



FRIDAY NIGHT RIDE

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

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Trying to watch the race

#### From the Editor



This month's article from Ray van den Bosch is a must read. Make yourself a cuppa and read it through.

I recently spent a Saturday morning with Ray going through some slow speed training skills that have increased my confidence. More practice of course is still needed. But I came away with the knowledge of better bike control.

The articles Ray has submitted to our club magazine have always taught me something new. Spending the afternoon rider training, putting into practice what Ray talks about in his articles taught me even more.

The Link magazines are available on our website. I encourage you to re-read them again as I do.



I am always asking myself "does my position make me vulnerable?"

Ray van den Bosch

## **Waynes Wramble**

Hi Members, I'm writing this just 3 days before Easter. Just today, Monday we received the awful news of Jodi Harrison hitting a kangaroo on her bike. Fortunately, it was only fatal for the kangaroo, the bike is a bit banged up and so is Jodie. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

I was looking back on my Wrambles and in July 2016, I wrote about a landmark case in outback NSW in 2013 when a rider hit a roo and was seriously injured and was awarded compensation. It's worth noting he didn't swerve to avoid the animal and if he had he might not have been entitled to claim due to his actions and not the animal. No, crazy but it's true.

Which reminds me of my altercation on a weekend WAR ride when I slowed to let some cows cross the road. Then as I accelerated a calf decided to dash across to join its mother. I hit it with my leg and I was sure I had broken it, my leg that is. The calf was on the ground apparently lifeless. I managed to dismount and limped over to the animal. As I knelt and lifted its head up, the smell of my cow skin must have revived it. Maybe it smelt like its dead grandmother. Anyway, it took off like a scalded calf. Animals on the road are always a hazard. We can only slow down and keep a lookout.

Anyway, we're looking at a busy April, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is a Bikers Brekky, the 11<sup>th</sup> is a movie night hosted by Mark Mellor. The last one was fantastic, our next weekend WAR ride also hosted by Mark is on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The next monthly meeting is Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup>. That's <u>THURSDAY</u>, folks because Wednesday is Anzac Day.

Looking way ahead to Christmas, do we really want to? Our Christmas Party will be on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

One last thing, May 13<sup>th</sup> is the Ray Owens Show and Swap. We are going to have a presence there, so please bring your bikes and help at our Marquee. You'll need to get there early 7am.

One more thing, the Mudgeeraba Street Party, 20<sup>th</sup> May, we'll be there too, our own bike show and joining in the street parade on our bikes.

See you all out there.

### Wayne



## **Shiny Side Up**

Hello link readers,

This is a bit of a sad article as it is the final article I can write as Stay Upright Queensland Senior Instructor. The company has decided that operating in Queensland cannot continue and are shutting their doors. They will remain operating in the other states but will not be conducting any more Road Smart or Q-Ride courses in Queensland. Whilst I am very disappointed in the decision it is out of my control. They will keep a reduced footprint in Cairns.

In saying that, what the other instructors and I do next is not yet decided and we may band together and continue on as our own so there is a sense of excitement too. I'm happy to keep writing articles for you, it just won't be concluded with the usual "call Tony in the office and book in now for a Stay Upright".

So what to write about for this last article on behalf of Stay Upright? Well, if I continue on in another guise and continue to write for you, what makes me worth listening to? How did my journey start on the bikes? I rarely discuss my introduction to bike riding or experience as I don't want to come across as bragging or boasting. I try to take the ego out of the equation and prefer to let the quality of the coaching, smoothness of demonstrations and logic of what I am saying, combined with the improvements a person feels to be what makes me a credible instructor.

Well, my journey started in 1997, while I was a very young Police Officer with Tasmania Police in the traffic branch. I saw an opportunity to get on the police bikes. All I needed was a learner's permit, as the police course provided all the training and a licence. The licence process at the time required me to do a two-day pre-learner course (with Stay Upright Tasmania) and I was off. My first bike was a Yamaha RZ250 and I was able to ride unaccompanied on my Learners.

Before I could get onto the police bike course, my personal circumstances changed and I resigned from Tasmania Police and move back home to Queensland. I joined Queensland Police in 1999 and was posted to Redcliffe and later Tannum Sands. This was in the days before Q-Ride and I swapped my Learners permits over and later did my RE licence test and stay on my RE's for another 12 months (the agony). I did my R class licence test and my first big bike was a 1992 Honda VFR750. I did my first big bike trip on the VFR, riding to Melbourne and riding the Great Ocean Road.

