

**FEBRUARY
2026**

NEWSLETTER



Jenny Gillam,
Karuah River Rally 2006



**BMW
MOTORRAD**

**BMW Touring Club
of New South Wales**



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president@bmwtcnsw.org.au

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secretary@bmwtcnsw.org.au

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NEWSLETTER ASSISTANTS

Tony Conliffe
Tony Wilton

Club Website:

www.bmwtcnsw.org.au

HISTORIC REGISTRARS

North Coast	Damian O'Toole	0419 296 939 nthcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Central West	Alan Pennykid	0427 393 093 centralwestregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Central Coast	Craig Hancock	0419 557 014 centralcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
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Sydney South	Graham Johns	0419 281 875 sydneysthregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au
Far South Coast	Steve Treloar	0439 739 876 farsthcoastregister@bmwtcnsw.org.au

REGIONAL RIDE CO-ORDINATORS

ACT	Dave Ramsay	02 6278 3895
Central Coast	Mick Furchert	0414 713 359
Central West	Marie Pennykid	0428 393 093
Hunter	Rob Tiedeman	0425 777 461
South Coast	Tony Schmidt	0407 494 229

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.
Bathurst Social Sip	Members gather anytime after 6:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month for a chat and something to eat. Venue is Jack Duggans Hotel(the Irish Pub), George St BATHURST

CLUB POINT SCORE

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



Ride & Events Calendar

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

Regular Events

Regular Events				
Wed WeeklyMeet at Jerry's Kulnura every Wednesday @ 10am		Henning 0457 034 488 Mick F 0414 713 359		
2 nd Sunday each month	Coffee morning and ride from Bolwarra	Rob Teideman 0425 777461		
2 nd Sunday each month	Central West/ Bathurst area ride day -Destination decided for the following month at each ride.	Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093		
once each month	Far South Coast (Bega Valley)	Steve Treloar 0439739876		
RUN WEEKENDS MAY VARY message me if you want to be on the text list.				
DECEMBER				
Sun 7 th	Central West Ride Day Ride. Meet at Nikkis Café on William in Bathurst from 9:30am (coffee, maybe breakfast and pre-ride chat). (<i>1st Sunday as 2nd Sunday is Xmas party weekend</i>) Decide the ride on the day.		Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093	6
Sat 13 th	BMWTCNSW Christmas Party @ Gundagai		Justin Dorward 0425 777 461	10
Wed 31 st	New Year's gathering at Micalong Creek via Wee Jasper NSW. See https://reflectionsolidays.com.au/parks/wee-jasper to book & pay daily camp fee (also tel 02 6227 9626). BYO everything.		Rob Lovett 0417 267 425	10
JANUARY 2026				
Sun 11 th	Central West Ride Day Ride. Meet at Nikkis Café on William in Bathurst from 9:30am (coffee, maybe breakfast and pre-ride chat).		Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093	6
Sat 24 th Sun 25 th	KRR Recon Run – Saturday arvo drinks & dinner at Bank Hotel Dungog. Accommodation - Bank Hotel (02 4992 1701), Tall Timbers Motel (02 4992 1547) or Royal Hotel (0418 443 398).		Rob Lovett 0417 267 425	10
Wed 29 th	Club Meeting 7.30pm. Last Wednesday of the month.Online and physical meetings at the hall. https://tinyurl.com/BMWTCNSW-General-Meetings		Alison Ashby (Acting)	4/6
Thurs 30 th	HunterSocialSip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mozzie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 6pm, (Last Thurs of the month)		Rob Tiedeman 0425 777 461	2
FEBRUARY 2026				
Sun 8 th	Central West Ride Day Ride. Meet at Nikkis Café on William in Bathurst from 9:30am (coffee, maybe breakfast and pre-ride chat).		Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093	6
Wed 11 th	Bathurst/Central West Social Sip 2 nd Wed of the month @ Jack Duggans Hotel, Bathurst from 6:30pm		Marie Pennykid 0428 393 093	2
Thurs 12 th	South Coast Social Sip: 2 nd Thursday of the month &the location is The North NowraTavern 182 Illaroo Road North Nowra at 6pm		Tony Schmidt 0407 494 229	2
Fri 13 th - Sun 15 th	Karuah River Rally – Frying Pan Creek campground, Chichester State Forest via Dungog (15k dirt) & \$30 for badge but BYO all else. See club website and Facebook for further detail.		Rob Lovett 0417 267 425	10
Tues 24 th	Canberra Social Sip 4 th Tuesday of the month. This month at ???		Dave Ramsey 0427 264 196	2
Wed 25 th	Club Meeting 7.30pm. Last Wednesday of the month.Online and physical meetings at the hall. https://tinyurl.com/BMWTCNSW-General-Meetings		Alison Ashby (Acting)	4/6
Thurs 26 th	HunterSocialSip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mozzie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 6pm, (Last Thurs of the month)		Rob Tiedeman 0425 777 461	2
MARCH 2026				
Fri 6 th Sun 8 th	Cold Flame Rally - Native Dog Flat COBBERAS Vic 3990 - on Limestone Road between Benambra and The Barry Way. Entry: \$20 donation.			10

