



Psychs on Bikes

President's Report, November 2021

Apart from those annoying lockdowns, the past twelve months have represented the busiest, most productive time in our decade-long existence. The fortunes of PoB have fluctuated over the years but 2021 has given us an expanded membership, a different way of interacting with the community, effective management and the longest, hardest ride we've ever done. So here's a review:

RIDES

The memorable event of the year was the visit by nearly 20 Psychs to 7 cattle stations between Mt Isa and Darwin. I approached that ride in utter trepidation but I was delighted at just how well it worked and I appreciate all the co-operation you contributed to that experience. It was also a fantastic opportunity to fine-tune what we do when we interact with the public.

Our attempt to organise a November ride was, however quashed by...

...COVID

Like having your melanoma diagnosed after it had spread (ouch, a terrible analogy but I'll run with it anyway) no one could see this coming. Or at least we thought we'd seen the worst of it before Delta strain arrived. In fact, the remnants of the Stations Ride were lucky to be able to get back to our home states as the borders closed yet again. But I reckon we've seen the worst of it now. And we'll never take our old lives for granted again.

THANKS TO CHRISTINE FOOT

Older Psychs will recall how, as an organisation, we lurched along driven mostly by goodwill, the enthusiasm of members and my own occasional input. Now we have Christine, who has taken PoB and put it onto a professional and corporate plinth. It's a pity that knighthoods were abolished. She'd be Dame Christine.

STATE GROUPS

The decentralisation of PoB has also worked a treat. For years we ran out of Sydney. Now the big and more enthusiastic branches are in Melbourne and Brisbane and we NSWelshmen are the poor country cousins. Thanks to our state managers (from north to south) Brad Elms, Mike Spitzer and Susan Jury. At our upcoming zoom meetingathon on Nov 13th we'll spend some time formalising the roles of the state managers.

Also thanks to Graeme Houghton and Sue Sumskis for their contribution to PoB over the years.

DOCUMENTARY

On the ride to the stations in May we were accompanied by Craig and Jerome, our film-makers. Craig is putting together the one-hour pilot for the PoB documentary and we're hoping that'll be ready to go Real Soon Now.

THE SNOWY RIDE

Quite a few of us are planning to participate in the twentieth and last Snowy Ride in early April. As most of you know, we're also toying with the idea of trying to take that ride over, i.e. turn it into the PoB Snowy Mountains Ride. It might work, it might not. Watch this space.

WELCOME TO ZOOM

Necessity is the parent of invention. (Did you notice my woke reinterpretation of that timeless expression?) What happened over the past year is that we perfected our ability to connect and re-connect on zoom. I grumble about (in the clinical situation it's not as good as face-to-face relating) but I'm really impressed at how it can bring all of us together despite how far away from each other we live. The post-COVID world might have some of these new memes and ways of relating. PoB will!

FUTURE RIDES

We used to do one Big Ride a year but I always complained that wasn't enough to give us relevance. PoB has now expanded and re-invigorated itself so effectively that we'll be riding the length and breadth of This Wide Brown Land. So far our plans include:

- Tumbarumba for the community event on Dec 5th
- Attendance at the last Snowy Ride in April
- Another Big Ride around the stations (and probably up the middle from Adelaide to Darwin before that
- Another ride later in the year involving all those places we were planning to visit in February (but will have to cancel) around the Snowys, Bega, central Victoria etc.

So that's the President's Report for November 2021.

Joe