



THE LINK

APR/MAY 23

EDITOR

Annya Summers

'JOINING GOOD COMPANIONS IN A SHARED PASTTIME.'

The Official Journal of THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB
INC., GOLD COAST

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THE MASTER LINK

BAZZ'S BANTER

Hello fellow Motorcycle Enthusiasts.

The boys have put together some great rides lately, a couple of which I missed due to being interstate. Tasmania never disappoints and will have an article on that ride in the next edition. I did however have the privilege of riding on Wayne's Memorial Ride with several other club riders. The weather was great and was an awesome day out riding in memory of our mate and past president.

Steve McDowell has put together another great article that some in the club might relate too. It certainly hit home for me! And as for poor (old) Rod, he didn't even get a chance to get on his bike before he had a mishap (as he explains in his article).

The overnighter to Maryvale on 29th April is locked in with several club members (including myself) camping on the pub lawn! There is still plenty of space for any keen campers.

Have I missed anything? Maybe the last turnoff as I just wanna keep riding!! See you all on the road.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Link that Annya has done another great job of putting together.

And remember, if there's a tip, story or article you would like to put in this mag, just contact Annya or myself.

In the meantime Ride Safe!

Bazz.

A promotional advertisement for Tribal Moto. The background is dark with a motorcycle on the right side. The Tribal Moto logo is in the top left. The text reads: **MECGC SALE**, **GET 25% OFF EVERYTHING ONLINE**, **INCLUDES TRIBALMOTO AND MECGC**, **At checkout, use code MECGC25**, and **Valid until 30 April 2023.**

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi everyone.

Well, the last few weeks have seen some of the best riding in my, albeit short, motorcycle related career. Andy and I were lucky enough to join three other friends and MECGC members Annie Hendley, Robby Murray and Tracey Leep, on the trip of a lifetime - **11 days riding New Zealand's South island.**



We had every type of weather possible (well except for an earthquake, but we were ready!) and had the pleasure of riding some of the world's best roads for motorcycling in what felt like an entirely new world! I've attached a few pics below. For those keen to do something similar, more pics and video footage can be found in my Blogs for each day's riding at [TribalMoto News](#).



We'd love to hear about your travels. Share your story by emailing editor@mecgc.club.

Cheers
Annya



EVENTS

COME AND JOIN US AT ONE OF THE EVENTS BELOW!

BIKERS BREAKFAST

The First Saturday every month. Open at 7am. Please bring your SIV rego bikes, you can share a BBQ breakfast with us at the clubhouse then head out for a ride. Leave at 9am.

WEEKLY RIDES

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

- Monday: Wayne's ride. Meet at Tahbella Cafe, 3 Cottonwood Place, Oxenford at 8am to leave 9.00am.
- Thursday ride meeting at our clubhouse 8.30am leave at 9am.
- Saturday morning ride meeting at clubhouse 7.30am for a cuppa, stands up at 8.00am.
- Last Saturday is a long ride.
- Club Rooms open every Saturday from 7am rain or shine for coffee before we head out.
- SIVS bike ride to Canungra every Sunday. Meeting at either Metz or Outpost..

MUSIC FOR PARTIES/FUNCTIONS

Play guitar and sing old favourites
 Up to 4 microphones - you join in or follow karaoke screen
 Top quality equipment - will play loud or soft
 Background music - classics

**CONTACT MURRAY FOR BEST PRICE AROUND
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ADVENTURE RIDE

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

CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Third Wednesday of each month.

All members of the club are welcome to attend the committee Meeting. Club General Meeting—are no longer held each month. There will be meetings called from time to time. Next one is August for the annual AGM.

MOVIE NIGHT

2nd Wednesday of each month.

Open from 6.30pm. Movie starts at 7pm.

For more information, contact Mark 0438 000 3224

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ACTIVITIES GO TO WWW.MECGC.CLUB

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BORN TO BE WILD... FORCED TO BE MILD

Let's face it - none of us are getting any younger.

As I navigate my way into my 60s, I'm starting to realise that age-related changes are coming at me faster than a supercharged H2.

Sadly, it happens to us all - the changes, not the H2!

Two of the most common age-related changes we experience are to our vision and cognitive processing speed, which in turn affect our ability to perceive speed and distance accurately.

As we age, our eyes go through natural changes. The lenses in our eyes become less flexible which can make it harder to focus on nearby objects, and our pupils become smaller, reducing the amount of light that enters our eyes.

Age-related changes in vision can also impact our depth perception, which is critical for accurately judging distances. Older adults may have difficulty distinguishing between objects that are close together or may have difficulty perceiving the depth of objects in a three-dimensional space.

When our ability to judge distances is impaired, we may perceive objects as being closer or further away than they actually are.



