



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 21/0069
Enquiries:
Telephone: 7322 3347
Facsimile: 7322 4180

[Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1991, access was sought to:

[Redacted] *South Australia's first outdoor music festival the MYPONGA PROGRESSIVE POP FESTIVAL held over the Australia Day long weekend January 30/31 Feb 1, 1971. The South Australian Police Force were very actively engaged during this period on patrolling the activities of festival goers, especially from the Mon 25th January 1971 through to February 2nd 1971. Various branches of the Police department, city and country were employed to look out for the safety of patrons getting there but there was also a big blitz to curb any illegal drug activity. Police were set up at borders and within the city and country environs. r (sic) There were several arrests made for drug possession to the festival and at the festival. I would like the opportunity to peruse those documents."*

On 21 August 2020 Sergeant Watson spoke with you via telephone regarding the scope of your request. You advised that you sought document/s containing information regarding police deployment and the number of arrests made at the Myponga Pop Festival. You were advised that a police report dated 26 February 1971 was identified as containing such information and you narrowed the scope to seeking access to:

"Police report dated 26 February 1971 regarding the Myponga Pop Festival"


Your views were sought regarding SAPOL undertaking consultation with third parties, with respect to their personal affairs, pursuant to section 26 of the FOI Act 1991. You requested that South Australia Police (SAPOL) not consult with third parties and narrowed the scope of this application to exclude personal affairs of persons other than yourself. It should be noted that the personal affairs of third parties have been redacted and marked as **Out of Scope**.

The document in scope is numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23.

SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE				
No.	Document Description	Status	Act	Reason
1	Police Report - Subject Myponga Pop Festival – dated 26 February 1971 consisting of 5 pages with the following attachment: ➤ <i>Letter of appreciation to Mr Easton</i>	Full Release		A portion of the text has been redacted and marked Out of Scope as it relates to the personal affairs of third parties and does not fall within the narrowed scope of your request.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 5 October 2020.

Yours sincerely,


Senior Sergeant/First Class Tracy Gentgall
Officer in Charge
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

7 September 2020

Officer-in-Charge,
REGION 'D'

SUBJECT: MYPONGA POP FESTIVAL.

Reference: P.C.O. 20/1/279444 Addendum 'A'

On 30-31 January and 1 February 1971 an outdoor pop music concert was held at near Myponga on Pages Flat Road. It was organized by Music Power Pty. Ltd. of 91 LeFevre Tce., North Adelaide, who advised the Commissioner to this effect on 4/1/71.

As the site of the concert was situated in No. 12 Division, overall policing was my responsibility.

On 8 January, with you and Senior Inspector LASLETT of No. 4 Division, an inspection of the proposed site and surrounds was made with a view to ascertaining to some extent police requirements with particular emphasis on traffic control.

On 14 January a conference was held at Police Headquarters with the Commissioner and representatives of Regions and Divisions likely to be involved in policing this function.

On 15 January a further conference was held at the State Administrative Centre when representatives from the Department of Public Health, E&WS Dept., Places of Public Entertainment, District Council of Yankalilla and Police Department met under the chairmanship of the Minister of Labour and Industry, Mr. BROOMHILL.

On 20 January you and I, together with Senior Inspector LASLETT, met Mr. T. BRINE of Music Power Pty. Ltd. and discussed proposed security and traffic arrangements for the Festival.

The conference of 14 January determined the policy for policing the entertainment. The main question under discussion was whether uniform police would patrol within the proposed "fenced" area. In view of the fact that we would not be able to provide sufficient personnel to effectively police the area concerned, conference decided that the policing of this particular area would be left to the internal security being provided by the organizers. It was determined also by Conference that uniform police would enter the enclosed area only if required by reason of complaint or emergency. In effect, supervising personnel would be guided by circumstances, with tact and common sense to be exercised at all times.

The conference of 15 January was given assurances by ^{OUT OF SCOPE} for Music Power Pty. Ltd.) that all requirements insisted upon by Government and Local Government bodies would be adhered to by the organizers. Experience revealed that some of these assurances were of a glib nature.

To provide for as effective a policing operation as possible under the circumstances, assistance was obtained from Regions 'A', 'B', 'G' and 'F' in the form of personnel and equipment. It was also necessary to utilize men from Christies Beach, Echunga, Victor Harbour and Yankalilla. Details for policing the area, problems involved and suggestions for future commitments are listed.

