

2017
March

THE LINK



The Official Journal of

THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC. GOLD COAST

Joining good companions in a shared pastime

www.mecgc.club

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MECGC

Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club Gold Coast

2016-2017 COMMITTEE



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From the Editor



Safety is always on our mind as motorcycle riders. Last month we had the team from the SMART rider program attend our monthly general meeting with some safety tips and to introduce the new courses they are running. See details in events when our club is planning to go.

This month we have Stay Upright contribute to the Link on safety issues.

Take the time to read the article and attend what training courses are available.

It is always good practice to improve our skills to stay alert.

Gail

How many sleeps?



Waynes Wramble

Hi everyone. Well we've had an eventful 2017 so far. Boy, it'll soon be Easter and then Christmas. January 28th was an open day in Lawrence drive at the Triumph Suzuki dealer. It was a great afternoon / evening, lots of bikes, all types, Harleys, sports bikes and customised bikes. I had the only Norton Commando which got a lot of looks. Got talking to the bike shop and asked where's the new Suzuki Bandit. Was told they don't make them anymore, the water cooled 1250 evidently didn't sell well and they can't go back to the popular air cooled motor because of emission controls.

Mores the pity, the Bandit has been a great bike. Our club Monday ride sees mostly just Guy Wong and I but that's okay, we just head up the mountain on our Commandos. I realise Monday isn't a good day for most but everyone is welcome. Thursday rides are popular but I think the heat has been a bit much, we're in the last week of summer so it'll start to cool down.

Anyway, we've got a lot of activities planned for this year. It's all on the website.

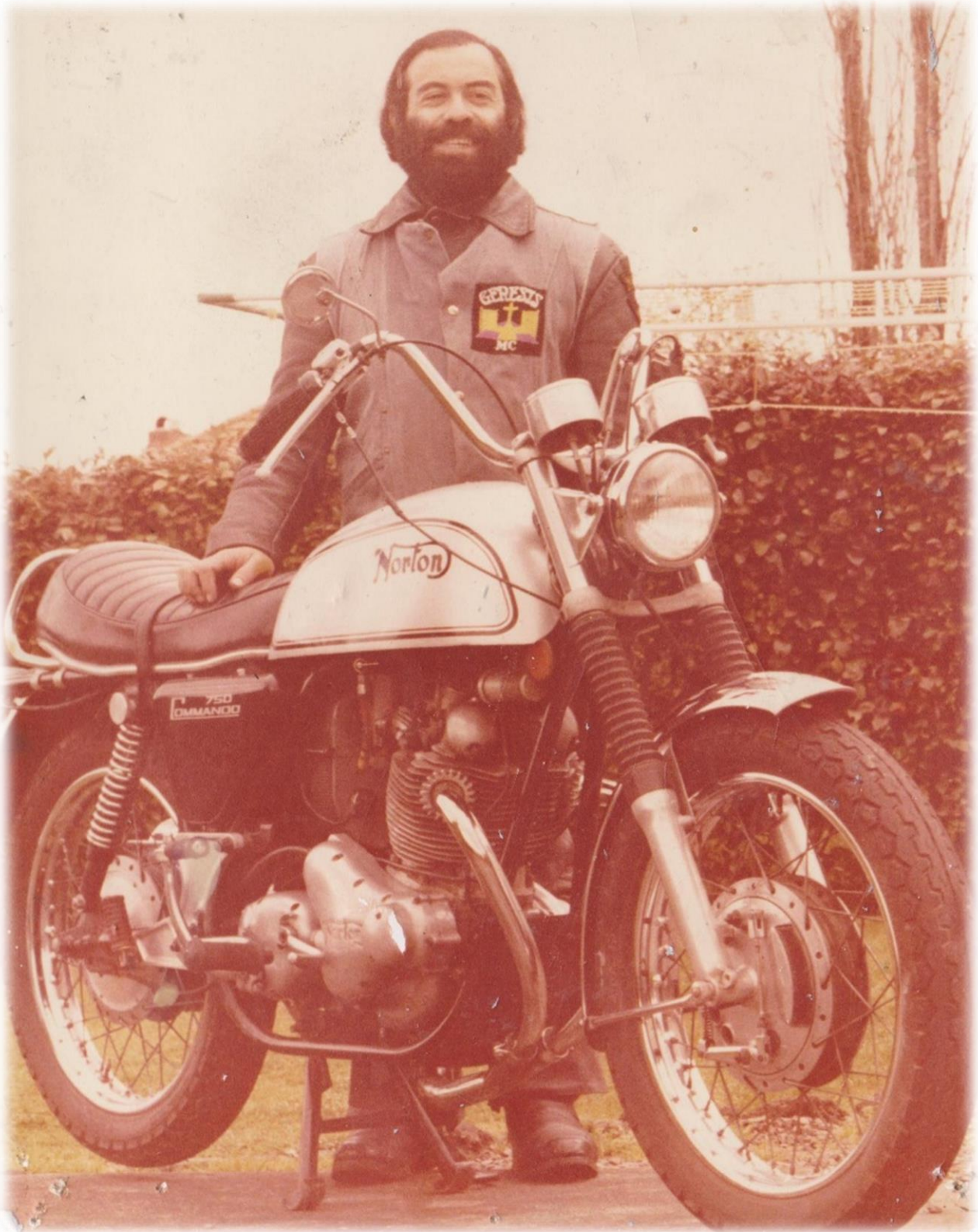
See you out there.

