

The Monthly Journal of the  
**Northern Rivers Classic Motorcycle Club Inc.**

PO Box 7058, Lismore  
 Heights, NSW 2480

[www.nrcmcc.org](http://www.nrcmcc.org)

Email: [president@nrcmcc.org](mailto:president@nrcmcc.org)

Or phone President

See below



**MAY**  
**2021**

# Classic Torque

## ***Our Club:-***

The objectives of the NRCMC are to encourage the restoration, preservation, and riding of older motorcycles. Through its various activities, the club promotes classic motorcycling and the links to a by-gone era with several organised monthly rides as well as our involvement in displaying our bikes at charity functions etc.

The club endeavors to cater for families and all members partners and children are most welcome to attend any meetings or outings. Membership of the club is for those who have an interest in restoring and riding classic motorcycles .

## ***Some special dates , coming up soon.***

**Next Club meeting , Tuesday 11th MAY 2021 Clunes Hall start 7.30pm**

**Next Club run 16th May Sunday Ride to Rocky Creek Dam Picnic area**

It will include presentation of the Jack Ahearn Trophy at the destination.



Jack Ahearn - page 2



## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MOTORCYCLES on the Historic Vehicle Scheme (HVS):**

Motorcycles must be as **CLOSE TO ORIGINAL CONDITION** as possible with **NO ALTERATIONS** except for safety features, such as rear view mirrors & turn indicators and **must be over 30 years old.**

### **Motorcycle Usage:**

NRCMCC members are permitted to participate in **Club events** listed on the NRCMCC webpage, at [NRCMCC.org](http://NRCMCC.org), without having to make an entry in their logbook.

Members that are on the RMS logbook scheme must fill their logbook for each day's use **if it is not a club event.**

A logbook entry is required for maintenance rides (eg test runs) & personal use and the logbook should be carried with you while riding the bike.

The log book can be used as soon as it's issued to record the days you use the bike. The number of days allocated for use depends on the remaining length of conditional registration when the log book is issued.

Only one person is required to record the daily use of the motorcycle. If there are multiple riders on the same day, the initial rider on the day must complete the line entry for that day.

Carrying a Club Magazine /Events Listing and a current Membership Card/Receipt, while not a HVS requirement, is regarded as a worthwhile practice.

From the President G'day all. It's been a busy couple of months with a lot of activity. Somewhere in this newsletter you'll find the minutes from first committee meeting for 2021. 2

The Jack Ahearn perpetual trophy will be presented on the 16th May at the Rocky Creek Dam Picnic area. The ride leaves from Norco Rural/ Blue Kitchen, 107 Wilson St, Lismore at 9am

Some of the newer members may not be familiar with Mr Jack Ahearn. Jack was a family man, an international motorbike racer, a successful businessman and he was also the first patron of the NRCMCC. Jack passed away peacefully on the 10th April 2017 aged 92. Our webmaster, Dieter has uploaded several articles about Jack to the website at <http://www.nrcmcc.org/jack.php> and it's well worth reading them to understand a bit more about Jack's achievements.

Many years ago, Jack donated a magnificent trophy from his collection of awards to the club as a perpetual trophy. Each year newly restored and newly registered historic bikes are reviewed by an independent panel of club members and a bike owner has their name added to the trophy and they are awarded a smaller trophy to keep.

Speaking of registration. The committee will continue to work with the club registration officers during 2021 to keep the registration process as smooth as possible for everyone and to ensure that the formal club registration days have the maximum attendance possible to reduce the last minute need for a registration inspection. TBC and this is a work in progress.

**There's already been one change to the registration process that all members need to be aware of;**

The committee has recommended that before any bike inspection, the registration officers will ask to sight a current membership card before the inspection can commence. It's the only 100% way to confirm current club membership. NRCMCC registration is only available to current NRCMCC members as per the RMS rules so you will need to show the registration officers your **current membership card to obtain a rego inspection**. Please make sure that you have it on you to avoid disappointment.

