
Harley Owners Group (HOG) – New South Wales Chapter

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

Combined NSW HOG Chapters Christmas Party
Saturday 21 December, 2019



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

This year the Newcastle HOG Chapter is hosting the annual Combined HOG Chapters Christmas Party. All HOG Chapters in New South Wales are welcome to attend. The venue for this is at their sponsoring dealers premises, Fraser Motorcycles Newcastle located at 137 Lambton Road, Broadmeadow some 160 km north of Sydney.

Fraser Motorcycles was established in 1955 from humble beginnings in the backyard of the Fraser family's home in Newcastle. By 1965 it had opened its first dealership at Broadmeadow where we go today. Warren Fraser, son of founder Norm is the Managing Director of Fraser Motorcycles.

The one concern for the ride today was the predicted oppressive heat wave conditions with temperatures expected to reach 45°C (113°F). As we ride today, there are almost 200 bushfires burning in several states giving us the worst bushfire season in Australia's history. This is due to a combination of high temperatures, record-breaking low levels of rainfall during the preceding year and hot and dry winds. These extreme conditions are unprecedented.

This newsletter contains 40 images taken on the day as well as 40 memes and 6 downloaded images (as marked).



Image 1 – We meet at the McDonald's carpark in Thornleigh from 7.00am for an 8.00am departure. From left we see Dave, his daughter Alyce and Hammer (Don), our Chapter Director. An early start will ensure more favourable riding conditions with peak temperatures expected around 2.00pm.



Image 2 – Lets have fun with some Christmas motorcycle memes included after each ride image!



Image 3 – As usual there is some friendly banter before the ride.

From left we see Dano (Danny), Hammer, Ralph and Knock-Knock (Hugh).



Image 4 -



Image 5 – Let's check out Hammer's new bike, a 2019 CVO Limited with the 117 ci motor (1,923 cc). **Wow!**

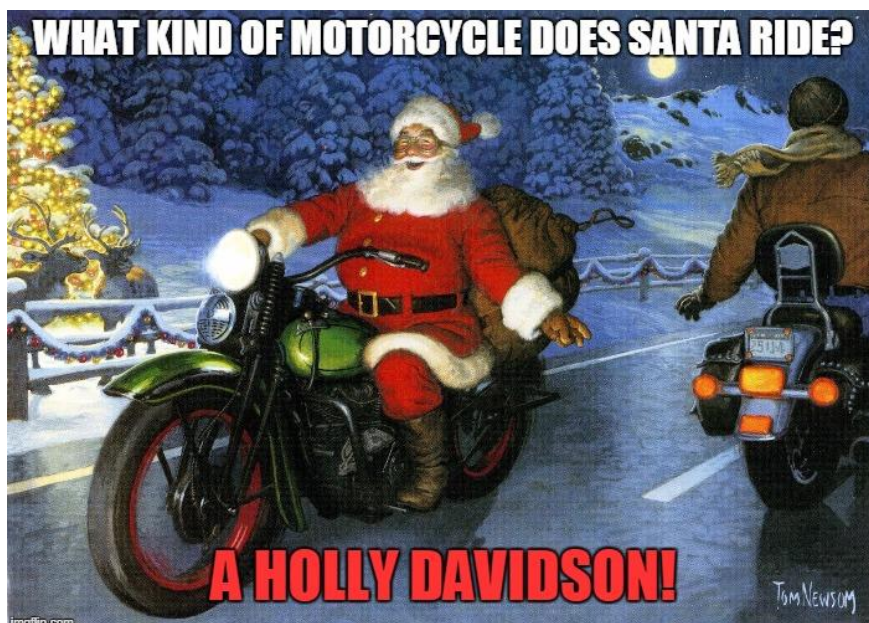


Image 6 -



Image 7 – A Fraser loan bike is available for when your bike is in the shop. Knock-Knock's bike is in for some warranty work so he has this loan bike until his bike is ready.



