

The Monthly Journal of the
Northern Rivers Classic Motorcycle Club Inc.

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**MAY
2013**

Classic Torque

Sunday Club run to Evans Head for a coffee!



The perfect setting for a lazy morning in the sun at the Silver Sands Caravan Park Kiosk

Owing to unfortunate circumstances we had to change at the last minute the destination for this club run but fortune did smile on us as the weather was perfect and we had an excellent turnout of over thirty members.

Yes there was a little confusion on the actual starting time from the Rous Hotel which we now hope should not

occur again as at the last meeting it was resolved that there will be only one (1) starting time and that only from the Rous Hotel, Lismore at 8.30 am. Note that all members living north or in the Bangalow area if they so desired, could still meet at Bangalow at 8 am and travel to Lismore to be there at 8.30 am.

The main group of 16 members, under the guidance of Peter took to the road to Evans Head travelling pretty much the more direct route to Wardell and through the National Park to Evans. Picking up a few stragglers along the way, by the time we reached the Silver Sands kiosk where



Pat and Brenda about to depart our company on their beloved "Classic" Norton

another group of members were already settled in, the numbers had increased to 34.

After the usual morning coffee and social chat with a couple of our newest members everyone departed for home having enjoyed a pleasant run on a great day.

Noel Edwards.

MINUTES OF MEETING		09/04/2013	START:	7.38 pm
WELCOME: MEMBERS 38 as per attendance sheet.				
VISITORS PRESENT:		3 as per attendance sheet		
APOLOGIES:	12 as per attendance sheet Welcome from President			
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING READ				
ACCEPTED:	Mary Walker	SECOND:	Mark Hunt	
BUSINESS ARISING				
1. Classic Car Club event in Lismore August 4 2. Norm sill waiting on date from Bunnings				
TREASURERS REPORT				
OPENING BALANCE:		CLOSING BAL:		
ACCEPTED:	Mark Hunt	SECOND:	Peter Lake	
CORRESPONDANCE				
IN:	1. Newsletters - The Link, QLD Historic club, Throttle Lever, Classic Lines, Inverell Motorcycle restorers club, Tweed Heads Motorcycle restorers club 2. Invitations - Coffs Harbour Motorcycle Restorers Club Restore and Ride Rally 7 – 10 June, Inverell Restorers Club Rally 19 – 21 April 3. 2 x membership fees, 1 x OTHM application 4. Receipt for PO Box renewal			
ACCEPTED:	Peter Lake	SECOND:	Noel Edwards	
GENERAL BUSINESS:				
1. Please supply email address to Gerard if you haven't already done so 2. Membership list is currently 100 3. Members reminded to check events on web site before heading out to any event 4. Coffs Harbour run June 7 – 10 and Inverell rally 19 – 21 April, Ray Owen Classic Bike show May 26, Bevels and Bullshit Ducati Club 20,21 April, ruptured budgie rally 17-19 May, listed as club runs 5. Thanks to John and Judy Charlton for looking after the club trailer for some time now from Mary Walker 6. Thanks to Michael Smith for fast return on updating GPS for members 7. Col cannot attend Wednesday rides and finds that when we have a wet day on the one Sunday per month and suggests that every Sunday is a designated club ride day for impromptu club rides. Rides would still start from the Rous Hotel Lismore at 8.30am Second John Mazza. All present in favour 8. Byron Bay photo shoot – report from Richard. There were 4 models and photographer brought his own bike as well, 9 club bikes were brought 9. All club runs start at Rous Hotel 8.30 year round. Doug Foskey moves second Tony Kempnich 10. Federal hall is showing Worlds Fastest Indian Saturday 13 th , 7pm				
MEMBERS REPORTS				
CLUB RUN	Wednesday run to Iliana's – nice ride out there and enjoyed to see how the place has been done up. Thursday run last month from Byron to M'bah and Uki with 3 members in total Run to house Pat is looking after at Lennox, thanks to Mary and Bryson for organising breaky, around 30 members participating.			
NEXT RUN:	Ride is now going to coffee shop in Evans Head, leaving Rous Hotel 9.30 am Thursday run in May TBA	MEETING CLOSED:	8. pm	

A mid-week run extraordinaire!

Last month's mid week run, organised by Gobby (Captain Long Flat) Simons was certainly an adventurous, arduous run to the Long Flat Travellers Rest Hotel situated to the uninitiated, on the Oxley Highway. I was keen to discover what all the hype was about this road being voted the 2nd best in Australia for motorcyclists.

