



Australia Day

PROGRAM AND HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

210km/h brain snap rider in jail

19yo motorcyclist in hwy pursuit

By LOUISE THROWER

A 19-YEAR-OLD unlicensed Sydney motorcyclist who led police on a high-speed chase on Sunday has been refused bail.

The accused allegedly reached 210km/h during the pursuit, which started on the Federal Highway at Collector and ended 55km later on the Hume Highway.

At one point the rider was travelling into oncoming traffic. Police terminated the chase twice due to public safety fears.

Vahai Justin Kaifoto, of Mt Pritchard pleaded guilty to Skye's Law when he appeared before Goulburn Local Court on Monday.

He also pleaded guilty to being an unlicensed driver, exceeding the speed limit by more than 45km/h and driving furiously/recklessly in a speed and manner dangerous.

The unemployed teenager appeared in the dock dressed in black t-shirt, jeans and sneakers, having being refused bail by police the day before.

He will spend the next four weeks in jail until his sentencing hearing,

despite solicitor Les Heinrich's arguments for bail.

Police alleged they first detected Kaifoto travelling at 138km/h on his Suzuki 600 motorbike on the Federal Highway at Collector at 2.40pm.

They activated warning signals to stop but the rider accelerated, reaching 160 to 170km/h.

Highway patrol started the pursuit at the Gunning Rd turnoff at Collector but when they clocked the man at 198km/h and saw him overtaking vehicles, they stopped the chase at the Gatwick VC rest area. Soon after, he was detected doing over 200km/h.

Police stationed at Yarra Rail activated warning signals in an attempt to stop him but again he accelerated away, swerving between lanes and overtaking vehicles during the second pursuit.

Officers again stopped the pursuit "due to the inexperience of the rider," police documents stated.

He continued travelling north at "high speed" before crossing over to the Hume Highway's southbound lane.

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GO AUSSIE GO: Zara George, Avalon Manning, Charli Rowsell, Brock Thomas, Patrick Howard and Max McElligott from Scaliwags Children's Centre showing off some patriotism in preparation for tomorrow's Australia Day celebrations. Events are planned all across the region, with Goulburn's proceedings getting underway with a breakfast barbecue in Victoria Park at 7.30am. For the full Australia Day program see pages 10, 11 and 12. Photo: Tom Sebo



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