Sun 8 th	Central West Ride Day Ride. Meet at Nikkis Café on William in Bathurst from 9:30am (coffee, maybe breakfast and pre-ride chat).	Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093	6
Wed 11 th	Bathurst/Central West Social Sip 2 nd Wed of the month @ Jack Duggans Hotel, Bathurst from 6:30pm	Marie Pennykid 0428 393 093	2
Thurs 12 th	South Coast Social Sip: 2 nd Thursday of the month & the location is The North Nowra Tavern 182 Illaroo Road North Nowra at 6pm	Tony Schmidt 0407 494 229	2
Sun 15 th	National Motor Show - National Transport Museum, 69 Rifle Range Road, Inverell. Tickets \$10 adult - \$5 Child	Rob Edgar 0408 161 107	6
Wed 25 th Fri 27 th	BMW National Motorrad Rally - The BMW TC of NSW is excited to announce the 2026 BMW National Motorrad Rally and will take place in Mudgee. tinyurl.com/nationalmotorradrally	Marie Pennykid 0428 393 093	10
APRIL 2026			
Wed 8 th	Bathurst/Central West Social Sip 2 nd Wed of the month @ Jack Duggans Hotel, Bathurst from 6:30pm	Marie Pennykid 0428 393 093	2
Thurs 9 th	South Coast Social Sip: 2 nd Thursday of the month & the location is The North Nowra Tavern 182 Illaroo Road North Nowra at 6pm	Tony Schmidt 0407 494 229	2
Sun 12 th	Central West Ride Day Ride. Meet at Nikkis Café on William in Bathurst from 9:30am (coffee, maybe breakfast and pre-ride chat).	Alan Pennykid 0427 393 093	6
Fri 24 th Sun 26 th	The Outfit Rally - Anzac Day weekend To be held at Carters Beach, approx 13km from Strathmerton, Victoria, on the banks of the Murray River		10
Fri 24 th Sun 26 th	Autumn Leaf Rally – On the grounds of the Tumorrana Hall. (About 35km East of Tumut on Wee Jasper Road) Gymkhana Saturday arvo, live band in the hall, fully catered BYO own grog		10
Wed 29 th	Club Meeting 7.30pm. Last Wednesday of the month. Online and physical meetings at the hall. https://tinyurl.com/BMWTCNSW-General-Meetings	Alison Ashby (Acting)	4/6
Thurs 30 th	Hunter Social Sip: Dinner meeting at Hexham Mozzie Club (Bowling Club) Drinks from 6pm, (Last Thurs of the month)	Rob Tiedeman 0425 777 461	2

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 please contact Michael Sarah.

If you would like to suggest an event (a rally etc) published for the clubs event calendar (eg so that you can use your Historic registered bike) please contact Steve Treloar with the appropriate details.

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



The KRR Recon Run at Dungog was very well attended this year

PRESIDENTS REPORT

February 2026

Since the previous report in December 2025, the Christmas and New Year period has concluded, and I trust members enjoyed a safe and enjoyable festive season.

The New Year's gathering at Micalong Creek was well supported and provided a relaxed opportunity for members to reconnect following the holiday break.

The Karuah Recon Run has just taken place last weekend, leading into the Karuah River Rally scheduled for the second weekend of February. These events remain important fixtures on the Club calendar, and thanks are extended to those assisting with their organisation.

Preparations for the National Motorrad Rally in March are progressing well. Entries are encouraged, and additional member assistance will be required to support the running of the event across the rally days.

If you have any ideas for runs or activities that you would like included in the newsletter, please forward those suggestions to Michael Sarah at the Vice President email address.

Thank you to all members for their continued support of the Club and its activities.

Steve Treloar

**President,
BMW Touring Club of New South Wales**

BMWTCNSW General Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: 26th November 2025

Chairperson: Justin Dorward (Secretary)

Meeting Opened: 7.33pm

In Person: Justin Dorward (Secretary), Ed Chapman (MCC of NSW Delegate), Tony Conliffe (Newsletter), Dave Beers, Mal & Marianne Cattermole (Assets & Archives), Michael Sarah (Vice President), Stan Kucera, Warren Buffett, Bob Edgar, Mick Goodwin, Bob Whitehead, Bill Sparks.

Via Zoom: Alison Ashby (Treasurer), Chuck Hamilton (BMWCA Delegate), Trevor Dean, Andrew McPhadden, Marie Pennykid (Membership Secretary).

Visitors: None

New members: None

Apologies: Steve Treloar (President), Alan Pennykid (Editor), CJ Burns.

October Minutes

Moved: Justin Dorward

Seconded: Bob Madell

Carried.

President's Report:

Steve Treloar

As per newsletter.

Secretary Correspondence & Report

Justin Dorward

Email: Newsletters / magazines from interstate.

PO Box: Bank statements, RTS mail.

