



HOGS – The Official riding club of Harley-Davidson – Established 1983



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## HOG Day Ride – First Chapter Ride since the Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown

### Saturday June 6, 2020

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This is our first ride since the Covid lockdown and it will be a relaxed day ride with lots of easy meandering roads as we head out to The Oaks and Picton via Badgery's Creek, and then to our finishing point at Luddenham. There will be plenty to see along the way with the awesome rural scenery including work on the new Sydney airport and the massive upgrades of The Northern Road. Keep observers might even be able to spot "The Big Chook" along the way.

Obviously, we will need to comply with Covid related safe practices including social distancing as per State Government legislation. Covid restrictions have eased recently and there are now no limitations to travelling within New South Wales. Riding a motorcycle has also been deemed an "essential" activity as it is classified as exercise under State COVID restrictions and therefore is a permitted activity. Further, outdoor gatherings of no more than 500 people are now permitted. However, people still need to be socially responsible and adhere to social distancing recommendations and practices.

Our stops along the way will be essentially comfort stops so it was suggested that we bring our own drinks and nibbles as waiting times at Cafes could be long due to the massive increase in bike traffic over recent weekends.

***This newsletter contains 42 images taken on the day of the ride as well as 19 downloaded images.***

Hey, just for fun, what about some Harley-Davidson *fun-facts and motorcycling fun facts* after each image shown! (Information obtained from Google by searching "fun-facts")



***Image 1*** – Our meeting point is the Red Rooster Carpark along the M4 westbound at Eastern Creek. Departure is set for 10.00am.

It looks like very good numbers for the ride today as riders are keen to catch up with ride buddies after a long time apart. The weather also looks good with sunny skies and temperatures expected to reach 18 degrees Celsius which is pleasant enough for winter. In compliance with social distancing recommendations, there was no HOG-special hand shaking or hugging or kissing taking place when greeting each other, these being replaced by a nod or wink or boot tap.

### Harley-Davidson fun-fact #1

The first Harley-Davidson was built in a shed and it only went 25 mph (40 kph).

A lot of the biggest, most successful companies in the world have come from very humble beginnings. However, there may not be a single firm that has had as humble of a start as the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. Their very first motorcycle was created in a ten by fifteen-foot wooden shed, with the words “Harley-Davidson” scrawled crudely into the door. This first bike had a very small motor and was little more than a normal bicycle that had been converted to something that was gasoline-powered. Though Harley-Davidson did not officially release a production model of this bike until two years later, records indicate that they had at least a functional prototype by 1903. The 1905 version of the bike was functionally similar, with a few minor improvements to increase the likelihood that they would sell.

This first prototype was essentially a bicycle with a motor attached, but it marked the beginning of what would become a legendary motorcycle company.

Let’s check out who is here today!



Image 2 – There are many familiar faces here today, some not seen for a long time. And as you can see, we are practicing social distancing, apart from those who live together who are exempt.



### Harley-Davidson fun-fact #2

Harley-Davidson was one of only two motorcycle manufacturers in the United States to survive The Great Depression of 1929 - 1935.

When the Great Depression hit in 1929, many firms struggled to stay afloat in these trying times. Motorcycle companies were no exception – many people saw this type of transportation as a luxury, rather than a necessity, leading to their downfall. However, Harley-Davidson, alongside the Indian Motorcycle Company, managed to survive the Great Depression. Despite the dismal economic conditions, they were able to continue business during the Great Depression. It is notable that the company relied on creating industrial engines for some time, solely for the purpose of keeping some sort of revenue flowing, no matter how little. However, they ended up having enough cash to release a brand-new motorcycle design in 1932 – the three-wheeled Servi-car (which was produced until 1973).



**Image 3** (downloaded) – The Harley-Davidson Servi-Car. The Harley-Davidson Servi-Car was a three-wheeled utility motorcycle manufactured by Harley-Davidson from 1932 to 1973. The Servi-Car was designed during the Great Depression when Harley-Davidson was desperate to expand its product base to increase sales. The Servi-Car was also popular as a utility vehicle for small businesses and mobile vendors. They proved to be particularly popular with the police departments, some of which still used Servi-Cars into the 1990s. An electric starter became available on the Servi-Car in 1964, making it the first civilian Harley with an electric starter, one year before the debut of the Electra Glide.



