



FRASER
Motorcycles

THE WORLD'S BEST MOTORCYCLES ARE HERE

HOG Ride – Saturday 27 June, 2020 - Short Day Ride to Kangaroo Point

This is our second ride since the Covid lockdown and it looks to be a very interesting and somewhat challenging ride. Our Road Captains have planned a fantastic ride for us today taking in the notorious Galston Gorge, followed by the incredibly popular motorcycle riding road, the Old Pacific Highway. We then finish up with lunch by the water at Kangaroo Point, what's not to like?! Even the weather looks good for winter with sunny skies and temperatures maxing out at 16 °Celsius. I find that the bike loves these cooler conditions and you won't feel a bit cold if you are dressed right.

This newsletter contains 43 images taken on the day of the ride as well as 26 downloaded images and a bunch of fun memes.

Let's have a quick look around to see who's here today.



Image 1 – This is Ronnie with his year 2000 Softail Deuce.

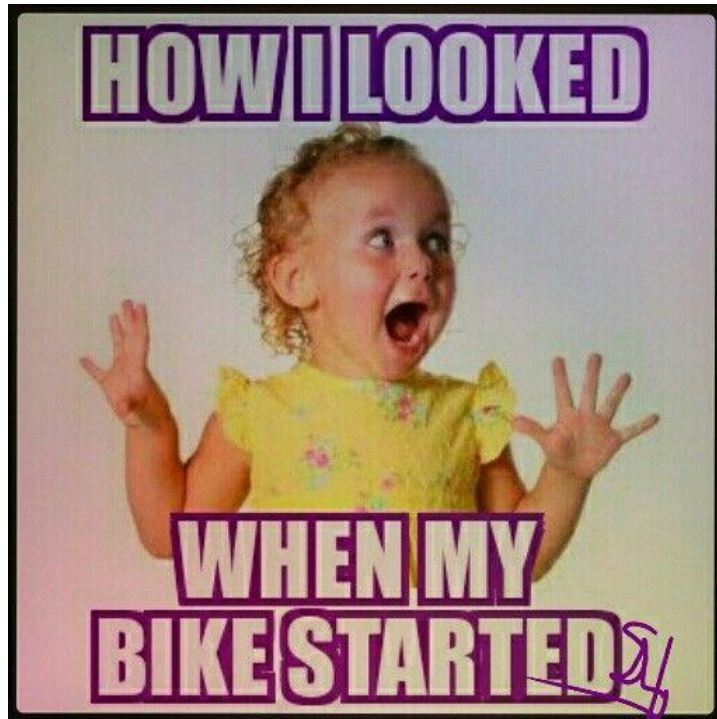


Image 2 – Also with us today is Michael with his year 2002 Heritage Softail Classic.



Image 3 – Now we see Noisy Pete with Fifi arriving.

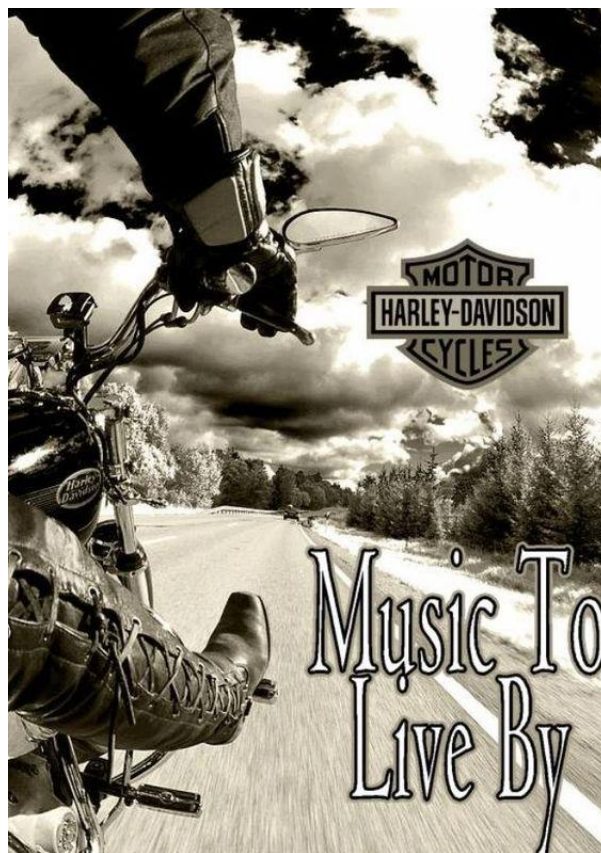




Image 4 – This is John with his Heritage Softail Classic.



Image 5 – Now we see Rav (Tony).

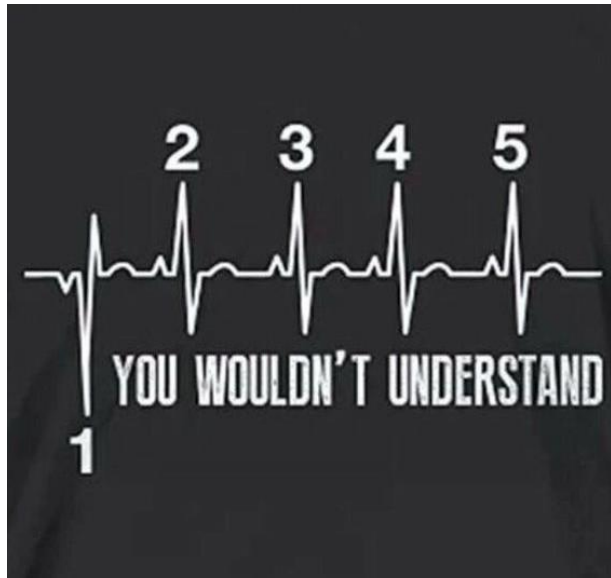


Image 6 – Now we see Jono with wife Kerry.



Image 7 – This is Dave with his 2015 Street Glide Special.





Image 8 – Now its Timex (Wayne) with his 2005 Road King Classic.