Outgoing mail: Certificates from the Awards Night were sent to some of the recipients.

Treasurer's Report:

Alison Ashby

October 2025

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Regular bank balance at end of month \$4230.04

Savings account balance at end of month \$41038.35

TOTAL IN BANK \$45258.39

SUMMARY

Total Income \$7610.34

Total Expenses \$12851.15

60th Anniversary was an excellent night. A big thanks to the staff at the Black Gold. This was the biggest expense and income for October. There is still T-shirts and other merchandise that we will have available at the Christmas Party.

The National Rally entries are coming in, and this also will be a great event.

Please remember to put your name and XMAS25 when depositing into the club account and email me if you have any dietary requirement. The National Motor-

rad Rally description is NMR26 email Marie and follow the directions on the flyers.

Membership Secretary Report

Marie Pennykid

Seven new members this month, including someone re-signing-up from twenty years ago. Nearing 400 members.

MCC of NSW Report

Ed Chapman & Bob Madell

A survey about motorcycle gear was posted by Ed on the Member's FB page today & members are asked to complete it.

Bob adds he has emailed another survey from Transport for NSW. Also, a Bells Line of Road survey is open for responses.

BMW Clubs Australia Report

Chuck Hamilton

Chuck has reached out to two of the BMW dealer network so far, to improve our working relationships. The response thus far has been positive & they are happy to put up posters of our major events. On how to get a professional poster done, Woz reminds us that some years ago BMW Corporate were able to do some graphic design for Clubs.

Chuck adds that in June 2026 a new 400 model will be available.

Chuck met with Benedict Allar* from BMW Classic earlier this month, where support for the Nationals in March was discussed.

General business

Bala's Photo Album

Justin Dorward

Justin mentions Paul Evan's idea to put together a combined photo album for Bala. Bob gives a brief update on his situation.

Christmas Party (13th Dec)

Justin Dorward

RSVP date is being extended. Pay your \$40 & RSVP asap. Alison adds 36 people have paid so far.

Karuah River Rally & Recon Run

Alison Ashby / Marie Pennykid

Recon Run - 24th & 25th January.

Rally - 13th - 15th February.

Flyer in the newsletter. Rob has reported the badges are underway.

National Motorrad Rally (25th - 27th March)

Justin Dorward

Justin promotes members to sign-up and get their payment in while the early-bird prices are on.

Marie adds 45 paid entries. Tracy Cahill-Taylor has volunteered to assist as well. Justin adds Steve will have a lot more information to distribute very soon, and volunteers will be called for in due course.

Observer to the BMWCA AGM

Justin Dorward & Alison Ashby

Alison explains the \$1000 budget each year for our Observer to attend the BMWCA AGM.

Motion 1: To approve sending an Observer to the BMWCA AGM in February each year.

Moved: Bob Madell

Seconded: Justin Dorward

Carried unanimously.

Motion 2: To consider the Observer budget of up to \$1000, indexed to CPI, as an ordinary expense.

Moved: Alison Ashby

Seconded: Bob Madell

Carried unanimously.

Dave Beers shares stories from his latest Vietnam motorcycle trip. It started with ten riders but finished with only five. It was an eight day trip on the Ho Chi Min Road.

Meeting Closed at 8.49pm

Acronyms and abbreviations used:

BMWCA: BMW Clubs Australia

FB: Facebook

MCC of NSW: Motorcycle Council of NSW

Financials for November and December 2025

November 2025	
ACCOUNT BALANCES	\$
Regular bank balance	\$7,090.79
Savings Account balance	\$41,028.66
TOTAL IN BANK	\$48,119.45
Summary	
Total Income	\$4,665.31
Total Expenses	\$1,804.25
Total Interest earned	\$0.31

December 2025	
ACCOUNT BALANCES	\$
Regular bank balance	\$3,769.50
Savings Account balance	\$41,029.03
TOTAL IN BANK	\$44,798.53
Summary	
Total Income	\$2,305.00
Total Expenses	\$5,625.92
Total Interest earned	\$0.37

POSITION VACANT

After almost four years of service, Justin Dorward has stepped down from the role of Secretary of the BMW Touring Club of NSW due to increased work commitments.

During his time in the role, Justin brought order, consistency, and care to the day-to-day running of the Club.

He kept records sharp, communication clear, and governance steady. Much of the work happened quietly, behind the scenes, yet it shaped how the Club functioned month to month.

The Committee and members extend sincere thanks for the time, energy, and personal commitment Justin gave to the Club.

His contribution has left the Club in a strong position, and his efforts are appreciated by all who served alongside him.

We wish Justin well and look forward to seeing him on future rides and events, this time without a secre-

Important Notice for Club Account Deposits

When making deposits to the club account, please ensure your name and the event-specific description (e.g. MSHIP & Number if known, XMAS26, FCR, AWARDS, REGALIA, NMR26) are included. This assists with accurate account reconciliation. **Note** that some financial institutions may not display your name on our statements (e.g., A ASHBY NRM26).

