

Hello, my name is Greg, I'm a 42 year old [REDACTED] I would like to make the following submission to the Inquiry into motor recreational activities.

I've been a "rev-head" all my life & always will be. As a kid, I woke up unreasonably early on Christmas day like all kids do, but I also woke up early on Bathurst Sunday, but never knew why. I understand that most of society thinks we're all dangerous, anti-social bogans intent on being a nuisance, doing massive burnouts and driving as fast as possible wherever possible & to an extent, I understand why.

Society always remembers the bad things, the things we see in the news headlines & doesn't the 6PM news love a good hoon story?

I must admit, I have quite an extensive traffic history – I'm ok to disclose that if necessary – but having said that, since February 2009 I have had 2 speeding fines. 1 in August 2018 & 1 in August of this year.

In 2010 my Nissan 200SX was written off in a collision that wasn't my fault & my now wife and I were saving for a house deposit at the time, so I had to buy a car that was just basic transport. We scrimped & saved to throw everything we had at the mortgage until we were in a comfortable position and in 2014 we were able to afford a new car for me. That car was upgraded again in February 2018 and both of those vehicles are significantly faster & more powerful than anything I'd owned before.

Very soon after buying the first one of those, I joined a Facebook based car club, not registered as a proper club, more just a social thing. That club/group ran "Happy Laps" events at Lakeside & Qld Raceway and once I'd hit the track, I very quickly realised that no matter how hard I pushed, or how many risks I took on a public road, it was nothing compared to what I could do on a track – the "thrill" was gone, replaced with the knowledge that I really wasn't going that fast anyway & that getting caught speeding was the least of my worries, the consequences of crashing were far greater – no run-off areas, no safety barriers, just trees, power-poles, innocent humans, cliffs etc.... I have since done 3 proper open sprint days with a business called "Skid Control" and now, even Happy Laps is a bit "ho-hum".

The first club/group I joined has since dissolved & I have recently joined another group that is specific to a particular type of car - "hot hatch" - rather than a brand. I have organised a Happy Laps event for that group on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at lakeside Park in Kurwongbah, most of the members therein have not driven on a racetrack before, are very keen to do so and I'm really looking forward to giving those people the opportunity to experience track driving.

This new group that I have joined is for the purpose of going for a drive for the sake of enjoying the simple pleasure of driving. On the first group cruise I attended, we booked a table for 20 people for lunch at the Woodford Hotel. On the second, a small group spent a few hundred dollars at 2 small cafes near Queen Mary Falls and Woodenbong. In that group, myself and others have met new people and I really hope to meet more "like-minded" individuals, it's a great social environment.

I'm not suggesting that the media shouldn't report on "hoons", I understand that no matter how many racetracks there are, or how many events are made available to motoring enthusiasts there will always be those who choose to race in the streets.

I would suggest that what those people want isn't the thrill of racing, or even the thrill of driving fast, but what they really want is the thrill of breaking the law - much like the children of wealthy families who choose to shoplift – if they just ask, their parents will more than likely buy that item for them, but it's not that particular item that they want, it's the thrill that money can't buy.

We, as motoring enthusiasts, need to find a way to differentiate ourselves from these idiots. Racetracks being closed and having unreasonable noise restrictions imposed upon them is not helping - have you ever seen a "hoon" being paraded in front of a camera on "Today-Tonight" attempting to excuse their actions by saying that there's nowhere for them to race? By restricting race tracks, we are handing excuses to these anti-social fools.

I think a campaign something along the lines of a slogan that ANDRA (Australian National Drag Racing Association) used to use – street racing is not drag racing – might be helpful for those of us who take it to the track to differentiate ourselves from those who metaphorically drag all of us down, at least in the eyes of the media and the public.

Thankyou for taking the time to consider my submission.

Greg Broderick

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