
Harley Owners Group (HOG) – New South Wales Chapter

HOGS – The Official riding club of Harley-Davidson

HOG Ride to “Brighter Days Festival”, Bright, Victoria 8 – 12 March, 2018

An official Club ride to the Brighter Days Festival in Bright, Victoria has been organised for the first time this year. I want to cover this ride in reasonable detail so that it's like you came with me when reading this newsletter. As this is a 5 day trip and there is much to talk about, this newsletter is going to be lengthy. I feel that condensing it will not give you a sense of being on tour with us.

Bright is a town in north-eastern Victoria with a population of around 2,400 people. It is renowned for its beauty in every season and particularly in autumn with the natural beauty of the European trees changing colour before winter. It is situated in the heart of the Great Alpine Valleys at an altitude of 319 m.

It is also the venue of the annual “Brighter Days Festival” organised by the Brighter Days Foundation to offer support to two charities: The **DEBRA** foundation (**D**ystrophic **E**pidermolysis **B**ullosa **R**esearch **A**ssociation), and **SUDC** (**S**udden **U**nexplained **D**eath in **C**hildren). The Foundation, formed in 2012 was started by a small group of people who then drew on the significant resources of their wider circle of friends who were also motorcycle and car enthusiasts. The committee with some very passionate volunteers have managed to raise much needed funds through donations, raffles, auctions and events.

Thursday 8 March



HOG Ride Image 1 – We depart Sydney for Bright on Thursday morning (March 8) and will travel the scenic route via Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Cooma, and then to Jindabyne for an overnight stopover. On Friday we continue on through Thredbo, Khancoban, Tintaldra, and then onto our destination at Porepunkah which is just outside Bright.

Our ride starting point is for an 8.30 am departure at the 7-11 servo (service station) at Pheasants Nest about 80 km west from Sydney so I arrange to meet fellow Hoggies who live nearby to travel to the meet point together. We meet at the BP servo on King Georges Road, Lakemba just on 6 am. As you can see it's pre-dawn and with me are from left Mouse (Emanuel), Bollard (Dave) and Rav (Tony). Mouse and Rav are brothers.

Images in this newsletter are presented in chronological order.



HOG Ride Image 2 – Our meet point at the 7 – 11 servo at Pheasants Nest. We arrive just on 7 am and by now dawn has broken. Steadily the group arrives well ahead of the 8.30 am departure schedule and it's a great roll-up of over 40 members. Further, weather conditions are most favourable for today and the next few days.

As usual, you are greeted with smiling faces all around.



HOG Ride Image 3 – Well Wendy is always smiling but now her grin is even wider since trading up her motorcycle. She sold her Sportster and is now the proud owner of a new Fatboy with the 110 cubic inch motor.



HOG Ride Image 4 – We love our HOG happy-snaps and seen here from left to right is Snork (Mike), Rocket (Rodney), Hardy, Priest (Fred), Knock-Knock (Hugh, taking a photo) and Hazza (Harry).



HOG Ride Image 5 – Our Lead Road Captain for this trip is Bollard seen here standing on the table and barking out instructions and procedures for the trip. When riding in a large group it's important that everyone is on the same page at all times.



HOG Ride Image 6 – Another view of members listening intently to the Lead Road Captain. All members adhere to HOG riding protocols at all times so there is never cause for concern.



HOG Ride Image 7 – Its 8.30 am and time to go. Riders make final preparations before departure. We start counting distances from this point.



HOG Ride Image 8 – I always enjoy this view: Harleys fore and aft!



HOG Ride Image 9 – At 9.45 am and 115 km into the journey we take our first fuel stop at Goulburn, one of many for this trip. Compared to cars, motorcycles have much smaller fuel tanks.

Seen in the background is the bakery where we will take a quick break for a snack.



HOG Ride Image 10 – The Trappers Bakery where we gather for a snack.



HOG Ride Image 11 – Inside the bakery enjoying a snack and a chat.



HOG Ride Image 12 – We continue onwards at 10.30 am and with a long ride ahead of us we regather so as to proceed as one cohesive group. This is more fun and facilitates the work of the Road Captains who keep a close eye on proceedings to ensure everyone is fine and accounted for. We never lose anyone on a HOG ride!



