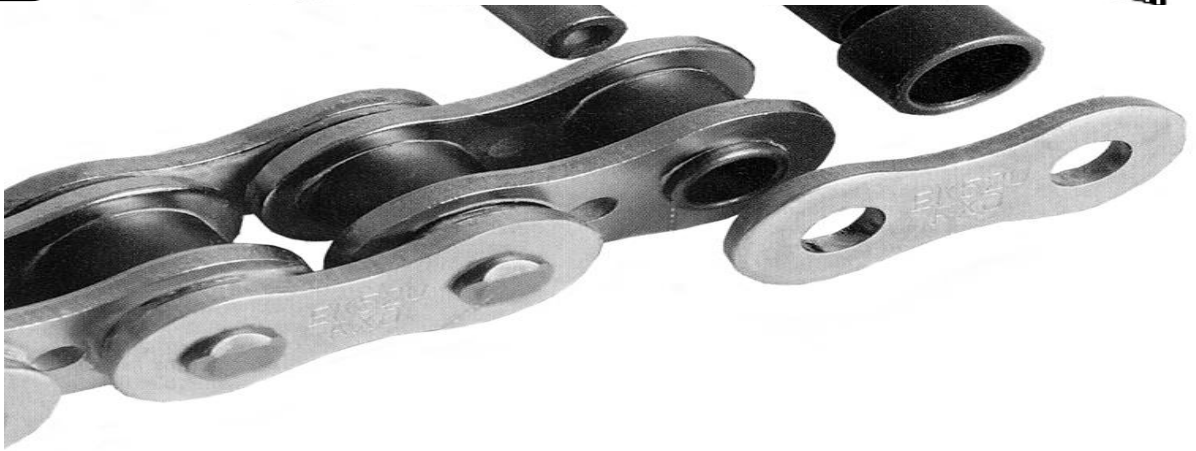


2017
January

THE LINK



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The Official Journal of

THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC. GOLD COAST

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MECGC

Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club Gold Coast

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From the Editor



Welcome 2017 with a year full of riding friends and family. A year that will bring more twisties, track days and adventure. Our calendar is full for the year of riding check it out on the club website.

I hope you all had enjoyed a break over Christmas and New Year, I only had one mishap of putting on two odd gloves and after spending the day riding not noticing till I arrived home and took them off.

Love to hear from you all; your new rides, new road and even new gear.

Gail



Waynes Wramble

WAYNE'S MINI WRAMBLE FOR 2017

Hi everyone, happy New Year. Rhonda and I trust you had a safe and happy Christmas.

We had a great New Year's Eve, taking in the "The Beach Boyz" Tribute show at the Beenleigh Sportsman's Club. Five top muso's playing and singing the Beach Boys hits and a few from the Doors, Rolling Stones and the Beatles. Jon Calendar the leader and guitarist is one of the best players I've seen.

Anyway, we're in for a great 2017 with lots of things planned. The Monday, Thursday and Saturday rides go on as always. Our first monthly meeting is on Wednesday 25th January at 7am preceded by our first Committee meeting at 6pm. As a good start to the year, the Committee is looking at 6 new member applications and 1 member renewal.

On the Saturday 28th, there's an open afternoon and evening at the Triumph Suzuki dealer in Lawrence Drive, Nerang.

I plan to take the Norton Commando. We were there last year and it was huge, lots of bikes, food and coffee vans, girls in bikinis washing bikes etc.

Australia Day, 26th January will be a BBQ breakfast. We will have the Flag raising ceremony, the old army rifles salute and the singing of the National Anthem. It'll be a great day for all, weather permitting.

So, we're all looking forward to a good safe year.

See you soon.

Wayne President





Tips for carrying Pillions

Hi everyone, as we are now well and truly into the holiday season, many of us will have more time to go for rides and maybe even take a special someone on the bike too. I found taking a pillion has helped me improve the smoothness of my riding and if you haven't taken a pillion before I highly recommend you try it. The new Q-Ride RE licence curriculum provides good information and advice for riders who are about to take a pillion for the first time. Practical tips like increase the rear pre-load settings on the rear suspension. If you can increase the pre-load, you'll find the bike's handling will cope better with the extra weight of a pillion. I was really pleased to see good sensible advice included in the training.

