



Regional Director H.O.G. New Zealand

May 2013

Welcome

Hello to all and hope that everyone has made the most of what was a great summer. It certainly gave us a huge opportunity to peel off a few clicks on the bikes. They forecast a long dry summer and were right on the mark. Hopefully our rural community is seeing some recovery from the drought at last, but from a purely selfish point of view it was great for us.

Some Upcoming Events

Wellington HOG Chapter . 25th
Birthday. Macs Brewery and Bar
Wgtn. Saturday June 1st 2013

110th Anniversary of H-D Aug 29-
Sept 1st, Milwaukee, Wi.

New Zealand National HOG
Rally, Palmerston North 13-16th
Feb 2014.

Starting to notice the change now and there has been a fair amount of precipitation taking place. It is now time to reflect on the conditions and alter riding styles to suit.

We become a little less visible in inclement weather and the risk of icy and wet roads add to our need to be more alert.

I guess some riders will be placing their bikes on hold over the cooler months but if you do just remember there are still heaps of activities to become involved in with local chapters that you can get away without your

bike if need be.

I managed to be convinced (didn't actually need much doing to be fair) into swapping two bikes for one and now have a nice shiny black Ultra. With the summer being so good I managed to wind on a fair few miles since picking her up the day before the rally.

Chapter Visits

I am still to get to the Deep South and Christchurch. Timings have not worked in my favour yet. Although we are a small country sometimes the logistics of getting to another place is a challenge.



I have managed to revisit Auckland, Wellington and CD.

The atmosphere at all meetings is nothing but great. We have to remember that we are here to 'ride and have fun'. Not always is the fun just on a bike and this is quite evident when visiting the respective chapters. While the focus of our membership is about our bikes there are so many other opportunities to fulfill the statement we should always try to take advantage of.

To note is the Wellington Chapter are holding their 25th birthday celebrations over Queens Birthday weekend. For past and present members get a hold of Terry (Spider) for a great night out on June 1st at Macs Brewery and Bar or go to <http://www.wellingtonhog.co.nz/> for further info.

New Zealand National HOG Rally Auckland

What a great event. We had three days of absolute total fun. The rally was excellently put together and as always requires lots of hard work from a very dedicated team.

Through Doc I was able to thank and congratulate the Auckland Chapter and AMPS for what was an awesome Rally. From the organized regional rides, to the Thunder Ride, the games and displays, fireworks and HOG and H-D birthday celebrations made for a memorable time.



It was great to see Bill Davidson here and from all accounts he was over the moon about NZ. He seemed tireless in his efforts to meet, sign and talk to as many as he could. I managed to speak with Bill about 3 weeks ago (more below) and he was talking up his time down under.

Just remember we have the National HOG Rally at Palmerston North next year in February. Put the dates in your calendars; make your accommodation bookings and get ready to party in Palmerston North. I know it is no competition, but Andy and his planning

group are pushing for bigger, better and greater things!

Some sad news

It is with great sadness again I mention the passing of two very strong members of HOG NZ. Both have passed on after long personal battles with illness. While we may think that their suffering has at last ended; their memories and thoughts for the families will never be lost nor should fade.



Mac was the current Director for the Waikato/BOP chapter. He was true HOG flag carrier for his Chapter and HOG International. Mac has fought a long hard battle with his illness and mine, and I am sure 'our', thoughts go out to Mac's family, friends and the Chapter.

Keith was reasonably new to NZ having recently 'retired' to NZ with Claire. Keith made an immediate impact and was a core chapter member for Central Districts. I know he was also long time serving member of HOG back in the UK.

May your tanks never now run empty and your memories will be with us forever.

NZ Chapter websites

www.aucklandhog.org.nz/

www.waikatobophog.co.nz/

www.centraldistrictshog.co.nz/

www.wellingtonhog.co.nz

<http://christchurchhog.com/>

www.deepsouthhog.co.nz/

Chapter Newsletters

Still lots of great activity being reported within the Chapter newsletters.

You can never stop but being envious when you read and see all the great events organized across the country.

The editors are probably one of the least glamorous roles on any committee (for any organisation) but they are the most

rewarding. I do not know many people who do not have some sort of heightened anticipation to open up their newsletters and see what has happened within their chapters.

To all the editors, thanks for your tireless work, chasing people up for stories and photos. Keep up the great work.

HOT Training

I had the privilege recently to travel to HOT training in Milwaukee. Apart from making the journey to the home of Harley-Davidson, to meet and see 1400 like minded, enthusiastic HOG members from 37 countries from around the world was not to be missed.

I travelled with my fellow Regional Directors and Kim W from Aussie. I think if I hear another Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi I will scream. I couldn't get a Baa in anywhere!

We managed to have a personal tour on arrival in Milwaukee (after cancelled flights and forced layovers) with Bill Davidson to see Serial No 1 at the museum. If nothing else, it was a highlight to hear the private family story about the start of Harley-Davidson.



While we place things like Sturgis, Daytona Bike Week, Route 66 on bucket lists you need to add the H-D Museum. This is truly a great place to visit. The displays and commentaries are awesome.

If you get to go there, you need to cross the sky bridge and go to the top floor. There you can see all the bikes from the different years 'not on display' below. There are literally hundreds, all racked and catalogued ready for rotation onto the museum floor.

The HOT training was a little notch up from what we are used to down under. That is not to say ours isn't damn good, but when you have 1400 attendees you have to expect a little more buzz.

As mentioned, with 37 countries present it opened up huge opportunities for stories and information swaps. It came as no surprise though that we all operate on a reasonably similar framework. To ride and have fun is at the centre of everything and if we focus on that, the what we do, and the how we do it will be easy.



The Americans manage to put on an excellent three days, always the logistics of organizing such large numbers for feeding, breakouts, plenary sessions (and maybe a little drinkin) amazes me.

There are always those who come to the forefront at these events. Not to go without mention would be the Scots. They seemed to be everywhere with their tartan kilts, bagpipes and only sometimes partially

hidden their 'Flower of Scotland'.

Another stand out was a member from India who remembered the occasion of his first bike. He and 51 others clubbed together to buy 'their' first motorcycle (so they could). He then got his chance to ride every 52 days!

110th Anniversary

For those of you who are going to the 110th and HOG 30th celebrations in Milwaukee have a fantastic trip.

By the sounds they have a great event lined up. They were at pains to mention that Elton John would not be part of the party this time round, but groups such as Steve Tyler and Aerosmith, along with Lynard Skynard, Kid Rock and others have been secured to provide some of the entertainment.



We were treated to one of the bands (Déjà vu) set to play while at HOTA, and, who although is not a headline band, they are in their own right well worth hearing.

Thanks to H-DA for giving us here in NZ the opportunity to be the first in the world to celebrate these important anniversaries in 2013. Reports from around the world are singing the praises of some great parties now either passed or still coming up.

Log onto http://110.harley-davidson.com/en_US/events for the most up to date details on the 110th Anniversary!

Finishing Up

All the best for the winter months. Take care with the conditions. I guess we can be thankful most can ride all year round. When in Milwaukee it still managed to snow and those from the area and further north had yet to have their first seasonal ride. They were 6 weeks into spring already!

Please remember if there is something I can help with sing out, phone or e-mail me.

Ride safe and stay upright.

Cheers Millsy
May 2013

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