Cheers Neil

### **NRCMCC OFFICIALS for 2021**

President Neil Williams.. 0418242044

Email [president@nrcmcc.org](mailto:president@nrcmcc.org)

Vice President: John Mazzer ....0417422780

Email [vicepresident@nrcmcc.org](mailto:vicepresident@nrcmcc.org)

Secretary Jim Strang 0472728661

Email [secretary@nrcmcc.org](mailto:secretary@nrcmcc.org)

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Treasurer: Marc Jennison.....0411895360

Email [treasurer@nrcmcc.org](mailto:treasurer@nrcmcc.org)

Committee: above plus,

Andrew Evans.....0418 280 246

Peter Lake..... 0459 285 872

Dean Marsh ..... 0428 381 711

Registration: Officer:

Bryson Walker: .....6629 1509

Registration Officials: Pat Holt ...0435 475 784

Brian Riordan ..... 6621 5535,

John Caf e ..... 0427 252 081

Membership Officer: Marc Jennison

... 0411895360

Newsletter Editor: David Bonhote-mead

0402805644 info to [editor@nrcmcc.org](mailto:editor@nrcmcc.org)

Deputy editors: ..... **All members**

Catering: Glenn Flint ... 0423262594

Raffles: .....Robert Mazzer

Ride Co-Ordinator Peter Lake ...0459 285 872

Event list support, Frank Widdows.....66860771

Webmaster Dieter Opfer [webmaster@nrcmcc.org](mailto:webmaster@nrcmcc.org)

Website: [www.nrcmcc.org](http://www.nrcmcc.org)

Club Patron , The club does not currently have a

patron. Our immediate past patron was Jack

Ahearn {1924-2017}



*Our immediate past patron—Jack Ahearn {1924-2017}*

Jack Ahearn, was the runner up in the 1964 world 500 championship, Jack also won the 1964 Finnish GP at Imatra at age 39 on a privately entered Norton and was second in the championship to MV's Mike Hailwood.

He raced for a quarter of a century, was a multiple winner at Bathurst and represented Australia many times at the Isle of Man TT, beginning in 1954 when he was 29. Ahearn was one of the great characters of the famed Continental Circus, racing in Europe in 1954-55, 1958 and 1962-66. The late Barry Sheene fondly recalled meeting him when he first went to Europe as a teenaged mechanic.

Born in Bondi (Sydney), Jack was regarded as the quintessential private entrant and told of holding a race promoter out of his office window until a deal was honoured. However, he raced the prototype Matchless G50 500 in 1958 and was seriously injured while riding a four-cylinder Suzuki 250 two-stroke.

Jack was feted in 1998 when he returned to Europe for a major historic race meeting at Assen. He is survived by daughters Vicki and Julia. Extract taken from Australian Motorcycle

Open: 6.00pm Closed: 7.45pm Facilitator: Neil Minute taker: James Strang

Attendees: Neil Williams, John Mazzer, Marc Jennison, Jimmy Strang, Apologies: Peter Lake

**New Committee:**

Neil – President, John – Vice President, Jimmy – Secretary, Marc – Treasurer  
– Committee Dean Marsh Andrew Evans, Peter Lake

**Topics for Discussion:**

**Email Profiles to be reset and reassigned to the new position holders:**

All profiles and passwords for the new committee have been reset

**Committee Meeting minutes to be published in Newsletter:**

Matter discussed - Put to a vote - 6/6 voted in favour

**Introduction of an annual Memorial Ride for passed members:**

Matter discussed - 2nd Sunday in August Put to a vote - 6/6 voted in favour

**Jack Ahearn Trophy Presentation:**

Matter discussed - May 16th as date for presentation at the ride destination. Rocky Creek Dam

Put to a vote - 6/6 voted in favour

**Catering for the Presentation of the Jack Ahearn Trophy:**

Matter discussed - Potential MSF contribution to be sought

To be put to the members at next Club Meeting.

**Face book viability and use:**

Matter discussed—Planning to use Facebook more as a communication tool in 2021

Work in progress.

**Enhancing the webpage events list for our Club and Neighbouring Clubs:**

Matter discussed Plan to work with current webpage events list managers to enhance listings to also include neighbouring rides and events.

**Clubs Financial Position:**

Matter discussed

The NRCMCC is on a very solid financial footing. This situation must not change!

Club reserves have grown over the years and this trend looks to continue in the foreseeable future.

Committee to examine target for financial reserves and to examine options and strategies to manage funds within a specific target range

Committee to examine further and bring to membership for input

**Charitable Contributions amounts discussed:**

Potentially one option for managing finances is to identify an annual amount to be given to a local charity, Ideas of formalising a percentage amount after running expenses and costs paid.

