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## **Harley Owners Group (HOG) – New South Wales Chapter**

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

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### **HOG Monthly New Members Ride**

**Ride to Watsons Bay – Saturday 4 August, 2018**

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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 Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel located at 1 Military Road, Watsons Bay about 30 km from our start point as we take the longer more scenic route.

The New Members Ride is not just for new members but is for any HOG member who feels like a quick ride on a Saturday morning so as to put them in a good mood for the weekend!

Our route today is basically a scenic tour through Sydney and then into the eastern suburbs.

*This newsletter contains images taken on the day of the ride as well as archive images and downloaded images.*



The HOG New South Wales Chapter sponsoring dealer is Fraser Motorcycles, located at 153 – 165 Parramatta Road, Concord NSW 2137

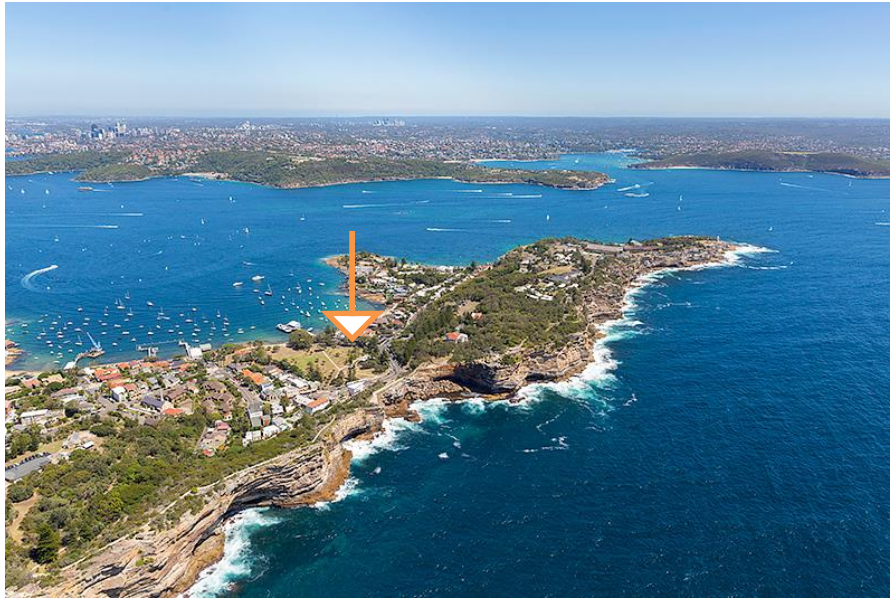


Image 1 –Watsons Bay is located on the southern head of the entrance to Sydney Harbour from the vast Pacific Ocean. It is a harbor-side suburb of Sydney only 11 kms from the Sydney CBD.

The arrow shows our destination point, the Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel.



Image 2 – It's great to catch up for a chat before the ride so most of us arrive well before the departure time.



Image 3 – A line-up of our trusty Iron steeds in the carpark at Frasers.



Image 4 – As usual we capture some images of HOGS at play. Here we see Zoran and George, both HOG Road Captains and for today, Zoran is the Lead Road Captain who also proposed and planned today's ride.





Image 5 – Often seen on HOG rides are Ashley and Sarma.



Image 6 – From left is Knock-Knock (Hugh), Bollard (Dave) and Baa-Baa (Mal). Today Bollard is riding Shotgun, replacing Joe who is attending to some back burning on his property. This back burning is intended to reduce the fire hazard to his property, the risk of which has been elevated due to extreme drought conditions prevailing in most parts of southern Australia right now.

New South Wales is currently 99% drought stricken, and is experiencing one of its worst droughts in history. Farmers are copping a devastating blow with this so we Hoggies are today raising funds to support the affected farmers. Supporting charities is a HOG tradition. Funds for this drought relief were raised at a recent HOG committee meeting and more will follow at the next monthly general meeting where all in attendance will be asked to make a contribution. It is expected that thousands of dollars will be raised by us. This money will supplement the Government Drought Relief Package and will go towards providing feed and water for livestock of stricken farmers. Affected farm properties are too dry to produce any feed for livestock on their own and livestock are starving.



Image 7 – This is an archive image of Joe who was to ride Shotgun with us today but had to attend to back burning operations on his property. He recently moved to Taree on the mid north coast of New South Wales approximately 310 kms from Sydney.



Image 8 – Also joining us today is Spielberg (Michael) with wife Tracy.