**Image 4** – Sunday morning out on the bike – tops! Hey, check out those 2 bikes on the right-hand side of the photo! Let’s go investigate!

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #3**

Harley-Davidson has factories all over the globe.

Harley-Davidson is generally known as a quintessentially-American brand of motorcycle. However, besides their four locations in the United States of America, the Motor Company also has factories in other places. Three countries with Harley-Davidson manufacturing plants are Brazil, Thailand, and India. This brand proves that it is now international in another way as well. Besides manufacturing plants, they also have a metallurgy plant in Australia that produces some of their parts. This gives them a vested interest in global affairs – though with billions in revenue they probably already had one.



**Image 5** – Hey, these are brand new bikes. Let’s track down the owners!

#### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #4**

Harley-Davidson has been providing Police bikes for over 100 Years.

Not too long after the Harley-Davidson Motor Company got its start, various police departments in the United States began requesting custom-built bikes to use in the course of their business. It was around 1907 when the firm first began providing bikes to law enforcement agencies. They were well-engineered, strongly-built, and quite suitable for police work of all types. To this day, Harley-Davidson continues to provide such bikes to law enforcement officers and agents.





**Image 6** – This is Alyce’s new bike, a year 2020 Street Glide Special with the 114 cubic inch motor and delivered just yesterday. WOW! It now has less than 100 kms travelled on it! And purchased from Fraser’s of course! Alyce is also the Chapter Secretary.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #5**

Harley-Davidson Bikes Served in World War One.

In the First World War, many armies began using motorcycles in the field for the first time. As far as the record states, it can be determined that the British were the first to adopt motorcycles for general military use. They made use of the Triumph Model H. These bikes were decent, but not quite up to scratch with a Harley-Davidson. The Americans joined the war in 1917, and promptly ordered thousands of Harley-Davidson motorcycles to issue to the troops. In fact, the US Military ordered over 15,000 bikes. This was a huge jump from the five-bike inventory that the company started out with less than twenty years prior. This order was a boon to the company, and brought their motorcycles even greater public recognition than they already had.



Image 7 – The other bike seen in image 5 belongs to Alyce's dad, David and it too is a year 2020 Street Glide Special with the 114 cubic inch motor, and it too was delivered yesterday. And again, purchased from Fraser's! Well done guys! David is also the Chapter Treasurer and is a Trainee Road Captain.

#### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #6**

The Harley-Davidson company produced bicycles for a short time between 1917 and 1923. They were painted in olive drab colour to support the troops in WW1. Unfortunately, these bicycles never really took off as the company was sinking more money into the idea than they were gaining from it so production ceased only a few years after it began. These bikes are quite rare today, and thus are highly sought-after by collectors.



**Image 8** (downloaded) – A replica of the 1917 Harley-Davidson bicycle. This bicycle was targeted to pre-teen boys with the idea of introducing these young riders to the brand.





**Image 9** – Also present today is our Chapter Director and Road Captain Hammer (Don) with wife Sylvia. Last year both Don and Sylvia were awarded the Chapter's most distance travelled in HOG events for rider and pillion passenger respectively. These two are inseparable!

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #7**

A Harley-Davidson was the first motorcycle to average over 100 miles per hour.

The Harley-Davidson Motor Company had originally signed and sponsored a racer named Otto Walker in 1914. Though he ended up getting injured soon after his initial contract, he returned to the scene and participated in the first major race that Harley-Davidson had a stake in. This was a 300-mile race that took place in Venice, California. However, it was not until a few years later that Otto Walker broke records on a Harley. When he won a race in 1921, it was determined that his average speed had been over 100 miles per hour for the entire run. This was the first time that anyone had brought a bike to these kinds of speeds consistently throughout an entire long race.



**Image 10** – Also with us today is Dick with girlfriend Jen.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #8**

Harley-Davidson were presented with two army-navy ‘E’ awards.

An Army-Navy ‘E’ Award is meant to recognize the best firms during times of war. They were invented and presented during World War Two, honouring companies who displayed “excellence in production”. Two of them were granted to Harley-Davidson in the years 1943 and 1945 for their strong commitment to the nation. It is not surprising that they achieved this recognition, as they had created over 90,000 military-grade motorcycles for the war effort. The Harley-Davidson WLA made up most of these bikes (with a few other models in the mix). The WLA even ended up being coined ‘The Liberator’ due to its prominent role in the American war effort.



