

**BMW Touring Club
of New South Wales**



**Member of the International Council
of BMW Clubs**

**April 2021
NEWSLETTER**



Alison Ashby at Stuart Garlands farm camp weekend

BMW
Touring Club
of New South Wales



OFFICE BEARERS

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NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Tony Conliffe
Tony Wilton
Alison Ashby (during COVID 19 period)

Club Website:



www.bmwtcnsw.org.au

Club Yahoo groups site

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmwtcnsw>

CLASSIC REGISTRARS

South Coast	Steve Treloar	0439 739 876 sthcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
North Coast	Damien O'Toole	0419 296 939 nthcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Central West	No Current Officer	Please contact the committee if interested in taking this role.
Sydney North	Craig Hancock	0419 557 014 sydneynthregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Sydney South	Graham Johns	0419 281 875 sydneysthregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Sydney West	Perry Gilsean	0418 978 781 sydneywestregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au

REGIONAL RIDE CO-ORDINATORS

ACT	Dave Ramsay	02 6278 3895 actcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Hunter	Rob Tiedeman	0425 777 461 huntercoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au
South Coast	Tony Schmidt	0407 494 229 sthcoastcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Central West	No Current Officer	centralwestcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au

MEETINGS

Monthly Club Meetings	Held at 7:30pm at the Andrew Cook Hall, Toongabbie (corner Targo and Toongabbie Roads) on the last Wednesday of each month (except for December)
Sydney Social Sip	Held at 6:00pm on the last Wednesday of each month. Members gather at the Toongabbie Hotel for a chat and something to eat before crossing the road to attend the club meeting.
South Coast Social Sip	Held anytime after 6.30pm on the 2nd Friday of the month. Members gather at the Great Southern Hotel, 95 Queen St, Berry, for a chat and something to eat.
Newcastle Social Sip	Members gather anytime after 6pm on the last Thursday of the month. At the Hexham Bowling Club for a chat and something to eat.

CLUB POINT SCORE

<i>Organise a Ride or Event</i>	2
<i>Attend a Social Sip</i>	2
<i>Attend a Social night (Restaurant night, party, etc)</i>	3
<i>Attend a Maintenance Day</i>	2
<i>Attend a Day Ride</i>	6
<i>Attend a Weekend Run or Rally</i>	10
<i>Attend a Long Weekend Run or Rally</i>	12
<i>Self-written Newsletter article</i>	4
<i>Attend a Club Meeting – City Member</i>	4
<i>Attend a Club Meeting – Country Member</i>	6
<i>Attend a Night Run</i>	6



Ride & Events Calendar

ALL COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS WILL APPLY TO ANY RUN PROPOSED. PLEASE CHECK IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING ATTENDING ANY FUNCTION

Past Events

	Candelo Camping Far South Coast.		
	35 th Cold Flame Rally.		
	Farm Camping Weekend:		
	Movie Night, International Gray Gums Cafe, Putty Rd. Details in this newsletter CANCELLED		

Wed Weekly Meet at Jerry's Kulnura every Wednesday @ 10am Henning 0457 034 488

April Events

28 th Nov to 26 th April	THE MOTORCYCLE, DESIGN, ART, DESIRE Gallery OF Modern Art Stanley PI South Brisbane.QLD.100 innovative and influential motorcycles. A must if you are up that way		
8th	South Coast Social Sip: 2nd Thursday of the month & the location is The North Nowra Tavern 182 Illaroo Road North Nowra at 6pm	Tony Schmidt 0407 494 229	2
17 th 18th	BunDarra Weekend. Hotel BnB \$35 a head . Sunday visit Transport Museum Inverell . For further onfo contact Rob	Rob Tiedeman 0425777461	10
17 th 18 th	Maldon Rally, Celebrating 45years BMW Motorcycle Club Victoria Maldon Vic See Add.		10
24 th ,25 th	Autumn Leaf Rally. Tomorrama Hall. Tumut Valley Riders. Must pre enter, first 150. TBA on booking site, due to go live march. keep an eye on FB and Aust. Rally sites	Steve Treloar 0439739876	10
26th	Last day of the Gallery of modern art Motorcycle exhibition		
28 th	Club Meeting 7.30pm. Last Wednesday of the month. TBC if online or in person	Jason Boyd 04128588880	4/6
29th	Hunter Social Sip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mossie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 5pm, limited numbers due to COVID. (last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0425777461	2

