



From the boss

HMCC Presidents Report December 2023

Hello All

I'm back home safe but not entirely sound from the Thailand MotoGP and two weeks riding in Vietnam. What an intense experience, there is so much to take in and watch out for.

We hired XR 150s which had done a few hard kms and had followed the Vietnamese service program. Which is, no matter how worn a part is, it is only replace it when it breaks. So, with the nine bikes we had there were a few stoppages for repairs until the worst parts were eliminated. This did not make them good from then on, just usable.

Considering the state of the roads, the amount of traffic and hazards I felt these worn-out farm bikes were a good fit. The local road users consist of chickens, Dogs, Water buffalo, kids of all ages (walking playing, biking or electric scooters) Scooters with 1 to 5 passengers or carrying anything from a 3 meter square pane of glass to an 800 ltr fridge or even two other scooters. Then cars and trucks of every size all of them using the same piece of road and at times in opposite directions.

The rules are you ride on the right-hand side. The cars and trucks stick mainly to the middle to avoid the scooters but if you are not going far you can use very left of the road also. The gist of the rules is summed up by the traffic lights. Green means go, Orange also means go and red is probably ok to go as well. But this system of lack of it seems to work (not counting the 6000 fatalities per year) but with 97 million people I think this is the only way it can work. In the first few days the close calls stood out and were discussed over a beer or two but eventually I stopped noticing them and that is how it is. The other stand out is that no one is bothered by anything anyone does wrong.



We started our ride in Da Nang riding north near Laos and up to the Chinese border, then back to Hanoi. Along the way the food varied from fantastic to barely edible and eventually played havoc with my systems. The beers were cheap but not always cold but like anything you become accustomed to it.

One take away I experience is how many people are so interested in our adventure and how many of them have it on their bucket list. The biggest hurdle is the step from wanting to do it to committing to do it, after that the details are not that difficult to work out. The trip we took was not expensive, the time is always hard to find. You just have to bite the bullet and put some things on hold briefly to do it. As a rider I could not recommend it more; it rates up there with my best motorcycling experiences.

Back to club stuff. This Thursday is club night. Come along, ask me any questions and checkout a new bike I'll be picking up from Boyds, hopefully a big release from BMW which is due any day now.

Chris Bridge

HMCC President





Calendar For the Month

Christmas ride

Road Riders Xmas Dinner - Raglan - Dec 14th

Head over to Ragers on your bike, for a slower, more sumptuous experience than the November Fish'n'Chip run

Sorry, venue hasn't been booked yet, but will be notified on FB, and on Rays Road Rider Text list

Road Rides

Club ride to Clevedon and back on Nov 12th

8 bikes (3 with pillions) arrived at BP Rototuna ready to depart at the scheduled time of 10am.

Steve P (Aprilia Tuono), Steve S (Triumph 1050 Sprint), Steve D (Paul Smart replica Ducati), Terry (1250 Bandit), Mike (Harley sportster), myself and Michelle (Guzzi V1100 Brevia), Pete and Sharon (ST 1300 honda) and John and Denise (on their newly acquired Harley Road King).

Terry led us out thru Horsham Downs, past Lake D, around a few of the rural roads to end up in Taupiri. From there we rode up past Lake Waikare, through the edge of the Maramarua forest onto SH2 and past the Maramarua golf course before turning off to the right towards Hunua. After a brief ride on an "extra" bit of road we did a U turn and got back on the correct road to Hunua where we had a quick stop for a small tanked bike to top up with fuel. We then took Sky High Rd (called Monument rd at the Clevedon end) and after a tourist stop to take some photos, we rode down a short distance into Clevedon for our lunch stop at the Clevedon pub. This pub has been refurbished (compared to what it used to be like) and was so busy that we were lucky to get a table to be able to eat from their very expensive food and drinks menu!

Most of us left there about 1pm (as a couple of us had to be back in Hamilton for commitments at 3pm) and rode out through Kawakawa Bay to Kaiaua. From there we took Kaiaua Rd, turned into Miranda Rd for a short distance, then into (another) Monument Rd and turned left once we got back onto SH2. From there we took Okaeria Rd, Cuzen Rd and Storey Rd (thru Waiterimu), onwards through Te Hoe, Whitikahu, Gordonton and back to BP Rototuna, then home from there by 3.15pm.

The round trip was approx. 280kms for us. Terry included some excellent back roads with very little traffic most of the way. Everyone rode at their own pace, with the riders out front stopping at each intersection to make sure no-one got left behind, apart from in Clevedon where we got a bit separated from the others, but we eventually regrouped.

If you want to have a good days ride, check out this route on a map (or get Terry to lead you for a ride). It is over some really good roads and it takes you through some really good and scenic parts of little travelled rural NZ.

Cheers,

Bruce,



Trails

Hi All,

Xmas trial for Hamilton club.

Please return or make arrangements for all trophies to be available at the Xmas trial on 10th of Dec.

Results for last trial available on

[Trials results and upcoming events](#)

Flyer out soon.

Cheers

Tony



HAMILTON MOTORCYCLE CLUB



Hamilton MCC Xmas Trial and Prize giving

10th December 2023

**Killalea's Property,
943 Tahuna Road, OHINEWAI.**

Signposted at property
on Tahuna road

Sign on 9:30 Event start 10:30

Entry \$20 Juniors \$5 per day

Spot Prizes for those riders attending.

Be there or miss out.

Contacts

Jim Henderson 0273665842

Trails Results

News & Reports

**“AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
TO PROMOTE MOTORCYCLING FOR THE GOOD OF MOTORCYCLING”**

**THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF THE CONTRIBUTORS ARE THOSE
OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF THE EDITOR
OR THE HAMILTON MOTOR CYCLE CLUB INC.**

I SOLD YOUR MOTORCYCLE



**NOW WE CAN SPEND MORE TIME
TOGETHER**