
Harley Owners Group (HOG) – New South Wales Chapter

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

HOG Ride to Kangaroo Valley

Sunday 19 May, 2019



Our sponsoring dealer is located at 153 – 165 Parramatta Road, Concord NSW 2137

Today's full day ride is to the Kangaroo Valley which is situated approximately 160 kms south of Sydney and is often referred to as "the most beautiful valley in Australia". Kangaroo Valley is a river valley along the Kangaroo River and it is also the name of the small town within it. Kangaroo Valley is a gently sloping wide valley surrounded on its sides by high mountains of the NSW Southern Highlands. It takes its name from the kangaroos which formerly abounded here in the 1800's. It is recognized world-wide as an unspoilt scenically beautiful tourist destination.

As most bikers would know, the Kangaroo Valley ride would be on any Top 10 list of motorcycle rides in Australia. It feels purpose built for motorcycle riding with its scenic winding bends across mountain ranges.

Our meeting and departure point for the ride today is the Red Rooster restaurant carpark on the M4 at Eastern Creek for a 9.00 am departure. Our route will take us firstly to The Oaks via Kemps Creek where we will have a 30 minute stop. Then we continue our way due south through Bargo, Bowral, Barrengarry and to our final destination at Kangaroo Valley. This route through the Kangaroo Valley is home to native animals including kangaroos, wallabies and wombats so rider discretion is advised.

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



Image 1 – A map showing the location of Kangaroo Valley which is situated between Wollongong and Canberra in the state of New South Wales.



Image 2 – A map showing the main roads in the Kangaroo Valley area. The Kangaroo River goes through the Kangaroo Valley.



Image 3 – A downloaded image of the Southern Highlands featuring the Kangaroo Valley.



Image 4 – We start gathering at the meeting point from about 8.00 am. It's a nice time to catch up with fellow riders before the ride. The long morning shadows clearly announce the onset of winter.



Image 5 – We see a mix of familiar and new faces today and the weather is perfect for a ride with temperatures in the low 20's Celsius.



Image 6 – Here we see a splendid line-up of Harleys but not all of them are ours. In the background you can see another motorcycle group also meeting here this morning. They are the “Infadels MC” with whom we had very cordial conversations. We are all part of the motorcycle fraternity!



Image 7 – Lets meet some HOG members and here we see Fifi with Noisy Pete (Peter).



Image 8 – Here I (Sergio) stand beside my bike, a 2018 Heritage model with the 114 ci motor. Love it!



Image 9 – And here we see Kristal with her son Tyler, both pillion passengers today.



Image 10 – This is Derek and Shirley, whom we don't see often as they have moved out of Sydney and in fact live close to our destination point at Kangaroo Valley. They will be making their way home and riding with us after spending the weekend in Sydney.



Image 11 – At left we have Dick (Richard) and to his left, his son James with fiancé Nenwah. Richard and James have their own Harley's while Nenwah rides as a pillion passenger today.



A note on the rules pertaining to carrying passengers on a motorcycle from the NSW Roads & Maritime Motorcycle riders' handbook (on page 64):

Motorcycle Passengers

Any passenger carried on a motorcycle (not in a sidecar) must:

- Sit astride the motorcycle pillion seat facing forward
- Keep both feet on the footrests designed for use by the pillion passenger
- Wear a correctly fitted and securely fastened approved motorcycle helmet
- Be eight years of age or older
- Not interfere with the riders control of the motorcycle

A motorcycle rider must not ride with more than one passenger (excluding sidecar passengers) on the motorcycle.

Chloe only recently turned 8 years old so she is good to go!

Image 12 – This is Pip (Peter) with his pillion passenger daughter Chloe.



Image 13 – Now this is Manuel with son Chris as pillion. Manuel is riding a 2018 Deluxe model.



Image 14 – Its 8.40 am and time for the ride briefing to all in attendance. This covers such things as ride protocols, Road Captain duties, route, stops and precautions. Lead Road Captain for today is Dano (Danny) second from left, with Knock-Knock (Hugh), seen at left, riding Shot Gun.



Image 15 – Our group for today listening to the ride briefing.



