

# **Lions Tourist Trophy Post Event Stakeholders Debrief Meeting**

**Held at the Kyogle Memorial Hall October 27, 2014 commencing at 1:00pm**

## **Attendance;**

- Clr Robert Dwyer (Kyogle Council/Showground Trust)
- Graham Kennett (Kyogle Council)
- Malcolm Wallis (Kyogle Council)
- Mat Johnson (NSW Police)
- Mick McCormack (NSW Police)
- Paul Carrett (NSW Police Major Events Sydney)
- Robert Duncan (QLD Police)
- Scott Lacey (QLD Police)
- Andrew Zaal (QLD Police)
- Fay Fardon (Kyogle Lions Club)
- Athol McQueen (Kyogle Lions Club)
- Doug Allen (Kyogle and District Chamber of Commerce)
- Robert Crawford (Fire and Rescue NSW)
- Terry Murphy (NSW Ambulance)
- Casey Stringfellow (Lions TT)
- Mark Luxford (Lions TT)
- Ed Profke (Lions TT)

## **Apologies;**

- Greg Lewis (NSW Fire and Rescue)
- Daniel Ainsworth (Rural Fire Service)
- Nancy Martin (North Coast Area Health Service)
- Julie Cadet (Kyogle Hospital)
- Scott Turner (Scenic Rim Regional Council)
- Chad George (NSW Police)
- Greg Martin (NSW Police)
- Rob Clarke (NSW Police)
- Doug Pettigrew (Traffic Management People)

## **Outline of the debriefing process and purpose;**

Graham Kennett gave an outline of the debriefing process and purpose;

- To review the event and identify any issues that need to be addressed in planning for the next event
- To give each stakeholder group and opportunity to report on the event from their perspective

## **Overview of event and the surveillance and monitoring undertaken;**

Graham Kennett gave an overview of the surveillance and monitoring undertaken during the event;

- Council and Police monitored the Lions Road stage implementation and operation
- QLD Police had a heavy presence from Beaudesert through to the NSW border at the Lions Road and Mount Lindesay, and within the Rathdowney area.

- NSW Police monitored the activities in the Kyogle township and also at the Casino stage of the event.
- Councils Economic Development Officer monitored the activities around town, including surveys of visitors and local businesses
- The Kyogle Visitor Information Centre monitored visitor activities and numbers

### **Reports from each stakeholder group and brief observations and issues;**

Verbal reports were provided by each stakeholder group by going around the room in the order of seating. The key points raised were recorded as follows;

Doug Allen (Kyogle and District Chamber of Commerce);

- 99% of people saw the event as a positive, even those who did not directly benefit in dollar terms
- Good buzz around town
- No negative feedback received directly
- Music festival component was not well attended
- Good first off event, keen to see it come back, with a little tweaking

Casey Stringfellow (Lions TT)

- Thanked the NSW Police for their support and appreciation for the QLD Police involvement
- Acknowledged that the organisers did not do the right things in some areas I the lead up to the event, as they were still learning the processes and did not become aware of some things until late in the process

Ed Profke (Lions TT)

- Also thanked both NSW and QLD Police
- Businesses in Kyogle not the only area to benefit, other areas in the region also benefit with visitor travel to and from Kyogle
- Looking to the police and other stakeholders for help and guidance to ensure boxes are being ticked for next event

Mark Luxford (Lions TT)

- Also thanked NSW and QLD Police
- Advised that his time was split between Casino and Kyogle, and all aspects of the event in those areas went fine, not aware of any issues in these areas
- Some things to learn with the Tent City at the Showground with 200 booked and 400 turning up

Casey Stringfellow (Lions TT)

