



Motorcycle Riders' Association of South Australia Inc.
Toy Run 2012 Changes
Friday 19th October 2012



Gate Fee

To run the Toy Run in previous years the MRASA has been dependent on the generosity of riders who attend to donate money at the gate. This has been sufficient till now but some issues need to be dealt with.

1. The Toy Run is becoming more expensive to run every year - around \$24,000 in 2011 and we have to find the funds for that. Sponsorship covers some but is getting harder to find. The gate donations to date have helped. Sometimes they are up sometimes down, though we have always been able to make a donation to the Vinnie's Christmas Appeal from the donations. The MRASA needs a more guaranteed income to be able to budget properly for the event.
2. Over the last few years the MRASA has had to deal with misunderstandings from some riders who felt that all of the donations taken at the gate should go to the Vinnies. That was never the intention and our information at the gates has always made that clear. However, some riders are now bagging the Toy Run and creating an air of mistrust about the running of the event that needs to be countered.

The solution is to charge a gate fee and this will be the arrangement for 2012:

1. The Gate Fee will be \$5 per adult, children under 16, marshals and MRASA members will be free. Donations to help with the costs of the Toy Run will be gratefully accepted.
2. MRASA members will have to show their membership card at the gate for free entry.
3. Anyone who wants to join the MRASA on the day can do so at the MRA tent and will receive a discount on their new membership equivalent to the Gate Fee. This will apply to single and family memberships.
4. There will be no fee for bike parking.
5. Anyone wishing to make cash donations to the Vinnies will still be able to do so at the same time that they deliver their toys to the Vinnies.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society are an important partner of the Toy Run and so have been consulted regarding these issues and wholeheartedly approve of the changes.

It is unfortunate that it has come to this and I know that some riders will be upset by the change, as some have been upset by other changes we have had to make over the years. So, we will arrange things so that anyone who wants to go on the ride and donate toys but does not want to pay to spend the afternoon at the Oval can donate at 'DROP & RIDE' sites at the gates.

So that we can ease the congestion at the gates we will be arranging for riders to be able to prepay at Victoria Park. This means that you will be able to simply walk in without having to line up once you get to the oval.

All of us at the MRASA and the Toy Run Committee thank you for your support of the event and of the Vinnies in the past and hope that it will continue. Together we will continue to make the event one of the outstanding events in the South Australian motorcycling calendar.