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HOG Monthly New Members Ride – Saturday September 5, 2020

Destination – Colo Riverside Cafe

Time again for the HOGS monthly New Members Ride!

As with all New Member Rides, we meet at the premises of our sponsoring Harley-Davidson dealer, Frasers, at Parramatta Road, Concord.

Our destination today is the Colo Riverside Café situated on the Putty Road at Colo some 100 kms from our meet point. This scenic and twisty road is well known and very popular with tourists, motorcyclists and cyclists and links the north-western suburbs of Sydney to the wine-rich Hunter Region in New South Wales. To get there we go via Werrington Road Werrington, Richmond Road Cambridge Gardens, Castlereagh Road Cranebrook, Kurrajong Road Richmond, Tennyson Road Tennyson, then onto East Kurrajong Road and then The Putty Road. A very interesting route indeed.

The New Members Ride is a monthly ride where new members are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the Chapter whilst participating in an easy ride. This ride is also usually well patronised by older members because it is a fun way to catch up with ride buddies and squeeze in a quick Saturday ride. Sometimes we don't even have any new members but the ride is always still on.

This newsletter contains 58 images taken on the day of the ride as well as 2 downloaded images, and some fun memes.



Image 1 – Arriving early is Hammer (Don) with wife Sylvia.



Image 2 – And arriving in quick succession are new members Craig with wife Barbara each with their own motorcycle.



Image 3 – Barbara is looking distinctively dapper with her newly embellished HOG biker vest.



Image 4 – Joining us today is David with his first Harley, a 2005 Deluxe model. David has owned many bikes in his lifetime and currently owns 2 other bikes, these being a 1995 Kawasaki GTR 1,000 and a 2018 Royal Enfield Himalayan. As he puts it, he has a bike for all purposes.

Incidentally, David has in the past led motorcycle tour groups from Los Angeles to Sturgis for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Now, he is the Director of a company called “Ride the World Motorcycle Tours” with the motto “Experiences Beyond the Ride”. For more information, go to www.ridetheworldmotorcycletours.com



Image 5 – This is Ian with his 2009 CVO Springer model Harley.



Image 6 – A close look at the beautiful artwork on Ian's fuel tank. Very nice indeed!



Image 7 – I do like the look of a Springer with those wonderful big chrome springs over the front forks. Ian mentioned that the Springer has been discontinued possibly because it is incompatible with ABS braking systems now commonplace on new Harleys.



Image 8 – Road Captain Shieldsy (Brook) also joins us today.



Image 9 – Shieldsy's bike is looking resplendent as usual. New Harleys now have keyless ignition systems and have done away with that big knob ignition switch seen here. All you need now is to carry the fob with you which has a range of about 2 metres.



Image 10 – The number-plate on Shieldsy's bike.



Image 11 – Here we see recently joined members Eric with wife Rose returning for yet another HOG experience.



Image 12 – Also joining us today is Philip with his 2011 Sportster 1200 Custom bike, his first Harley.



Image 13 – Not often seen on HOG rides is Mark with his 2016 Breakout model. He has customized his bike with apehangers and an aftermarket exhaust which I think looks fantastic but my sentiments were not shared with the constabulary. Unfortunately, Mark was recently pinged by the coppers for the said apehangers and pipes and has received a rectification notice. BUMMER! That is not an easy fix for the apehangers which will require rewiring of all the switches and replacement of brake and clutch lines. \$\$\$OUCH!!!



Image 14 – Finally Chook (Chris) joins us with her Street 500 model Harley, her first ever motorcycle.



Image 15 – Chook is seen here with husband Yogi (Rob) who is a regular HOG attendee.



Image 16 – Johnny with the fabulous beard also joins us today for the ride.



Image 17 – Hey, check this out. Frasers has recently installed electric charging stations for their new ‘Livewire’ electric bikes. You can see 2 different charging stations here with one offering a quicker charge. Final operating details not yet available as they are not yet commissioned. More information in subsequent blogs.



Image 18 – If you see this in your rear-view mirror, move out of the way for a Harley!!



Image 19 – Road Captains enjoying a chat before the ride. From left we see Don, Brook, Ian and Dave.



Image 20 – Saw this doggie in the carpark. Too cute not to share!



