

Tappet



Rattle



Official Newsletter:

**British Motorcycle
Association Inc.
Mackay**

Issue 1: 2025



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From the President

Happy New Year to all our members and I trust you had a great Christmas break.

On a sad note, we pass on our condolences to Ramon in the passing of his wife Rosa.

As you can see, we are attempting to resurrect the Tappet Rattle and my wife, Joslyn has agreed to have a go at getting at least a few issues out each year. At this stage there is no timeframe on the spacing of issues, they will simply be produced when we have enough stories to produce something worthy of printing up. The Rattle will not follow the previous format, nor will it contain too much internet content just for the sake of producing, so bear with us, get your stories in and support Jos where you can. Jos will attempt to run a member profile in each issue, and she is kicking the year off with a story on Ken Cullen. Put your hand up if you want in.

As you can see in the Ride Calendar sent out, the All Bike Show is now on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of August. This date change was placed upon us by the Turf Club after we finalised a date in June at the January meeting but is now locked in. Steve Hammer (Sledge) will be coordinating all aspects of the show and will call a general get together in the not so distant future for those interested in assisting in various roles to get the show on the road. The likes of shirts, trophies, layout etc, etc will be discussed at that meeting. If you have any ideas or input, I urge you to run it past Sledge before committing to anything as he has some planning underway already.

If you would like to advertise in the Tappet Rattle, please contact Joslyn.

Looking forward to a great 2025.

Cheers

Bernie.

From the VP

The Old Station Air Show is on again this year, and a contingent from BMOA will be attending, dates are, 23rd – 25th May, a 2 or 3 day trip down with the old Chamberlin will be in order for those interested, and the same coming back home. For those just wanting to attend the air show only, you can make your own way there and meet up at the venue, as several did last time. Can travel by motorcycle, car, truck, whatever mode of transport you choose, Chamberlin does around 50 – 60km/h, so your mode must keep up, push bike may be a little slow.

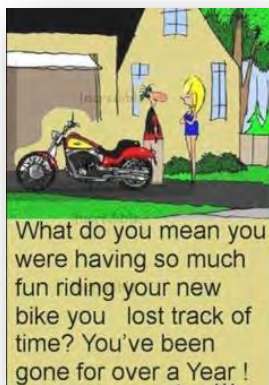
The show is not just about aircraft, there is a big display of tractors, trucks, cars, motorcycles, and people, some weird and wonderful ones. The motorcycle display is open to all motorcycle, old, not so old, reasonably new, and new if anyone chooses. Motorcycle, Truck, and Car displays are all within close proximity to where we camp, as is the food and drink outlets. Over other side of the runway is the tractor display, and tractor pull, and some other unusual displays. Saturday afternoon will see the air show, and a brilliant show it was last time, total of around 2 half hours of fantastic aerial display, some high in the sky, some low on show.

Tim and I will discuss the route that will be travelling down and back with the Chamberlin, and most likely a few motor cars, will be some dirt roads, nothing any normal motorcyclist won't be able to handle at the speeds we will be traveling at. Will endeavour to find nightly stops at a suitable watering hole (pub) probably need a recon mission to sort that out, we are big boys, can handle that. Will advise people of the route when sorted, will also have an option for those who want to stick to the black stuff, and travel a bit faster, to meet up with us at the appropriate nightly stop, don't have to stick together like glue, no herding of cats will take place, all will converge as one eventually, and no big kilometres travelled in a day, just a leisurely trip. Will most likely have trailer to take peoples gear, within reason, no need for kitchen sink, not needed, no washing up to do.

Andy's Thoughts on the Weather.



Motorcycle Riding is FUN!



Member Profile.

This issue we feature Mr. Ken Cullen.

1. What was your first machine – 80K Suzuki (80cc)
2. How long did you have this machine- Not sure, But I still have the owner's manual.
3. List of other bikes you have owned, Borrowed or Stolen –
T20 Suzuki (Super 6), X5650 Yamaha, R100 DD BMW, B44 Dirt Bike, B25 B40 Trials, 250 Honda Berkley Frame, Road Bike.
4. Which was your favorite – All
5. Which was the worst – None
6. Which motorcycle would you most like to own – R80GS BMW?
7. Are you just into British Bikes or do you enjoy all – Enjoy all

8. The most memorable experience on or with motorcycles – Trips to Lion's Den, Cooktown etc., Weekends to "Humpy" Pinevale and Enduros at Emerald. 11. What is the best part of being a motorcyclist – Mixing with likeminded people.