Image 9 – Our Chapter Trainee Road Captain Belle is seen here with boyfriend Luke. Today Luke will be pillion passenger on Belle’s dad’s bike.



Image 10 – Also joining us today as a guest is Pier riding his Yamaha motorcycle. Pier is a friend of Belle and her family.



Image 11 – And this is Jimmy with his 2018 Fat Boy motorcycle.

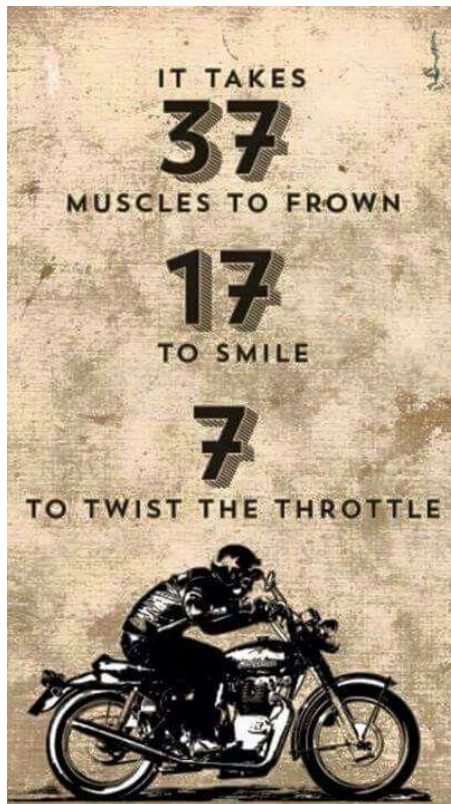




Image 12 - Not satisfied with the already impressive performance of his stock bike, Jimmy has opted for the Screaming Eagle upgrade kit taking his bike from 114 cubic inches to 117 cubic inches along with other performance enhancing bits and pieces.



Image 13 – The rear of Jimmy’s bike with the number plate FB-117 for Fat Boy 117 cubic inches.

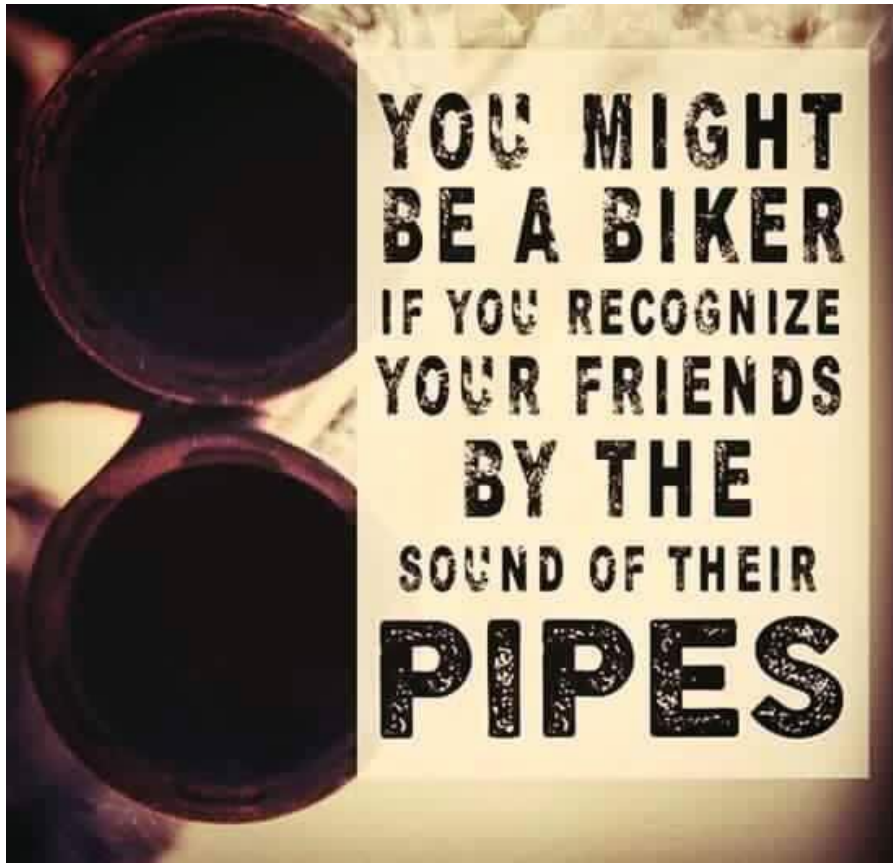


Image 14 - Its 9.30 am and numbers look good today for the ride.



Image 15 – Mr. Con is also here today!





Image 16 – Joining Mr. Con in this photo is Tracey.



Image 17 - At 9.40 am the Road Captains meet to discuss ride strategies and protocols.

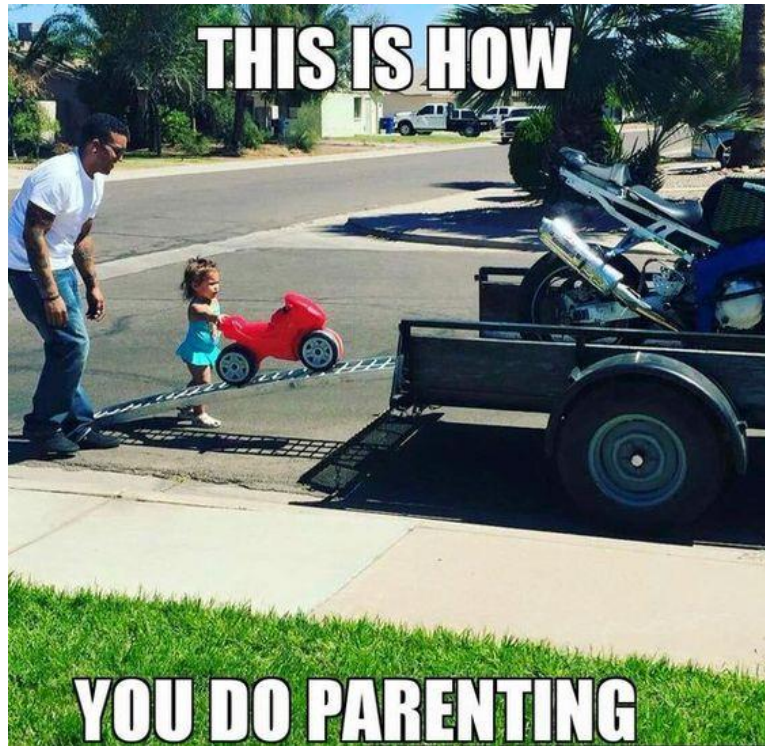


Image 18 - At 9.50 am the ride briefing to all takes place.