Committee to examine further and bring to membership for input

**Audit of existing Club Sponsors in the newsletter**

Matter discussed and some key items are: - What does it mean to be a sponsor? How do they support the club and how does the club support them?

Can sponsorship become a “Members Benefits” scheme and increase sales for sponsors?

John undertook to contact sponsors from the newsletter and discuss how they saw sponsorship working

**Tony Evans memorial service to be identified as a formal club run:**

Voted 6/6 that this is to be a formal club run

**Membership cards introduced into registration process to prove current membership:**

Matter discussed—Risk for registration officers if using an old membership list

Onus put onto member to prove current membership prior to bike inspection by showing a current membership card, Registration officers have been briefed and no issues raised from any of them

**Club Branding:**

Matter discussed - Potential branding of T shirts with the club logo and possibly the introduction of name tags.

It is possible to have Shirts individually ordered and paid for by individual members as needed. Club Logo needs to be put in PDF Form to help with Shirt Printing.

Further research needed to clarify options and then put them to members for a vote

**NRCMCC EVANS HEAD RALLY - SEPTEMBER 2021:**

Matter discussed - A Events/Rally Committee needs to be established ASAP.

No rally committee would mean that the members do not want a rally and there would no be any rally in 2021. Evans Head park already has annual bookings paid for by some visitors to the Rally between the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers unknown.

Put to a vote - 6/6 voted in favour

# NRCMCC

Minutes: April 2021 Monthly Club Members Meeting  
13/04/2021

Commenced 7:30pm Clunes Hall

Facilitator: Neil Williams

Note taker: James Strang

Attendees: 34 members Apologies: 5 Apologies Visitors: 6 Visitors



**Minutes of last meeting presented:** Accepted: Mark Fowler  
Second Tony Harvey

**Correspondence In:** Letter from club member Mr Eric Wilson informing the club that the review panel for the Jack Ahearn trophy had been able to successfully fill the vacant position. That person brings a wealth of mechanical experience and knowledge to the group. That person is long time club member Mr Brian Riordan

**Correspondence Out:** Neil advised that the annual fees for the club to remain an incorporated club have been paid for the next 12 months

**Financial Report Presented:** Proposed: Marc Jennison Seconded: Peter Lake

## **General Business:**

### **Jack Ahearn Trophy Presentation. May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Would be a short ride to Rocky Creek dam picnic area

About a \$100 towards BBQ supplied by the members social fund

Tony Harvey volunteered to purchase BBQ items.

### **OUR EVANS HEAD RALLY NEEDS YOU: 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

General discussions about the rally.

Members were asked to nominate for a rally committee position.

A response was not forthcoming.

Further discussions about current dates in September clashing with a major Qld historic event so it was proposed that the date be moved to October 15th-17th

Jimmy spoke about a less formal rally on those dates still at Evans Head. Eg no badges, no formal meal etc.

Moved by: Peter Seconded: Jimmy

Unanimous agreement for this idea in the room and Jimmy (Club Secretary) is the contact person

Contact person for the Rally: James Strang – email: [secretarynrcmcc@outlook.com](mailto:secretarynrcmcc@outlook.com)

Ian enquired if the club had thought about purchasing a Defibrillator for the club. The idea was met with general approval and the committee has undertaken to examine the options further

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

## **CLUB RIDE REPORTS BY MEMBERS**

### **NON**

# Classic Bike Racing on a salt lake!

By Nikki Brearley

5

Each year, usually in March, we head off to South Australia to participate in Speed Week; a land speed racing event held annually and run by the Dry Lake Racers Australia (DLRA); an amazing group of dedicated volunteers and organisers who work year-round for this event.

Held at Lake Gairdner, this is Australia's fourth largest Salt Lake stretching 160 kilometres in length and located 150 kilometres northwest of Port Augusta. Lake Gairdner is breath-taking, a National Park and deemed the 'safest' location for land speed racing in Australia.

Two tracks are provided and lined at every quarter mile with black markers. The first track caters to speedsters of more than 175 mph (miles per hour). Timing usually occurs between miles 5 and 6. The second track for those planning a run up to 175mph, timing occurs between miles 2 and 3. Each track is numbered with signs to indicate miles (1....2...3.....4 etc.) so you know where you are as you embark on your run.



