



Ipswich Ulysses

Newsletter #28 January 2016



Some of our 2015 Ride Leaders



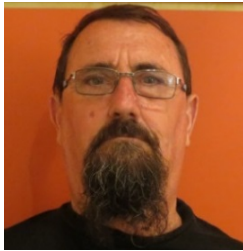
Some of our 2015 Tail End Charlie's

Thanks for taking the Branch for many many Rides this year

Information nights: First Friday of each month at Karalee Tavern, 78 Junction Road Karalee. Starts at 7 pm – come along for dinner earlier if you like

Branch rides first and third of each month with **SOCIALS** any time ... **see website for details**

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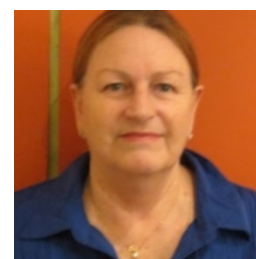
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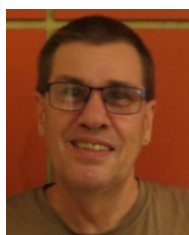
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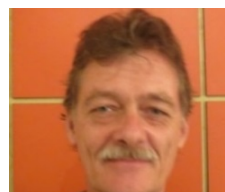
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Ado's September Air Spray

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready to face 2016 with a full tank of gas. Welcome to the January 2016 meeting.

The Christmas party I believe was a roaring success with the JETS leagues club looking after us very well, with a true Christmas theme, great food and a reasonably priced bar, not far away. Thank you to Paula for organizing the venue and being the spokesperson for the branch and of course collecting the RSVPs and money. Also thanks Dolly for organizing the raffle prizes and lucky door prizes. It has already been said that we will have a lucky door prize for everyone who attends next year, just for the one or two who missed out this year. It was so pleasing for the committee and members to be able to attend the Christmas party without having to do any food preparation and dishes at the end of the night, giving us plenty of time for socializing. The only downer was when it was time to dance, everyone started leaving for home. Maybe next year we can have a more planned attack of the dance floor. We also handed out the Ride Leader and Tail End Charlie Patches for the 2015 year. If you missed out on your patch, please see Erik.

Some Branch members attended toy runs in 2015 eg: Mount Lindesay, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich Annual Toy Run and Toowoomba. I would like to thank you for representing our Branch so proudly. I know it is hard financially and timewise to attend these toy runs, because there seems to be getting more every year. Even Gasoline Ally had one leaving from Limestone Park. It is a case of having to choose which is more suitable for you. The Mount Lindesay Toy Run was successful for me as I won the best bike on the day and Kermit won Best Dressed Bike



run you get to see when everyone has come out to see the bikes pass by.

First Ride for 2016 Congratulations to everyone who attended Amanda's Blow Your Diet Ride. We expected 15 to 20 hearty souls to come along, but this day ended up being a wonderful attendance of 41 for morning tea. It seems that the threat of rain didn't deter anyone from coming along. Due to the huge



at the
Sunshine

Coast Toy Run. The Ipswich Toy run was once again an amazing day with a great turnout from our branch. It was good to see you arrive in numbers even though the skies were threatening to soak us at any moment. Some found it necessary to don wet weather gear before leaving the Karalee Shopping Centre while others were more hopeful that the rain would keep away for the duration of the ride. In my opinion the numbers of community on the side of the roads increased this year and riding in the middle of the toy

numbers who had rsvp'd, Amanda decided to scout ahead to secure cover and tables for the branch. Thank you to those who also provided biscuits, muffins and the many thermos' in their thousands to be included with Amanda's 90 odd pikelets, not one pikelet was left at the end of the day. Next ride is Shane "Grey Wolf's" ride to the Barn on Flagstone Creek which I believe will be a beauty as well. Don't forget Eric is looking for ride leaders and destination points for 2016, Let's not let him down.

As previously printed the branch AGM will be held on April Fools Night, 1st April 2016. We will be calling for nominations with the forms available in the February and March newsletters and website. The nominations will close in March. The 2015 committee has to be commended for the work which they put in and will be putting into the branch until then.

