

# BMW TOURING CLUB OF NSW



BMW Touring Club  
of New South Wales



Member of the International Council of BMW Clubs



## February 2015 NEWSLETTER

## OFFICE BEARERS

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### SPARE PARTS/CLUB TOOLS

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### WEBMASTER

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### Club Website:

[www.bmwtcnsw.org.au](http://www.bmwtcnsw.org.au)

### Club Yahoo Email site

(members mailing list - voluntary):  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmwtcnsw>



[www.bmwclubs.asn.au](http://www.bmwclubs.asn.au)  
[www.bmw-clubs-international.com](http://www.bmw-clubs-international.com)

## Regional Ride Co-ordinators

<b>ACT</b>	Dave Ramsay	02 6278 3895 <a href="mailto:actcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au">actcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Hunter</b>	Rob Tiedeman	0425 777 461 <a href="mailto:huntercoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au">huntercoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Mid North Coast</b>	Lin van Copenhagen	0417 098 255 <a href="mailto:midnthcoastcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au">midnthcoastcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>South Coast</b>	Tony Schmidt	0407 494 229 <a href="mailto:sthcoastcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au">sthcoastcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Central West</b>	No current officer	<a href="mailto:centralwestcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au">centralwestcoordinator@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>

<b>South Coast</b>	No Current Officer	
<b>North Coast</b>	Damien O'Toole	0419 296 939 <a href="mailto:nthcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au">nthcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Central West</b>	No Current Officer	
<b>Sydney North</b>	Craig Hancock	0419 557 014 <a href="mailto:sydneythregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au">sydneythregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Sydney South</b>	Graham Johns	0419 281 875 <a href="mailto:sydneysthregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au">sydneysthregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Sydney West</b>	Andrew Watson	0419 225 290

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 Friday of the month. At the Hexham Bowling Club for a chat and something to eat.
North Coast Breakfast & Social Sip	PORT MACQUARIE BREAKFAST Last Saturday of the month, 8:30 at The Sandbar Café, Camden Haven, The after "breakfast ride" determined over breakfast. SOCIAL SIP Second Sunday 4.30pm Quay Lime Café and Bar, Port Marina, 18 Park St., Port Macquarie.

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

# President's Report

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and welcome to 2015, the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> year. Celebrations for this auspicious occasion are planned to be held later in the year and photos, stories and ideas are sought for a presentation are sought. 2015 should be an exciting year for the Club.

Many thanks to Roger Martyn for organising the Club Christmas party once again. The food was very nice and plentiful. Of course the BMW Touring Club company was excellent. Sadly the local plumbing failed to keep up with the good turnout of about 60 people, but this was circumstance beyond Roger's control. Also thanks to those that help out with setup and clean up. It's always the same folks and is a job that needs to be shared, if you come along please help out.

**We took the opportunity to go down to Micalong Creek for the New Year's "gathering".** It was a nice warm day with a surprisingly cool evening to follow. Attendance for the club was about 20 scattered through the leafy campsite. Solid fuel fires were banned so we were unable to have a focal point for festivities. Thank you very much Rob Lovett for organising this.

The Karuah River Rally, also ably organised by serial organiser Rob Lovett, takes place on 6, 7 & 8 February, not long after publication of this newsletter. With fairly dry spring and summer weather behind us to date we hope this continues and we have another good roll-up for the rally's 38<sup>th</sup> year. Please try to make time to help out with setup and cleanup, again it's the usual suspects that put time and effort into this and a few extra hands would be very welcome. I look forward to seeing you there.

On a more sombre note, I was reflecting the other day on the passing of Ian Horsburgh and how the club might perpetually honour his memory. It occurred to me that the Club Editor's award might be re-named the **"Ian Horsburgh Editor's Award"** in the fashion that the President's award is named after Peter Dennis who died whilst in office. I propose that we have the award engraved with Ian's name prior to the next awards night. I'll be raising this at the January meeting for consideration to be voted on at the March meeting.

Sadly, well sort of, I won't be at the February meeting. Shirley and I will be on a 2 week jaunt around Victoria with the focal point being a concert by the Eagles at Hanging Rock reserve Mt Macedon area.



**26 November 2014**

**Chairperson** – Al Peters

**Meeting Opened** – 7.50 PM

**Apologies** – Ian Berry, Mike Day, John Visser, Mick Goodwin, Shirley Naylor, Andrew Goodwin.

**Visitors** – Bob The President of the NSW BMW Car Club.

**New Member** – David who rides a V-Strom 650.

**Previous Minutes** – The Minutes of both September and October Meetings were tabled.

- September – Acc. Rob Edgar, Sec. Mal.
- October – Acc. Bala, Sec. Al Pennykid.