May Events

9th	4th Annual Nords Wharf Luncheon	Henning 0457034488	2
13th	South Coast Social Sip: 2nd Thursday of the month & the location is The North Nowra Tavern 182 Illaroo Road North Nowra at 6pm	Tony Schmidt 0407 494 229	2
14 th -16 th	Loaded Dog Rally at Tarago Showgrounds, more info to come		
26 th	Club Meeting 7.30pm. Last Wednesday of the month. TBC if online or in person	Jason Boyd 04128588880	4/6
27th	Hunter Social Sip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mossie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 5pm, limited numbers due to COVID. (last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0425777461	2

June Events

12,13,14 th	Alpine Rally #52. Long weekend Pre paid only http://alpinerally.webs.com/	Paul Corradini 0409963801	10
12,13,14 th	NATIONAL MOTORRAD RALLY. Condobolin NSW further information to come ,7 accom places in condo, caravan park68952611 as at 26/3 had 6 x 2 bm cabins and 13 single ensuite cabins ava.	Steve Treloar 0439739876	10

October Events

15 th – 17 th ^h	BMW /5 & riders Tribute Gathering Blayney. See Add and Henning	Henning 0457034488	10
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Newly & updated items are highlighted ORANGE.

4/6* City members attending a club meeting receive 4 points, country members receive 6 points.

If you have been to an event & wish to have your attendance considered for the Clubman Point score, or have suggestions for a club ride or event, please email: vicepresident@bmwtcnsw.org.au

Please also feel free to contact your local Ride Coordinator (details inside cover of newsletter)



The BMWTCNSW follows all official COVID19 guidance from the government regarding travel or social events. Social distancing at all events is mandatory; masks and hand sanitiser are encouraged.

So COVID restrictions ease... and the rain starts... awesome... The Down Syndrome Ride went ahead, but I think numbers were well down (I didn't go – slack as I know). The Candelo ride did go ahead but from what I hear

got a “little” damp... even the movie night out at grey gums was cancelled as Kim lost power to the site due to flood impacts. What is this about? Pestilence, flood, fire...? Has anyone seen four horses with riders having a great old time?

At the time of writing, we are anticipating running club meetings online via WebEx AND with a physical presence back at Toongabbie. We are exploring how we can make the online experience work efficiently in the meeting room. Having a camera and microphone that captures what is happening in the room while removing background noise is a challenge but I feel that this is worth making work.

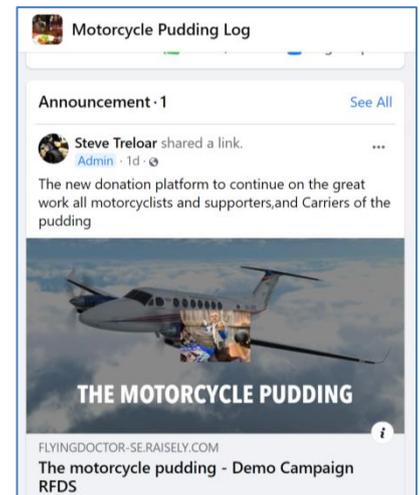
What is coming up that I need to talk about? Being honest, I am so far behind with my personal email I do not know. The BMW MC of Victoria is celebrating its 45th Year at Maldon (Castlemaine) Victoria the 17th – 18th April. The BMWCA National Motorrad Rally 2021 – will be held on the Queen's birthday long weekend 11-14 June 2021 in Condobolin, NSW.

Stealing from an email from our Treasurer to the executive Membership “It was discussed with the coordinators of the Christmas parties that the raffle proceeds could be donated to the local Rural Fire Service volunteers”. Over the coming weeks we will be working through this and making donations to these local communities

Speaking of donations, I saw a post from our Vice President Steve Treloar on Facebook where he has re-established the donation page for the Pudding. If you don't know what this is, or you want more information, search for the Facebook page, contact Steve or go to the donation page at:

<https://flyingdoctor-se.raisely.com/themotorcyclepudding>

Facebook:



With the first quarter of 2021 ending, please start thinking about the Annual General Meeting that will be coming up in July. If you have a desire to actively assist with the running of the club and steering its direction, please let's hear your voice. I will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM due to work commitments.