9. What are you working on now – NX650Honda
10. What bike I have you just finished – B40 BSA

Kens Story

I was 16 years old when I got my first bike. Woolly Kurkowski, a friend of mine, bought a motorcycle from the Suzuki dealer in town and he took it for a ride when he got home. He was pulled up by the police and was fined for being underage. His grandmother made him sell the motorcycle back to the Suzuki dealer and knowing that bike I bought it. I had no bike license and had a friend that rode it from the shop to my home for me. At home I would practice riding it around the house. I rode the motor bike the first day to work at West Plane Creek via the farmers cane paddocks and I would practice riding around on the head lands. When I turned 17, I rode to Sarina police station and asked to get a motor bike license. The police officer asked me how I got to the police station and I replied I rode here. The police officer had a look at the motor bike and said yes you can have your bike license and I also got a tractor license. Then when the time came for me to get my car license, I was working at Yukan and driving a GT Torana and the cane farmer said you better settle your nerves prior to the test so we pulled up at the pub before going to the police station for the driving test and yes, I got my car license.

Ken in his favorite place, the shed, working on bikes.



This Darned Motorbike

In the late 70's I built the XL 250 Bultaco Frame with a Honda Motor and sold it to a club member. He moved south and left the bike at his sons place, his son made it into a trike and towed his tinny around with it, then later put it back into a two-wheeler as his father wanted it back. The father got a couple more years out of it but complained he couldn't set the points so the son pulled it down and



the cam was completely distorted so he gave up on it. My brother asked what happened to the shock absorbers as they were specially built for him over in Europe. I went out to see him and give him \$50 for the shocks and took other parts home as well and

rebuilt the bike. This is the bike that tried to kill me. I was out riding with club members on a dirt road and the bike high sided me up into big rocks and I got smashed up bad. I had to be air lifted out in a helicopter to the hospital and spent five days in ICU.

I suffered seven broken ribs, a broken collar bone, broken shoulder blade and a punctured lung. The bike was still in one piece though. That happened in 2012. I rode that bike a few times again but a bloke in Moranbah made me an offer for the bike that I couldn't refuse.

This bike was put in "On Yer Bike" Exhibition at Artspace Mackay on 11th November 2018.

Joslyn Cannon

● IN THE COURTS

Stolen motor cycle parts hidden in scrub

Evidence of how motor-cycle accessories were hidden in the bush was given in Mackay Court of Petty Sessions yesterday before Mr. J. C. Baker, S.M.

The case was one in which Brian John Bloomfield (18), and Kevin Clifford Beckmann (17), laborers, were charged that, on January 21 last, at Oakenden, they stole two motor cycle tyres, two motor cycle tubes, a motor cycle chain, a motor cycle horn, and an ammeter, valued at £12/2/3, the property of Francis Steven Selby. Detective Sergeant L. E. Hughes, who prosecuted, stated that Selby was a cane farmer at Homebush, and on January 21 went fishing.

He left his motor cycle and side-car parked on the side of the road near the creek, and on returning later during the afternoon, found that it had been stripped of the articles mentioned in the charge.

A complaint was made to the police, and investigations were carried out by Detective Sergeant Hughes and Plainclothes Constable E. J. Aspinall.

Yesterday the police interviewed Bloomfield and Beckmann, and they admitted having stolen the articles at about 3 p.m. on January 21.

Detective Hughes said Bloomfield and Beckmann had secreted the articles in the bush, and they had returned a few days later and picked them up.

They took them to the home of another youth who had been dealt with in the Children's Court.

Beckmann and Bloomfield had previously been questioned by the police in connection with the theft of the articles, and had strenuously denied they were implicated in any way.

It was only due to persistent inquiries by the police that Beckmann and Bloomfield were ultimately apprehended, he added.

The property mentioned in the charge had been returned to Selby by Beckmann and Bloomfield on the Sunday prior to their arrest.

Beckmann was fined £5, in default a month's imprisonment, and Bloomfield £10, in default two months' imprisonment. Beckmann was allowed a week to pay the fine and Bloomfield two weeks.

Things have apparently not changed much since 1951. This article was in the Daily Mercury on the 13th of February 1951.