Image 21 – The calm before the storm! HOG time is time optimization!



Image 22 – It's now 9.45 am and time for the Road Captains to meet to discuss ride strategies.

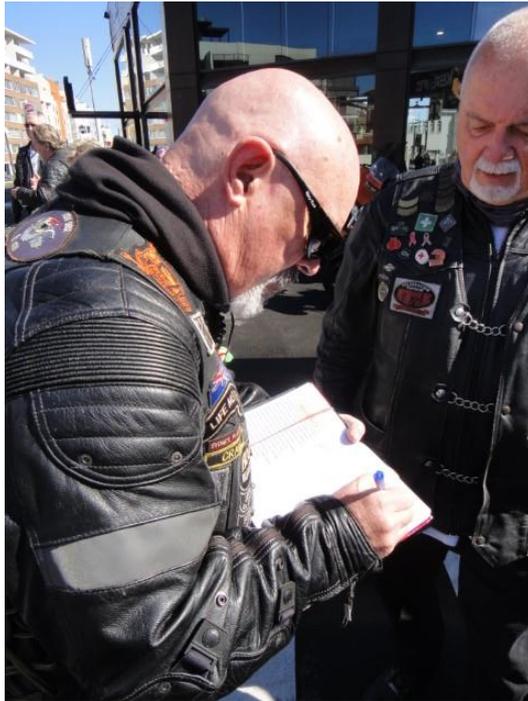


Image 23 – Of course we all have to sign the Indemnity sheet before the ride as we see Craig doing. This list is then photocopied at the venue we visit so they have a record of all who visited for Covid-19 purposes. That means we don't have to waste time at the venue filling out forms with names and contact numbers. That's HOG clever!



Image 24 – Today Dave is the Lead Road Captain and thus it is his job to deliver the ride brief to all present. That also means that Dave has previously done the ride rekkie and is very familiar with the route and safety concerns. Today's ride will require 23 corners to be marked so the Road Captains will be busy.



Image 25 – We queue up as we depart Fraser’s carpark right on schedule at 10 am.



Image 26 – I just love riding in a pack of bikes, as long as they are Harleys!



Image 27 – Chris is looking happy to be out with the HOGS today.



Image 28 – I love stopping at red lights because it gives me an opportunity to take a happy-snap of the HOG group! Doesn't that look good!



Image 29 – In the foreground we see Chris at left with husband Rob at right



Image 30 – It will be stop–start until we get outside the city metropolitan area.



Image 31 – Philip is enjoying the ride aboard his Sportster 1200 Custom.



Image 32 – Rose is clearly enjoying her time with the HOGS and despite being on her red-P license is having no issues fitting in with the pack.



Image 33 – The rear of Rose’s bike showing her distinctive number-plate. She did ask for Rose with an ‘S’ which was not available but the 5 looks like an S so that’s close enough!



Image 34 – We will soon be on country roads with no traffic lights or stop signs to worry about.



Image 35 (downloaded) – Our destination today is along the Putty Road which stretches right through natural bushland.

The Putty Road is a blissful reminiscence of roads long-forgotten and offers a seemingly endless variety of twists and turns, served up one after the other with posted corner speeds (km/hr) of 25, 35, 45, 65 and 75+. It was the first road to link Sydney to the Hunter Valley and was opened in 1823. It is bounded to the west and east by protected national parks – the Wollemi National Park to the west, and the Yencu National Park to the east. Its total length is 168 kms but we only travel a short way along it today.

By the way, this road offers a great alternative scenic route to the Hunter Valley wine regions from Sydney rather than the usual M1 Pacific Motorway route. It is every bit worth the extra 90 minutes travel time and you encounter far less traffic along the way.



Image 36 – We arrive at our destination shortly after 11.30 am after a very pleasant ride. Here we see Road Captain's Brook (at left) with Ian and a lovely row of Harleys.



Image 37 – Upon arrival we resume conversation and swap notes on our ride experiences.



Image 38 – Hey, just for fun, lets point out some more interesting number-plates on our bikes. This bike belongs to Hazza (Harry) and he was born in 1947 and is still going strong.



Image 39 – This is Michael’s Heritage Softail Classic motorcycle. The number-plate letters are simply the factory code for the Heritage Softail Classic model of his vintage. All Harley models have their own factory code. For example, the code FLSTF is for the Softail Fat Boy Model. The new Heritage Classic has the code FLHCS.