Image 8 -



Image 9 – We encounter some unknown bikers in the carpark, they being members of the Knights MC Australia. Being fellow motorcycle enthusiasts is our invitation to mingle with them. They are on their way to the Central Coast for a Knights MC gathering. Their Sgt. at Arms Kellik (second from left) has a broken left leg from a motorcycle accident but this does not deter him from riding!



Image 10 -



Image 11 – Kellick's bike, a very nice Harley-Davidson Custom Softail.



Image 12 -



Image 13 – Knights MC riders show very distinctive colors on their vests (the club patches on the back of a vest are known as cuts or colors).



Image 14 -



Image 15 – As your reporter, I (Sergio, at left of image) usually scribble down notes on bits of paper. Today I was gifted proper note pads from Dick so that I would at least look like a proper reporter! Thanks Dick, much appreciated!



Image 16 -

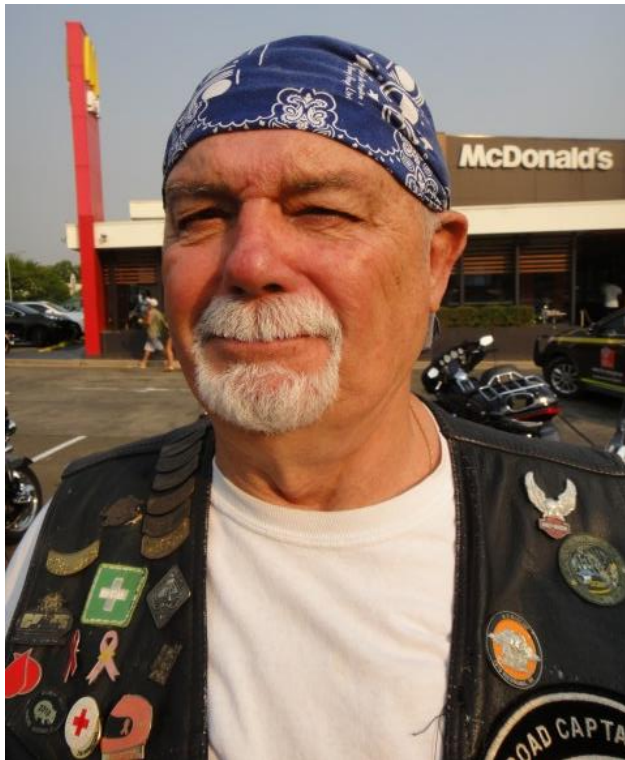


Image 17 – This is NSW Chapter member and Road Captain Hazza (Harry). Next March he is riding across the United States of America with tour group “Eagle Rider” doing their 17 day Coast-to-Coast tour. It is described by Eagle Rider as an “American rite of passage adventure for generations of Americans”. The tour starts in Los Angeles, California and concludes at Daytona Beach, Florida.

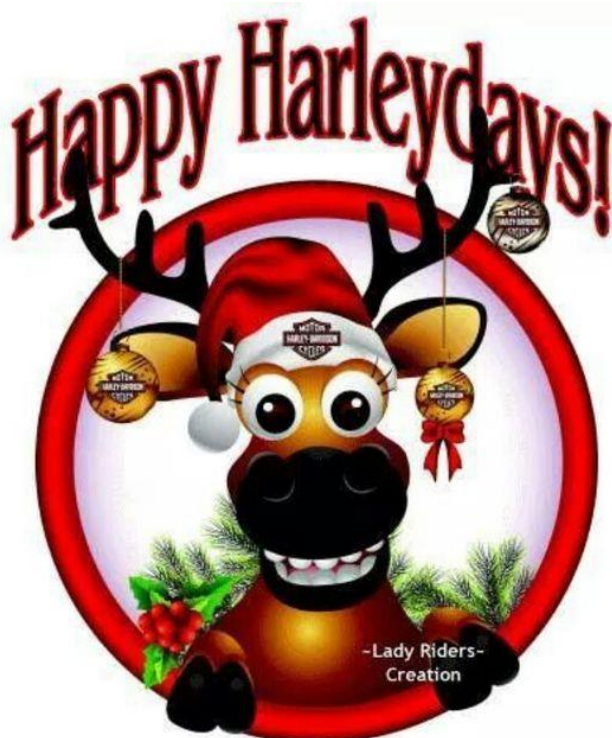


Image 18 -



Image 19 – At left we see Dano, our Lead Road Captain for today, delivering the pre ride briefing prior to our 8.00am departure. HOG events are well planned and always run on time!