Image 9 – Today we host a HOG member from another Chapter, this being Roderick from the South Australia Chapter seen here with Vicki and Sylvia. There are over 1,400 official HOG Chapters worldwide with over 1 million members with each Chapter is sponsored by an authorized Harley-Davidson dealership. H.O.G. is the world's largest factory-sponsored motorcycle association. Visiting HOG members are always welcome at any HOG Chapter.



Image 10 – We actually have a new member for the new members ride! It's Philip and he rides a 2017 Sportster 883.





Image 11 - Elkin found the time from his busy schedule to join the ride today. He is on a 2016 Breakout model.



Image 12 – Signing the attendance / indemnity book is Rocky (Rakesh) who rides a Street 500 model. It is compulsory for all to sign this book before partaking in the ride.



Image 13 – And this is Vinni (Rodney) with wife Mary Anne who are on a 2013 Fat Boy model.

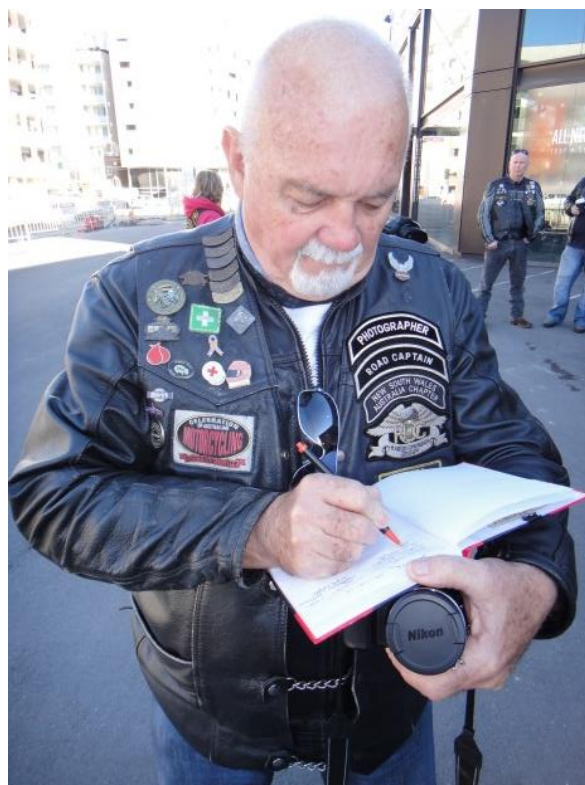


Image 14 – Here we see Hazza (Harry) signing the attendance / Indemnity book. Hazza is one of our Road Captains and also acts as Chapter photographer.





Image 15 – Its 8.45 am and the Road Captains meet to discuss individual roles in the ride.



Image 16 – Here we see Zoran, today's Lead Road Captain addressing the Road Captains on aspects of today's ride.



Image 17 – It's now 8.55 am and Zoran delivers his pre-ride address to the group which is essential for a successful and safe group ride. It's a good group with 42 people attending.



Image 18 – HOG members always follow ride protocols to ensure safety and enjoyment for all.





Image 19 – We make our way from the carpark at 9.05 am onto the busy Parramatta Road.



Image 20 – Parramatta Road on a Saturday morning is always chokkers!





Image 21 – Traffic or not, it's worth it just to get to enjoy this view!



Image 22 – By 9.30 am we reach the Sydney CBD and red traffic lights split the group.



Image 23 – At “The Rocks” we stop at a convenient place to regroup. This only takes a few minutes.



Image 24 – At about 9.40 am we pass right under the southern end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge with the Sydney Opera House in the background. I was really hoping for a red light here so that I could get this image. It only went red when I was right on it.





Image 25 – Another red light, fantastic! I'm just hoping for red lights all the way so that I can get some interesting photos! Here Bollard (Dave), our safety officer is alongside and that bag behind him contains the Chapter defibrillator and first aid kit. Hopefully he will never get to use it.



Image 26 – Making our way down George street Sydney we see the ongoing roadworks associated with the new light rail construction.





Image 27 – Heading up to Macquarie Street I slot in behind Baa-Baa’s (Mal’s) late model Harley Trike.



Image 28 – This image provided by visiting HOG member Roderick aboard his 2015 Harley Sportster sees us travelling up Macleay Street at 9.50 am then veering right onto Darlinghurst road at Kings Cross. This is a very popular tourist area.