- Advised that participant numbers were 150 per day on the Lions Road stage, with 180 rides on the Saturday (resulting in two incidents) and only 10 riders on the Sunday before a serious incident resulted in the cancellation of this stage of the event
- The 1<sup>st</sup> incident was with a rider in his 50's, on a 25 year old bike, rider has advised that he had ridden the road many times, he was under the speed limit, and blamed the road condition for his fall, walked away from the incident, bike had to be recovered by crews on site.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> incident was with a rider in his 60's on a large heavy bike (Triumph) side boxes contacted the road, rider had ridden the road several times before, attended to by on site paramedics, then transported by NSW Ambulance Services to Lismore Base Hospital.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> incident was with a rider in his 50's with mountain riding experience, high speed incident without doubt, third bike the rider had written off in six months, adjoining land owner advised that this was not an uncommon spot for motor bike riders to have accidents as they increase speed after leaving the down hill run from the border, rider was attended to by on site paramedics, transported to Lismore Base hospital by NSW Ambulance with serious trauma injuries. Scene was attended to by NSW Police, event organisers and Council. This incident lead to the cancellation of this stage of the event on the Sunday.
- Contact had been made with the insurers of the event and they advised that no claims had been made against them at this point

#### Mat Johnson (NSW Police)

- Had received reports of up to 7 injuries through Lismore Base Hospital, but no additional details were provided by the hospital

#### Terry Murphy (NSW Ambulance)

- Advised that the Saturday rider (2<sup>nd</sup> incident) was transferred to Gold Coast due to condition, and had since recovered
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> incident was a case of high trauma
- Advised he had heard from Lismore Base Hospital that they were very busy that weekend and were not impressed about not being made aware of the event
- Advised that there were a number of trauma injuries through the hospital that weekend, but he was not sure of exactly where they came from
- Advised that he did not see it as his responsibility to advise the Lismore Base Hospital of the upcoming event after having attended pre-event meetings, this should have been done by the North Coast Area Health Services representatives

#### Robert Crawford (NSW Fire and Rescue)

- Once the short course event was moved to Casino there were no major issues from their perspective
- More concerned about next year's event if it was to impact on access to and from the town brigade in Bloore Street

#### Fay Fardon (Kyogle Lions Club)

- Concerned about the late and limited information available for marketing and advertising and promoting the event and associated activities
- Lions Club members didn't know until Saturday morning what they were supposed to do or where they were supposed to set up, but eventually did well for the day
- \$960 raised by the Lions Club van
- Overall very good event, the town was packed
- Participants and visitors were well behaved
- Good feedback received from visitors and locals
- Donations box at the border was broken into just before the event, and has been broken into twice since, however the box was emptied in the days after the event

and donations made during the event collected. Police have been advised of these incidents

- Would like to have better and sooner information for advertising the next event

#### Clr Robert Dwyer (Showground Trust/Kyogle Council)

- All positive feedback from the Showground Trust
- Canteen ladies very pleased, campers were very courteous and polite
- Did well from the weekend with proceeds to be split between the Showground Trust and the Show Society
- Trust and Tent City organisers had issues which have since been sorted out, a lot of people came under a false impression whereby the Tent City organiser thought he had booked the whole grounds, but had only booked the showground ring, thought he was entitled to the bookings in the other areas, \$80 charge for unpowered site whilst the Showground Caretaker was charging \$10 for unpowered sites around the showground.

#### Malcolm Wallis (Kyogle Council)

- Event was well received
- Positive feedback from businesses, participants, visitors and locals
- 73 people interviewed by him over the weekend, who spent over \$20,000 between them
- Visitor centre had 234 visitors, mostly from south-east QLD, with a spend of around \$182,000 to the local economy
- Visitors happy with service and friendliness of locals
- Hotel in town took upwards of 400% of normal trade, similarly for the service stations
- Felt that the proof of concept had been a success
- Main issues identified were;
  - Splitting of event in town between Geneva Street and the Amphitheatre
  - Information distribution and communications needed to be improved

#### Andrew Zaal (QLD Police)

- Communication was a major problem
- Event organisers consultation with residents on the QLD side was poor
- residents he had spoken to not happy with just receiving a letter
- concerned that residents were told that the event had consent from QLD Police
- made a number of references to comments made on Facebook which he felt were derogatory to the QLD Police and gave the impression that the decision to not allow the road closure was in some way the fault of the QLD Police rather than the event organisers
- advised that he will never support an event with a road closure on either the NSW or QLD side of the Lions Road

