

**BMW Touring Club
of New South Wales**



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



September 2018 **NEWSLETTER**



Photo: Jason Boyd

toecutfa@gmail.com

BMW

Touring Club of New South Wales

A small image of a motorcyclist wearing a black helmet and jacket, riding a motorcycle on a dirt road in a desert landscape. The road is sandy and the background shows sparse vegetation under a clear sky.

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT

Jason Boyd
0412 858 880
president@bmwcnsw.org.au

VICE - PRESIDENT

Dave Beers
0401 444 567
vicepresident@bmwcnsw.org.au

GENERAL SECRETARY

John Rayner
0415 104 830
secretary@bmwcnsw.org.au

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Marie Pennykid
0428 393 093
membership@bmwcnsw.org.au

TREASURER

Alison Ashby
0422 077 583
treasurer@bmwcnsw.org.au

BMWCA DELEGATE

Trevor Dean
0409 407 409
bmwcadelegate@bmwcnsw.org.au

EDITOR

Alan Pennykid
0427 393 093
editor@bmwcnsw.org.au

REGALIA

Warren Buffett
0473 403 205
regalia@bmwcnsw.org.au

ASSETS and ARCHIVES

Mal Cattermole
0409 179 419
assets@bmwcnsw.org.au

PUBLIC OFFICER

Alan Peters
0407 829 033
publicofficer@bmwcnsw.org.au

SPARE PARTS/CLUB TOOLS

Rob Edgar
0408 161 107
spares@bmwcnsw.org.au

MCC NSW DELEGATES

Bob Madell
1 position available !!
mccdelegate1@bmwcnsw.org.au

WEBMASTER

Michael Sarah
0438 619 838
webmaster@bmwcnsw.org.au

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Tony Conliffe (tbc)
Al Peters (tbc)

Club Website:

www.bmwcnsw.org.au



Club Yahoo groups site

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

CLASSIC REGISTRARS

South Coast	Steve Treloar	04397 39876 sthcoastregister@bmwcnsw.org.au
North Coast	Damien O'Toole	0419 296 939 nthcoastregister@bmwcnsw.org.au
Central West	No Current Officer	
Sydney North	Craig Hancock	0419 557 014 sydneynthregister@bmwcnsw.org.au
Sydney South	Graham Johns	0419 281 875 sydneysthregister@bmwcnsw.org.au
Sydney West	Perry Gilsean	0418978781

REGIONAL RIDE CO-ORDINATORS

ACT	Dave Ramsay	02 6278 3895 actcoordinator@bmwcnsw.org.au
Hunter	Rob Tiedeman	0425 777 461 huntercoordinator@bmwcnsw.org.au
Mid North Coast	Position Vacant	Put your hand up if you're willing to take this on.
South Coast	Tony Schmidt	0407 494 229 sthcoastcoordinator@bmwcnsw.org.au
Central West	No Current	centralwestcoordinator@bmwcnsw.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.
North Coast Breakfast & Social Sip	Quay Lime Bar and Grill, 18 Park St, Port Macquarie from 4:30pm.

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

Past Events August			
4 th – 11 th	Border Run		
25 th – 26 th	AMCA National meet, TTT.		
September Events			
Sat 1 st	Country Meeting at Bathurst, see the ad in this newsletter for details		10
Fri 7 th - Sun 9 th	Dargo High plains Run. Talbotville Vic .		
Thur 6 th	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	Far Cairn Rally – Hosted by BMW Touring Club NSW - Held at Tottenham Racecourse, approximately 3km from the town's centre. Funds raised support the Motorcycle Accident Rehabilitation Initiative (MARI)	Paul Evans – TBC	12
22 nd – 23 rd	Sidecar Rally, O'Connell, NSW	Alan Pennykid 0427393093	10
Wed 26 th	Club Meeting 7:30pm. Last Wednesday of the month. Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Toongabbie Hotel from 6:00pm.	Jason Boyd 0412858880	4/6 *
Thur 27 st	Hunter Social Sip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mossie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 6.00PM (last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0425 777 461	2
29 th , 30 th Sept – 1 st Oct	BMW Clubs Australia National Motorrad Rally, 29-30 Sept & 1 Oct 2018, Wallerawang, NSW. Hosted by BMW Motorcycle Club ACT. Register online to include rally registration, dinner Sunday 29th Sept & (optional) breakfast Monday 1st Oct. Approx. \$80 TBC. The Rally, dinner & breakfast bookings are nonrefundable after 14 September 2018. For Bookings Visit: https://www.bmwccact.org.au/National-Motorrad-Rally Rally entry, Dinner & (optional) Breakfast are ticketed events for pre-planning & catering. There is NO option to arrive on Sunday night for the Dinner with an expectation you can be catered for. NOTE: You are responsible for making your own accommodation bookings. The Black Gold Motel is the main venue but other local alternates have been notified of the rally. Some rooms will be held for a short period on a 1st come 1st served basis. Mention you are going to the BMW Motorrad Rally when making your booking.	Gary Smee BMWCCACT President@BM WMCCACT.org. au	12
October Events			
Sun 7 th	New Members Ride to St Albans Park, Saint Albans. All old, new, and potential members welcome. Meet McDonalds Blaxland at 9am, leave by 9:30am Lunch will be at St Albans Park Wollombi Rd, St Albans (opp the Settlers Arms Inn) – Sausage Sizzle, Salad and Soft drink supplied by BMWTCNSW Route via Hawkesbury Heights, Windsor, Wilberforce, Sackville Ferry, River Rd and Webbs Creek Ferry to St Albans. RSVP to Marie Pennykid by October 5 th for Catering purposes.	Marie Pennykid	
Thur 11 th	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
12 th – 14 th	37 th Kosciuszko Rally – Hosted by BMWCCACT. Geehi Hut Campground on the Alpine Way, Snowy Mountains. Supplies can be purchased at Thredbo (43km) or Khancoban (31km). Entry of \$20pp includes a raffle ticket. Usual & unusual rally awards. Rally proceeds are donated to the RFDS (\$1000 in 2017). Firewood provided. Ever popular Germanic Kransky & salad + soft drink for \$8. Fresh egg & bacon rolls on Sunday morning with espresso or popper juice for \$6. Kosciuszko National Park has entry fees & remember to please take your rubbish out with you.	TBC	10
13 th – 14 th	3 rd DEADMAN'S GULCH RALLY - Hosted by ILLAWARRA DUAL SPORT RIDERS TOGETHER WITH "BATEMANS BAY & SOUTH COAST MOTORBIKE RIDERS" present the 3rd DEADMAN'S GULCH RALLY. held at "YADBORO FLATS", NSW South Coast, Clyde river. Back to basics rally - bring food & water. 2 fixed toilets onsite. take out all of your rubbish on departure. Badges available at event \$15.	Daren 0413 782408 Or Brett 0477 425838	
Wed 24 th	Club Meeting 7:30pm. Last Wednesday of the month. Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Toongabbie Hotel from 6:00pm.	Jason Boyd 0412858880	4/6 *