For all deposit-related queries, contact the appropriate person:

Treasurer: 0422 077 583

treasurer@bmwtcnsw.org.au

Membership: 0428 393 093 membership@bmwtcnsw.org.au

Additional Notes:

- Thank you to Justin Dorward for organising the Christmas Party in Gundagai another fantastic event with 53 attendees.
- National Motorrad Rally, entries are being received, and the event promises to be excellent. Check out the club webpage for information and regular updates.
- For National Motorrad Rally deposits, use the description please include your name and **NMR26** and email Marie,. For the Karuah River Rally, please include your name and **KRR26** in the deposit reference **Note:** this is not a prepaid event and cash on the day is preferred.

Best wishes for the New Year

Alison Ashby

Treasurer

tary's inbox to manage.

If you would like to assist ,
please contact me

We need to share the load of running the Club

Steve Treloar

President

BMWTCNSW



Welcome to the new members:

Thanks for joining our club, we look forward to meeting you at some of the events.

- Adrian Clout (Kelso)
- Andrew Miller (Moonbah)
- Andy Furniss (Manly)
- Brian Moller (Sancrox)
- Darrel Finnerty (Pymble)
- Deanne Marr (Toronto)
- Dylan Mc Elligott (Picnic Point)
- Gary Goode (Mount Warrigal)
- Graeme & Colleen Jones (Bega)
- Jack Halaby (Annandale)
- Jeffrey Fishlock (Harrington Park)
- Lisa Drayton (Teralba)
- Peter Cormack (Young)
- Rigel Best (Doonside)
- Robert Malpas (Waratah West)
- Sandesh Satpute (The Ponds)
- Stephen Beattie (North Strathfield)
- Stewart Fuller (COORANBONG)

HYBRID MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

TOONGABBIE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ZOOM

The *BMW Touring Club of NSW* hosts its monthly general meetings at the Toongabbie Community Centre and via the popular cloud teleconferencing platform **Zoom**. It is an intuitive and simple platform.

<https://tinyurl.com/BMWTCNSW-General-Meetings>

Please use your name when logging in, instead of any aliases or nicknames. **The same link will be used each month, so feel free to bookmark it in your web browser.**

The General Monthly Meeting is 7.30pm on the final Wednesday of the month, except December. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Justin Dorward, Secretary, BMW Touring Club of NSW



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BMW Touring Club of NSW

49th KARUAH RIVER RALLY

13 –14 - 15 February 2026

**Frying Pan Creek Campsite off Frying Pan Road, Chichester
State Forest, via Dungog NSW**

Dear Motorcyclist. The BMWTC NSW invites you to the 49th Karuah River Rally at the usual site about 31 km north of Dungog via the Monkerai and Main Creek Roads or the Wangat Trig Road past the Chichester Dam turnoff. Check our Website or the Bank Hotel Dungog for a map. There's about 14k of (reasonable) dirt from either direction. Both roads will be signposted. **The Main Creek – Frying Pan Road is now open – if heavy rain use this.**

Entry is \$30 and BYO. Supplies are available in Dungog where there is much to see and do. Rally awards and raffle prizes on Saturday afternoon, and the site has male and female toilets.

Note - you don't have to own a BMW.

Contact Rob Lovett on 0417 267 425 (leave a message) or email robr100r@gmail.com - please put Karuah in subject line. See also www.bmwtcnsw.org.au.

NOTE – The rally site is reasonably isolated so please ensure you account for this in terms of your health and any medical requirements.

AND NOTE – If extreme conditions require us to change the rally location, we'll try and give you as much warning as possible – check our Facebook and Webpages closer to the time. The alternative venue will also be signposted from the rally site and from the Bank Hotel.

PLEASE VACATE IF REQUESTED TO DO SO – YOUR REFUSAL WILL JEOPARDISE THE RALLY (we hope relocation will be unlikely).

The BMWTC NSW acknowledges the valuable and longstanding support of the Forestry Corporation of NSW in providing us with the Chichester State Forest campsite. Rally participants are asked to respect and protect these valuable facilities and access roads.

The standard of behaviour is left to the individual – we ask you not to spoil it for others



BMW Motorcycle Enthusiasts of Australia, the BMW Touring Club of NSW are excited to host the BMW Clubs Australia Club National Motorrad Rally. Join us for an unforgettable experience in beautiful Mudgee, Mid-Week to escape from the usual crowds.

Event Details

Dates: Wednesday, 25 March – Friday, 27 March 2026

Location: Riverside Caravan Park – Event Headquarters, 22 Short St, Mudgee

Contact Information

Event Contact: Steve Treloar, President, BMW Touring Club of NSW Phone: 0439 739 876

Registration

To register, simply scan the QR code provided or complete the registration form below and email it to membership@bmwtcnsw.org.au

Costs per Person

- Entry fee including badge and welcome pack \$65.00

Optional extra

- Thursday night gala dinner at Club Mudgee. Dress code is smart casual \$65.00
- Thursday and Friday morning Breakfast pack (Bacon & Egg roll) \$25.00
Supplied by Mudgee Mens Shed.

