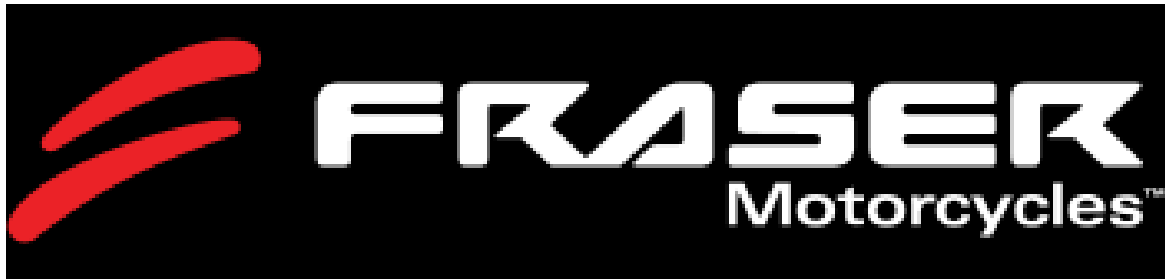

Harley Owners Group (HOG) – New South Wales Chapter

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

HOG Ride – Sunday July 22, 2018

Ride to Mount Kembla Hotel, Mount Kembla



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

Our ride today is to the Mount Kembla Hotel in Mount Kembla, which is a semi-rural town in the Illawarra region 115 km from Sydney. As usual we take the scenic route via Luddenham, Mulgoa, Silverdale, The Oaks, Camden and Picton. Along the way we take a brief stop at The Oaks to visit Glen's Bakery and café.

This newsletter only contains images taken on the day of the ride.



HOG Ride Image 1 – Our usual meet point for Sunday rides is at the Gloria Jeans Café in North Strathfield. Our scheduled departure is 9.00 am and here we see the group building at around 8.30 am. It's a bit cool this morning so everyone indulges in a hot coffee.



HOG Ride Image 2 – Its mid-winter in Sydney and the predicted weather forecast for today is for temperatures to range from 7⁰ – 17⁰ C. That's about as cold as it gets in Sydney but that's ideal for the bike engine. I notice my bike runs better in these conditions.

All riders today arrive suitably dressed for the cooler conditions and we see from left Brick (Tony), Jubby (Mike), Mr.Con, Ralph (partly obscured) and Louise.



HOG Ride Image 3 – We have time for friendly banter before heading off.



HOG Ride Image 4 – As usual we introduce some Hoggies and here we see Pip (Peter) who has a long and continuous history of riding motorcycles. He has owned about 20 different bikes and is presently on his 3rd Harley, a 2011 Street Glide model.



HOG Ride Image 5 – Also present today are from left Bones (Mick), Ashley and Sarma.



HOG Ride Image 6 – Brick (Tony) is a Trainee Road Captain and will today lead the ride. Becoming a Road Captain is an arduous process where one must successfully complete various segments such as acting in the many different roles of a Road Captain (Sweep, Tail End Charlie, Shotgun, etc), exhibit proficiency on the motorcycle, and also complete a First Aid course. Each Trainee Road Captain is mentored by an experienced Road Captain.



HOG Ride Image 7 – Its 8.50 am and just before addressing all present the Road Captains meet to discuss ride strategies and their individual duties for this ride. From left are Brick (Tony), Cappa (Warwick), Smiddy (Ian), Roundy (Stuart), and Ralph.



HOG Ride Image 8 – Its 8.55 am and Brick (at far right) addresses all present mentioning things such as route, stops, and safety. Our route today includes a wildlife hazard with kangaroo's being of most concern.



HOG Ride Image 9 – Brick concluding his address as the temperatures begin to rise on a sunny Sunday morning.

From left we see Mark, Louise, Linny (Linda), Cappa (Warwick) and Brick (Tony).



HOG Ride Image 10 – Right on schedule at 9.00 am we head out to the carpark to fire up our iron steeds and music fills the air!