Ride & Events Calendar

Thur 25 st	Hunter Social Sip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mossie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 6.00PM (last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0425 777 461	2
November Events			
2 nd – 4 th	24th Trout Rally- Tumut Valley Riders; Jounama Creek Camp ground, opposite the Talbingo Turn off. 28km south of Tumut.	Dave Beers 0401 444 567	
3 rd – 4 th	37th Thunder Rally – Hosted by Ducati Owners Club NSW, Sheba Dam, Nundle. Date change confirmed by Aunty Mal	TBC	10
Thur 8 th	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
Sat 17 th	Malaluka Caravan Park, Wiseman’s Ferry Road, Spencer. Projector, Speakers and Screen supplied by BMWTCNSW. BYO Movies <i>Camping and Bunkhouse accommodation available – book at the Malaluka Caravan Park - 02 4377 1405</i> Saturday Dinner catered by Marie Pennykid at \$15 per head. (Nibbles, Chicken\Steak, Salad, Potato Bake, and Dessert. Tea\Coffee etc.) <i>BYO Drinks, chairs, cutlery, mugs, plates.</i> Sunday AM Breakfast at the Spencer Village store. RSVP to Marie Pennykid by November 15th for Catering purposes.	Marie Pennykid Dave Beers 0401 444 567	
Wed 28 th	Club Meeting 7:30pm. Last Wednesday of the month. Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Toongabbie Hotel from 6:00pm.	Jason Boyd 0412858880	4/6 *
Thur 29 st	Hunter Social Sip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mossie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 6.00PM (last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0425 777 461	2
December Events			
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
26th	No Club Meeting		
Mon 31st	New Years Gathering; Micalong Creek, Wee Jasper.	Rob Lovett	

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)

NEWCASTLE
brisan
motorcycles



TRIUMPH



can-am





Presidents Report

The 2018 OCR is now complete. The ride was a little challenging in places, with a few DNF and turn-backs, a few mechanical failures, a few CasEvac's and a few that struggled. But even committing time to something like this is a testament of character. As Trevor said (*with a grin on his face*)... "It's not meant to be too easy"

The staff at Mount Dare provided great hospitality. Everyone was adequately fed, watered and sheltered. A well-equipped workshop and resident welder (*apologies I can't remember his name*) were utilised by a number of participants to repair the effects of corrugations and overloading.

As mentioned there were a few riders requiring assistance. A thank you to the team at Mt Dare and Kulgera Roadhouse in assisting with the trailering of broken down / damaged bikes. A special thank you goes out to the Police at Kulgera and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. They assisted a number of riders that went "off line" in the loose conditions. Luckily injuries were "relatively" minor and I believe all parties are on the road to recovery. This is a great reminder of why supporting the RFDS is so important. Riders that attend these events should consider donations to the RFDS as a kind of "insurance" <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/about-the-rfds/stories/australias-motorcycling-legend/>. Lastly of course, a special thankyou to the "league of anonymous" that keeps this tradition alive. I am looking forward to the 2020 event already!

Being relatively new to the club, I enjoyed meeting members from all over the state. Speaking to a number of folks, I was asked the same question a few times which initially put me on my heels (*a good question "should" make you stop and think*). I was asked "as President, what are you going to do for the club?" While I had some thoughts on this, and babbled them out in between beers, I did not articulate this as well as I could of... so here it goes. These will only be successful with YOUR input. Please remember, this is YOUR club too... what do YOU want to get from the club?

Improve Communications Within the Club – NSW is a large state. We have the main monthly meeting in Sydney, but there are also Social Sips North and South. It is difficult to get everyone to the table at the same time. It was suggested that at the FCR and KRR we have a 30 min meeting, followed by a 30 minute discussion on things to do for the club. This would represent 2 statewide / country meetings per year, giving additional members a voice at a formal meeting. We may not be able to arrange this for the FCR but will see what we can do.

Initiatives to Improve the Club - Could I ask that over the next month or so, at each meeting / social sip, 15 minutes is set aside to identify 3 initiatives that members feel may be good to implement. In order to give these initiatives priority, could you please provide the number of people that voted for them and their names? If you can't make it to a formal meeting, send me an email and I will attempt to collate your suggestions. Once we have a shortlist we can work out a way to try and make these things happen.

Update the Website – While the content is there, it's a little old and crusty. It is also difficult for people to update. A new site is in final draft, and has been provided to the committee for input. Feedback has been positive. Once up and running, the new site will allow each committee member to update information about what they are looking after. I have also asked the committee to put together a summary of their duties that can be put on the website. This will allow all members to see who is responsible for what. This may also encourage new members to actively engage in club activities or even committee activities.

Streamline Club Meetings / Make Them More Interesting – We have 15 agenda items as well as past / previous events and new business at each meeting. If we reduced the time taken to review these required items, we could spend more time on previous events, informational presentations such as the use of the GS911, or a historical review of a specific model, or even how a USD fork was grafted onto a <cough!>DR?

Over the coming months I will be working towards bringing these items to life. If you have any feedback or suggestions on these initiatives, or if you feel you can do something for the club that will benefit us, please contact me via phone or preferably email (I often don't have time for personal calls during business hours).

Don't forget the Country Meeting in Bathurst and the Far Cairn Rally in September... I hope to see you there.

Cheers, Jason, president@bmwtcnsw.org.au

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BMW Touring Club Meeting

25 July 2018

Chairperson – Jason Boyd

Meeting Opened – 7.38 pm.

Apologies – Nil.

Visitors – Nil.

New Members – Nil.

Previous Minutes – The Minutes of June 2018 Meeting were tabled.

Acc - Bob Madell.

Sec - Dave Beers.

Correspondence –

Westpac statements x 2.

12 x Membership renewals.

1 x FCR Registration.

President's Report –

See Newsletter.

Vice President's Report –

Christmas party – Members invited to submit ideas for suitable party venue this year.

Secretary's Report –

Far Cairn Rally application approved by Lachlan Shire Council.

Registrations close 24 August. The Secretary requested members to register asap as he will be away from Sydney for the second half of August and all of September.

Treasurer's Report –

Reserve Acc \$32,996.38.

Cheque Acc \$3,959.71.

Treasurer reported accounts reconciled to end of June.

Incoming Treasurer Alison Ashby now authorised to operate Club bank accounts and Treasurer's email address.

Membership Secretary –

2 new members this month.

Membership renewal reminder in Newsletter.

Editor –

Editor noted that one of the Club's FaceBook members is a talented cartoonist.

Editor advised a 4% increase in the paper cost for the Newsletter.

Public Officer

The Club's Annual Return completed and submitted to the Department of Fair Trading.

Regalia –

1 jacket and some T shirts sold at the Awards Night.

Assets & Archives –

New jockey wheel installed on Club trailer.

Clubs Australia –

Trevor Dean reported that 20 Club members have so far registered for the CA Motorrad Rally 29 Sept to 1 Oct. The main raffle prize is a BMW G 310 GS.

Trevor Dean advised that the BMW Group Award of Excellence has been awarded to Club member Paul Evans in recognition of his enduring commitment to the welfare of Club members. Well done Paul!

Webmaster –

The Webmaster advised that the list of office bearers has been updated and that the domain name renewal has been paid.

MCC –

The Club was advised that Wayne Gardner has been invited to speak at the next MCC AGM.

Paul Loakimidis nominated himself as the second MCC Club delegated. Paul to be briefed by Bob Madell prior to confirmation of his appointment.

Past Events –

13/15 July – Winter Rally attended by Michael Sarah.

21 July – Annual Awards Night. 38 members attended and reported a very enjoyable evening. Good food and location.

The following members received awards:

Paul Evans – CA Award of Excellence.

Jason Boyd – President's Award.

Al Pennykid – City Member Award.

Mal Cattermole – Runner up City Member Award.

Tony Schmidt – Country Member Award.

