

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

PO Box 7058, Lismore
 Heights, NSW 2480
www.nrcmcc.org
 Email: president@nrcmcc.org
 Or phone President



May
2023

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 bygone 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 9th May 7.30 start at Clunes Hall.

Next Club Ride 14th May—Memorial Ride and Jack Ahearn Trophy Presentation at Clunes Memorial Hall

NRCMCC Rally Friday 8th – Sunday 10th See Presidents report page 2

Reflections Holiday Park phone 66824212 ask for Sarah and quote the important group booking number 847302.

Note : if you receive this Newsletter by post, check/confirm that any activities listed here are STILL on.. Emails will be sent out advising the status of events prior to the date advertised, check your inbox..



Riding over the Khardung La Pass 18,300 ft above sea level , Michael Smiths story inside

From the Chair

OUR RALLY dates for 2023 are Friday 8th Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September , It has been brought forward in September so as not to coincide with either the Qld or NSW school holidays. In past years we have had trouble with bookings at the caravan park in Evans Head as there are many Queenslanders now enjoying our great area at Holiday times. Please put up your hand to assist in the rally this year, remember many hands make light work. I thank the Charlton 4 who have already put up their hands to carry out the morning.

I have been in touch with the Evans Head reflections Holiday Park to set up a **GROUP booking** to do this you **MUST** ring the park on 02 66824212 and ask for Sarah and quote **group booking number 847302** by doing this we should have enough numbers to get a discount but you **must quote this number** . If you have already booked please check your dates and **ring to be added to the group booking**, this also where they have numbers for them to supply us sausages/ bread, rissoles etc for our Meet & Greet.



Jack Ahearn Restorers Trophy & Memorial ride – 14th May at Clunes Hall come along and enjoy lunch and a chat with friends. The memorial ride will leave from the Norco building at 9am if you are able to attend this ride it would be great as we remember those who are no longer with us, this ride will be going to the Clunes Hall for the trophy presentation and lunch. Tony Harvey will be supplying the food for the day as I will be away returning Friday afternoon.

The ‘Over The Hill Ride’ this year is to Foster and is from 6th-12th May. I will be participating and Tony Harvey will be chairing the May meeting so in advance I thank him. There are around 30 participants this year.

Inverell Rally -We did attend , but not as I thought. I wasn't able to ride my beloved Motoguzzi. As the last 3 years have been hectic and not much motorcycle riding has been done, so February saw us getting our machines out, Bryson's BMW and my Guzzi for a check over ready for our trip to Carlewis with the Stratton's and later the Inverell Rally. The BMW was fine, a check over and tappets done, all was good but alas the Guzzi refused to move from the shed with the front brakes locked, but with a bit of work Guz was wheeled to the workshop for work on the brakes, all it took was a snap and the brake bleed nipple was in two pieces, it was all over. New nipple purchased but still awaiting on the removal of the old nipple. So our riding at the Inverell Rally was in the bus or driving the car but this doesn't worry us unduly, as we visited a lovely area and caught up with friends. So without motorcycles a rally can still be enjoyed. On talking to others at the rally they had troubles with machines left sitting too long. Many of these problems were Brake related with Battery and electrics not working. It was great to see 10 NRCMCC members at Inverell, a great turn out for fantastic rally.

Transport NSW is holding an information session in Ballina. Matthew Café and some of the Regulatory Operations team will be in attendance to answer questions and to clarify Historic registration rules. Bryson & I will be attending.

Good Riding cheers Mary Walker

NRCMCC Market: You can advertise here ‘For Sale’, ‘Wanted’, ‘Swap’, ‘Advice needed’, ‘to Give away’, etc - ie, any deal you can imagine to do with motorcycles.
Please contact the editor - details on the ‘Club officials’ list somewhere in this newsletter.
 Unless otherwise arranged, advertisements will be maintained for two issues.

Northern Rivers Classic Motorcycle Club Inc <http://nrcmcc.org/index.php>

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON: 11th APR 2023, start: 7.30pm at Clunes Memorial Hall
Abbreviations used in Minutes MW - Mary Walker, DBM - David Bonhote-mead TH - Tony Harvey

WELCOME to all by President

Special welcome to the life members present at this meeting.