Tony on his 127 mph 1970s Kawasaki triple

Tony Brearley, a National land speed record holder re-built and prepared two bikes for this year's event. One for himself - a Kawasaki 500 triple and one for me, his Rookie wife Nikki - a Honda CBR 250 RR (pictured left) with a 1987 engine. Both bikes constructed for the salt - obvious modifications being the extended wheelbase and lower body.

Tony has worked every spare minute over the past two years since the last Speed Week event in 2019 to create bikes that would work for both of us and also of interest to others.

During the 2019 event, Tony offered to build me a bike to run the following year. I have been crewing for Tony for five years and the time had come for me to experience actual land speed racing for myself.



Nikki and her Honda CBR 250 RR with 1987 engine

The 2020 event was cancelled due to the evolving Covid 19 threat, so Tony had another year to prepare our bikes. He put together a bike he felt would suit me. His creation was perfect as far as I was concerned. The Honda CBR 250 RR is low, long wheelbase aiding stability at speed and sturdy - I felt like I was in good hands! My class of motorbike placed me in the chase for an established record of 88 mph.

First run for the meet, my rookie licencing I achieved a speed of 90mph. I knew the record was in my sights. I now needed to complete two consecutive runs. I felt faster with the next run and with some valued advice onboard from Tony and Darrel Skinner (a long-time friend and motorcycle mechanic), I set my focus on gaining speed earlier in my run, getting lower on the bike and holding the throttle as far as it could go.

I set off on my back up record run. By the time I reached the 2 mile my little 250 Honda was screaming like I hadn't heard it before and still winding up through the timeø mile - I knew this was where she needed to be. The timing slip read 101.498mph. We did it! And a new National Land Speed record of 97.089 - the average of my two record runs.

## Racing on a Salt lake continued

Tony's bike, the Kawasaki triple, most prevalent in the late 60's to early 70's still ignites exciting memories in those who remember that time when the Kawasaki was the fastest thing on two wheels and seems to instantly induce that naughty smile just with the sight of this machine. Stories involve the sound and smell of the cantankerous, bucking engine and the mischief she commands of the rider! All those who knew of or owned a Kawasaki Triple once upon a time were so keen to share their memories of youth, misadventure and how they wished they had never let her go!

Tony's first run met with problems. The main one being a blown piston. He anticipated this knowing the engine and brought a spare one! Back to the pits for some work and preparation for the next day when another attempt was more successful. Tony headed back to the start line for his back up record run in an open class. It was mid-morning and threatening dark clouds surrounded the lake. Rain was imminent. The timing van up track recorded rain falling and the meet was on hold. Awaiting his run and ready to go Tony offered to "go take a look!". Coincidentally, the meet was resumed if only for a moment – enough time for Tony to take off. As he neared the 2 mile, the rain had arrived and the bike was skating. Tony held on until the 3<sup>rd</sup> mile when slowing down and exiting to the return road demanded just as much attention as the surface of the salt was now wet! This back up run saw a similar time as Tony's earlier run in the dry and a record was set at 127mph.

Twenty mm of water fell over the next few hours. Lake Gairdner was indeed a lake. The sun returned and we enjoyed this majestic place of natural beauty throughout the afternoon sitting on deck chairs while kicking our feet in the warm water! The lake never dried up before the end of the week and the meet was essentially at an end when the rain came. We now look forward to next year and prepare for Speed Week 2022.



kicking our feet in the warm water!

For more information about Speed Week or if you have an interest in the event you can visit the DLRA website at: [2021 - Dry Lakes Racers Australia \(dlra.org.au\)](http://2021-Dry-Lakes-Racers-Australia-(dlra.org.au)) and/or view the many videos and short films available on YouTube.