Image 16 – Its now 9.00 am and time to saddle up. We always run on schedule with all rides rekkied (done a reconnaissance of by our Road Captains) in advance of the ride to more accurately estimate travel times and road conditions.

Seen here is Belle who is a trainee Road Captain and our Chapter Youth Representative.



Image 17 – This is Craig with his granddaughter Lili-Anne as pillion. Grandmother Kellie is at left also on her own Harley.



Image 18 – Again we see James and Nenwah aboard his 2017 Street Glide model.



Image 19 – Closest to camera is Dick, with son James immediately behind.



Image 20 - We arrive at our first stop at around 10.00am, this being at The Oaks to visit Glen's Café for light refreshments. This presents another photo opportunity to capture Craig with granddaughter Lili-Anne. Today is Lili-Annes first ever ride aboard a Harley.



Image 21 – A view of us at Glen's Café. It's a very relaxed vibe with everyone getting on well including all the kids.



Image 22 – A short break with light refreshments will prepare us for the more challenging ride ahead through the famous “Barrengarry Bends”.



Image 23 – The weather is great, the company is great, the bikes are great, the ride is great, get the picture!!



Image 24 – Here we see at left Chloe, daughter of Pip with Makayla, daughter of our Chapter Secretary and Road Captain Gypo (Rob) getting along like a house on fire!



Image 25 – It's now around 10.45am as we mount up to continue our ride southbound. The ride ahead will be more challenging the closer we get to the Kangaroo Valley.

Here we see Makayla with her dad Gypo on their 2018 Ultra Model. Today was Makayla's first long ride on the Harley with her Dad.



Image 26 – Again we see Craig with granddaughter Lili-Anne aboard his Road King model.



Image 27 – Here we see Tyler on Mr.Con’s (Con) bike for the ride today.



Image 28 – Pip and Chloe aboard his 2011 Street Glide model Harley. Chloe has only recently started riding with her Dad and she absolutely loves it.



Image 29 – A shot taken at Picton on our way south. There was very little traffic found along our route today as we avoid the main highways preferring to use the more scenic secondary roads.



Image 30 – After the sleepy town of Fitzroy Falls and before arriving at Kangaroo Valley we will experience a series of back and forth hairpins and long flowing bends known as the Barrengarry Bends that will keep us well and truly focussed. It is known as the Barrengarry Bends because the town of Barrengarry lies between Fitzroy Falls and Kangaroo Valley and this 16 km stretch of road is steep, spectacular and winding. We will be making the descent through the Barrengarry Mountain into Kangaroo Valley through spectacular scenery.



Image 31 – This sign will deter cagers (car drivers) but is inviting to motorcyclists. It advises a magnificent collection of corners await us!



Image 32 – There are not many overtaking opportunities along the way and one must constantly be mindful of the abundant and unpredictable local wildlife present.



Image 33 – You won't ride every sweeping bend technically perfect but you get to try another bend right away.



Image 34 – This road, being quite technical, forces you to take your mind off the day-to-day stuff and to fully focus on the tarmac ahead. It's a road that demands your focus.



Image 35 – A ride through this valley is picturesque but not without its hazards. Despite its beauty, it potentially can throw just about every riding hazard in your path.



Image 36 – The Barrengarry Bends throw everything at you including tree litter and debris, moisture on parts of the road due to perpetual shading from the sun, a mix of varying hairpins, on-coming traffic, and steep ascents and descents, you have to have your wits about you going up and down this valley. Despite this one feels quite satisfied after successfully completing this roadway. It gives you the opportunity to work on honing your cornering skills



Image 37 – Having survived the Barrengarry Bends we now approach the town of Kangaroo Valley. Standing before it is this surprisingly spectacular bridge known as the Hampden Bridge which crosses the Kangaroo River. This Tudor-Gothic styled bridge was completed in 1898 and is a wooden suspension bridge, the oldest surviving suspension bridge in the country. It was restored in 2011 with great care being taken to replicate the original bridge rather than just replace it with modern technology.