Bank Details

BMW Touring Club of NSW

BSB: 032173 Acc: 406259

DESCRIPTION: "NMR26 + YOUR NAME"

Amount Owed _____

Paid Date _____

See the BMW Touring Club Website event page for details and accommodation options.

<https://www.bmwtcnsw.org.au/>

✂-----

BMW National Motorrad Rally 2026 Registration form			
Name:			
Email Address:		Phone No:	
Pillion/Partner Name:			
Emergency Contact: Name & Phone No:			
Special Dietary Requirements:			
Member of a BMW Motorrad Club? State/Branch			
Other Motorcycle Club?			
Where are you traveling from? Town/state			
How are you travelling: Motorcycle / Sidecar / Other			
Description	Cost Per person	Quantity	Total
Entry fee includes badge	\$65.00		
Thursday night gala dinner (optional)	\$65.00		
Breakfast pack (optional)	\$25.00		
Bank Transfer/Cash	Total amount owed \$		

Paid Cash/ Direct Deposit/Cheque

Date _____

The Future of Motorcycling in Australia

Why aren't as many new riders coming through? You would think that with a growing population the numbers of new riders would be increasing rather than diminishing. I was idly checking out a few motorcycle related videos on YouTube when I came across an American who was talking about the downward spiral of the motorcycle scene in the USA. Seems like this trend is happening in the UK and Europe as well so I did a bit of research on this topic since it appears to be happening here in Australia too. Here are my thoughts about this phenomena that seem to be common across the board.

Generational change

When one looks around at the current demographic most riders these days are in their fifties, sixties and in my case in their seventies. Most of the current members of the BMWTCNSW are the same people who joined decades ago. On a recent visit to the pie shop at Robertson there were about fifty bikes, mostly owned by greybeards like myself. A handful of young guys on sports bikes were the exception. Smaller numbers and older riders are attending rallies. Back in the seventies and eighties hundreds of riders attended rallies but today a gathering of fifty riders is remarkable. When I started riding back in the early seventies, passing riders would stop if you were on the side of road in case you were broken down. This rarely happens today due to the expectation that everyone has a mobile phone to call for assistance.

Lifestyle changes

The current generation is exposed to technology that provides alternate entertainment as never before. They are embracing the virtual world, online gaming and a seismic shift towards social media. Rather than experience the social life of motorcycling in the real world it seems that they socialise more online via chat, communicate via SMS and use video hookup rather than meet face to face these days. Besides that, most parents who used to ride (but gave up due to raising a family or work commitments for example) discourage their kids from riding, citing the danger while forgetting the pleasure they had from our sport.

Barriers to entry into the motorcycle life style

Media sensationalises the dangers of motorcycling, nearly always blaming the rider when reporting incidents and accidents involving motorcycles and cars. The police and accident investigation teams analyse the accident scene, interview witnesses, take measure-

ments and photos but the results of any investigation never seems to be reported to the public. If there is a motorcycle involved in an accident the media always seems to distort the story to lay blame on the motorcycle rider. Motorcycles are no longer a cheap transport alternative to cars due to the high price of new bikes (compared to cars). As much as I would like to own a new BMW R1300 RT the price (around \$48,000) is way beyond the reach of my finances. Costs such as registration and insurance are comparable to what is paid for a car. Tolls are no less for a bike than a car despite them using less road space, causing less damage to road surfaces than larger vehicles, and (in most cases) using less fuel and causing less emissions than cars. On top of the cost of the bike factor in the costs of bike maintenance, rider training, helmet, jacket, riding pants, wet weather gear, boots and gloves and the costs mount up pretty quickly.

Once, bike riders were seen as "bad boys" and were considered outlaws. Here in Australia in the seventies, bike riders imitated the "one percent" image of Harley Davidson chopper riders (a la The Wild Ones and Easy Rider) and their loud bikes, leather jackets complete with patches were generally given a wide berth by the public. Today that image has been legislated out due to the criminal activities committed by bikie gangs (a good thing) but that connection doesn't exactly improve the image that the public has of bike riders. Owners of bikes with loud exhaust systems today aren't looked at as being cool but instead are thought of as a nuisance - the main reason for the sixty speed limit along the Old Pacific Highway.

Industry struggles

The high purchase price of a bike and expensive servicing costs are making bikes less attractive. Rents, insurance, wages and the cost of carrying spare parts are increasing overheads for bike shops forcing the smaller ones out of business. A small car costing the same as many current bikes can carry your mates and lots of stuff, keep you dry when it rains and doesn't bring you to the notice of the highway patrol in the same way a bike does. Stricter emission laws result in bigger capacity bikes to compensate for performance losses which, in turn, translates to faster (and heavier) bikes. The trend towards more electronic aids means the manufacturers' development costs need to be factored in to the price of every new bike, ratcheting up the price. Motorcycle riders receive no support or encouragement from government or motoring organisations despite the obvious advantages of taking less space on roads, using less parking space and putting out lower emissions.

