

# Northern Rivers Classic Motorcycle Club Inc.

PO Box 7058, Lismore Heights, NSW 2480

[www.nrcmcc.org](http://www.nrcmcc.org)

Email: [nrcmcc@gmail.com](mailto:nrcmcc@gmail.com)

Or phone President

(see page 11)



**April  
2015**

# Classic Torque

Here was I, as editor, wondering whether to put **Allan Stratton's much delayed adventure** or the **club Show and Shine** on the front page - and it turns out I can do both!! Allan won the award for best veteran bike at the show, so he made it into both sections - thanks Allan, and congratulations.



**LEFT:** Here's Allan's 1914 Triumph, beautifully presented; and you'd never guess that he had ridden it from Adelaide to Darwin via Uluhru and Kakadu!! Some of the spectators were astonished when I told them the story.

**Left:** Tony Kempnich wheels in his Rudge Ulster, one of a number of bikes he displayed



**Far Left:** Dave Ditmar drew quite a crowd when he started up his 1914 Imperial Rover. Lovely antique V-twin noise!



**Left:** as usual the 1970 - 79 group was well represented - this is only half of them! I counted 64 club classic bikes.



**Below:** just a portion of the crowd. I think the show was very popular.



## Allan Stratton's Wonderful Adventure!

Adelaide to Darwin via Ullara and Kakado ,A distance of 4,100 km's, riding a 1914 triumph motorcycle. Pedal start, no clutch, no gearbox, belt drive, virtually no brakes, with a top speed approaching 70 km's an hour, sitting on a seat one step better than a bicycle seat. A man would have to be crazy.

And crazy I was, the rush was on, Beg, borrow. Buy, Manufacture, and with lots of help from Barry Deeth and Brian Fleming ( who have also entered the rally), a 1914, 500cc Triumph is finally starting to emerge. Last few days before we leave very hectic working day and night, and with only 50 km's of testing we are ready to go?????. Bike in the back of Ute and camper trailer attached, we leave home at Woodburn to travel to rally starting point at the Birdwood museum. Stayed overnight at Coonabarabran, Hay, and two nights at Nuriotpa.(very cold and lots of head wind)



Here we meet up with the rest of the rally entrants (quite a few who we know), looks like about 40 odd entries, about 18 motorcycles and the rest cars. All veterans. With Lyn driving our back up vehicle , we were waved off from the museum at Birdwood S.A. On the 3rd August 2014 by Mark Mc Gibbon our rally organiser. I'm feeling really pleased with myself, the bike is going really well, cruising along at 60 km,s per hour and then I get to my first real hill. Half way up I encounter a member of the grey army driving his \$100,000 land cruiser and oversized caravan travelling at about 15km per hour. With no clutch, no gearbox and belt drive I have no option but to stall the bike, run down the hill and start again. On the second attempt who should I meet again but the same old mate? This time I attempt to pass him only to go over the top of the hill side by side in the one lane.

For the next 21 days we settled into a steady routine of getting up early, eating breakfast, setting off, ensuring to set the oiler to drip one drop every 3 seconds, riding 80-90km's, refueling, cup of coffee, riding another 80-90km's, refuelling ,a bit of lunch, then riding the last section to our night's camp. Here the action starts; setting up our camp,



cleaning the bikes, checking to see if anything needed fixing, refuelling , checking the oil tank, drinking a few beers (\$7 a stubbie at most road houses), telling a few stories, reflecting on the days run, dinner and in to bed

Our route mainly took us up the Stuart Highway, camping over night at Burra, Willmington, Glendambo, Coober Pedy, Marla, Erldunda, Yulara (Ayers Rock ), back to Erldunda, Alice Springs, Tee Tree, Wauchope, Rennar Springs Daly Waters, Katherine Coorinda ( Kakadoo national Park ), Mary River, Coomalie Farm and on to Darwin arriving on the 24<sup>th</sup> August . The trip covered mostly flat and undulating country, not too many big hills with the one exception of Horrocks Pass .