Dave Beers – Runner up Country Member Award.

Rob Lovett – Editor's Award.

Alex Spiteri-James – Most Active New Member Award.

Coming Events –

4/11 August – Border Run and Off Centre Run – Mt Dare SA.

25/26 August – AMCA National Meet – Bulli Showground.

25/26 August – TTT Rally – 10kms north of Taralga.

1 September – BMW/TCNSW Country Meeting – Panorama Hotel, Bathurst, NSW.

14/16 September – FCR – Tottenham Race Course – Registrations close 24 August.

22/23 September – Sidecar Rally – O'Connell NSW.

29 Sept/1 Oct – BMW CA National Motorrad /rally – Walleawang, NSW.

General Business –

Paul Evans gave a run down on his experience buying merchandise from Barretts at Bilpin. Now into motorcycling clothing. Recommended. Check out the web page at www.barrettproducts.com.au

The incoming Committee email addresses have been set up. Any problems talk to Michael Sarah.

Committee members asked to change email passwords on a regular basis.

All Committee members are requested to prepare a one page list of their responsibilities.

Jason Boyd advised that the Wild Apricot version of the Club's website is to go live in August.

Warren Buffet kindly donated to the Club a custom made Transmission Output Flange Holder/Puller – For 1955 to 1995 BMW Airheads (otherwise known as a gearbox flange offer and onner thingy). This special tool will reside with the Spare Parts Officer for all those members that need to get their airhead gearbox flanges off and on.

The meeting was advised that ex member Dr Bruce Campbell was taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital with cardiac problems and had 2 stents inserted in a percutaneous coronary intervention. The Club wishes Bruce a speedy recovery and Paul Evans advised that he would send a get well card.

Meeting Closed: 8.40 pm.

Editors Report



Welcome to the September edition of the BMWTCNSW newsletter.

The OCR is just done, our own Far Cairn Rally is very soon and the National Motorrad rally is not far behind that; so you'd better get your riding boots on.

Anyone following the travels of our members to this years OCR at Mt Dare would be aware that it was a bit of a challenge with sand, high winds, illness all getting in the way. Hopefully we have some good yarns to read, I certainly have a few pics of peoples travels.

Not sure what the OCR is? It's a motorcycle run held every two years at a remote Australian location requiring fuel, food, beer and a minimum 200kms of dirt to get there. The location is decided at the previous OCR. Riders need to make their own arrangements for solo or group rides whilst being self-sufficient and prepared for contin-

gencies, you will be well away from population centres and easy support. Members will already be putting together vague plans about going to the OCR in 2020. Many of our members do ride in loosely organised groups to get there and back. Typically you probably want to plan for a week to get there and another week to get back home. The 2020 location is yet to be announced (and it has changed after being announced in the past for a variety of reasons). So, have a think about it; maybe its your sort of ride.

Coming soon; Far Cairn at Tottenham, no need to book anything just turn up at the racecourse either Friday or Saturday. National Motorrad rally at Wallerawang; you do need to book 1st you need to register at the website: <https://www.bmwccact.org.au/National-Motorrad-Rally>, then you will also need to book accommodation either at the Black Gold Motel or somewhere else in the area if you wish to look.

Welcome to the new members:

Donald Hall (St Georges Basin)



WELCOME TO BIKEBIZ BMW MOTORRAD

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

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S CARFEYS OFF CENTRE RALLY 2108

I purchased my 1976 R100S (Muriel) in Maitland in 2016 as just an engine, tank frame, wheels and instruments. No seat mudguard or fairing.

The basic bike was in pretty good nick but I decided to upgrade it as well as bring it back to as close to original condition as I could. I replaced the ignition system with a new "Red Centre" system, had Ray Peake twin plug the heads and install unleaded valve seats, replaced the under seat master cylinder with a handlebar mounted one, new stainless wheel spokes, new clutch, reconditioned the brakes and replaced the suspension with new components. Modifications to the front fork stiffness improved the handling to that more close to a modern bike. I originally fitted an aftermarket fairing and found a seat base to match and painted and pin striped the old girl. It looked really pretty and was a great project but I really didn't have a use for a "Sports Bike". So I stripped all the pretty bits off, put a high level front guard, R80GS handlebars, and knob-by tyres and headed off to the Off Centre Rally at Mount Dare.

The 69 year old bloke and the 43 year old bike set off on our own on Sunday morning arriving in Balranald late in the afternoon. The following day I set off but soon remembered I'd left my Spot tracker at the motel so had to go back which set me back in time. I arrived at Paringa (Renmark) had a nice meal and set off for Maree the next day.

At Peterborough I ran into three lads from the ACT club and rode with them to the small town of Cradock which consists of about six houses and a pub. Dicky the publican didn't have a room for me so I pitched my tent in the backyard on a bit of carpet I found in the rubbish. We had a good night and a lovely meal.

The next day we pushed onto Hawker where I ran into Mark Smith and Dave Hunn. Mark turned back for health reasons so I rode to Marree fuelling at Leigh Creek on the way and then onto William Creek with Dave Hunn.

At William Creek Dave Ramsay, Dave Hunn and I shared a cabin and enjoyed dinner at the hotel with Tony Schmidt, Cheryl Ison and her daughter Racheal.

The next morning Dave Hunn and I continued towards Oodnadatta. We stopped to have a look at an old railway bridge but while crossing a small creek Muriel bucked me off. As a result some lads from Sydney on 1200GS decided that as I was the last to fall off I had to wear their pink ballet Tu-Tu to Oodnadatta. The principle revolved around men's health and your ability to not take yourself too seriously. It arose after a mate of theirs took his own life.

At the Pink Road house, tired and not focusing I put bloody Diesel in my tank. Tony helped me drain it out and I refuelled before any damage was done. We had to camp in the dusty campground behind the roadhouse and spent a great night at the pub with heaps of riders and the local indigenous blokes.

By the time I got my breakfast both the Canberra and BMWTCNSW crews had left so I rode the 150 Km across sections of the Gibber plains bordering the Simpson Desert to Mount Dare on my own. The road was very rough with lots of corrugations, a few sandy washaways but all in all I was able to maintain a good speed until I got to within 30 km of Mount Dare. The road in is basically a dry river bed with deep sand. I only took one tumble but couldn't lift



Muriel so I took photos and waited until "Toad" turned up on his sidecar to give me a lift.

I estimate that there were about 150 riders at the rally although I understand a number of riders turned back at Oodnadatta, We camped in the hotel campground and were thoroughly spoilt by the local staff. Others were given mechanical care by the workshop boys for things ranging from a broken frame to tyre repairs. Several bikes and side cars had to be recovered back to Mount Dare with broken axles and some crash damage. Several riders were flown out by the Flying Doctor as a result of their crashes.

We rested all day Saturday, enjoyed a great Saturday night at the hotel and President Jason Boyde and I set off Sunday morning. The map showed that the shortest and quickest way home would be to go north to Finke and then across to the main highway at Kulgera. Advice backed up by the grader driver who assured us the road was in good nick. 150 km of deep sand proved him wrong. I fell off two more times hitting the ground on the second occasion flat on my back knocking the wind out of me and giving me a mild concussion. My injuries were minor with at least two others flown out of Finke by the RFDS. The guy from Kulgera Roadhouse was

kept busy recovering bikes. Although it was only 325km to Kulgera Jason and I ran out of light due to the difficulty we encountered in negotiating the sand and camped in the bush. Others were forced to do the same.