As the departure day dawned, foggy, wet and gloomy I nearly reneged on going but curiosity prevailed and I met up with the other hardy riders in Lismore, minus a few dropouts. Traveling via Nymboida, Ebor

and Armidale with the lunch stop a good pub in Uralla. This road left a lot to be desired as not only being wet and slippery we had to contend with road works. One section being of approx 200 mtrs of absolute slush with the bikes wheels wanting to slide into and out of all the mess, a good set of trail bike tyres may have helped. Everyone was pleased to have made it through ok.

After the counter lunch at Uralla the group headed for Walcha and onto the Oxley Highway which is why one goes along there. Firstly approx 50 kms of long undulating straights with a few very high speed curves followed by approx 60 kms of really windy roads consisting of mostly 25, 35 and 45 kph (advisory) bends. A sectioned with fresh bitumen and loose gravel kept your mind on the job. This was a really demanding section (especially for the elderly) and it was a relief to get back onto the far less demanding run into Long Flat. The Travellers Rest Hotel provided all the essential needs, making us welcome and the food was excellent, just ask Ray about the mixed grill.

The return next day was fine and sunny (no rain till Grafton) but 2 of us had punctured tyres but thankfully Terry had a repair set and plugged them to get home on, many thanks fellows.

A really great trip thanks Gobby. Would do it all again if the body would allow.

Noel Edwards



Stretching the legs at Ebor and adjusting wet weather gear



The group preparing to leave the Long Flat Travellers Rest Hotel for the 550 klm return home

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# NEW TIME FOR OUR SUNDAY CLUB RUNS from the ROUS HOTEL LISMORE ONLY

# 8.30 AM

Owing to consistent confusion this will be the only starting time and place for NRCMCC Sunday events unless otherwise advertised. Members from the Bangalow area may wish to meet there and ride to Lismore in time for the official commencement time of the event. Note also that every Sunday can now be used as a sanctioned club event

- **PS:** Wednesday Mid-week runs remain the same, starting from the Lismore Railway at 9 am on the first and fourth Wednesday each month.

## Wake-up and laugh!

I took the wife to a disco at the weekend. There was a guy on the dance floor, giving it everything he had; breakdancing, moonwalking, back flips, the works.

My wife turned to me and said, "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."

I said, "Looks like he's still f--king celebrating!!"

"Mick, could you close your curtains next time you are having sex with your wife. The whole street was watching and laughing at you yesterday!"

"Well, the joke is on them, said Paddy. I wasn't even home yesterday."

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# **NRCMC Club Events** **2013**



**Club run each month on the 1st Sunday after the meeting.**

**All runs now start only from Lismore Rous Hotel  
cnr. Keen and Zadoc Street at 8.30 am sharp**

**Wednesday Mid-week runs all start at Lismore Railway at 9 am on the 1st and 4th  
Wednesday every month**

- May 19** Sunday ride to Donna and Mick Cranes house near Bonalbo, leaves , Lismore 8.30am. We meet at Bonalbo pub approx 10 am. and then go on to Mick's house
- 25-May** Overnighter at Nymboida canoe centre. Clarence Valley Historic & Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club are running the event. Our group to leave from Lismore early Saturday and ride to the start point in Grafton. Leaving Grafton Sat morning - times to be advised, for a ride up to Dorrigo for lunch and then back to Nymboida for BBQ and campfire with bike DVD's in a big shed. After brekky Sunday, a morning ride. Bring your cold weather gear. Cheap accommodation available, cabins or camping. For more info contact Col, 6683 4429 or Frank, 6686 0771.
- June 16** Sunday ride to Cindy and Richard Swinton's house in Clunes. Parking space in laneway next to house. Leave Lismore 8.30. Slow Bike run (trailer) to and from Rous hotel.
- June 29** Bunnings BBQ, Please bring out your bikes and lend a hand — from 8.30 am Saturday.
- July 14** Sunday ride to Brunswick Heads Hot Rod Show. Leaves Lismore 8.30 am.
- Date to be advised:** Classic Bikes with drum brakes only ride to the Club Hotel Emmaville for two nights. <http://www.clubhotelemmaville.com/> Leave Lismore Friday for a casual ride to Tenterfield then on to Emmaville to meet up with members of the Clarence Valley Historic & Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club. This is an event specifically for the early classic bikes and a back-up car & trailer will be along to carry your gear. The proposal is to spend Saturday exploring some of the great bike roads in the area and then back to Emmaville for Sat. night. We can get great group rates on Dinner, B & B Contact Col for more info 66 834429 (ah) or [col\\_aqua@yahoo.com.au](mailto:col_aqua@yahoo.com.au)
- Aug. 4** Lismore Classic Car & Bike show. Clyde Campbell car park next to Police station. 9 am
- August 17** Aussie Triples Rally. Marshalls required with lunch provided. Meet 8.45 at entrance to Lakeside caravan Park, Fenwick Drive, East Ballina.
- August 18** Club Run and Aussie Triples rally combined with NRCMCC providing marshals. Lunch will be a BBQ at the Park. 8.45 am start at entrance to Caravan Park.
- Sept. 15** Sunday Run. Coffee ride to Alstonville area. Venue not decided yet. Starts Rous Hotel 8.30 am.
- Sept 27/30** NRCMCC Annual Rally. Details to come
- Oct. 12/13** Possible overnighter to Rathdowney Pub if we get enough interest.
- Oct. 13** Sunday Club run to Rathdowney Pub for lunch. Daylight saving now on. Leave Lismore 8.30 am. Rous Hotel .
- Oct 27** Sunday "Compression against Depression" ride organised by Nick Kostyn — details to come
- Nov. 17** Sunday Club run, 2 rides in 1. Slow run to Casino for morning tea (backup) or continue to Yamba for lunch via Bluff Point ferry. Leaves, Rous Hotel 8.30 am
- Dec. 8** Christmas party this year 9.30 am (food & drinks) volunteers required and rego day.
- Dec. 15** Sunday run to Frank Widdow's house (64 Westland Drive, Ballina) Leaves Lismore 8.30 am