Advice I have heard consistently with regards to taking a pillion is to properly prepare them and ensure they know what to expect. This is quite good advice. They need quality protective gear just like you do. I describe the pillion as a 'pillion rider' as they must 'ride' the bike with you not against you. They too be aware of what is ahead and see where the road is going. Before taking a pillion on their first ride with you, establish if they have ever been a pillion before, and take the time to cover off some important things. Re-assure them and keep your ego and desire to impress well in check. A scared and nervous pillion is a bad pillion. I had a very nervous pillion once who was convinced by all her friends that just by being on a motorcycle she was going to die. A nervous and scared pillion is not going to enjoy the ride and is going to make your management of the motorcycle more difficult. They won't know that you're about to stop or steer. Establish what signs and signals your pillion should use to indicate things like "I need to stop". I learnt the hard way with a pillion many years ago when she used the left testicle brake to communicate to me she wanted to stop....Ouch!

MOUNTING: Before you get on the bike, ensure the pillion knows to wait until you're ready for them to get on. Keeping a strong and stable platform with the bike is important. I achieve this by having the ignition off, bike in gear and clutch out. I maintain front brake pressure and ensure I have a solid base of both feet on the ground. For shorter riders, you can widen your base by pointing toes outwards slightly. Then give the agreed signal and let the pillion mount.

The pillion can place a hand on your shoulder and step up onto the left foot rest with their left foot. As the pillion climbs on they should try and keep their head over the centre of the pillion seat as they step up and climb on. Keeping their head steady and over the seat helps with getting the body weight in the right place and reduces the side-to-side pendulum effect the pillion can place on the stationary bike as they climb up. Stepping up onto the left foot rest and lifting their right leg over is a more natural action for most people. A pillion would not be able to climb on any large bike, with a gear bag or luggage by just swinging their leg over in the same way a rider swings their leg over.

The rider can hold their solid base until the pillion is settled. Then bring the right leg up, engage the rear brake and adopt the ready position. To dismount follow the same principles. Stop the bike, switch it off, leave it in gear, let the clutch out and hold the bike with the front brake and the pillion must wait until told by the rider they are ready for them to dismount.

The pillion should adopt a posture where they are comfortable on the seat, and their knees should grip the rider in a similar fashion to how the rider grips the tanks. Depending on the style of bike you're on, the pillion should sit as close as comfortably possible to the rider. They can hold on to the grab rails, or one hand on the grab rail and one hand on the tank. If they hold onto the rider make sure they do not interfere with or influence the rider. The pillion must work with the rider and they too will look, lean and steer with the rider. Their upper body must be relaxed and lower body connected. This way they can see what the rider is seeing and can anticipate any stopping or steering. They must also learn that for a road speed curve they will lean in with the rider and for U-turns they must lean away with the rider.



For general riding, this is where taking a pillion has the greatest benefit to improving your riding. With the extra weight comes slightly slower acceleration, longer braking and stopping distances and slower steering and transition from leaning one way to the other. You must accommodate the extra weight by increasing your following distance. This is especially important if you're riding in a group. Give yourself more space.

All the basic skills of ready position, friction point control and rear brake control become even more important. The first thing people notice taking a pillion is their upper body weight rocking backwards on take offs, and their head rocking forwards when braking, and the back and forth motion during gear changes. All this adverse weight shift is eliminated by the rider's smooth and correct use of the controls

To eliminate the back and forth during a gear change you need to smooth out the whole gear change process. As you accelerate and feel the revs build through the torque curve, prepare to change gear by pre-loading the gear lever with your toe and easing the throttle off slightly just prior to the gear change and pull the clutch in quickly but smoothly. What helps is the clutch is pulled in with the finger tips and not fully all the way in, just through the friction point. Your aim is to not shut drive off abruptly as that is what causes the pillion to rock forward. After the gear has been changed, resume throttle and feel the friction point of the clutch and allow some slip as you smoothly allow forward drive to return without resulting in the pillion rocking backwards. When you do this well, there is no more helmet "bump" from the pillion. You will learn to feel when is the right "time" in the rev range and engine load that provides the smoothest change.

