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Finke Organisers Condemn Reckless Riding

After several injuries to local motorbike riders, the Finke Desert Race Committee has condemned the practice of pre-running the Finke track.

“Pre-running on the Finke track is not only illegal, it’s dangerous” said Antony Yoffa, President of the Finke Desert Race Club.

“The Finke Desert Race is a supervised event with medical teams on standby and all traffic restricted from the road. Outside of race weekend, vehicles are free to travel in either direction and animals may roam across the track at any time.”

“If you pre-run, you are endangering yourself and other road users.”

Riding on the Finke track is only legal on a road registered, roadworthy bike, where you hold the appropriate licence and obey the 110km/h speed limit.

“There are too many riders out on the track breaking the law. If you are caught pre-running, you will be excluded from the race and may be prosecuted.”

However it’s not just the risk of injury or exclusion from the race that is a concern to the Committee.

“So far damage to the track has cost the Committee over \$10,000 in repairs this year alone. This is money the Committee could be spending on other things to make the race better for everyone” said Mr Yoffa.

The Finke Desert Race Committee has urged riders to find alternative ways to train for the race. “The Alice Springs Motor Cycle Club hosts events throughout the year both in town at their race track and at various bush locations so there is no need to be out riding the Finke track.”

In the lead up to the race, the Finke Desert Race Club goes to great lengths to organise two reconnaissances of the track. Temporary permits are available for unregistered bikes and there are ambulance personnel in attendance whilst competitors practice on a closed section of track.”

“If everyone does the right thing then we can all enjoy Australia’s Greatest Desert Race.”

The Tattersalls Finke Desert Race will be held over the Queen’s Birthday weekend, June 7-9. Further information can be obtained at www.finkedesertrace.com.au.

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