Image 40 – Helen is another new rider and she loves her time with the Hoggies.



Image 41 – Helen chose ‘HELLS’ for her number-plate in reference to her nickname. She is still on her red-P license but feels quite comfortable riding with the HOGS where we encourage everyone to “ride their own ride”.



Image 42 – Our destination for today, the Colo Riverside Café. It looks quite nice.



Image 43 – With Covid-19 restrictions in place we are not allowed to queue up inside the café so we wait our turn outside.



Image 44 – Only one customer at a time is allowed to interact with staff. That is the new normal.



Image 45 – We Hoggies abide with all social distancing protocols.



Image 46 – The café has a terrific outdoor dining area which is perfect for the spring season where we can soak in the warming sun. We also comply with group size limitations of 10 people per table.

We are all seated by 12 noon and here we see in the foreground from left Craig, Barbara, Dano and another Craig. Hey, let's check out Barbara's T-shirt (see next image).



Image 47 – Today Barbara is wearing a bike club T-shirt from the 'East Coast Female Riders' group. Not satisfied with commuting to work every day on her bike and riding with the HOGS, she also finds the need to ride with this other group!

Let's Google 'East Coast Female Riders' and check them out!

Formed in 2017 as an online Facebook Group, East Coast Female Riders (ECFR) has grown into a 2000+ member family of supportive, encouraging and motorcycle mad women. From newbie road riders and dirt ladies all the way to experienced racers - they welcome all female riders on the East Coast from Victoria to far North Queensland to come together for meet ups, events, and rides!



Image 48 (downloaded) – East Coast Female Riders gathering for a charity event.

ECFR includes women from all walks of life, and all types of motorcycles and has created a community where complete strangers are now best friends who will all help each other out at the drop of a hat.

While no official statistics are kept, it is believed female riders represent about 10-12% of the Aussie rider population, but is growing at a rapid rate. This compares with the USA which is about 20%, rising by 10% in the past decade and making it the highest proportion of female riders in the western world. The next biggest female contingent seems to be New Zealand with 16%, closely followed by Germany with 15%.

ECFR say “We have watched young, new learners blossom into confident filtering commuters through the guidance and ongoing mentorship in our ECFR mentorship program”. The program matches riders seeking further experience or expertise in a new area, with experienced riders in that particular skill, in their areas to act as mentors.

“We celebrate women who ride, and show solidarity in numbers”.



Image 49 – Back to the HOGS, we find plenty of room for us all at the rear of the premises.



Image 50 – At this table we see from left Philip, Yogi (Rob), Hazza (Harry) and Michael. Yes Yogi, I did see it!



Image 51 – At the near table and from left are Craig (red and black shirt), Eric, Barbara, Craig and myself (Sergio).



Image 52 – At this table we see from left Don, Sylvia, Dave, Janet, David and Alyce.



Image 53 – Enjoying their lunch we see from left Janet, Sylvia, Don, Dave, café staff member holding plates, David and Alyce.



Image 54 – This is Johnny with wife Helen. Hey, that’s a great photo! What about some more photos of loved up HOG couples! And some love memes as well!





Image 55 – This is Shieldsy (Brook) with wife Janet.