**Image 11** - Here we see Manuel with his 14-year-old son Chris and their year 2018 Deluxe bike. Every time I see Chris, he is a bit taller and already towers over his father.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #9**

There is a Mechanical Reason Behind the “Harley Sound”.

The main force behind the throaty growl of a Harley is the 45-degree V-Twin motor. Because of this particular motor arrangement, there are distinct, uneven intervals between the firing of the two cylinders. This causes the sound that Harley-Davidson motorcycles are known for. The firm even tried to trademark the sound at one point but were denied due to the high likelihood of other bikes having a similar sound. It was simply unenforceable.





**Image 12** – This time we see Knock-Knock (Hugh), our Chapter webmaster and Road Captain with girlfriend Dudeth.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #10**

The oldest Harley-Davidson Club was founded in 1928.

Back in 1928, famous Czech racer and Harley-Davidson rider B. Turek decided to get married. About sixty fellow Harley-Davidson riders attended his wedding. It was during the reception that they elected to meet up more often, thus forming the very first Harley-Davidson club. This club, which is based in Prague, will be celebrating its 92nd anniversary this year. This is quite an accomplishment – especially considering the fact that these members barely survived World War Two. In fact, only about 10% of the members that were in the club before the war remained active afterwards. Despite this, the club remains open to this day and holds the title of the oldest Harley-Davidson organization.

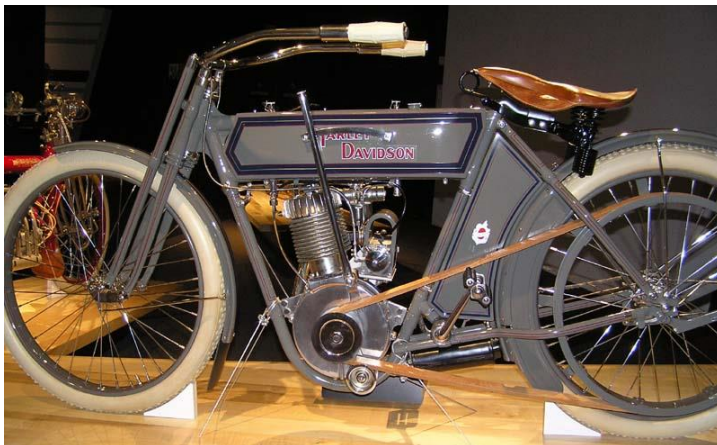


Image 13 – This is new member Rose with her Harley-Davidson Street 500. Rose is new to riding and is now on her red Provisional license. I think she came to the right place to develop her riding skills as we Hoggies always look after one another and ride most responsibly.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #11**

Harley-Davidson used to promote the quietness of their motorcycles!

If you look at most ads for Harley-Davidson motorcycles today, you will see that they generally focus on the loud, brash side of motorcycling. This mentality is deeply-ingrained into biker culture and has been since at least the 1960s. However, their ads were not always as blatant and brusque. The earliest Harley-Davidson ads on record show that the company initially prided itself on being quiet and refined. In fact, the ads often featured illustrations of respectable-looking men and women, giving the bikes a civilized air. They also marketed their first motorcycles as “The Silent Gray Fellow”. This is an interesting juxtaposition to the ads we see today.



**Image 14** (downloaded) - The Harley-Davidson Model 7D of 1911 was the first successful V-twin from Harley-Davidson. Touting its effective muffler, Harley-Davidson advertised the 7D, and the other Harleys of this era, as "The Silent Gray Fellow." This moniker was also in reference to William S. Harley, who was known for his quiet personality.



**Image 15** – Rose brought family with her today to see her off on her first HOG ride. Next to Rose is her husband Eric and with them from Melbourne is her cousin Lea with her husband Peter. We look forward to seeing more of Rose in the future.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #12**

The 'Hog' nickname came from a real hog!

A lot of people who ride Harley-Davidson motorcycles lovingly refer to their preferred method of transport as a 'hog'. This term originates from a group of farm boys who often raced on their motorcycles in the 1920s. They had a pig for a mascot and would even take him for victory rides after winning a race. That's right, a real-life, breathing, walking, and oinking baby piglet! Harley-Davidson embraced the term, and even formed the acronym H.O.G. to stand for Harley Owners Group.