From Kulgera we stayed on the bitumen heading home through Port Augusta, Broken Hill and Nyngan. At Glendambo in S.A. we set off planning to make Peterborough but at Port Augusta we figured we could make Broken Hill. The 700 Km day ended with us riding in the dark behind a four wheel drive with great lights.

At Narromine Jason and I parted company as he had to ride to Coogee and myself to Canberra. A great experience but I'll be 71 when the next one is held so it's unlikely I'll line up again.

		Total Kms	4920
5/08/2018	Holt	Balranald	625
6/08/2018	Balranald	Renmark	300
7/08/2018	Renmark	Cradock S.A.	400
8/08/2018	Cradock S.A.	William Creek	504
9/08/2018	William Creek	Oodnadatta	205
10/08/2018	Oodnadatta	Mount Dare	150
11/08/2018	OFF CENTRE RALLY		
12/08/2018	Mount dare	Bush camp	281
13/08/2018	Bush camp	Marla	188
14/08/2018	Marla	Glendambo	487
15/08/2018	Glendambo	Broken Hill	677
16/08/2018	Broken Hill	Nyngan	588
17/08/2018	Nyngan	Holt	515



Photo: Dave Ramsay



Photo: Jason Boyd



Photo: George Scarfe



Photo: Jason Boyd



NZ trip

Steve Treloar

Long drive to Melbourne, stayed at the holiday inn at the airport as had an early start. We had dinner at the motel with Tony, Cath and Tony's friends Robert and Livia. Not a late night though a few drinks were had.

Up at 4am, bleary eyes and headed to the airport. All the others were going through as well. I got pulled aside for a drug scan along with 5 others. All clear, then onto scanning our carry-on bags, mine gets picked on, had it opened up, checked out the toiletries bag, all clear in the end after checking out the tooth paste closely. On to the passport control. Mine didn't marry up with my photo scan, off to an official to be finally clear to leave Aust. What will happen entering NZ.

Flight was reasonably painful as was getting in. Duty free found Therese picking up perfume while I got an NZ SIM card. Followed the crowds through the normal procedures once out was to wait for the Yellow bus to take us the hotel as she had been a hiccup with getting the bikes out as it was Auckland day, a public holiday

It was steamy. I spent ages getting the phone sorted could get data but not phone calls, while Therese relaxed. Later we walked to a small shopping centre for lunch and back via a veggie market and lovely real fruit ice creams. Later at faulty towers, the Indian run motel dinner was a real shame meals coming here and there no real order we were one of the last to order though got mine first; Therese some time later and others that had ordered first got theirs much later. Then went for a walk around the area. Gotta get the fitness in.



The next morning the bus was arranged to take the guys early to the rego place and onto the in crating the bikes. It was a very slow process taking 30 minutes each bike to process, though up at the container place they only allowed 4 people into the area to unpack the bikes, so again a very slow process and it was extremely hot. Our bike finally emerged from the container unpacked and rolled out. On to fitting up the screen and rack and connecting the battery. Therese packed her bag and complained about the dust on the outside. Helped other with their bikes as well. Then off we went heading to Te Ahora to get the warrant of fitness finally that was done, Therese fell over coming back from the shops the accommodation was changed and we were staying at the

Nunnery. We had a fan room not a a/c room didn't go down well hot and stuffy though the night was fine.

Today we headed off to Matamata and did a tour of Hobbiton got the bus there from the info centre a great commentary and video. It is a guided tour 2 hours following Nic our guide did a great job entertaining us with all aspects Hobbiton life. The tour finishes at the green dragon for refreshing ale after so long on the sun with no hot or sunblock. Back to Matamata and on the bike to Te Ahora. Lazed around in the afternoon. Went down town looking at the shops. Went out to a Turkish pizza for dinner then over to the RSA club to catch up on a meeting and a night cap.

Heading for Napier today via Taupo stopped at Tarooka for a coffee and fuel. Lunched at Taupo will be visiting on our return. Over the range where it was cool and abut damp before dropping to the coast and the heat.

Got to Napier in stifling heat, a beautiful city all Art Deco headed out to Havelock north to our BnB staying at Antoinette, the pool was very refreshing, walked into the village for dinner. Taxied home, the next day we spent in Napier seeing the sights to start with at the tourist info office the toilets have large lockers, so stored the bike gear \$10 deposit \$1 for 4 hours

Jumped on a double decker London bus, all to ourselves for an hours tour of the city. After the tour had a relaxing coffee at one of the six sister house cafe. wandered through the museum; a lot of info about the 1931 earthquake, Art Deco era. Back to Havelock north for some retail for Therese, I fill with fuel went to the smkt for food for dinner went to a lock smith, asked about the ignition switch. No luck there, arranged for Hamish to send the spare from home.

From Napier to Wellington

Overcast but no rain Waitakia stop for coffee put on warmer gear, got out of Woodville to a road closed sign had to go over a small pass to Palmerston North basic road towards Wellington off the highway to a beach cafe for lunch really nice

Continued onto Wellington coming in on fumes got to the Thornton hotel a lot of the others were there. Parked all the bikes out the front for the night walked into the city looked about then back to the motel had dinner beers talked with others

Ferry to Picton

Ignition playing up, leaving key in ignition....

Up early to the ferry terminal followed Bob and Lisa to the wrong line up first. Found the right one only to be turn around as we were only given a booking number and not paid. Therese went back and found out and paid for them all meet me through the checkpoint and onto the ferry. 3 hr sail took a bit to find Therese as she ended up walking on as a foot passenger, had scones and cream on board

Was a flurry when they called for driver to go to their vehicles. We decided to book and pay for our return journey. Booked our accommodation on a vineyard went to Renwick museum and back into Blenheim got some thinks for dinner and back to the vineyard

Blenheim to Christchurch

Hot all loaded up dressed and the battery failed Ian our host did offer the night before to use the charger thought it would be ok after a quick charge

Headed out south around 8.30 toward Kaikoura the main town that was effected by the 2011 earth quake. Went past the Wharanui church that was effected. My Friend Leicester whom we were to stay with in Christchurch, just south of here we stopped at the store at

Kekauari a nice stop off the main road got opened just before Christmas, still lots to do rail not yet. Just south of Kaikoura we turned off the main road towards Hanmer springs a beautiful hill spar town were we stopped lunch which was nice.

Back south towards Christchurch to Leicesters place, a travelling companion back in my Exodus Expeditions days a lot of reminiscing over a few beers and a beautiful meal cooked by Leicester as his wife was away on a sailing trip due back in a couple of days. Leicesters guy fella, Wilson cleaned up till it was all done sometime well have to try at home...a load of washing was done.

Therese slept in which was fine as Leicester and I had plenty to talk about. We headed into town for lunch and the a few hours wondering around the Museum.

Back to Leicesters another nice meal more chatter, the next morning Leicester had to pick up his wife, Laura who had been on a endeavour ship style trip went out for breakfast at a wool /possum shop come cafe.