Meeting attended by 20 members, 8 apologies as per the attendance sheet with no visitors signed in

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: - Not read to members. The Secretary moved that minutes of Mar 2023 Club meeting as published in April, 2023 newsletter be accepted 2ND Peter Lake Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE IN Newsletters- Clarence valley. Membership renewals

CORRESPONDENCE out Club Newsletter - posted or emailed to members + other clubs
CHMC renewal , Clunes Hall renewal,

TREASURERS REPORT:- [The Treasurers](#) March Financial report was read by MW as Treasurer not at meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER The M'ship officer gave update on M'ship renewals , 89 members , M'ship cards were issued to members attending

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

< MW . The Memorial ride & Jack Ahearn trophy day to be 14th May

≤MW re: Show & Shine Event to be held later in the cooler months of the year, yet to be organised

GENERAL BUSINESS,

<MW commented that for next years Members M'ship renewal form , there'll be the re-introduction of the compulsory attendance of 3 meetings or rides to be listed on it. It was temporarily taken off during the Covid 19 period.

< Peter lake reported that Eric Wilson has given a collection of Motorcycle Magazines free for members to take.. On side table in hall, many thanks to Eric.

< Peter Lake also advised members that there'll be an extra WED ride in July , for 2 stroke and smaller bikes 3rd WED being 19th July. Motion was moved, 2nd by Kevin Everett, motion carried.

< MW reported that a representative from CHMC will be holding information nights regarding RMS conditions for classic vehicles & motorcycles, probably in Murwillumbah , no date fixed as yet.

< MW advised members that TH will be chairing the May meeting as she'll be away. MW also asked members to help out at the Memorial Club ride & JA trophy day at Clunes hall, 14th May

< **Bike registrations** – Bryson reported one German & one Italian bike for registration.

<**EARLY DAYS** – Bryson spoke about the history behind some of the memorial plaques in the Clunes Memorial and their history relating back to WW1, Honour board with names of 52 local men who lost their lives, A letter from returning Diggers thanking the local ladies who'd helped support them during their absence. Bryson also talked about his Grandfather and his involvement in in the then "Air Force" .

<**Ride reports**

<MW reported on the recent Rally she'd just attended at Carlewis

< Peter Lake reported on the 19th March ride to Burringbar cheese Factory

< 2nd April Classic ride was to Evans Head.

< Wed ride to Drake was cancelled , now to be held for the 4th Wed being 26th April

<**Next club ride**

16th April – Breakfast run, meet and start at Summerland House Farm Alstonville

MEETING CLOSED at 8. 20 pm

2023 committee and office holders

President: Mary Walker P: 0429662915 E: president@nrcmcc.org
Vice President: Tony Harvey 0427324018 E: vicepresident@nrcmcc.org
Secretary: David Bonhote-mead 0447900848 E: secretary@nrcmcc.org
Treasurer: Dean Marsh P: 0428381711 E: treasurer@nrcmcc.org

Committee members:

Peter Lake P: 0459285872
 Andrew Evans P: 0418280246
 Alan Stratton P: 0428294652

Registration Officers:

Bryson Walker P: 02 66291509
 Pat Holt P: 0435475784
 John Cafe P: 0427252081
 Brian Riordan P: 02 66215535
 Ray Fisher P: 0439825399

Classic Torque Editor: David Bonhote-mead E: editor@nrcmcc.org

Membership Officer: Marc Jennison E: members@nrcmcc.org

Public Officer: Bryson Walker E: publicofficer@nrcmcc.org

Web Master: Dieter Opfer E: webmaster@nrcmcc.org

Club Librarians: Peter Lake

Ride Coordinator (Sundays): Peter Lake P: 0459285872

Ride Coordinator (Wednesdays): Ian McCormack P: 0431924268

Event List Support: Frank Widdows P: 02 66860771

Catering: Glen Flint P: 0423265294

Raffles: Ian & Lois Gibbs

Jack Ahearn Restoration Trophy—Judges John Cafe P: 0427252081

Brian Riordan P: 02 66215535 Doug Hampson 0490 012 245

Our Club Rides:- Some information on coming NRCMCC club rides.

Sunday & Wednesday Rides - All going ahead

Please note that all attendees will need to sign on and BYO mask {optional }

Sunday runs are starting from the Norco Car Park—leave 9.00am

Wednesday rides starting from Lismore Railway Station—leave 9.00 am

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

Jack Ahearn trophy awards with Lunch will be held at Clunes Hall in 14th May
Same as last year bikes to be present on the day.

Provisional Schedule of Sunday Club Rides for 2023 as supplied by Peter Lake

14th May—Memorial Ride & Jack Ahearn Trophy Presentation + lunch at Clunes Memorial Hall

18th June—Ride to New Italy Café for Coffee.

