

More police on busy roads

MARKED and unmarked police cars and motorcycles will be all over roads around the North East this long weekend with thousands of tourists expected in the area.

Senior Sergeant Bill Gore, of the Wangaratta Highway Patrol, said the Queen's Birthday holiday is one of the busiest periods on Wangaratta's roads because of winery events, the start of the snow

Drivers asked to respect each other as thousands flood



BY SHANA MORGAN
smorgan@
nenews.com.au

season, festivals and camping all happening at the same time.

"If we finish the weekend with no crashes and no book-

ings it will still be a success," he said.

"We'll just be out in force."

The State Highway Patrol will also be in the region for Operation Regal, which started this morning and runs until midnight on Monday, targeting speed, driver distraction, seatbelts, fatigue and drugs and alcohol.

Sen Sgt Gore said he is happy most people who drink at winery events use the buses provided, but called on everyone to respect each other on the road.

"Fatigue is our biggest killer," he said.

"The best way to have a good weekend is to come home from it."

Road Policing Command Operations' Superintendent Neville Taylor has warned that intelligence shows collisions are more likely to occur on major arterials.

"We know holiday periods contribute to significant increases in traffic volumes on roads so the need for increased driver awareness and job



NEST PROTECTOR: Wangaratta youngster Archie Crispin does his best ninja turtle impression in an effort to encourage others to protect turtle nests. PHOTO: Steven Burke

Talking up turtle protection over this weekend

TWO special events will be held this weekend in an effort to protect local turtle populations.

Live turtle displays will be part of the events, being put on by Turtles Australia.

Turtles Australia volunteer Graham Stockfeld will speak at the first event, on Saturday evening at The Centre in Chisholm Street from 6pm.

Mr Stockfeld will speak about his efforts to protect turtle nests on Gunbower Island on the Murray River.

He will help educate the community and environment groups about how to do similar activities in Wangaratta.

On Sunday there will be a live turtle display at Batchelor's Green at noon, followed by a free barbecue and walk/talk along One Mile Creek to Wareena Wetlands.

To RSVP, contact Di Farmer on 0439 020 448 or Suzanne Johnstone on 0409 225 605.

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Fewer priests prompts changes

BY SIMONE KERWIN

MASS time changes due to a reduction in clergy numbers will take effect in the Wangaratta district's Catholic parishes this weekend.

The recent retirement of Fr Frank Hart and Monsignor John White, who were replaced by new parish priest Fr Mike Pullar to support Fr Eugene Delarte, means Wangaratta is now operating with two rather than three priests. Accordingly, Fr Pullar said the number and timing of masses needed to change. He said parishioners' reactions to

the reshuffle, which includes suspension of Sunday evening mass as well as some slight scheduling shifts, had been "generally positive".

Mass will now be celebrated on Saturdays at 6pm at St Patrick's Church, and on Saturday at 6pm on rotation at Boorhaman, Eldorado, Tarrawingee and Glenrowan churches.

Sunday morning sees 8am mass at St Patrick's, 9am at Our Lady's, 10.30am at St Patrick's, and alternately 10am at Moyhu and 10.30am at Whitfield.

The previously run 6.30pm mass at Our Lady's has been dropped from the schedule.

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