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

HOGS – The Official riding club of Harley-Davidson

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### A biker article for your enjoyment – April, 2018



Image 1 – The Distinctive Gentleman's Ride logo.

This time I want to share with you a very interesting bike related story. The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (DGR) is an annual automotive fundraising-for-charity event founded in Sydney, Australia by Mark Hawwa which has now become a global event. He thought a themed ride would be a great way to combat the often negative stereotype of men on motorcycles, whilst connecting niche motorcycle communities together. The aim of the fundraising is to improve the lives of men through prostate cancer research and men's mental health initiatives with the strategic goal of men living happier, healthier and longer lives.

The first ride brought together over 2,500 riders across 64 cities worldwide and raised over \$ 227k (USD) for prostate cancer research. The numbers are rapidly increasing and by 2016, it had grown to over 56,000 participants across 505 cities in 90 countries worldwide raising over \$ 3.6M (USD) for prostate cancer research and men's mental health programs in partnership with the Movember Foundation.

Following are images downloaded from Google Images showing the DGR in all parts of the world.

Most of the information included herein is obtained from the official DGR website.



Image 2 – This is the DGR founder, Mark Hawwa, a classic car and motorcycle enthusiast. His mission statement reads: to raise as much money as possible in aid of prostate cancer research and suicide prevention, whilst atop a classic motorcycle dressed in your best finery! He is tirelessly working on new projects that combine fun with changing the world for the better.



Image 3 - On the last Sunday in September, tens of thousands of distinguished gentlemen in hundreds of cities worldwide will don their cravats, silk vests, crisp shirts, tailored suits, pipe, tweak their moustaches, press their tweed and then sit astride their classic and vintage styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health. This is a most unique event.

The next event will be on Sunday 30 September, 2018.



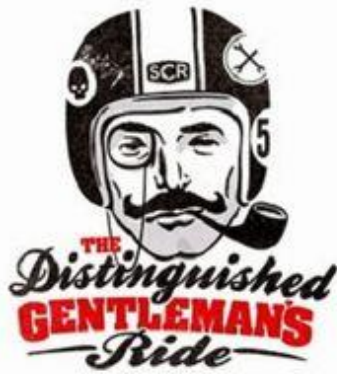
Image 4 – A group spreading merriment through the streets of London. An added bonus of the ride is seeing all the classic and vintage motorcycles you don't often get to see.

In Australia for 2018 there are 33 separate rides scheduled to take place in cities and regional centres. Of course Sydney is included which is where it all started.





Image 5 – Just a few examples of the cities involved are: New York, London, Moscow, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Rome, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Hyderabad, Hanoi, San Francisco, Houston, Tokyo, Cape Town, Madrid, Cordoba, Cambridge, etc. etc. etc.



**Retro/Cafe Bike** ☒



**Dapper suit** ☒

**Retro Lid** ☒

Image 6 – This unique, niche charity event is a themed ride with a great sense of fun.



Image 7 – All endeavours are made to make the DGR as safe as possible for all participants as well as those all around. To ensure this, risk assessors are employed to highlight safety issues and how to address them.

The DGR website is a fun place to visit where you can view all sorts of information about the ride and fundraising efforts. It lists such information as all the rides worldwide, giving numbers already registered, and a tally of fund raising efforts thus far. This list also shows the top rides (numbers of riders in each individual ride already registered), and the top fundraisers by individuals (riders and pillions shown separately), by teams, and by countries. Sydney and Australia are highly placed in all lists. Go to [gentlemansride.com](http://gentlemansride.com) then click on “The Rides” or “Leaderboards”.





Image 8 – DG Rides usually start at places that offer shelter, food and drinks and usually finish up at an interesting place where food and entertainment are on offer. At the end of the ride, the general public are usually invited to come and enjoy the bike displays, music and mingle with the riders.

If you are taking part in the ride you will obviously be encouraged to make a donation but also to motivate a friend or two to support your fund raising efforts. Donations can be made direct to your link on the DGR website. Alternatively, you can search for a rider or team on the website that you can donate to. To just make a donation not linked to any rider or team, click on “Make a donation to men’s health”.





Image 9 – At this event in Warsaw, Poland some of the bikes don't look particularly Classic or vintage to me and some of the clothing not that dapper. Nonetheless, these riders are united in a cause.

For logistical reasons, some rides will have a limited capacity for the number of riders. If you are keen to attend, then registering early would be a good idea.