HOG Ride Image 13 – Well that's something we rarely encounter these days – a railway level crossing and we timed it just right to catch a train. I bet the train driver wishes he was with us!



HOG Ride Image 14 – At 12 noon and 210 kms we enter Queanbeyan where we will take another short break.



HOG Ride Image 15 – In Queanbeyan we stop at the park in Lowe Street for the splash and dash (quick toilet stop).



HOG Ride Image 16 – Still at Queanbeyan we grab a photo opportunity and with me from left are Wendy, Bear (Chris) and Nadine.



HOG Ride Image 17 – At 1.45 pm and 315 kms we arrive at the Cooma Hotel in Cooma for lunch.



HOG Ride Image 18 – Enjoying lunch inside the Cooma Hotel and at this end of the table we see Greg (at left) with Craig.



HOG Ride Image 19 – More Hoggies having lunch and at this end of the table we see Gypo (Rob) at left, with sister Bear opposite and Nadine alongside.



HOG Ride Image 20 – At 3.30 pm and 380 km we arrive at our final destination for today, the Alpine Gables in Jindabyne.



HOG Ride Image 21 – Often seen on HOG rides is Dave with daughter Alyce, both with their own Harleys.



HOG Ride Image 22 – By 5.00 pm we are all settled in the bar at The Alpine Gables. The beers were cold and the mood most convivial. There is great camaraderie amongst Hoggies!



HOG Ride Image 23 – More Hoggies in the bar enjoying a coldie!



HOG Ride Image 24 – And the girls are not left out also enjoying a drink in the bar.

Here we see from left Alyce, Sylvia and Louise.

Friday 9 March



HOG Ride Image 25 – Its Friday morning at 7.45 am and these two haven't seen each other since last night at the bar! Hoggies are always happy to see each other but displays of affection can vary somewhat! Here we see Rocket at left with Bollard.



HOG Ride Image 26 – Before departure we have time for some quick happy-snaps.

From left we see Mouse, Ralph, Dano, Craig, Greg and Hazza.



HOG Ride Image 27 – Let's check out Baa-Baa's (Mal) brand new 2018 Harley-Davidson Tri-Glide Trike, his 4th Harley and second Trike. He absolutely loves it!



HOG Ride Image 28 – Time for more happy-snaps. Seen here from left is Hammer (Don), Cappa (Warwick), Alyce, myself (Sergio), Louise and Rocket. Cappa and Louise are husband and wife.



HOG Ride Image 29 – And here is Snork with his gleaming 2016 CVO Street Glide model, his 3rd Harley.



HOG Ride Image 30 – Just prior to our departure at 8.30 am our Lead Road Captain (Bollard) again addresses the group in relation to our ongoing ride.



HOG Ride Image 31 – Our group listening to the Lead Road Captain.



HOG Ride Image 32 – I never tire of this view, Harleys fore and aft! Here just beyond Jindabyne on our way towards Thredbo we stop briefly at a roadworks site.

We are now headed to Khancoban on what could be described as an idyllic bike route through the Snowy Mountains. The scenery is spectacular and the twisties endless.



HOG Ride Image 33 – At 10.45 am and 490 km from start point (Pheasant's Nest) we arrive at Shane O's Café at the Khancoban Shopping Centre. We left Jindabyne about 2 hours ago and this conveniently fits in with our preferred break intervals.



HOG Ride Image 34 – Inside Shane O's where most of us have a quick snack. Staff members here were very friendly and most happy to accommodate us. We Hoggies are well received everywhere we go!



HOG Ride Image 35 – In the very large shopping centre carpark we take another photo opportunity. Here we see Ralph with his 2012 Fat Bob model, his 2nd Harley. He has been riding motorcycles his whole life and has been a HOG member for 6 years. He is also one of our Road Captains.



HOG Ride Image 36 – A staff member of Shane O's was admiring our bikes and casually mentioned she had never been on a motorcycle. Bollard heard this, grabbed a spare helmet and said to her "you're going for a ride right now"! Reluctantly she got on the back of Bollard's bike and returned 10 minutes later with a big smile on her face!