Image 19 - Today the Lead Road Captain is Ralph, seen here giving the ride briefing to all in attendance.

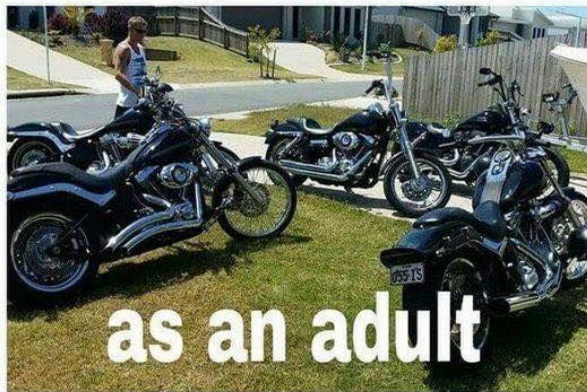


Image 20 - Yes, everybody does actually listen to the ride briefing!



Image 21 - The ride briefing takes less than 10 minutes, just within our attention spans!

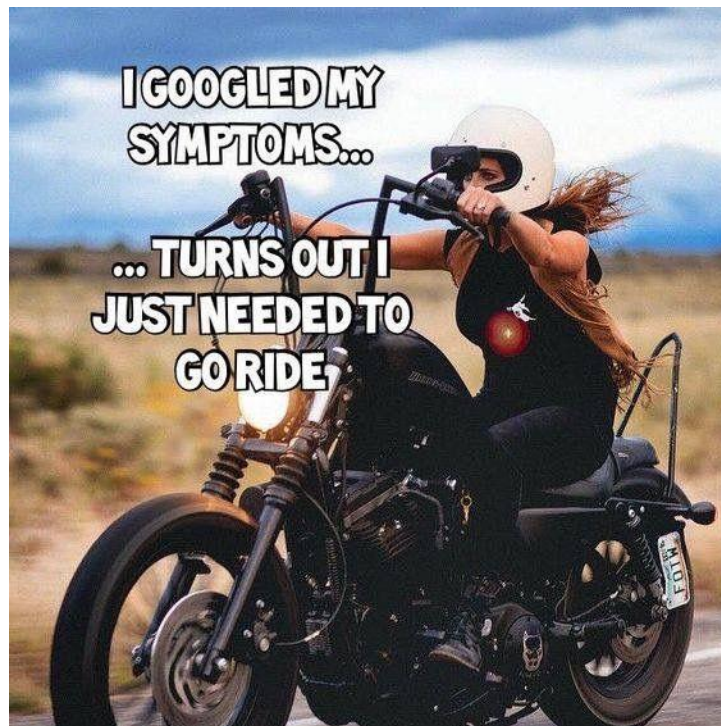




Image 22 - Dano, one of our Road Captains, listening carefully to the ride briefing.



Image 23 - Right on time at 10.00 am it's time to go. Here we see Dave (at left) with daughter Alyce set to go on their newly acquired year 2020 Street Glide Specials.



Image 24 - The storm before the calm! The sound of a bunch of Harleys is hard to beat!



Image 25 - Gary aboard his Heritage Softail model.





Image 26 - We don't get far before being stopped by a red traffic light!



Image 27 - David and Lianne are all smiles as they set off on their year 2018 Limited.

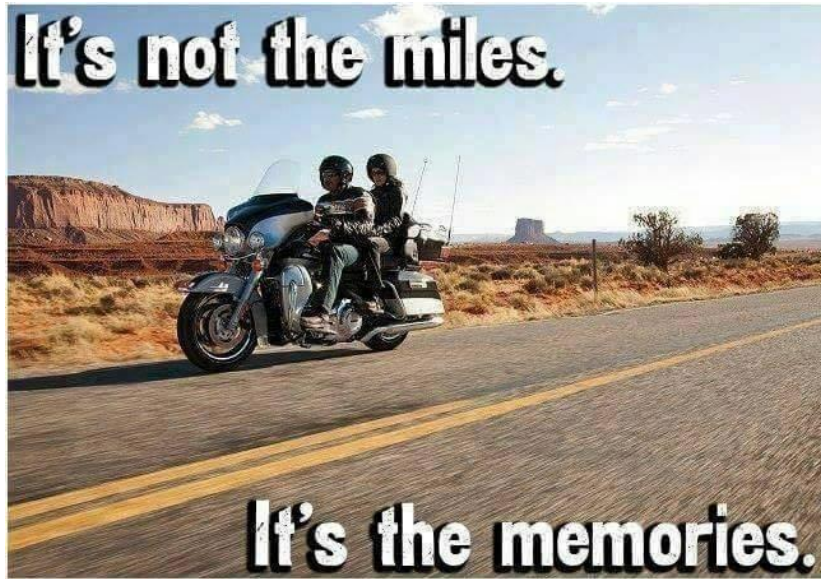


Image 28 - The group will be split many times by red traffic lights but we always try to regroup along the way.



Image 29 - Being stuck at red lights is OK when you are with a bunch of Harleys!

