



Regional Director H.O.G. New Zealand

October 2013

Welcome

Hi all seems to be a long time between drinks since I put this out in May. Hopefully everyone has had their bikes serviced, checked all the safety issues in preparation for what, with any luck, will be a good warm summer.

The winter has been pretty good for us and plenty of great opportunities to get out and ride. I have still been managing to ride into work when the calendar allows, so it must have been mild!

Some Upcoming Events

NZ National HOG Rally, Central Districts, Palmerston North.
February 13th-16th 2014
<http://www.newzealandnationalrally.com/>

Australasia H.O.T. Training
Sydney, October 2014.

A few things to share in this issue and I am going to start introducing a few of the Chapter Directors, Assistant Directors over the next few issues. This newsletter will cover Calum from Deep South Kiwi and Steve Richardson from Waikato BOP. Congrats to both new Directors this year.

It has been a pretty full on year with the 110th celebrations, Chapter anniversaries etc. which has been great. I know there was a considerable contingent of NZ riders in the

US meeting either for Sturgis, 110th celebrations in Milwaukee and other iconic events in the US. I am envious and the US and riding is definitely on my bucket list.

We should soon be able to announce the results of the poll for the new logo. The new logo brings the Harley-Davidson bar and shield into the heart of the design, proudly representing that HOG is the only official riding club of H-D. The eagle faces in a new direction to represent our club evolving and going its own way. The new modernized design is being selected by HOG members and should have broad appeal to current and future members. Be assured though the current HOG logo is not going anywhere. You have a choice to if you want to continue wearing this one or the new one – it is up to you. I know I will be wearing the new one as soon as possible.



Chapter Visits

I managed to meet up with Christchurch in August and attended their Chapter meeting which was great. I also got to impose myself on the committee meeting so was a good catch up all around. All over the country there are some many similar but different things going on, but at the heart of it, or the 'why we do it', is very much the same, **'to ride and have fun'**.

This weekend I am off to visit Deep South Kiwi and head off to Clyde for an overnighter. Looking forward to that and thanks to Jason Veitch (McIver and Veitch) who is trusting me with a new Ultra for the weekend.....!

The Wellington Chapter anniversary at Queen's birthday weekend seemed to go off exceptionally well. There appeared to be a lot of members from the past along with a fair turnout of the Past Directors. Congrats to Gary and Steve from Wellington Motorcycles, along with Spider and his team for a great event and hope the next 25 years is just as eventful!

I attended Waikato/BOP's AGM in Hamilton, also in June. Another great crowd who made me feel very welcome. Steve Richardson (see below) was installed as the Chapter Director taking over from Shelley who was covering after Macs passing during the year. It was a great AGM and people might ask how do you have a lively AGM, well these guys can. Lots of laughs, lots of jokes, a few tears of course, but another one of the six great crews across the country.

New Zealand Directors Meeting

We held our first NZ Directors meeting in Wellington (also in June) for some years.

It was well attended with all Directors and a few Assistant Directors making it except for Calum who was strapped in and at the end of the runway and they aborted the takeoff due to dirty fuel!.

Kim Williams from H-DA was with us along with Shelley Sproule (Road and Sports Hamilton) and Gary Gill (Wellington Motorcycles).

Unlike some of the reported earlier Director meetings there was no booze involved and we covered some good ground. Hopefully your Directors have come back with some good shared experiences and ideas.

One thing I did seek to find was, there apparently is a NZ Memorial HOG book. Members of CD talk about this but no one has seen it for many years. If by chance you know where it now 'rests' could you let me know.



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

The news is all good for the National Rally in Palmerston North February 2014.

The website is all up and running and accepting registrations. Andy S has already informed they had about 50 in the first few days of opening the website which is extremely encouraging.

I know they have some great events lined up for the weekend (including the Thursday and Sunday) and being in Palmerston North there is sure to be some surprises in store, whether that be a tornado, weather bomb, freak snow storm who knows. They are claiming 'unfinished business' after the last rallies power outage, I will be happy if we have good weather, loads of fun, and miles of safe riding.

Don't forget to get into the accommodation sites and make bookings early. Something about Palmerston North though there is a huge variety of accommodation on offer!



2015 Event Queenstown

Gary Manch (Christchurch) is well underway with the planning for this event being the new format for the national rally.

Gary is still sorting out some last minute detail with the local authorities in Queenstown so hopefully we can announce a date soon.

There is no need to panic though about accommodation as Queenstown is spoilt for choice, from \$20.00 a night to probably \$20,000.00 a night style rooms or campsites. Gary has told me there are around 20,000 beds available in the area.