Back to Leicesters packed up and went to the Arctic centre near the airport for a few hours exploring went into the chill room and a 6 wheel driven snow mobile thingy

We ventured further south to our air BnB host for the night Leanne at Armarau unpacked and went into the old sector of the town all white stone buildings then to dinner at a really nice restaurant Cacina more of a wonder about before heading home to the BnB

A very comfortable nights sleep up and going again to the Mookari boulders and onto Flyers for coffee no breakfast as the had a busy day the day before. Continued into Wyndham for lunch a sleepy little village, had hosted the street racing at some stage by all the photos in the cafe. On to Edendale where Bert was actually born bypassed Invercargill and heading to Riverton to our accommodation which had been pre-booked by Neill. Arriving at 110 walker st the address given only to find that someone else was there, checked our email yep correct address rang the correct number, answering machine! bugger they rang their contact no answer, decided to go to the info centre surly they would know. No. Made a call to bob and Lisa bingo bob answered, but was filling up with fuel and Lisa had just been stung by a bee dramas there as well enquire as to were the post office was to see if the ignition switch parcel had turned up no it had not though got talking to the parcel delivery guy and arranged to intercept the parcel as it had been addressed to the wrong address as well. Went and had a cuppa as I was sure some of the others would pull up at supermarket for supplies, as they did Bob phones and texts Neill number so rang and left a message of course his message says I could be riding. In the mean time a few of our group did pull up for supplies. Wayne had another email of were everyone were staying low and behold we



were at a different address. The owner phoned back with the. Code to get into the house. we also bought supplies and headed to our place Jann was staying at our house as well , a basic beach house with great view to the beach relaxed did washing cooked dinner went round to others place for a beer and exchange notes

Had to get going the next morning as Therese had arrange a pampering at a beauty place which gave me time to wonder the streets looking at all the bikes there where thousands all shapes and sizes. Chatted to many when they saw the NSW rego plate all interested in where, how, what etc. and were shocked with everything. At 1pm was a group photo at Hayes Hardware went the store actually bought some oil to top up the dip stick. We bought other stuff as well Then went over to the tourist info which had a great selection of t shirts etc got a discount when I hesitated at the total cost supposedly can claim the GST back at the airport



The beach racing at Oreti beach was on at 3pm so out we went a great afternoon was had sat on the dunes with the locals they didn't like it when an Aussie kept winning seeing a Kawasaki 1000 amongst the trail bikes was a site all the older Harley's Indians, triumphs etc was a highlight

Headed Back home stopping to fill with fuel were a local I player had a problem with his 2 stroke trailie the wires where butchered he'd had no help so being a good bloke we pushed it going eventually and of he went, done my good deed for the day. Stopped at the post office as I had been notified that my parcel had arrived my ignition switch Spent an hour or so putting it in. Now I can take the key out of the bike and can turn on with ease and no stress.



Saturday sleep in off to town coffee at zookeeper cafe got a little Bert cake. went over to motorcycle Mecca an amazing collection of bikes saw a few others of the group. We went onto the transport museum further up Tay st . We ended up wandering around for 3 to 4 hours had lunch there on a retro kitchen. The amount of old garage stuff as well as vintage cars and a huge range of trucks is just astounding. When out to the Bluff 25 km got cold sea fog came in headed back to Riverton. Jhan cooked dinner nice quite evening

Walked around to tony and Cathy just around the corner .it started to rain so use the outdoor umbrella to walk back home would have been a sight though no one saw out

Jhan leaves this morning we have a day off the bike. We walk into town got to the museum a real good one had lunch at the pub meet up with the others for a couple of beers as well walked home, Therese had withdrawal symptoms and had to get on the vacuum another quiet night

Another fine day packed up headed out towards Te Anau stopping a few times for photos and coffee

We finally made it to Leicesters mate Garry Hopcroft's farm for a chat and lunch. He has beautiful views out their front lounge windows. After a 5 k dirt 10cm deep gravel road with side winds we return to the route to Te Anau the roads again are in fantastic condition found our accommodation quite easy 700m from the town centre. Had to top up with fuel ready for Milford sound 250 k return no fuel.

Picked up supplies locally made Venison pies for dinner and a stroll down town. Rob and Olivia were trying in vain to find accommodation or the extra few days of their trip with Tony just saying, just wing it... it wasn't helping Livia. Chinese New Year isn't helping a lot of places full with them.

we were up early to beat the crazy tourist traffic to Milford to meet our 9am cruise departure. It was a little

fresh no traffic. The only hiccup that was daunting was when we went through the tunnel. With my eyes, I couldn't see the road surface or sides or the instruments lights. The road was level, so flying blind came into effect literally, well until nearing the end when the road dipped and I could see the light at the end of the tunnel.... as well as the instruments.

The area of Milford is spectacular the cruise was well worth it The trip back was slower than the morning dash. Stopping frequently for the sites along with hundreds of tour buses and camper vans .at the tunnel we were delayed as the was a petrol tanker in front of us which was only allows through by itself. On the other side we stopped as we spotted a Kia bird chewing on a cars windscreen wiper, something I was worried about with the bike. Pecking at the instrument cluster rubbers. Though we didn't stop too long. Back at TeAnau we lazed about for the afternoon and went out for Indian.

Today we head for Queenstown and onto Arrowtown. Another pleasant morning ride . Only roadworks coming into Queenstown slowing our progress. We had booked a Segway tour of Queenstown. That was interesting feeling using balance and weight to manoeuvre. We did our training after that we had to follow the guide. Therese was going well in my eyes though I could see the apprehension on her face. Therese did pike out 5 minutes in and was happy to sit and admire the view while I continued on . The guide stopped me and cracked up the turtle speed up to full. I can say yes I've done it it was enjoyable. after that we headed to the quay for coffee and people watched for a while, while we enjoyed the hustle and bustle of down town. Therese had arranged to meet some of her friends from home at Arrowtown, a small historic town just north of Queenstown. Up the hill we ventured. A short ride to our Air BnB in Arrowtown, the last bed in town. walked into town via the river walking track and eventually meet up with Helen and Jim. A late lunch and much chatting. Followed by the girls wondering through the shops. Jim and I found the local water hole settled in for a few of the local ales.



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The next morning, we headed up the Crown range in beautiful weather stopping for various photos of the views and winding roads. Stopped at the infamous Cardrona Hotel, for Coffee as the bar was not open. Onwards to Wanaka where we turned east towards the Linda's valley Pass open wind-swept country side stopping at Twizel for lunch. Onto Lake Pukaki followed the Island route to Methven on the flat down from Mt Hutt. Arriving at our accommodation for the night on the outskirts. Rang the Host who wasn't home no problem she says the kids are. All work out extremely well and probably one of the better hosts we had extremely hospitable stays we had. The bike was parked in the garage next to An old 900ss Ducati was in a state of repair. Dad had a prang years ago and is getting it back together one of the boys mentioned. We enjoyed gin and tonics local craft beer and a lovely curried chicken dish Toykio had pre-prepared. I went out with Dave to the local scout meeting and assisted in raft making with the troupe, Who were competing in a rafting race in a week or so's time. Dave worked at Mt Hutt ski fields were he has

been for years and had meet Toykio.a back packer, there 20 years ago.

Another fine day in the land of the long white cloud had the bike pointing north east towards the coast and Kairourou peninsula. The town that was cut off in the earthquake a couple of years ago, lunching at the local pub we dined on local seafood which was to die for. The seagulls knew it as well as they hung around. After a relaxing lunch just taking it all in we continued north to my friends Leicesters family property. Unfortunately the huge homestead was damaged on the earthquake and is unliveable, an outstanding property that has been in the family for generations. They are still fighting with the insurance agent for a decision or repair or demolish which would be a sad outcome best wishes for a positive outcome. Leicester took us on a tour of the property to check the cattle troths from sea level to 2500 feet in 3 miles. We are used to sheep and cattle production on flat ground, we were sure all Leicesters flock and herd had two legs longer the others,



17th November

It's on again so bring your deck chairs.

