

Last drinks for motorcycle club?

BY BEN BRENNAN

30 Nov, 2009 09:12 AM

ANTI-BIKIE laws have come to bear on a Murray Bridge motorcycle group in what the club is calling an attack on its reputation.

The Murray Bridge chapter of the Longriders Christian Motorcycle Club claims it was told it would be denied a limited liquor licence for a regular open night on November 13 because the application had been received late and because the Longriders had associated with outlaw bikies at a poker run earlier this year.

A Longriders spokesman said the Office of the Liquor and Gaming Commissioner (OLGC) had not refused the club's application in writing but said the Longriders were told they had fallen foul of association provisions in the Serious and Organised Crime Control Act (SOCCA), also known as the anti-bikie laws.

Upon hearing the licence would be refused two days before the event, the Longriders cancelled the licence application.

"This is exactly what we have been saying all along about the injustice of this SOCCA law and the potential that it has to affect law abiding members of the community," the spokesman said.

"The association part of this law was deemed invalid by the Supreme Court yet the police are still acting on it by advising the liquor licensing commission to withhold licences."

Longriders Murray Bridge chapter president Gus Slotegraaf said the incident had called the club's good name into question.

"We have associated with members of outlaw clubs since day one - this is the crux of the Longriders ministry.

"One club's legal standing has changed - ours hasn't - yet this law of association now restricts us and deems us as unfit and improper persons.

"The God I believe in doesn't see me like that.

"We will continue regardless to make ourselves available to those who desire the gospel of Christ."

The OLGC has also refused the United Motorcycle Council a licence to supply liquor at a function following Saturday's protest poker run from Adelaide to McLaren Vale, citing a recommendation from police commissioner Malcolm Hyde and the involvement of the Finks.

A spokeswoman for OLGC said it had no applications from the Longriders and a spokeswoman the police commissioner could not comment on the Longriders case before press deadline.

A spokesman for South Australian Attorney-General Michael Atkinson said the issue was a matter was for OLGC.

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How funny is this, Christian bikies sitting in a pub drinking beer, then jump on their crap bike and go for a ride. Well isn't drink driving an offence in SA, and I didn't know Christians associate themselves with venues that sell Alcohol.

Posted by **George**, 30/11/2009 9:42:18 AM, on Murray Valley Standard

Pretty crook if they can prevent licencing just because they went for a ride with someone else. There's a bit of spite coming into it now on behalf of SAPOL. Who is next, a union protest, religious group or maybe a green protest? No wonder they call it Rannistan.

Posted by **angry**, 30/11/2009 12:27:30 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

When will these God Bothering Pseudo Bikies go away?

Posted by **Klavdy**, 30/11/2009 3:36:44 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

Atkinson had no problem commenting on the OLG backed closure of the 3 pubs the other day - posed with another embarrassment, he's now declining. Another example of a disfunctional media obsessed administration in total disarray.

Posted by **stickman**, 30/11/2009 4:44:16 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

Many of us argued this draconian legislation when it was first written and all through its drafting, it was written with the intent of being used on any sections of society and individuals of choice, with the Attorney having the final say in regards to groups and associations, and senior police in regards to individual orders, those that suffer the consequences have no ability to defend their innocence, which goes way beyond un-Australian, there should be not one Patriotic Australian that endorses such draconian laws, Our Freedoms, Rights and Liberties should never become Negotiable

Posted by **Mark M Aldridge INDEPENDENT CLC**, 30/11/2009 11:22:01 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

People it is very quickly becoming time for a change of government in this state. Otherwise i feel a very cold wind coming

Posted by **hoges**, 1/12/2009 8:02:51 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

pretty broad statement there George. it is not illegal to have a drink and drive as long as you stay under the limit. there are also many christians that enjoy a beer. have a look around you George, just because you dont like something doesnt make you right or wrong. its more about these draconian laws that take away the fundamental right to defend yourself in a court of law. they also take away your right to associate with whoever you please. the premier and the A-G said these laws would never be used against the average citizen and yet they blocked a christian group from obtaining a liquor licence for no other reason that they had previously gone on a protest run. they have since forced the closure of 3 pubs to prevent riders on a preotest run from getting a beer, and also prevented the publicans from earning an honest living. this is clearly an abuse of power and going against everything the govt has previously said. makes it pretty clear Mr Rann and his gestapo will use whatever tactics on who ever they please, whenever they want.

Posted by **angry**, 2/12/2009 2:27:32 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

HAHA! all the police and government is doing its making the clubs stronger and stronger. now its possible even the christian members patch over to 1% clubs! Well done! LOL! From Roadburger Sweden

Posted by **Roadburger**, 6/12/2009 3:35:21 AM, on Murray Valley Standard

Very well stated Angry

Posted by **buzzard**, 6/12/2009 6:42:07 PM, on Murray Valley Standard

I feel like i'm in a B grade bikie movie with a corrupt pollies and police using any method to bring down bikers. It would be laughable if it wasn't so serious. It seems to me that the public is turning it's support towards bikers, rolled up to a few pubs and have had total strangers giving their views (pro-bike) P.S. George stick to what you know which is f*** all.

Posted by **jules sellicks beach**, 17/12/2009 10:40:30 AM, on Murray Valley Standard

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Cut-off: Longriders Christian Motorcycle Club president Gus Slotegraaf chats to a member about the club's recent liquor licence refusal.

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