Wayne

President.



The Norton in the photo was a special USA Scrambler model. I owned it in New Zealand in my younger biker days. I was about 30 then. I bought the bike with me to Australia in 1981 and foolishly sold it. Since then I now own a 1973 Mk2 850 Roadster, a 1975 Mk3 850 Interstate and a 1961 650 SS Dominator. If and when I win Lotto I'll buy the new Norton 1200 V4.



Shiny Side Up

There has been some very interesting reading in the latest crash statistics and reports on motorcycle crashes. While there is evidence that new riders are most at risk of crashing, there is also



evidence of older riders also at increased risk. It has been established through studies that as a rider, you are most vulnerable in your first 18 months, after that point your risk of crashing decreases over time, however it increases again for riders over 40.

I looked to the Queensland Road Crash Weekly Report No. 994 and year to date there have been 24 fatal crashes for 25 persons killed in 2017. We are three months into the year and 8 of those 25 persons were motorcycle riders or pillions. This is on par with the previous two years. I was interested to see the trend over the years shows the North Coast / Wide Bay Burnett region is the area where the most fatal crashes are occurring, followed by South Coast area.

So why does our risk increase with age? Many riders on Queensland roads have now done some form of mandatory training. So while the rider is at their least experienced their risk is higher. The quality of the training is dependent on who they chose to do their training with and also their own attitude to what was being taught. Generally speaking, newer the riders (not younger) have received some formal training. What is even better with the new pre-learner curriculum and graduated licencing program, future riders will have received more training over a longer period of time so I believe there will be a decreasing trend in future crash statistics. However, there is still a population of older riders who have never undertaken any formal training, or any training conducted was a long time ago.

Many older riders fall into the return rider classification, meaning they obtained a licence before any pre-learner training was established, rode for a short time but spent a period of time not riding at all. They learnt their riding from mates or the school of hard knocks etc. There is a finding contained in the HURT Report in 1981 that riders who had no training or were informally taught to ride were over-represented in crash data. Many older riders are riding recreationally and will travel to or through the areas where most crashes are occurring on their recreational ride.

So, if you fall into this group, your risk of crashing is increasing. If you are riding in the Gold Coast or North Coast areas, your risk of crashing increases based on the statistics. If you are travelling for more than a few hours on the bike, your crash risk through fatigue increases. If you like to stop at the pub in these areas and have a few beers before heading home your risk of crashing is increasing even more.

