, including children, from around the country and overseas. Police have been very pleased with crowd behaviour over the past few years and are hopeful that families will continue returning to the mountain"

"Every year thousands of people attend the event and police will be keeping a watchful eye on the safety of fans. Alcohol related behaviour will be a focus for my officers," he said.

Each adult race enthusiast will be restricted to taking only one of the following items into the event camping areas each day – a combination of these items will not be allowed:

- One carton (24 cans) of full strength beer
- One carton (36 cans) of light or mid-strength beer (3.5% alcohol or less)
- One carton (24 cans) or pre-mixed spirits (6% alcohol or less)
- One cask of wine (up to four litres)

Glass will not be permitted to be taken into the Mt Panorama race circuit.

In 2009, approximately 172,000 people attended the race, with around 35,000 utilising various campsites across the Mountain.

With these spectator numbers, police will be out in fore to continue to reduce the number of incidents among the crowd.

General duties officers will be joined by Highway Patrol Officers, Bicycle Officers, Dog Squad, Mounted Police, Police and Citizens Youth Club Officers (PCYC) and the Public Order and Riot Squad.

Many of the officers will be housed in a purpose built compound on the mountain.

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“Police have been working with event organisers and the local council when planning Operation Vintage.

“Police want to ensure a safe, secure and friendly environment both on the mountain and in the Bathurst township during the event,”

“Anyone who wishes to engage in anti-social behaviour or drink excessively will come under the notice of officers. Those that do will face being ejected and receiving a banning notice, and, depending on the incident they may be charged” said Assistant Commissioner Clarke.

Police have also warned anyone travelling to Bathurst for the weekend to be vigilant with their driving.

“Motorists should be mindful of their speed, fatigue and their general driving behaviour. Highway Patrol Officers will be out in force to ensure that attendees do not drive on the roads like they would on a race track,” Assistant Commissioner Clarke said.

“In 2009 police issued in excess of 1250 traffic infringement notices and conducted more than 14,000 random breath tests.

“We are putting you on notice, if you take part in any form of dangerous driving behaviour, whether that be speeding, drink driving or not wearing your seat belt, police will catch you and we will charge you,” said Assistant Commissioner Clarke.

“The police presence at the race will ensure that people are able to enjoy the event in safe, secure and family friendly environment,” Assistant Commissioner Clarke said.

Issued by NSW Police Force Media Unit (02) 8263 6100
Authorised by Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke, MEIG
(Ref:rw:meddocs/medstrat/2010/October/finallaunch.071010)

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