***A large drop in alcohol fuelled violence in Gympie over the past six months contradicts violence concerns over nightclub shutdown.***

Concerns over the recent nightclub closure on the 21st of August this year has left some residents troubled about a rise in alcohol fuelled assaults and related crime.

The closure of Tremors nightclub sparked worries over merging the younger party goers with the older members in pubs where clashes of interest may cause problems.

However, recent police reports state that this is not the case.

Alcohol fuelled violence has been on the decline in the past five years with a more rapid drop in the past three years.

Gympie senior sergeant, Greg Davey, believes that the biggest influence on the drop in crime is the *No Tolerance* and *One Punch* campaigns and cooperation between the local bar owners to reduce this problem.

Assistant manager of the Gympie Royal hotel, Linc Phelps, was asked to comment on his experience.

“Alcohol fuelled violence has been in decline for about six months, even before the nightclub shut,” he said.

New legislation passed earlier this year hopes to tighten the rules to further reduce alcohol related violence and crime.

The new lockout laws state alcohol will no longer be bought after 2:00am with higher alcoholic drinks limited from midnight and earlier lockout times.

Along with these measures, police have taken a more active role in patrolling the streets during the early hours of the morning.

This certainly looks like good news for Tremors’ new owner and current Charlies’ bar manager, Paul Pilkington.

Pilkington has taken ownership of the nightclub since purchasing it on August 1st and is in the process of renovation.

“[It] has been a really easy transition,” he said.

“There has not been many altercations at all since the nightclub shut which is a good thing.”

Hopefully the reopening of this nightclub with the new laws will provide a safe place for young party-goers in the years to come.

The new nightclub, renamed Club 88 after the original building date, will open sometime in the next week.

Quotes

Paul Pilkington 52- manager of Charlies and owner of tremors 07 54821119 -charlies

Originally I think there were some concerns about the local night club shutting and what that meant younger and older people mixing in pubs but there has been a real easy transition there has not been many altercations at all since the night club shut which is a good thing and when the night dose reopen I hope to make it a safer place for every one not just the younger scene

Linc phelps 24- assistance manager of the royal 07-5482 1144- the royal

Alcohol fuelled violence has been in decline for about six months with new lock out laws emplaced have seen last rounds at about one o’clock and no one is able to purchase a drink after two there were concerns about the people out on the streets all at the same time but police have been more omnipresent in the street at that time so I think ever one is on their best behaviour

Senior sergeant Greg Davey – officer in charge of the Gympie police 54801111-senior Sargent

I think the lock out laws haven’t really applied much in Gympie as we are nowhere near as big as the coast I think the biggest help to drop in crime over the years has been the no tolerance and one punch campaigns that run through media outlets as well as the local bar owners getting together every month to talk about some of the problems