I heard a rider describe a crash he had. He made the statement that learning to ride is accepting and acknowledging the risks. What he was saying was crashing is a risk and you need to accept the inevitable risk. I disagree and would encourage you to adopt a similar philosophy to me which is *crashing is not an option*. It isn't the case of accepting the risks. Once a risk has been identified, you either eliminate it or reduce the risk by employing effective management of them. This is what the Strategies and Tactics part of the pre-learner course is designed to educate new riders in. For example, riding whilst intoxicated is illegal and dramatically increases your risk of a crash. I don't manage that one, I eliminate it by not drinking and riding.

If you “accept” the risks you are giving up control and just accept that if a car pulls out in front of you, well you'll crash, that is a risk, there is nothing you can do about it. Well, there is lots you can do about it because *crashing is not an option*. When you identify the risk potential of the car pulling out in front of you, you then manage the risk, in simple terms by slowing down and moving away.

I saw an example of the difference between “accepting” and “managing” a risk recently when I was following a cruiser rider along a main 60km/h road and we approached an intersecting round-a-bout. View into where the approaching traffic would come from was slightly obscured. The cruiser rider in front didn't slow, did not turn his head and just kept driving through the round-a-bout, scraping the foot boards and unsettling the bike midway through the round-a-bout. That is an example of just accepting the risk that well, you might crash, and you might not. Managing the risk is what I did because *crashing is not an option*. I identified the risk potential, and managed it by simply rolling off the throttle, setting up the front brake, slowing slightly which gave me a bit more time to see and think, and when I was satisfied all was clear, committed to the round-a-bout positively by releasing the brake and resuming drive with throttle.



Why did I do this? Well, loss of control (rider error) and collision are two of the five biggest crash types that affect riders. Watching this rider in front of me negotiate a round-a-bout the way he did there is little surprise why.

If you want to change your riding philosophy to *crashing is not an option*, come along and do our Level 1 course conducted at Mount Cotton. The course will give you the opportunity to learn and develop your risk identification and management skills which is a key ingredient to safe riding and staying off the weekly crash statistic report, staying out of hospital and rehab, and staying on the bike for a lifetime of safe riding.

Call the office on 55965440 or check out the website at www.stayupright.com.au to book yourself onto a course. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Ray van den Bosch

Senior Instructor

Stay Upright

STAY UPRIGHT
R I D E R T R A I N I N G



What's News

Hi all,

February has been a very busy month for me workwise and more importantly ride wise. I was fortunate enough to attend a day ride after our last meeting, two Sunday dirt rides out Bonalbo way and a weekend away to Tenterfield for a road ride and all with different groups.

A common theme in most of these rides has been riders welfare and the importance of looking out for each other. One rider was unfortunate enough to run off the dirt road and down a gully before falling off, was not seen by other riders as they passed and only found and assisted by a nearby farmer. Our ride leader that day, in his ride briefing had asked us all to be aware of the rider in front and also the following rider. Despite his best efforts to find the missing rider, no news until arriving home to find he was in hospital overnight.

Another rider on the same day was overcome by heat, cramps and generally unwell. The TEC had noticed him riding poorly and ever slower, we stopped for quite a while to cool him and rehydrate, let him recover enough to be able to ride to Urbenville where he received assistance from an ambulance and the hospital. Silvia and Daryl from Urbenville Pub went out of their way to assist him with ice water, a fan to sit in front of, calling an ambulance, phoning his wife, providing a safe place for his bike and well worth a visit next time we go that way. Our Ride Leader Peter and Craig the TEC showed great compassion in making sure he was ok. I was very impressed as this could have ended badly.



I have learned a lot from others this month, watching another ride leader having to leave his ride to look for others who must have decided to leave the ride and not advise anyone.

I have had four fabulous weekends of riding this month, a highlight for me was a swim in the Clarence River after lunch on an extremely hot Sunday, I did remove my boots and helmet first, however everything needed rinsing by the time I arrived home.

Thanks to all my riding friends for your company. Let's do it all again soon.

