



Police call for help as reckless stunt puts drivers' lives at risk

High danger

BLAIR RICHARDS

A POTENTIALLY deadly "pastime" on Hobart's highways is putting drivers at risk, police say.

Several cars travelling along the Brooker Highway at Claremont on Saturday night were damaged by rocks and other missiles thrown from the Box Hill Rd overpass.

Police received complaints from about 7pm.

One of the cars was damaged by a bottle.

Acting Sergeant John Ford said at least one person reported seeing children throwing rocks but police could not be certain of the age of the culprits.

"There was definitely more than one person involved," he said.

It was not an isolated

incident, with police frequently receiving reports of objects being thrown from overpasses around the city into oncoming traffic.

However, the high number of cars damaged on Saturday night prompted police to issue an appeal for information.

"We're bringing this one to light as we've got a bit of information and vehicles were damaged, including windows broken," Sgt Ford said.

He said another danger zone for drivers was the Tasman Highway, with rocks often thrown from overpasses at Warrane and Mornington, and it seemed the majority of culprits were juveniles.

"We frequently get calls about it. It's a favourite pastime," he said.

Sgt Ford said it was easy to imagine how a rock thrown at a car travelling at 100km/h or more would hit with deadly force.

"If there is a car travelling at

100km/h, if it hits a rock, a bit of simple physics will tell you it can

still travel towards the driver at 100km/h," he said.

"Kids don't realise it but it's a matter that can have serious consequences.

"The description usually given to us is of 'kids throwing rocks'. Most of the time it is children anywhere between 10 and 18 years of age.

"Anecdotally, children seem to be the main offenders."

Sergeant Ford said Metro buses were also often targeted by missile-throwing youths.

One of the victims of Saturday's rock-throwing incident at the

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We frequently get calls about it. It's a favourite pastime



CLOSE CALL: The driver of this car was lucky not to have had a rock smash completely through the windscreen.



Highway hooligans hurl rocks at drivers

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overpass was a Glenorchy man travelling south on the Brooker Highway.

The man, who did not wish to be identified, told of his horror when a heavy projectile smashed into his windscreen.

He estimated the incident

occurred about 8pm and because it was dark, he and his wife did not see anything until the object hit the windscreen and shattered it.

"I was travelling back towards Glenorchy from Claremont and I didn't see anything myself," he said.

"My wife saw some sort of

object an instant before it hit the windscreen. It sounded like a gunshot."

In 1997, a stolen pet dog named Mondo was hurled to his death from the Box Hill Rd overpass.

The incident sparked widespread community outrage and the overpass now bears a

plaque placed there in memory of Mondo.

Tasmania Police has urged that any member of the public who sees anyone throwing objects from a roadway overpass to immediately report it to authorities by calling 131 444 or contacting Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



HIGHWAY MADNESS: Constable Adrian Mollan investigates the scene yesterday of the potentially deadly spate of rock throwing on the Brooker Highway at Claremont.

Picture: KIM EISZELE