Congratulations to Marita for having her story of crossing from the west to the east of Australia printed in the Riding On. Sounds to me like it was quite full on and I don't know if I could have done the trip. I won't give anything away in case there are some who haven't had the chance to read it yet but I thoroughly recommend you read it. Wonderfully interesting story and beautifully written.

FYI the next SEQ President's meeting is to be held on Sunday 7 Feb 2016 which I and another committee member will be attending. The main topic on the agenda will be the Somerset Memorial Gardens and the honor board to be erected on site. There will also be an update on the water board leasing the ground to us for a nominal fee. This will allow the work to continue with some sort of security of ownership. At the moment we are still operating on the goodness of their hearts and a wing and a prayer.

There are a few things organized in the coming weeks which will need 'all hands on deck' to help make them a success. The Interbranch BBQ is to be held Sunday 21 February (venue is still to be worked out as approximate numbers attending are growing quickly with four branches attending: Ipswich; Mount Lindesay; Brisbane; Tweed Border and Northern Rivers. Northern Rivers were the host last year and the banner was passed to us this year. Although it was held in Feb last year I was hoping to defer it a couple of months but emails from other branches involved indicate that Feb will be the month. We are to provide the venue, food, seating and cover. There is no charge to attend, however the cost will be covered by members attending purchasing raffle tickets. Dolly and the rest of the committee are working on collecting some great prizes to entice many buyers. What does this mean to you... we will need helpers to set up, organize the food on the tables, cook and to turn up in your great numbers. We are hopeful of an interactive day with members from the five branches getting to know each other and enjoying a very social occasion. Last year we travelled to northern NSW and this year they will be coming to our area. The committee's first thought for a venue was at Wivenhoe Dam near Cormorant Bay, but this may not be suitable due to the numbers expected. Speak to one of the committee if you have any ideas of a comfortable venue you can put forward.

I am hoping for the branch to have many social gatherings this year. Lots more than last year. Julz is keen to have a group attend Karaoke with her and I would like to see a little more social interaction between us. Of course our fortnightly rides but also a few more coffee nights on a Saturday, movies or a ten pin bowls, just something that allows us to enjoy ourselves and each other's company a little more.

Keep it legal – I's a watching ADO

Sheriff's Court

James "Windsucker" 50255

December was another great month for the best branch in SEQ. Fines as follows:

Tony 'Squirrel' flatulence, and that's all I'm saying

Margaret: cant take instructions

Ado: lost the Christmas Lights and forgot his phone

Mario: making Rizzo look after a raffle prize for 3 months and as per usual no indicators

Angry: just for the hell of it

Amanda: stuffing up the newsletter date

Smokey for fiddling with the microphone

Myself: spitting the dummy big time. Not telling the ride leader and leaving ride.

Blue Ray: dropping his bike and knocking two others over

Birthdays: (Editors note: Sorry couldn't find the picture)

Anni Woodchuck, Shane Grey Wolf and Arthur Toddy

The Mishap Award – Daz "High Rise" dropping his bike on the Lights Parade

Blue-Ray dropping his bike which also knocked two others. No injuries on both occasions.



Elaine "Tweetie" gets her 60 yr Badge



Quote of the Month

Quality is never an accident, it is always the result of intelligent effort.

I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Windsucker #50255

Threads for the Web



Website or Web site:

A set of interconnected webpages, usually including a homepage, generally located on the same server, and prepared and maintained as a collection of information by a person, group, or organization.

Most people today have a very good understanding as to how the internet works. Copy and paste this link into your browser, <http://www.livinginternet.com/> if you feel you could use a bit of help.

[Living Internet](#) content is openly available under a [Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike License](#)

And remember, if you see something of interest on your Internet cruising, please either put it in a blog or send me the info.

Talking about something interesting, I came across this article today in relation to Facebook. Check it out at: <http://tinyurl.com/ow5vpwg>. What are your thoughts...

Ipswich Branch website is at: www.ipswichulysses.com

Some info on Age Badges and Length of Membership Badges from the Guidebook for Members

Age Badges.

Badges signifying a member has attained the age of 60 years, 70 years, or 80 years are available by contacting the National Administration Office. There may be occasions when the Club database does not hold information on a member's date of birth, and in that circumstance, proof of age may be required to be supplied before a particular age badge is sold to the member. Supply of the 70 years and 80 years age badges will be at the Club's cost, complimentary to the member upon application. The 60 age badges are at the members cost.