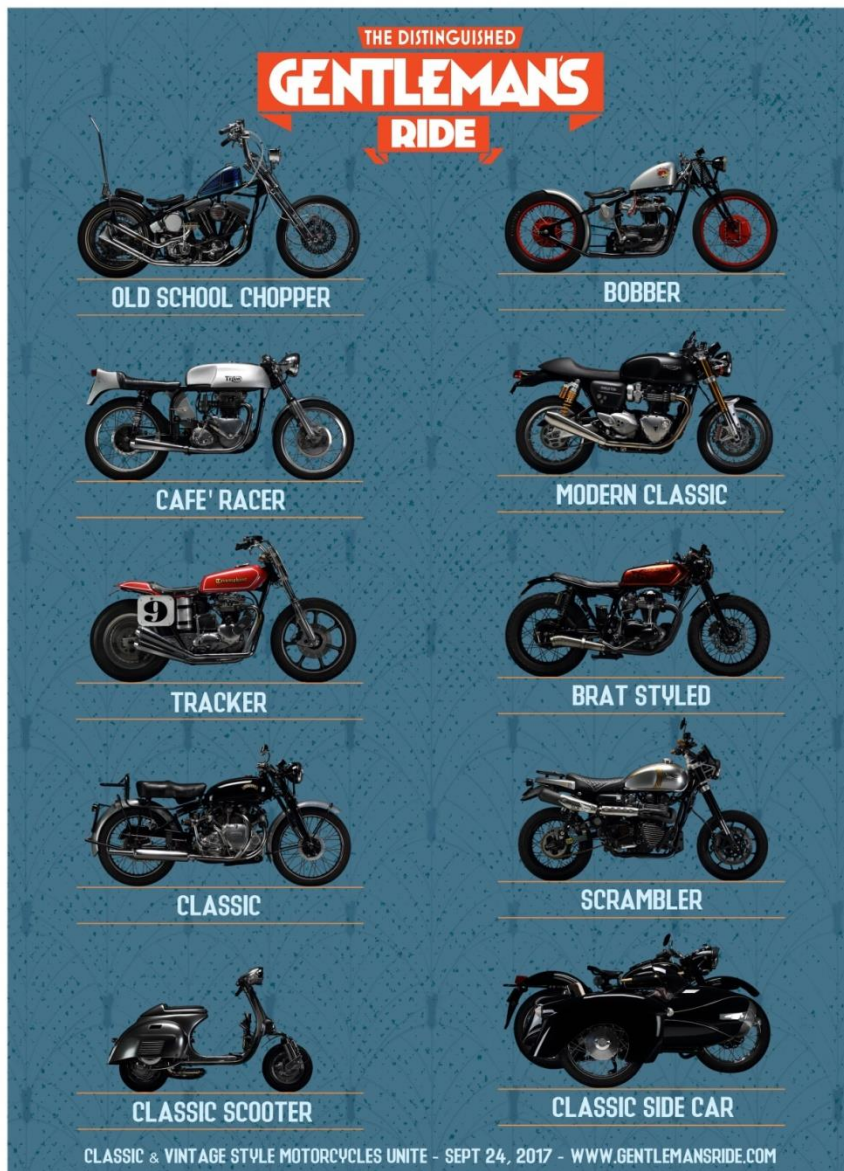


Image 10 – DGR prefer that you don't participate if your motorcycle does not fit these categories. The ride is about seeing motorcycles that you don't see during your daily commute and the preference is for Classic and vintage style motorcycles. This helps to keep the individual events small and manageable which ensures greater safety for all participants. Many of their key events attract over 1,000 riders with inherent logistical problems in managing the event. If they get too big, they run the risk of being shut down by authorities. Also, you need to dress appropriately in theme and it is expected that you meet their bike criteria to participate.



Image 11 – There riders enjoying a ride around London after completing the DGR.

Riders are urged to be sure their motorcycle is roadworthy and reliable and road registered before participating. Sweeper vehicles are employed on ride days to attend to any breakdowns.





Image 12 – A group of DGR riders parade through their city. These rides are organised by pre-approved ride hosts and each city is limited to one ride. The speed of the ride will be intentionally below local speed limits and managed by lead riders and marshals. DGR is a slow-paced, short event that takes place in busy locations to ensure the speed is limited. The ride usually only goes for approximately 3 hours.



Image 13 – The ride route will be well mapped out in advance and will include multiple re-group points to ensure riders do not rush to catch up with other riders.