The Law

Speed limits are gradually being lowered across the state and the proliferation of speed cameras can be seen as a reason to forgo the motorcycle and buy a car instead. Lane filtering has recently become legal although most car drivers don't seem to be aware of this. Many drivers become angry, intolerant and even aggressive when bikes filter to the front of a traffic queue even though riders have no negative impact on the drivers' progress. Aggressive law enforcement is probably one of the main reasons for the growth of the adventure motorcycle segment over the past years.

Conclusion:-

It would be a shame to lose the social aspects of motorcycling such as culture, lifestyle, identity, and camaraderie. Motorcycling is a kind of therapy and stress relief for many bike owners - it sure is for me. I have been riding motorcycles since 1972 and have met riders who decades later are still my best friends, even though most have dispersed to other places in Australia to live. I enjoy servicing my own bikes as a hobby. It gives me a sense of purpose and is a fun way to enjoy my retirement. At least twice a year I get together with some mates and we go for a ten day ride somewhere in Australia to enjoy our bikes, catch up on what's been going on in our lives and to reminisce

about the great trips we have been fortunate to enjoy in the best country in the world.

If you agree or disagree with any of my opinion here feel free to get in touch.

Chuck Hamilton

A large photograph of a rider on a BMW GS motorcycle, performing a wheelie on a dirt road. The rider is wearing a helmet and riding gear. The background shows a rocky landscape under a blue sky.

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Earls Fork Odyssey

Mal MacIlwraith of the Toowoomba branch of HMCCQ had organized a 5 day tour of S.E Qld for BMWs with Earls Fork suspension. 5 members of the Coffs Harbour Motorcycle Restorers, decided to join them. For this Coffs group it would be 9 day Odyssey.

Day 1- Coffs to Tenterfield - Lance Gilbert,(R69) John Kossen ,(R69S), Jack Blaxland (R69S) & Rob Popplewell (R60) departed the Halls road servo around 9am and picked up Holger Wilrath (R69S), at Coramba.

About 20ks north of Grafton Lance's bike expired with a terminal mechanical issue. As Lance was at the tail we were unaware of his misfortune and rode on to Casino, our lunch stop. Lance abandoned R69 at a nearby farm, and unable to raise us on mobile, hitched a ride to another farm near Casino. Lance now able to phone us, so John rode to collect him. He rode pillion on to Tenterfield, our night stop.

Day 2 – Tenterfield to Toowoomba – Frost on the bikes in the morning, but a nice clear sunny day. Lance would stay with us to Toowoomba then think about his options. We had a pre-arranged meet with Brad Wiseman at Applethorpe and there Brad offered one of his bikes to Lance, an R75/5 engine in /2 Earls fork frame. Of course he accepted and we all rode to Brad's place. Jack had a steering issue with his R69S and this was sorted in Brad's comprehensive workshop. John, Jack, Holger & I rode on to Toowoomba. Brad & Lance would join us to-morrow.

Day 3 – Toowoomba to Toowoomba – via Clifton. We gathered at Picnic point lookout and met the other Earls Fork riders. Now about 14 Earls Fork models, plus a dozen or more other bikes who'd come for a look. A few joined us for the day. I was surprised to recognize Ian Kite, a friend I hadn't seen for many years. Grantham was our morning tea stop and refueling, but the servo was closed! This made the next stage an issue for some riders. Only one rider had to get roadside fuel before Clifton. No, it wasn't me! Lunch was at next town, Nobby, but pub was so crowded we opted for takeaways from a cafe down the road and ate "al fresco" in a reserve nearby.

It was a very windy day, but otherwise fine.

Day 4 - Toowoomba to Maidenwell – Set off in ideal riding weather. Mal McIlwraith, a local, led us

around the outskirts of Toowoomba to the road north. At Carbalah an historic gathering of Ford cars would have been worth a look but crowds of people and parking had us ride on, though one rider did stop. At the Esk turn-off Bill saw something fall from my bike. It was a cap nut from swing arm. I retrieved it but didn't have tool to tighten it and could only make it hand tight till Esk. Here Brad produced the appropriate tool. Morning tea at Esk. The bakery is recommended, the tastiest pies one could hope for. On the next stage Drago's R51/3 had a flat rear tyre. A local resident gave him help and Brad supplied a new tube. Because



the Maidenhead pub had limited accommodation, 3 or 4 riders had booked into Cooyar pub, about 20ks prior to Maidenhead. The lady publican said she was short staffed and couldn't accommodate them! Our Coffs group wasn't affected. A phone call to Maidenhead and publican said he'd make space. It was cosy on the verandah for the 6 riders billeted there. As I needed a power point for my CPAP machine,(and there wasn't one on verandah), I had the privilege of a room on my own. We had a good night here.