BBQ Dinner & munchies \$15.

Book a bunk or bring your bed with you

Malaluka Caravan Park, Spencer.

Bookings 02 4377 1405.

Let me know if you're attending.

Dave 0401 444 567.



It's on Again: The Annual Special Needs Motorcycle Ride Day

Date: Sunday 16/09/2018

Time: From 9am

Where: **NEW LOCATION**: Clyde Street near the Water Front overlooking Kooragang Island. Then doing a loop around Stockton.

- Have you ever wanted to be a passenger on a Motorcycle (open to all ages)?
- In Support of Hunter Connect, come and enjoy a day for people with Special Needs to experience a free passenger ride on a Motorcycle.
- Ability Links Including You tent will be on site, they are awesome in helping in sensory needs or a quiet place for timeout.
- **NEW LOCATION** Note: You will no longer will you be leaving Stockton Foreshore (Lions Park), you will leave from Clyde Street near the Water Front overlooking Kooragang Island. Then doing a loop around Stockton.
- If you have a Motorcycle and would like to support on the day it would be greatly appreciated.
- Riders if you have any spare helmets you could bring on the day it would be greatly appreciated.
- Riders if you have your own helmet you could bring that would be amazing.
- Kids Activities will be on during the day.
- Show & Shine if people are interested, with certificates of appreciation given to the top 3 bikes, with the kids deciding their top 3 bikes.
- Fire & Ice Coffee will be there on the day.
- BBQ will be on.
- Min age to be a passenger is 8, but if there is a child younger there will be other bikes there for them to sit on or be pushed around on.
- On arrival, please register to ensure everyone gets a ride.
- Further info please contact Peter peteem_2620@yahoo or 0412317618, or Rachael rachael@hunterconnect.org.au





Outback Calling

Chapter - 2

Carlos Correani

I'd been thinking about it all year, that big loop from Shellharbour, New South Wales to Kangaroo Island in South Australia, up to Coober Pedy mining fields, out to that big red rock in the centre, Alice Springs and back through Queensland and then home again, along those lines.

The first thing to negotiate was the concern that my wife Angela was now seven months' pregnant. The guilt that came from leaving her for what I considered to be an introverted but overwhelmingly hard, long two-week trip on my own was heart-breaking, but she gave me her blessing and a look that said 'you'd better be back here in time, or I'll hunt you down, cut your heart out and feed it to our dogs', which I deserved considering. Yes, she understands me well and knew the reason why I had to make this road trip.

This was the reason why I had purchased the BMW R1150GSA. After the birth of our son, James, in two months' time there would never be a right time to go. So back to planning my last trip for a while by doing a full service and tappets adjustment myself, which was way overdue, with an immediate increase in power by around about ten percent or so. I find it difficult to comprehend why some people would pay a mechanic to work on such a simplistic approachable bike like the "GS", as I like to call them. Last thing was planning my kilometres and cold nights, update new sleeping bag, fourteen dry meals with dried fruit and porridge for cold mornings with coffee, as my take-off about 30 minutes from the boat landing site found me at a mind-blowing beachfront where all my doubts and fears about this trip melted away. I had to slow down, I was burning out, tiredness was messing with my psyche machine, creating negative thoughts in my head.

Next stop was American River which was named after a Whaling crew that landed there in 1803 and build a schooner boat out of the local timber they found in the area, I made my way to a picnic table I found along the river, where I planned to stay for a few hours resting up for lunch with strong hot coffee. With the GoPro positioned on my helmet, it was good therapy, talking about my day so far, like sitting for an interview for sixty minutes. As I wanted to hear more than my own voice, I turned it off and concentrated on the two Rangers walking up to me. They happened to be a couple from Wagga Wagga who moved down here for work and life style change. "Good for you", I said, as we talked about their experience on the Island. They were selling it so well for a moment that I added that I would love to move down here, which was half true.

Next was an hour's ride to Remarkable Rocks, which is a wind curved surface of giant marble-sized rocks overlooking the ocean front on a high cliff platform - one for the bucket list. I would have had the place to myself if it had not have been for the loads of tourists pushing me out of their way to take their photos. So only a full day here on the Island before taking the last ferry boat back. Getting back on the mainland that night I stayed at a stone work cottage, with a bar and restaurant which just closed as I walked in. Well, the cottage had a microwave that heated the freeze-dried, Back Country Cuisine, that would have to do.

Back on the road the next day with the sunshine and promise of warming northern roads, I moved into that direction for a few days until the Flinders Rangers came into view. From reading about it, was going to be the highlight of the trip. The Ranges stretch over the length of about 430 kilometres of a fault that turned it into a large mountain range, some of the oldest fossil life on earth are found there. GoPro ready, I entered the mystery road of the promised land for all adventurous bike riders and yes, this time it all was true. The myth turned into legend when I took a dirt road through Bunyeroo Gorge that followed the ridge line of high hill tops sinking into valleys of weathered rock with ancient formations that travelled along a creek bed of prehistoric-looking ferns and palms, with layers of red rock back drops that opened up in a maze of valleys, like door ways to some lost part of world; the only thing missing on this occasion was a Velociraptor appearing from one of these forgotten worlds trailing behind, trying to make a meal out of me by ripping me into bite size pieces. But their ancestors would soon get their revenge, as I then ventured out of the ranges on the gravel road to Marree where, at around 80km per hour, five emu family members decided to cut across my path, so I fully locked up. An adjustment for skidding found me hitting a baby emu with an explosion of feathers and a massive momentum shock that took one of my nine lives out of me. To my surprise I stayed upright, so like being kicked in the balls, I pulled off to the side of the road. I got off and looked for poor baby emu, knowing too well that mummy and daddy won't be pleased. I walked back to put down my victim of crime, but nobody could be found. I looked around, and back to bike surveillance. I found feathers in every oil coated surface on the right-side of the engine protection bars, which suggested the impact zone, but there was no damage or fixing parts - ok off we go.

On the way I was overtaken by a few 4x4 drives doing 100km with real bush bull bars leading the way, so I pulled into Marree around 5pm as I was in need of a camp spot and de-feathering. I found an upgrade of cabin accommodation, so why not? Stepping off the bike there was a 4x4 driver pulled up and a middle aged woman came out and dropped to her hands and knees and started praying to me for my forgiveness for covering me in bull dust as she had overtaken me on the road coming in. The cabin owner must have known her and introduced me to her. "Ok", I said. "You're forgiven", making the Sign of the Cross over her head, which started them both laughing and giggling like school girls. I was thinking "full on out here"; nice introduction to the town though. That night found me hitting the pub for bangers and mash and listening on the pub patio to the stories heard from riders of outrageous fortune in the Finke Desert Race they had out there.

The road out to Williams Creek was around 360km of fast gravel with no fuel stop to it, then 160km to Coober Pedy for the same conditions, so next day was another long day of around eight hours, while stopping at Coward Springs, a former railway station and now camping grounds with thermal pools for lunch. The road out is consistently all corrugated tops with mild sandy spots to keep you awake, but all great fun until you stop and find that you can't get any feeling from your hands. I started to find out that it was getting harder to take my gloves off and on as they started to swell up due to road conditions. I found that over 60km per hour the harmonic vibrations would smooth the bike out. Just getting there was the problem, a decision to lay over a day in Coober Pedy would cure that. I'd

hoped to get underground accommodation, which I did for \$15 per night in backpacking style. It was little more than a Catacombs of long tunnels leading off to a room- sized section with two beds in them; fine for two days. After that my gloves were still hard to put on but I had to keep moving, so after taking a tour of an opal mine, ending up with me purchasing a colourful



piece of opal for Angela, I made a move towards that big rock that kept calling me like a mother calling out my name.