Image 14 – Participating in this event is a reward in itself as you are contributing to greater awareness for men's health. That being said, all registered participants that raise over \$ 200 USD receive a commemorative patch which can only be earned and not purchased. Shown here are 4 patches and 8 stickers as used by DGR.





Image 15 – Riding dapper for a cause!



Image 16 – To participate in the spirit of the occasion you indulge your sense of fun and smile! Pipes are optional but seem to be very popular.



Image 17 – DGR is open to all genders. All Distinguished Gentleladies in fact are encouraged to participate and show their support for men's health issues. More and more women are participating each year, riding for their brothers, fathers, sons, and for men worldwide.



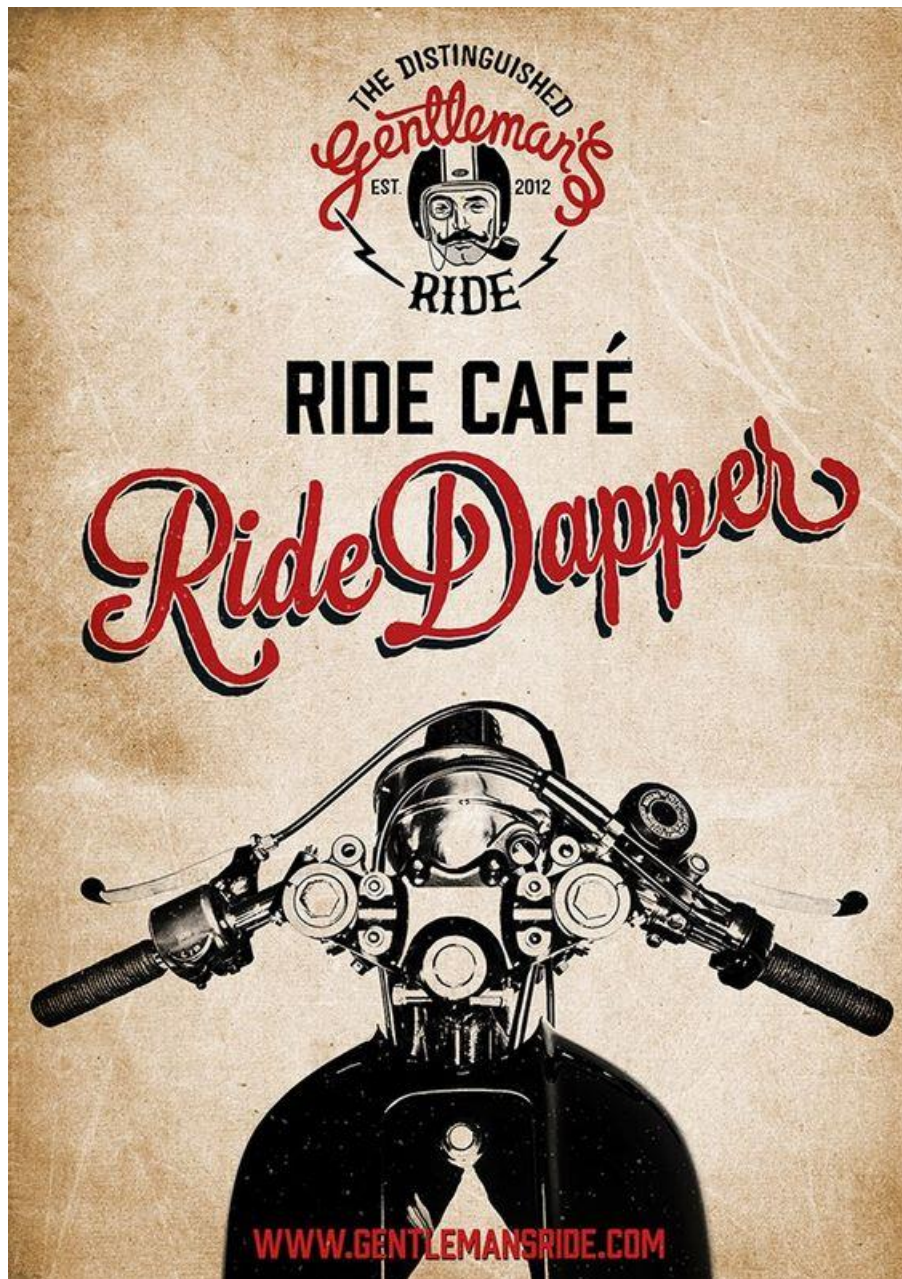


Image 18 – Funds raised are already seeing results and even more ground-breaking projects in research are underway.