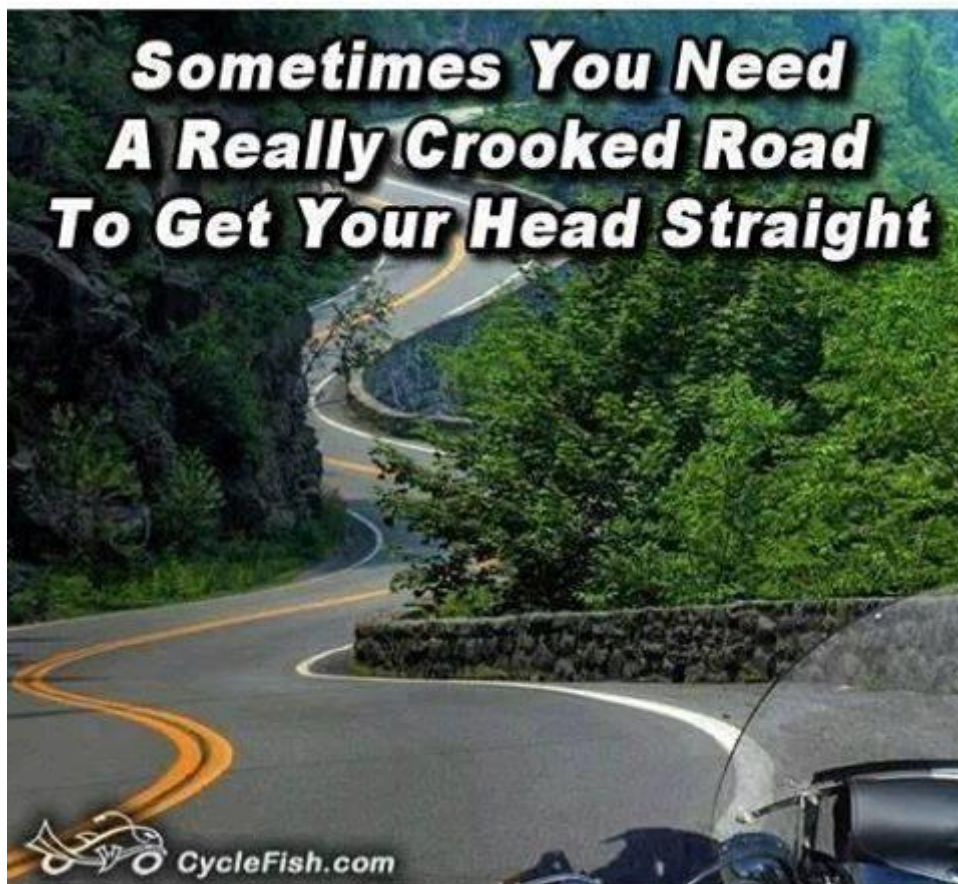




Image 30 - Here we stop at a convenient point to regroup and then continue on our way.

We are now heading into the Galston Gorge.

Galston is a semi-rural area that is home to a large number of orchard growers. Galston Gorge is a scenic valley containing dense bushland with numerous natural features such as waterfalls and streams accessible by established walking tracks.



Image 31 (downloaded) - Galston Road in the Galston Gorge was completed by 1895 and is considered to be one of Australia's top pleasure and scenic drives which is most popular on weekends.

However, this narrow road is also notorious for its steep inclines and series of very tight hairpin bends thus it is prohibited to heavy vehicles and buses longer than 7.5m.

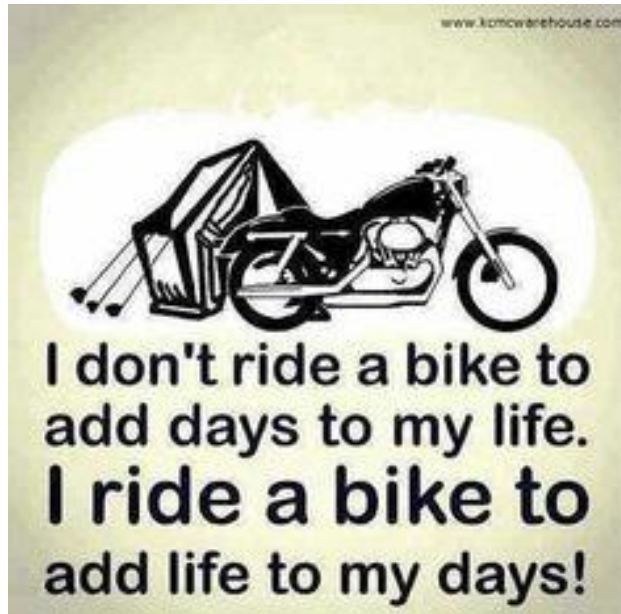


Image 32 (downloaded) - Warning signs on approach to the gorge hint to the road hazards ahead.



Image 33 (downloaded) - There are five hairpin turns in the gorge, the first and last of them are the gentlest, however the three in between are very tight. Only vehicles with turning circles of 11m or less can make the turn without the need to swing onto the other side of the road. Those drivers that require to use the other side of the road need to do this before the bend when there is no oncoming traffic or wait at the cusp of the bend until there is room for them to do so.





Image 34 (downloaded) - These 180° hairpin switchbacks are that tight that even small sedans can only just make their way around, at SLOW speed!



Image 35 (downloaded) - The preferred approach for a motorcycle is to approach wide and get onto the opposite side of the road but this is not always possible when there is heavy oncoming traffic. This then makes for a tricky manoeuvre to negotiate the hairpin.