**Correspondence** –

- Magazines from BMW Club: UK, VIC, and QLD.
- Westpac statements x 2.
- New member applications x 2.

**President's Report** –

- T shirts have been picked up.
- FCR badges are to be mailed out to those attendees who did not receive them at the rally.
- Members Rob Edgar #3 and Hans Bielaczek celebrated their 40 years with the Club. Presented with appropriate party hats and candlelit birthday cakes. They still had just enough lung strength to blow the candles out! Must be BM riders.
- The President's Award was formally presented to Paul Evans for his outstanding contribution to the Club and help to its members.

**Vice President's Report** –

- Some successful rides over the last month.
- Future ride suggestions required from members.
- Suggested camping weekend ride to Lake Burrendong.

**Secretary's Report** –

- See minutes in the Newsletter.
- Secretary attended focus group run by Neuroscience Research Australia (part of UNSW). Research being carried out on protective motorcycling clothing. Focus groups designed to provide riders feedback of type of clothing worn and features deemed important to riders'

**Treasurer's Report** –

- Half yearly unaudited accounts will be reported in February 2015.
- Treasurer reported \$11,295.81 in the Club cheque account, and \$30,861.92 in the reserve account.
- The Treasurer is looked at options for using MYOB to coordinate membership renewals. MYOB payment system appears to be too expensive for use by the Club. PayPal appears to be much more appropriate. Treasurer looking at this option.

**Membership Secretary** –

- 2 new members this month, and 4 renewals.

**Editor** – The meeting thanked Andrew Watson for offering to fill the role of Editorship for the time being.

**Regalia** –

- Mick Furchert has purchased KRR stubby holders, beanies and bucket hats for sale at the KRR.

**Assets & Archives** –

- Trailer to be checked for maintenance requirements.
- Treasurer to send trailer rego documents to Mal.

**Clubs Australia** –

- Trevor Dean reported a busy month with Clubs Australia.
- The next BMW international conference is to be held in Melbourne on 17 October 2015.
- TD gave a presentation to BMW Groups Aus on the organisation of the conference.
- BMW are planning a ride in conjunction with the Conference from Sydney to Melbourne. The ride will be for classic/vintage BM's and will start on 10 October 2015.
- TD also attended BMW Club of Victoria who have suggested a 500,000 km trophy.
- The Vic Club's Icicle Run is now to be run from 6 pm to midnight due to safety issues.
- TD tabled copies of BMW Classic magazines.

**Webmaster** –

- No report.

**MCC** –

- Clubs to send in ride calendars.
- Emergency phones are now operational on the Putty Road.
- Queensland are introducing lane filtering, including riding along the breakdown lane at speeds less than 30 kmh.
- Helmet laws are being reviewed in Qld. Will allow EU approved helmets for use in Qld only.

**Past Events** –

- Maintenance Day held at the Presidential Palace.
- Day ride to Taralga.
- Trout Rally attendees included Rob Lovett, Bruce Campbell and Gary Peters.
- Day ride to Spencer.

**Coming Events** –

- Karuah River Rally.
- Christmas Party. Attendees to confirm by email to Roger Martyn.
- Paul Evans to talk to RM to confirm catering, etc, all organised.
- 2015 is 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BMWTCNSW. The actual date to celebrate is to be decided. Suggested dates are 5-6 November 2015. Committee to talk to Graham Johns/Sandra Gluck re their venue research carried out for the GS rally.
- Jaffle Run proposed 21 January 2015.s.

**General Business** –

- Ken Lovegrove has advised the Club of the MARI bank account details.
- Chrissy Horsburgh has sent heartfelt thanks to the Club for the support by member following Ian's passing.
- The meeting was followed by an auction of member's no longer required motorcycle items.