And since we rely on our perception of distance to determine speed, we now fail to judge our speed and the speed of other vehicles around us accurately.

Additionally, our visual processing speed tends to slow down with age, which can make it more difficult to process and interpret that visual information quickly and accurately.

Although we don't realise it, our brain processes information more slowly as we age too - so there's your reason for taking so long to decide what you want to eat off that café menu!

Combine all this with our bodies' natural tendency to slow down as we get older, and our reaction times can become sluggish enough to make a snail look speedy. That makes it more challenging to react quickly in unexpected situations.

It's starting to sound really bad, but don't worry - just because we're getting older doesn't mean we have to give up the joy of riding. By understanding what's happening to our bodies and taking steps to compensate for age-related changes, we can continue to safely ride for many more years.



BORN TO BE WILD...FORCED TO BE MILD

So, here's some tips I hope you find useful.

1. Firstly, be brutally honest with yourself about your limitations. It's important to acknowledge the changes in our reaction times, our ability to judge speed and distance, and that we may need to take extra precautions and be more cautious on the road.

2. Minimise your risks by learning to anticipate potential hazards and taking proactive steps to avoid them. I've found that keeping a 3 second following distance, scanning the road ahead, and staying visible to other drivers has saved my butt more times than I can count.

3. Get regular medical check-ups. We check our bikes over regularly, we should do the same for our bodies. Regular check-ups can help to pick up changes that might affect our riding before they become a major issue.

4. Wear appropriate safety gear. As we age, our bodies aren't as resilient as they once were and we don't bounce like we used to. Many of us walked away from crashes when we were in our twenties, but today that same crash will probably get us 2 months confinement to the lounge watching daytime soaps on TV.

5. And part of being honest with ourselves is to also take a reality check on the motorcycle we're riding, and make sure it's appropriate for our age and physical abilities. While that Harley Fat Boy may make us look pretty cool, at over 320kg it can be a bit of a handful when manoeuvring at slow speeds or in tight spaces. And we'll probably start racking up frequent flyer points at the chiropractor if we choose that Ducati Panigale we've always wanted.

You may also want to consider taking a refresher course which can help you brush up on your riding skills and learn some new techniques for staying safe on the road. We've all seen massive changes in the bikes and the environment we ride in during our years riding, and sometimes it helps to get some updated information.

Of course, that's what we do at the SMART Rider Academy - however this isn't a sales pitch. But did you know that over 60% of the riders on our courses are aged over 50?

But ageing isn't all bad. It's worth noting that getting older can actually make us wiser and better riders. With age comes experience, and as we accumulate more kilometres on the road, we can (if we're smart about it) develop a greater awareness of our surroundings and a deeper understanding of what it takes to stay safe out there. Draw on that experience.

The older we get, the more important it is to take care of ourselves. So take your time and enjoy the journey. You may not be as quick as you used to be, but that doesn't mean you can't still have a great time. Just be sure to take the necessary precautions and ride within your limits, and you'll be able to enjoy riding for many years to come.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

Enjoy the ride!

Steve McDowall

Director and Principal Instructor

[SMART Rider Academy](#)



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'OUCH' THE HUMILIATION OF IT ALL...

FROM THIS



TO THIS... IN LESS THAN A SECOND



During my life I have known 3 motorcycle riders who have broken their legs whilst riding push bikes. How humiliating for those guys, I thought at the time.

So now it's my turn and I can't figure if my little incident is actually more or less humiliating.

I've never suffered an injury whilst riding a motorbike; and still haven't. I didn't even get onto the bloody thing.

Anyone that has gone camping with a duffle bag or two on the pillion seat will know you have to mount the bike in a different way as I have done a couple of hundred times. I find it easier to mount the bike from the right hand side of the bike and to lift my left leg over. EASY? Not on Sunday 12th March whilst at a car show at Garage 25. I got Lexi strapped in with helmet & goggles, put my gear on, planted my right foot, lifted my left leg, and the right knee exploded, landing me on my back unable to move my right leg.

At least the dog and bike were both left standing with no damage whatsoever. The resulting injury was the Quadriceps Tendon being totally torn away from the knee. It will be at least 4 months before I can even think about riding again.

Not the only one:

Our thoughts also go out to Jim Kellog who came undone whilst participating in 'The Black Dog Ride' on Sunday 19th March. As I am writing this article, Jim remains in hospital with several broken ribs and other injuries. Hope you get well soon Jim.

Mark Mellor is also currently recovering from an ankle operation required to correct an old injury.

CAFFEINE, BANTER & BIKES - SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023

Don't forget Saturday 13th May for our next "Caffeine, Banter & Bikes" show at Garage 25. Unfortunately we are going to need a little more assistance from some club members for this upcoming event. Although I will be there to assist in some way, due to my injury I am going to be very restricted.