16th July—Ride to Brunswick Head for Hot Rod display, then onto Mooball for Coffee.

19th July Extra Wednesday Ride for 2 stroke & smaller bikes , more info to come

13th August—Small Bike Run around Lismore { not the circle again please }

8th-10th September—Club Rally at Evans Head .

15th October—Ride to Tumbulgum via Cabarita, Pottsville, Mooball

19th November & 17th Dec —yet to be decided

Please note the above schedule is provisional only and may change, check prior before ride date

Motorcycle Events and Rallies organized by other Motorcycle Clubs or Groups

Other Club events Please note That the NRCMCC is not responsible for The events & Rallies as organised by other clubs or groups . And dates {and events} given to us and shown here may change without notice. So if you are attending another club event just check you have their Up to date info.

Coffs Harbour & district Motorcycle Restorers' Club—39th Restore & Ride Rally
 19th to 21st May

Post to Rally Secretary PO Box 4248 Jetty post box Coffs Harbour

Or email to coffs.motorcycle.restorers@gmail.com

{OR contact NRCMCC secretary who can email PDF of full rally info }

Motorcycle Events and Rallies organized by other Motorcycle Clubs or Groups



27th ANNUAL HEART OF THE HUNTER RALLY

Friday 5th Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th May 2023
SINGLETON SHOWGROUND, BATHURST STREET, SINGLETON

The Rally Secretary, PO Box 255, SINGLETON 2330 -

Tamworth & Districts Antique Motor Club will be holding its Annual Bike Rally on 21-23 July 2023.

Rally Headquarters will be Paradise Tourist Park.

It is suggested to book your accommodation early as there are other events on that weekend in Tamworth.

Paradise Tourist Park Ph.0267663120

Rally Co-ordinators: Allen Carlson ph 0418805221 Barry Thomas ph 0401435892

TDAMC <tamworth.damc@gmail.com>

Club Laverda Queensland It is with regret that the organiser of the 2023 Club Laverda Concourse have decide to cancel this years event. The Club was unable to secure major sponsors for the event, and without the financial backing, the decision was made to cancel the event.

Peter Lack <peter.lack99@outlook.com>

Natureland Classic Motorcycle Club Kempsey Swap Meet 21st May—Warwick Park Race course, North Street West Kempsey Contact 0438588689 or 0487202171

Frostbite Rally The Warwick area would like to invite all HMCCQ members and visitors to attend the annual Frostbite Rally. 8 th & 9 th July 2023 Allora Showgrounds Check in from 10:00am Saturday. Entry fee - \$45.00 includes Saturday night dinner, Sunday breakfast and morning tea. Pillions - \$40.00 . A nightly camping fee of \$25 powered/\$15 unpowered site paid directly to the caretaker also applies. Saturday's mystery ride will depart at 1:30pm sharp. Sunday's rally will see the first bike out at 9:00am. Long and short routes available, suitable for all club eligible motorcycles. 'Ye Olde Handle Bar' will again be operating with our usual friendly bar staff serving drinks at very reasonable prices, allowing members the opportunity to socialise while keeping warm around the fire pits and enjoying some tasty treats. Camp Oven Boogie by Sharon on Saturday night. For catering purposes please RSVP by 1 st July 2023 Entry forms can be obtained from (and returned to) hmccqwksec@gmail.com Enquiries Mick 46666125 or Ellen 040934954

HERITAGE WEEKEND
22nd & 23rd July 2023
@ CASINO SHOWGROUNDS

Gates Open
22nd July 9am-4pm
23rd July from 9am
\$10 Entry \$5 Pensioner Under 18
Under 12 free entry

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25th ANNIVERSARY
CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW
SUNDAY 7TH OF MAY
\$5 CHILDREN
\$10 TICKETS

NATIONAL TRANSPORT MUSEUM
69 RIFLE RANGE ROAD, INVERELL, NSW
GATES OPEN AT: 7:30 A.M.
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Riding over the Khardung La Pass 18,300 ft above sea level ,

In 2019 I was part of a group of mates who traveled to India to ride Royal Enfield motorcycles through the Himalayan mountains and over the highest motorable mountain pass in the world, or so we thought. We did hear of another mountain pass that was higher but were told it's a military controlled road only so we dismissed this one. Well, we have since heard that you can get a permit to ride this road although permission can be withdrawn at any time as this area of India borders China and there is military conflict almost every day. That in itself is unique as the conflict is often hand to hand combat and several soldiers a year die as a result.