**Image 16** – Now we see David with Lianne and their year 2015 Harley-Davidson Limited.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #13**

Harley-Davidson has their own television show.

In 2016, the show *Harley and the Davidsons* was released on the Discovery Channel. It was a dramatization of the early history of the company. However, it was mostly based on the true story and was a great watch for any gearhead or motorcycle enthusiast. The show focused on Walter, Arthur, and Bill, giving special attention to how they risked everything to launch their company. Of course, each of these men faced their own personal challenges. Yet, when it came down to it, they were all brought together by their love of motorcycles.



**Image 17** – From left we see Ralph our Chapter Safety Officer and Road Captain, Rav (Tony) and Road Captain Hazza (Harry), all regular HOG riders.

#### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #14**

The founders of Harley-Davidson have been inducted into the Labour Hall of Fame.

Back in 2004, William Harley, Arthur Davidson, Walter Davidson, and William Davidson were all inducted into the Labour Hall of Fame. They were granted this honour due to their clever pooling of resources and incredible dedication when they started the company. They also faced a lot of challenges but overcame them all. The Department of Labour makes a special note about how the founders of the company felt about their own products. The assertion that they truly believed in the products rings true – after all, each of them also rode their own Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Plus, they put a lot of faith in their employees. Each of these traits leads them to be quite deserving of this honour from the US government.



**Image 18** – Prepared for the cooler riding conditions today is Hells (Helen), our Chapter Activities Officer.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #15**

Harley-Davidson hold a 'Ride Home' every five years.

The "Harley-Davidson Ride Home", commonly known as "Harleyfest", is a sort of biker pilgrimage to the Motor Company's mother city of Milwaukee. It features thousands of Harley-Davidson enthusiasts, all riding side-by-side to visit the founding city of their favourite motorcycle manufacturer. It is a wild event, and often gets a respectable amount of media coverage. Typically, the event will begin in four corners of the United States – that is, San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Portland, ME; and Fort Lauderdale, FL – and will simultaneously converge in Milwaukee (of course). It is always a great Ride Home and it draws some of the country's most dedicated bikers. These events are frequented by all sorts of people, from old-school bikers to new enthusiasts.





**Image 19** – This is Nigel with partner Lilian and his new bike, a year 2018 Fatbob with the 114 cubic inch motor.

#### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #16**

##### **Harley-Davidson has their own museum.**

The Harley-Davidson Motor Company is one of the few manufacturers out there who also owns and operates their own museum. Located in Milwaukee, the Harley-Davidson Museum offers a lot of exhibits, activities, and tours – fun for people of all ages. The museum is full of motorcycles – some of which you can sit on and touch – as well as other objects from the history of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. This museum is a great place for anyone to visit, should you end up in Milwaukee. The Harley Davidson museum gets over 300,000 visitors per year from all over the world



**Image 20** – Biker brothers Steve (at left) and Paul are also here today.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #17**

Harley-Davidson produced a Golf Cart.

From 1962 to 1982, Harley-Davidson produced three- and four-wheel golf carts. They were powered by electricity or a 245 cc, 2-stroke single cylinder engine.



**Image 21** (downloaded) - These carts could be seen all over golf courses in the United States throughout the 1960's and 1970's.



**Image 22** – Greg with his year 2018 Street Glide Special.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #18**

William Harley and Arthur Davidson initially began production on their very first motorcycle back in late 1901. It took them nearly two years to complete the project and it was released in 1903. That's why everyone says that production started in 1903 but that was really when sales started, not production. The pair made two bikes in 1904. Their first year of what might be called mass production was in 1905. That year a whopping eight motorcycles were finished and released to the public.

By 1910 they were releasing 3,000 motorcycles per year and by 1920 they were the top motorcycle maker in the world.





**Image 23** – Here we find Phil with his Deluxe model Harley.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #19**

#### **1. Harley-Davidson Created a Shaft-Driven Bike**

During World War Two, the United States Army asked Harley-Davidson to create a motorcycle that could serve as the equivalent to the German BMW R71 as used by their Wehrmacht (Army). The company quickly delivered, essentially copying the design of the BMW and created a shaft-driven bike called the XA (Experimental Army). They made about 1000 of these bikes, but they were never fully adopted by the military. This was due to the widespread usage of the Jeep, which killed this bike's chances at making it to the field.