As I ventured out in the morning pack-horsing my bike, I looked down and noticed the killer flat tyre curse from hell had fallen on my back Heidenau tyre, so I plugged time with air cylinder fixes and questioned why the muck, "a fluid you put into for tubeless tyres to alleviate puncture like glue substance" hadn't worked, and was creating a wet puddle around the base of my tyre. So after fixing the tyre issue I started back on the bike for about eight hours before making my way into the camping grounds near Uluru with the rock in the background; that was a real sense of achievement for me personally. After setting up camp I had a walk around and couldn't get over the feeling of some holy force in the landscape, like your mother watching over you to make you feel safe. The landscape was like the Garden of Eden before modern man tried to impose himself in a guardianship role, building fences and roads.

Next morning I packed the bike and made my ride in to the big red rock. With the sun casting a holy aura over her, she looked over me as if to bless me for living on her land and thank me for making a mecca pilgrimage to her. I thanked her foremost, then took her photo with my Nikon camera to remember the way it felt to stand there in its presence.

Looking at the time, I considered it to be around six hours into Alice Springs from Uluru. I made the kilometres but started to smell petrol every time I stopped, and getting closer to a hotel at Alice I realised that my right leg and boot were covered in fuel. I said "what the f##k!" Finding where the fuel was coming from took me to a damaged 'O' ring in the fuel hose connections to the tank and I was thinking the vibrations from the corrugated roads had been wearing the 'O' ring. Luckily I had a spare but I had to ride about 5km thinking I was going to explode at any moment before changing it over in the hotel carpark.

After booking into the hotel, rudely pouring out petrol fumes at the front desk reception, I started removing my wolfman panniers and lifted the beast to the centre stand. For one moment I felt something pull in my left shoulder blade muscle, while pulling back to lock position centre stand. Okay, I still needed to fix the 'O' ring which I did with a few bikers pulling up a little late, to support my mechanical endeavours, with offers of encourage-

ment as I succeeded in replacing the 'O' ring. Moving into the hotel room I tried to pull my bike jacket off and felt a hot fire of pain in my shoulder, so from now on no more checking oil levels on centre stand.

At the time I was coming north, crossing paths with those riders who had just completed and those who had competed in the Finke desert race which was held out there every year. Some riders race along following the Finke River north of Aputula, which is held on the Queen's Birthday every year. These groups are infamous for being the real cowboys of the north, some have sweeper 4 X 4 utes in the rear along with camping gear and a three way fridge half full of beer, so there is never a problem learning about the race with stories of guys finishing the race with smashed up ankles and "I heard he's broken his leg now". There were comments outside on every veranda pub, shop talk at every place I stopped, and it was looking a little apocalyptic there for a while with dune buggies, adventure bikers on every corner, and a major spectacle of Dakar proportion in these parts. This added colour to a red back drop heading toward northern skies, while riding around in wintry conditions gave me a Neanderthal tolerance to the cold riding conditions.

As the night temperatures dropped down to around 3 degrees, I trusted my body coping mechanism and I always felt hungry for calories. From Alice Springs the camping option was forced upon me as I changed my direction east past Tennant Creek to the Queensland border, finally resting up at a camping ground out the back of a service station called Barkly Homestead, a busy outback camping spot with a great bar and music for cowboys and girls dancing their lives away. As I ventured into a nomad type of behaviour the fellowship of campers was open to me with likeminded people interested in what I was doing and helping me out with tools needed and offering spaghetti on a plate, which I accepted thankfully.

Setting up camp found my left shoulder not improving but getting worse with the never-ending movement of bike chores, but I could do nothing; not even Panadol had any effect in the following days. I had an x-ray showing a torn muscle to confirm my symptoms, so there was nothing I could do at that moment.

The next day I noticed an increase in wildlife encounters that I wanted to capture with my GoPro positioned on my helmet which I could screen for future viewing. At one point the kangaroo carcasses were so numerous it was like traveling through an obscure course that made me look both ways for wildlife and try not to hit the carcass on the road in front. This made the trip tiring. There is no choice on those outback roads but to train yourself to constantly look forward, around and down every five seconds as with defensive riding in city traffic, with cars pulling out on you at any moment. These were long straight roads until the Queensland Border sign came up at last and finally I was off to Mount Isa, a copper mining town of Queensland.

On arriving at Mount Isa, I played with the idea of doing an oil change myself, passing a motorcycle shop, thinking maybe out the back if he would let me, but when I asked him he insisted that he would do it himself with a small labour charge when I paid for the oil. He said the last BMW rider did it himself out the back on the workshop floor and left him to clean up the oily mess while he left, riding out, laughing. "Not like a BMW rider" I said, as he busily lifted my bike upon jacks at the back of the work

shop to undo the bolt. In the end I was glad to be paying someone else considering my torn muscle pain in my left shoulder blade and he did a great service, telling more stories of the riders competing in the Finke desert race. Apparently his bike shop had sponsored a number of riders in it. The stories were enough to make you feel lucky, as it sounded like the equivalent to bare knuckle fight.

Moving out of town I found great curves with rocky mountain roads with a seven-foot-tall emu lurking around the road looking for poor BMW riders to revenge its dead relatives. Next road was southbound to Birdsville, stopping at Walkabout Creek for a fuel stop and camping out the back with hot meals and a sign of "Crocodile Dundee". Like in the movie, I couldn't help myself looking for the tourist shop to buy a hat with studded crocodile teeth.

The wildlife count now for emu near misses was in the hundreds, as now there was a real fear of making it home without being smashed to pieces along the side of the road, so I had to turn my mind to the inevitable fate; the feeling was no time for relief from wildlife encounters, with an option of slowing down to around 80 kilometres per hour, as I had once heard that a woman had died after a four wheel drive traveling in the opposite direction had struck a kangaroo and had lurched toward the woman's car, smashed it through her windscreen and killed

her. It's three inches of metal bull bar bartering anything moving in its way like a tennis racket hitting a ball, so, on the road to Valhalla I justified my life, taking time out thinking "is this the last ride?"

In my thoughts my conversation was about past feelings of regret and remorse that I hadn't thought through my decision, or maybe I hadn't cared, especially when a proportion of my youth was alcohol-fuelled stupidity. I guess when you look back it's always been a well-worn path for most people. If only I could teach my son this without sounding cliché. My credo now is to "love hard", a mantra that I say while breathing in and out the air with determination of spirit. As when that end game comes around, it's the people who I have loved that will matter the most to me.

Moving on south east now, the next stop was Cunnamulla then Bourke for camping in a perfectly controlled camp ground, eat-

ing dried up stuff on my camp stove. I had to stop to think and soak up the moment. Here I was open to exploring the land as it moved efficiently around me, riding past people who lived out here and wondering "how do they make their lifestyle?" or "what made them feel they had to stop at this particular point in the landscape?" "Were they born out here like trout bound to the land like a magnet to return to where they were conceived?" I know the simple answer is that it just happened that way, but what keeps them here or are they just moving through the landscape like me but at a slower rate? To open up to all possibilities and understanding my own point of being and my behaviour is so relative to me and my journey. Maybe I'll return like the people of these parts with job opportunities and fall in love with these landscapes and its people, or maybe I'll hate the people of the town and count down the days of my contract, and leave to go back to home like the trout bound upstream to start that whole damn thing over again!