Tasks that need to be done on the day include:

1. Transporting our club equipment to venue.
2. Setting up parking signs before 6.00am.
3. Setting up club marque before 6.30am.
4. Displaying club banners.
5. Taping off areas of non-entry.
6. Traffic control.
7. Parking control.
8. Packing up club's equipment around 10.30am.
9. Transporting club equipment back to club house.

Saturday 13th May

'Garage 25'

1 Boatworks Dv, Coomera

7.00am to 11.00am



CAFFEINE, BANTER AND BIKES EVENT



All bikes & clubs welcome!

We welcome you to bring your machine down and join the display and banter with like-minded people and their bikes.

Don't forget, cars are also most welcome to join the party.

We will be kicking off at 7.00am going through to 11.00am, however you are welcome to come & go as you please.

We appreciate the on-going support from the following vendors that should be present on the day with their goods.



The bacon & egg rolls will be rolling out as of 7.00am, along with your morning hit of caffeine by the friendly staff of Espresso Twenty5.

<https://www.facebook.com/esptwenty5/>

For more information, contact Rod Moorcroft.
Mobile: 0411 127 017
Email: rgmoorcroft@bigpond.com

MOTOR CYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB GOLD COAST



Calendar for 2023

Sat. 13th May 2023
Sat. 12th August 2023
Sat. 11th November 23



Don't forget the Speedway boys will also be there showing off their magnificent machines.



Guest Dealerships present on the day:



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THE TIP LINE



Greetings troops (I hope that this is a suitably gender-neutral term of address).

Our esteemed Presindente asked me for another bike related poem for this edition of our club mag. Unfortunately, I have exhausted my stash for a while. I decided not to burden you with the other stuff I have composed. Some of it is a bit heavy. Not sure how many of you Philistines have read them anyway.

As a result, I thought it might be a good idea (well, of course I did; it's my idea) to start a "Tip Line", so to speak. Everyone must have some sort of story which they have to share about how to make our life on bikes that bit easier. Think back. Remember the lost skin, the lost swags, the broken down bike on the side of the road. These all come with life lessons.



Glove reinsertion tool.



Insertion complete.

Pinky Liner Conundrum

Actually, it can apply to any finger on the gloves whereby the liner pulls out when you remove your hand. Encouraging it back into place can be challenging, particularly if they are damp. The term "challenging", includes but is not limited to swearing like a wharfie, throwing things that ought not be thrown and the consumption of health threatening amounts of alcohol.

I postulated the solution one day whilst riding in Bhutan, and I thought it was an original idea. Tony (KTM 200) in our club informed me that it was an old trick from when he raced motocross. Yeah, I can see the gloves getting a workout when moto crossing, but fully lined winter and or wet weather gloves take it to a whole new level.

Anyway, stay with me. The pic at top shows my glove giving you all the finger. Another shows the reinsertion tool.

Some of the sharper among you will have identified this tool as a brake lever. Reasonably straight and solid with a very smooth end. It is infinitely better than your finger when you have the "Pinky Liner Conundrum", particularly when wet. Trust me. The pic above right shows the insertion complete. I didn't include a picture of me smiling smugly. Aren't you lucky?

This particular tip made it into a UK bike magazine.

Anyway, I hope that one day, one of these tips might prevent you from having to be medicated as a result of your motorcycling endeavours and that some of you may also wish to share as I have.

Equitare ergo sum.

Derek Stevenson.

GOT A TIP, POEM OR QUOTE TO SHARE? EMAIL: EDITOR@MECGC.CLUB

THE MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INC. GOLD COAST

'JOINING GOOD COMPANIONS IN A SHARED PASTIME'

WHO ARE WE?

The Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club has been around for 30+ years. As the name suggests, we are enthusiasts of all forms of motorcycles, including classic, modern, sidecars and trikes. We cater to all ages and styles.

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

WHERE ARE WE?

Heritage Centre, 238 Mudgeeraba Road, Mudgeeraba. Entrance to Heritage Village is opposite Milky Way.

WHAT'S THE LINK?

The Link is our Club magazine, emailed bi-monthly and includes information on Club runs, activities and rallies held by other clubs, club events, ride reports, photos, videos and articles contributed by our club members.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

Email articles, photos, items for sale to editor@mecgc.club by the 25th of the preceeding month.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

MECGC Club

Bank of Queensland

BSB: 124 387

Account Number: 2247 6848

CLUB GARMENTS AND MERCH

TribalMoto provide great quality and an already discounted price on all MECGC garments and decals.

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22-2023 COMMITTEE

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HAVE GOOD COMPANY.'**