Our club weekend away to Iluka is on the 17th to 19th of March and we have booked out all rooms set aside for us. There may still be other accommodation available if required. around 18 people attending by my calculations.

Ride Safe,
Steve Bryant

Currumbin Autobody Repairs
(07) 5534 3444
steve@currumbinautobodyrepairs.com.au
4 Leonard Parade, Currumbin
QLD 4



Events

Weekly Rides

Members are reminded that they can use their SIV registered bikes on these and any club activity.



Monday ride meeting at Oxenford, Luv a coffee opposite Woolworths at 8am to leave 8.30am.

Thursday ride meeting at our clubhouse 8.30am leave at 9am

Saturday morning ride meeting at clubhouse 8am leave 8.30am

Club Rooms open every Saturday from 7am rain or shine for coffee before we head out.

1st Saturday is a Barbeque Breakfast

Last Saturday is a long ride.

Look at our website for all activities. www.mecgc.club

On Sunday 26th Feb Chasing Charlie's Cure fund raiser event was a great success. Over \$11000 was raised and a huge turnout.



Adventure Ride



Join us for the Adventure Ride (ARM). Visit the MECGC Website for more details.

Friday Night Ride - 12th May

5:30pm at the MECGC Club Rooms

Join us, ride will leave MECGC Clubrooms at 6:00pm, travel to Natural Arch for a visit to the Glow Worm Caves followed by dinner/supper/coffee.

Visit our website for more details.

<http://mecgc.club/fan-friday-action-night-fday-12th-may/>



Weekend Away Rides



"Angels & Demons" Which one are you?

Weekend Away Ride Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th April.

Graham Ruck, Winton Flessler & Danny Van Eerden.

Breakfast/Morning Tea will be at Dave's Bakehouse, Kyogle. Great Brekky!

Sunday - Morning Tea stop in Grafton! Feed the Demon

Black Dog Ride

“we need to talk”

1 DAYER 2017

Black Dog Ride's iconic annual 1 Dayer aims to start a **national conversation about depression and suicide prevention.**

Get the country talking and ride with your local 1 Dayer at:

GOLD COAST QLD

Sunday 19th March

Meet: 8.00am Check in & breakfast at Shark Leathers, Helensvale
Contact: Kylie Sage 0408 751 433 or goldcoast@blackdogride.com.au

.....

Register Online and WIN!

Register as a rider for Black Dog Ride's 1 Dayer by midnight AEST

6th March and be in the draw to WIN the all new

Indian Scout valued at \$19,995! Raffle drawn

19th March 2017. Prize generously donated by

Indian Motorcycle Australia. Don't miss out!



Register Today: blackdogride.com.au

Smart Rider Training Day
April 23rd Sunday



Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club is supporting this new venture and has booked a training day for Sunday April, 23rd.



Good riders constantly work to improve their skills.

The **SMART Rider Program** is a full day training course conducted on public roads that will help you to identify risks, give you strategies to avoid them and to make better decisions.

Decisions that will make your riding far more enjoyable ... and help to keep you safe.

Whether you've been riding for a while, just new or coming back to riding after a long break, this course will help you to be a better rider.

The course can take 18 riders, some members have already put their names down so space is limited.

The cost is usually \$95 for the day but with a block booking there'll be a special price.

If you would like to be included, phone Wayne Bryan on 0400 818801 ASAP to have your name added to the list.