1. COMMUNICATIONS

The mobile Police Station caravan was situated at, and operated from, Willunga Hill Motors as a relay station to and from Adelaide and radio-equipped mobiles at and around the festival site. Enquiries made from Operations Sergeants and Radio Operators involved in providing communications between Headquarters and the Radio Base at Willunga Hill reveal that no problems were encountered at Headquarters and the facilities provided were satisfactory.

However, it was found that radio reception at the site and surrounds was not always 100%. I believe this may have been due to faulty radio equipment in patrol cars and this aspect must be given due consideration should it be necessary to establish a radio system on some future occasion.

Mr. EASTON of Willunga Hill Motors was most co-operative in making premises available to our unit for the whole weekend, as well as permitting the erection of radio mast on his property. In addition to thanking Mr. EASTON personally, I wrote a letter of appreciation, a copy of which is attached. Mr. EASTON would not submit an account for power consumed, stating that the presence of Police on a 24 hour basis was worth more to him in security than the cost involved in providing power facilities.

2. TRAFFIC

The main traffic problem was congestion on Pages Flat Road in the vicinity of the Festival. This was caused partly by motor vehicles parked on the sides of the road, either side of the entrance to the Festival site. Some were angle parked, some parallel parked and some double parked - the double parked vehicles projected over the shoulders of the road on to the bitumen.

Other congestion was caused by people walking on the road, either to and from parked cars, some of which were parked more than half a mile from the main entrance.

The road was further congested by people walking to and from the car park which was on the eastern side of the main entrance gate and about half a mile from the district road which led to the Festival site.

Many vehicles were observed in the vicinity of the Festival which were unroadworthy. In fact, members of No. 4 Division issued 115 defect notices during the three days. Unfortunately, a number of apparently unroadworthy vehicles arrived either late on Friday night or early Saturday morning and were not able to be checked. The police on duty on the evening most of them left were fully occupied and only checked a minority.

Although there was congestion at times, this had very little effect on traffic conditions on either the Main South, Yankalilla or Hindmarsh Valley Roads. The parking on the sides of the carriageway adjacent to the site created a purely local problem but had the advantage of slowing traffic down to safe speeds.

If parking restrictions are imposed, they will have to be enforced overnight and could result in the parking problem being transferred to another point on the road away from the restricted area. As mainly traffic to and from the Festival is affected, the cost in manpower compared to the actual benefit gained will have to be weighed.

Despite promises made by the organizers, direction signs to the Festival were generally poor, resulting in unnecessary traffic going into Myponga township. This could again be brought up if and when future similar events are planned. The organizers should endeavour to provide more off-street parking with an additional access road being provided, permitting traffic to move more freely. Such a road was originally planned by the promoters.

3. GENERAL IMPRESSIONS AND COMMENTS

3.1. Drug Squad

Sergeant SILVERBLADE felt that an error of judgment was made in not allowing uniform police to enter the fenced area and could see no difference, in principle, between the need for police at cricket and football matches and the Festival. He pointed out that the degree of drunkenness was out of all proportion to the numbers attending and felt that several instances of persons stripping their clothes off and indulging in sheer acts of exhibitionism should have been dealt with promptly. He states observing many acts of indecent exposure that should not have been tolerated and that language over the P.A. system by various groups and in particular by the compere - Adrian Rawlings - was outrageous.

He reports that no doubt drugs were used by many persons in attendance and that during evening performances the smell of marijuana was easily detected. He refers to the difficulty in locating offenders under pitch black conditions, but despite this difficulty one person - ^{OUT OF SCOPE} - was detected and arrested for being in possession of marijuana.

3.2 Yankalilla

Senior Constable SCHMAAL confirms to some degree that liquor was obviously purchased in excess and consumed at the Festival site. He was told by the licensee of the Yankalilla Hotel that his sales were double the usual Christmas trade. It was also rumoured that the Sellicks Hotel sold out of beer during Saturday, 20 January.

Constable SCHMAAL spoke with Mr. Trevor BRINE of Music Power on Tuesday afternoon of 2/2/71. BRINE felt the Festival was a success, but was not happy with the amount of liquor allowed on the site. He was of the opinion that the internal security force had not policed sufficiently or effectively. Mr. BRINE also stated that the gross takings were between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

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OUT OF SCOPE of the Yankalilla District Council, who was most outspoken prior to the Festival, spoke with Senior Constable SCHMAAL during the Festival and felt it was going better than he had expected. Since the Festival, Senior Constable SCHMAAL has further spoken to OUT OF SCOPE who was of the opinion that police should have been inside the grounds and that on one occasion when he had to go to inspect the toilet facilities, he saw many drunks, heard a lot of indecent language and saw several fires had been lit in spite of the area being under a total ban.