# IF 2020 WAS A MOTORCYCLE RIDE



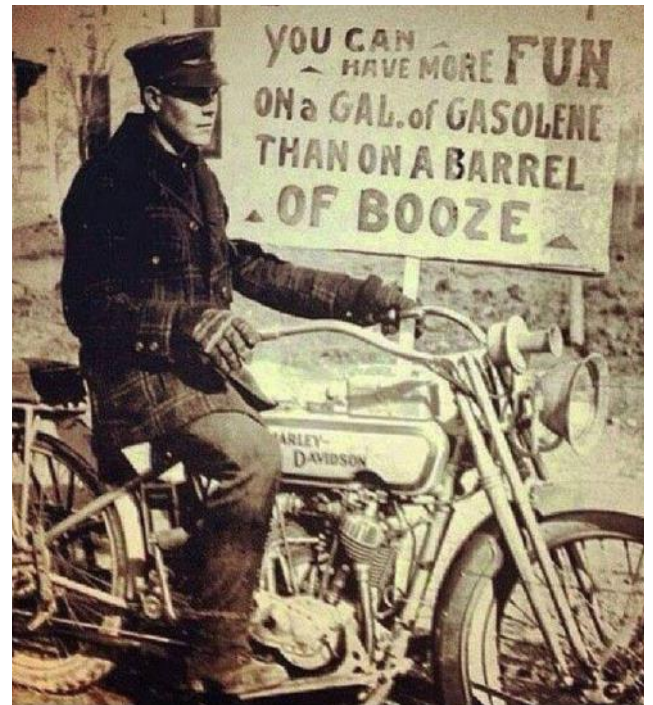
The wife said " Where are you, you know we have lots to do."

He said "You remember the jewelers we went into about 10 years ago, and you fell in love with that diamond necklace? I could not afford it at the time and I said that one day I would get it for you?"

Little tears started to flow down her cheek and she got all choked up...

"Yes, I do remember that shop." she replied.

"Well I am in the Bike shop next door to that."



*"Honestly, boss, I'm home sick in bed. That noise? That's the TV, I'm watching a show about motorcycles."*



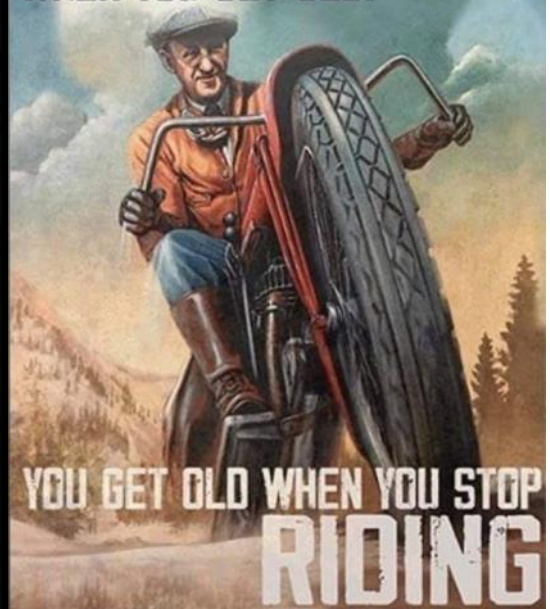
## I may not be



that good looking, or athletic, or funny, or talented, or smart

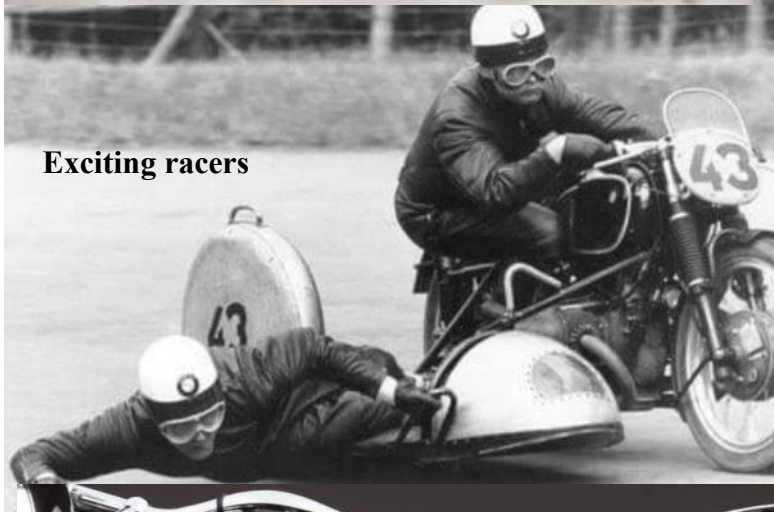
I forgot where I was going with this, but I do know that I love riding motorcycles