**Meeting Closed:** 9.05 PM

# Ride Calendar

FEBRUARY			
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Karuah River Rally</b> - Frying Pan Creek, Chichester State Forest - see the flyer on the club website or in the Bank Hotel Dungog before heading into the rally	Rob Lovett 0417 267 425	10
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly "Social Sip"</b> . Meet at 4.30pm at the Quay Lime Café and Bar, Port Marina, 18 Park st., Port Macquarie. (Second Sunday of the month)	Lin van Copenhagen  0417 098 255	2
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>South Coast Social Sip</b> Great Southern Hotel 95 Queen St, Berry (6:30 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month)	Tony Schmidt 0407 494 229	2
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sydney Super Swap</b> . At Hawkesbury Showground		
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>5-Ferries Ride:</b> Meet at 7-11 on Pacific Hwy, Berowra at 9am. Route Details: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/BMWTC-5-Ferries-Ride">http://tinyurl.com/BMWTC-5-Ferries-Ride</a> A few choices for refreshments stops along the route, finish at Pie in the Sky for drinks and a chat.	Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093	6
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> 7:30pm. Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Toongabbie Hotel from 6:00pm	Alan Peters 0414 660 890	4/6*
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hunter Social Sip:</b> Hexham Bowling club 6.00 PM for Drinks and Chinese dinner from around 6pm (last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0427 777 461	2
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Breakfast</b> at 8.30 Sandbar café, North Haven. The "after breakfast ride" to be determined over breakfast	Lin van Copenhagen  0417 098 255	2
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Tallangatta Rally</b> , Hosted by Albury Wodonga Ulysses. Tallangatta Showground 2015. Camping is free with the location immediately beside the Tallangatta Golf Club (bar open til late) dinner at the Golf Club or one of the pubs. BBQ Breakfast at the Golf Club. There are three motels in town if you want to leave the tent at home.	Rob Lovett 0417 267 425	10
MARCH			
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cold Flame Rally</b> . On the Barry Way south of Jindabyne at the junction of the Snowy and Pinch Rivers, BYO everything. Take your swimmers.		10
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly "Social Sip"</b> . Meet at 4.30pm at the Quay Lime Café and Bar, Port Marina, 18 Park st., Port Macquarie. (Second Sunday of the month)	Lin van Copenhagen  0417 098 255	2
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Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wollombi Pub Run</b> . Meet at Macquarie Park, Windsor, leave at 8:30	Wato	6
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## **Treasurers Report – Un-audited Half yearly results period ending September 2014**

Dear Committee Members and fellow Club Members,

Before I go into the details of my report, I would like to acknowledge the stellar work done by the previous treasurer Trevor Dean in the past few years in cleaning up our club accounts, setting it all up in MYOB accounting software in his business and being up-to-date with the required Statutory forms filed up to the period ending 31.03.2014.

Since I have taken over as the Treasurer of the club around end of July 2014, there have been a few but significant accomplishments for and on behalf of the club:

- The club now has an ABN number.
- Accounting software MYOB was purchased for the club.
- Automatic bank feed from Westpac Cheque account to MYOB has been established.
- The clubs accounts along with bank have been reconciled every month up to 30.09.2014.
- Schedule of Newsletter advertisement revenue has been compiled for future reference and record.
- We had our first Committee meeting for this year on 20.09.2014
- The clubs un-audited Profit and Loss account and Balance Sheet are given in this report.

Provisional Financials of the Far Cairn Rally 2014:

Total Revenue	<b>6,688</b>
Total Expense	<b>- 3,365</b>
Nett Proceeds	<b><u>3,323</u></b>

### Key notes:

1. Approximately 45% of all the entrants to the rally were prepaid.
2. All the monies received have been banked.
3. The above revenue includes sale of Regalia for \$ 446.
4. Expenses include cash payment at the venue for food and venue hire of \$1208 and estimated cost of additional badges of \$400.
5. The Committee will consult with Warren Buffett and Ken Lovegrove in relation to the MARI funds held by our club and decides on its outcome.

<b>BMW Touring Club of NSW, Inc</b>					
PO Box 549 Ermington NSW 1700					
<b>Profit &amp; Loss Statement</b>					
April 2014 To September 2014				Previous Year	
Income					
Memberships	\$9,510.00			\$9,045.00	
Far Cairn Rally	\$5,282.00			\$5,839.00	
Karuah River Rally	\$30.00			\$85.00	
Newsletter adverts	\$756.00			\$1,881.00	
Regalia	\$1,051.00			\$2,497.00	
Awards Night	\$1,100.00			\$0.00	
Miscellaneous Income	\$40.00			\$0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		\$17,769.00			\$19,347.00
Cost of Goods Sold		\$722.37			\$3,019.72
<b>Gross Profit</b>		\$17,046.63			\$16,327.28
Expenses					
Awards Night/Trophies	\$1,414.00			\$476.34	
Bank Fees	\$9.25			\$22.50	
Christmas Party	\$80.00			\$0.00	
Clubhouse Supplies	\$145.46			\$192.86	
Donations & Gifts	\$118.95			\$197.91	
Filing Fee	\$0.00			\$52.00	
General Expenses	\$0.00			\$232.50	
Legal & Accounting	\$369.62			\$0.00	
Newsletter printing	\$2,240.70			\$1,729.20	
Postage & Shipping	\$1,688.16			\$1,233.33	
Regalia membership	\$1,581.80			\$269.50	
Trailer costs	\$0.00			\$152.00	
Rent	\$216.40			\$230.60	
Stationery Office Supplies	\$444.00			\$9.76	
Web and Internet	\$309.40			\$288.40	
Total Far Cairn Rally	\$1,712.64			\$1,786.11	
Karuah River Rally	\$0.00			\$5.00	
Telephone	\$222.74			\$0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$10,553.12			\$6,878.01
<b>Operating Profit</b>		\$6,493.51			\$9,449.27
Other Income					
Interest Income	\$258.39			\$324.12	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>		\$0.00			\$0.00
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>		<b>\$6,751.90</b>			<b>\$9,773.39</b>
<b>Total Membership</b>		<b>210</b>			<b>206</b>
Membership Income per member		<b>\$45</b>			<b>\$44</b>
Membership Expenses per member		<b>\$41</b>			<b>\$25</b>