Hey, check out the grass we are standing on! It's supposed to be green!



Image 20 -



Image 21 – At about 9.00am and approximately half way into our journey to Broadmeadow we stop at the “Twin Servo’s” drivers rest stop along the M1 Motorway. Its jam packed with travellers heading north for the Christmas holidays.

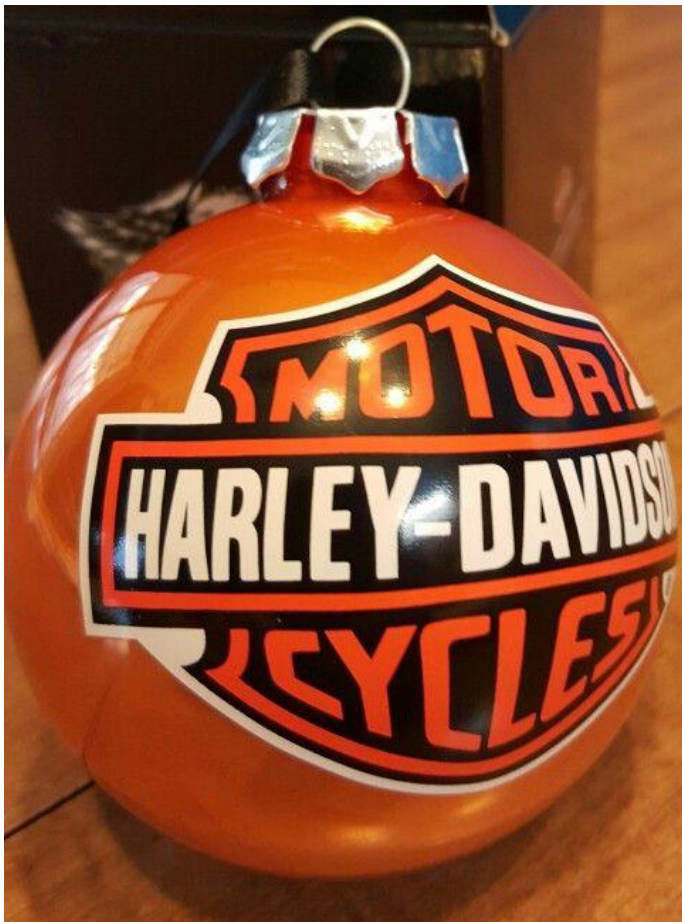


Image 22 -



Image 23 – We find some parking space at the rear of the rest stop where we also see other HOG Chapter members who are also on their way to the Combined Chapter Christmas Party.



Image 24 -



Image 25 – Here we spot some familiar faces from the Sydney Chapter.



Image 26 -



Image 27 – I meet Claudio from the Sydney Chapter. Claudio, an architect, is originally from Uruguay and refers to himself as the Chapter artist. He specializes in motorcycle paintings and will do one of your bike for you. Go to claudio.porley@icloud.com if interested.



Image 28 -



Image 29 – Also at the rest stop we see this State Government road safety initiative which provided free bottled water, free giveaways with a safety message, and advice on road conditions for the rest of your journey focussing on road closures (if any, due to bushfires) and traffic congestion. Where we are going it was “good to go”.

Check the grass out here!
What we all want for Christmas is rain!



Image 30 -



Image 31 – Now 10.00am and well into our trip and off the M1 Motorway, we are approaching our destination. At left we see Dave and to his right his daughter Alyce.



Image 32 -



Image 33 – Hammer is enjoying his new bike which is equipped with all the mod-cons including CB radio and infotainment system with a Bluetooth headset. He is in communication with anyone he needs to be whilst riding, a feature not existent just a few years ago.