The memory is clear of moving into our house on a four acre property in Wollongong that was once an old farmhouse my father had bought when I was four years' old, and walking around the empty house that looked larger at that age. I realised the last owner had left an old antique phone table behind, so I quickly looked inside the drawers and found nothing, except an old Service Medal. We took it out one day to show and tell to a family friend who knew its meaning and he told us that it was one they gave out to war veterans from World War II. It was like someone wanted us to know this house has seen things, awful things, and now that we had moved into it they were asking us to love this house, which was the only thing that brought this broken person home. It never left me, the finding of that Service Medal, as I eventually understood the importance and gravity of what it meant and wondered did they simply forget to take it, or was it better to leave the past behind!

Coming to the end zone with home a few sleeps away while calling Angela with promises of being home soon found me coming over the mountain passes of Katoomba in New South Wales, my home front now just on the horizon. I know it's just a road trip but to me it's about never looking back and regretting that question "why didn't I do it?" It could have been longer with more time to rest up looking back, but that was the time I had. I'm writing this to share my experience and thoughts, so I could one day look back.



New Members Ride – Sunday 7th October 2018

All old, new, and potential members welcome.

Meet McDonalds Blaxland at 9am, **leave by 9:30am**

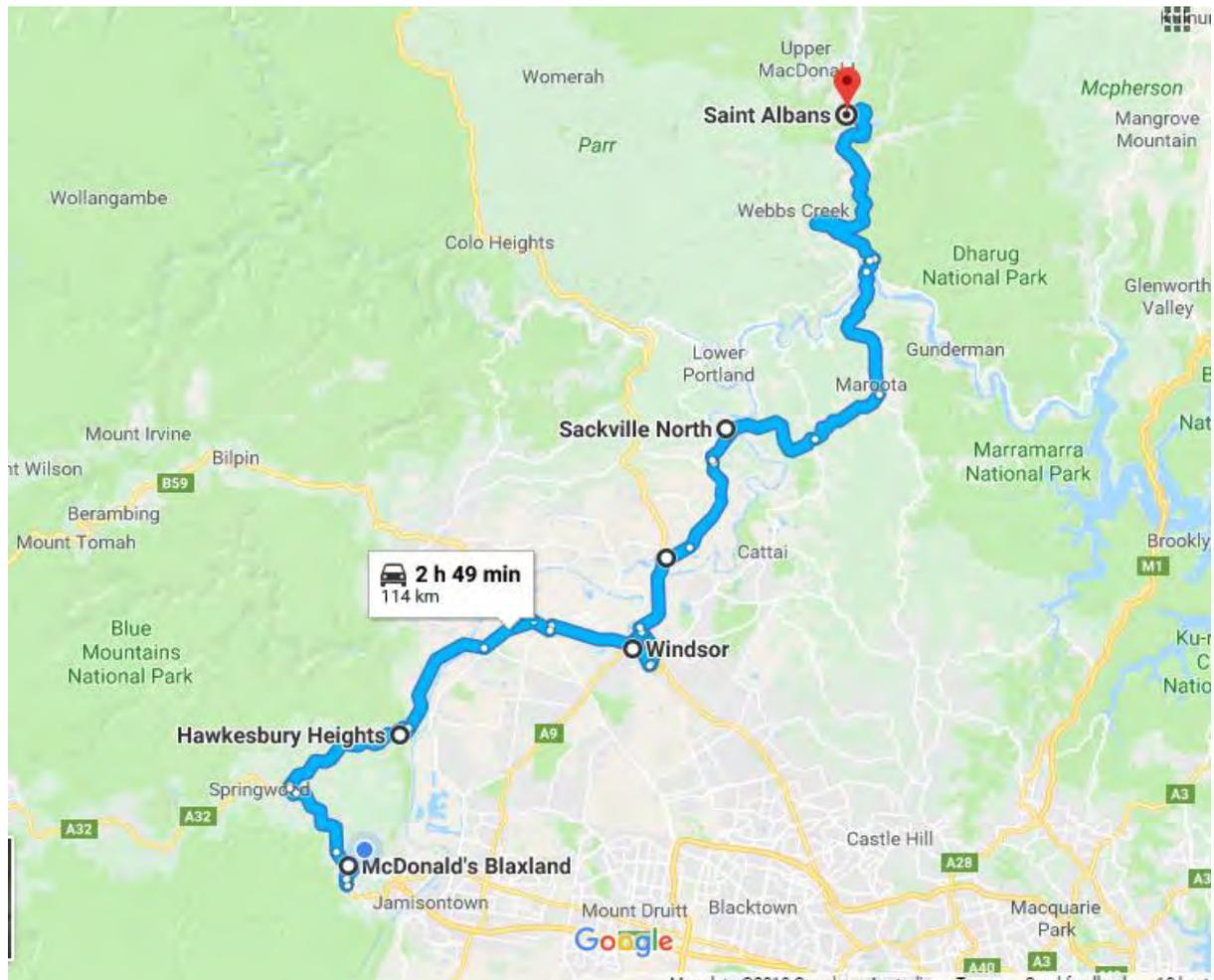
Lunch will be at St Albans Park Wollombi Rd, St Albans (opp the Settlers Arms Inn) –

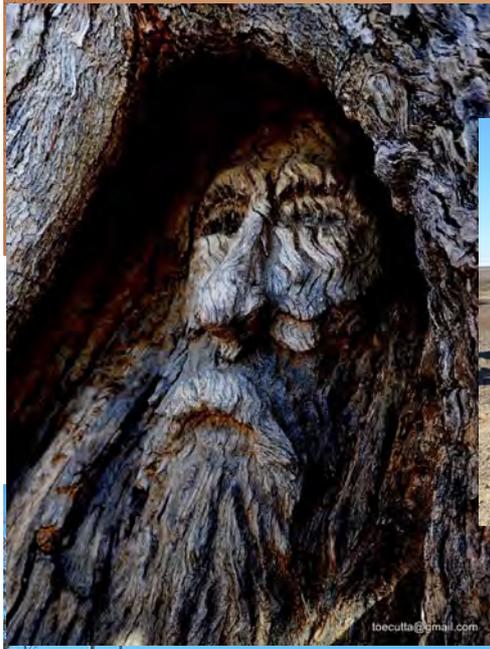
Sausage Sizzle, Salad and Soft drink supplied by BMWTCNSW

Route via Hawkesbury Heights, Windsor, Wilberforce, Sackville Ferry, River Rd and Webbs Creek Ferry to St Albans.

A ride of 2 to 3hrs, mostly sealed, but some gravel roads.

*RSVP to Marie Pennykid by **October 5th** for Catering purposes.*





If undeliverable return to :

BMW TOURING CLUB OF NSW
PO Box 549
ERMINGTON NSW 1700
Australia

BMW TOURING CLUB OF NSW NEWSLETTER

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Watch out for these upcoming events :

15th-16th September Far Cairn rally

Sept 29 – Oct 1 **BMW Motorrad Rally (yes, it's back)**

7th October New Members Ride

12th 14th October Kosciuszko Rally

17th November Movie Night at Spencer