Anyway, in 2019 we rode over Khardung La pass; twice. Khardung La's official height then, as it changes every year, was 17,982 ft above sea level. Today it's 18,300 ft above sea level as the Himalayan mountains are rising every year.

We have booked our tickets and are now going back to India in August to ride through the amazing Himalayan mountains again and this time through the Spiti Valley and then to cross over the true worlds highest motorable pass, the Umling La pass which is 1,000 ft higher than Khardung La at 19,300 ft above sea level. To put that into perspective, jumbo jets fly at this height, base camp on Mt Everest is over 1,000 ft LOWER and our Mt Kosciusko is a lovely 7,310 ft above sea level. We are riding at almost 3 times this height. And yes, we all got altitude sickness and expect it again but this years ride will see us take a few more days at altitude before we get to the Umling La pass so we hope to acclimatise to this altitude over the 19 day ride. There will be a story later in the year so watch this space.

By Michael Smith





Jack Ahearn- Man or Machine

The trophy Jack donated to the club is the trophy received when he came second in the F.I.M Road racing WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP behind Mike Hailwood. 1964 was the beginning of the 16th season which started on 2nd February in USA and finished 1st November in Japan. It was in this year that Jack won the Finnish Grand Prix on 30 August 1964. One of the most important facts to remember is that Jack in his early career was riding as a privateer i.e. no corporate sponsorship. He always won enough to get to and race in the next round.

1954 Jack's overseas racing career started aged 30 in 1954 at the Isle of Man TT on a 350cc Norton he also raced a 500cc Norton coming 9th in the race.

1955 he also started racing in Grand Prix Motorcycle circuit in both 350cc & 500cc on the Norton's.

350cc IOM 10th Germany 10th, Belgium 9th,

500cc IOM NC Germany 6th, Belgium 7th gaining him 1 race points and 26th in the world ranking

1958 350cc AJ'S 7R IOM 17th place

500cc Matchless G5.0 IOM 29th place

1962 Jack once again contesting Grand Prix Motorcycle racing this time back on Norton's' in both 350cc & 500cc.

350cc IOM 17th,

500cc IOM NC

1963 saw Jack adding 125cc Ducati IOM 21st place

350cc IOM 5th, Netherlands 5th gaining him 4 race points and 11th in the world ranking.

500cc IOM 9th, Netherlands 4th, Belgian 5th gaining him 5 race points and 10th in the world ranking.

1964 at the age of 40 years saw him racing in the 125cc Honda, 250cc Suzuki 350cc Norton & 500cc Norton.

125cc Honda France 8th, the Suzuki he didn't place.

350cc IOM NC, Italian 6th in the Italian Grand Prix ranking him 22nd in the world rankings..

500cc Norton IOM 14th, Dutch TT 4th, Belgian Grand Prix 4th, German Grand Prix 2nd, DDR 6th, Ulster Grand Prix

3rd, Finnish Grand Prix 1st, Italian Grand Prix NAT 3rd, Jack didn't contest either the USA or Japanese Grand Prix

gaining him 25 race points and 2nd place in the world rankings. Our trophy is the trophy awarded him in this year.

1965 500cc Norton 9th, IOM, Dutch 5th, DDR (Germany) 4th, Czech 3rd, gaining him 9 race points and 5th in the world ranking

1966 Jack once again contested both 350cc and 500cc on Norton's.

350cc German DDR 6th, Finnish 3rd, IOM 4th, earning him 8 race points and 8th in the world rankings.

500cc Belgian 3rd, Germany DDR 3rd, Czech 5th, Finnish 4th, IOM NC gaining him 13 race points and 6th in the world ranking.

1974 Jack changed to a 350cc Yamaha IOM 34th place.

This information collected from Wikipedia

I also read articles from the magazines. These I found very interesting and gave added information into the man, his racing his motorcycle thoughts and his life.

Story about Jack in Old Bike Australia Issue 4

<https://amen.com.au/editorial/9815/> Australian Motorcycle News

<https://www.oldbikemag.com.au/jack-ahearn-man-reasons/> Old Bike Australia.

Ride Report 16th April—Summerland Farm start

The 'Summerland Farm' ride on 16/4 was well advertised as the monthly Club Ride. So it was a trifle disappointing after being so well discussed/explained at the monthly meeting that so few members could attend.