HOG Ride Image 11 – The rest of our group in the carpark. It's a good attendance today with 16 riders and 4 pillions.



HOG Ride Image 12 – What a difference a day makes. The Sydney roads are so much quieter on a Sunday morning making for a pleasant getaway.

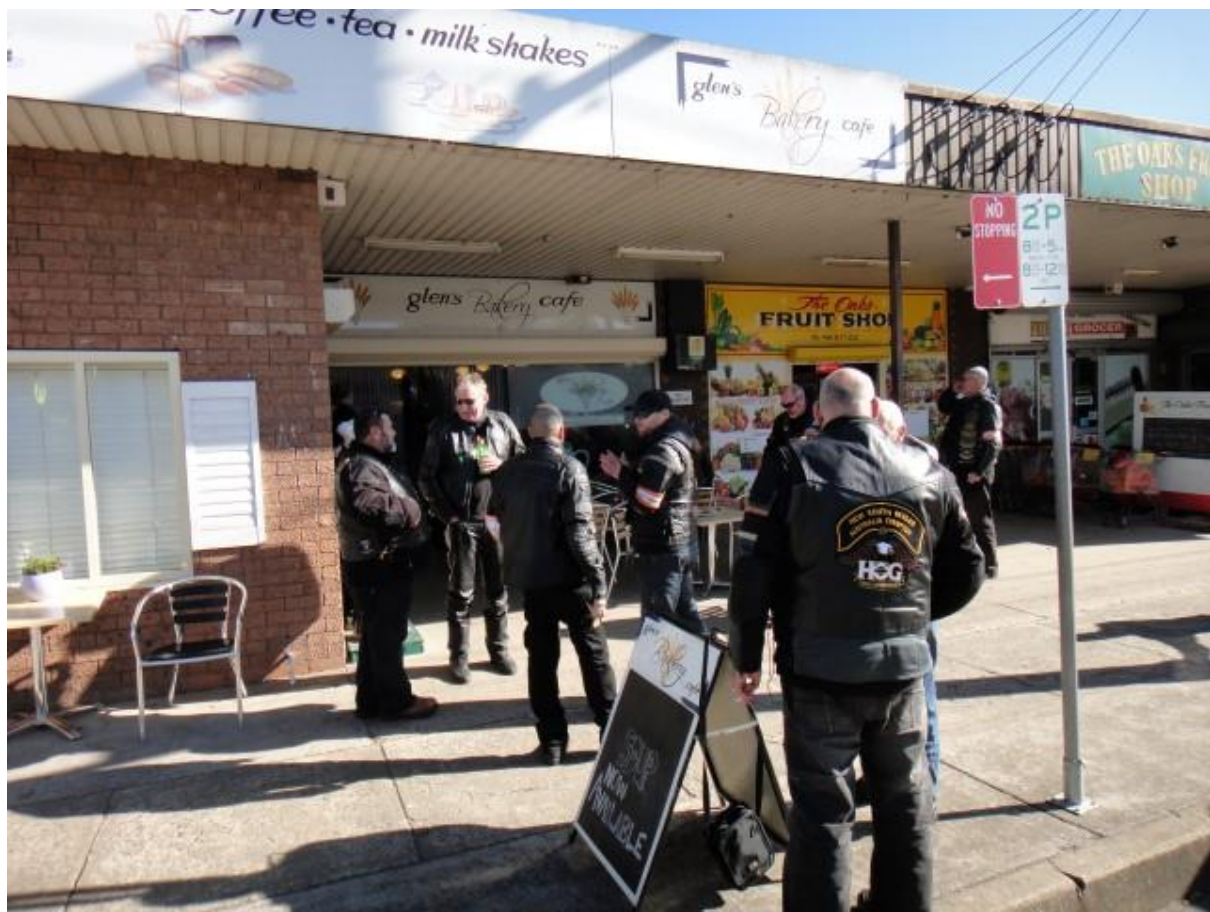


HOG Ride Image 13 – We reach our first destination at 10.15am, this being Glen’s Bakery and Café at The Oaks, some 85 kms into our journey. This is not far out of Sydney and a number of dead kangaroos were found beside the roadway well before reaching this point. It is believed the kangaroos are seeking feed closer to inhabited areas due to the ongoing dry season. But the funniest recent example was the spotting of a swamp wallaby crossing the Sydney Harbour Bridge at around 5.00 am on January 16 this year. It is thought this wallaby made its way from the Cammeray and Northbridge bushlands not too far from the bridge. It was captured, vet checked and later released back to bushland.

Here we see Roundy (Stuart) with Marylou beside a Fraser loan bike, a new Ultra Limited. Due to ongoing problems with Roundy’s own bike, a new CVO Limited 117ci, a brand new identical replacement bike has been organised through Frasers and is due any day now. Frasers take customer satisfaction very seriously which is why Roundy has bought 9 bikes there in the past 20 years.

