

White Horse Whispers

The Newsletter of The Motor Scooter Association of Victoria

FEBRUARY 1967

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THE NOTICE BOARD

All club functions are set at a certain time. Be there on time!

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Remember NO THONGS or OPEN TOE SHOES are to be worn when riding with the Club!

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Any person running in, please inform the Captain, and arrangements will be made.

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All members are required to attend as many runs as possible, for publicity photos.

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Itineraries may now be obtained from MAYFAIR MOTORS. (Eliz St City)

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For all camps the committee must be notified who is attending 2 FULL weeks before camp.

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There is a suggestion box at all Club Socials for any practical idea that may improve the club.

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If your contributions are to receive a prominent position in the Whispers, they should be submitted to the Editors early in the month.

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All members interested in a scooter only camp, please notify the committee

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All irritating articles in this edition are hereby retracted.

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THE GREAT SCOOTER SAGA OF 1966

OR

How to go to a Scooter Rally without seeing a single event

By Peter B. Liddalow (Lambretta TV 200)

This story has its beginning in some far, remote village in the dim dark past....in Sydney, in Easter 1966. The first faint inklings of the magnificent INTERNATIONAL SCOOTER RALLY were breathed to me in some dingy shop down a back alley in the sleaziest, evillest quarter of Sydney – the Lambretta Distributors Pty. Ltd of William Street.

Having been indoctrinated into the idea of appearing, despite the distance (Katoomba, N.S.W.) and the date (Dec 26 – Jan 4) I proceeded to prepare with all haste and efficiency. While bringing my machine up to good order I arranged for two travelling companions for the trip up.

Dec. 22: Johnny Barker unable to come due to work commitments, other companion blows a piston in his Ducati

Dec. 23: Arise at 5am with high hopes of early start. Left at 8am, alone. Reach the high road after fighting Melbourne traffic for an hour. Settled down to 50-55 mph with regular stops for refreshments and petrol. Across the ranges, very warm, speed only 50mph. Started to sing for amusement but soon shut my mouth after tasting several flying bugs. Stop for proper lunch, Albury, 2.30pm.

Left Albury, 3.30pm and up the Olympic Way to Wagga. Weather got and unsettled with thunder showers that disappear as soon as I put on my raincoat. (Very hot, that coat in midsummer). Reach Wagga 6.30pm. Onward and 5 miles outside Cootamundra, 8.00pm k broke a clutch cable. Stuck in 3rd, I chug into town looking for a service station and stall it in main street in front of the pub. With encouraging remarks from local drinkers I pushed it to a station and replaced the cable in two hours.

No tea. Carried on regardless and reached Young 11.15pm. Shortly after, having woken up for the fourth time on the wrong side of the road, I decided to camp. At Lendick Murrel I rigged a tent against my scooter and slept two yards off the road. Continuing at 6.30am I reached Blayney for breakfast (9.00am), then Bathurst, Lithgow and Katoomba. I looked around for signs of the Rally, but finding nothing continued on to Sydney. I had an oil leak around the silencer but no known other troubles.

Dec. 26: After suitable Xmas orgies with my parents and friends in Sydney, I journeyed to Katoomba. Ten miles before the Rally I developed a loud banging from the exhaust system. Suspecting a broken gasket I thundered through Katoomba. Upon dismantling it later I found a bracket had vibrated loose from the muffler tearing a 2 inch diameter hole in it – my oil leak. Unable to repair that day for welding shops were shut. Rally activities consisted of horsing around the town and its scenery – no events until the weekend. I went home by train.

Dec. 27: arrived at Katoomba by car, spent all day repairing scooter in drizzly weather. Fixed by nightfall, but fog bound – attempt to escape but couldn't see the road surface and dented a wheel rim on an unseen pothole. Spent night at Rally in Vespa club tent.

Dec. 28: Leave for Sydney early, arrive with a back wheel wobble. After examining decide I need a new rear wheel hub.

Dec. 29: Hubs unobtainable in Sydney – a national parts shortage with Lambretta Distributors in Sydney closed for two months. I repair the hub as best I can and pack.

Dec. 30: Leave Sydney 6.00am down Hume Highway. Uneventful trip to Yass, 2.30pm for lunch. Check oil, hub etc and leave 3.30pm. Six miles past Yass I round a curve at 45mph and the end of the rear axle breaks off, spitting the hub nut into the bushes never to be seen again. The hub jerks off the remaining axle stub locks solid and I skid off the road, upright. Supremely calm in the midst

of crisis I hitch hiked around uselessly for several hours until I had the bike put on the train by a tow-truck. I travelled to Yass to await the Spirit (of Progress) to Melbourne.

Dec. 31: 12.55am catch train to Melbourne after waiting up all night. Finally arrived 10am on Saturday morning. After doing some shopping I jumped on the other scooter and drove down to Inverloch for New Year with the club.