Just remember that if there is another COVID outbreak, events may need to be revised at short notice. Please maintain social distancing at all events and at home. Keep an eye on Facebook for any last minute changes

Cheers, Jason,

President, BMWTCNSW

Contact Email: president@bmwtcnsw.org.au

MINUTES - BMWTCNSW General Meeting

DATE - 24/03/21

Chairperson – JB

Meeting Opened –7:30

Apologies –woz, michael

Visitors – none

New Member - Andrew Malin

Previous Minutes –

Accepted: Colin Watkins

Seconded: Steve Treloar

Correspondence -bank statement, bills for the two post office box,

Presidents report: -as per newsletter. Special mention of Down Syndrome Ride

Secretary's Report – none, absent

Treasurers Report – Money for KRR starting to come in, a lot of entries don't have names making it hard to track back to who paid

Saving Account: \$30,748

Regular Account: \$1100.43

Membership Secretary Report – 4 new members including Ken Lovegrove giving a total of 334 financial members

Editors Report – Articles coming in, this month had work from Justin, Henning and Margaret. Still has some additional in the pipeline

Public Officer's Report – FB

Regalia –nothing to report

Asserts & Archives –nothing to report

Clubs Australia:

- **The new club logo** is progressing. Will be available over the coming months. TD suggested we start stocktaking branded regalia. JB agreed as it will be a financial year requirement anyway.
- BMW national rally 2021. QLD have stepped away from hosting due to uncertainty. Garry is looking for other BMW MC Clubs to step up and drive. Garry advised that he would be very happy to assist but doesn't want this to be a ACT only event. Garry will send info to committee over the next few days. SteveT, DBears and Colin Watkins advised they may be interested to assist with event. First step would be the creation of a committee

Webmaster –apology. Advised FB updates and website events all OK. Advised that he will not be in a position to sit as webmaster again next year.

MCC Report – Paill advised of MCC initiatives coffee with a cop, petition for reduced parking around northside MC store, there has been little progress on the CBD parking issues, CTP discussions ongoing (brian), October is still ontrack to be MC awareness month

Past Events –

- KRR - Paull ferndale campground, Friday, sat, sun. rained, great attendance, great amenities at the caravan park
- SteveT - social sips... try to get to them, recon run went ahead well
- TrevorD went to the motorcycle gallery of modern art in QLD, >100 motorcycles, very impressive worth the visit. Attended the KRR on the weekend of 13th. Great attendance, great event despite COVID

Coming Events – as per newsletter

General Business – JB wants to continue WebEx connections when the club returns to physical meetings. We have the laptop, data projector and speakers. Internet can be provided via a phone WiFi hotspot. Camera and room mike need to be sourced. JB to explore options

Meeting Closed – 8:35

Financial report for March 2021:

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Regular bank balance at end of February
\$2,754.61

Savings Account balance at end of February
\$28,724.91

TOTAL IN BANK \$31,479.52

Summary

Total Income \$3,040.62

Total Expenses \$3,386.21

Total Interest earned \$0.23

Please remember when depositing into the club account to put your name in the description of what the deposit is for ie Name Membership FCR/KRR etc



CITY COAST MOTORCYCLES

262 Keira St, Wollongong
4228 7392

MAKE LIFE A RIDE

NATIONAL MOTORRAD RALLY

Those planning to head to Stanthorpe in October for the National Motorrad Rally, please pay close attention.

The National Motorrad Rally 2021 (NMR21) will now be held in Condoblin, NSW over the Queens Birthday Long weekend 11-13 June 2021. It will be co-hosted by BMWTCNSW, BMWOCSA and BMWCCACT.

The rally is open to members and partners of Official BMW Clubs (not general motorcycle rallyists). NMR21 is based at the Riverview Caravan Park Condobolin that has onsite cabins, en-suite dongas, powered/unpowered campsites & caravan spots. Rallyists are responsible for booking and paying for their own accommodation with Condobolin also having a number of hotels and motels in town. There will be meal options for dinner Friday 11th and breakfast Sunday 13th along with Saturday 12th night gala dinner. You must pre-register for the Saturday dinner (no walk-ins) as the venue has a COVID-19 plan. The website also has a list of 'what to see and do' in Condobolin and ride(s) for those who haven't had enough.

You can check out the rally program, register and select your rally options on the BMWCCACT website

<https://bmwmccact.org.au/NMR21>.

The BMWCCACT are still finalising some pricing options, so if you cannot register the first time please check back in a couple of days.

E ditors Report

Welcome to the April edition of the BMWTCNSW Newsletter. I'd like to thank the members again for all of their contributions to the newsletter. This month we have a variety of material from recent events, more historical events as well as other entertaining tales and ramblings.

The weather has been mixed up lately affecting many events and opportunities to ride. I did at least get to the Cold Flame Rally on the K100 sidecar, moved to a new site in Vic(temporarily) to avoid the restrictions on the original NSW site due to NSW National Parks. Quite a few of our members were in attendance, it is a bit of a favourite event.

Please send any material you'd like to submit for the newsletter to editor@bmwtcnsw.org.au in a new email with an appropriate title. When anyone sends me material as a reply to one of my emails it can get lost in the traffic (ie hard to locate amongst other replies). With a new email that shouldn't be a problem.

