

## **Brighter Days Festival 2015**

Well, what a weekend it was... Great weather, great people, great music and heaps of fun!

The 3rd Brighter Days Festival was a fantastic reminder of what can happen when people chip in to help a good cause. Bike and car enthusiasts seem to be very good at having fun but even better at donating time and funds to many events across the globe and as a result the Brighter Days Festival is now here to stay!

Our committee decided we wanted to grow our festival organically, we didn't spend any money on advertising, it was purely word of mouth.... We upped the entertainment from 2014 and as a result, we are extremely happy to have handed over \$130,000.00 to The DEBRA FOUNDATION and SUDC (The Cooper Trewin Foundation).

Our two causes are very dear to us, but next year the BRIGHTER DAYS FOUNDATION will be spreading the love to a few other causes as well. GREAT EFFORT AND WELL DONE TO ALL WHO DONATED.

So what happened?

### **FRIDAY**

This year we moved the COTTONBALL RUN to Bright to the Friday and it proved a winner as everyone was in Bright Friday evening and started the weekend a day earlier.

Over a couple of hundred bikes and cars left Whittlesea and headed through Mansfield over the always entertaining Whitfield road through to Myrtleford and then into Bright. There was a welcoming party lining the entry to Bright as TEAM COOPER (from The Cooper Trewin Foundation) had their crew ready and waiting for our posse to arrive.

Friday night was drinks at The Alpine Hotel and pre-registration and the merchandise started selling instantly... everyone wanted a Brighter Days T-shirt.

### **SATURDAY**

Up early, the POKER RUN committee were taking registrations from cars and bikes and the staging crew were underway getting ready for the days music to start at midday.

There was a market up and going with over 80 stall holders and it was

all systems go on the river....With the Poker Run departing at 9.00 am a huge throng of bikes and cars made their way around some of the best hills and riding Australia has to offer. Our poker run is a bit different to some of the others as you can buy cards at each stop to get yourself the best hand possible...there was a buying frenzy back at the river and then the cards were presented....best hand went to Col McQuin who was driving a beautiful Chev Impala and he and his wife won a fantastic hotted up KINCROME tool kit!

The music started on the river at lunchtime and we were treated to a terrific line up of talent. **Paul Hicks and the Yard Dogs**, **Screamin' Eagles**, **Russell Morris** and band, then **Brian Cadd** with **COXY** on drums and last of all **Chocolate Starfish** doing the Bat out of Hell Show!

What a night! Over 3000 people including lots of families all having a great time and all free of charge. Our teams of kids went around with the buckets and after a moving video presentation highlighting little TILLY WILKES on the big screen, the donations were flowing.

A huge success and everyone headed home ready for the next day of partying.

## **SUNDAY**

Sun shining....

SHOW 'n' SHINE DAY and bikes and cars were jostling for prime position in the street. Also the stage was moved from the river to outside the pub...it was gonna be a long day.

The Amazing Chase was a first for our event and it was a hit with nearly 50 teams competing for 1st prize - a helicopter flight for 4 donated by the Alpine hotel's new publican TAGS. This event was designed for kids and families and they all had a ball running around the beautiful town of Bright looking for clues.

The Mums and girls didn't miss out with the Brighter Days Babes Lunch down at Riverdeck Cafe... A ladies only event which raised some great money for the cause.

Back outside the pub it was time for the Junior Talent Stage and Coxy introduced some of the young performers of the future....lots of proud Mums

and Dads in the crowd. Meanwhile judging was under way as the sun shone on some shit-hot bikes and cars in the Show 'n' Shine. Our winners were all chuffed with their trophies and it was now time for the big one ...the CVO Harley-Davidson raffle.

With young Eliza (an EB suffer) and Kylie Trewin from The Cooper Trewin Foundation all ready we spun the barrel and drew out a winner..... The lucky fella was BRETT WILSON from Eltham Victoria and he donated the trip and the cash back to the foundation... A great winner, a great bloke.

It was now time to party with boys from **Screamin' Eagles** and Coxy on drums smashing out some awesome live music well into the night. The boys auctioned off a guitar signed by all the musos and someone even paid \$500 for Coxy's drumsticks...

In summary, an amazing show of support for our 3rd year and we have definitely started a huge event!

We want to see you next year at the Brighter Days Festival, so pass the word to your friends and book in early!  
Big thanks to everyone who helped this year and hope to see you at our 2016 event.

Keep watching HDTV, see you on the road!

cheers,  
DUNDO

The Brighter Days Foundation  
President...