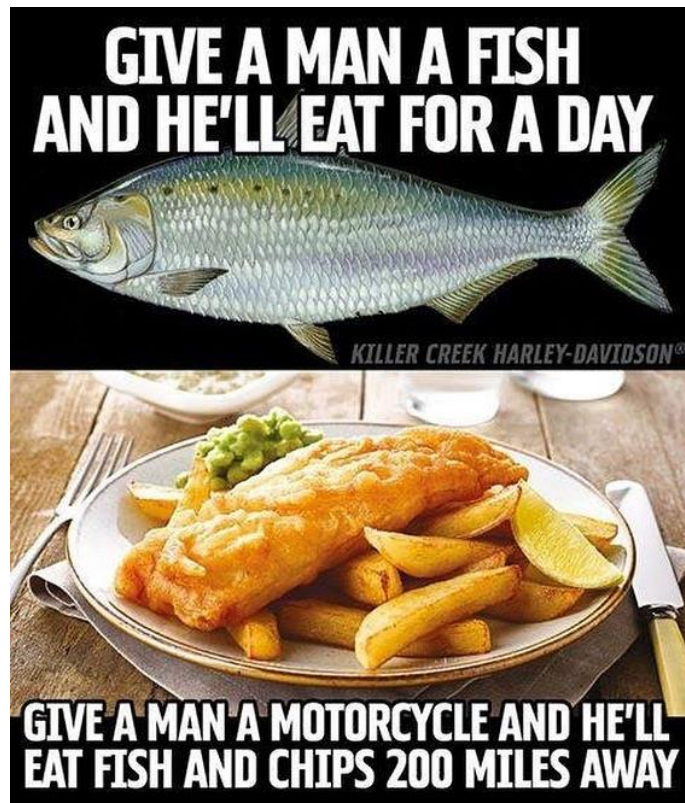


Image 36 (downloaded) - This road has a fairly notorious reputation for this type of occurrence. Trucks, caravans, buses, and anything with large turning circles are not allowed into the gorge due to the hairpin bends they cannot negotiate. The often-used excuse by drivers unfamiliar with this road is that their GPS navigation directed them here. The Highway Patrol Police are not amused and fines for this occurrence have been substantially increased recently. As seen in Image 32 above, penalties exceed \$ 2,000 plus loss of vehicle registration. That ought to be a deterrent!



Image 37 (downloaded) - This truck has no chance of negotiating this very tight hairpin bend and even smaller vehicles often need to back up a bit to get through.

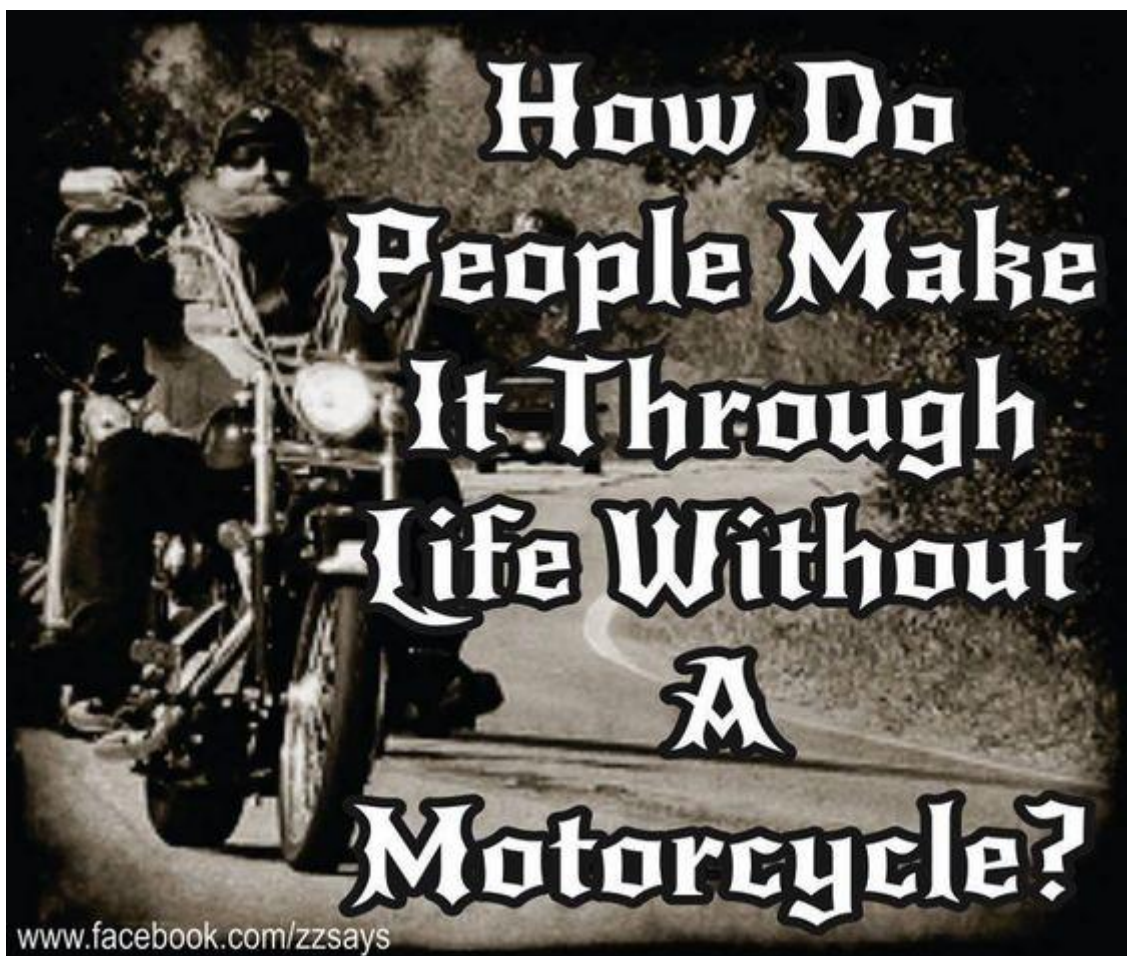




Image 38 (downloaded) - A road advisory sign on the approach to the gorge with its despised message that the Galston Road is closed due to an oversized vehicle. This can close the road for the whole day just to extricate the wayward vehicle.