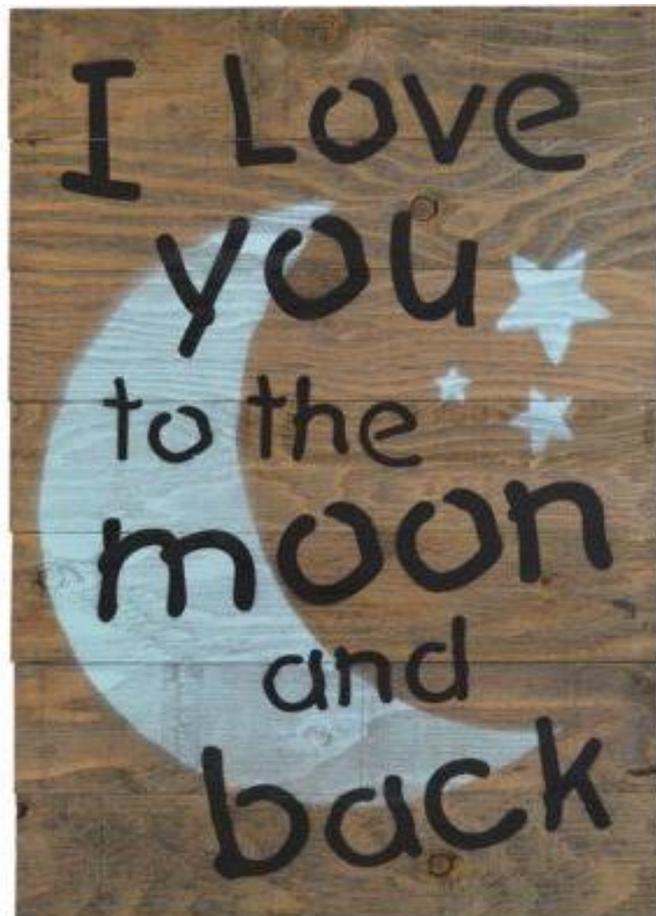




Image 56 – And our current Chapter Director Don with wife Sylvia.





Image 57 – Now its Road Captain Smiddy (Ian) with wife Linny.

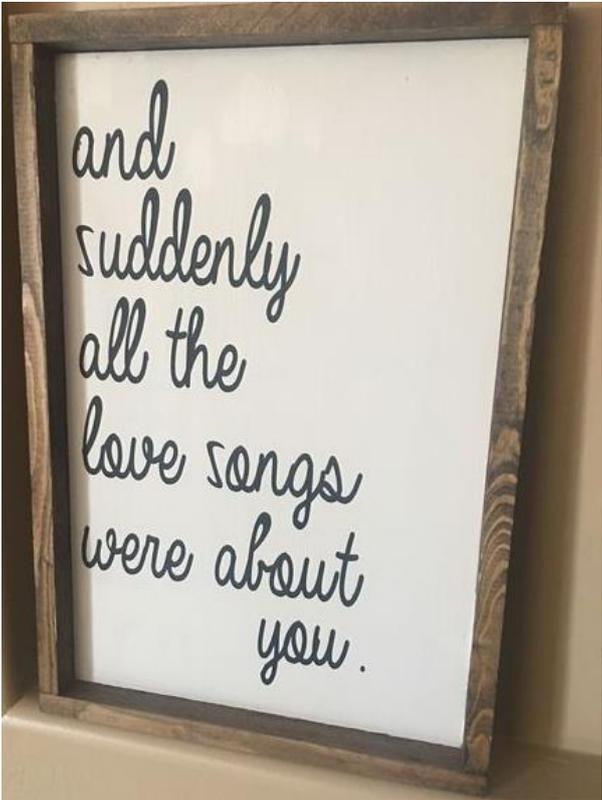




Image 58 – Here we see new members Eric with wife Rose.