HOG Ride Image 37 – In the Khancoban Shopping Centre carpark we take the compulsory group photo.



HOG Ride Image 38 – Its 11.45 am and time to depart Khancoban for a short ride to our next stop, this being the pub at Tintaldra where we will have lunch.

That's \$ 1.5m worth of motorcycles right there!



HOG Ride Image 39 – At 12.15 pm and 520 kms we arrive at the Tintaldra Hotel, just across the border of New South Wales and into Victoria. It looks like a typical country pub. At all of our stops we have pre-arranged our arrival so that catering staff are ready for us and can accommodate us. There is more to planning a ride than meets the eye.



HOG Ride Image 40. Well it's a rather warm day into the 30's (Celsius) and some prefer to park their bikes in the shade of some trees. Rocket uses this opportunity to strip off some clothing to cool off.

Here we see from left Baa-Baa, Hardy, Rocket, Snork, Craig and Priest (Fred).



HOG Ride Image 41 – Most of us prefer to dine outdoors on the pub's porch areas.



HOG Ride Image 42 – With no more room outside some of us grab a spot inside. Seen here from left are Joe, Bollard and Knock-Knock.



HOG Ride Image 43 – We depart the pub at 1.30 pm and all is good! We are well-nourished and hydrated, and all in good spirits on a very pleasant day.

Ahhhh! The sights and sounds – OF THE HARLEY'S!! Oops! That's an Indian motorcycle just ahead of me being ridden by Nadine. It sounds good too!



HOG Ride Image 44 – At 2.45 pm and 610 kms we reach our scheduled fuel stop in Tallangatta. We need to schedule regular fuel stops and even these are carefully planned. Running out of fuel in the middle of nowhere is not an option!

We all top up our tanks for the final stretch to our destination.



HOG Ride Image 45 – We all take our turn at refuelling and then stretch the legs. Check out the nice flame job on Craig's bike!



HOG Ride Image 46 – At 4.00 pm and 700 kms we arrive at our final forward destination where we will stay for the next 3 nights. It's the Rest Away Holiday Units in Porepunkah on the Great Alpine Road, only 8 kms from Bright.



HOG Ride Image 47 – Our Road Captains carefully plan our rides to cater to all our needs and have even organised a carpark party spit roast dinner for us. It started at 6.30 pm giving us ample time to settle in and freshen up. Good work chaps and the cost was only \$ 20 per head.



HOG Ride Image 48 – The spit roast dinner was delicious with enough food to satisfy all and there also were desserts to follow. Living life high on the hog!



HOG Ride Image 49 – At the other end of the table – satisfied customers all round!



HOG Ride Image 50 – More Hoggies enjoying the spit roast dinner.



HOG Ride Image 51 – Now that's how you end a ride HOG style!

This photo nicely displays our lodgings at the Rest Away Holiday Units.



HOG Ride Image 52 – Its 8 pm and we are all well fed after a long days ride.



HOG Ride Image 53 – Not all of us could stay at the Rest Away Hotel Villas so the rest of us were just up the road at the Alpine Park Riverside Cottages. As you can see, there were no vacancies with the Brighter Days Festival attracting a lot of visitors. Our Chapter has already pre-booked for next year and both places are very happy to have us back. People love us Hoggies everywhere we go!

Saturday 10 March



HOG Ride Image 54 – These are the Riverside Cottages where I am staying which are very nice. Unlike the Rest Away Units which are attached to one another, these units are separated providing more privacy and quiet. Not that we make a lot of noise! (maybe the bikes just a little!)

It's now Saturday morning at 8.00 am and its time to get rolling. We have a group ride organised for breakfast at Beechworth.



HOG Ride Image 55 – Just to show you why they are called “Riverside Cottages”, they are adjacent to this river! It was tempting to go in for a swim but we have a ride organised!



HOG Ride Image 56 – 10 am and we arrive in Beechworth, about 55 kms from our lodgings. It was a very pleasant ride with very enjoyable twisties along the way. We head straight for the Beechworth Bakery as seen in this image, for breakfast. It's a large establishment taking up that entire 2-storey building.



HOG Ride Image 57 – Inside the bakery and its very busy this morning. There is a huge selection on the menu.

