



# Hoon alert after police car smash

**SALLY GLAETZER**

A YOUNG man is in hospital with serious injuries after a car and an unmarked police car smashed head-on at the weekend.

Police had been tracking a car after it was seen hooning through the streets of Berriedale and Moonah early on Saturday morning but police say there was no pursuit at the time of the crash.

Southern region duty officer Doug Rossiter said the Suzuki Swift was being driven along Queens Walk at New Town

about 12.25am when it crossed to the wrong side of the road and collided head-on with a police car.

The 21-year-old driver was trapped in the Suzuki for about an hour and had to be cut free from the wreckage.

He was taken to the Royal Hobart Hospital with extensive lower body injuries but they are not considered life-threatening.

A male front-seat passenger escaped with minor injuries and the female police officer driving the unmarked car suffered minor face and arm

injuries.

Insp Rossiter said police had been trying to find the Suzuki and lookout cars had been stationed on the Brooker Highway and Risdon Rd.

But he said the car was not being pursued at the time.

"Obviously the police vehicle [involved in the crash] was driving in the opposite direction at the time," he said.

Insp Rossiter said charges were likely to be laid but police had not yet been able to interview the driver.

He said there had been no other cars on Queens Walk at

the time of the crash but that the incident was a reminder for all road users to be wary of dangerous hoons.

"There will always be drivers out there who will act recklessly and irresponsibly but a high level of awareness and concentration can mitigate the risks," Insp Rossiter said.

"You will reduce your chances of a crash if you can slow down, give yourself plenty of room to manoeuvre to avoid a crash and pay attention to the road and other road users."



**LUCKY ESCAPE:** A 21-year-old driver had to be cut from the wreckage of a Suzuki Swift, above, after a collision with an unmarked police car, left. Pictures: KIM EISZELE