Image 19 – Some enthusiasts purchase a special classic or vintage motorcycle just to participate in this event! It's just a total fun event not to be missed but at the same time it's for a good cause!





Image 20 – That’s the spirit, press the tweed, polish up the vintage bike and have fun!



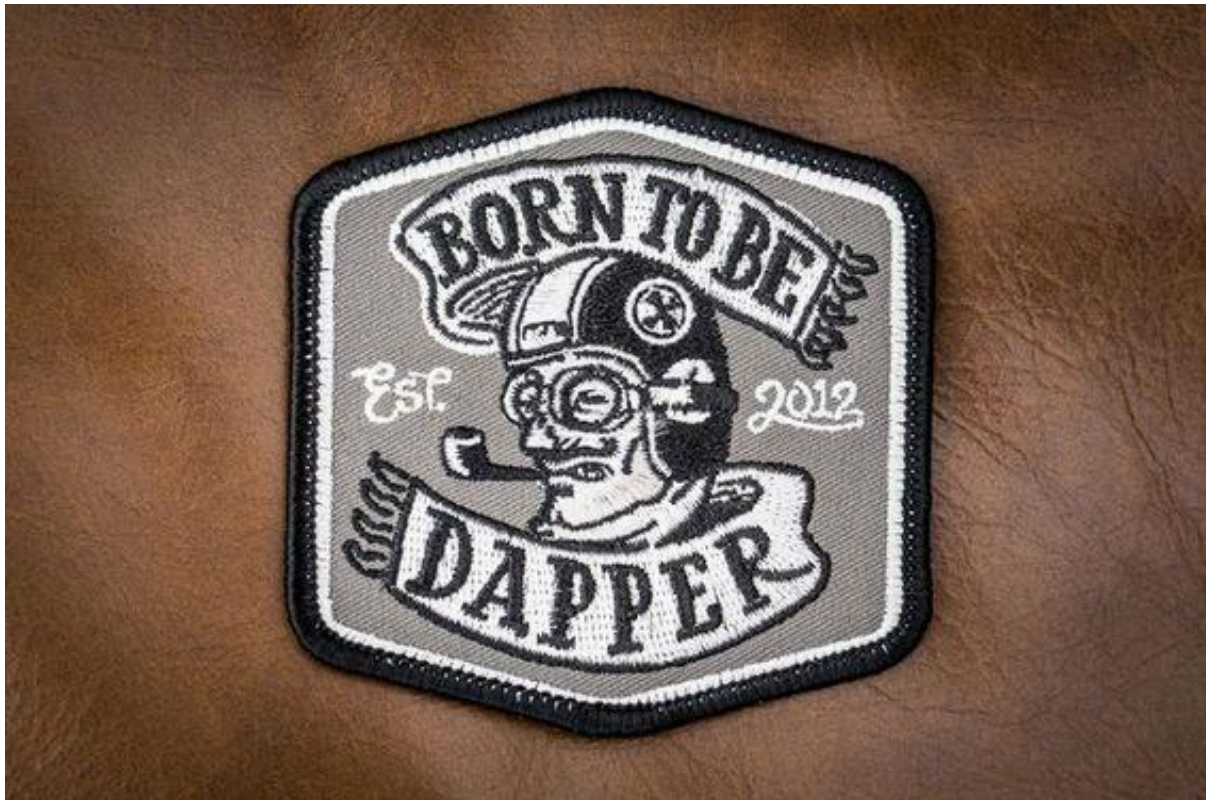


Image 21 – An example of the patch you can “earn” by participating in a DGR. These patches are not for sale. These will be mailed to you within 14 days after the ride.

Globally, men die an average six years before women, and for largely preventable reasons.



Image 22 – DGR reserve the right to postpone rides in the interest of safety or very bad weather conditions. This will be communicated via e-mail or Facebook to all participants in a timely manner.





Image 23 – In 2017 the Sydney ride route included the Sydney CBD and finished up in the grounds of Sydney University.





Image 24 – Dapper Gentfolk on a Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, the cause of which is to stop men dying too young unnecessarily.



Image 25 – Safety is always a priority on Distinguished Gentleman’s Rides! This event is low speed and takes place through the slowest streets of each city. This is a safety feature of this event to minimize the risk to all participants. All the general motorcycle safety and road rules apply on the day. Professional risk assessments are also made of all events and all risks are explained in the registration process.