The early morning trip over to Alstonville had a touch of the approaching Autumn, but with traffic density low this bracing trip was appreciated after our recent very hot riding conditions.

The former 'House with No Steps' had not been visited by myself for many years, I discovered it had been greatly improved/extended into a veritable 'Tourist Mecca' with local products and items being the major draw-card.

Three classic-plated machines assembled on this lovely sunny morning - [a really great day for riding !] - but the majority were committed to other local appointments and could not take part in the planned Run.

After waiting to nearly 10am, I returned to Lismore along the Bruxner, enjoying the ride with some untypically clear views of the Border Ranges

- even right over the Border into Queensland. Traffic was far heavier on return of course. Mileage 54km.

R. A.

Rules for the Jack Ahearn Trophy-

Entrant must have been a financial member of the club for at least 12 months
Motorcycles must be at least 30 years or older (Historical status)
Motorcycles completely restored by a professional restorer or machines purchased by members, already restored, are not eligible
The Motorcycles may have parts replaced, engines repaired, paintwork completed by professionals but the entrant must have completed a proportion of the restoration themselves.
The Motorcycles must be running and on full or historical registration.
In the event there is no entry for a particular year, the trophy will be held over for the following year
Award will be made for the preceding 12 months. (With the exception of the inaugural which covered two years of 2008 & 2009)
The appointed judge's decision to be final unless unmitigated circumstances arise where the club committee rules.
The trophy will be presented at a club social event most likely in the first half of the following year.
Entrants must notify the committee their intentions to enter prior to 31st December of each year.
Motorcycles, mopeds or sidecar outfit, of any make to be as close to factory original, which excludes such Motorcycles as Tritons, Rickman's, café racers or other specials.
The purpose of the award is to encourage the restoration and preservation of motorcycle in line with the clubs charter.
The trophy is inscribed "The Jack Ahearn Trophy, for the best annual restoration of a classic motorcycle" and the winners name, machine details, and year awarded inscribed on a plate affixed to the base. This trophy was donated to the Northern Rivers Classic Motorcycle Club Inc and will remain as club property for as long as the club runs, if in the event of the club folding the committee at this time will decide the trophies fate be it to go to another club or to a museum like the Inverell Motor Museum or the Bathurst Track Museum.
The winner will receive a suitable certificate or small trophy, and details will be in the following newsletter.



Slippery conditions on the way to Khardung La Pass

Jack Ahearn Trophy

This is the criteria used to judge your restoration

Entrant Name:	Financial Member:	Telephone number:
Motorcycle Make:	Model:	Year:
Frame Number:	Engine Number:	Registration Number :
Work carried out	Owner/s	Friend /Professional
Engine::		
Frame /suspension		
Wheels:		
Tinware: mudguards fuel tank:		
Wiring, lights, indicators:		
Brakes:		
Accessories added:		
General appearance:		
Registered :		
Ridden:		
Score of /10	/10	/10
Total:		
Comments :		
Signatures: who's Date:		

Item points	Total points	Percentage of 100%
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

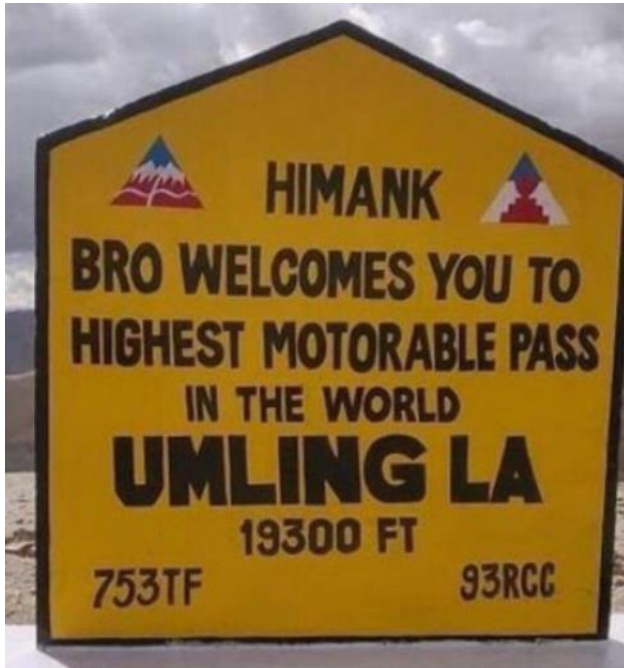
Each item to be marked out of 10 points , with more points given to entrants work over professionals for example if all painting is by entrant, then points awarded will be higher than professional painting, same if wheels are re-spoke by entrant, etc

What does the word restoration means?– The action of returning something to a former condition.