Here we faced the biggest hurdle on the trip, Half way up and going pretty well, I was met by one of the other Triumphs coming back down to have another go. Surprisingly the old girl climbed like a dream, and as I went over the top I was met by a large group of other entrants, cheering and clapping their hands. I felt humble and embarrassed but also elated as I went down the other side towards Port Augusta (beautiful countryside and scenery). A real test for a bike of this vintage that had only done a 50 km test run before we left home.

We did have a few problems on the way the first being a new reproduction belt drive rim splitting and cutting the drive belt at Cadney Park Roadhouse ,just before Marla.. This was fixed by putting on a spare wheel and belt drive rim . A rear tyre change at Erlunda, and a slight nip up just before Dally Waters .

Here we removed the barrel and gave it a hone using an electric drill, a bent welding rod and strip emery. The piston was also dressed up. Back together, a quick peddle and away it went. During a few beers later that night, our good friend Lionel Simpson who was also ridding with us said " I know what's wrong with that bike, I bet it has a split between the oil and fuel tanks".



Allan's Adventure - continued:

Flat tank bikes like the Triumph being dry sumped and with a total loss oiling system, have the fuel and oil in the one tank with a divider in between. In the morning I checked the oil tank and found it to be mostly petrol. I had been pumping oil mixed with mainly petrol into the bike resulting in the barrel being washed down with this mixture causing the nip up. Luckily the crack was found in the top of the divider. The problem was solved by only half filling the oil and fuel tanks for the rest of the rally. The only other problem we had was a crack in the rear mudguard rack. This was also fixed by Lionel and his welder.



Overall it was a great experience, crossing Australia from South to North on a 100 year old motorcycle, with a group of like minded people, encountering cold nights, strong cold head winds, road trains, tourists, wildlife and some of the best scenery one could hope to see. A trip to be remembered, meeting new friends and old mates and the comradery that motorcycling has to offer.

Was I crazy? Would I do it again. Tomorrow would be too soon. (not too sure about the backup driver though.)

Remember, An old bike is like a good woman, it should be looked after well and ridden regularly!  
Thank you for sharing your experience and your pearl of wisdom with the club Allan. It all sounds fantastic!

## Presidents report:

Greetings everyone. We had great weather for our Show and Shine and I think everyone had a pleasant day. I take this opportunity to again thank our sponsors, Shannon's Insurance - thanks Jimmy; Northern Rider Magazine - thanks Nick; and LJ Hooker Alstonville - thanks Richard.

On behalf of our membership, I also would like to say thanks to all of our volunteers who helped set up and pack up, cook sausages, sell raffle tickets, push bikes off and onto trailers, rattle buckets of coins under peoples noses etc etc. We raised about \$1,500 on the day.

I am planning to establish a Show and Shine subcommittee soon so that we do not lose the momentum of this year's experience at the new site and to ensure even smoother running on the day next year. Anyone interested just give me a shout.

Congratulations also to all of the Classic Bike category winners and most importantly thanks to everyone who brought their shiny clean motorcycles for showing. Great effort everyone.

I hope that we get some good bike riding weather in for the rest of autumn. Anyone planning on going on the "13th Over the Hill Tour" who hasn't completed the entry form and paid the fee would you please print off the form from the NRCMC Club website and return the form to Tony Kempnich asap.

Happy trails everyone and "stay upright." Robert Evans.



**Left:** And here's our presidents recently acquired Classic Bike, tidied up just in time for the Show and Shine, - a 1983 BMW R100 'Outback' - a special model run made by a dealer in Sydney - R100 but fitted with wire wheels, panniers, lower compression (for country fuel) and a bikini fairing - only 200 built. He'll keep the 185cc Honda Benley for slow bike runs.