I have heard Senior Sydney trainer Wayne Clarke describe the aim of braking is to achieve softer braking over a longer period using the "Front Brake, Rear Brake, Gears" system and this is more important to follow with a pillion. I have heard / seen other advice where to eliminate the pillion movement forward during braking is to use more rear brake. This is not correct. If you rely on more rear brake for stopping with a pillion, your stopping distances are increasing too much. The front brake is still your stopping brake.

The best way to eliminate the pillion rocking forward under braking is to smoothly and gently roll off the throttle and set up the front brake, and hold the set up a moment longer. Then progressively and smoothly add more front brake squeeze. Combined with good mental skills and anticipation a rider can avoid sudden and heavy braking in normal riding environments. This is why you need to account for this extra stopping distance with an increase in following distance.

The rear brake will be applied as normal but the extra part comes in at the moment of coming to a complete stop. As you are in the moment of completely stopping, by easing off the front brake slightly the front suspension is allowed to return more gently to its normal position. Here, at the stop, using a little more rear brake squeeze helps to bring the bike to a complete stop and front suspension to return smoothly and gently with the extra weight of a pillion. It is just like a normal stop (stopping in the ready position) but the rider has to be smoother.



I highly recommend if you take a pillion regularly or wish to start doing more rides with a pillion, book in to do our level 1 course at Mount Cotton. This is one of the few courses where pillions are welcome, and pillions are free. What better way to learn and practice riding with a pillion than in a controlled training environment? Taking a pillion and working on and becoming a smoother rider has a real benefit to your riding in general and sharing a ride with a pillion can give you both an enjoyable experience of quality time together.

Call the office on 55965440 or check out the website on www.stayupright.com.au and book in to a Level 1 course.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