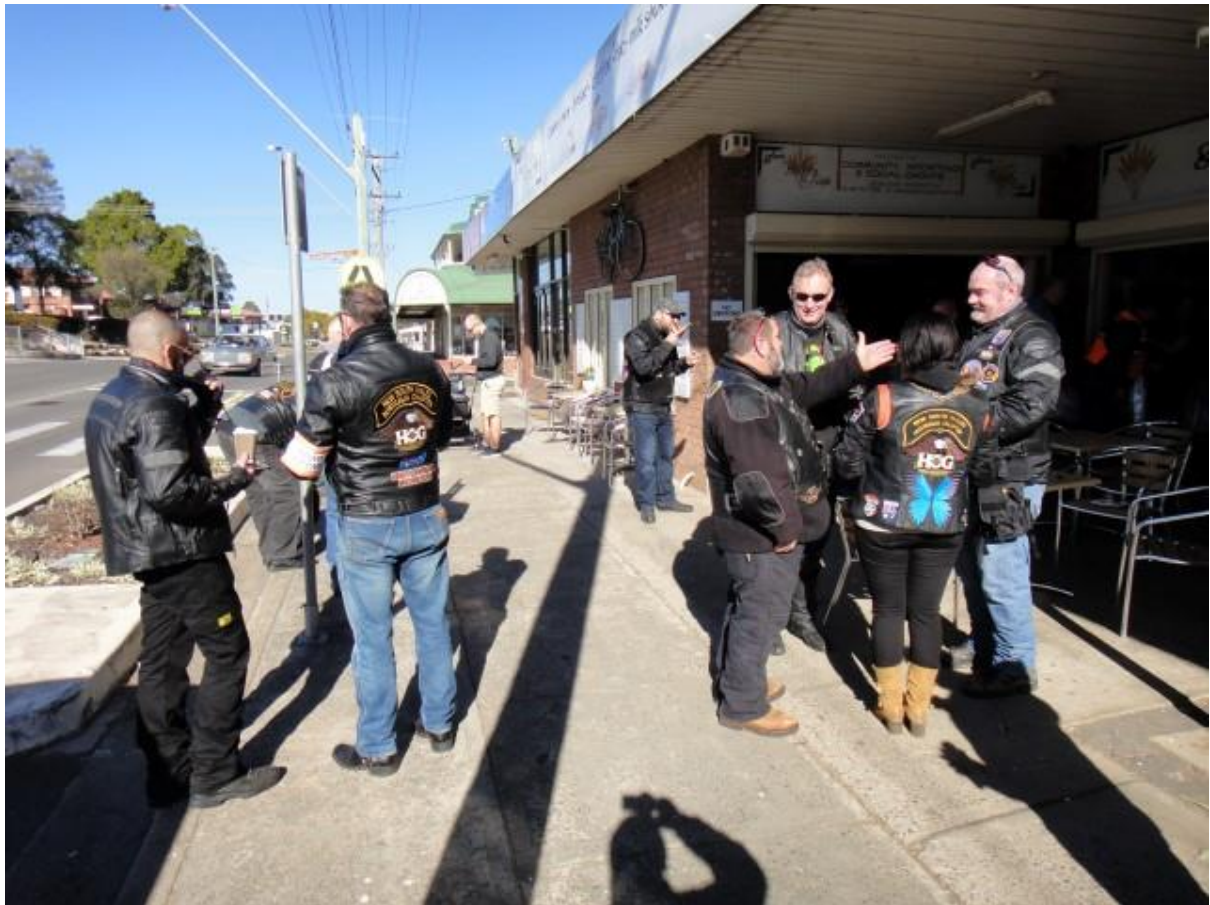


HOG Ride Image 14 – In the carpark at The Oaks we also see Cappa (Warwick) with wife Louise. Cappa has been mentoring Brick on his endorsement towards becoming a Road Captain. This requires considerable commitment from each of them.



HOG Ride Image 15 – This is Glen's Bakery and Café, a place often on our itinerary.

It's very nice out in the warming winter sun so most of us choose to stay outside the cafe. It's turning out to be a most pleasant day with temperatures approaching the maximum predicted temperature of 17°C.



HOG Ride Image 16 – Hoggies just chilling out on a sunny Sunday morning. The long shadows announce its winter but in Australia winter is conducive to riding! With drought conditions prevailing we have had very little use for our wet weather gear.



HOG Ride Image 17 – To my right is Mark, a regular HOG participant. Staring into the morning winter sun can be a bit glary!



HOG Ride Image 18 – Back to the carpark we see Pip with his 2011 Street Glide.



HOG Ride Image 19 – Still in the carpark we see Geoff with his 2011 Sportster 883 model. Its 11.00 am as we continue on our way.



HOG Ride Image 20 – Hey, just one more before we go! Here we see Travis with his 2017 Dyna Low Rider S bike. Travis is also a HOG Road Captain.



HOG Ride Image 21 – Heading towards Wollongong we pass through Picton at around 11.15 am, a nice rural town.



HOG Ride Image 22 – We arrive at our final destination for today, 150 km from our departure point, at the Mount Kembla Hotel right on noon. Its address is 274 Cordeaux Road, Mount Kembla. Mount Kembla has a population of around 1,000 people.