<b>BMW Touring Club of NSW, Inc</b> PO Box 549 Ermington NSW 1700							
<b>Balance Sheet</b> As of September 2014				<b>Previous year</b>			
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash On Hand							
Cheque Account #6259	\$12,740.26			\$4,568.38			
Cash Reserve #6267	\$30,801.04			\$32,054.17			
Total Cash On Hand		\$43,541.30			\$36,622.55		
Inventory		\$2,194.80			\$2,187.90		
<b>Total Assets</b>							
			\$45,736.10				\$38,810.45
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Trade Creditors							
		\$784.30			\$233.65		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>							
			\$784.30				\$233.65
<b>Net Assets</b>							
			\$44,951.80				\$38,576.80
<b>Equity</b>							
Retained Earnings							
		\$38,079.30			\$28,803.41		
Current Year Surplus/Deficit							
		\$6,872.50			\$9,773.39		
<b>Total Equity</b>							
			\$44,951.80				\$38,576.80

**Key notes:**

1. There is a 5% increase in Membership revenue this year Vs last year. Number of new members is 21 Vs 29 last year.
2. Far Cairn Rally receipts are down by 10% this year Vs last year.
3. There is a 60% drop in Newsletter advertisement revenue this year. This is because of extensive work done by Warren Buffett in Invoicing and chasing up with our vendors for payment last year.
4. Regalia purchases this period has been less compared to the same time last year. This has prompted a 4% increase in Gross Profits Vs last year.
5. The membership Income and Expenditure per member is very close to each other but still in the black.
6. Club's Cash/Cheque balance is up by 19% Vs last year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case you require any further details or information in this matter.

**Balaji Padmanabhan (Bala)**

**2014-15 Treasurer - BMW Touring Club of NSW**

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### Forward

Have you ever thought about how you would react in an emergency? Most of us do not work in a job where we cannot control the outcome. Those who work in jobs such as emergency services, hospitals, military and other various jobs are highly trained to expect the unexpected. They are more adept at making decisions on the fly. As stated in the crazy man's bible, "Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy", "Don't Panic". In an emergency we are expected to react rationally. Unfortunately, in a stressful unexpected situation, we often revert to the base settings of fight or flight. Some of us can think calmly under stress. Some of us freak out like a Hula dancer on speed. I (as much as I hate to admit it) fall into the latter category.

### Highway to the Danger Zone Chapter 111

Evan and I parked the bikes at the back of the pub. We both ordered a beer, enquired about our room we had booked online, only to find we had the most, non-interested uncommunicative publican I had met in my life. Thinking about it later, I wondered if he wasn't all that used to bikers booking pub rooms on line, or maybe he thought we were gay and the Australian Progressive Society hadn't reached Mount Gambier yet. Jeez, I thought. Hadn't "Pricilla Queen of the Desert" all but broken down those old bush barriers. Anyway I sort of broached that barrier by saying my son and I booked a room. "I can't find the key to your room", said the non-interested publican. "I only have the master key, so I can't give you that. Whenever you want to go to your room, you will have to come get me so I can open the door for you." "Oh O.K" we said. We finished our beers and Evan asked what room were we in. "Number 3, upstairs and down the hall" he said. "So you are saying we

have to come get you every time we need to get back into our room if we go out?" "Yep" said the non-interested publican. "Well we have been riding all day, can we go get our gear and settle down and have a shower", asked Evan. "Not yet, I still have a few things to do, have another beer and I will come get you as soon as I've finished" said the non interest publican. We grabbed ourselves another round of beers. The publican appeared after a while, "I will take you to your room now fellas." We followed him up three flights of stairs. I thought shit me! We have to carry all our gear up and down these stairs.

We got to our room, the publican tried to open the door, but the key would not go into the lock. The publican said he was going to have to go ring for the lock smith to check out why the door wouldn't open. Evan looked at the lock and called out, "there is a broken off key in this lock". The publican



returned and said "So there is", like he didn't know. "Can we get another room?" Evan asked. Every other room looked empty to us. "Nup, all booked out" was his reply. It looked pretty quiet to me. "I will go call the lock smith." "Mate its 7.30pm already, Evan called out. "Go have another beer" was the reply.