Ray van den Bosch

Senior Trainer

Stay Upright

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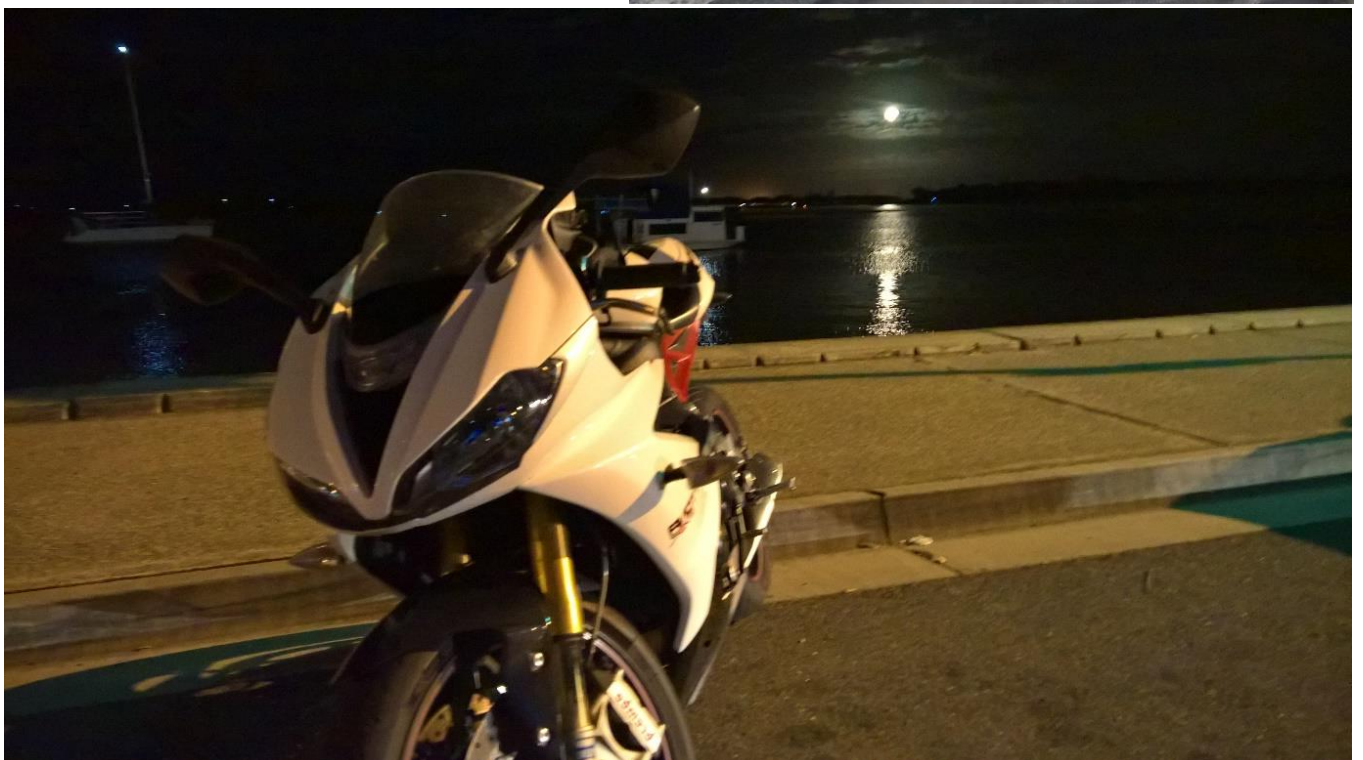
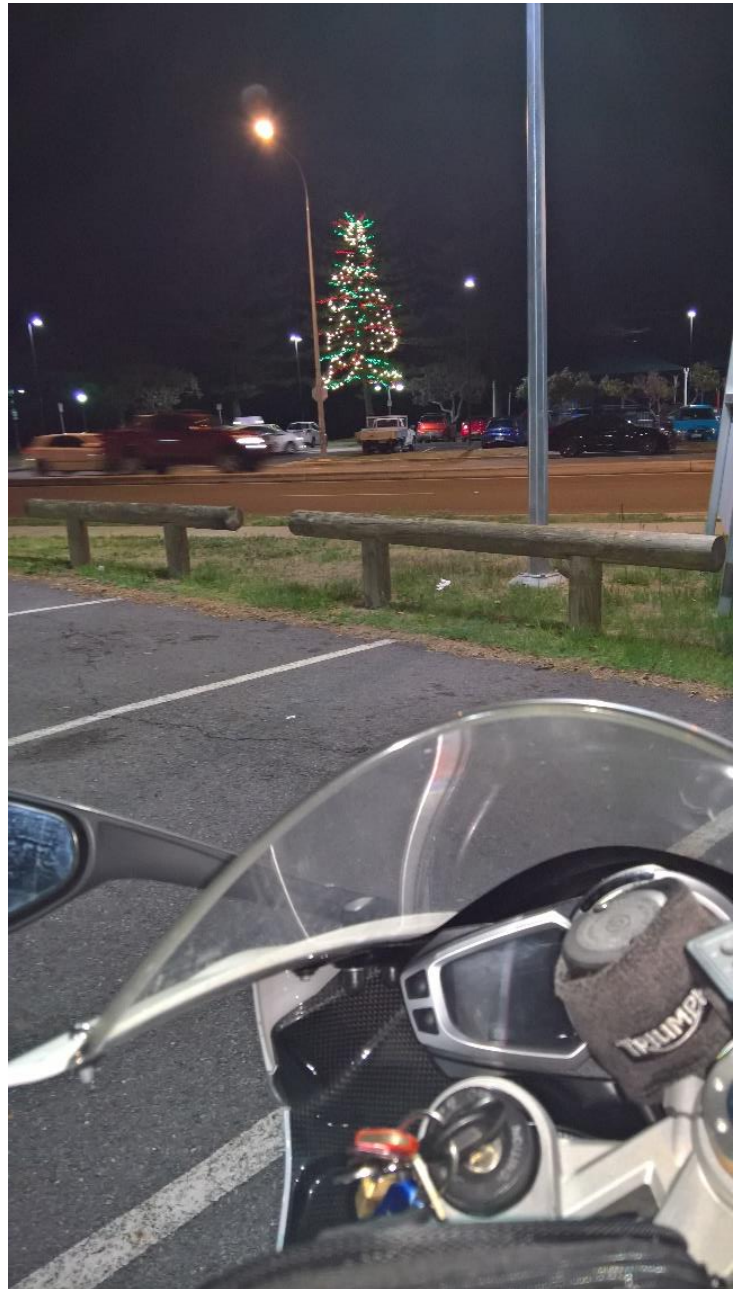
What's News

Christmas rides and New Years trips. There were many rides and adventures over the Christmas and New Years holidays.