Image 29 – At the top of Darlinghurst Road we go left onto Kings Cross Road and towards Vaucluse which is right next to our destination of Watsons Bay.



Image 30 – Approaching Double Bay on New South Head Road, the traffic here is better than I anticipated.



Image 31 – This part of the road at Rose Bay is quite pleasant with the water visible all along our left hand side.



Image 32 – We reach our destination at 10.10 am with “The Gap” to our right and the Watsons Bay ferry pier to our left.





Image 33 – A downloaded image showing the windswept cliffs of “The Gap” on the South Head peninsula. It’s a sheer drop to the crashing ocean waves below.

Unfortunately The Gap is the hottest suicide spot in Australia where every year 50 or more people commit suicide by hurling themselves off the cliff top and into the sea below.

The local Woollahra Council has recently come up with a “Gap Master Plan” to address this issue of suicides. It involves special high fencing, lighting, signs, cc-tv cameras and emergency telephone support.

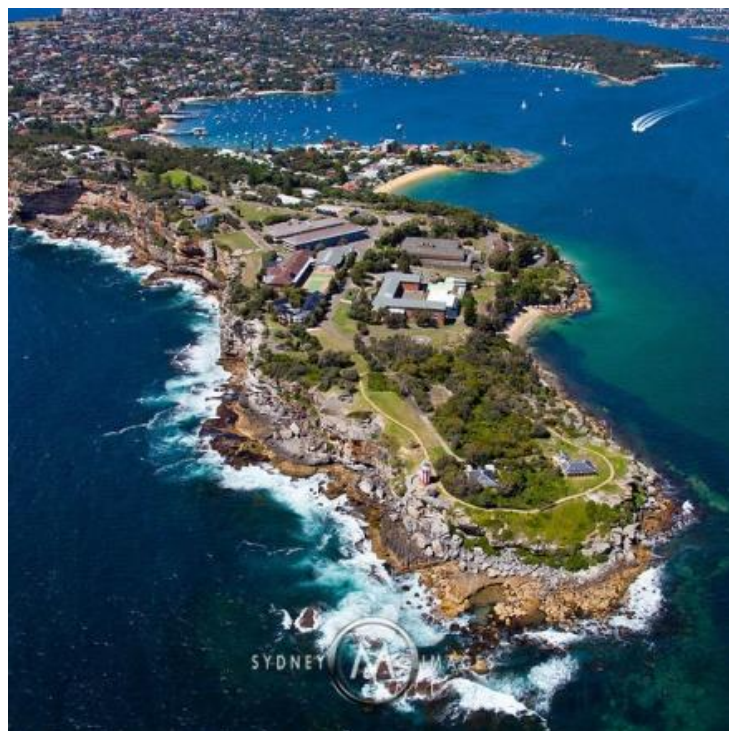


Image 34 – A downloaded image of South Head with The Gap on the left hand side (Middle of photo) and Watsons Bay beach on the right hand side (above of centre).



Image 35 – Meanwhile, back to Joe's place at Taree he is very busy with the fireies organizing the burn off. This will greatly reduce the bushfire hazard in the lead up towards summer, especially for this year with drought conditions prevailing.



Image 36 – This is Roundy with Marylou beside his brand new CVO Limited which he only picked up this morning! It replaces an identical previous bike he had only for a short time but had ongoing problems with. Fraser's did the swap under warranty thus cementing the great relationship between the two parties.





Image 37 – We have parked our bikes in the nearby carpark and are now heading to the Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel, the rear of which is seen here. The waterfront is at the end of this short pathway.



HOG Ride Image 38 – Also with us today is Hayley, eldest daughter of our Assistant Director Cappa (Warwick) who is seen here with her seven month old baby boy Harvey. Harvey is already following a long family tradition of involvement with motorcycles!





HOG Ride Image 39 – Let's digress for a moment and show you archive images of Hayley with her first motorcycle, a 2008 Suzuki 250LC Intruder which she started riding as a learner in September 2010.



HOG Ride Image 40 – By July 2013 Hayley was already on her first Harley, a 2008 XLC 1200 Custom Sportster which she still lovingly owns today. In May 2014 she became a member of NSW HOG and has been on various rides with the club, the most exciting of which was a 19 day ride to Uluru in September 2016. Here we see Hayley with her bike in front of Ayers Rock on that trip.

Hayley hopes to continue her association with the HOGS as time allows as she now has a very busy schedule being a mom.