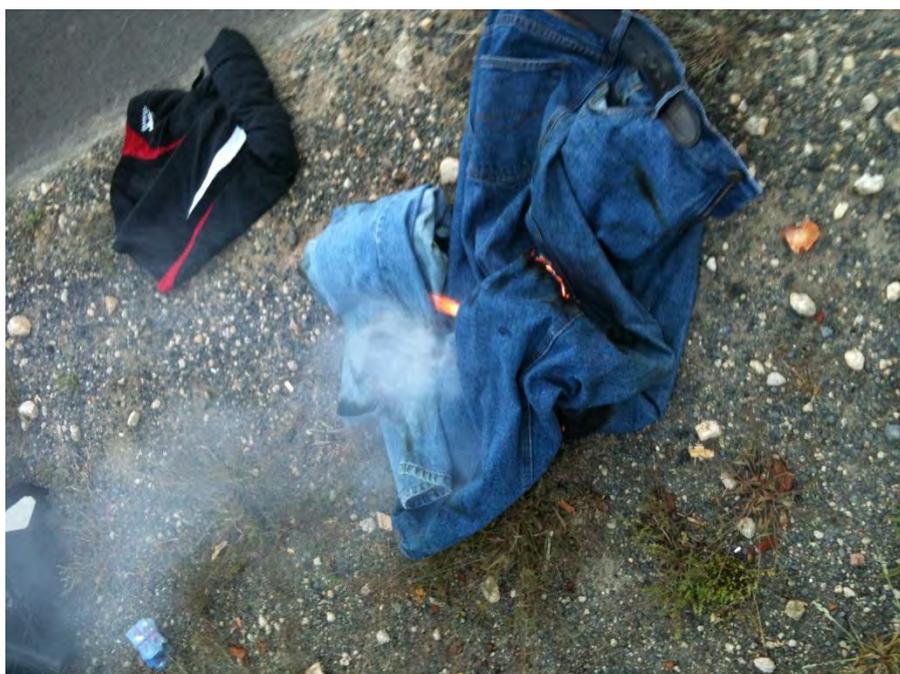
I thought screw this! I'm not giving this arsehole another bit of my hard earned bricks, that Gail had pried off the house to send her two boys away on this road trip. We went outside behind the pub. We were in a fairly large car park shared by a variety of shops. Closest to us was a chain store bottle. So we thought F\*\*\* you Mr Publican. Treat us like pricks. We will go buy our grog through a Multi-National chain store pub. Alas, there were a multitude of eateries from fast food to café's. If you are going to be an arsehole to travellers, then make sure your early Australiana pub is not next door to a major shopping mall. After an hour or more after having afternoon tea and sorting out our grog supply, we went back upstairs to find the lock smith working on our door. Safe to say this guy was very chatty and entertained us for half an hour while working on the lock. Pity he wasn't our publican. We would have spent a lot of money at his pub if he owned one. He finally got the door open, stuck his head inside and said "there you go. It looks comfy". I must have missed the gremlins cackling but boy he would have been belly laughing by now.

There were two beds in a room about the right size to just swing a cat. Dead cockroaches were on the floor. On the white starched hospital sheets were dead black bugs, and I had no desire to look under the bed for fear of what I would find. I guessed now we should have considered it an omen and kissed our \$80 goodbye, there and then. With our bikes unpacked and gear safely stowed in our room, we were all showered and cleaned up from the days ride. Evan and I went back out to have dinner and a few more beers. Whatever time we got back was bed time.

Shit me f\*\*\*ing bed bugs. Wino Joe must have slept in this room before us. We seemed to be scratching and restless all night. Not since the army, had I slept in a bed with hard starched sheets. I can't remember sleeping all that much. Evan sat up in his bed, in a burst of swearing, a flurry of flying doona and iron starched sheet thrown to the end of the bed with a clang. It was around 4.30am in the morning. "That's it. I'm packing the bike and I'm getting out of this shit hole of a pub before I burn this place to the ground to get rid of all these f\*\*\*ing bugs.

Good damn idea I thought. The packed up panniers were attached to our bikes. Going up and down three flights of stairs at 5am was good for the blood flow. I hooked up the trailer. As it was still dark, I told Evan we are not riding till sun rise, as it's too dangerous out here with animals crossing the road. We figured the non-committal publican at least owed us a few dollars in International Roast coffee sachets, so we drank coffee till we could see a touch of daylight, which was around 5.30am anyway.