In 2007 I was promoted to the Driver Training Unit based at Mt Cotton and instructed on all the police driving courses including the advanced level driving and 4WD courses. I also completed the police motorcycle and trail bike courses. Of most interest to me though was completing a basic crash investigation course and then completing the Forensic Crash – Motorcycle course. This gave me opportunities to discuss and confirm and dismiss riding theories with a forensic scientist. I provided the riding for their demonstrations and I have a cool slo-mo video of me doing a front wheel skid on a motorbike showing how the bike behaves when the front wheel stops rotating. We crash tested bikes and learned how to calculate the speed of a crash (that tested the ol' maths skills for sure). We used scientific instruments to measure G-forces and braking distances and I was able to take all these lessons and value add to the motorcycle training I was delivering.

The change in police role in 2007 also meant a drop in pay and I needed to earn some extra cash to support my family. That is when I met Max Thompson who was occupying a little office at Mt Cotton and my part-time employment with Stay Upright began. I have worked for both the QPS and Stay Upright ever since. I had the privilege to learn from a fantastic rider who also was an excellent rider coach, and I learned many lessons from my friend and mentor. I also met and worked with Blue Henderson and Craig Annetts. Both of these guys taught me so much about riding and how to get a message across to people. I have the deepest respect for all of these guys.

During my time with Stay Upright, I also got the opportunity to travel to Victoria to provide rider coaching and training to all of the state's instructors as part of their new graduated licence curriculum that was introduced a few years ago. Most recently, I provided advice to Qld TMR on their new graduated Q-Ride curriculum and delivered the very first pilot course of the new Q-ride program we now have.

Back to the QPS, I eventually transferred from the Driver Training Unit into a role where I coordinated and delivered police operational skills and tactics training. So my part-time job was teaching people how to be safe and survive riding motorcycles and my full-time job included teaching police how to use skills and tactics to be safe in an operational police environment as well as how to use all the tools of the police trade.

There is a similarity of concept between riding safely on the road and performing operational police duties. I found I could easily apply the ideas and tactics to both worlds. As a police officer attending a policing incident, there are many unknowns and a person has the potential to take you by surprise and cause harm to you. You may have read previous articles where I have made the statement "make crashing not an option" well, in the police sense dying or getting hurt is not an option either.

So, you learn to identify the risks or the potential of a hazard or situation. With a person you look for threat cues - what can I see, what can't I see, what can happen? You constantly ask yourself "does my position make me vulnerable?" If it does, move to a tactically superior position, if you cannot adopt a better position you may have to use other options like a physical control skill. By applying this concept, you can remain relatively safe and not surprised. This is because you have time and space and keeping control of the things you can control. Without time and space, you miss the threat cues and if an assault comes the brain is now going through its own survival reactions. If you are not trained and well-practiced, this will cause you to react poorly or incorrectly.

In the riding world, you use the same principles of what can I see, what can't I see and what could happen to the threat cues and signs other road uses are showing. Through experience and training, even at Q-ride levels, you develop your own library of personal experience and knowledge to know what are the mistakes and errors other drivers make that can result in you having a crash. The difference is when applying this to a rider training environment, softer language is needed as your riding mindset is to complete your journey safely and not crashing as opposed to putting your hand on an angry man and taking them into custody.

As a rider, I am always asking myself "does my position make me vulnerable?" Again, the similarity to police tactics of time and space apply. In riding terms, we slow down and move away. They are your choices available.

So, where to in the future? Well Stay Upright is no more in Queensland, but I am positive I will still be getting to the track and continuing my interest in riding and rider training. The team of past and present riding coaches from Queensland Stay Upright are all fantastic riders in their own right and I feel privileged getting to work with and learn from them. They all have my deepest respect as my peers.

It is early days and there is always the chance we may get the band together under a new name and continue. Why? Because there is a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction we all feel from meeting people who are bike riders or wanting to learn how to ride or how to get better. Being a part of their riding journey and knowing we made a personal difference in helping you is the juice. That will always be the primary motivation for us. So in selecting any future rider training service, look for an instructor team that are motivated by this and you'll be fine.

If I may indulge, I'd like to conclude this article with a few acknowledgements. I want to thank Max Thompson for giving me the start and changing my life. To Craig Annetts, I worked with you hand-in-glove for 10 years delivering countless hours of training together.