**Left:** tallying the score....

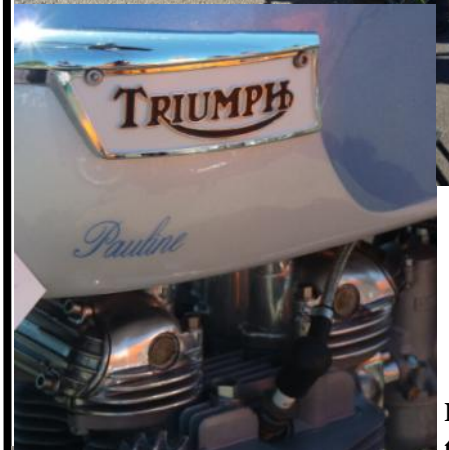
**Right:** just a few who volunteered on the BBQ- thanks

**Left below:** Dave's Imperial again

**Below (and left below):** lovely Triumph Tiger, and one way to ensure support at home!

**Right Below:** Vice Pres happy - tour group completed.

**Right bottom:** 'real' classics.



**Left bottom:**

They tell me this is the new baby Hog - seen at our show first!!



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# Minutes of Northern Rivers Classic Motorcycle Club

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**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 START: 7:40pm

**WELCOME:** Welcome by president and introduction from visitor

34 x MEMBERS and 1 x VISITOR and 8 x APOLOGIES as per attendance sheet

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING READ

ACCEPTED: Richard Swinton

SECOND: Mark Hunt

## BUSINESS ARISING -

- Clarification of the Club's obligations in regards to notifying RMS about non members.  
The Club's obligation is to provide RMS with a list of name and last known address only of non financial members.
- 27 Letters have been sent to non financial members.
- Bunnings Bar B Q fundraiser yet to be finalized. Carried over to next meeting for Norm Balzer to follow up
- 

**TREASURERS REPORT** – presented to members

ACCEPTED: Norm Balzer

SECOND: Mary Walker

## CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Comprehensive insurance due for Club Trailer – SHANNONS INSURANCE

7x Club Newsletter: QLD Historical Motorcycle Club, Newcastle Vintage Motorcycle Club, Griffith Classic Motorcycle Club, Tweed Heads motorcycle Club, Coffs Harbour motorcycle Club, Inverell Motorcycle Club, Grafton Vintage Motor Vehicle Club.

1x Council of Heritage Motor Clubs – NSW

1x Show n Shine invitation. Hunter Valley Steamfest 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015

1x invitation Coffs Harbour Motorcycle Club "restore and Ride" 22/23/24 May 2015

1x letter from Prostate Council

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:** 27 Late membership fee reminder letters

CORRESPONDENCE ACCEPTED: Neil Williams

SECOND: Mary Walker

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussions were held about taking bikes to other Club events.

Members are reminded of their obligations when using a historic registered vehicle on a public road or a road related area.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/registration/get-nsw-registration/historic-vehicles.html>

Current membership numbers provided to members in attendance. Final numbers TBA at next meeting. Postage of newsletters is becoming expensive. Potentially, some of the costs may need to be passed on TBC. Email is the preferred method for the distribution of Club correspondence. Members are encouraged to join the Club email list by contacting the Secretary on [secretary@nrcmcc.org](mailto:secretary@nrcmcc.org)

A motion was put to the meeting that a current membership form must be completed and signed and must accompany all membership applications/renewals in order to comply with the Club's recording obligations as an incorporated Club.

Motion Proposed by: Neil Williams

Motion Seconded by: Mary Walker

Motion voted on by members in attendance. Motion carried unanimously.

**SHOW AND SHINE:** Alstonville Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Early Start! Club Members needed to assist please. Eric has done a lot of work to ensure that this Club event is a success. Thank you.

- 8 members volunteered to be at S&S early to assist the Committee members to set up the carpark.
  - Looking forward to a great day and a good turnout.
- Looking forward to a great day and a good turnout.

