

## Rebels to face court over Hibo "brawl"

FIVE members of the Rebels Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMCG) have been charged following an alleged brawl at the Hibernian Hotel last weekend.

Police were called to the bar at about 11pm on Saturday, February 11, following reports of a fight.

Officers attached to Goulburn Local Area Command attended and were told a group of up to 10 men were involved in a brawl in the public bar area, which allegedly saw beer glasses, pool cues and chairs thrown and about 70 patrons flee the hotel.

Following inquiries, Goulburn Detectives arrested five Rebels OMCG members in Goulburn on Friday.

The men – aged 43, 39, 37, 34, and 18 – were taken to Goulburn Police Station where they were each charged with affray. All were given strict conditional bail and will appear in Goulburn Local Court next month, with the 18-year-old male appearing on March 21 and the others to appear consecutively on March 28.

Investigations into the alleged brawl continue and anyone with information should contact Goulburn Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



## Record Rodeo

A CROWD in the thousands watched with interest as a record field of 365 competitors plied their trade at the Goulburn Rodeo on Saturday. Among the ropers, riders and barrel racers was Marulan-based Australian steer wrestling champion, Russell Lincoln (pictured). Full story, sport.

Photo: Darryl Fernance.

# Selmes vs mining co.

## Conservationist prepared to fight for local forest

By LOUISE THROWER

MARK Selmes says he'll stand in front of bulldozers if a bauxite mining company tries to drill in Mount Rae Forest.

The conservationist has already fought a long running, and partly unsuccessful battle to stop logging in the forest, near Crookwell.

Australian Bauxite Limited (ABx) is conducting a pre-feasibility study in this area and a zone stretching over to Taralga. The company estimates a 25 million tonne resource which includes some of the deepest deposits ever discovered in Australia.

Testing is underway on properties whose owners have given permission, CEO Ian Levy recently told the *Post*.

But Mr Selmes is aghast to see drilling occurring in Mount Rae Forest and surrounding woodlands. The company says this area has some of the most significant bauxite 'pods'.

"They have misleadingly stated that Abx will buy or rent 'graziers' paddocks' to

extract the resource," Mr Selmes said.

"Whether they ultimately buy or rent from anyone remains to be seen... The lands within Mount Rae Forest are certainly not graziers' paddocks. They are scientifically proven to contain threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities.

"This has been recognised by the state government after detailed research and has resulted in the granting of conservation agreements on properties next door to those undergoing exploratory drilling."

Mr Selmes said he'd continue his opposition to large scale clearing in the area. He argued bauxite mining was a "destructive open cut practice".

All the forest is privately owned. Two properties, including Mr Selmes's, have state conservation agreements approved in the last two years.

The agreements are made following on-ground surveys by government scientists and recognise lands of high conservation value.

Continued page 3

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