These bikes were also full of Harley-Davidson firsts. For example, they displayed the first welded frame used on a motorcycle from this manufacturer. They also had a direct four-speed shift, and a left-handed throttle (the latter of which was designed to allow the firing of a weapon with the right hand while riding).



**Image 24** – This is Wendy with her year 2017 Fat Boy bike named Mutzy with its 110 cubic inch motor. Wendy is also our Chapter Welfare Officer.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #20**

The Harley-Davidson CVO program (Custom Vehicle Operations) refers to a family of models produced with their own unique colour schemes, accessories and exclusive characteristics which are available for one year only.

Since the program's inception in 1999, the company has chosen a very small selection of its most popular mass-produced bikes and turned those into limited-editions by modifying the engines for larger displacement, elaborate paint designs, and additional accessories not found on the mainstream models.

Some of these special features include Screamin' Eagle branded aftermarket parts, ostrich leather seats, hand-painted pinstripes, gold leaf details on the paint, and electronics such as iPod players and GPS navigation systems.

All CVO's are produced at Harley-Davidson's plant in York, Pennsylvania which is also the home of the touring and Softail models. The features for these customized bikes are sometimes offered for models in later years; however, the paint and badging are exclusive to the CVO owners and can only be replaced by providing proof of ownership.

The typical CVO bike will carry a much higher suggested retail price and the program targets what Harley-Davidson calls their "Alpha Customer"; this is a rider that is very loyal to the brand and will only ride the best available motorcycle.



**Image 25** (downloaded) – An example of special paint and badging exclusive to CVO model Harley-Davidsons.



**Image 26** – Always a happy HOG participant is Mark who will be on Road Captain duties today.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #21**

Harley-Davidson's had bicycle pedals for starting until 1914.



**Image 27** (downloaded) - The first Harley-Davidson's differed little from other motorcycles of the time, essentially being a bicycle powered by a simple single-cylinder motor that drove the rear wheel through a leather belt. The normal pedals and chain remained in place so the rider could pedal the bike up to speed to start the motor, as well as lend a little leg power when ascending hills.





**Image 28** – Also with us today is Vinnie (Rodney) with his year 2013 Fat Boy.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #22**

The Harley-Davidson Fat Boy.

The most popular Harley-Davidson motorcycle featured in Hollywood movies is the Fat Boy. According to a legend, this name is a combination of the names of two atomic bombs, Fat Man and Little Boy, which were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima during World War 2.



**Image 29** – Biker family Tarzan (Steve) with wife Jane and daughter Belle. Tarzan and Belle are also on Road Captain duties today. Belle is also the Chapter Youth Representative.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #23**

By 1920 Harley-Davidson had become the world's biggest motorcycle manufacturer, with over 2,000 dealers in 67 countries.



**Image 30** – Travis will also assist with Road Captain duties today.

#### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #24**

While 1969's Easy Rider is viewed as the quintessential Harley-Davidson motorcycle movie, and could be the first movie where its bikes took centre stage, it was the 1953 classic The Wild One with Marlon Brando that gave Harley its first featured big-screen performance.

Of course, Brando wasn't riding a Harley, but rather a Triumph Thunderbird 6T. However, Brando's nemesis, Chino, of the rival Beetles motorcycle gang (played by Lee Marvin), straddled a 1950 Harley-Davidson Hydra Glide.





**Image 31** – We are due to depart at 10.00am and at 9.50am we have Shieldsy (Brook) our Head Road Captain (with the purple beanie) delivering the pre-ride briefing.

### **Harley-Davidson fun-fact #25**

Harley-Davidson is the leading motorcycle manufacturer in the U.S. market, producing \$5.6 billion dollars in revenue in 2017.

All-in-all, the Harley-Davidson Motor Company is a classic part of American culture. Whether you like them for their looks, their performance, their history, or even that throaty sound, you can count yourself among millions of Harley-Davidson fans. They have since transcended national status, and have become an international symbol of American ingenuity.



