



Riding a 1974 Kawasaki, Jason Tester jostles with James Barclay on a 1982 Honda RS.



HOLD TIGHT: Dan and Tracie Hewitt, from the Rat Racing Association Townsville, in motorcycle 68 go head-to-head with Tim and Karla Hewitt.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Historic bikes back in Carnell raceway action

HISTORIC motorcycles graced the Carnell track for the first time since a dispute between Carnell raceway officials and nearby residents was resolved earlier this month.

Hosted by the Queensland Early Motorcycle Sporting Club last weekend, the interclub race meet, The Big Chill, ran over two days, welcoming more than 100 riders through the Rifle Range Rd gates.

QEMSC president David Vincent said he was relieved to be back racing on the track, given the uncertainty of its future in recent years.

Southern Downs Regional Council originally granted the club rights to host more meets back in 2013, before nine submitters opposed the decision.

What ensued was a bitter legal battle that cost the track no less than five meets to Morgan Park in Warwick.

"This track is life or death for our club," Vincent said.

"Without the track, our club would

RESULTS

Sidecars

■ Tony Jacobs and Nathan May, 1 on 153 points.

Modern sidecars

■ John Wormald and Daryl Skewes, 1 on 15 points.

Superlites and stockers

■ Bryce Kennedy, 1 on 175 points.

Motolites

■ James Barclay, 1 on 175 points.

Period 2 and 3

■ John O'Neill, 1 on 165 points.

Period 4

■ John O'Neill, 1 on 165 points.

Super Motards

■ Bryce Kennedy on 160 points.

cease to exist – it's been our lifeblood for almost 10 years.

"We're all extremely grateful for the sacrifices these local guys have made

to keep the track open."

Up until earlier this month, the QEMSC was not sure of the future of its event at Carnell raceway. But with the second highest attendance at this event ever, the members are feeling much more confident.

"Apart from the Australia titles, this is the biggest historic motorcycle event in the state, right here in Stanthorpe," Vincent said.

With a renewed confidence, the QEMSC plans to hold more events next year.

"In the motorcycle fraternity, there is a real love affair with historic bikes," Vincent said.

"It goes back to the age of a lot of our members – our oldest is 72 and can still beat me."

Vincent said there was something special about riding the bikes he grew up with.

"It's the way it bumps and the feel of the vibration and the motor – it's hard to explain," he said.