



MEDIA RELEASE: MRA TOY RUN 2011

The Motorcycle Riders' Association of South Australia (MRASA) is concerned with the recent reports in the media and discussions in various motorcycle forums of the demise of the MRA Toy Run in South Australia.

The MRA Toy Run has been presented to the people of South Australia for the past thirty-two years to collect toys for needy families and their children at Christmastime. During that period it is estimated that over three million dollars in toys, non-perishable food and cash donations have been collected from generous motorcyclists who come from all over the state to show their true colours as concerned and responsible members of the community.

This is an important community event that has been and is supported by members of parliament of all political persuasions. Those who have attended the Toy Run in the past as official guests or private individuals have included John Olsen, Lynn Arnold, Natasha Stott-Despoja, Mike Rann, Martin Hamilton-Smith, Diana Laidlaw, Gavin Keneally and David Ridgway.

The MRA Toy Run is the biggest of its kind in Australia and has encouraged riders in SA country centres to emulate it by staging their own Toy Runs. With the support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul it has made a significant contribution to the lives of many South Australians over the years and will continue to do so.

The 2011 Coordinator of the Toy Run, Harald Lindemann, stated yesterday that

“The MRASA has no intention of not holding a Toy Run and has never considered not holding the Toy Run in 2011 or in any other year. As the Toy Run has grown, there have been increasing concerns regarding issues of participant safety and difficulties specific to the staging of the event which we have in the past worked through with the assistance of the various councils and SAPOL, and this we will continue to do. The refusal of SAPOL to support the ride to Hahndorf this year because of their

safety concerns and lack of resources has precipitated action on this matter by the MRA Toy Run Committee.”

The MRASA has listened to concerns and suggestions from its members and riders regarding the traffic management on the Toy Run and has responded by seriously considering a variety of options that might suit the event. It is currently negotiating a new starting place and destination for the Run and as soon as these discussions are finalised the public and supporters of the Toy Run will be informed.

MRASA President Peter Mount said yesterday,

“Rest assured, the MRA Toy Run will be held this year. We are confident that we will be able to continue working productively with local councils, Vinnies and SAPOL to present a safe and enjoyable Toy Run for South Australia and continue doing what we can for families and kids in need at Christmas.

“Everyone who supports the MRA Toy Run and its work, both riders and the general public, should get behind the event in any way that they can,” he added. *“We intend to make the 2011 Toy Run an event to remember and everyone is invited to participate enthusiastically on Sunday, December the 11th.”*

Mr Mount said that further details will be provided as soon as negotiations have been completed.

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