#### Scott Lacey (QLD Police)

- a total of 10 officers were in place on the QLD side
- advised that they did not support the road closure
- felt the event was dangerous and that it was held on a notorious section of road not suited to the event
- spectator group at Rathdowney was quite large and cause some concerns
- their job was made easier by not having the road closed in QLD

- disappointed with the lack of consultation at the start of the planning process
- road survey was undertaken when application for road closure was received, with serious concerns raised about nature of road
- perception of the event as being a time trial
- will not support the event in the future if it involves a road closure
- acknowledged the benefit of the event, but their focus was on the safety of road users
- not anti-event, but focused on keeping people alive

#### Ed Profke (Lions TT)

- asked about the comparison between controlled closed road and open roads where people are regularly being killed and injured

#### Scott Lacey (QLD Police)

- It all comes down to the concept of a time trial, speed limit is not enforceable, opens up conduct of the type associated with a race, despite briefings of participants and any good intent

#### Mat Johnson (NSW Police)

- The difference is that this allows people the opportunity to do the wrong thing

#### Robert Duncan (QLD Police)

- Cost to QLD Police was around \$35,000 for policing the event
- If the “group ride” is around an organised event, then a QLD Police approval process is required
- If the event is approved by QLD Police, any costs associated with policing the event would have to be covered by the event organisers

#### Terry Murphy (NSW Ambulance)

- NSW Ambulance had no major issues
- Helicopter was not used for the event
- Not a high number of traumas
- What the treatment of the trauma patients that did arise was an issue for them, particularly transport of one individual to QLD
- Taking the only ambulance in Kyogle out of town for transport of a patient leaves no ambulance in Kyogle if needed by someone else

#### Lyn Weir (Lismore Base Hospital)

- report by phone to Mat Johnson during meeting
- advised that they were not aware of the event despite representatives from NSW Ambulance and the North Coast Area Health Services being invited to and attending pre-event meetings
- advised that if they had been notified they would not have made a lot of changes to staffing, other than perhaps additional staff being on-call
- two patients treated were known to be associated with the event

#### Paul Carrett (NSW Police Major Events Sydney)

- responsible for major events involving road closures where they cross police Local Area Command boundaries such as in Sydney or over longer distances, such as

push bike rides, charity rallies, and street parades, handling around 150 events per year

- advised he was made aware of the police concerns prior to the event, and gave advice to a local officer to provide advice to the events insurers that this was the case
- indicated that his unit were pro-event in local and regional communities, provided they were safe and secure events
- understood and promoted the economic benefits of such events
- does not want anyone to end up in a coroner's court because of an event
- ramifications when things do not go as planned and the risk to public health and safety, this event had three accidents, all of which created traumas and exposure to litigation
- workplace health and safety legislation also applies to these type of events, with the organisers responsible for creating a safe working environment for their staff, volunteers, marshals and participants
- acknowledged that road closure and approvals for the event could be done by Council without NSW Police approval provided that the event was not a time trial, however made the point that if it looks like a time trial, the coroner would still see it as a time trial, despite what was written down in the event plan and approvals, as the environment that was created with the closed road, marshalling at a "starting" point and individual timed release of riders was akin to that of a time trial or race
- will not support the short course in the town area
- will not support the road closure in the rural area with staged starting system, as was used this year
- thoughts for the future, what has to happen is regular and all agency type meetings, involving all affected
- risk assessment needs improving, no definitions provided to go with the hazard/likelihood matrix
- need to have a holistic police assessment, and costs associated covered by organisers, looks at not only the event itself, but the impact on other areas of policing.