Length of Membership Badges.

Subject to confirmation of records, badges indicating continuous membership of the Club for a period of 10 years, and then in increments of 5 years, are available for members to purchase \$5.00 each. The 25 year membership badge is complimentary on individual application.

A member wishing to purchase a length of membership badge should contact the National Administration Office.

Lumberjacks Road Rash



Hi folks,

A new year has started and I hope you all had a good and pleasant end of 2015 and start of 2016


We have already had our first ride this year with over 40 people turning up to Amanda's "Blow your diet ride" and it looked like everybody enjoyed themselves.

Hopefully the rest of our rides will be just as successful as the first one.

We are currently a bit low on ride leaders so hopefully some of you can lead a ride in the near future.

As you can see on the ride calendar below, there are some empty spaces we need to fill out.

Ipswich branch rides:

Date	When	Where to meet	Ride leader	What's happening	Distance
17/01/2016	09:00 am.	 Yamanto	Shane	The Barn	
07/02/2016	09:00 am.	Karalee Shopping Centre	Mario	Bribie Island	
21/02/2016				Interbranch Barbeque	
06/03/2016				T.B.A. – We need ride leaders	
20/03/2016				T.B.A. – We need ride leaders	

A College girl wants a motorcycle:

So she writes a letter to her dad (a veterinarian) and asks him to send her some money for a motorcycle she wants.

He sends the money, but by the time the money arrives, she had changed her mind cause she found a monkey she just had to have.

She bought the monkey and about a week later the monkey's hair starts falling out.

As her dad is a veterinarian, she writes him and says, "Dad, all the hair is falling off my monkey, what should I do?"

He writes back: "Sell the motorcycle."

See you all on the rides and ride safe.

Erik (Lumberjack.)



Smiles all round at the 2015 Ipswich Annual Toy Run



Ape hangers, what ape hangers!



"How the hell am I going to eat all this - Dolly where are you?"



Heading off on the Mount Lindesay Toy Run



Bling meets Bling at Mount Lindesay

NATIONAL AGM

The National AGM in Launceston is fast approaching with some of our members sailing off to attend. If you are one of the lucky ones make sure you go along to the National AGM on Saturday 5th March 2016. Another highlight of the AGM is the National Road Safety Forum where two attendees from each Branch are invited to attend on Friday 4th March 2016. If you are attending the Safety Forum could you please pick up an extra copy of the Reports from across Australia for Amanda – she likes to read these, there is always a lot of info in them.

The National Safety Committee Report is available on the NATCOM website and was also emailed out – there were some interesting reads in this,

Neville Gray, Road Safety representative from South Australia, has his **Top Ten Tips for riding - here they are**

1. Look for other road users that are not looking for you. Ride conspicuously and never in blind spots. Never assume that the other vehicle will stop.
2. Riders, unlike car drivers with aids such as air bags, collapsible steering columns and the stability of four wheels, have only their hazard perception and avoidance skills and their protective clothing to make them safer. Therefore, keep your attention level high.
3. Always wear good quality protective clothing from your head to your feet. Protect your extremities with helmet, gloves and leg and arm protection in all weather conditions.
4. Most cars can stop quicker than most motorcycles especially in emergency situations. Therefore, always keep a 3 second gap to the vehicle in front of you.
5. Always perform a head check before changing lanes. Just looking in your mirrors is not good enough.
6. It is vital to ride at a speed to suit the prevailing conditions. In bad weather, this could mean at a speed under the posted speed limit
7. Riding under the influence of alcohol and drugs is plain suicidal. You need all of your faculties at a high level to successfully ride a motorcycle.
8. Don't forget the safety of your pillion as well as your own. They too need good protective clothing, be informed about the dynamics of a motorcycle and know how to assist the rider by being a good stable pillion.
9. Never lend your motorcycle to riders who are unlicensed or inexperienced.
10. Intersections are high risk areas. Slow down when approaching an intersection cover your brakes and be ready to avoid a possible collision.

Allan Smith, Road Safety representative from Queensland, has written this thought provoking article on Lane Filtering

The topic of lane filtering has been in the news a lot in the last couple of years because a number of the Eastern states have recently legalised the practice. It is still unclear if any of the other states will also follow suit and change their legislation also.