A time with family and friends at the Motorcycle Enthusiats Club Gold Coast.

Our Friday Night ride before Christmas we made our way from the club house over the Panorama and into the Broadwater for fish n chips under the Christmas Tree.

It was a beautfiul night just after the full moon I was able to caputre my Daytona 675R



Upper Coomera has some spectacular Christmas lights that we went to see with Paul and Gaeleen on their postie bikes.



Our Saturday day ride on the 17th Dec Greg Jones joined us on his Vmax.

Riding from the Club house over Tomewin for breakfast in Tumblgum NSW at the 'House of Gabriel'. We then had a full day of riding on to Kyogle stopping at Dave's Bakehouse for lunch.



It was a hot day but a great day with plenty of corners and stops for water and ice blocks.



Ian Clegg rocked up on his early Christmas present.



Fish n chips at Brunswick Heads

We had the most wonderful run today. One of those days when everything came together, the temperature, the traffic, the team, the tempo, on a perfectly clear day.

We started from Cucina Mia and the Enthusiast Club riders outnumber the BMW riders. Adrian & Cherie did turn up for breakfast but I knew that they weren't riding as we are fixing their bike from a standstill fallover which damaged the radiator.

Nine bikes, with eleven people, we headed south over Tomewin to Murwillumbah, and followed Tweed Valley Way. No traffic, a free-flowing ride to Brunswick. It was early, and the ride was too short, but we settled in for seafood and a chat anyway. Discussing with Mick & Deb last week's ride to Nimbin I found that they hadn't realized its reputation for drugs, and we all had a laugh about their workmates jibes about "cookies" and Christmas supplies" They just didn't know. We had had lunch at the Bowling Club, and stayed away from the main street, so that explains some of it!

So, all of this brought us to the subject of Flutterbies at Tyalgum, and Deb hadn't been there either (new to Qld). We decided to go to Tyalgum on the way home for coffee and Quinny knew the correct turn-off so he led, followed by a couple of other sports bikes, back through the Burringbah Ranges.

I really like this style of riding as a few times, Quinny and the Sports bikes with Wayne, Gail & Nick, marked the corners and waited for the main group to cruise past. No hold-ups, no stress about missing turn-offs, almost no U-turns, and a very pleasant ride through.

At Flutterbies they have stepped up again, and had live music as well. We introduced Deb to the may additional benefits, much to Mick's dismay. She did manage to find a Christmas apron to purchase.

We headed back to Chillingham, through Numinbah Valley and home. All-in-all, one of those trouble-free rides that really puts a smile on my dial. Thanks boys & girls for your company and, as I sit here writing this, I am looking forward to next weekend's dirt-bike ride, and I also have a leave pass for next week to do road-riding down the Oxley Way for a few days. Christmas holidays are almost here, YEE HAA!!!

Today's riders: Nick, Mick & Deb, young Nick, Carol & Quinny, Gail, Wayne, Paul & a very sleepy Gaelene & myself. Hope you guys enjoyed the day as much as I did. Happy Christmas everyone.



Made sure I wore my matching gloves for this ride. Some great roads thanks to Steve for organising the day and Nicholas for the detours.

Adventure

I knocked off work on the 16th December for Xmas break and left for a Toowoomba dirt bike ride on the 17th and back on the 18th. Mostly fast gravel roads travelled with some tricky trails thrown in for fun around Crows Nest & Toowoomba. A great weekend enjoyed by all five of us. Some storms rolled in late in the day both days and the weather was warm and clear beforehand.