## **Upcoming Rallies & Events Organised by other Clubs**

- 24-26<sup>th</sup> May,** Clarence Valley Club overnighter. Nymboida . Anyone interested please contact Col McAndrew on 66834429 or Frank to arrange when we leave Lismore for Grafton as it is now starting on Friday.
- 26th May,** Ray Owen Show a & Swap. Nth Tambourine contact 0438916608
- 8-9-10<sup>th</sup> June,** Coffs Harbour Club Rally
- 22-23<sup>rd</sup> June,** Teams Trial, Boonah. contact 0422979379
- 27-28<sup>th</sup> July,** Frostbite Rally, Warwick. contact 07 46648198

## From the Editor's desk . . .



Seems as though we are approaching the busy time of the year with 30 or so lucky members who are by now well into the "Over the Hill" run, somewhere up in the Glasshouse Mountains. Plans are also being organised by a special committee for the running of our annual rally being held on the 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September. Heard that the Inverell Annual rally was attended by a dozen of our members who had a good time. Let's hope that this is a good sign for our rally. Last year when we included the special event on the Friday just for the pre 1960 motorbikes, it was a big question as to whether it would be a success. Let's hope for the same success again this year.

It has been great this year with a few of our members personally organising special trips away for club members. Graeme Sommers kicked this idea off with a run to Long Flat last year and it proved very successful so Gobby Simons organised this last one (see page 9). Alister Bell has had a couple of day runs on a Thursday and he hopes to get a few more starters next time. Check the events page for next overnight run to Nymboida on 25<sup>th</sup> May (contact Col) and for Oct 12/13<sup>th</sup> and overnight to Rathdowney (Qld). Hoping to get expressions of interest in this early as we need to book the motel out as it only has about six rooms.

**Importantly:** See page 4, change of start time 8.30 am and only 1 (one) starting place for all events (Rous Hotel) except for mid-week runs which start at the Railway 9 am. *Noel Edwards*

## NRCMCC OFFICIALS CONTACT NUMBERS

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 Events Co-ordinator: Frank Widdows Ph 6686 0771  
 Mid-Week ride organizer, Rob Andrews Ph 6621 4083

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# A TRIBUTE TO BETTY AHEARN

15<sup>th</sup> November 1928---13th April 2013

Even though we Club members knew of Betty's stroke last year and her very slow recovery, we were still saddened when Jack's life partner passed away in Fromelles Nursing Home, Lismore. This has been a great blow to our Club Patron and his family.

I talked to Jack and he gave me some of his memories of their life to pass on to you. Jack was racing a Velocette at Bathurst in 1951, and that was the year he crashed it and broke both wrists. The next day in hospital this lovely lady visited him and later a date was arranged in Sydney.

After Jack came back from the Continental Circus in 1954, they married, and Betty toured every second year from then to 1957 when Jack stayed home to build a house for Betty.

He won the program at Bathurst that year for Betty. They resumed the European circuits in 1958, and when the first child Vicki appeared on the scene, Betty stopped touring in 1959. Now, the measure of her character and love is that she let Jack tour alone till 1963, when she joined him with Vicki for the season, then toured with him again in 1965/66.