The deadline for next months newsletter will be end of 24th April, 2021, allowing me the 25th to complete the newsletter for the printers. Of course you don't have to wait till the last minute also.

The BMWTCNSW 4th Annual Nords Wharf Luncheon

Supported by our club and visitors welcome. subject to a nominal fee.

Date; Sunday 9th May

Venue: Baxter Park, Marine Pde,
Nords Wharf 2281

Time Noon
Nibbles, lunch, tea & coffee provided
BYO special Liquids & chairs

For those wishing to enjoy the delights of downtown Nords Wharf, we can fit a couple of tents in our backyard.

Lucy and Henning 0457 034 488

BMW Group Classic Archiv

BMW Classic is located in a historic building which was its first plant for the manufacture of aircraft engines on the original airfield in Munich. The site covers 13,000 square metres and is heritage protected which presented renovation challenges. Extensive renovation and construction was completed in 2016 to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of BMW.

A new building was constructed. It contains space for 150 exhibits, an event space including catering and a cafeteria for visitors and employees.



It is located in Moosacher Strasse near the Olympic Park precinct and an easy walk to the BMW Museum and BMW Welt.

BMW Classic houses activities including archives, a BMW Classic workshop, communications and events department, Classic spare parts, historic motor sport and the offices for management of BMW Clubs by BMW Club and Community Management.

BCCM is the global interface for all official BMW Clubs. It provides assistance and support for the Council and for BMW Clubs. It arranges meetings for the Board of BMW Clubs International Council and for the annual meeting.

BMW Club members are encouraged to visit the BMW Classic site and are able to request guided tours. Discounts for BMW club members are available for BMW Welt and the BMW Museum.

<https://www.bmwgroup-classic.com/en/building/fuehrungen.html>

Our two well known founder members Rob Poplewell and Dave Thompson attended the 100 year celebrations at BMW Classic in 2016.

BMW Group Archiv has a fantastic collection of archives for BMW.

It includes engine blue prints, manuals, technical data and sales brochures going right back to the M2B15 engine which was the first motorcycle engine produced by BMW and aircraft engines prior



to that. The first motorcycle produced by BMW was the BMW R32 designed by Max Friz and entered production in 1923.

If you want to know the history of a BMW motorcycle you can send an email detailing your engine number and frame number to:

info.grouparchiv@bmwgroup.com

The response will detail the production and delivery dates for that BMW.

There is also the ability to obtain a BMW Classic Certificate which provides a document to verify the authenticity of a BMW motorcycle.

<https://www.bmwgroup-classic.com/en/offers-and-services/bmw-group-archiv.html>

You can download this form, pay the fee and receive a certificate which details the provenance of the vehicle.

Thank you for this enquiry from Mal Cattermole.

Trevor Dean



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Candelo camping weekend

The week started fairly ominous with all the weather getting about the country. Early in the week there were a few cancellations. Phone calls to various eateries to advise them of reduced numbers of attendance due to the Covid requirements.

Saturday morning on the far south coast saw patches of blue sky as I departed. The trip up the brown mountain and onto Cooma and Bredbo were uneventful if not a bit cool at cooma only light spasmodic drizzle. I arrived in Thredbo early so took advantage of the local cafe for a coffee after which I moved on to the Bredbo hotel, our lunch, come destination departure point. anticipation of at least a few riders turning up. A few messages backwards and forwards on social media, phone calls, a few people's thoughts were just going straight to Candelo. I thought, well it was after 11 so why not start with a beer before lunch. I had made up a donation tin to assist Perry and his Down Syndrome run he was doing, that had I think 35 cancellations and shook it about in the main bar.

Dave, Jim and Garry arrived from Canberra and Tony from Nowra not long after. Lunch was ordered and consumed, decisions were made to abort the dirt section also the tar section down through Mount Darragh had been chopped up with roadworks. So we basically did a road trip down the brown mountain. While having lunch there was a social media post saying that the brown was closed due to a tree over the road.

We proceeded on, coming out of cooma I realise there was a short dirt deviation that I could take Jim on as he was want-

ing to do some dirt. So left on the Tom Groggon road which comes out at Nimitabel, waving the others to continue on along the bitumen. The dirt started off fine though started to turn to slush 5 km from Nimitabel.



The others had stopped in Nimitabel waiting for us though then moved on, light rain started and was with us all the way down the brown mountain, where the fallen tree had been removed they did feel a little slip from the leaves on the road at one stage. Through Bemboka, along the snowy mountains highway and then turned off onto West Kamaruka Road into Candelo. The mingle tent came in handy as the rain came down.

The Canberra connection i.e. Dave Jim and Garry didn't even really get their helmets off and decided that they



by all and basically were kicked out of the hotel being the last group to leave . We wandered back ,some weaved back to out tent, not in the rain by the way.