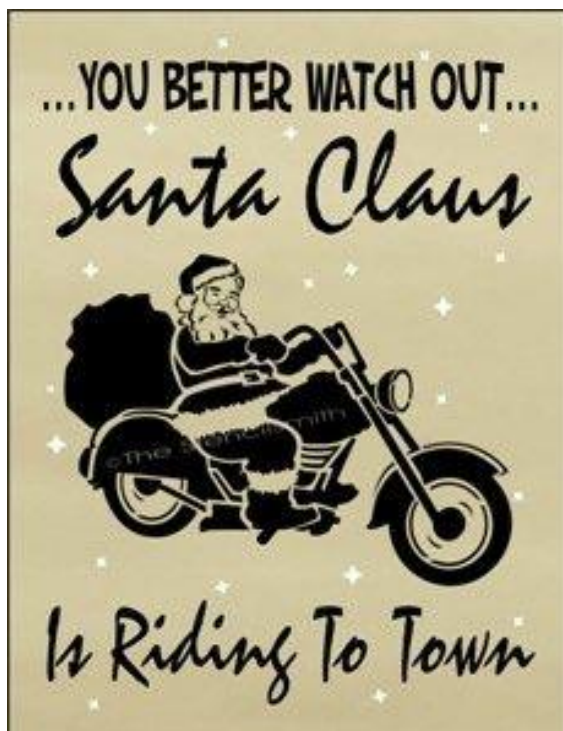


Image 34 -



Image 35 – It's not the destination, it's the journey!

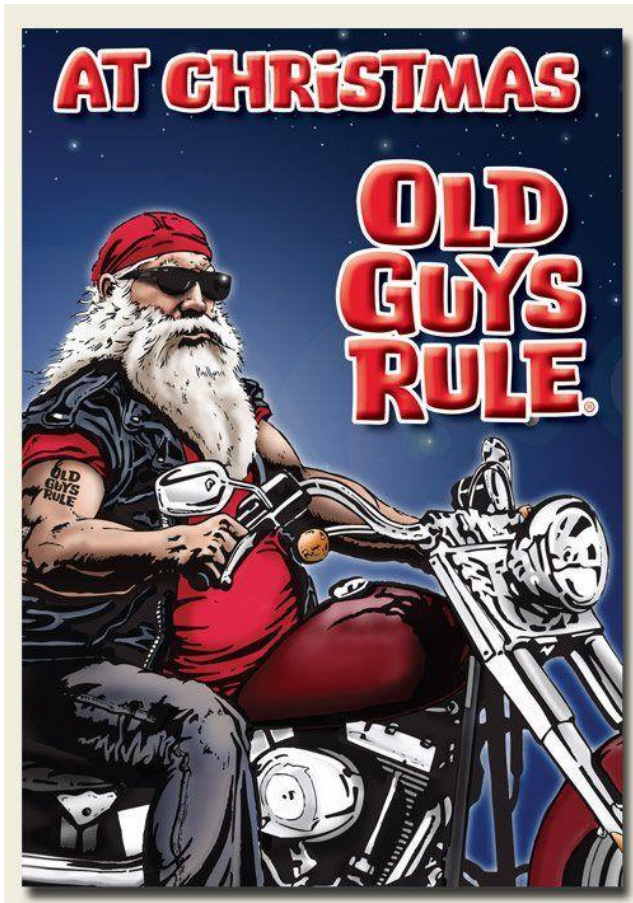


Image 36 -



Image 37 – We are very near to our destination now at 10.30am with temperatures still a reasonable 28°C (82°F).