Day- 5 - Maidenhead to Biggenden – Cloudy but no rain, light breeze. The cafe over the road opened early to give us breakfast. The morning stage was to Kingaroy via Bunya mountains but 5 riders opted for a more direct route. Kingaroy was supposed to be morning tea but by time Bunya riders came in it was lunch. About to move out when Brad realized he'd filled with Diesel!! Had to decant. I seem to recall someone doing that on a Coffs club ride, Stuarts Point I think. The clouds thickened and light rain started. At Murgon we donned our wet weather gear. Lance's gear was still attached to his bike at the Grafton farm. He scoured the local shops for something suitable but only came up with garbage bags. The rain became general and even my

good gear was letting a bit in. Hubies R50 expired a few Ks from Biggenden. Problem was wet weather electrical and as the R50 had electronic ignition even Lance couldn't get it going. R50 was towed into Biggenden. Lance was thoroughly soaked and took all his clothes to local laundry and used dryer. Holger and I had wet gear hanging all around our unit.

Day-6 – Biggenden to Tin Can Bay – Cloudy but otherwise fine. Had to use a narrow winding detour out of Biggenden due road works. Went into the town of Wooroowin to see a pioneer village and museum but both were closed. Sasha found one rear shock of his R60 had come loose and suffered some damage. Lance was able to make a repair good enough for the R60 to continue. Ride now continued along interesting roads to Maryborough where Mal wanted a group photo in front of a building in the local cemetery!! Rain came as the shoot ended and we dashed to hotel for lunch.

We rode to Tin Can Bay via Rainbow beach and as rain had ceased this was a nice easy ride. Lance had booked us into a motel, but the room was too small and no other rooms at motel. But they had a duplex house next door we could have at a small extra cost. We took it and it was luxury, even the bikes had a nice garage.

Day 7 – Tin Can Bay to Kilcoy – Sunny and mild with light breeze. Breakfast at a nearby bakery cafe. Wayne had a batch of 2026 HMCCQ calendars he had been trying to flog to us without much success, but was able to sell 8 to other cafe patrons.

Next stop was a friend of Mal's at Lagoon Pocket. A house on a hill with views in all directions. I was a bit



jaded and had a half hour just lying on grass, just what I needed. Mary Cairncross lookout was our next destination but between here and there was a narrow winding road with a *very very* steep hill. Bill had chosen too high a gear and stalled in front of Drago and I. We got around but too steep to stop and help. Bill did manage to get going again. Didn't make it to Mary Cairncross but did see Murphy's lookout. Here Mal gave me fuel to ensure I made it to Kilcoy.

This was the last day of the official tour and we had a fine final group meal at Exchange hotel.

Day 8 – Kilcoy to Boonah – Fine sunny morning. The Coffs group were now heading home. Lance was going to Brad's where Rhonda & Glenn would collect him tomorrow. There was some discussion whether we should try to make Coffs today, but there was no need to hurry, so Boonah was chosen. Sasha who knew the area well offered to guide us on short cut to Boonah. This he did very well, saving us much time and K's.



Day 9 – Boonah to Coffs Harbour – Fine sunny morning. Rode to Rathdowney for breakfast. Here I discovered I didn't have my wallet, panic!! Then remembered I'd put it under my pillow. Rang motel and they had it. I returned to Boonah while others rode on to Casino. I caught up with them there. We had an uneventful ride home from Casino.

The 5 days of the Odyssey covered 709miles (1141kms). The Coffs group 9 days covered 1465miles(2358kms), by my odometer from home to home again.

Rob Popplewell.

Australian MotoGP News:

The Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix has been a cornerstone event at Phillip Island since 1997 and is recognised globally as one of the most iconic races on the MotoGP calendar.

Bass Coast Shire Council maintains a strong partnership with the Australian Grand Prix Corporation through a 10-year agreement, currently in place until 2026.

With the Victorian Government now negotiating the next contract, critical infrastructure upgrades at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit will be required to secure the event's long-term future in Victoria. Council is fully supportive of retaining MotoGP on Phillip Island and is calling on the State Government to commit the necessary investment.

People can go to this website for further information.
<https://saveourrace.good.do/saveourmotogp/>

For Sale:

- R60 BMW stainless steel exhaust pipes and balance pipe. Used, but hardly. \$500.
- K100rt spider fairing bracket. \$60.
- Tail light suit /5,6 &7. \$50.
- R100 speedo & tacho. Were working normally when removed from bike. \$500
- 1970's /5 tank bag. I didn't find it very useful, probably why Grahame sold it to me! Offers.