## YOU DON'T STOP RIDING WHEN YOU GET OLD.





A bike for the ladies



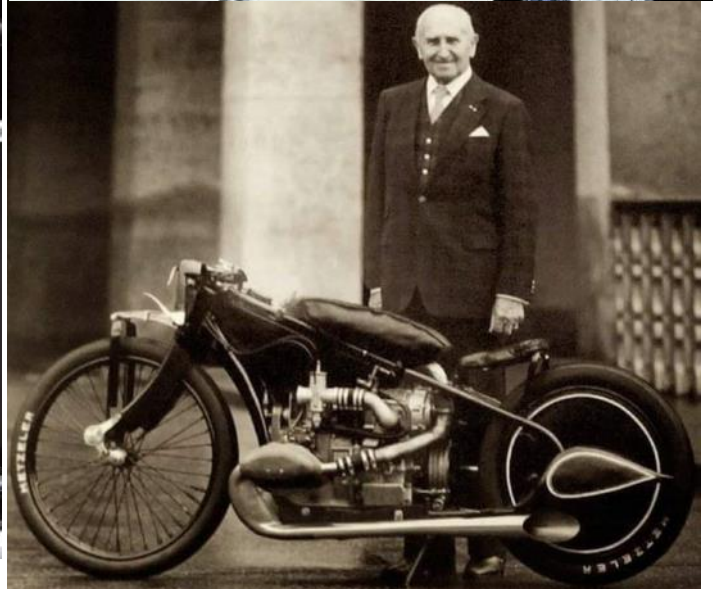
Exciting racers



Stylish



BMW s PAGE



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**16th May Sunday Ride to Rocky Creek Dam Picnic area**

It will include presentation of the Jack Ahearn Trophy at the destination.

**13th June Sunday Ride to New Italy Café via Wardell & Woodburn**

**18th July Sunday Ride to Brunswick Heads & Hot Dogs**

**30 th May , 18th Over the Hill—booked out**

**15th August Annual Memorial Ride, Destination yet to be decided**

**Wednesday Rides 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of month as usual . route decided on day**

You **MUST** be mindful of the COVID 19 restrictions , signing on before ride, Please follow instructions from Peter Lake the ride leader. All other riding you do, you **MUST** use your log book days as they are not sanctioned club rides and as such, without the log book entry, you would be in effect under the law, to be riding an unregistered machine.

For further information go to the clubs web site , advisable to read before going on any club rides,

**Motorcycle Events and Rallies organized by other Motorcycle Clubs**

**30th April 1st & 2nd May** The Singleton Classic Motorcycle Club Inc 25th Heart of the Hunter Rally

22nd May Saturday - Dust Hustle—Goan Rd, Coulson QLD <https://dusthustle.com/events/>

**1st to 4th October** The National Thunder Motorcycle Rally at Tamworth [www.nationalthunder.com.au](http://www.nationalthunder.com.au)

**65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally** Veteran & Vintage Motorcycle Club of S.A. - Cancelled <http://vvmccsa.org.au>



**THE 37<sup>th</sup> RESTORE & RIDE RALLY**  
The Coffs Harbour and District Motorcycle Restorers' Club  
“The Coast to the Mountains”  
for motorcycles, 30 years or older, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021,

**28th—29th August** the 2021 AMAC Australian Bulli Antique Motorcycle Weekend Bulli Showground

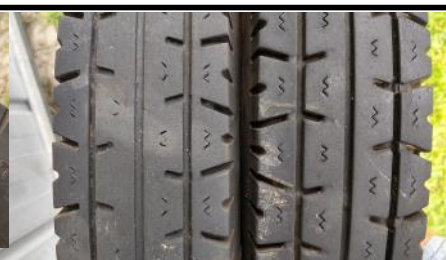
Contact Phill at [AMCA.AusWeb@gmail.com](mailto:AMCA.AusWeb@gmail.com)

**1st to 4th October** The National Thunder Motorcycle Rally at Tamworth Friday

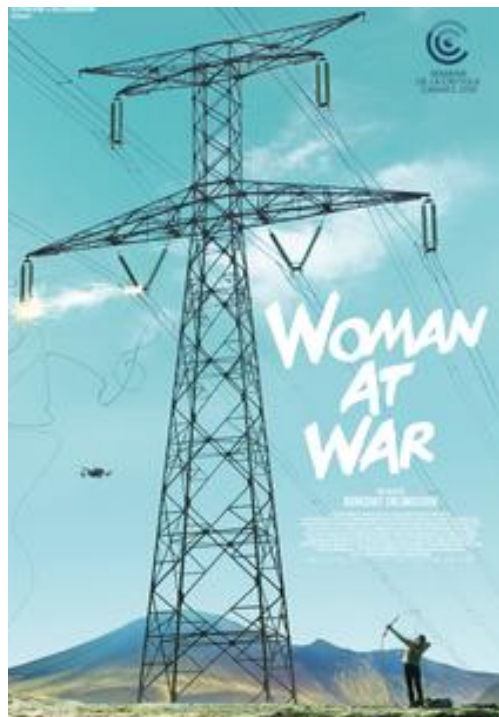
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**Eltham Film Night screens  
"Woman At War"**