The night did bring a lot of rain everyone survived . It was nice enough to stop so we can walk across to the Candelo cafe for breakfast can and then we had a nice water feature as the rain absolutely pelted down they did stop when we're ready to go and we all went in our various directions to home like to thank everybody that made the effort to come and stay in the arduous conditions everywhere around the state. Consensus has said to have another one and dial in some better weather next time.

Steve Treloar.

would head back home to the comforts of their own beds instead of toughing it out like the rest of us. Graham from , K Beema bits, Bega ,turned up as well.Noel Parry now a new member was already set up and his bike ,his R1100 RT was all snug under its bike cover though we did scrounge around and find something extra to put under the side stand to support it further.

Cheryl from Nowra had arrived a little earlier in her Quadra cycle as did Rob from Canberra. The rain eased, tents were erected, chitchat under the mingle tent before heading over to the family hotel Candelo. With all my dependence signed in on the Covid app we found our table and relaxed. A few other local members turned up after various activities they were doing Hamish with his lifesaving duties finished for the day drove out with a friend Taron and Michael kavanagh popped in for a drink and a chat before getting some culture over at the Hotel. Thankyou for the bottle of red. Rob had to match it with another later. Mmm . A great evening was had




YOUR BMW MOTORRAD SPECIALIST IN THE HUNTER REGION
 250 Maitland Road ISLINGTON www.brisans.com.au
02 4940 8777















READING

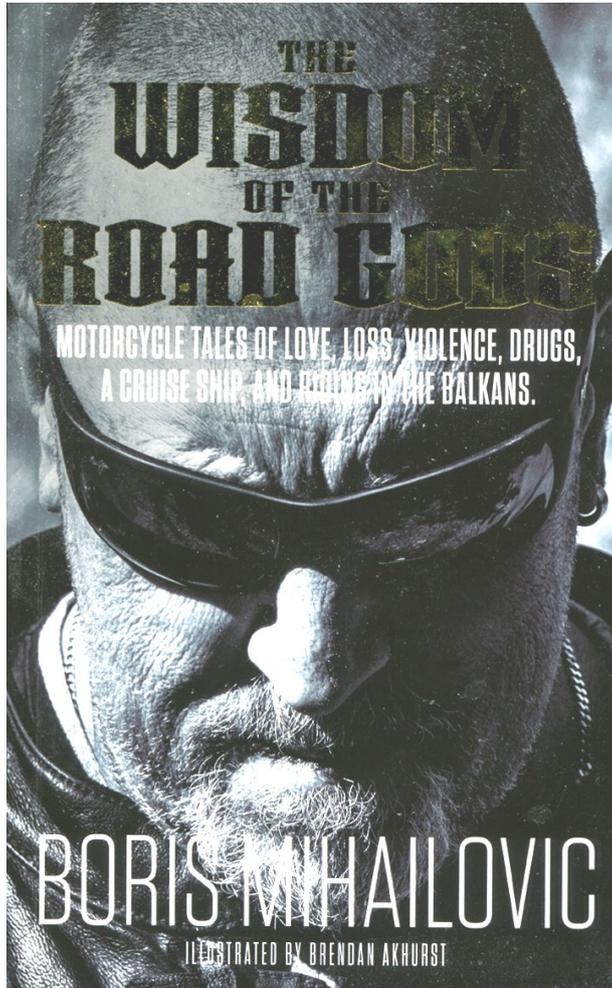
ABOUT

RIDING

Once in Europe, Boris projects his insights into history and its irony, the clash of cultures and political systems, Serbian customs and cuisine, and finally meeting up with his sister, aunt and other relatives in the town of Sabac. Boris punctuates his travel accounts with the history of various countries and localities including the impact of wars both ancient and recent. In one particular country, he comes close to meeting his end at the hands of locals recounting that he was genuinely frightened (very unusual for him). So, once you start on his European travels it's a challenge to put his book down.

A few months back at Grey Gum Café, they had a stack of Boris Mihailovic's latest mastery of penmanship titled "The Wisdom of the Road Gods" (Shock & Awe Publishing, 2020). For those of you unfamiliar with Boris, he writes the back column in Australian Motorcyclist, runs an excellent website (Bike Me!) and has been in the journalism business for more than 25 years. He's also done lots of other things.

A few years ago, Boris decided to try his hand at publishing, and with the launch of "My Mother Warned Me About Blokes Like Me", he made an enduring dent on motorcycle journalism in Australia. Radio National's interview with him about his book was insightful and riddled with articulate humour. His second release, as good as his first, titled "At the Altar of the Road Gods" continued the short story style on riding and various adventures and encounters. His third offering is also a series of short stories with its centrepiece being a visit to the home of his relatives and ancestors in Serbia. Apart from the flying between continents, much of his tour is done on a motorbike (Victory Magnum).