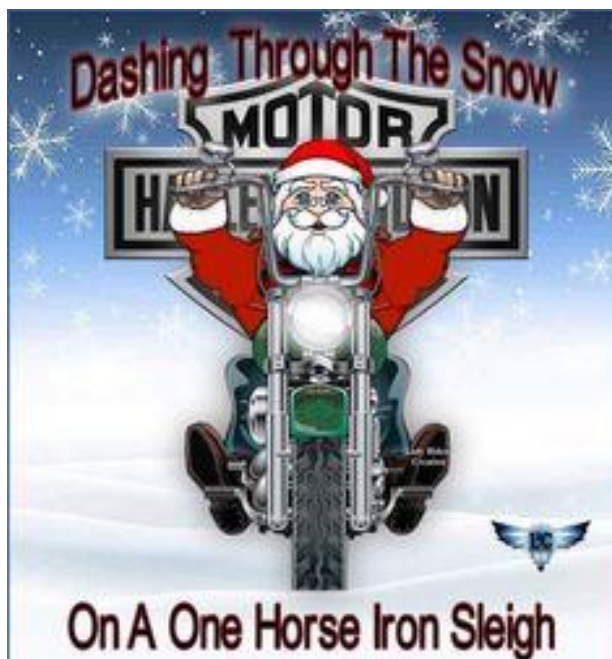


Image 38 -



Image 39 – We arrive at our destination for today, Fraser Motorcycles at Broadmeadow at around 10.30am.



Image 40 -



Image 41 – Entering the Fraser Dealership we see that it sells Harley-Davidson, Honda and Ducati motorcycles.



Image 42 -



Image 43 – That was a great idea providing some cover from the sun! Sitting around without it would have been unbearable today. Anyhow, all Hoggies get along like a house on fire! We are all “on the same page”.



Image 44 – 2 Hogs with Santa! (For the uninitiated, a Harley is referred to as a “Hog”).



Image 45 – The girls from the Newcastle Chapter are doing a splendid job as hosts.



Image 46 -



Image 47 – From the Sydney Chapter we meet Hellboy (Chris) and John.

Image 48 -



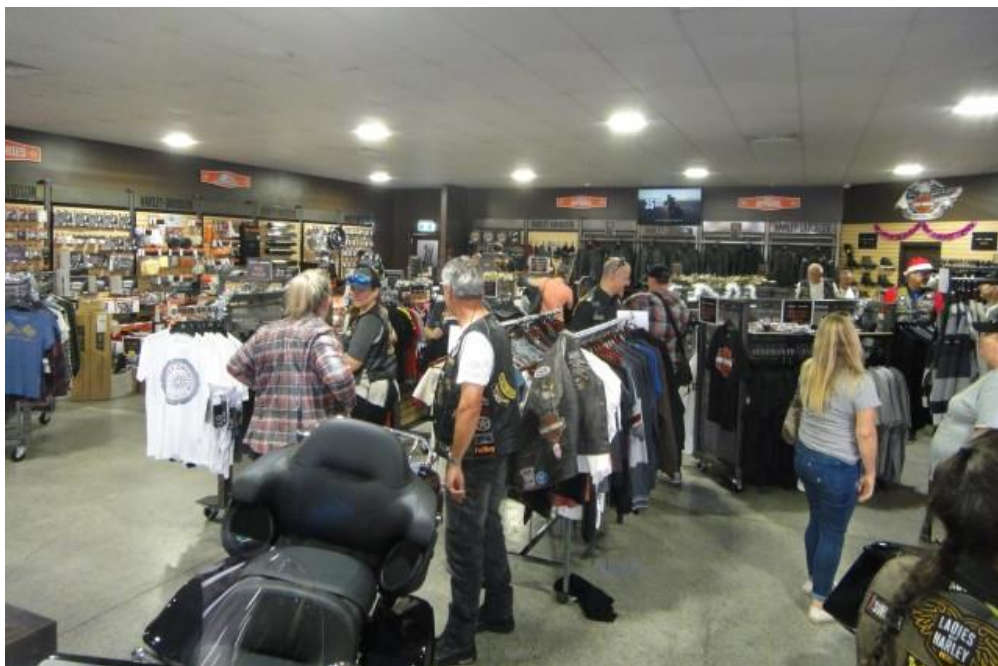


Image 49 – Of course we will check out the Harley merchandise while we are there!



Image 50 -



Image 51 – The Honda and Ducati section of the dealership. I'll stay with the Harley!



Image 52 -



Image 53 – From the NSW South Coast Chapter we see with Santa and his elf, from left Lisa, Tania, Cherie and Gin.