No better person could I have had to work with. His ability to demonstrate riding and coaching was exceptional and to a high standard which I follow. I will always remember how fantastic it was to work with him and I feel lucky that I could work with such a great friend. I also want to acknowledge Tony Noorda for his efforts in the office and getting stuff done to make our job easier. I want to acknowledge Dave Gallagher who has trained many many people in how to ride. Dave always showed patience and composure. If you had the chance to receive training from any of these chaps you are very fortunate. To all the other past and present instructors, I am grateful for the opportunity to deliver training with you.

If you, the readers are happy for me to keep contributing to your magazine, let Gail know and I'll keep writing for you, it just won't be as Senior Instructor for Stay Upright anymore.

**Thanks** 

Ray van den Bosch



#### What's News

### Saturday Morning Ride

Wet start to a Saturday morning. Bikes arriving went straight under cover to prevent a soggy seat. As we finished watching the Qatar MotoGP Race that Graham brought in the weather fined up for a Saturday Ride.



The Club opens at around 7am for a cuppa. The Latest Australian Motorcycle Magazine is at the club house for everyone to read. The kettles on. Watching the MotoGP before a ride was a great beginning to our Saturday.

Of course, the first Saturday of the month is our Bikers Breakfast when we fire up the BBQ.







## Friday Night Ride

From the club house. The rain kept some people away, but those who came had an awesome time. Some rode and some in cars.

The ride took us about 40 minutes thanks to Barry with some planning from Nick too. Thanks Guys.



## Black Dog Ride

This in an annual event that leaves from Sharks Leathers in Helensvale. The number of riders that get involved is amazing. This year there were over 400 riders. The carparks were full, and the street was lined with bikes on both sides.

Registrations, Raffles and merchandise were sold along with other donations over \$16,000 was raised.

Good effort everyone. What an amazing day. See you next year.







So Many bikes. I know the photos are small, but you get the idea. Corner markers made sure everyone knew the way and police escort was used and two intersections holding the traffic to keep us safe.



Mission
"to raise awareness of depression and suicide prevention"
www.blackdogride.com.au





#### **Events**

#### Biker's Breakfast

First Saturday of every month



#### **Weekly Rides**

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

Monday ride meeting at Tah Bella Café, 3 Cottonwood Place, Oxenford at 8:30am leave at 9am

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

Saturday morning ride meeting at clubhouse 7am for a cuppa, leave 8.30am

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

Last Saturday is a long ride

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

#### **Adventure Ride**

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

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



Hi to all two wheelers.

In February, featured was "The Story of Troy Bayliss" at the re vamped second Wednesday of the month movie night.

There were about 8 or 9 viewers on a hot barmy evening in air conditioning that thoroughly enjoyed the feature with a most positive response for the event to continue.

Also, a couple of couples on Valentine's Day, a true indication of biker love. If only more wives would be that understanding of their motorcycle man ② to attend the Club house on V day.

The movie kicked off at 7 sharp and surprisingly no one's phone rang or interruptions which was pretty good. To those that missed out, later in the year or next year we could screen it again. I'm sure others whom attended would watch it again.

Well that's about all from the movie critic 😂 other to attend and hope to see more members at next month movie night.

Tell your friends too, all welcome at no cost (only your fuel and time) to watch a fantastic flick and with great company as always.

Doors at the club house opens at 6:30 pm adrinks in the fridge. Kitchen also at your disposal if you need to heat your tucker up etc.

Cheers Mark

Stay Safe and Life is Short so use your Length

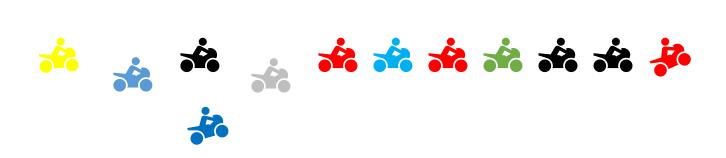
#### SAT 21 / SUN 22 APRIL 2018 WAY OUT WEST WEEKEND AWAY RIDE ~



I bet you would like to see the back of Mark Mellor.

Come on the MECGC Weekend Away Ride on the 21/22 April and you will have plenty of opportunities to do just that as Mark leads us west to Millmerran on the fringe of the Darling Downs and back.

Depart: 8.00 am MECGC Clubhouse. Overnight Stay at Millmerran. For more information see our website. <a href="http://mecgc.club/war-way-out-west-weekend-away-ride-saturday-21-sunday-22-april-2018/">http://mecgc.club/war-way-out-west-weekend-away-ride-saturday-21-sunday-22-april-2018/</a>





'Joining good companions in a shared pastime'



Date: Saturday 5th May 2018

Venue: MECGC Clubhouse - 238 Mudgeeraba Road, Mudgeeraba.