Boris's writing is glued together with sardonic wit, humour, self-deprecation, and the odd profanity. He is a master at keeping the reader glued to his pages with his dry humour and quick runs down the side-tracks of history making his third book a must-read. Closer to home, his regular columns can be provocative and polarising but always full of spark and his "Bike Me!" review of the R1200RS helped convince me it was The One.

Rob Lovett



WELCOME TO BIKEBIZ BMW MOTORRAD

We are pleased to welcome you to our BMW Motorrad dealership in Sydney, Bikebiz Granville.

We have a full range of demos available, a professional workshop for all of your servicing needs and a full range of genuine BMW accessories and spare parts. Come and visit us for all of your BMW needs. Open 6 days.

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The Ultimate Riding Machine

What gift do you buy for a Motorcyclist?

Buying gifts for motorcyclists is difficult. Gift-giving becomes somewhat easier between riders and my friends have found the perfect solution. It seems so obvious now. What do we enjoy more than riding & working on our two-wheeled steeds? Taking, viewing and sharing pictures. They represent fond stories and memories. A snapshot in time with our friends.

Many know Ed and I do a lot of riding together. When my wife and I moved to Sydney in 2008 I'd barely been riding for two years. I found a forum online which was more like a motorcyclists social club. Simple, easy and accessible. The gentleman that run the forum (and hence the "club") lived just up the road, so we'd meet before heading to the starting point for group rides. As I got to know the routes and how to run a ride, I started leading and before long most weekends were arranged by Ed and lead by me. This evolved into Ed and I arranging our own rides from time to time, too.

Bring into the mix our friend, Claire. My wife met Claire through our weekly trivia night in North Sydney almost ten years ago. I couldn't make it most of the time due to work, but when I finally made it along I got to know Claire and we quickly found our shared affinity for riding motorcycles. We were pretty good at trivia, too! Some years later Claire would embark on her lap around Australia on her 2013 R1200GS (first of the water cooled type) for charity before hanging up the helmet for some years. She has recently re-joined us on the road with a 2020 R1250R. Although she's now based in Canberra, we're in constant communication planning rides together to keep on top of everything life throws at us. Including birthday's. Interestingly, Claire said to me she had an idea for Ed and if I was OK to go half on the cost. No problem!



So imagine my surprise when Ed takes me to Harry's Cafe de Wheels in Newcastle for my birthday just to then "drop in to pick something up at a friend's place" on the way home. Enter Carl Hensel, whom is well-known in the riding community. Ushered to ride straight into his garage to find a complete studio and set, I wasn't quite sure what was going on. Ed Facetimes Claire and they wish me a happy birthday and explain they've gifted me a photo shoot with Carl! This also explains why Ed wanted to do a bike wash at his place (something we do fortnightly) before the ride.

But it's what Claire says next that's the best part. Although Ed's birthday isn't until April, the gift idea is a photo shoot for him, too! It means we get photos together. After the initial wonderful surprise, Ed gets out the chamoix and bike shine he brought for me and started spiffing-up his bike for the shoot! Got to hand it to Claire! She later called it her

"double blind" gift to us. We're now planning another photo shoot with Carl for all three of us. The photos speak for themselves...



Carl was the consummate professional that made the shoot a wonderful experience, for sure! Carl can be contacted on 0417 210 010 to arrange your shoot or provide the perfect gift for a fellow rider. Perhaps leave this article open on the kitchen bench for a non-riding loved one to get the idea.

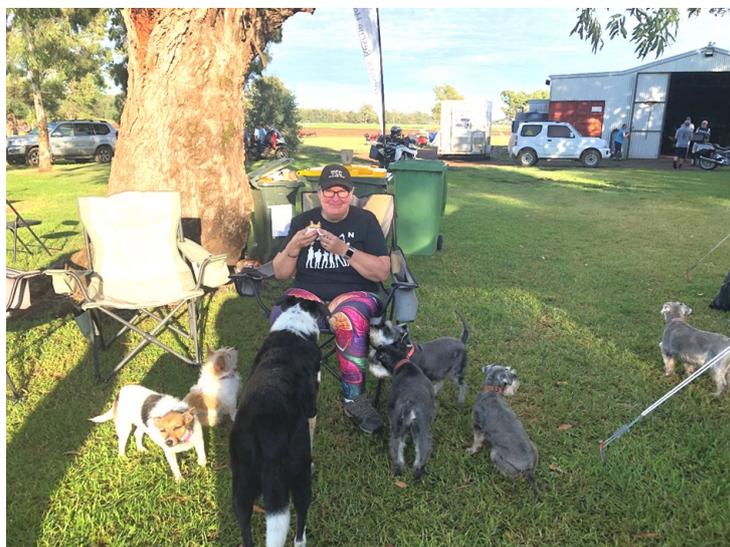
Justin D

Camping Weekend at Piallamore

A Photo essay (Pics by Alison Ashby)