Contact Rob Popplewell, 0402 825 924
or repopplewell@bigpond.com



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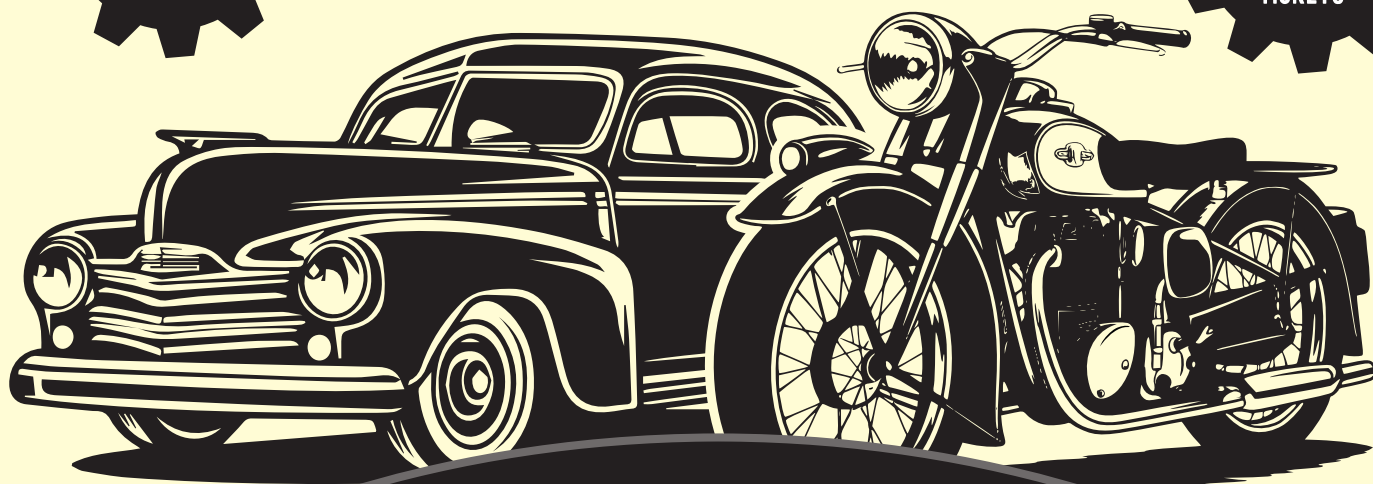
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Beating the Monday Blues

I had a hectic weekend doing family stuff so didn't have the opportunity to take one of the old Beemers out for an early morning weekend run. Monday dawned and looked like being a nice cool day with no rain forecast. It was unusual for the middle of January so I was going to take advantage of the cool weather and go for a wobble. Since replacing the fifty year old Bosch starter motor on the R75/6 with a Valeo unit, fitting a new 400 CCA gel battery and fitting the Tri Spark electronic ignition it has been starting, idling and running better than ever before. Despite its 220,000 kms it still has the original bottom end although I have replaced the big end bearings and cam chain. During the bike's life I have upgraded the heads with new valve seats, guides, valves and springs so as to run unleaded fuel. Not unusual for a bike of its age, the gearbox and final drive have been overhauled with new bearings, seals and shift cassette springs.

So to continue, I left Sydney on the R75/6 at 7am and had a quick run along the M4 to Penrith. There were hardly any cars on the road due to the holiday period which was a real change from the usual congested conditions. Turning down Mulgoa Road I headed south down to Wallacia and stopped at the Horse Float cafe just out of Silverdale for an early morning coffee. Those girls make a damn great flat white. Leaving the horse float in my mirrors I headed down along Silverdale Road through Thirlmere (noting that the 'Off The Rail' cafe is still closed), Buxton and Balmoral then to Hilltop and across the Hume Motorway onto the old Hume Highway and a right turn onto Old South Rd to skirt around Bowral. There were no cars on the Illawarra Highway so I made good time and arrived at the Robertson pie shop at 11am. When I rolled in I parked in amongst maybe twenty bikes in the car park and chatted to some of their owners.

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While having a pepper pie with sauce washed down with a coffee milk (mmmm) I got talking to a guy named Bruce who told me about doing the big lap last year on his Tenere. I have been fortunate to have travelled most of Australia's highways in my fifty four years on two wheels but have never ridden from Darwin down to Perth.

Just before midday Matt on his K100RS, Greg on his Bandit, Alex on his R1200 GS and Rob on the Tiger arrived and we sat on the veranda and shot the breeze, chewed the fat and bashed our gums for a while. At 2pm we decided to get going so while Alex, Matt and Greg headed off towards Jamberoo and Rob rode off home to Moss Vale I peeled off to the east and took the winding road down the escarpment to Albion Park then blasted up the Princes Highway to Mt Ousley. After turning left onto Picton Road it was about twenty minutes before I took a right onto the Hume Motorway and rode the home leg to Pyrmont up the M5 and then the M8 which took me all the way to the Anzac Bridge, a couple of kms from home. Sure, the cost of tolls is eye watering but it beats sitting in stationary Sydney traffic in the heat in riding gear while the air cooled engine slowly melts.

Unfortunately I will be overseas when the Karuah River Rally is on but I'm looking forward to the National BMW Motorrad Rally in Mudgee at the end of March. Just have to decide which of my old BMWs I will be taking

Chuck Hamilton

2026 Karuah River Rally Recon Run

The Recon run this year was very well attended, though the weather (temp) sucked as usual. Our group dinner where we tried to solve all the worlds problems was held on the balcony of the pub. Very nice with a reasonable breeze most of the time. Always good to meet up with people you haven't seen for some time (and new people even)



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