Image 54 -



Image 55 – Tania at left then introduces me to her Chapter Director and Road Captain Eelz (Lee) with his daughter Morgan. Morgan rode pillion with her dad all the way from the South Coast aboard their 2017 CVO Street Glide.



Image 56 -



Image 57 – Now we meet wife of Eelz, Donna with daughter Rachael. Donna, a Road Captain, also rode up from the South Coast aboard her own 2017 CVO Street Glide with Rachael her pillion. That's right, she and husband Eelz have 2, 2017 CVO Street Glides in their garage as well as a custom Softail model. Top that!



Image 58 -

"WELL, I GOT ONE...SO, THEN THE REINDEER WANTED THEM..."



Image 59 – Here we see Wozza (Warren), Head Road Captain (HRC) from the NSW South Coast Chapter and he has been dobbed in! Fellow Chapter members told me he had to top up his fuel tank on the way here. As the HRC he knows you need to leave home with a full tank and an empty bladder, that's HRC 1-0-1! Dobbbed in Wozza!!!



Image 60 -



Image 61 – Here we meet Snap (Lyn) with Wayne, both from the Canberra Chapter. Snap is in fact their Director and Wayne a Road Captain. Being a Director of a HOG Chapter is practically a full-time job and you have to be multi-skilled to do it. Just looking at their vests you can see in an instant that they are long serving HOG members and have partaken in many Rallies and biker events, the true quintessential HOG members.



Image 62 -

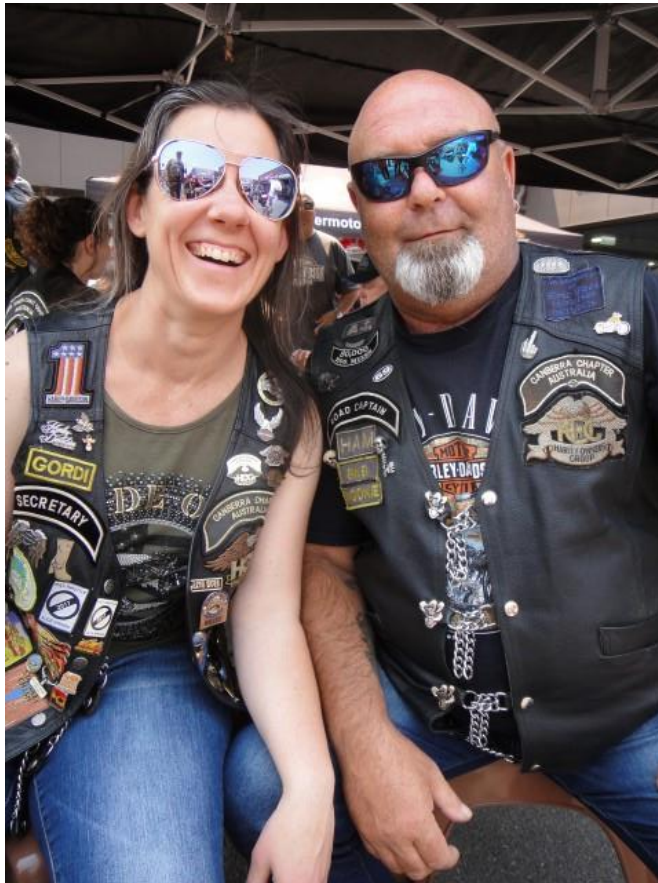


Image 63 – Still with the Canberra Chapter we meet Gordi (Gordana) with Wookie. Gordi is their Chapter Secretary with Wookie a Road Captain. Again we see exemplary HOG members just with a quick glance of their vests and Wookie has a “80,000 HOG miles” patch on his vest indicating years of service.



Image 64 -



Image 65 – This is Ray and Elaine from the Northern Sydney Chapter. They rode up on their 2019 Ultra model Harley.