The infamous bushranger Ned Kelly (1854 – 1880) roamed these regions and had spent time in HM Prison Beechworth. So included on the bakery menu is their signature “Ned Kelly Pie”, which is described as “a hearty steak pie topped with bacon, cheese and a whole egg”.



HOG Ride Image 58 – Still inside the bakery we see Bones (Mick) with wife Lizzy next to replica Ned Kelly armour which is most unique.



HOG Ride Image 59 – A downloaded image of Ned Kelly.

Edward Kelly was an Australian bushranger, outlaw, gang leader and convicted police murderer. One of the last bushrangers and by far the most famous, he is best known for wearing a suit of bulletproof armour during his final shootout with the police. He was executed by hanging on November 11, 1880 aged just 26 years.



HOG Ride Image 61 – Walking around Beechworth. Beechworth is a well-preserved historical town located in the north-east of Victoria, famous for its major growth during the gold rush days of the mid 1850's. During this period, one candidate in an election campaign rode a horse shod with solid gold horseshoes into Beechworth. The extravagance of this event is still commemorated as the logo for Beechworth is a gold horseshoe!



HOG Ride Image 62 – While Beechworth only has a population of about 2,800 people it does have a beautiful streetscape with buildings of heritage architecture that tell a story of a bygone era.

Amongst the shops are sophisticated boutiques offering designer labels, vintage jewellery, quality leather and handmade goods and craft goods. It's also where the Beechworth honey comes from which is found in your local Woolworths supermarket. It's a fun place to visit.

We leave Beechworth at 11.45 am and decide to visit the nearby Woolshed Falls on our way back.



HOG Ride Image 63 – We are now at the Woolshed Falls and after parking our bikes in the carpark we head down this track towards the falls. It's only a short walk.



HOG Ride Image 64 – We reach the falls but water levels are a bit low due to drought conditions prevailing. In periods of heavy rain this whole area would form a torrent of water flow.



HOG Ride Image 65 – Despite the drought, there is some water flow. At right of photo in foreground is a nice little pond formed naturally by the flowing water.



HOG Ride Image 66 – This is the nice little pond mentioned in the previous image which proved far too irresistible to Nadine. It's a very warm day and the water temperature was very inviting and cool. Her wet jeans will easily dry off on her motorbike trip on the way back.



HOG Ride Image 67 – We HOGS love our group happy-snaps and as usual its smiles all round!



HOG Ride Image 68 – What about a group photo of the girls! From left we see Wendy, Sylvia, Louise, Bear, Nadine, Alyce and Lizzie.



HOG Ride Image 69 – 12.30 pm we depart the Woolshed Falls and some of us will ride into Bright, a distance of some 70 kms to see what's going on. Others will return to their lodgings to relax with other HOG members. There are always options and nothing is compulsory, you are free to do as you please.



HOG Ride Image 70 – This is the Ovens River which runs through Bright and we are adjacent to Howitt Riverside Park where much of the festivities for the Brighter Days Festival take place.

As you can see, it's a very warm day and plenty of people are enjoying the water in the river.



HOG Ride Image 71 – Next to the river we see many people camping out right next to Howitt Riverside Park. They don't need to worry about making their way home each night after partying hard!



HOG Ride Image 72 – We check out a bit of Bright. First impressions, it's a lovely town with plenty of craft type shops and this weekend it's buzzing with activity.

Bright is a base for exploring the nearby peaks of Mount Buffalo National Park and Alpine National Park as well as Mount Hotham, a popular snow ski resort.



HOG Ride Image 73 – A typical view of the streets of Bright.



HOG Ride Image 74 – We head straight to the Alpine Hotel in Bright for lunch.



HOG Ride Image 75 – Now we are back at Howitt Riverside Park where much of the festivities for Brighter Days Festival take place. That's right: Bikes-Cars-Music and we love it!



HOG Ride Image 76 – A view of Howitt Riverside Park and the place is chokkers.



HOG Ride Image 77 – Another view of the park.



HOG Ride Image 78 – In Bright we catch up with Steve and Roundie (Stuart). These two together with Marcus left home this morning, quite an effort considering Roundie and Marcus are from the Central Coast, 100 kms north of Sydney. We is tough we HOGS!