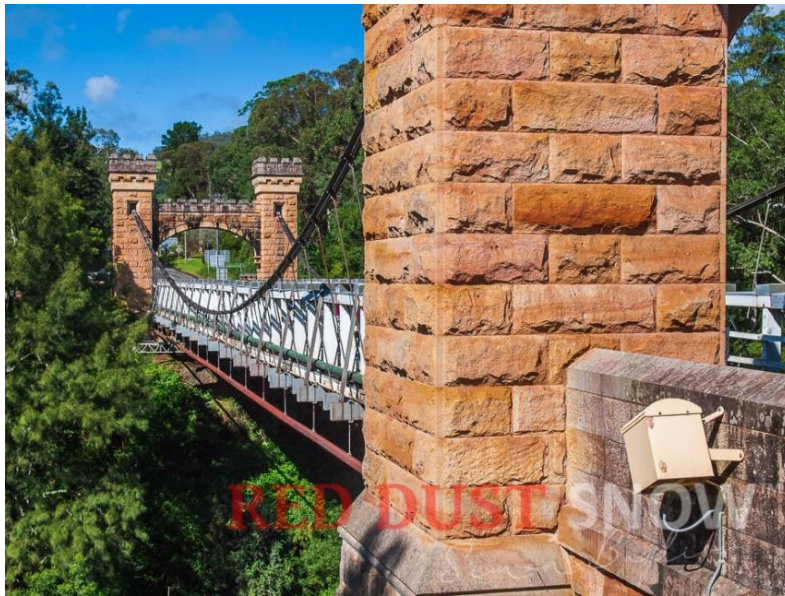


Image 38 – The elaborate and sophisticated architectural style of the bridge was popular in the late 19th century and its implementation here reflected the affluence of this area and the importance of the river crossing at the time of construction. This road back then was a major route from Sydney to the south coast of New South Wales. Note the castellated towers which resemble the turrets of a medieval castle. This bridge now remains an attractive gateway to the Southern Highlands for tourists and residents of Kangaroo Valley.



Image 39 – We arrive in the town of Kangaroo Valley around 12.20pm and here we see Belle organising herself for lunch.



Image 40 – Also in the carpark we see Phil beside his 2018 model Fat Boy model. It has the 114 ci engine with the Stage 2 performance kit and is also fitted with custom apehanger handlebars. Niiiiiice!!



Image 41 – The main street of the town of Kangaroo Valley is known as Moss Vale Road and it exudes old world charm. The population of this town is only 879 people (2016 Census). It has a variety of arts and craft shops, restaurants and cafes, a hotel, club, post office, supermarket and other businesses making it an ideal weekend getaway type of place. It has changed very little in the past 130 years. Tourism and outdoor recreation are now the primary industries here. It has also become a desirable “tree change” destination for people leaving the big cities. There are a large number of hobby farms and weekend residents who live and holiday on a few hectares to escape the city life. Members of rock bands INXS and Midnight Oil have also bought into the valley.



Image 42 – We regather before making our way to our lunch venue, The Friendly Inn Hotel.



Image 43 – Another image of the town showing historic old buildings. Chic shops now line the main street.



Image 44 – Phil at left with Sparkles (Mark) on their way to The Friendly Inn Hotel.



Image 45 – The Friendly Inn Hotel (formally known as The Commercial Hotel) was established in 1892.



Image 46 – The Friendly Inn Hotel has some interesting bronze pieces adorning the entrance. This piece depicting a mermaid has a lovely green patina over it except where people keep touching it (have another look!).



Image 47 – We have a room reserved in the Hotel for our lunch. We never go anywhere unannounced.



Image 48 – Of course all the little kids got on well together as did the big kids! From left we see Lili-Anne, Chloe and Makayla.



Image 49 – The back yard of the Hotel saw most patrons preferring to eat outside in the lovely warming sunshine.

By around 2 pm we begin to make our own way home. This means we get to do the Barrengarry Bends again only this time its uphill! Soon afterwards we make our way to the Hume Highway for a quick trip home.

Our ride today had a definite family theme to it with kids and grandkids coming along, and very clearly they enjoyed the day as much as the rest of us.

Ride Safe

Sergio Editor / Historian