Stuarts place in the rain



Non-OCR 2020

There was growing concern at the Hunter Social Sip evenings about the likely impact of Covid on the 2020 OCR. We had heard rumours about Cameron's Corner and Adels Grove but the most likely outcome was no OCR – it was agreed that there should be a substitute ride - a Non OCR. Four of us prepared a detailed plan to head off on a 14 day trip which would get us across the Queensland border at Hungerford before our 7 day pass expired, visit the Quilpie area of southwest Queensland and follow the Darling River to Menindee Lakes and then home via Ivanhoe. If there was a late call to head to the real OCR we would be ready.

Kev left from our Bathurst way on his late model F800GS, Rob left early via Muswellbrook on his older F800GS, Trevor on his trusty DR650 met Greg on his R1200GSA on route at Jerry's Plains.

We all got together at Carinda on Saturday afternoon and set up tents in the grounds of the hotel after we had Covid signed in. We asked the hotel patrons about the best way to see the Macquarie Marshes but most of them had signed in at opening time and we found it hard to gather any clear directions from their enthusiastic advice. The Carinda Pub still boasts of David Bowie's visit, has a new floor that is now rock solid and the kitchen serves a hearty dinner and breakfast.

On Sunday morning we headed south on the eastern side of the Macquarie Marshes, then west through the Marshes where we stopped at the viewing platform. There a local cattle farmer with strong green preferences lectured us on the difficulties of cattle farming, the state of the reeds and problems that the governing bodies have caused the area by their management of the upper reaches of the Murray-Darling catchment. He also noted that some of the other locals do not agree with his views and had emphasised this by cutting his fences in 40 places.

We were advised that the low points in the road, heading west through the Marshes, were sealed with bitumen and there should be no problem passing the sections of the road under water. We passed several sealed low points that were dry, crossed a bridge over the Macquarie River and then found that the only section of the road that was under water had a gravel base.



After passing through the Marshes we headed north west to Bourke meeting up with the Kamilaroi Highway about 30km east of Bourke.

We booked into the Kidman Camp caravan park in North

Bourke for two nights. While at Bourke we enjoyed a river cruise on a replica paddle steamer and visited the town weir and lock, where there was four inches of water running over the weir before heading on its way down the Darling River. We were back in Bourke near the wharf to see the fully restored 1923 vintage Crossley oil fuelled twin cylinder stationary engine fired up. According to our map the Darling River rises at the confluence of the Barwon and Culgoa Rivers about 20km out of town but our attempt to put our toe in the water there was unsuccessful we made our way to within a kilometre of confluence before being stopped by stock fences.



On Tuesday morning we headed for Hungerford, with a stop on the Warrego River at Ford's Bridge for morning tea, and crossed into Queensland where we camped the night and enjoyed the hospitality of the Royal Mail Hotel. We were warned of the heavy rain predicted over the next few days and decided that if the rains were coming we had best keep to the bitumen and so we headed for Thargomindah and put the last dirt road for several days behind us. At Thargomindah we visited the hydro power station which runs off bore water from the Great Artesian basin and was established in the 1880's to light up the town. In those days, if the ladies of the town wanted to keep the lights running past 11pm they would send their husbands to play cards with the plant operator and ply him with drinks. He would be late turning off the generator and no doubt everyone would have been happy.

Wednesday night we camped by the Noccundra Water Hole. We hoped to have dinner at the pub and then a few drinks at the campsite by the water hole but the mozzies came out and we stayed in the pub. We had to Covid sign in at all the hotels, cafes and camping grounds in Queensland but this was the only one where we had to sign out as well. The publican was in fear of the fine for not following the Covid rules and said that, as well as the local police, he had been visited by more senior police from further east and that he

could not afford to be fined.



On Thursday we headed to Eromanga and set up in the motel as we were expecting rain. The Natural History Museum has a very good dinosaur display from a dig about an hour west of town and a megafauna display from a dig near Eulo and is well worth a visit. Only locals were allowed into the pub due to covid but fortunately the bottle shop was open to all comers. The take away pizza is pretty good and the café does a great salad sandwich. We had noticed oil pumps in the area and when we arrived at Eromanga we could see where the oil was going to – the iOR refinery was established in Eromanga in 1980 and is still producing high quality diesel and other oil based products.