Lane filtering is the practice of riding your motorcycle at low speed between stationary or slow moving motor vehicles which are travelling in the same direction as you are. It is a form of overtaking between rows of vehicles. The practice is not new; some motorcyclists have been lane filtering for as long as they have been riding. The legality of lane filtering has always been the subject of a lot of debate, which we won't go into here. Let's just say it was generally illegal and

some jurisdictions and individual enforcement officers penalised riders for filtering and others appeared to adopt a less pragmatic approach.

Lane filtering should not be confused with lane splitting. Lane splitting is the practice of riding your motorcycle at speeds above 30 kph between stationary or slower moving motor vehicles which are travelling in the same direction or the opposite direction as you are. It is still illegal to lane split. The beauty about lane filtering is that it is not compulsory. Individual motorcyclists can choose whether they wish to filter or not. When you talk to a number of motorcyclists about lane filtering you will receive a wide variety of responses. Some practice it, some abhor it, and others selectively lane filter depending on the width of the carriageways, the width of their bike, the traffic density, the temperature, the weather conditions, and their urgency to reach their destination. Lane filtering is usually more popular in areas with double lane roads and high traffic density and is particularly popular with commuter riders in cities.

So what are the advantages?

[1] Lane filtering offers a number of advantages for the rider, including: [2] Reduced traffic delays or faster trip times. Improved rider comfort in hot conditions; the motorcycle and rider are cooler when the motorcycle is moving. Improved fuel economy; less fuel is wasted while idling in a traffic queue. [3] Opportunities for motorcyclists to reach the head of the traffic queue and then separate themselves from those other vehicles.

So what are the disadvantages?

[a] Safe motorcyclists tend to ride their motorcycle in a position on the road which gives them the best separation from other vehicles and which also gives them the best opportunity to see and to be seen by other road users. [b] The practice of filtering ignores these safety best practices and has riders almost rubbing mirrors with other vehicles.

The disadvantages are: [c] Riding in close proximity to other vehicles. [d] The need for intense rider vigilance and concentration. [e] The risk of continually riding in and out of driver's blind spots. [f] Restricted ability to see and plan ahead. [g] Exposure to risk of impatient drivers performing lane swaps without looking or indicating. [h] Exposure to road rage from aggressive drivers thinking the motorcyclist has an unfair advantage and is queue jumping. [i] Exposure to red light runners when you do reach the head of the queue

Legislation mismatches

We are not going to detail all of the new road rules for lane filtering; individual riders should familiarise themselves with their own state's road rules. And, yet again, we have differences in the road rules for lane filtering between the states which have introduced it (Queensland, NSW, Victoria and the ACT). If you do intend to filter it is in your best interests to learn the rules for both your own state and any other state you may plan to visit. Don't assume that the same rules apply everywhere.

Lane filtering safely

Your prime concern should be your own safety and the safety of other road users. Lane filtering is risky and there are a few tips which you may find will help you to better manage your risk:

the road rules for filtering

waddling between rows of vehicles?)

are not expecting you to be where you are

speed and ride as predictably as possible

careful around gaps in the traffic; this is where impatient drivers are most likely to lane change without warning

passengers may open a door to exit a vehicle unexpectedly

Watch for other motorcyclists; some may not be as thoughtful and considerate as yourself

Lane filtering etiquette

If you are going to lane filter a little bit of etiquette will probably go a long way towards maintaining good relationships with the other road users. Remember that many drivers still believe that lane filtering is illegal. Some also believe that motorcyclists are getting an unfair advantage in congestion

- ☒ Obey
- ☐ If you are not
- ☐ Remember
- ☐ Control y
- ☐ Expect
- ☐ Be careful in the
- ☐ Watch fo

are not expecting you to be where you are

and the more aggressive drivers may seize the opportunity to vent their ignorance and frustration on you. To improve the harmony: ☐ Filter and turn traffic. Bikes weave speed gets other road users off side quickly ☐ Be patient with aggressive drivers who may move their vehicle to block your progress ☐ Acknowledge who move over to let you through; a nod or a wave will help.