As the sign says, this Hotel was established in 1898 and it is in fact a heritage listed building, and is also the oldest weatherboard clad Hotel in the Illawarra region. The area surrounding Mount Kembla is a coal mining area, most notable for a mining disaster back in 1902 in which 96 people lost their lives. This sad event has consistently been commemorated every year since the disaster and includes a 96 candle ceremony.

They knew we were coming so they reserved all the parking spaces in front of the Hotel for our bikes. We Hoggies are well received everywhere we go.



HOG Ride Image 23 – We love our group happy snaps!



HOG Ride Image 24 – Inside the Hotel they have reserved a room for us where it's nice and warm with an open fireplace going so all our jackets come off as we go to order lunch. You would describe this Hotel as Rustic – Chic, it has a pleasant ambience.



HOG Ride Image 25 – Enjoying a meal with your biker buddies after a pleasant morning ride is well worth the effort. It's a friendly vibe all around.



HOG Ride Image 26 – Whilst enjoying our meal we noticed out the window a bride was about to enter another part of the Hotel for her wedding. We all cheered prompting them to turn around smiling.

On the way home along the M31 motorway from Wollongong to Sydney, another dead kangaroo was seen beside the roadway. With speed limits at 110 km/hr this is quite a hazard, especially for motorcycles. The drought must be forcing the kangaroos closer and into inhabited areas in search of food.

***Ride Safe,
Sergio, Editor / Historian***