Senior Constable SCHMAAL also spoke with officers of the E&WS Dept. on the site who had taken and analysed samples from the creek that morning (2/2/71). The results showed no significant increase in pollution - in fact, no more than 20 cows would have made.

3.3 Sergeant Sparrow

Reports that the policing under his supervision was, in general, most satisfactory. He felt that the tolerance and common sense displayed was most commendable. There was some goading of police by a very small percentage of the crowd and that the police showed restraint in not being drawn into controversial situations by the idiotic behaviour of a small minority. Members at times took the opportunity to speak with the young 'pop' fans which resulted in a better understanding between authority and the young people. He reports having heard comments from spectators, officials, doctors and the press regarding the favourable impression created by the police.

Like Sergeant SILVERBLADE, he reports that lighting of the area was not good. The road leading into the arena from Pages Flat Road was in total darkness, which made it difficult for the movement of traffic, vehicular and pedestrian, which was constant.

4. SUMMARY

In view of the fact that policy did not permit me to observe conditions within the enclosed area, I am unable to support or deny statements made by Sergeant SILVERBLADE or OUT OF SCOPE to Senior Constable SCHMAAL. Nor am I able to comment with authority on adverse publicity given in the press during and following the Festival.

I attended each day and endeavoured to contact daily some person directly concerned with the organization. Mr. BRINE and OUT OF SCOPE were seen and spoken to over the weekend.

When it was obvious, from personal observation, that a quantity of liquor was being taken into the Festival site, I made representations to OUT OF SCOPE and Mr. BRINE for persons in possession of liquor to be refused admittance. They assured me this would be done and instructions given to their security people. I doubt if this was effective, and if so, it would have been quite a simple matter for anyone to pass liquor over, through or under the fence surrounding the concert area.

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I am of the opinion, from my limited observation, that the internal security was far from effective and in view of our policy I feel that any future concert must be more strictly policed internally.

No complaints were received by police as to conduct, behaviour, language, etc. Consequently, no action had to be taken in this regard. However, while speaking to Mr. BRINE on one occasion he did mention that a complaint had been received regarding the dress of one of the performers; ^{OUT OF SCOPE} also stated that he was concerned at some of the language from performers and also the compere, RAWLINGS, and that attempts had been taken to rectify these.

Only one arrest was made on the actual Festival site and that by the Drug Squad (^{OUT OF SCOPE} for being in possession of marijuana). There were six other arrests which could be attributed to the Festival. Although none of the offences occurred on the Festival site, they were all related to it (indecent language, drunk, D.U.I. and drive under suspension).

Several larcenies were reported, mainly from vehicles, during and after the Festival.

I feel that too much liquor was permitted into the enclosed area and as I stated earlier, little or no effort was made by the organizers to prevent this. While appreciating the difficulty in policing such a problem, I believe we could police the local sources of supply to some extent.

Lighting of the area was not good and this again is something which must be remedied by the organizers for any future concert of a similar nature.


On 2/2/71 I spoke with ^{OUT OF SCOPE} of the Health Department and he was generally well satisfied with arrangements. He commented that the food handling was very good and no cases of food-poisoning or gastritis were reported.

I made daily contact with the Medical Group at the site, under the organization of Sister ^{OUT OF SCOPE}. Several doctors and sisters from the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital were in attendance over the whole period of the Festival and they treated several hundred cases during the weekend, mainly of a minor nature. Together with members of St. John's, their presence was more than justified.

Apart from the problems listed, policing was satisfactory. I am of the opinion that the decision not to police the enclosed area was correct and would recommend that a similar policy be adopted for any similar function. One factor which was unsatisfactory from our point of view was the lack of toilet facilities for personnel on duty, a factor which will require consideration for any future duty of this nature.

The assistance and co-operation received from all persons involved is appreciated, and the manner in which all men under my control performed their duties was most satisfactory.

No.12 Division,
26/2/71.


S.N. SMITH
Senior Inspector
Officer-in-Charge.

xxx 821144

Headquarters,
No. 12 (Southern) Division
Christies Beach.
S.A. 5165
10/2/71

Mr. EASTON,
WILLUNGA HILL MOTORS
WILLUNGA.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Commissioner of Police, I
would like to express appreciation for your co-
operation and assistance to the Police Department
during the week-end 30-31 Jan 1 Feb.

Your ready acceptance in making facilities
available for our Caravan enabled us to maintain
excellent communications with Adelaide during the
Kyonga Festival.

Thank you for helping to make this particular
operation a success.

Yours faithfully,

E.S.

S.N. SMITH
Senior Inspector
Officer-in-charge