See if you can guess who the

planner/lead rider was from the photo supplied. John Smith and I left for Dorrigo (each riding an R1200RT LC) on the 20th travelled via Cowongla, Casino, Grafton, and arrived via Waterfall Way before the storms.



This week before Christmas we enjoyed beautiful coolish weather – low 20's to 29 at Grafton, no traffic and great scenery. John had to shelter in an old shed for an hour because no other shelter was available while it poured outside.

We walked to Dangar falls to walk off our dinner (which had been

huge). Lots of new foals at this time of year – very timid and close to mum.



We also discovered a new type of tree.

Wednesday, we stopped at The Old Train Yards and Wollombi falls on our way to Armidale, Uralla, Walcha and down to Long Flat, back to Gingers Creek, Walcha and stayed the night at Bendemeer, again little or no traffic, a little warmer today – Mid 20's to 31 at the top of the Oxley. At Bendemeer we only had enough time for a quick beer and to lock the bikes in the shed before the storm hit. Dinner was fabulous, I do like a good steak.



Thursday saw us travel the New England to Tenterfield and back down the Bruxner to Casino. At the Armidale turnoff Police were stopping everything northbound for a breath test, It is much easier now to just talk/count into the machine. From Casino we travelled through Nimbin to Kyogle Rd and towards Murwillumbah. We ended up on the Highway at Tweed where I shocked myself by nodding off while riding, ripple strips are a great

idea. Although many rest stops were taken during the trip, time for one more before heading home.

Thanks for your company John, a great time of year for a road trip. Now time to do as little as possible for a week or so until we go back to work.

All the best to our club-mates and families, the New Year is almost upon us and we get to do it all again. Stay safe everyone, especially on the roads this year to come.

Kind Regards,
Steve Bryant #318
Currumbin Autobody Repairs
(07) 5534 3444
steve@currumbinautobodyrepairs.com.au
4 Leonard Parade, Currumbin
QLD 4223



Events

Australia Day 26th January 2017

Time to celebrate bike and rider at the MECGC Club house. Events start with Breakfast. The Historic centre will be open at 10am til 2pm

for a gold coin donation, with music, food and the firing of the Albert Battery Arms followed by the flag raising at 11:30am. We will then proceed to the club house for our own flag raising and Battery salute.



Thursday Rides

Our regulat rides each thursday resume on the 12th January from the Club House at 9am.

Saturday Rides

Although Saturday rides have not ceased over Christmas and the New Year our official reutrn day it Saturday the 14th January at 8am.

Comando Ownders Group Ride

This is a ride each Monday open to all members meeting at Oxenford Café 'Luvacoffee' with Wayne Bryan leading.

All day ride Saturday 28th January 2017 leaving the club house.



JOIN THE RIDE CHASING CHARLIES' CURE

🇺🇸 26-FEB-2017 🇺🇸



Please join our ride to help Charlie Shirran, an 18 month old Gold Coast boy with an unstoppable will, **beat Neuroblastoma Cancer** – for which he needs life saving vaccine treatment available only in New York.

- Departing from the Bearded Dragon, Mt Tamborine;
- Registration from 8am, coffee available;
- Registration closes 9.30am, for a departure shortly after;
- **Tex and Bundy**, Guinness World Record for the fastest dog on a motorbike, will be leading the ride!
- Donations \$20/rider + \$10/pillion. For an extra \$5 donation receive an embroidered patch.

Finish line at Eagle heights 12.00 mid-day where you will be welcomed with live music from The Wayward Boys, World Superbikes on large screen, raffle with awesome prizes plus reduced priced meals and stunning views of The Gold Coast!

Mat's Sic Pic's will be our event photographer on the day, get some great shots of you and your bike!!