Note 1. At latest estimate, cost of repairs is in excess of \$40.00

Note 2. At the time of writing, scooter is still coming by freight. There is also news of a train accident with total loss of some freight. I wonder if that was the train...

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Feb 3:

Social:

Minutes from last social, apologies from those who could not attend this social & correspondence was read, from outside organizations. Members were reminded that the club road rules are to be obeyed. Some members have appeared before the committee, for misconduct on the Seaford run.

There will be a competition for a new club banner, which will be prominently displayed on all club functions. This competition will be run for the next 3 months, ending May or April, this year. This banner must clearly state the name of the Association and be of simple and practical design, keeping the cost of the design to a minimum.

The Kangaroo Rally was discussed, which will be held 11, 12, and 13 of March. Anyone interested in attending must contact the committee one full week before camp.

The committee has decided that the Easter camp will be held at Albury (near city). There will be day trips to places of interest around Albury.

The committee suggested that a trophy be awarded to the member who attends most club functions, over a period of 12 months, from February 3, 1967.

Volunteers have been called for to inform the scootering and light-cycle public in the city, of our activities.

The club has inserted an advertisement in Saturdays Age, for a trial period of one month, which is the for-runner of a membership drive, which will be held in the near future, the date of which has not been decided.

A discussion was held of the possibilities of changing the club – uniform, any practical suggestion will receive the proper attention of the committee.

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Leen Too, he say:-

Other fellows sin, he like car lights, he always appear more glaring than your own!

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An idea of what the new banner could look like and is a suggestion of the Editors. The banner will be 3'9" long X 3' high. The erected banner will, at its lowest level, be 6'6" from the ground. It will be braced by guy ropes and the poles will be collapsible

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EDITORS COMMENT

This is a statement of opinion by the Editors.

Due to much discussion about the name of the Association, we have brought forward a suggestion to include cycle into the name of the Association, therefore making the name THE MOTOER SCOOTER & CYCLE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA. This will abide by the constitution and will not cause undue confusion.

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If the present committee is to be allowed to improve the club in anyway, they MUST have the full co-operation of ALL members. As the committee has been landed with more work than any other previous committee, in regards to uniform, new banner, the name of the Association, a revision of the constitution, a forthcoming membership drive and also attempting to publicise the club in various ways, THINK before criticising any motion brought forward at the socials and worthwhile suggestions will Not Be Shelved and you will have a much more efficient club.

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As this edition will be issued on the Presentation Night, we wish to congratulate all those awarded:-

Life Membership,
Honorary Membership
Merit Stripes.

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Feb 5:

Portsea and ferry to Queenscliff:

14 bikes arrived at Portsea, 12 members and 2 possible members, also along for the run were 4-5 cars. Lunch was bought and we then wandered down to the ferry, which was detained because of Hoppy or as one of the crew put it Mrs Nelson (known to us as Sheila). The ship was then cast off and the engines began their monotonous task for the overseas crossing. Although no one turned green during the voyage, one member was slightly affected by the reaction of a toffee apple! Len, Sandra and prospective members Brian, arrived on the next ferry. Some went for a swim, while the remainder decided to flake out on the beach. How big is a pot? (Ask john)

At 3/45 we were back at the jetty, awaiting the arrival of the homeward bound ferry. The embarkation soon took place and we were on our way for the second crossing. It was half way across that the passengers began to panic as we were on a collision course with a freighter, on its way through the heads. As the freighter crossed our bow, Cynthia started to call for her Daddy, who happens to be a harbour pilot. Thank heavens sheila didn't decide to have her baby then, as we were all in the same boat! Upon arriving back at Portsea we disembarked and made our way back to the parking lot. We then formed into a convoy and headed for the first stop at Frankston. From Frankston it was to the golden bowl, Camberwell, some members leaving the main group and heading for home.

CRYPTIC COMMENTS:

Wonder what OUR FRIEND the MOTOR CYCLE POLICEMAN thought, when he stopped Alan C (who was the leader) and the rest of the club stopped too!

Half a MO Bruce!

Apparently Trevor's parents do not trust him anymore!

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ETIQUETTE NOTE:

When you dine out, chicken should not be eaten with the fingers. It is more correct to eat fingers separately.

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Feb 12:

Warrandyte:

14 bikes, 2 cars arrived in Warrandyte where lunch was bought. We then decided to go on to Pond Bend which is a couple of miles down the road, past the township. It was here that those nice new

black Hondas soon became brown, due to the dusty conditions. Some decided to stay where we parked and watch the retrieving dogs in training, whilst the more active elements went down to the tunnel, which is about 200 yards downstream. Tony James then found a swing which was a wire cable attached to the bough of a suitable tree and went over the Yarra. Some of the more muscular members showed off their ancestry and all sustained minor injuries.