**Image 32** – Shieldsy is seen here doing a splendid job on the pre-ride brief.

### Harley-Davidson fun-fact #26

Keanu Reeves used his profit from The Matrix to buy a Harley Davidson motorcycle for all of the movie's stuntmen.



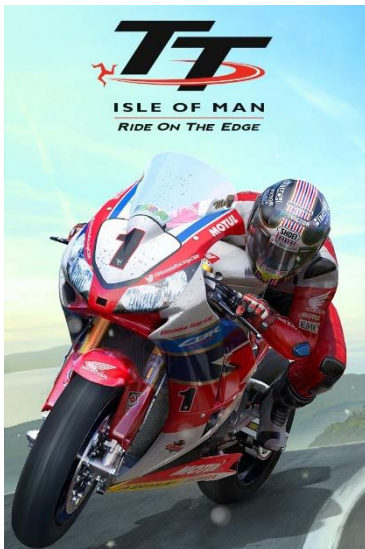
**Image 33** (downloaded) - The Matrix is a 1999 science fiction action film. The film is considered to be among the best science fiction films of all time. It won four Academy Awards, as well as other accolades, including BAFTA Awards and Saturn Awards. The Matrix was praised for its innovative visual effects, action sequences, cinematography and entertainment value.

It was decided to film in Australia to make the most of the budget and all but a few scenes were filmed at Fox Studios in Sydney, and in the city itself, although recognizable landmarks were not included in order to maintain the impression of a generic American city.



**Image 34** – Of course everyone pays strict attention to the briefing so as to know where we are going and what we are doing. Safety protocols are also covered.

**Motorcycling fun-fact #1** The Isle of Mann TT (a high-speed motorcycle race) is held on closed public roads and the current lap record is just under 17 minutes with an average speed of 133.9 miles per hour (215 kph).



**Image 35** (downloaded) - The Isle of Man TT or Tourist Trophy races are an annual motorcycle sport event run on the Isle of Man in May/June of most years since its inaugural race in 1907. The event is often called one of the most dangerous racing events in the world.



**Image 36** (downloaded) - An on-site account of the 2003 race by Sports Illustrated writer Franz Lidz called the spectacle "38 Miles of Terror... a test of nerves and speed that may be sport's most dangerous event". The oldest motor-cycle racing circuit in the world is still in use - the Snaefell Mountain Course over which the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy races are run. This circuit is the epitome of the natural road course, all the roads used are just ordinary public highways closed for the racing and practice sessions of the TT.





**Image 37** – Right on time at 10.00am we set off for the ride. This is the bit I like when all the Harleys fire up in close proximity. It sounds great!!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #2**

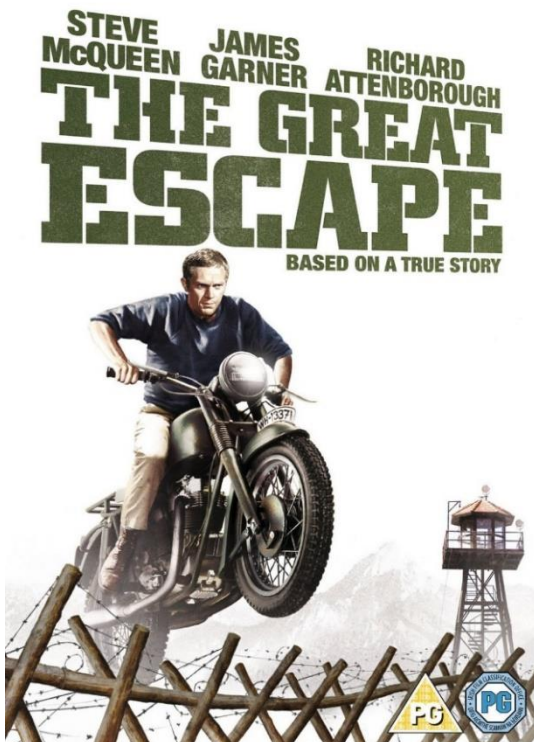
Did you know that modern sport bike tyres don't contain any natural rubber? The tread of their tyres is composed of synthetic rubber, which has been compounded to give a better compromise between durability and traction. Synthetic rubber works far better for this purpose.