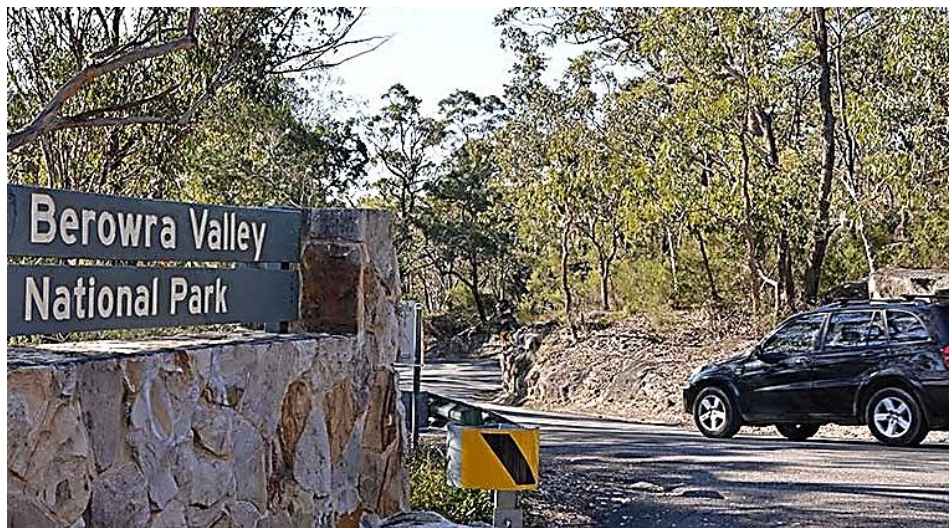


Image 39 (downloaded) - The gorge is steep and the road winds back and forth to descend to the valley floor through five hairpin bends. The descent is very picturesque winding down in to the Berowra Valley.

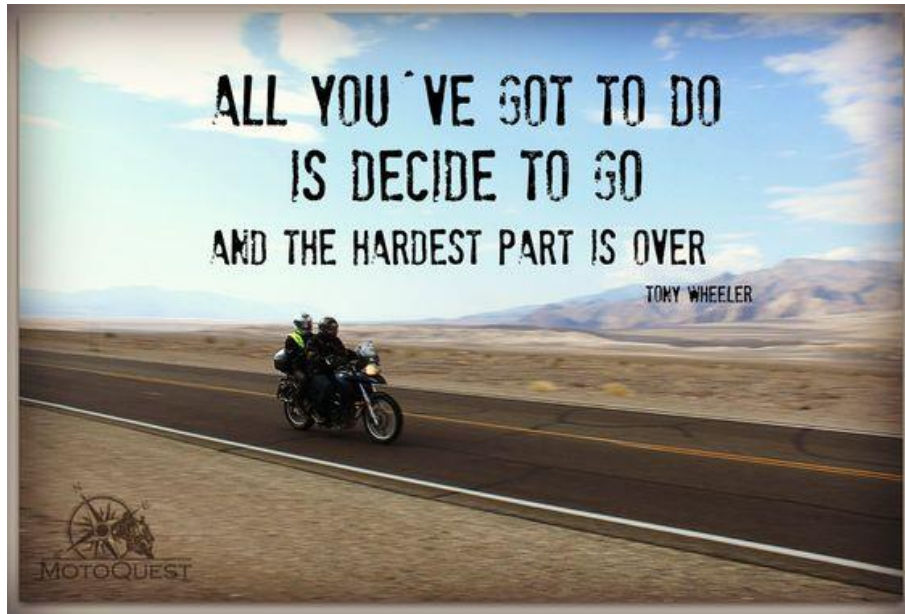


Image 40 (downloaded) - The design of the Galston Road is such that it requires heightened care when driving or riding on it - it was built originally for horse and cart. Serious accidents are common on this stretch of road.



Image 41 (downloaded) - The entire length of the Gorge is enclosed by this guard rail to stop a sliding car from falling down the steep slope.





Image 42 (downloaded) - Wild chickens inhabit the lower reaches and can often be seen scratching around in the leaf litter beside the road. Also, after rain water courses cross the roadway in parts.



Image 43 (downloaded) - At the foot of the valley, the Tunks Creek Bridge crosses Tunks Creek (a tributary to Berowra Creek). This bridge was constructed in 1893 as a McDonald timber truss one-way road bridge, and became heritage listed in 2000 under the 1977 Heritage Act.



Image 44 (downloaded) - A nice picture of the Tunks Creek Bridge.



Image 45 (downloaded) - Here the road is narrow and on the wooden bridge its one-way traffic only.





Image 46 (downloaded) - Here approaching traffic must wait for cars already on the bridge to pass before crossing. It's not wide enough for 2-way traffic.



Image 47 (downloaded) - On this asphalted road, with many blind turns, you also need to beware of cyclists, especially on weekends.



Image 48 (downloaded) - One gets a sense of satisfaction having successfully negotiated this road. We now exit the gorge and make our way to the Old Pacific Highway near Cowan.



Image 49 (downloaded) - We now continue our journey onto the Old Pacific Highway, colloquially known as the 'Old Pac'. We only do what's known as the Southern Pass up to the Hawksbury River at Brooklyn. The rest of the Old Pac to Gosford is known as the Northern Pass.

This short but sweet ride is an incredibly popular motorcycle riding spot and is considered one of Sydney's best driving and riding roads. It is usually heavily trafficked (but rarely congested) on the weekends.



"I think we lost track of time. Our wives put a missing persons report out on us, and half the state is looking for us."



Image 50 (downloaded) - The ever-popular Pie in the Sky café on the Old Pacific Highway marks the beginning of the most popular section of the Southern Pass which runs all the way down the mountain to Brooklyn. This diner is a favourite stop for bikers and car clubs and we have visited here previously on many occasions.



Image 51 (downloaded) - This section of the Old Pac is smooth and progressive, with wide, forgiving lanes and a nice variety of bends to keep you busy and entertained. However, unlike the Galston Road, there are no hairpin bends here.