When you reach the head of the queue

The purpose of filtering is to allow you to reach the head of the queue and get ahead of the other traffic. Logic says that you will more than likely filter and then park your bike in front of the first row of vehicles and wait for the next green light. However be aware that the law does not allow you to cross the stop line at a red traffic signal (the white line painted on the roadway) or where there is no white line you are not allowed to pass the “stop here on red signal” sign. Traffic infringement penalties can apply.

Red light runners

The other and potentially more serious issue with being at the head of the queue is the threat from red light runners. After filtering to the head of the queue it is highly likely that you will have vehicles parked directly behind your motorcycle. When the traffic light turns green this can place pressure on you, the rider, to make a clean start and a fast getaway from the lights to distance yourself from the other vehicles.

This practice contradicts our training to take the time to glance both ways before riding away from the lights. Taking the time to check both ways is the only protection you have against red light runners. Traditionally, if you did not lane filter and your motorcycle was further back in the traffic queue, someone else at the head of the queue took the hit from the red light runners. This is something else you may wish to consider if you plan to lane filter.

If you go any closer to the cheese graters again, I'm taking over

Ok – I got in here – now how do I get out without falling out

Suck it up Princess!



Paula and Mick's Christmas City which Paula lovingly sets up each year and of course, adds to it.

Christmas Carols at the Salvos, Chapel Hill

Some of the branch attended the Christmas Carols at the Salvation Army Chapel Hill Retirement Village (Moggil Road) for the third year in a row.

6 bikes and the trikes of Kiwi and Ski attended the night. Some of the residents came outside to have a look and speak to the members. I can't publish any pictures from the night, but I can say that many pictures were taken by staff at the centre and also by family members.

One resident who I will call Bill was fairly new to the facility, and it was proving difficult for him. Bill cannot walk, gets around in his wheelchair and has little language ability. My daughter Kimberley (an Activities Officer at the centre) was building a relationship with him, trying to find out what his 'thing' was that she could engage him at the Centre. Well ... we found out his thing is definitely motorbikes. He came from his room to the carols in his UMCQ Shirt (United Motorcycle Council Qld). His carer pushed Bill outside in his wheelchair to see the motorbikes and he nearly got up and walked. He was so excited to be around the bikes, to touch them, to have a hearty handshakes from our members and to remember and relive his love of motorbikes. I know I said he had little language ability but I could definitely hear him repeating "Fu&!&ing Beauty" "Lovely". Bill was over the moon when Kiwi approached him with his hand outstretched. It was an amazing moment, which I will not forget, we made his day! I was really glad that we were able to keep him in his wheelchair because if he could have he would have run over to the bikes. Other residents came out to see the bikes and trikes and take photos. The picture shows us at the Carols in



the building. It was one of those nights when it didn't matter if you could sing or not, you just did, joining in with the residents, family and staff in all the old favourites.

We received a thank you letter from the Salvos and an invitation to attend next year. It's defininitely on my list of things to do, just being there made such a difference to so many people.

Thanks for those who could come along..... Amanda

Toowoomba Toy Run – A Christmas Story

T'was the Sunday before Christmas and 3 Ipswich elves plus a ring-in were out ready for a glorious adventure. While all the other Ipswich elves slept off their Christmas Party fun, Star Gingerbread Breath (Robert), Energetic Jolly Jingles (Eric), Sweet Sparkle Pants (Steve - Eric's nephew) & Mighty Silly Giggles (Marita) and their reindeer were at the BP Blacksoil. These dedicated Christmas elves had come together to take part in the 2015 Toowoomba Motorcycle Toy Run hosted by the Downs Motorcycle Sporting Club.



The people at the service station all looked on in wonder at the beautifully decorated reindeer (well 2 out of 4 decorated reindeer). On the highway, there were energetic waves from the children in passing cars. Their faces bright at the sight of the decorated reindeer. They waved and laughed. Some Mum's even grabbed their phones and took a video to show those who would miss it.

Once in Gatton our little Ipswich elves met up with a few other elves, who, like them had come to spread joy and show off their reindeer. The group left Gatton at 10.30am making their way through Grantham, Flagstone Creek and Silver Ridge spreading their joy (tinsel) all over the road. Many goats, cows and horses watched them pass saying to themselves – “Wow, what a wondrous sight”.