#### Casey Stringfellow (Lions TT)

- acknowledged that the format used this year for the Lions Road stage of the event did not work, it relied on self-regulation by the riders, and the organisers did not want to hold an event that results in people being hurt

#### Mat Johnson (NSW Police)

- public behaviour associated with the event was spot on, very good
- communications on the day of the event with the organisers and Council was very good
- recognition for attempt by organisers to do something positive, however inexperience resulted in a predicament, and recognition of the need to make changes
- concerns raised were;
  - public on the course inside the road closure
  - marshals skills and knowledge
  - safe riding environment was not created
  - rider behaviour was initially very poor

- initially everything pointed to evidence of a “race”, particularly on day 2 following the 3<sup>rd</sup> incident
- if police are put in that sort of position, they will inevitably err on the side of caution
- felt there was too little control, too many volatile variables
- cannot support the event in the same format
- more than happy to proceed with next years event, to provide outcomes for community and economy with a focus on safety

**Summarise key issues and preferred options;**

The following represents a summary of the key issues and preferred options;

1. There is no support from the NSW Police for the Café Racer Sprint drag race stage of the event in the Kyogle township.
  - The Casino facility is to be utilised for any drag racing events
  - The focus in the township will be on novelty events and other special events such as demonstrations, stunt riders, show and shine etc
2. There is no support from either the QLD or NSW Police for a road closure associated with the event in the rural area
  - No road closure involving assembly at a point with individual timed release, as this is akin to a racing environment
  - Focus on a social ride
  - Avoid timed events or competition elements
  - Extend the time period for rides
3. The event now has a history and any future event will require approval from both the NSW and QLD Police
  - In addition to other statutory approvals that may be required
  - Utilise the NSW Special Events Planning Guidelines
  - Need to be mindful of the additional issues created by cross-border nature of event
4. Information distribution
  - Don't rely on Facebook
  - Clear structure and lines of communication
  - The “TT” has connotations for marketing as it is seen to represent a “Time Trial”, for marketing and promotion use the concept of a “Motorcycle Festival”
  - Importance of regular all agency meetings, and involvement of emergency combat and response agencies

**Lions TT event organisers response;**

The event organisers advised that they were keen to return with a modified event in 2015, based on the outcomes and discussions of the debrief meeting. It was agreed to workshop ideas further after the completion of the debrief meeting.

**Debrief meeting was closed at 2:50pm**

**Summary of discussions held during post-debrief meeting workshop;**

The following provides a summary of the conceptual ideas and suggestions developed at the workshop after the close of the debrief meeting. The event organisers advised that they would take these ideas away and develop a proposal for next year's event that could be communicated with all stakeholders by way of a media release;

**Lions TT Motorcycle Festival**  
**Proposed Date September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2015**

<b>Motorcycle Rides</b>	<b>Other Activities</b>
<p>Drag races at Casino</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Side by side racing</li> <li>• Timed event</li> </ul> <p>“Hub and Spoke” style tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start and finish in Kyogle</li> <li>• Include adventure rides on gravel surfaces for track and trail bikes as well as bitumen only tours</li> <li>• Each ride has lead rider who also provides tour guide</li> <li>• Utilise existing tourist drives</li> <li>• Incorporate lunch or morning tea stops on each tour using local businesses for catering</li> <li>• Suggested possible sealed road routes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lions Road and Mt Lindesay loop via Rathdowney to be included</li> <li>○ Kyogle to Murwillumbah area</li> <li>○ Woodenbong and Urbenville area</li> <li>○ Casino drags</li> <li>○ Others to be developed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Suggested possible adventure ride routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bonalbo via Toonumbar Dam</li> <li>○ Border Ranges National Park loop</li> <li>○ Others to be developed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Business Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical to retain the business park aspect of the event</li> <li>• Desire to keep the area closed overnight to avoid the need to bump in and out after the first day</li> <li>• Prefer road closure of the Summerland Way between Geneva Street and Stratheden Street as the alternate route along Ettrick Street will not be required for the drag racing</li> <li>• Same area to be utilised for some events and demonstrations</li> <li>• Create a side show or carnival atmosphere</li> <li>• Still utilise the amphitheatre park</li> <li>• Retain the Showground for accommodation</li> </ul> <p>Possible events;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live music</li> <li>• Show and shine</li> <li>• Jet car demo</li> <li>• Junior rides</li> <li>• Burn out competition</li> <li>• Trials (obstacle riding)</li> </ul>