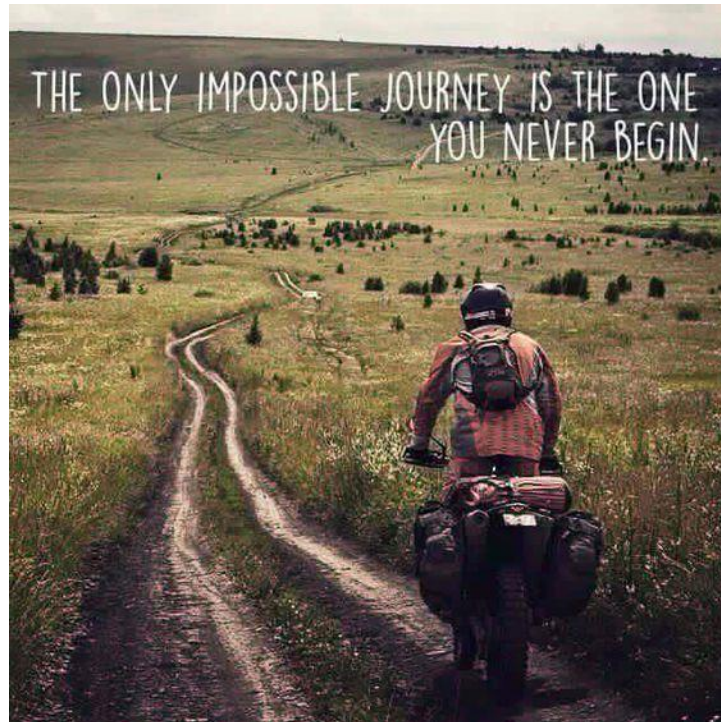


Image 52 (downloaded) - You can often count on a police presence on this road, both with speed cameras and roaming patrols. I know from bitter experience having copped a defect notice for my bike's apehangers (on a previous bike I owned) some years ago. Not funny! (I loved those apehangers!).



Image 53 (downloaded) - This road has long been a popular destination for those of us who enjoy open, flowing bends.

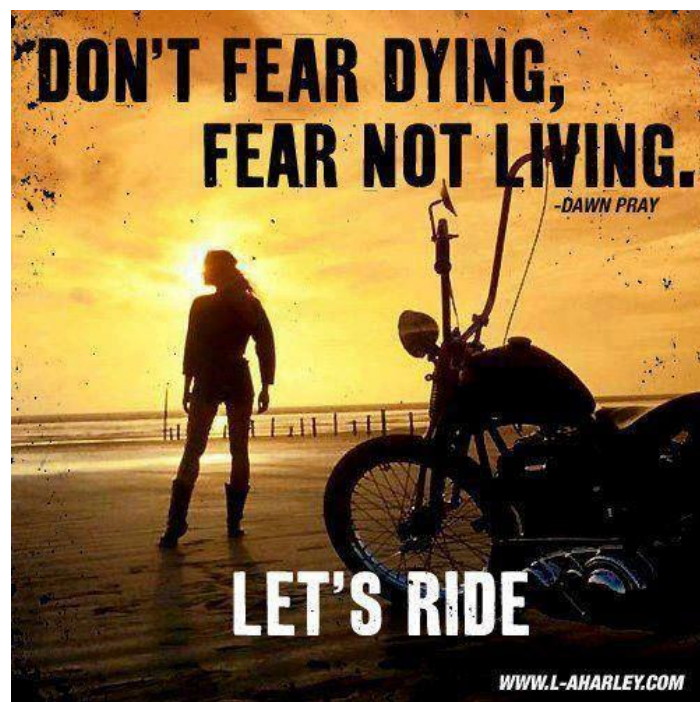




Image 54 (downloaded) - Noooooice!



Image 55 (downloaded) – The flowing bends are surrounded by native flora and towering sandstone walls.

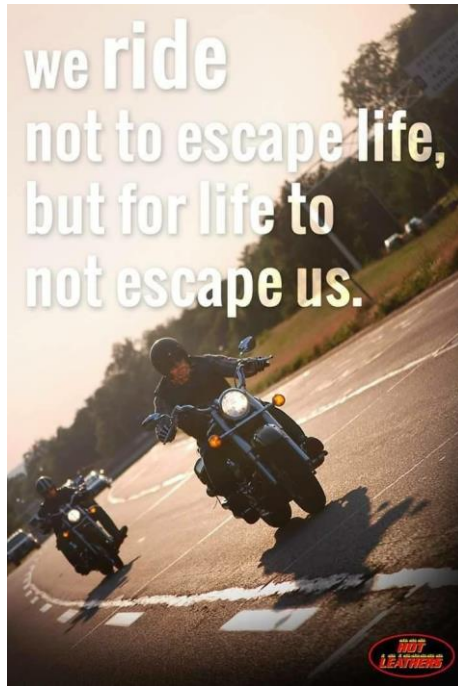


Image 56 (downloaded) - Being surrounded by such dense bushland means the road can be damp in parts, so extra care must be taken when the road is draped in shade.



Image 57 - We arrive at our final destination at 11.30 am which gives us a travel time of only 1 hour 30 minutes but that was a jam-packed hour and a half!

Hey, check out the foxtail on my bike! I got it when I visited the Daytona (Florida, USA) Bike Rally in March of 2019. It was only US \$20. Love it!

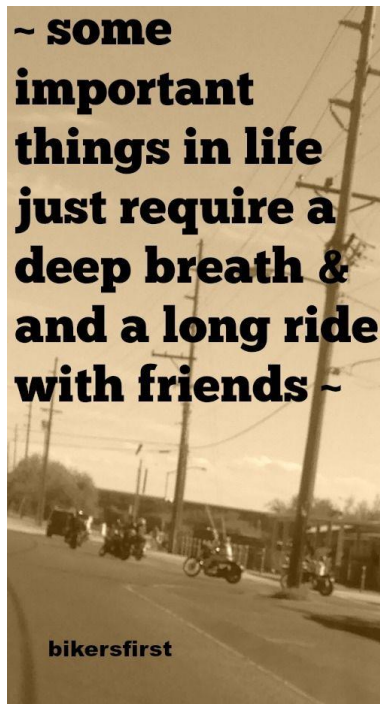




Image 58 - Kangaroo Point is right beside the water and there is plenty of parking space for all. And the sun is shining on a cool winter's day. The chores at home can wait!