Image 41 – This image is taken from the Sydney Game Fishing Club on the end of the ferry pier and looking back we can see the Hotel we are going to, that large 3-storey building. It's in a fabulous location and its property extends all the way to the waterfront.



Image 42 – George grabs a quick coffee and heads straight for the beach for a look around. This is a sheltered harbor beach so it is not a surfing beach.





Image 43 – A closer look at the Hotel and we are headed to the middle level for indoor dining.

This Hotel heavily promotes their venues for seaside wedding ceremonies offering a combined wedding ceremony and reception destination. Their website states “The Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel proudly welcomes supports & offers a safe space for same-sex marriage”.

Also seen in this image is the “Fish & Chippery” attached to the Hotel where one can purchase fish & chips to eat by the water, an essential and traditional Watsons Bay pastime.



Image 44 – In the dining area we quickly settle in while Bollard (Dave) looks on.





Image 45 – By 10.40 am we are already settled in the restaurant with the service being efficient and friendly. It's a comfortable set-up for brunch and the banter flows freely.



Image 46 – Meanwhile, back in Taree, Joe puts on a BBQ for the local bushfire crew for a job well done.

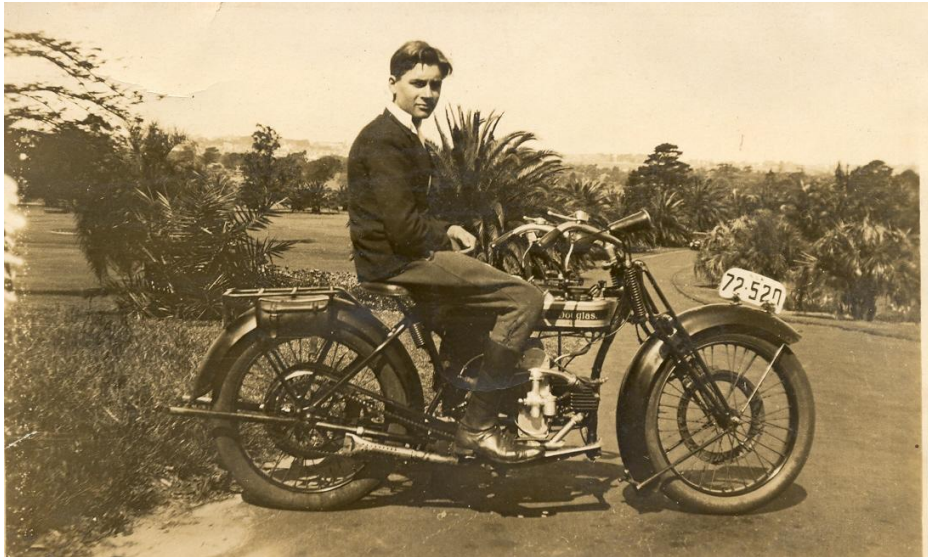


Image 47 – Hoggies enjoying a good meal with good company at the Watsons Bay Hotel.



HOG Ride Image 48 – Still in the Hotel we see doting granddad Cappa (Warwick) with grandson Harvey. We are sure that Harvey will be riding with the HOGS one day in the near future, following a long family tradition of a passion for motorcycles and Harley-Davidsons.





HOG Ride Image 49 – Here we see Harvey's great grandfather Sydney on his brand new 1926 Douglas Twin motorcycle at the age of 16! I reckon the passion for motorcycles will long remain with this family with Harvey already at home surrounded by motorcycles.



Image 50 – To my right is Tarzan (Steve) as we head out after a fine feed at around 11.30 am. .





Image 51 – Before heading home we make a quick visit to the Sydney Game Fishing Club at the end of the ferry pier. Joe has a connection with this club and suggested we check it out for a future ride destination. It's situated right over the water with glorious views of the harbor. Club staff were most accommodating so I think a return visit is a certainty.



Image 52 – Checking out the view from the fishing club is from left Shieldsey (Brook), Bollard (Dave) and Hammer (Don). The view from here across Sydney Harbour is quite spectacular.



Image 53 – From the fishing club with the Hotel in the background.



Image 54 – It's now noon as we head for home but before we go we check out Greg with his brand new Street Glide, purchased from Fraser's of course!

Well that leaves plenty of time to attend to other commitments of a Saturday. And what a great way to start the day!





Image 55 – And back in Taree Joe was with the fireies until late attending to the backburning and cleanup.