There was nearly 2 inches of rain overnight - the warnings turned out to be pretty right and so we abandoned our plan to follow the Darling south.

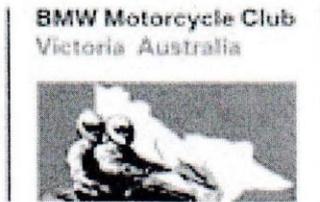
On Friday morning the truckies told us that there would be no more than 400mm of water across the road but that it would be running fairly fast in places. We waited around until about 10am and then headed to Quilpie. The road was cut by water in a few places but there was only one place where it was close to 400mm deep and it was not running very fast. After morning tea at the bakery and a lap around town and we headed off to Eulo. Bald Hill lookout, just out of town, offered a short walk and a good view of the surrounding area.



The Toompine Pub was shut but a grey nomad advised that the road to Eulo was closed and he was waiting for a police car to come through and let them know when it was open again. We pushed on and found the water crossings were becoming longer and deeper until the last major section which was about 500m long with two deep sections. The first deep section was 500mm deep according to the marker and the fast running current pushed the bikes off the selected alignment at the centre of the road much too close to the downstream edge of the road before we managed to overcome the force of the water and get back on line. (It may be that the only thing that saved us washing off the side of the road and allowed us to take control of the direction of the bikes was that we passed the strongest part of the stream, but that would only be conjecture.) Discretion became the better part of valour for the second deep section, which was close to 700mm deep, and we got off and paired up to push the bikes through this part. We spent the night in dongas behind the Eulo Queen Hotel where we were able to dry out and sleep well.



END of Pt 1.



45th year Celebrations and Re – union

NEW DATE 17-18 APRIL 2021 (as a result of coronavirus)

ALL BMW RIDERS from near and far are invited to join current and ex- members of the BMW MCC of Vic, to a Rally being held at Maldon, (near Castlemaine), on the 17th – 18th of April 2021 to celebrate the clubs 45th year. A return to the seventies. A chance to catch up on old friends and re-live some nostalgia. Bring your old bike or your new one. This could be the biggest gathering of BMW's in the southern hemisphere.

In addition to our own club members, we would like to re-acquaint ourselves with old friends, and make some new ones from interstate clubs. This is also an opportunity for riders that have perhaps never considered joining a club like ours to come along and see what we are all about. The club is family friendly and everyone is welcome. Cost of entry \$25 includes badge. There will be a Gymkhana, old movies of club events and other activities. Touratech will be on site along with other displays. **Don't regret not coming.**

Due to the age and condition of some of our older members, cars are welcome. There is also accommodation in nearby Maldon.

Those people that have already registered, their registration is still valid. Should they not be able to attend new date then a refund will be available.

Usual rally trophies along with. Best restored. Best pre 70's. Youngest rider. Best 70's/80's. Les Duffield oldest rider. Most travelled. Longest distance + age of bike. Best campsite (carried by bike). Best club attendance (Be sure to bring your flag). Longest distance sidecar. Etc.

This rally is a BYO everything camp in a bush setting.

There will be some on site catering.

Decide at the last minute to come and haven't booked. What the heck, come anyway you will be most welcome.

Further details and online registration and payments: \$25 per person covers badge etc.
www.bmwmotorcycleclubofvictoria.wildapricot.org/events

Direct deposit BMW Motorcycle Club Victoria. BSB: 063000 A/C No: 00804344 Reference 45yrs (add your name). Otherwise send cheque money order to 45yr Rally, P.O. Box 2298 Richmond 3121

Or Phil Irvine 0456391173 (North east Vic). Neil Williamson 0429359484 (Ballarat).

Noel Gilliland 0419355953 (Geelong). Warrick Tovey 0418994647 (Melbourne).

BMW MCC VIC Inc. P.O. Box 2298 Richmond 3121. ABN 81 284 958 707

COVID 19 PROTOCOL IN PLACE IF NEEDED

If undeliverable return to :

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PO Box 549
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AUSTRALIA

Watch out for these upcoming events
(check for current Covid19 restrictions before going) :

Wednesdays

**Wednesday weekly rides
(historic and fully registered)**

17th-18th April

Bundarra Weekend

17th-18th April

Maldon Rally

24th-25th April

Autumn Leaf Rally

9th May

Nords Wharf Luncheon

14th-16th May

Loaded Dog Rally

12th-14th June

National Motorrad Rally (Condoblin)

12th-14th June

Alpine Rally

15th-17th October

BMW /5 Tribute Gathering