If you wish to find out more or you are unable to attend this event but still wish to help please visit:
www.gofundme.com/supermancharlie

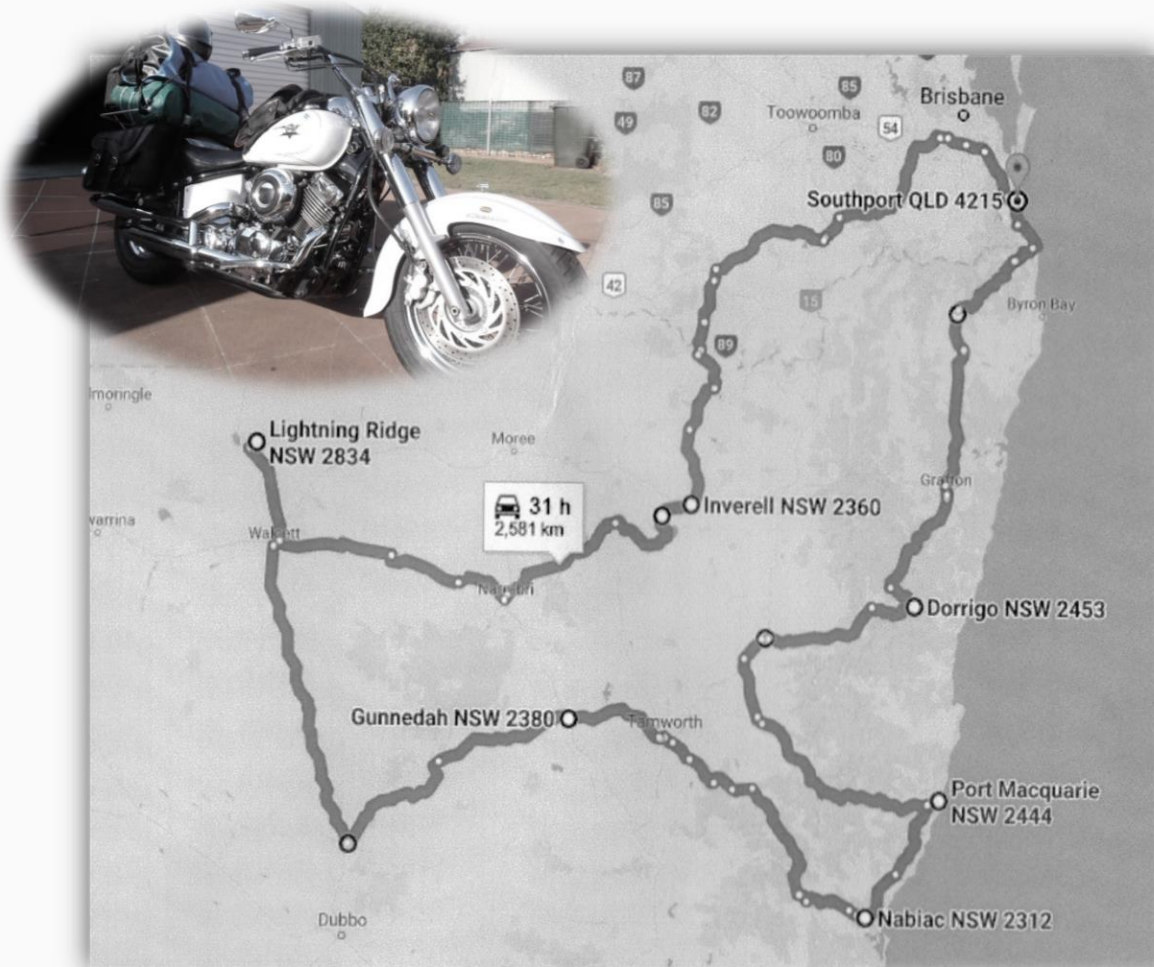


8 Day Ride to Lightning Ridge August 2017

8 Day Ride to Lightning Ridge August 2017

Departing Saturday the 19th August – Returning home the following Saturday
26th August

- Saturday 19/8/17 Gold Coast to Inverell 463k
- Sunday 20/8/17 Inverell to Lightning Ridge 406k
- Monday 21/8/17 “Free Day” - Lightning Ridge -
- Tuesday 22/8/17 Lightning Ridge to Gunnedah or Tamworth 349 / 421k
- Wednesday 23/8/17 “Free Day” – Gunnedah or Tamworth -
- Thursday 24/8/17 Gunnedah to Port Macquarie (Via Nahiab) 413k
- Friday 25/8/17 Port Macquarie to Dorrigo (Via Armidale) 374k
- Saturday 26/8/17 Dorrigo to Gold Coast (Via Kyogle) 375k