Image 26 – DGR organisers plan ride routes and start and end points which are suitable for the numbers they are expecting and all local authorities are advised. For this reason, all riders participating should be pre-registered. The full details of your ride will only be made available after you register in order to keep these details secure to ensure that only registered members have access. If these details are shared publically, it is feared that the ride and host are at risk of being shut down.

You cannot participate in this ride if you do not pre-register.





Image 27 – Yes, very dapper indeed!



Image 28 – Prostate cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in men. The Movember Foundation is the largest funder of prostate cancer programs in the world.





Image 29 – DGR is sponsored by Triumph Motorcycles and Zenith Watches.





Image 30 – Hey, don't forget your pipe and moustache!



Image 31 – This whole concept of suit-wearing motorcyclists is very unique indeed and has proven to be a very popular theme.



Image 32 – You could never pull this event off using motorcars!





Image 33 – A DGR official sticker. Ride Dapper!

Dapper definition: neat, trim, smart. A compliment made to someone who looks incredibly smart, sexy and stylish. Adverb – dapperly. Noun – dapperness.



Image 34 – Retro style helmet – check, moustache – check, pipe – check, classic motorcycle – check, this must be the DGR!!







Image 36 – It's a good cause but at the same time so much fun for all!



Image 37 – Feel free to don a big fake moustache, and don't forget the pipe!



Image 38 – There is no fee to participate but you are strongly encouraged to make a donation to the cause as well as consider networking with friends and family via your personal fundraising page on the DGR website to help reach fundraising goals. To set up your personal fundraising page and register, visit [www.gentlemansride.com/register](http://www.gentlemansride.com/register). All funds raised are invested by charity partners “The Movember Foundation”, the world’s largest men’s health organisation. To date over \$ 10 M AU has been raised for this charity. These funds are already seeing results and even more ground-breaking projects are underway.

No one on the event day is to accept cash contributions unless they are officially fundraising for the Movember Foundation.

Donations to DGR or the Movember Foundation are tax deductible in Australia.

You don’t have to ride to make a donation; you can sponsor any rider or just place a generic donation.





Image 39 – Ride leaders give a safety briefing before each ride. Unsafe or inappropriate riding is not tolerated and all local road rules must be obeyed. All riders must also wear safety equipment that meets local legislation requirements.



Image 40 – This rider proudly wears his DGR helmet so he is obviously a frequent participant in this event.





Image 41 – The DGR and the Movember Foundation, working together to tackle men's health issues. The Movember Foundation is the only global charity focused solely on men's health.





Image 42 – This truly global event takes place on the same day in every country. Late September might be getting a bit cool in parts of the Northern Hemisphere but in Sydney its spring and perfect for riding.



Image 43 – If the suit isn't obvious enough you can wear this on your back whilst riding.



Image 44 – A poster for the 2017 ride.

Save the date for the 2018 ride, this being the last Sunday in September, September 30<sup>th</sup>.





Image 45 – This chap has gone the whole 9 yards with a classic vintage motorcycle and his tweeds. Dapper, dapper, dapper!!



Image 46 – Nice custom classic bike + nice suit = dapper!



Image 47 – More Distinguished Gentleladies in a DGR ride.





Image 48 – Davida open face helmets with their vintage and retro inspired designs are specially made for this ride. They are made in England.

There are many prizes offered as part of the DGR, all to do with fundraising activities. DGR has collaborated with some of the world's most illustrious brands to offer these prizes. For instance, the 3 top Global Fundraisers each get a Triumph motorcycle + Zenith watch + Hedon Helmet. All top 100 Global Fundraisers get a Hedon helmet each. Then there are other prizes such as jackets, backpacks, jeans, etc. also for fundraising efforts.

There is also some DGR merchandise available for sale such as shirts, caps, socks, ties, pins, etc. that you can get to wear on your DGR ride or anytime to show your support.



Image 49 – Who would have thought classic or vintage motorcycle + retro lid + suit = dapper! Pure genius!!



Image 50 – To register for the next DGR, go to [www.gentlemansride.com/register](http://www.gentlemansride.com/register) and select which city you want to participate in and then just follow the steps. To just view the ride locations go to [www.gentlemansride.com/rides](http://www.gentlemansride.com/rides) .





Image 51 – No matter where in the world, this event is very well received and is greatly enjoyed by all participants.

I have registered for the 2018 ride. Want to join me?

For more information go to [www.gentlemansride.com](http://www.gentlemansride.com)