**Image 38** – Wendy is all smiles when she and Mutzy (her bike), get out!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #3**

Did you know **Steve McQueen's famous 65 foot motorcycle jump** in the movie 'The Great Escape' was done by stand-in rider Bud Ekins and he did it in just one take?



**Image 39** (downloaded) - The Great Escape is a 1963 American epic war film starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough. Its set during the Second World War, where a large group of imprisoned Allied soldiers, known for breaking out of prison, are confined in an escape-proof prison camp.



**Image 40** – As they say, it's not the destination, it's the journey. The fun has already started! Maintaining social distancing whilst riding is easy! You never get to within 1.5m of another motorcycle when riding.

#### **Motorcycling fun-fact #4**

Recognized around the world as a leader in motorcycle helmet manufacturing, Arai Helmets started as a hat-making company in Japan in 1926 making gear for the construction industry. Company founder Hirotake Arai was once a motorcycle stunt rider and the company is still privately owned today and run by the Arai family.



**Image 41** (downloaded) - Arai Helmet, Limited is a Japanese company that designs and manufactures motorcycle helmets and other helmets for motorsports.





**Image 42** (downloaded) – We were told to look out for “the big chook” on the ride but I missed it! This magnificent and oversized “Big Chook” is a giant chicken and is the mascot of “The Big Chook Egg Farm”, located at the corner of Mamre Road and Elizabeth Drive at Kemps Creek. Checking them out on Google I find that they have over 20,000 laying chickens which supply eggs to local shops in western Sydney as well as having a busy farm door sales outlet. How could you miss it?!!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #5**

The first company that advertised a motorcycle’s top speed of over 100mph was Brough Superior. That claim was made for its SS100 in 1924. Considered even today to be innovative and beautifully designed machines, Brough Superior motorcycles were the first to have prop stands, twin headlights, crash bars, interconnected silencers and 1000cc V-twin engines. Every SS100 was road tested on public roads to check that it could reach 100mph. If it didn’t, it was returned to the factory for further work until it could reach that feat.



**Image 43** (downloaded) - The 1924 Brough Superior SS100 motorcycle.



**Image 44** – In the foreground we see Baa Baa (Malcolm) aboard his Harley trike.

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #6**

The German inventor and automotive pioneer Gottlieb Daimler together with Wilhelm Maybach are generally credited with building the first successful internal combustion engine and subsequently the first practical motorcycle in 1885, called the Reitwagen (“riding car”). It is widely recognized as being the first motorcycle. Thus Daimler is often called “the father of the motorcycle” for this invention. This motorcycle was built from a wooden frame and it had iron rims and wooden spokes. However, the bike did not deliver a comfortable ride because of the lack of pneumatic tires. Nonetheless it remains the first petrol, internal combustion engine motorcycle, and the forerunner of all vehicles, land, sea and air, that use this overwhelmingly popular internal combustion engine type. By 1886 the Reitwagen had served its purpose and was abandoned by Daimler in favour of further development on four wheeled vehicles, namely the first automobile.



**Image 45** (downloaded) – The Reitwagen of 1885.





**Image 46** – When we stop, I get a chance to take a quick photo. You never tire of this view!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #7**

The first series production motorcycle was built by Hildebrand and Wolfmüller, also of Germany in 1894. It is estimated that between 800 and 2,000 of these motorbikes were made – of which only a dozen survive worldwide.

The term "motorcycle" (or "motorrad" in German) was first used in 1894 by Hildebrand & Wolfmüller.



**Image 47** (downloaded) – The Hildebrand and Wolfmüller motorrad.





**Image 48** – Baa Baa looking relaxed and comfortable on his ride.

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #8**

Indian Motorcycles began production in 1901 and Harley-Davidson was established two years later. By the outbreak of the First World War, the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world was Indian, producing over 20,000 bikes per year.



**Image 49** – Here we approach an intersection and you can see one of our Road Captains at left marking the corner (he has his right blinker on indicating that we should all turn right). This corner marker will not leave his post until he sees our Tail End Charlie (also a Road Captain) pass through. You never get lost when you ride with the HOGS!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #9**

The oldest surviving Russian-manufactured motorcycle, the Rossiya, dates from 1902.



