



# Psychs on Bikes

## President's Report

AGM 15.11.25

It has been my privilege to mark another year in my role with Psychs on Bikes. I think that we're into our thirteenth year now. I will describe recent events, planned activities and upcoming challenges

### **Bathurst Motorcycle Show**

We attended this one-day event on 22.3.25 and are due to return for next year's event on 28.3.26. We always engage many attendees in our health checks and have received very positive feedback. Our thanks go to Mike Spitzer for his hard work in organising this yearly adventure

### **Victorian PoB (and the Grampians Ride to Remember)**

The best-laid plans of mice and men and our mate Darren. He put in a magnificent effort trying to organise PoB's attendance this year but after the organisers changed to date it all became a bit too difficult. The Victorian branch has, however, put the rest of us to shame by the popularity of their social rides and the camaraderie revealed by the WhatsApp posts. Keep up the good work (and the black side down!)

### **The Signature Ride, May 10 to 25**

The best laid plans of mice, Darren and... me! This ride had a fantastic beginning but sadly fell apart when most of us tested positive for COVID after we had got as far Port Augusta in SA. Up until then the experience had been wonderful. We were accompanied by about ten members of the Motorcycle Mens Shed, which is the only Mens Shed that doesn't actually have a Shed.

After getting to know each other and learning how to ride together our ridemates became a huge asset. They facilitated our attendance at six or eight Sheds in WA, including a long loop south taking in Augusta, Albany and Esperance. That was a ride that I'm sure we can do again any time.

### **Walcha Motorcycle Show**

This is another regular NSW event thanks once again to Mike. The show goes on over a two-day period, this year November 14 and 15. This year we've been invited to participate in a presentation to the hundreds of attendees. Most PoB's stay at Tamworth, about 70km south. This year we're pleased to welcome colleagues from Victoria and Queensland who have taken the time to ride to Walcha to join us.

### **IMRUA conference, Slovenia, 23-25.4.26**

Our fame has now spread internationally as I've been asked to speak at this conference. IMRUA is the International Motorcycle Response Unit Association. There'll be a couple of hundred motorcycle-riding ambo's and firies.

### **The Teardrop Ride, August 2026**

You've probably seen some communications about this already. My plan is to organise a ride from the tip of Cape York to the bottom of Wilson Promontory in Victoria. The real challenge, of course, will be the first part of the ride, from Cairns to Cape York, then back to Cooktown to meet up with the road-riders. That initial 1500km or so will involve about 1000km of dirt road so you'd be daring to try to ride anything other than an off-road bike for that section. From Cooktown to the bottom of Victoria will be open to any PoB with any bike.

My wife and I spent a week on the Cape August 16-24 doing a reconnaissance and meeting the key players. I think it'd be impossible to get them on board without having met them personally. Hayley is now doing a great job of liaising with those parties so we should be able to firm up a route and itinerary soon. If we can pull this off it'll involve visits to Aboriginal rock engraving sites, indigenous communities and the ruins of a WW2 air force base. And maybe even Thursday Island.

Please keep an eye on your state WhatsApp messages and email inbox for more info as the plan unfolds.

## **Sponsorship**

With the dwindling of the contributions from our inaugural sponsor Ramsay Health Care we have to get real: pretty soon PoB is going to run out of money. If that happens we'll have to either fold the organisation or turn it into a social club (the latter option being distasteful to me!)

Darren has done a sterling job of pulling together a committee of the willing. Stephen is the stand-out member who seems to have a lot of friends in high places. In the meantime if you can help with this project please do. What we really need is connections and introductions to people high up in corporations who can help us seduce the decision-makers. That's your mission, should you decide to accept it...

## **A Quarterly Zoom for all PoB's**

We used to communicate with those laborious newsletters that I wrote over the past 13 years (numbering more than 120!). Then we moved to state WhatsApps but they didn't really communicate the same messages to the whole membership. I thought we should revert to some sort of communication that invited all PoB's from all states. It struck me that the quarterly zoom meeting to pass on the news to members and facilitate discussion was the way to go but my first attempt, on a Saturday morning, wasn't stunningly successful.

I'd planned to have another such zoom on the morning of Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> but I've now decided to cancel that and re-plan it for January. I'm hoping that by then we'll have a firm itinerary for the Teardrop Ride and will be pressuring you all to commit to that event.

## **Thanks to our Wonderful Committee and Hayley!**

Need I say more? This a fantastic organisation with intelligent, interesting colleagues. Our committee is long-suffering but dedicated. Thanks in particular to Darren, who is our chairman, Stephen who has kindly offered to stay on as treasurer and Hayley who just seems to work away in the background and makes things work.

Here's to a great PoB 2026!

Luv and kisses

Joe