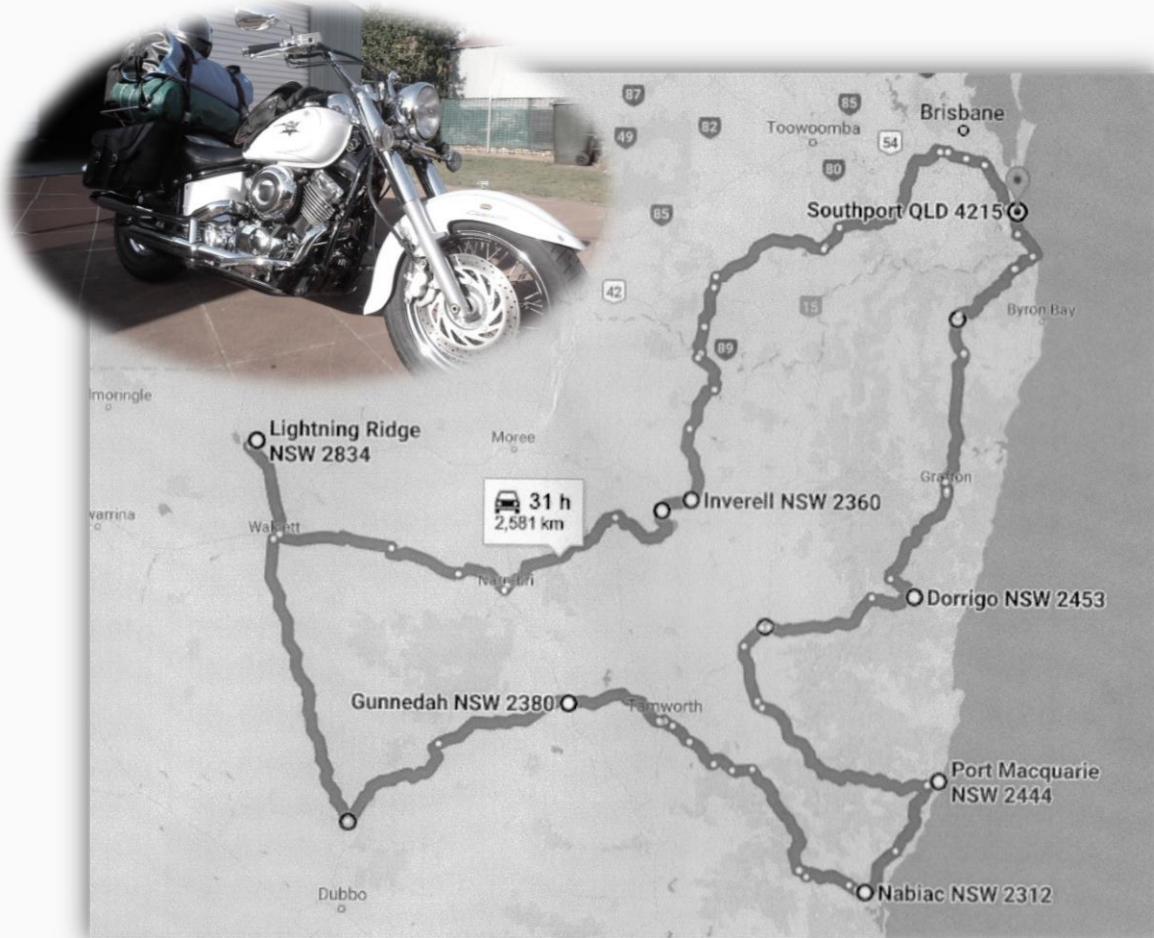
This will be a great day, act quick to avoid disappointment.

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 Nabad) 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: rgmoorcroft@bigpond.com

Calendar - March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
				9am Club Ride		8am Bazza's Breakfast
Sunday 5	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wed 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10	Saturday 11
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee			9am Club Ride		8am - Club House Ride
Sunday 12	Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wed 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17	Saturday 18
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee			9am Club Ride		8am - Club House Ride
Sunday 19	Monday 20	Tuesday 21	Wed 22	Thursday 23	Friday 24	Saturday 25
8am Shark Leathers Helensvale Black Dog Ride	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee		6pm Committee meeting	9am Club Ride		8am - Club House Ride
Sunday 26	Monday 27	Tuesday 28	Wed 29	Thursday 30	Friday 31	Saturday
	9am - Club Ride Oxenford @ Luv-A Coffee 2:30pm  QATAR		7pm General meeting	9am Club Ride		

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



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THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC.
GOLD COAST

'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.

WWW.MECGC.CLUB.

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