Left Warrandyte at 1.30 going through Kangaroo Ground to Eltham, where prospective member Brian showed us how ignorant we all were about Yamahas. As no one could figure out the trouble Tony arranged to give him a tow. Next stop David Jennings at E. Preston, for coffee. Then on to Barney's. As we couldn't find Barney or his RABBIT! Kevin conducted an organised moan on the nature strip, MOST EFFECTIVE! On to the Golden Bowl, Camberwell, where a local of the area, our KNOWLEDGEABLE President led us down a one way street much to the surprise of the local constabulary. We then decided to make this our dispersal point.

WELCOME TO:

Pat who rides a Honda 50, Charlie on a Honda 90 and the owner of a Jawa 250, whose name has slipped our memories.

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Woman to man, "I didn't mind your wanting to get a better job before we got married. Nor you're wanting to save some money. Nor your wanting to buy a house first but I'm dammed if I'm going to wait till the kids get an education!"

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Feb 19:

Maroondah:

Left Alex Ave at 9.15am and 17 bikes arrived at Lilydale for coffee. As a matter of interest 11 of the 17 bikes were Hondas and a new member to the Honda set is Brian. Remember Brian? He's the one who made us ignorant last week. Arrived in Maroondah for lunch and after we had our fill, went for a hike across the dam and up the other side, where we found a shady area. So needless to say this is where we spent the afternoon, flat on our backs, listening to Steptoe and doing nothing else in particular until about 2.00, when we headed back to the bikes. The majority going back across the dam, but 4 decided to go down a less beaten path, just about going Base over Apex.

Left Maroondah about 3.00 and after stopping in Healesville for no particular reason, we set off for Mont Albert (dispersal point) with some members breaking off at various intervals and going their own way home.

Welcome to:

Lorraine-Honda 50,
Bruce-Honda 50,
Who were on their first run with the club?

CRYPIC COMMENTS:

What's up with Yamahas Brian?
Who suggested pies for lunch?
Sue may I introduce Peter.

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Young mother says to friend. "I want my son to follow in his father's footsteps, if I can find where he went!"

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Feb 24:

Slotcars:

As neither of the Editors were present for this evening, we can only write what we were told. This along with the conversation which took place at Ferny Creek follows.

Q/ What happened at the slot cars last Friday?

A/ Ha ha!!

Q/ How many bikes and cars?

A/ 8 bikes 2 cars.

Q/ Where did you go?

A/ Sth Yarra.

Q/ What happened there?

A/ Oh What? Ha Ha!! Beauty!

Q/ Yeah, but what happened?

A/ Well Graeme 2 won cause his car stayed on the track the most, Ha Ha!! After the cars we went for a trip down to Brighton, then back to Fitzroy St for coffee, did U-ees in the main street and arrived home about midnight.

Well that's about all we could get and all we can add is that those present for this run apparently had a good time.

CRYPTIC COMMENTS:

Note to Graeme 2. Footpaths are not MINI roads!

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Rush Job:

In the midst of a busy morning, the country agricultural agent got a call from a woman who said she was starting a chicken farm and wanted to know how long she should leave the rooster with the hens.

"Just a minute," said the agent, who was busy talking on another phone.

"Thank you very much," said the woman and hung up.

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Feb 26:

Nicholas Institute and John's Hill;

14 bikes and 3 cars were present for this run, which is not a bad turn-up as the weather wasn't the best. We duly arrived at Ferny Gully where we bought lunch, then set off for the institute, arrived and had lunch. It was then found that Peter P and Loraine were missing, so a one man search party was organised and the 2 lost ones were found on their way back to Mt Dandenong.

We then had a look around the gardens, which were not quite as good as we had hoped, but at least it was a change. Left the institute and headed for John's Hill Lookout via Kallista, made a wrong turn at this point so, turned around made another wrong turn and ended up at the lookout the back

way. Not bad considering that the leader didn't know there was a back way! The view from the lookout is really something to see on a clear day but again owing to the weather there wasn't much to see and our stout hearted members were shivering in their boots so we made a hasty retreat back to F.T. Gully which was to be the dispersal point, half going home the rest staying for tea and sandwiches.

CRYPTIC COMMENTS:

There were 2 falls in the gardens. Loraine and the water.

Have some ham sandwiches!

Who forgot to welcome Howard-Honda 50, on his first run with the club on Feb 19 (Editors maybe?).

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Lean Too, he say:-

Sense Of Humour, he what make you laugh at something that make you hopping mad if it happen to you!

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The Editors give thanks to:-

Mr Peter Liddlow and Mrs C. Ratcliffe. For their help and contributions in this issue of The Whispers.

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THE END