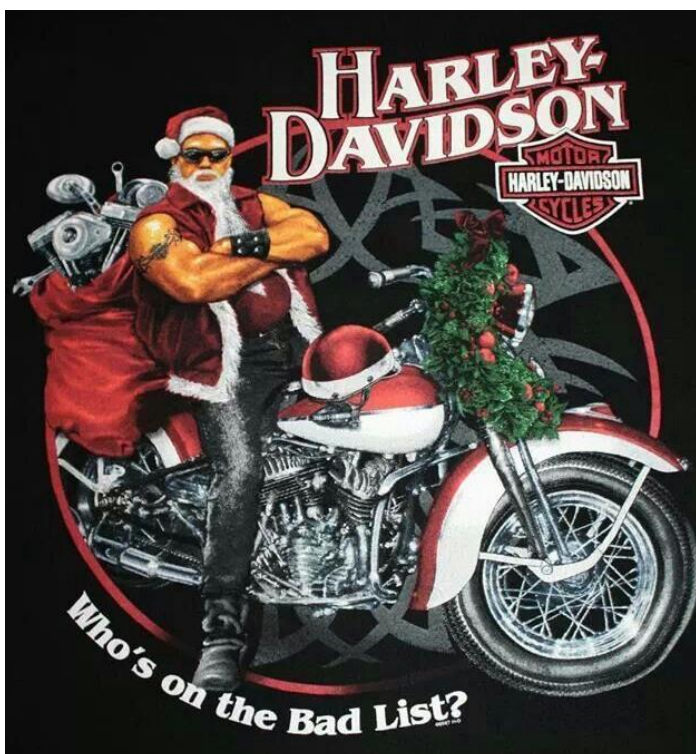


Image 66 -



Image 67 – At left we see Fred, founding Director of the Sydney Chapter. He has also served as HOG Regional Director and tells me he was involved in instigating the Combined HOG Chapters Christmas Party a few years ago. With Fred is Michael, Director of the Central Coast Chapter.



Image 68 -



Image 69 – Here with Santa and his elf is Emma, daughter of Newcastle Chapter Director Frank. Today she was doing the Santa photos.



Image 70 -



Image 71 – Enjoying the Christmas Party from the New South Wales Chapter is Dave with daughter Alyce.



Image 72 -



Image 73 – Now we see Bloggs (Tony) from the Northern Sydney Chapter. Just looking at his vest shows that he has been with the Hogs for a very long time and that he has done quite a few interesting biker things. For instance, that orange coloured pin near his left elbow that has US129 Dragon on it. That's for US highway 129 that crosses the Tennessee / North Carolina state line otherwise known as the "Tail of the Dragon" or simply "The Dragon". It's considered to be one of the world's foremost motorcycling roads. It is a mountainous 11-mile stretch of pavement with 318 curves and steep drop-offs. It is said its curves resemble a dragon's tail. Well that's an interesting biker thing to do!

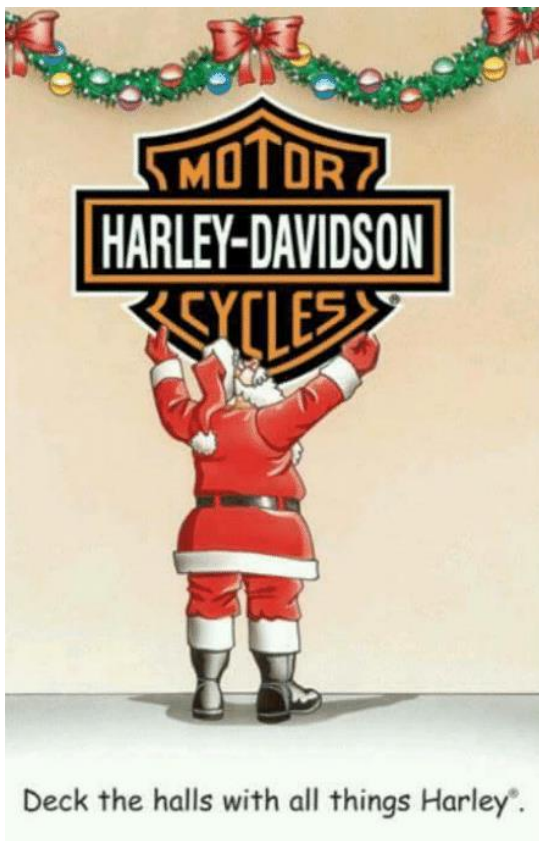


Image 74 -



Image 75 – Hey, let’s check out the back of Blogg’s vest! The patches (not including the pins on the lower band) are for attendance at Sturgis Rally twice (2003 and 2013), attendance at Milwaukee Rally twice (2003 and 2013), State HOG Rallies, 10 year membership of Liverpool HOG Chapter, and on the right hand side, a map of “The Dragon”. There is also a patch in memory of a fallen mate, Mick May.