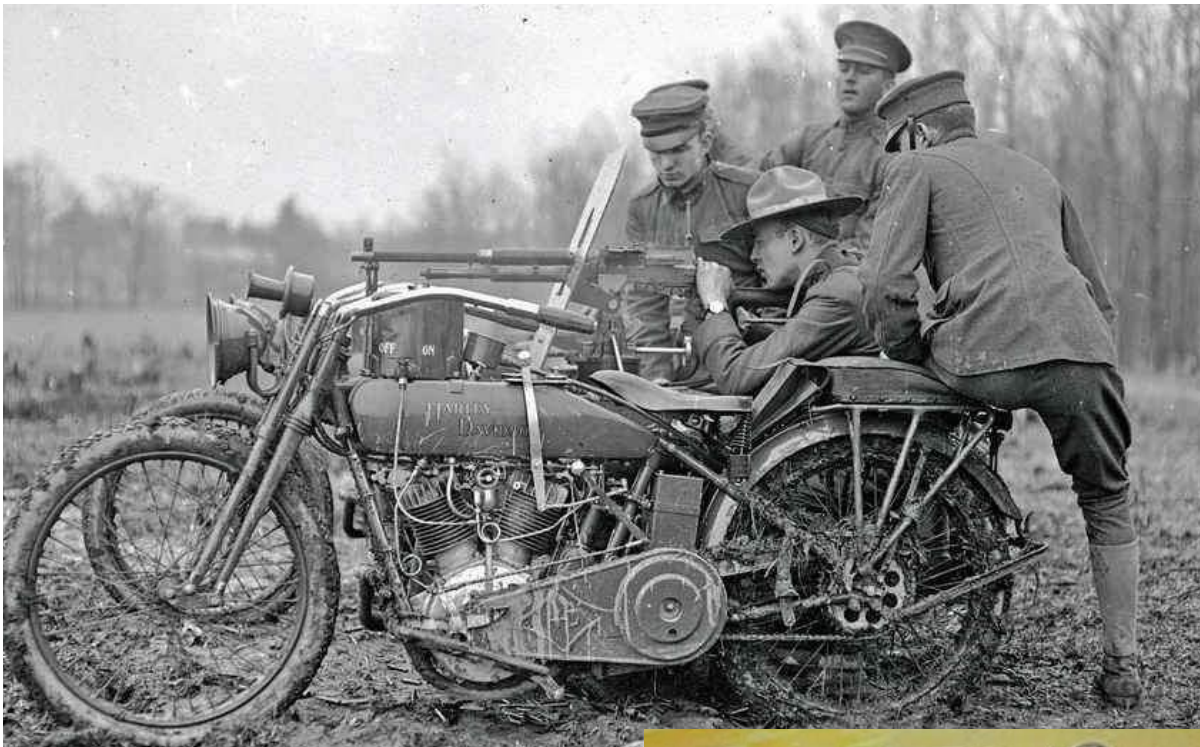
I am hoping that the judges don't take this to mean that everything on the motorcycle should be totally done to look brand new. I think that some motorcycles deserve to be kept in a good working condition, but also be able to keep some of their own old charm i.e. patina should a 1930 motorcycle look like it just came off the show room floor. Should working items be removed and replaced when the owner wants to machine to show it age and be proud of its age.



John Mazzer sends greetings from New Zealand



Making it in the Himalayan mountains



Something for the defence forces ...
Might consider buying in lieu of new tanks etc after
Budget Cuts, coming up in next Federal budget....



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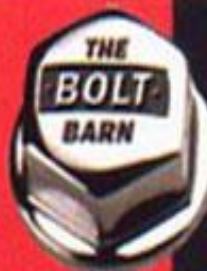
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BARN**
LISMORE



Our sponsors have continued to support the club after most were devastated themselves by the February/March floods so club members should try to support these local businesses whenever possible.. Most will offer a discount to club members and all will offer great service and their continuing support for our club.

If undelivered return to,
N.R.C.M.C.C.
P.O. Box 7058
Lismore Heights 2480



Last word from the Editor

Many thanks to Michael for his great story on the ride thru Himalayas , hope the August trip is just as enjoyable. Mary for her support and Presidents Chair , Rob and John for ride reports Cheers David BM



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