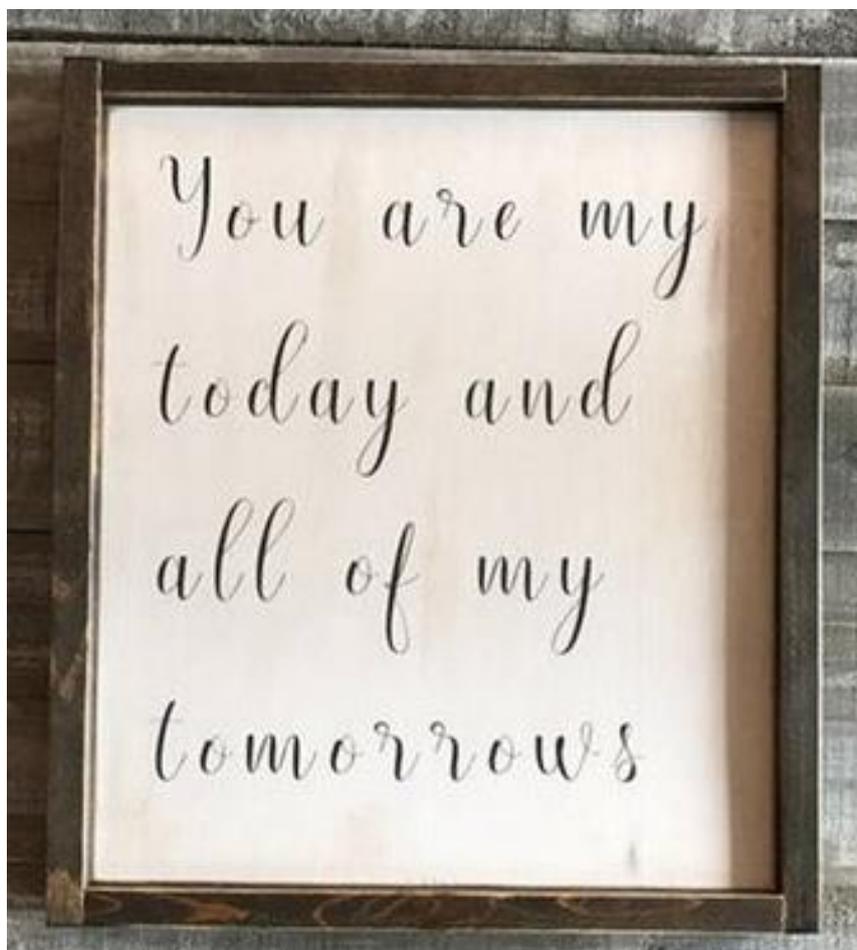




Image 59 – This is Barbara with husband Craig.

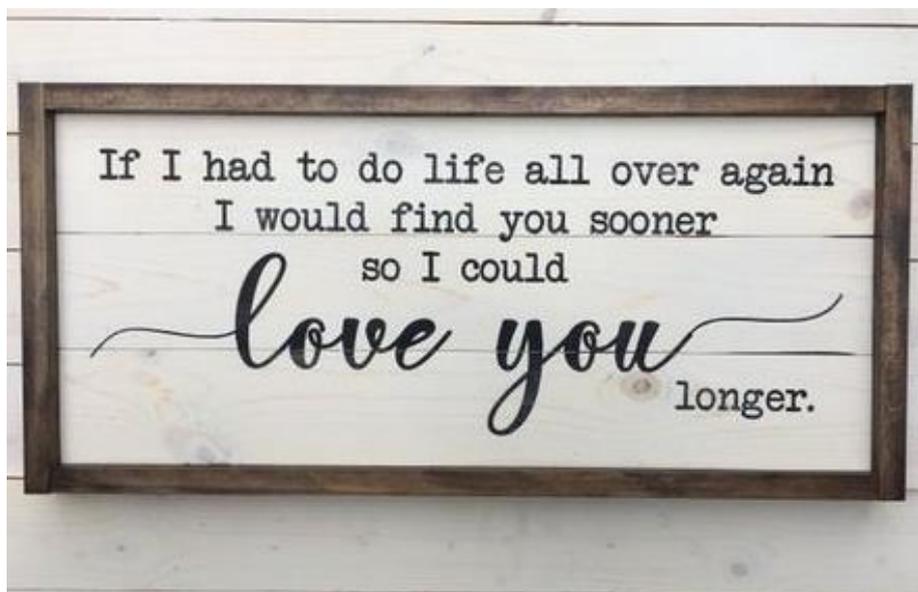




Image 60 – And our last couple for today is Yogi (Rob) with wife Chook (Chris).



After a pleasant lunch we were all on our way home by about 1.30 pm which is typical for a new members ride. Hey, why not bring your significant other along for the next ride where we at the HOGS do 'Live-Love-Ride'!

Again the Road Captains delivered a very interesting route within the time constraints of a new members ride.

Reflecting on what separates riding from driving, I believe it is the mental attitude we have when we ride where it is the journey that matters, not the destination. Interestingly, we could adopt the same approach when driving, yet seldom do, as we are focused on getting to our destination as quickly as possible. On a motorcycle, when planning a route, we choose those roads that offer the greatest riding pleasure not the quickest way. This is the essence of what philosophers have been championing when they say it is the journey that matters.

A perfect day in the life of an ordinary biker would have a fully paved winding road, a couple of mates to ride with, a relaxed speed limit and a large cold drink waiting at the end. Thus, the recipe for a HOG ride!

Ride Safe,

Sergio, Editor / Historian, NSW Chapter