This promises to be a great event and I urge everyone to get in behind it and make it successful. There will be differences from what we are used to but change is not always a bad thing. I know Gary is really working hard to make this a memorable occasion for all.

It is a matter of watch this space as more details can be firmed up



Chapter Officers

Right, time to show a few new old faces and introduce some of the new Directors from Deep South Kiwi and Waikato/BOP Chapters. These are the guys and gals who stitch it together for us. They work hard for the Chapters and strive to make sure your HOG experiences are fun. Both Calum and Steve are HOG stalwarts and surely back up what I said above

Calum (Cak) McCreath (Deep South Kiwi)

Now Calum's catch phrase is 'Bathe in my awesomeness' and I will not mention what he reckons his favorite subject is, but is not actually H-D. The phrase and photo do give a hint though ;)



Age 45 Truck Driver by trade Nickname to friends and Family is Cak

Been a keen Harley owner since 89 an International member since 1994 and a local chapter member since 96. I have served on the committee for approx 14 years in total with a 1 year stint as Assistant Director in 02/03 (Cut short by work commitments) two years as Treasurer 2011-13 followed by my appointment as Director. I went to HOT in Melbourne in 2011 and bought back a truckload of ideas some of which have been integrated into the Chapter by the committee. I ride a 2011 Superglide Custom which is

the most gorgeous Harley of the 8 I have owned.

Steve Richardson (Waikato BOP)

Now I reserved editorial rights for these short accounts and Steve threatened to send a photo of him and his speedos while in the US, yeah, nah!

I've been a member of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Chapter for 7 years and have been involved with them for the past 9 years. Over this period I have enjoyed being a Road Captain for several years and have been on the executive committee for 2 years.

My first year saw me taking over the Activities role and then jumping up into the Directors role for this year.

We have a lot of new faces on our executive and it's been a pleasure to front the team. I haven't been in the position to attend a HOT however I'm sure this is in the pipeline when the next one has been confirmed.

My wife and I have recently bought an Ultra Limited and spent 9 weeks touring in the US covering 29 States and 18,500 km. Definitely



the sort of trip that should be on everyone's bucket list. The bike will be in NZ in time to enjoy the spring and summer riding. See you on the road.

Thanks Steve and Calum, look forward to entering a few more faces of 'notoriety' for the December newsletter.

Demo Weekends

Everyone will have been there done that by now for the demo weekends across the country. This was the first year where all Dealerships synchronized their demo weekends for the same date.



This is a highlight weekend for me as it gives an opportunity to help out the dealers and give something back when assisting with the day or days (mind you this year I didn't seem to do much except stand round!).

The picture here shows the two 'relentlessly' working past CD Directors and Andre from Anza hard at it!

I did have the opportunity to help run a few kms up on the demo bikes though which was fun. I took out a Sporty which my partner reckons I looked like a pumpkin on a toothpick when on it. It was great going back to the first days of my H-D experience.

Mind you, with more horses beneath me and more kilos on top from when I had my first Sporty still made for a great ride!

I then took out the Breakout much to my bigger bros disdain (he was going to run this in the next day, RHIP!), another great afternoon clocking up a few 100kms. A lot softer on the butt I have to say as well from the Sporty.

I was told I looked like a 'thug' on this one so not sure which is better. Perhaps I should just stick with the Ultra!

HOT Training

I am pleased to announce that for 2014 H.O.T (Harley Officer Training) will be held in Sydney, Aus in October 2014. There had been some discussion that it may be held in Asia or similar but has now been decided to hold this in Sydney. This will no doubt please some and may disappoint others who were looking forward to an exotic island or similar as the venue.



As always this is a great opportunity to learn, to meet, to share HOG experience. I have attended similar types of training for various voluntary organisations and to my mind nothing beats H.O.T. for content, professionalism and the sheer great time you have.

So for all those new officers, older officers or want to be officers, start showing an interest and put some savings away and get prepared to meet up in Sydney in October. With the H.O.T being held close to HD-A HQ I am sure there will be plenty of great activities to become involved in.

Confirmed dates and venue still be TBD.

Finishing Up

Enough from me, enjoy the spring, be careful on the roads as all the tin tops and others get out enjoying the NZ country side. Please if you see me anywhere make yourself known and say giddyay.

If you have had the H-D of the road for the winter make sure you do all the checks etc. before getting out yourselves, let's not any of us become a statistic this year.

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

Ride safe and stay upright.

Cheers Millsy
October 2013
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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/