## CLUB RUNS:

Sunday Classic Bikes Only club ride (30 years and older). March ride for classic bikes only was a great success and there will now be a "classic bikes only" ride on the first Sunday of every month. Leaving the Rous Hotel in Lismore at 8:30am

**WEDNESDAY RIDES:** Report from Peter Lake:


2 Wednesday rides this month.

1 - To Frank Widdows' home. 8 bikes rode through Ballina and got a bit wet after Ballina.

2 - To Evans Head. 10 bikes.

Both were great rides and everyone had a great time.

**MEETING CLOSED:** 8:35pm



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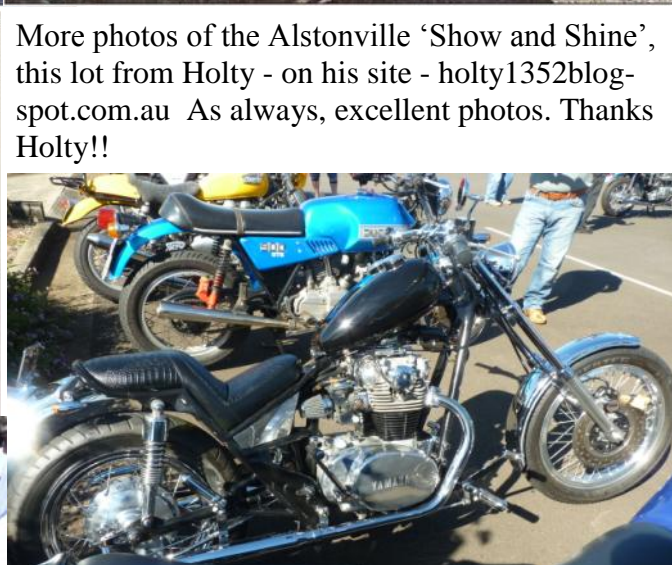
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More photos of the Alstonville 'Show and Shine', this lot from Holty - on his site - [holty1352blog-spot.com.au](http://holty1352blog-spot.com.au) As always, excellent photos. Thanks Holty!!

Above: Something for everyone - even if it isn't classed as a classic bike. A few minor mods...Bottom pics by RS

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## Wednesday Warriors;

Now the Rob Andrews is out of action for a while (We hope you recover quickly, Best wishes Rob!) Could we arrange that someone on the wed rides send me a short story of where they went, and how many - and a pic or two would be wonderful. It could even be told to me over the telephone. RS

## Virtual biking:

And a new idea for those of you who have internet access - a few links to video and articles about bikes, especially classics, but also other interesting motorcycle stuff.

If you find a fascinating site, please email the link to me. I'll try to check them out first.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p\\_plwuOHs8&t=174](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p_plwuOHs8&t=174) - "Make life a ride - Japanese"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L40MaCjqY5w> Vintage Triumph factory visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG1LGqucs88> trip around Triumph factory 1982

<http://www.gasanders.org/bmw/bmwpics.html> series of pics of a BMW R100 rebuild - very interesting

If you think there is a bias towards BMW - 3 points; First, there are a lot of BMWs in the club, and second, I get most links from a BMW nut -so you'd better send in some other stuff! And third, I own a BMW!

Anyone like puns??

**A motorcycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.**



Our man from the west - a staunch classics man - at Mal-langanee with his 19 yo daughter riding his 78 yo Norton. Mick's all for classic only rides.

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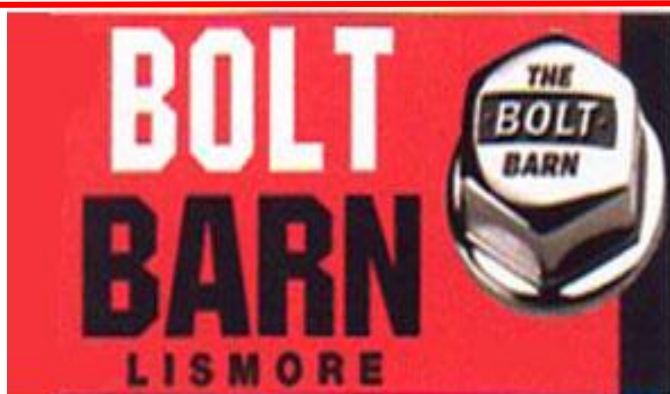
No 'Book of the Month' this month - Instead, here's installment number 1 of 3 of an article from the web: I think most of it applies to us here in Oz. <http://genjac.com/BoomerBiker/index.htm>

