

Surveying is an integral component of crash scene analysis with forensic officers using survey data to interpret crash scenes, uncover evidence, and determine the sequence of events at an incident.

Acting Senior Sergeant Graeme Symonds of the FCU said the scanner was still in testing mode but results so far suggested its accuracy and speed would greatly benefit the work of the unit.

“Traditional surveying methods are often time-consuming and rely on people to pick survey points to produce an image identical to the scene at the time,” Acting Senior Sergeant Symonds said.

“Officers had to use a variety of tools to plot specific points over a designated piece of terrain, but the scanner has automated this surveying technique.

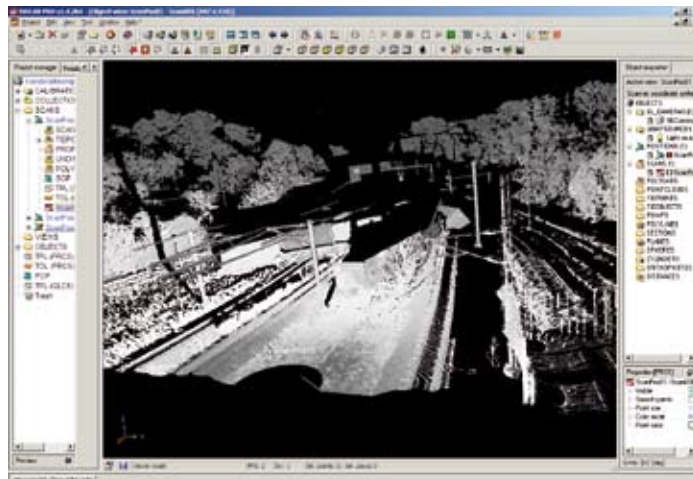
“For QPS, the scanner has the potential to revolutionise traditional surveying methods, enabling crash scene analysis to be more accurate and quicker than ever before.

“Our aim is to use the scanner’s output in court proceedings so jury and judiciary members can easily visualise the scene of an incident.”

Acting Senior Sergeant Symonds said the time it took the scanner to capture images compared to performing the task manually was astonishing.

“The scanner can capture 10,000 data points per second, obtaining accurate three-dimensional images in around 10 minutes.

“To put this in perspective, the number of data points an image requires for it be useful in forensics varies greatly depending on the complexity of the scene.



“Images from complex scenes may contain up to three million data points.

“Plotting 1,000 data points would generally require a full day’s work for a single forensics officer.”

The Forensic Crash Unit recently trialed the scanner at the Petrie Station train crash site in which several carriages carrying goods and produce overturned.

“The Petrie train crash was an extensive crash scene, and there was a high volume of wreckage and debris covering more than 500 metres.

“It would normally take one of our forensic officers at least a day to survey but the scanner surveyed it within two hours and even picked up the dust clouds rising from the wreckage.”

*By Flo Turnbull,
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Giving young people a choice

Youth Driver Awareness Programs may soon become part of the curriculum in schools desperate to help curb the senseless loss of young lives on the road.

Your Choice is a powerful police presentation that forms part of a pilot program organised by local Rotary clubs to educate Year 11 students on road safety.

The one-day program commenced in February at Alexandra Hills State High School, and Cleveland and Wellington Point State High Schools are expected to embrace the program later in the year.

The program is conducted at the Mount Cotton Driver Training Centre and combines practical demonstrations and theory with the aim of reducing car crashes among young people.

Senior Sergeant Janelle Harm, Officer in Charge of Cleveland Police Station, said the program covered a range of topics relating to road safety and motor vehicle ownership.

“Students are given information on topics such as car finance and insurance options, hazard perception, safe driving after celebrating, and fatigue,” Senior Sergeant Harm said.

“They also get to listen to personal stories from road crash survivors, and this really helps drive the message home.

“Each student has the opportunity to travel in a vehicle driven by a qualified driving instructor.

“This allows them to experience different driving speeds, reaction times, and vehicle traction so they gain an appreciation of the length of time it takes to stop a vehicle.

“It’s meant to be a learning experience and is often an eye-opener for students who are generally unaware of the power and force a motor vehicle contains.”

Senior Sergeant Harm said the program targeted young people before they had obtained their driving licence so they would become safer drivers on the road.

The police presentation includes compelling video footage of a young person whose life is cut short after a crash involving alcohol and speed.

“We invite open discussion with the students and look at the decisions the young people in the video make and the tragic consequences of those choices,” Senior Sergeant Harm said.

*By Flo Turnbull,
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