I was leading. We were riding through the pine forest plantations just outside of Mount Gambier. The red glow of the sunrise was beautiful, that stage moments after twilight. Evan pulled up beside me and shouted "Dad pull over." Then he fell back behind me. I was living in the moment, enjoying the cool, basking in the mood of the early morning ride, throttling off, letting the big K throttle down at its own speed, then roar, the blackbird was beside me again. "Pull over now." Shit me, what was his problem, I thought. I looked in the rear vision



mirror and there was smoke pouring out of the back of the trailer. I thought crap. I've seized the trailer bearing, but there is no drag or squealing. Evan was beside me yet again "Your F\*\*\*ing pa....." "What....." I couldn't hear what Evan was saying. As I pulled over, Evan was already beside me shouting "Get off the fucking bike now!" He was pulling me off the bike. He was carrying on like a tethered goat when a tiger is approaching. I looked down, the left hand pannier had come loose and was resting on the exhaust pipe, and the strap holding the panniers on had stopped the pannier from falling off. There was smoke

billowing out of the pannier. Black plastic was melted all over my exhaust pipe in a lava flow of black plastic running down my exhaust pipe.

It was then that I went into my Hula Hula dancer on speed routine. I tried to unstrap the pannier, but my little bag was strapped on top of that, preventing me from undoing the strap. So expecting a burst of flames at any second, I unclipped the hockey straps, threw that bag to the side, unclipped the pannier strap and the pannier then fell to the ground. I kicked the pannier to the side of the road and it rolled into the grass beside the break down lane. I looked up and remembered seeing pine forest. I ran into the grass picked up the pannier, which still hadn't burst into flames yet, then carried it to behind the bike and trailer. I called for Evan to bring the bike key which was also the pannier key. With the pannier emitting thick black acrid smoke, but no flames, I opened the pannier. As soon as I did that, my two pairs of shorts, two pairs of jeans and some undies burst into flame. I started doing the Speedy Gonzales Mexican hat dance on top of my burning clothes. Burning embers of cloth were flying everywhere. While I was stomping the main lot, Evan was stomping the embers that flew into the grass. Evan suddenly yelled, "Stop, stop....." "What now" I said thinking my bike had suddenly caught alight. "I have to get a photo" Evan shouted. He started merrily clicking away with his phone. "F\*\*\* Off" was my witty reply. I had the majority of the flames extinguished, except for a pair of jeans that would not go out, like those birthday candles on a cake that you just can't blow out. I then kicked the burning jeans onto the middle of the road.

I looked up and saw a B Double about a kilometre away rumbling straight for my burning jeans. I ran onto the road and booted the burning jeans back into the grass. Then I ran into the grass, booted the jeans back onto the break down lane. The B-Double came roaring past, burnt embers from my clothes flew into the air. Smoking remnants of ash of plastic, material and grass also flew up into the air.

I was standing in front of my now smouldering jeans. The flames were finally extinguished. I looked up and Evan and the gremlin were standing there laughing and laughing. Evan had taken a few photos of my burning jeans. He played Red Adair and poured water on the last bits of the smouldering chemical cocktail of a pannier, shorts, jeans and hot undies. Just hopefully that night as we are settling down somewhere near Adelaide, we wouldn't hear a news bulletin about an out of control forest fire near the Mount Gambier region and how the authorities were still trying to determine the cause of the blaze. Suspicious molten plastic and burnt clothing were found at the scene of the suspected start of the fire.

I was going to hurl my pannier into the scrub and leave it. As it was, only the bottom burnt out. My bike would look lop-sided with only one pannier attached. I decided to put the pannier, now considerably lighter and very much empty, back on the bike. I reconnected the strap. Evan looked at me and said, "are you sure you want to do that again?" "F\*\*\* off" was my witty reply again.

Once Evan had me off the bike, he thought the whole episode was hilariously funny, but I seriously think he was just glad he didn't have to ring Mum and tell her that her husband killed himself in a Royal Viking Funeral Pyre, that would have made any Norwegian proud. The bike and my clothes stank of burnt plastic. The smell of burnt plastic on the exhaust pipe was horrid. It was making me sick.

We were riding past an exhaust shop around Millicent. The smell was choking me, so we pulled in. After telling the story for the first time to the mechanic on duty, he surmised that it would be no problem buffing out the melted plastic. As I was removing the bag from the bike the mechanic saw the other pair of jeans that were hocky strapped onto the back of the bike. They were smoke inundated but otherwise fine, but they stank. He asked what I was going to do with them. I told him I was going to wash them tonight. He grabbed them, said "no you're not," walked over to a bulk dumpster and threw them in. I walked over and looked forlornly down at my last pair of jeans. I was looking at them like there was a dead puppy in the dumpster. The mechanic said "For f\*\*\*s sake, just buy



another pair jeans in town". "They were my favourite jeans" I replied. "Well not any more" was his reply. Funny how bikers bond to their jeans.