Bikers Breakfast: 7.30am Registration: from 7.30am

Briefing: 8.30am First bike away 9.00am.

Lunch: 1.00pm at Clubhouse

#### Contacts

Wayne Bryan – Club President 0400 818 801 Graham Ruck – Vice President 0488 118 561





Location: Canungra Showgrounds, Coburg Street, Canungra QLD.

#### Canungra Showgrounds, Coburg Street

Our club will have a Marquee on the day at the gate entry. So, come and bring your bike early, park with us and help with entry.

The Historical Motorcycle Club of Qld Tamborine Mountain area presents The **Ray** Owen Classic Bike Show and Swap, gates Open 7am to 3pm. \$10 entry fee.

20<sup>th</sup> May - Mudgeeraba Street Party, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Sunday, 20 May 2018. Free Event. http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/mudgeeraba-street-party-44336.html

Be a part of this local event and ride in the street parade. Come early and park your bike near out Marquee we will be setting up.

1st June next Friday night ride

16th & 17th June Weekend ride

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June Mudgeeraba Show – The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show

18th & 19th August Weekend Away Ride – Richard and Wayne

20th & 21st October Weekend away ride-Richard

24<sup>th</sup> November – MECGC Christmas Dinner, lock in the date and watch this space for details.



# Calendar - April 2018

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wed 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
						7am - Club
						House
						Bikers
						B.Fast
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	4am			9am Club		7am –
	Argentina			Ride – Club		Club House
	motoge			House		Ride
3am	8:30am -					
Argentina	Club Ride		7pmMovie			
Qualifying	Oxenford @		Night @ the			
motoge	Tah Bella Cafe		Club House			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	8:30am -			9am Club		7am –
	Club Ride			Ride – Club		Club House
	Oxenford @		7PM	House		Ride
	Tah Bella Cafe		Committee			Weekend
	Cale		Meeting @			Ride
			the Club			Away
Condon	Mandan	Tuesday	House Wed	Thursday	Ewidon.	Cotundon
Sunday 22	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	vved 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27	Saturday 28
5am	5am			9am Club		
America	America			Ride – Club		
Qualifying	motoge			House		
	8:30am -		ANZAC	7PM		
Motoce	8:30am - Club Ride		DAY	GENERAL		
Weekend	Oxenford @			MEETING		
Ride	Tah Bella			at the Club		
Away	Cafe			House		
Sunday	Monday 30	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29						
29	8:30am -					
29	Club Ride					
29	Club Ride Oxenford @					
29	Club Ride Oxenford @ Tah Bella					
29	Club Ride Oxenford @					

For up to date information on all events log on to  $\underline{www.mecgc.club}$ 

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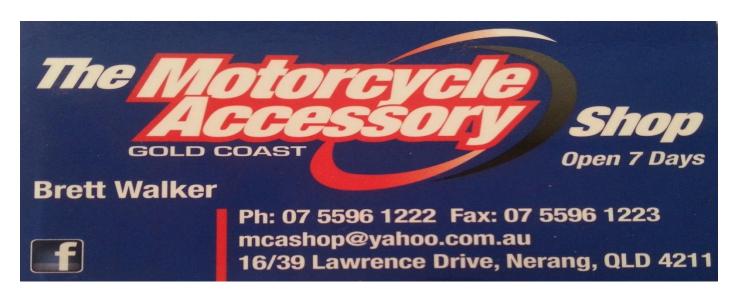
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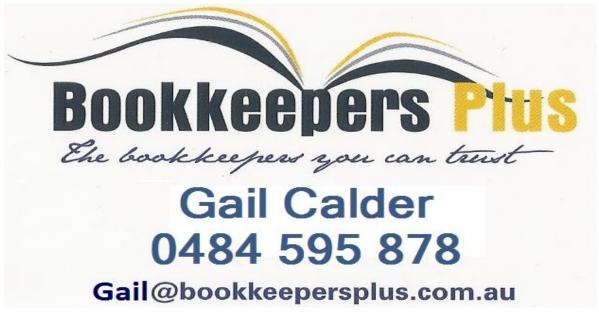
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## THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC.

#### 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 <a href="editor@mecgc.club">editor@mecgc.club</a> or posted to MECGC Attn: Gail 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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