Arriving at Picnic Point, Mighty Silly Giggles couldn't get over the number of reindeer of all different ages, shapes and sizes. She was told that there was possibly about 800 reindeer with their elf masters. It was truly a wonderful Christmas sight. Our little elves registered for the ride and purchased raffle tickets. They then walked around looking at, and taking pictures of all the other reindeer.



At 12pm the grand parade of cars, reindeer and elves set off. Every one of them really well behaved as they all knew Santa was watching. They tooted their horns and waved to everyone, big or small, young or old. There was even 2 police reindeer stopping the traffic for the elves as they made their way through the streets of Toowoomba. I should mention though that our little elves did panic a few times when the Police reindeer came up behind them with its sirens on.

As with all good things, the ride came to an end. All the reindeer and elves gathered to at the Toowoomba Showgrounds celebrate their success. Toys were donated and speeches made. Our little elves weren't able to catch up to any of the Toowoomba Ulysses elves. They moved way too fast however they did manage to see a few Lockyer Elves who, like our little wonders made the journey up the mountain.

After the raffles were drawn and all the other elves started to make their way back to their kingdoms thoughts turned to food for both the reindeer and our little brigade of elves. Sweet Sparkle Pants suggested they stop at the Withcott Inn (pub). Here they could get a hot meal and a cold drink. All the other elves cheered in agreement. A mighty feast was had for the small price of \$6.95. Roast of the day as well as steak & Chips filled their little elf belly's.

Eventually our tired little elves and their reindeer made their way home full of pride. They were not only responsible for the smiles on the children's faces today but they had ensured that a little boy or girl would wake up Christmas morning with a present from Santa.

Merry Christmas everyone. Marita



NOTE: names were allocated according to the Facebook "What's Your Elf Name" –and you know Facebook is never wrong – however some leniency should be given to the month of birth factor.

2015 Christmas Party in Photos

Lots more on the Website



Sunshine Coast Ulysses Toy Run

6 Dec 2015



Well we were up at the crack of dawn at 4:30am to have a cuppa and some breakfast before we set off at 5:30am to be at Yamanto for the early start of 6:30am.

There were nine bikes with three extra pillion passengers so we headed down the Ipswich Motorway, Logan Motorway, Gateway and then the M1. The ride was quiet pleasant as it was not hot but there were a few trucks on the road. Spook was waiting for us on the M1 and he joined the ride.

When we arrived the first thing we needed was a coffee. A lady came out to tell us that her coffee shop (Shingle Inn) was inside the shopping centre and was opened, so we decided to go inside as the line up outside for coffee was quite long.

After coffee it was time to go outside and checkout the other bikes. A photographer stopped at Ado's Indian and wanted to take a photo, so Amanda & Ado stood proud next to the bike while the photo was taken. But it didn't have an ounce of Christmas decorations.



The toy ride was long (about 40kms) and we had to stop at every red light the bikes were spread out. We were a little disappointed but still we had fun waving to the kids standing on the footpaths, as it really is about the kids. All types of bikes participated in the ride even this bike, not sure what it is?



As a group we gathered together and managed to grab a table for everyone to sit down and have some lunch. The food was ok as most of us managed to grab a Senior Meal by passing around the National Senior Card.

Kermit was lucky to receive the best dress bike again, as he has won this prestige award before. Well done Kermit. The bike was dressed to please.

We decide to travel back as a group via Kilcoy but first all of the bikes needed fuel. So just after taking off 4 bike went one way and the others went straight ahead. Not sure what really went wrong, anyway the group that when straight ahead stopped and filled up. As we were driving to the M1 we passed the other group going the other way but none of the riders saw us, they just focused ahead and didn't see us. We just kept going as Ado led us to the M1.



When we arrived at Kilcoy, who should we run into Anni & Erik they had already ordered their coffee. So the rest of us purchased ours and we had a short break before saying our goodbyes.

We took off and you could see the boys wanted to push the bikes as they had been very good and kept to the speed limits most of the way. The Triumph lead the way but the other Hondas & Suzuki kept up all the way when the Triumph slowed down the Gold Wing flew passed him and never looked back until Fernvale when the Gold Wing turned off to home. Not sure where the Indian was, but somewhere behind.

We arrived home around 4pm so we are very tired from our adventure to the Sunshine Coast, and I am sure we will be in bed early tonight.

Thanks everyone for a great day and see you all next time.