## **THE BOOMER BIKER**

### **WHAT EVERY OVER-50 RIDER SHOULD KNOW**

The following is a list of 50 "summary findings" from the "Hurt Report" done in the 1980's at the University of Southern California which analyzed data to determine causality of motorcycle crashes. The Hurt Report was very extensive and is widely quoted even though it is more than 25 years old. I think these findings are still valid and worthwhile for your consideration. Keep in mind, they are 'summary conclusions'.

1. Approximately three-fourths of these motorcycle accidents involved collision with another vehicle, which was most often a passenger automobile.
2. Approximately one-fourth of these motorcycle accidents were single vehicle accidents involving the motorcycle colliding with the roadway or some fixed object in the environment.
3. Vehicle failure accounted for less than 3% of these motorcycle accidents, and most of those were single vehicle accidents where control was lost due to a puncture.
4. In single vehicle accidents, motorcycle rider error was present as the accident precipitating factor in about two-thirds of the cases, with the typical error being a slide out and fall due to over braking or running wide on a curve due to excess speed or under-cornering.
5. Roadway defects (pavement ridges, potholes, etc.) were the accident cause in 2% of the accidents; animal involvement was 1% of the accidents.
6. In multiple vehicle accidents, the driver of the other vehicle violated the motorcycle right-of-way and caused the accident in two-thirds of those accidents.
7. The failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the predominating cause of motorcycle accidents. The driver of the other vehicle involved in collision with the motorcycle did not see the motorcycle before the collision, or did not see the motorcycle until too late to avoid the collision.
8. Deliberate hostile action by a motorist against a motorcycle rider is a rare accident cause. The most frequent accident configuration is the motorcycle proceeding straight then the automobile makes a left turn in front of the oncoming motorcycle.
10. Intersections are the most likely place for the motorcycle accident, with the other vehicle violating the motorcycle right-of-way, and often violating traffic controls.
11. Weather is not a factor in 98% of motorcycle accidents.
12. Most motorcycle accidents involve a short trip associated with shopping, errands, friends, entertainment or recreation, and the accident is likely to happen in a very short time close to the trip origin.



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# **NRCMC Club Events**



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

Classic (pre 1985) run first Sunday of the month

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

*Note: Every Sunday is now an authorised club ride if you start at the Rous Hotel*

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

April 5—Sunday Run, Classic bikes only

April 19—Ride to Bonalbo Micks house. (and see the great overhead railway!!) Older bikes if you can, backup trailer and catering trailer.

April 26—May 1—Over the Hill Run—Contact Tony K (6628 1806) or Bryson W (0428 291 509) **IMPORTANT** - entry forms for the OTH run are available on the club website or contact Tony ASAP. Tony needs you to send them to him NOW.

May 3 - Classic bike Sunday run

May 17—Ride to Mary and Brysons place

June 17—Slow bike run to Evans Head and the F111 museum

July 19—Ride to MooMoo café (and Brunswick hot rods if same date)

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

April 19 - Inverell rally, also Hunter Valley Steam Fest and Show and Shine

May 1—3 - Singleton Rally

May 17—Ray Owen Show, Mt Tambourine

May 22 - 24 -Coffs Harbour m'cycle restorers club 'Restore and ride rally'

May 29 -31 - Clarence Valley Club Nymboida Canoe Centre get together

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### For Sale (or Wanted or To give away)

A big sale this time: I leave items in for 2 months unless sold -  
**First**, a **Kawasaki GPZ 1100**, 1981, top end rebuilt; registered; asking \$3,700; 6682 2658 (Eric Wilson gave me this info)



#### **Second:**

In my possession I have a very good condition matching set of **Givi Monokey Panniers and Topbox**. \$120.00 and a packet of Tim Tams for the lot. All are keyed alike.