Image 59 - Us Hoggies are all on the same page and love catching up for a ride together.



Image 60 - Biker Brothers and real siblings from left are Mouse (Emmanuel) and Rav (Tony).



Image 61 - Our destination café for today is the Estuary restaurant, situated right on the Old Pacific Highway at Kangaroo Point. We have been here a number of times before and the service is always good.





Image 62 - We choose to eat outside and mingle under the warming winter sun.



Image 63 - Yeah, we are social distancing.

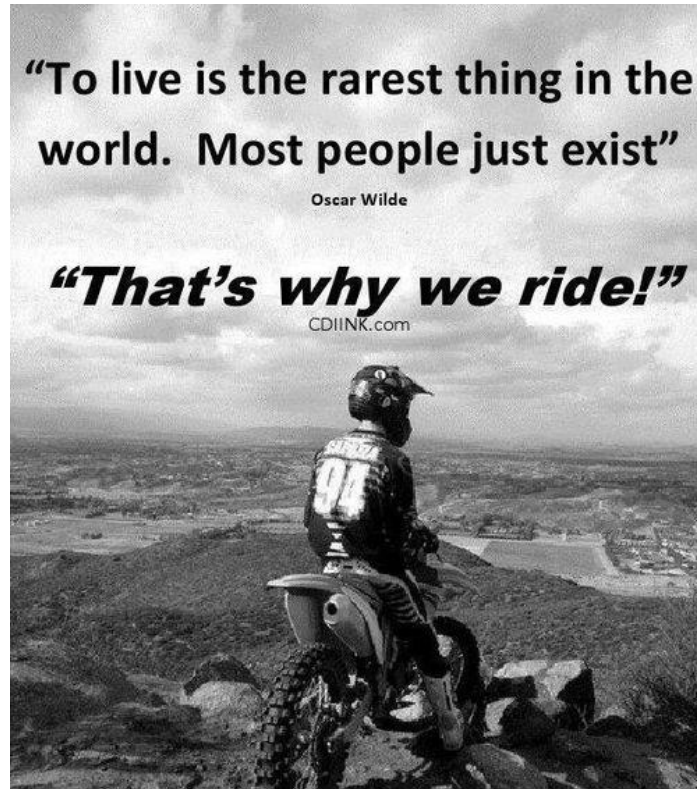


Image 64 - You can talk about anything, as long as it includes bikes! Hey, only kidding. You can talk about anything with your HOG buddies.



Image 65 - This is what we call "living high on the HOG"!





Image 66 - Vinni (Rodney) in a relaxed HOG type of mood!

**The most dangerous risk of all.
The risk of spending your life
not doing what you want.**

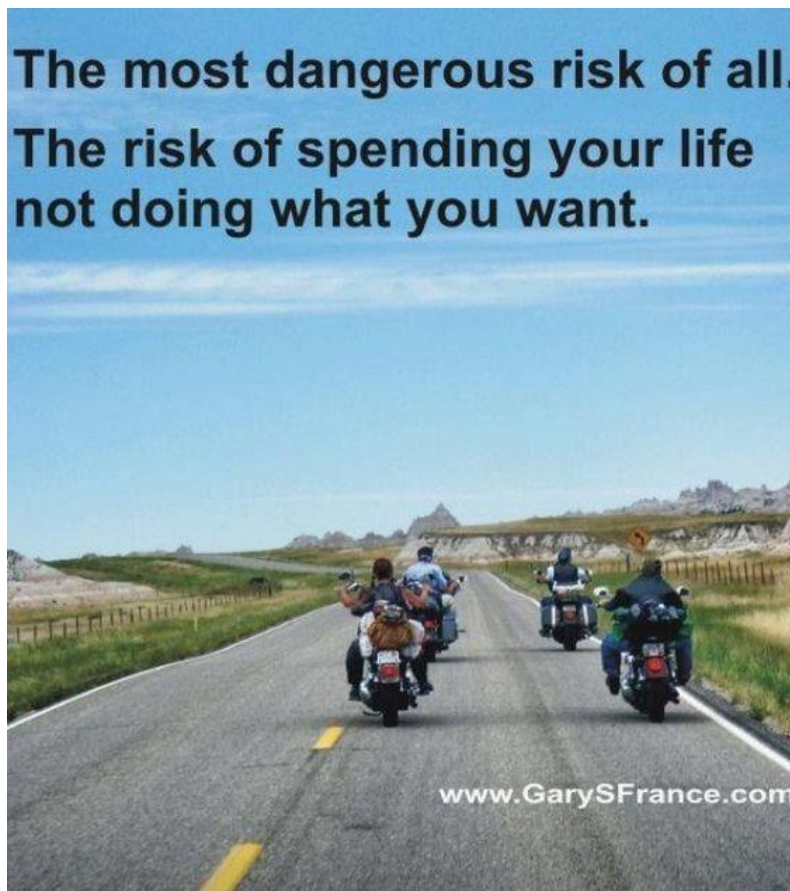




Image 67 - Recently returned from his US bike tour and sporting his Route 66 trouser braces is Bollard (Dave), one of our Road Captains riding Shotgun today.





Image 68 – From left, Dave, Lianne and Bollard engage in friendly banter.



Image 69 – Michael and Mr. Con enjoy a friendly chat over lunch.

Soon after this we concluded our lunch break and then made our way home.



Well that was a tremendous ride in tremendous weather with tremendous company. Well worth the effort and I reckon we were all home by 1.30 pm! I don't mind doing a few home chores now!

Ride Safe,

Sergio, Editor / Historian, NSW Chapter