They then opened a motorcycle dealership in Victoria Road, Ryde, Sydney. Not many people know that when the family came up here, the first house he and Betty built is now known as the Maze on Wardell Road. (Betty assured me once that she didn't plant the maze)

A fact not widely known is that Betty had never ridden a bike or even been a pillion. Now I write as a personal friend and I will miss her happy nature and it seems unfair that such a lovely lady can be struck down by a stroke with no warning or recovery.

To Jack, Vicki, Julia, Andrew, and grandchildren Kara, Jesse, Meg, Ellie, Mark and Eden, the Club extends its thoughts and sympathy in your sorrow. (The Club arranged for a floral tribute and a good number of members attended the funeral and get together afterward, and Jack appreciated this, Eric Wilson).

*The Photo was taken on one of the tours in Europe, with Betty outside the faithful van (with sponsors logo on the door) These vans carried 2 bikes, spares, fuels, a bed, some cooking gear, a small stove, a bed, and chairs etc. A real gypsy life.*







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# Presidents Report — May 2013

Firstly on behalf of the members I would like to express our sympathy to our Club Patron Jack Ahearn and his family following the passing of Jack's wife Betty.

It was good to hear that our club had a strong presence at the Inverell Rally. I look forward to the report at the next meeting.

The Rally Committee has had its first meeting and a few improvements have been suggested. One of these is that we do not present trophies for club members at the Rally function. At the next general meeting we will ask members to consider having a separate club Show day with trophies awarded to the winners of the year categories. (this will give us another club outing each year)

As we now have an authorised club ride for historic plated bikes every Sunday, we have more opportunity to be out riding rather than missing out due to wet days. Members should check our website to keep informed, as the events page is updated frequently.

I suggest you check out the details of the Clarence Valley Club's overnighter at Nymboida. This is now a 3 day event and I hope we get our members to attend on all days or to ride down Saturday.

See ya on the road, Col.




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**MWR April 24 to Broadwater @  
'our daily bread' ex church cafe**

After family medical problems plus an additional "extra" of an annoying spasmodic electrical defect on my classic RZ 1983 350cc, things were getting too much to bear. This new problem unfortunately made my machine 'hors de combat' for this particular outing. So the Mid Week Run was shaping-up to be a most severe disappointment - right from the start. Things were not going well for me at all. All on a beautiful Wednesday morning too! Then in a double-diabolical combination (they come always together - it's 'Murphys Law') a rear-brake hydraulic problem on my modern and much-

treasured Yamaha 1989 RZ 250R compounded my angst. So "ze great leader" finally showed up on a defective machine at 9.15 AM (Late!) at Lismore Railway Station's MWR venue in sore need of spanner-assistance from any volunteer assembled club-members. Some were annoyingly humorous - some mystified - some offered suggestions - but thank goodness for BMW riders. They always seem to have a complete set of spanners (and more). But indeed, why do they have to have them in the first palace - I wonder?] But mere spanner-expertise did not cure the problem with my RZ 250R rear-brake; so after a quick change of steed [via a quick ride back to my home which was luckily nearby] and also with a quick-change of venue for the other patient riders at a new 'ad hoc' rendezvous adjacent to Neumann Servo on Wyrallah Road - twelve (12) riders and one pillion set off to have a coffee/eats at Broadwater's "Our Daily Bread"(a converted Church, just off the Pacific Highway). It was 'Closed' when we arrived. But soon after our arrival we perceived 'There was movement at the station'. In the best ethos of capitalism and consumer-power the cafe was now miraculously open for business! The planned original route was via Lismore, Wyrallah Road, Tucki Cemetery turn-off, down to Marom Creek and onto Wardell via Meerschaum Vale, along the Pac H/Way.

After a coffee and delicious snacks at B'water - we all went back home via diverse personal routes. I went back with the Lismore contingent past the Bagotville Barrage Road turn-off and then through Dunga-rubba to the Woodburn/Lismore Road, at a lovely enjoyable pace so we could appreciate with the sights and smells of the present very lush Northern Rivers country-side. Lovely stuff! There were some pot-holes and some extraneous "slow -roadworks" signs near Tucki [where no roadwork was actually going on] as well as that infernal LCC "spray-patcher-machine" at work just past Wyrallah Village. However, we took his in our stride. At around 90 Km return trip it was a really good day. It was also a real tonic for myself as a house-bound person for a over month now due to ill-health in the family. Mid-Week Run - you are a savior of our sanities! See you on the next one... *Rob. Andrews.*

**Our Vice president Pat, live on ABC radio:** on May 3rd Pat was given the opportunity to explain the virtues and answer questions by the ABC sports interviewer on all the interesting sides of our NRCMCC and he did a good job. Thanks Pat.