I have been told Givi Australia sell the mounting gear and it runs in under \$180.00 (Bike Model Dependent)

They have been in storage by another for some time so they are dusty. If you happen to hear of someone interested, give me a call and they're theirs. Many thanks Bernie 0448566570



**Third: Summer bike jacket** with water/wind proof removable liner. Fantastic for hot summer rides as the wind can blow through. Has CE approved body armour in elbows, shoulders and back, brand new, never worn. Grey and black colour, Size XS.  
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#### **And fourth, !)**

**1981 Moto Guzzi Le Mans MkII**. Needs to be ridden, Full history available, Nothing to spend except \$16,995.

Contact Tony Pembroke, 02 6689 5551, 0413 456 595

#### **And new this month: anyone into mopeds? - probably OK on historic rego?**

Here are photos of mopeds Martin has for sale . Yellow one is a **1971 Motobecane** made in France runs ok and has had some new parts fitted plus some spare wheels and w/shop manual - I value it at \$900.00. **Blue Honda is a P50** model and I am not sure exactly how old it is but it is 99% complete and has a few new parts on it, it runs but has a few issues - I value it at \$600.00. Last picture is of a **rare Solex 1700 made in France in 1958** motor has been totally rebuilt and uprated, it runs well, due to its rarity and condition I value this at \$1200.00. I will be open to any offers, mopeds can be viewed at Alstonville. Ph 66285926 Mob 0414371125. Martin Whitehead



[Martin has also donated classic bike magazines to the club library]-  
 Thank you

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**Apprenticeship Wanted** - a young man contacted our club president and is looking for a motorcycle apprenticeship. Is anyone out there looking for an enthusiastic young man to assist their business? If so, please contact Jeff Brown at [browbandjeff@gmail.com](mailto:browbandjeff@gmail.com)

These 4 questions have been used by an International Consulting Firm. Let's see how you do. There are 4 questions. Don't miss one.

**1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?**

Stop and think about it and decide on your answer before you scroll down.

The correct answer is: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

**2 How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?**

Did you say, Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator?

Wrong Answer.

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door.

This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions..

**3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend .... except one. Which animal does not attend?**

Correct Answer : The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there.

This tests your memory. Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

**4. There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?**

Correct Answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Anderson Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong, but many preschoolers got several correct answers.

Anderson Consulting says this conclusively proves the theory that most professionals do not have the brains of a four-year-old.

## NRCMCC OFFICIALS CONTACT NUMBERS

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[richard.swinton@gmail.com](mailto:richard.swinton@gmail.com)  
Deputy editors: ..... All members  
Catering: Frank Widdows ....6686 0771  
Raffles: David Bonhote-Mead..... 6629 1131  
Events Co-ordinator: Frank Widdows ..... 6686 0771  
Mid-Week ride organizer, Rob Andrews ..... 6621 4083

**Website: [www.nrcmcc.org](http://www.nrcmcc.org)**

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### Wisdom of the elders -

About the Boomer Biker article on page 8, point 10;

My father - a scientist - always used to say that since most accidents happen in intersections, you should spend as little time as possible in intersections; therefore, logically it was a good idea to go through them as fast as possible!!

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**Jim Butler**  
Regional Development Officer  
Alstonville AH: 6628 6808  
Mobile 0428868086  
Email: [jamesbutler2477@bigpond.com](mailto:jamesbutler2477@bigpond.com)

### ***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. 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 of the club is primarily for those who have an active interest in restoring and riding classic motorcycles."

#### ***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 Sunday can be a club run but members must contact the Events Organizer. 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.