In no time we were heading up to the Coast again. The horrid burnt plastic smell was gone. We stopped for a break in the beautiful coastal town of Kingston, then wanted to make Murray Bridge in good time. Evan was getting close to needing a new rear tyre. It was already in the pipeline that Adelaide would be the place to do tyres. As I now had no clothes except what I was wearing, we decided Murray Bridge would be the place to stop for a tyre and do some clothes shopping.

Evan googled bike shops, then rang ahead to make sure they had his size tyre and booked in. So they knew we were coming. We dropped the bike off at the bike shop at Murray Bridge when we arrived. Then we headed out to get some new jeans and shorts for myself. On returning to the bike shop, we were discussing where to stop in Adelaide. The salesman said we would not get anything in Adelaide proper as everything would be booked out for the Clipsal 500 V8 race. If anything was left it would be expensive. So we decided that we were going to camp around the Adelaide Hills, as we were going to spend a day riding around them anyway. Plus, you could not miss out on Birdwood Mill, if you are any sort of car or bike nut.

We got into the beautiful little village of Birdwood. All available accommodation was already booked out. We



got talking to a guy who owned a private motorcycle shop that was straight out of the 60's. He told us the only place we might get accommodation was Millwood camping grounds. So we took off down there to look. As luck would have it, we got the last camp site available and finally we were going to use the camping gear I had towed behind me for a week.

We planned a day riding around the Hills. We had no real desire to go into Adelaide city. There was plenty of riding to do outside the city. I rang granddad, P.J Peter Jenkins, to let him know we would be at his place in two days time.

Our plan was that Evan was going to ride to Lake Gardiner and I was going to throw the

camping gear in with P.J in his 4wd and hope we would be able to drive out. I still hadn't got over my fear of dirt roads yet and I wasn't keen on riding the K1200 out to the salt lakes at that stage.

End of part 3

**Next Time** I got some good news and some bad news.

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## AWESOME ANDES HOLIDAY – # 1

After our very successful trip to the Himalayas with Ferris Wheels, Mara & I decided it was time for another motor cycle based adventure. This raised its own conundrum, where will we go? After checking Mike Ferris's tours thoroughly it was a toss-up between Iceland and the Andes. Iceland had a short window of opportunity and unluckily it didn't suit us, at least at this stage, and Mara had a great desire to see Machu Picchu, so you don't have to be a rocket scientist to see what won out!

After all the organization was finalized and we had our compulsory 'Yellow Fever' shots – all payments made, passports checked, bills paid and arrangements made to look after the house we were ready to go.

So on Thurs. 02/10/2014 we climbed aboard the LAN CHILE Airbus, which after a very long flight, including a 4 hour stopover in Auckland – which involved all the usual boarding procedures - what a pain, landed us in Lima, Peru. As you can imagine I'm not overly fond of air travel – in particular departure/arrival procedures. Arrived in the evening and thankfully incoming passenger procedures were a breeze. We were picked up at the Airport and driven 20 or so K's to the hotel, again our luck was with us and we were upgraded to luxurious suite. We went for a walk looking for an ATM, no luck, back to the hotel for a drink and a snack - bar staff suggested an ante-pasta plate which turned out to be great and much too much, ended up leaving half of it.

### Fri 03/10/2014

Picked up in the morning, escorted to the airport and the young guy who was our, sort of, guide was exceptionally helpful and assisted in getting us some money out of an ATM and speedily through boarding procedures. From Lima we flew to Arequipa, again arrived without any hassles. Had to laugh during the flight, Mara sat beside Dutch person in the plane who thought she was a compatriot and it was quite amusing listening to them trying to communicate.

Didn't realize it until disembarking that 3 others who were part of the trip were also on the plane; Peter, Stewart and Ye. We were picked up without any incidents and driven to the La Gruta Hostel, which was to be home for the next three nights. Went for stroll around the area which was interesting, back to the Hostel for a drink and caught up with the others there and that's where we stayed. Another two participants; Ross & Sandra arrived whilst we were having dinner and all of us had a good chat.

Arequipa is a very attractive city of cathedrals, old Spanish buildings and town squares, all in a very picturesque valley surrounded by impressive mountains and volcanoes. The central square of every Peruvian town is called the Plaza de Armas, and the one in Arequipa is particularly notable. By the way, at 2,350 metres, we were already higher than Australia's highest mountain, Kosciusko.