## GREAT ANSWER *wake up and laugh a little*

A senior citizen drove his brand new BMW Z4 convertible out of the car salesroom. Taking off down the motorway, He floored it to 160kmh, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. "Amazing!" he thought as he flew down the M1, enjoying pushing the pedal to the metal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him - no problem!" thought the elderly nutcase as he floored it to 180kmh, then 220 then 240kmh.

Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!"

So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

Pulling in behind him, the police officer walked up the driver's side of the BMW, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. Today is Friday and I'm taking off for the weekend. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go.."

The old man, looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir", said the policeman ..

## Subject: Manure... An interesting fact

Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas of course. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can imagine what could (and did) happen..... Methane began to build up below decks, and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.


After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction ' Stow high in transit ' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term ' S.H.I.T ' (Stow High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I.

I had always thought it was a golf term.

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**TORO** **POLARIS**



## “Good Morning Vietnam”

Julia and I have not long returned from a couple of weeks in Vietnam and what an amazing place it is. The first thing that greets you when you arrive is the heat; it is a bit hotter and more humid than our hottest day in the middle of summer here. It was still 32 degrees at 10 o'clock at night on the day we arrived. The second thing you can't help but notice is the numbers of motor scooters on the roads there.

The stats are; the population is approx. 90 million, there are about 30 million scooters on the road and somewhere between 3 and 5 million in Ho Chi Minh City and the same in Hanoi. This is partly due to their relatively cheap price and the 350% tax on cars. So a Toyota Corolla is about A\$50,000 and a school teachers monthly wage is about A\$350. Yes, less than A\$100 a week. Petrol is about A\$1:00 a litre. The other amazing thing is how the traffic flows, no one stops, and you just merge or blend. There is no (obvious) road rage, there is an understanding of what all the traffic will do and you just move to avoid each other. They don't stop at intersections, they blend together,

they overtake with bikes or trucks coming and they just move to make room. It is crazy but it works. A driver or rider can stop anywhere for any reason and the traffic will go around them, pedestrians can cross at any time and they will go around you, you can ride the wrong way along a one way road and they will go around you, it is amazing! Julia and I hired a bike for half a day

(for \$4) and it was great. My biggest fear was keeping right as they drive on the opposite side of the road there. Tooting the horn is a courtesy thing which we got the hang of quickly. One toot is “I'm here”, two or three toots is “I'm coming past now” and more toots is “I'm coming past and I can't stop”. There is no limit to what can be carried on a bike either. We saw 6 mtr lengths of reo-steel being transported, 2 fully grown pigs, 10 x 20 litre water containers (that's 200 kgs worth), families of 4, sleeping babies, a fridge, it just goes on and on. Helmets are now mandatory but the youth often don't as it will mess up their hair. There are helmets that look like baseball caps, others with holes in the back for the girls pony tails to protrude through. There were very few full face helmets and I didn't see a leather or cordura bike jacket at all. No gloves either for that matter and thongs were the standard foot wear . . . other than high heels on some of the girls and those who wore skirts rode side-saddle as pillions. Only the Police have 200cc bikes so most are around 200cc.



*Michael Smith*

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### ***Our Club's objectives :-***

The objectives of the NRCMC are *primarily* to encourage the restoration, preservation, and riding of older motorcycles. Through its various activities, the club promotes motorcycling and the links to a bygone era with several organised monthly rides as well as our involvement in displaying our bikes at charity functions etc.

The club holds its annual Classic Rally in September each year and entry is open for everybody to attend regardless of the type or age of their machinery. Club members also attend rallies organised by other clubs throughout the year.

The club endeavors to cater for families and all members partners and children are most welcome to attend any meetings or outings. Membership is open to anybody with an interest in motorcycling and there is No prerequisite to currently own a new or old motorcycle.

#### ***Monthly Meetings***

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Clunes Memorial Hall, Walker Street in Clunes. They start at 7.30 pm. Membership \$40 per annum, fees due in December.

#### ***Organised Runs***

A breakfast run is held on the Sunday immediately following the club's monthly meeting. We meet at the Lismore Rous Hotel at 8.30 am. Start times sometimes vary so please check the latest newsletter or the club website. Every other Sunday can be a club run but members must contact the Events Organiser. There are also 2 Mid-week runs departing Lismore Railway on 1st and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9 am. Contact Rob Andrews on 6621 4083.