That’s all good stuff, very typical of a long serving HOG member.



Image 76 -



Image 77 – Now let's check out the pins on the lower band of Blogg's vest. They are all HOG related pertaining to State and national Rallies in Australia and interaction with HOG Chapters in the U.S. including West Virginia and Alaska.

Bloggs would have a lot of HOG miles accumulated along with many interesting stories to tell for sure!



Image 78 -



Image 79 – It's now just after noon and I with a few others decide to leave early to avoid the hottest part of the day, that being around 2.00pm. It's already around 32°C (90°F) and it's on the way up. I'm wearing my summer jacket just to avoid sunburn! We are all very concerned with the bushfires currently blazing in many parts of the country.

Despite the weather conditions fun was had by all in attendance. HOG gatherings are always pleasurable and you always meet some great people. As for the weather, a biker needs to experience all conditions as part of the riding experience!

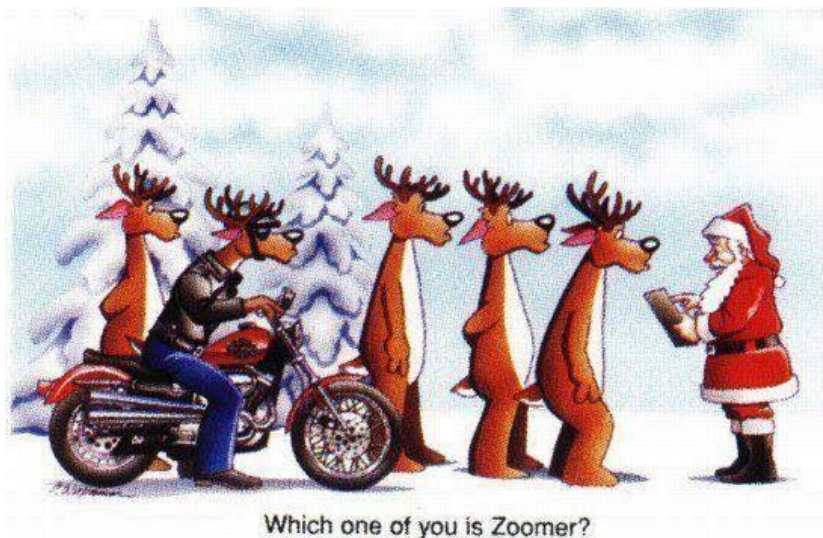


Image 80 -

Ride Safe and a very merry Christmas to all!

Sergio NSW Chapter Editor / Historian

Following are some downloaded images of the bushfires today devastating parts of New South Wales.



Image 81
(Downloaded) –
Fortunately we are
not near any
bushfires today. On
our way home we
noticed a convoy of
fire trucks heading
southbound towards
the fires.



Image 82
(Downloaded) – The
main bushfires near
Sydney today are to
the north-west and
south-west of Sydney
and down the south
coast but the smoke
haze caused by them
are evident over a
very wide area.



Image 83
(Downloaded) – A bushfire emergency has been declared and a total fire ban is in place. Ironically, the smoke haze has kept temperatures down from the predicted 45°C to about 40°C but that's still bloody hot!



Image 84
(Downloaded) – Firefighters are working tirelessly in apocalyptic conditions. More than 100 fires are burning across New South Wales today, bolstered by 40°C temperatures and 90km/hr winds.



Image 85
(Downloaded) – Here you can see a kangaroo hopping for its life trying to escape the inferno.



Image 86
(Downloaded) – More than 900 homes have been destroyed this bushfire season in Australia.

The first sign of a decent rainfall will be cause for great celebration throughout Australia.