**Image 50** (downloaded) - In 1902, The Rossiya, the First Russian Motorbike was built. Initially, Russian motorcycles were just licensed copies of other brands, but by 1902, Russia was able to produce their own motorcycles, but this achievement was heavily impeded by the revolution that ravaged the country at that time. At least the memories of Rossiya survived.



**Image 51** – We arrive at our first stop in the rural town known as “The Oaks” at around 11.15am. This will be a brief 30-minute stop only.

#### **Motorcycling fun-fact #10**

Italian designer Piaggio introduced the Vespa in 1946, which experienced immediate and widespread popularity. Piaggio sold some 2,500 Vespas in 1947, over 10,000 in 1948, 20,000 in 1949, and over 60,000 in 1950. The biggest sales promo ever was Hollywood when in 1952, Audrey Hepburn side-saddled Gregory Peck’s Vespa in the feature film “Roman Holiday” for a ride through Rome, resulting in over 100,000 sales.



**Image 52** (downloaded) – From the movie “Roman Holiday”.





**Image 53** – At “The Oaks”, some of us take the opportunity to get a quick snack at Glen’s Bakery. Notice that we are adhering to social distancing regulations!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #11**

Suzuki, Kawasaki and the Yamaha each started producing motorcycles in the 1950s.

Today the Japanese manufacturers, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, and Yamaha dominate the motorcycle industry, although Harley-Davidson still maintains a high degree of popularity, particularly in the United States.



**Image 54** – Back in the car park it's time for friendly banter, maintaining social distancing of course!

**Motorcycling fun-fact #12**



**Image 55** (downloaded) - The MTT Turbine Superbike, which is powered by a Rolls Royce Allison turbine engine, cost \$185,000 in 2004, making it the most expensive production motorcycle ever to go on sale. The bike's Rolls Royce turbine engine produces 213 kW (286 hp) of power at the rear wheel.



**Image 56** – As with most organisations there are administrative duties, one of which is balancing the books. Here we see Tracey (at right) fund raising and drawing the raffle with first prize of \$30 going to Lindsay seen here at left. Tracy uses an app on her phone to generate the winning numbers so there are no paper tickets in a barrel to draw from. Handy when you are on a motorcycle!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #11**



**Image 57 (downloaded)** - **Neiman Marcus Limited Edition Fighter** is one of the few exclusive masterpieces in Motorcycle history. This extremely rare gem started off at a bidding of \$110,000 but eventually ended up being purchased at **\$11 Million**, 100 times that amount. The spectacular design resembles a clockwork mechanism and so is called “The Evolution of Machine”. **It is the costliest motorcycle in the world.**





**Image 58** – Second prize of \$20 in the raffle goes to Bob seen here with Tracey.

After the draw at 11.45 am we continue onwards to our next and final stop at Luddenham.

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #12**

In the year 2000 the major motorcycle companies of the world reached a gentlemen's agreement to end a speed war of one-upmanship to try to make the world's fastest production bike, as they feared speeds would escalate to extremely dangerous speeds before it would end. A speed limit of 186 mph (300 km/hr) was agreed.



**Image 59** – After a pleasant ride through rural outer Sydney our group ride comes to an end at about 1.00pm in Luddenham at this servo which also serves as a comfort stop. The sun is still shining and I'm sure everyone had a great day.

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #13**

When cornering a bike, the front tyre provides almost 75% of the grip.



**Image 60** – And I'm sure new member Rose also had a great day and she had no difficulty riding with the group.

#### **Motorcycling fun-fact #14**

Did you know that Kawasaki, a renowned motorcycle manufacturer, also manufactures spaceships? And the company only started building bikes in 1962.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries Aerospace Company is the aerospace division of Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI). It produces aircraft, space systems, simulators, jet engines, missiles, and electronic equipment.





**Image 61** – We say our farewells here at 1.30 pm before making our own way home. It was fantastic to catch up with our ride buddies today after a long and unexpected hiatus. It wasn't too difficult to adhere to the COVID safe practices and with restrictions expected to be eased further in the near future, it will all be GOOD TO GO!

### **Motorcycling fun-fact #15**

Honda Motors Company Ltd has grown up to become the world's largest motorcycle manufacturer in addition to also holding one of the leading positions in the automotive industry.

Until next time,

Ride Safe,

Sergio, Editor / Historian, NSW Chapter.