For full details on the tour and accommodation contact:

Rod Moorcroft

Mobile: 0411 127 017

Work: 0448 727 427

Email: rmoorcroft@bigpond.com

Calendar - January 2017

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wed 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
Sunday 8	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wed 11	Thursday 12	Friday 13	Saturday 14
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee			9am Club Ride		8am - Club House Ride
Sunday 15	Monday 16	Tuesday 17	Wed 18	Thursday 19	Friday 20	Saturday 21
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee			9am Club Ride		8am - Club House Ride
Sunday 22	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wed 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27	Saturday 28
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee			AUSTRALIA DAY At the club house for Breakfast BBQ		8am - Club House Ride
Sunday 29	Monday 30	Tuesday 31	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee					

For up to date information on all events log on to www.mecgc.club

MECGC Annual Ride Calendar - <http://mecgc.club/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016-MECGC-Ride-Calendar-U>



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THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC.

GOLD COAST

MEMBERS APPLICATION:

Clubrooms: Mudgeeraba Heritage Centre, 238 Mudgeeraba Road, Mudgeeraba Qld 4213

Postal Address: PO Box 451, Mudgeeraba Qld 4213

Website: www.mecgc.club **Email:** info@mecgc.club

Renewals: \$75.00 p.a 1st July to 30th June (Financial Year) Singles or Couples
New Members Includes Name Badge

NAME/S.....

ADDRESS:

SUBURB: STATE: POST CODE:

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____@_____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Name/Phone #

MOTORCYCLE DETAILS For the club registry only – not for publication

MAKE: MODEL: YEAR: CAPACITY:

MOTORBIKE LICENSE: RE R LICENCE # _____

IT IS A CLUB REQUIREMENT FOR YOU TO HAVE INSURANCE (A MINIMUM OF THIRD PARTY).

NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY: _____

The Committee reserves the right to refuse Membership to any person deemed unsuitable in character for any reason and will not be obliged to explain the reasons why to the applicant.

New Applicants must be nominated and seconded by existing Members, only then will the applicant be considered by the Committee.

Nominated by (Print Name): Signature:

Seconded by (Print Name): Signature:

Method of Payment Received: Cash Cheque PayPal Other

I/We agree to abide by the rules & constitution on the Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club Inc. Gold Coast

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:

DATE: ____ / ____ / _____ DATE: ____ / ____ / _____



THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC.

GOLD COAST

MEMBERS APPLICATION:

WWW.MECGC.CLUB.

*P.O. Box 451
Mudgeeraba QLD 4213*

*238 Mudgeeraba Road
Mudgeeraba Qld*

'Joining good companions in a shared pastime'

The Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club has been around for over 30 years. As the name suggests, we are enthusiasts of all forms of motorcycles. In particular, our interest is in classic bikes. Our Club also includes modern bikes, sidecars and trikes. We cater to all ages and forms of motorcycle riding. There is a monthly meeting held on the last Wednesday of each month at our Club rooms:

Heritage Centre, 238 Mudgeeraba Road, Mudgeeraba.

(Entrance to Heritage Village is opposite Milky Way)

Come along and enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or a beer and have a chat with our many experienced riders before the meeting commences at 8.00pm.

We also have guest speakers each month, when available, and these talks are always very interesting and informative.

Enjoy weekly, monthly, weekend and week-long Club runs, as well as other casual rides organised to similar rallies and motorcycle events held by other clubs.

The Link, our Club magazine, is emailed to you monthly. The magazine has information on our Club runs and activities and rallies held by other clubs. There are event and ride reports, photos and articles contributed by our club members.

Articles, photos, items for sale etc. can be emailed to editor@mecgc.club or posted to MECGC Attn: G Calder, Editor, P.O. Box 451, Mudgeeraba, 4213.

Articles need to be received by the 25th of each month for publication in the next month.