Dorothy (Short Cut) & Gunther



2015 Ipswich Toy Run -
sorry if I missed your pic.











Blow your Diet Ride

Sunday, 3 Jan 2016

By Amanda



The first ride for 2016 to Waralong Dam for morning tea was certainly a blast. We asked for members to rsvp so that we could make enough pikelets.... and rsvp you did – with numbers quickly growing to 41. I wasn't concerned about pikelets but I thought hot water was going to be a huge problem. A call to 'Bring your thermos with hot water' went out. Thermos City quickly grew and grew with lots of hot water going home. (Thanks). Thanks to the members who made homemade biscuits, muffins and those who bought along other morning tea offerings for us.

I know I was supposed to lead the ride out, but I was really concerned that the large undercover area at Wyaralong Dam would be taken, so I headed out early in the full tin top to secure our spot. Sure there was some drizzle on the way out, but I had my fingers and toes crossed that the rain would hold off. The scene when I arrived was breathtaking and as I was setting up I thought about how many times I should get up early and have breakfast in the outdoors instead of my home. Flask full of hot water and pikelets, jam and cream nearby, I decided to take my own advice and have brekky in the outdoors and enjoy the beautiful scene. There were already families there fishing or floating about on the dam, at least two families had their eyes on the large undercover area I had claimed, but it didn't matter they moved on to a smaller area. It wasn't long before the ranger arrived to check in with the campers nearby and the families around me, and of course checked in on why I had the two Ulysses flags flying. No problems at all, he provided me with some history on the Dam and the carvings on the hill and told me that at 10 am they would be releasing fingerlings into the dam.

There is nothing like hearing the roar of the motorbikes of friends coming from the distance. I ran back up the hill for the 10th time, quickly set up my camera on the back of my car to video your arrival (I'm still working on a video for us and will upload to the website). Adrian had texted me to let me know you had left Yamanto but I wasn't prepared for the number of bikes which were arriving, it was quite emotional watching you all arrive.

Thanks everyone for coming along and starting 2016 with us.

I am looking forward to many rides this year, visiting new locations around SEQ and attending many other social occasions. If you are not sure about what to do, just ask someone – we have a wealth of experienced ride leaders at our branch who I am sure can lend a hand, and of course the committee is always there to help. Thanks for a great start to 2016 and Happy New Year everyone. Amanda

Interesting article from the Queensland Times 4 Jan 2016

Ipswich roads are deadly risk to pedestrians, motorbikes

ONE in three road deaths in the Ipswich region involves a pedestrian, a motorbike or a truck.

Queensland Government figures show between 2001 and 2014, about 60% of all fatal crashes involve only cars and about 30% of fatal crashes on roads across the Ipswich council area involved a truck, a motorbike or a pedestrian.

RACQ spokeswoman Lauren Ritchie said pedestrians were some of the most at-risk people in cities.

"Crashes involving pedestrians more often than not occur in built-up areas," she said.

"It is not just people behind the wheel of a car who are at risk from distraction. More and more people with headphones on who cannot hear traffic coming are being involved in crashes."

Nearby rural areas the Scenic Rim and Somerset regions had some of the highest percentages of fatal crashes involving motorcycles in the state.

In the Scenic Rim 16% of all road deaths involved a motorbike and in the Somerset region the figure was 14%.

Ms Ritchie said recreational motorbike riders, in contrast to commuter riders, were especially at risk of dangerous crashes.

"Recreational riders are more likely to be involved in crashes at higher speeds in more rural areas," she said.

Ms Ritchie said last year Queensland had more than twice as many motorcycle deaths as 2012 and it was on track to be one of the worst years for riders in recent memory.

Australian Road Safety Foundation chief Russell White said pedestrians and drivers all needed to keep an eye out for one another.

Mr White said road conditions and locations made different transportation modes more likely to be involved in a crash depending on where it happened.

"It is not just the volume but the type of traffic on the road," he said.

"A truck driver on a country road or major highway has a different mindset than a holiday-maker on a Gold Coast road."

Statistics revealed cars are involved in about 60% of fatal crashes on Ipswich roads, motorbikes in 12%, trucks in 11%, pedestrians in 11%, bicycles in 3%, buses in 2% and all other vehicles in 2%.

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