HOG Ride Image 79 – In the streets of Bright we see this vehicle which may appear to be an incomplete project or unfinished restoration but in fact are neither. It is known as a Rat Rod and this term is not considered to be derogatory but is adopted in a positive light. The primary emphasis of such vehicles is low budget and home built with the emphasis on fun and being built simply to be driven and enjoyed. Some consider these vehicles to be an art form. If you can't see the beauty in this, you just don't get it!



HOG Ride Image 80 – 4.45 pm. We return briefly to our lodgings. We are all here as a group but that doesn't mean you had to do everything together. Some will choose to check out fun ride routes on offer while others may want to go to Bright to check out the festivities for instance. You are free to do as you please.

I found it fun to spend some time in Bright, return to our lodgings for a catch up as we are doing here, then return to Bright again. It's only a 10 minute ride away.



HOG Ride Image 81 – 6.00 pm. Now back to Bright again where we catch up with (from left) Marcus, Roundie (Stuart) and Snork.



HOG Ride Image 82 – 6.15 pm. We all take some time out to indulge in junk food. There is plenty to choose from.



HOG Ride Image 83 – 6.45 pm. Part of the ceremonies is to inform everyone about the relevant charities and to show the current status of research and sufferers of the illnesses (where donations go).



HOG Ride Image 84 – The Brighter Days Festival has security patrols and a local Police presence as you would expect. Possibly because of this I did not notice any obnoxious behaviour and the crowds were very well behaved.



HOG Ride Image 85 –7.00 pm. It seems that our menacing looking little group has in fact drawn the attention of the attending Police.



HOG Ride Image 86 – Bollard looks a bit worried while Greg does some deft negotiating. So were we in a spot of bother I hear you ask! Apparently the Police were questioning our wearing of club colours which is now forbidden in many places. When they realised we were not part of any outlaw motorcycle gang but law abiding, upright citizens and HOG members all was fine! The coppers ended up having a friendly chat with us.



HOG Ride Image 87 – 7.15 pm. The crowds are building for the night time entertainment.

Various bands have been performing since noon and playing now is the band “Cool Change”.

We decide to do a quick lap of the town to see what’s going on and will later return to watch the band “Screaming Eagles” back here.



HOG Ride Image 88 – 7.30 pm. Parked in the town are various interesting vehicles that are part of the cars display. Remember, it's a "Bikes- Cars-Music" Festival!



HOG Ride Image 89 – Another interesting vehicle parked in Bright, a 1970 Cadillac.



HOG Ride Image 90 – 9.00 pm. We return to Howitt Park to see the “Screaming Eagles” perform. They can be described as an Eagles tribute band and sound very much just like the real Eagles. They were fantastic! They played on until about 11.00 pm.



HOG Ride Image 91 – This image taken in the opposite direction to the previous image to show the depth of the crowds. Weather conditions could not have been better for the night time performances and as you can see everyone is only lightly clothed.

Sunday 11 March



HOG Ride Image 92 –10.30 am. We return to Bright. As our lodgings are only 10 minutes out of town you can come and go as you please.

We spot another ratter, this time a 1963 Chevrolet pick-up. Do you like the Rat-Rod vehicle concept or do you think they are disgusting? You either love them or hate them.



HOG Ride Image 93 – Definitely not a Rat Rod, this 1950's Ford Customline is better than new!



HOG Ride Image 94 – 1950's Chevys, all in pristine condition.



HOG Ride Image 95 – This 1970's Ford Fairlane looks great.



HOG Ride Image 96 – A 1960's Ford Galaxie 2-door.



HOG Ride Image 97 – Now let's check out the bike show behind the stage at Howitt Riverside Park. I can't show you every bike because this newsletter is already big enough so let's just select a few that were very interesting to me.

Most of the bikes on display are Harley-Davidsons from all vintages.



HOG Ride Image 98 – I always enjoy seeing very early model Harley-Davidsons.



HOG Ride Image 99 – This highly customized bike is a piece of art!



HOG Ride Image 100 – A really early Harley-Davidson. Cooooo!!