From Finland—English Sub titles

Sat 22 May @ Eltham Hall

\$10 Movie only (7.15pm), \$25 Dinner-Movie

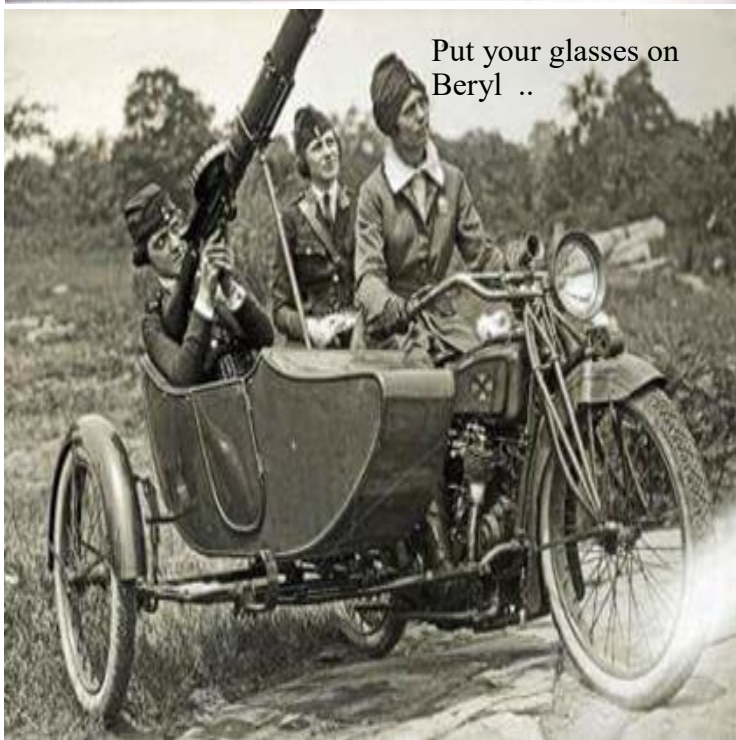
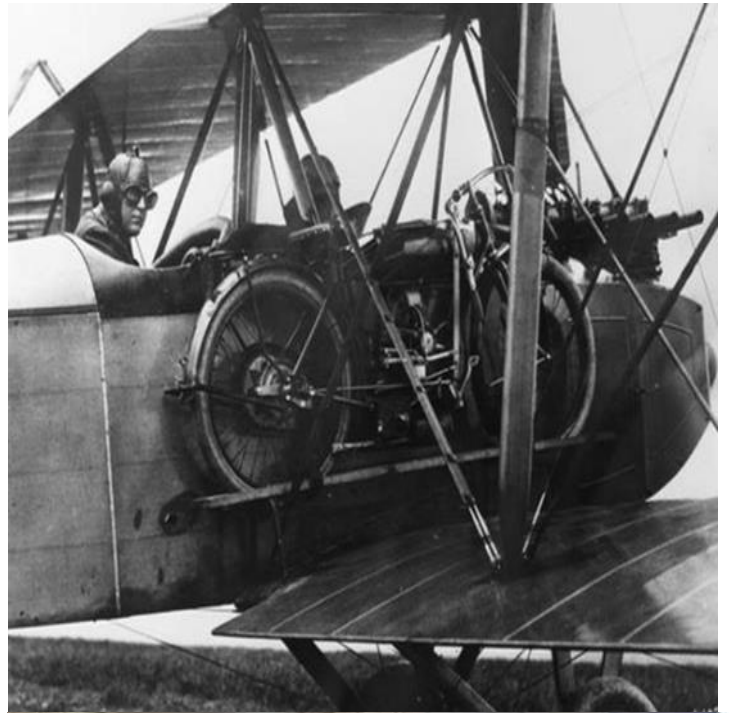
(6pm), Bookings 6629 1476

Funds to renovate Eltham's Railway Cottage.