### Sat 04/10/2014

I had a terrible night's sleep, my body clock was all over the place but still ended up sleeping in. Mike Ferris arrived during breakfast so, I guess, the tour was nearly underway. Might add that the trip was already taking its toll on Mara and as her back was playing up, organized a massage for her yesterday, but she was still uncomfortable. As a result I walked into the main Plaza - played the



tourist and ended up on a two hour touristy bus ride around the environs of Arequipa. Caught a taxi back to the Hotel, picked Mara up and went back to the Plaza where we ran into Peter, Stewart and Ye, who suggested a place for lunch on a balcony overlooking the Plaza, which we took up and enjoyed an Alpaca meat meal. We then walked down to the museum featuring the frozen mummies found in the Alps and actually saw Juanita, the mummified ice-maiden sacrificed on the peak of nearby Misti.

Back to the hostel for a beer or two and met up with others, a group decision was made to go back to the Plaza for dinner. During it we were very rudely interrupted by a commotion involving a horde of police - apparently we were drinking alcohol in contravention to local law which forbade drinking alcohol preceding an election, which was due to take place the next day. This didn't overly affect us but the restaurant apparently got into trouble, lucky we didn't speak Spanish and just let the whole matter pass over our heads. Spent the rest of the evening walking around town, then back to the hostel where we caught up with Matt & Megan who were also on our trip - only one missing now; Harald.

### **Sun 05/10/2014**

Woke up very refreshed which must have been the beer and still managed a bit of a sleep in. After breakfast we again caught a taxi into town and just wandered around for most of the time, wanted to have a look through the Cathedral, but would you believe it, was closed and on a Sunday. Just for the record the taxis were pretty ordinary, but very cheap, so why walk. Mara managed to get some things she forgot - i.e. Panadol, T-shirt, sunscreen and a jumper - no comment here on my part!!!! As we were getting into the taxi Harald rolled up, which meant that we were now all accounted for.



Again shared a few drinks until Mike & Geert, his Dutch partner in the venture and also the owner of the Hostel, outlined the trip details, etc., and got us to sign our lives away. Then back into town, all of us, for a large meal then back to the hotel and bed.

Persons on the trip:

Stewart & Ye (Pillion) – Honda Falcon NX400

Peter – Honda Falcon NX400

Harald - BMW F650GS (800cc twin).

Matt & Megan (Both riding) - Kawasaki KLR 650 & Honda Falcon NX400

Ross & Sandra (Both riding) - Kawasaki KLR 650 & Honda Falcon NX400

Mara & I (Pillion) - BMW F650GS (800cc twin). and of course,

Mike – Suzuki DR 650

### **Mon 06/10/2014**

Up at 6.00am, packed the bike for the first time, had breakfast and watched/waited while everyone else got ready. Didn't leave until approx 9.30am, had a good trip out of Arequipa, though the traffic was a bit chaotic and we had to get used to riding on the right hand side of the road. Mike had adopted the corner-man system and as most had been with him before this presented no obstacles. The roads/scenery got better the further we went out of town, but it was very hot though!

Might note at the first fuel stop, still in Arequipa, Mara wasn't feeling too well and got in the back-up vehicle and stayed there for the next 50Ks, this probably turned out a good idea as we got stuck at some major roadwork for quite a while and the heat was quite unbearable.

Back to the trip, the ride out of Arequipa was very enjoyable and wound its way out of the valley, past numerous mine sites through very desolate hilly country. Got to add that the road was excellent - heaps of great corners, etc. We did take it easy for our first day's ride, as we got used to the personalities of the bikes and the right-side of the road driving system. The trip to Moquegua illustrated how sparse and barren the landscape of the Andes was, as parts of the northern Atacama Desert there have never recorded a single drop of rainfall since measurements began - in all about 225Ks.



When we arrived there Mara was feeling quite ill and went to bed and stayed there. I went with the group to dinner which meant a 30 minute walk - best meal so far. Hotel was very nice but the town had the reputation of being the laziest town in Peru, but they really know how to party - with the dogs barking, fireworks and the ongoing cacophony of celebrations all night we hardly got any sleep.

#### **Tues 07/10/2014**

It was quite warm when we left Moquequa, then gradually as we climbed it cooled off. Must admit that the road, for the whole day, was fantastic, a long, sweeping blast across the Andes to the east on a beautiful new highway, climbing and twisting and turning for over 300k. We were all a little surprised at how quickly we climbed and rapidly noticed the difficulty in breathing – particularly when you got off the bike and took a few steps! Made it up to 4800 meters, and it was bloody cold, plus we needed half a diamox for the altitude.

Mara still not 100%, so she was suffering. Had trout for lunch, which contrary to my usual dietary preferences, I really enjoyed.

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