HOG Ride Image 101 – I'm not too sure about this bike but it looks like a prototype Harley-Davidson scrambler. The design clues are the jacked up suspension, the tucked up exhaust and off-road tyres. Is this a 1-off custom job or a Harley prototype, I don't know. Very interesting though!



HOG Ride Image 102 – 12 noon. Next to the Alpine Hotel and town clock tower we return to see The Screaming Eagles perform again. They are fantastic!



HOG Ride Image 103 – The crowd watching the Screaming Eagles in front of the Alpine Hotel.



HOG Ride Image 104 – The Screaming Eagles performing. We really enjoyed their performance.



HOG Ride Image 105 – Our happy little group enjoying the music.



HOG Ride Image 106 – These dudes were also enjoying the performance.



HOG Ride Image 107 – Now back to Howitt Riverside Park we see a group called “Turk Tresize” perform. It was a very different sound but it grew on you really quickly.



HOG Ride Image 108 – 5.15 pm. We head back to our lodgings for a while with the intention to return to Bright this evening to witness the big Raffle draw and listen to more music.



HOG Ride Image 109 – 5.30 pm. On our many return trips to Bright we always parked in this convenient place, the servo on the right hand side just as you enter Bright. The Indian family who run that business didn't mind as we had breakfast there a couple of times. Everyone loves us Hoggies!



HOG Ride Image 110 – Happy little vegemites at the servo carpark area!



HOG Ride Image 111 – 5.45 pm. We return on Sunday night to see the drawing of the big raffle and the 2 bands following. That bike right there is the 3rd prize, a 2018 Street 750, valued at \$ 15,000. (Donated by Northside Harley-Davidson).

First prize was a 2018 Customized Harley-Davidson Ford Mustang valued at \$ 75,000. (Donated by H-D TV, Bayford Group & Mustang Motorsport).

Second Prize was a 2018 Customized one only Street-Glide Special valued at \$ 50,000. (Donated by Harley-Davidson Australia).

Fourth prize was \$ 10,000 worth of Kincrome tools. (Donated by Kincrome Australia).

Only 4,000 tickets were sold at \$ 100 per ticket.

Most of us Hoggies bought a ticket each.

The draw was scheduled for 6.30 pm. All proceeds from the raffle go to The Brighter Days Foundation.



HOG Ride Image 112 – 6.00 pm. That's the first prize Mustang right there loaded on a trailer. It's even the right colour! We all had high hopes but unfortunately none of us won any of the prizes.



HOG Ride Image 113 – 8.00 pm. Right now the band Pseudo Echo are playing and they were very good. Whilst wondering about we ran into the members of the band Turk Tresize seen here with Bollard. They were nice people.



HOG Ride Image 114 – 8.30 pm. A view of the crowd at Howitt Riverside Park listening to the band Psuedo Echo. The next band to play from 9.00 pm are Dragon which we stay for.



HOG Ride Image 115 – 10.00 pm. Well we left Riverside Park a bit early to meet up with everyone back at our lodgings. This will be our last night here. The banter was most friendly and engaging. All us Hoggies get along beautifully.

Monday 12 March



HOG Ride Image 116 – 6.30 am and we start to gather for our return trip home. Some will be going straight home while others are opting for an overnight stay at Young about half way home.



HOG Ride Image 117 – Its 7.00 am, the sun has risen and its time to head home.



HOG Ride Image 118 – 2.00 pm. A small group of us opt to go straight home. From left we see Craig, myself (Sergio), Bollard, Ralph, Dano and Knock-Knock (taking photo). We have been riding since 7.00 am with regular stops and all are doing well. It's not much further now.



HOG Ride Image 119 – 3.15 pm and we take our last fuel stop.



HOG Ride Image 120 – At our final fuel stop we meet other bikers returning from Bright. These guys are heading to the New South Wales north coast, a fair way further than Sydney. All we bikers are brothers and we look out for each other. Cagers (car drivers) do not exhibit the same camaraderie as bikers.

This trip was faultless! The riding, the weather, the scenery, the company, the places we visited, the bike show, the car show, the music, everything! Even the bikes performed flawlessly! This is what memories are made of!