More: [www.eltham.org.au](http://www.eltham.org.au)



From the VMCC Maters Antony Gullick  
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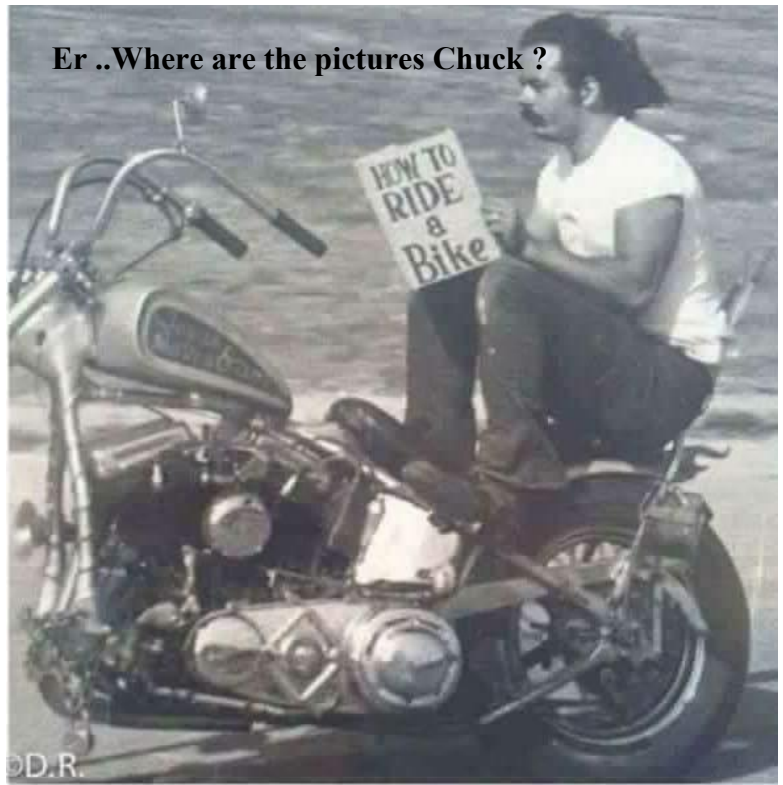
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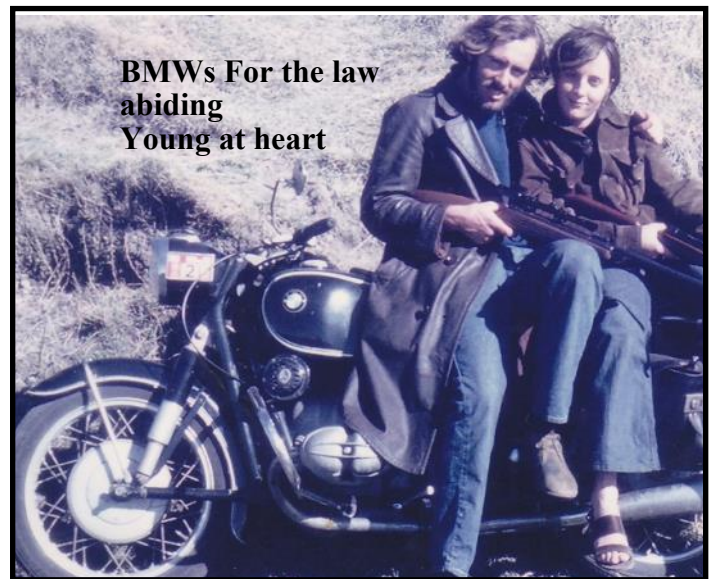


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**Last word from the Editor** Many Thanks to Nikki for her great salt lake racing article , she's not a member of the club , but loves Classic Motorcycles, Thanks to Mary + Terry S for all the photos and Jokes , Please keep them coming , Neil & Jimmy for all the club & committee meeting minutes, make sure you read them. A small milestone for the current Editor , This is the **35th Edition** that I've put together , You must like what is printed otherwise I'm sure I wouldn't **still** be here, but don't forget .. This is your newsletter, so if you want to keep it interesting Don't hesitate to sent in something , articles, jokes, old Photos , also bribes are excepted ...Cheers DBM





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