At least they copped a fine which appears hefty back then and threatened with jail time if not paid.

Better than a slap on the wrist and no conviction recorded, that they dish out now.



25 LDR, The NT Experience.

Many don't realise it but the Identifying the BMOA LDR is a pretty exhausting task as this year it will be the 28th LDR I have organised and finding somewhere we have not been getting harder and harder.

The planning of the ride starts at least 6 months out and it generally takes all of that to bring it together, first of all identifying the Destination, Identifying the route and then cementing in the participants, this ride will have a total of 8 participants with 7 riders and 1 Support Vehicle as this ride is nearly 6000Klms long.

Once that is done its time to start making the accommodation arrangements and this literally can take 100's of hours searching on the Internet for suitable accommodation at the various destination along the way and then making the 100's of phone calls securing the accommodation. In some cases, this accommodation has to be paid for in advance and in most cases secured with My Credit Card Details. This time it has become so difficult to identify accommodation to our requirements in Darwin I have actually enlisted the Northern Territory Visitor Information Service to see if they can help identifying accommodation in our LDR Destination of Darwin. As it will be Peak Tourist Season, so things are already booking out with all the accommodation in place. We then just sit back and take a breather for a little while but all the time keeping the participants updated with any developments or changes as I can assure these LDR's are like "Herding Cats on a Dark Night without a Shotgun" as all participants are given a detailed Ride Plan with all the Distances and Refuelling stops and Accommodation details and Costs etc, etc, but inevitably I get the "Are We there Yet" or "How far to the Next Servo". The one thing I can say with pride in all the LDR's that I have organised I have never run anyone out of fuel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Dempsey", written over a horizontal line.

world tavern TRIVIA

Eat • Drink • Think



DATE:
TIME:

ROUND 1 – Biker Theme Multiple Choice

Directions: Rev up those engines and get ready for a warm up round of Biker Questions. Each question is multiple choice and will be worth 10 brain cells! Good luck!

1. When did Harley-Davidson first start selling sidecars to go along with its bikes?
A) 1901 B) 1914 C) 1939
D) 1955

2. Which city in the American Midwest is home to the Harley-Davidson museum?
A) Milwaukee B) Madison
C) Chicago D) Detroit

3. Which of these major motorcycle manufacturers is NOT based in Japan?
A) Honda B) Suzuki C)
Zongshen D) Yamaha

4. What famous actor drove a motorcycle over a German prison camp's fence in 1963's "The Great Escape"?
A) Steve McQueen B. Marlon Brando
C) James Dean D) Charlie Chaplin

5. What Rolling Stone Magazine writer rode with the Hell's Angels for a year in order to write a tell-all book?
A) Cameron Crowe B) Hunter S. Thompson
C) Truman Capote D) Lester Bangs

6. Which of these actors did NOT star as a biker in the 1969 classic road film, "Easy Rider"?
A) Jack Nicholson
B) Dennis Hopper C) Henry Fonda
D) Robert De Niro

7. What is the approximate ratio of motorcycles to cars worldwide?
A) 2 bikes for every 1 car B) 1 bike for every 2 cars
C) 1 bike for every 3 cars
D) 1 bike for every 10 cars

8. In which country was the first motorcycle invented (called the Reitwagen)?
A) UK B) Japan
C) Germany D) Norway

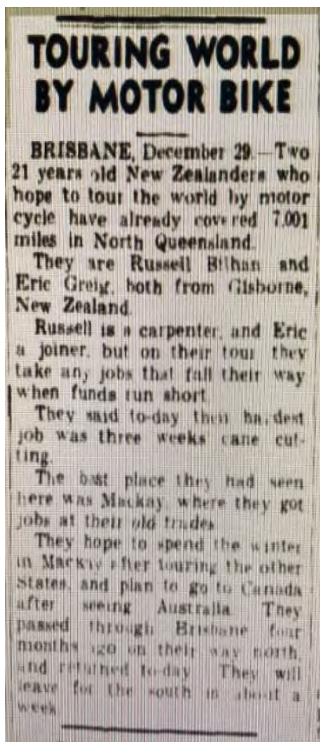
9. Which of these words is not part of the motorcycle safety training acronym, SIPDE?
A) Scan B) Initiate
C) Predict D) Decide

10. In which of the following famous movies did Marlon Brando star as the leader of a menacing bike gang?
A) On the Waterfront
B) A Streetcar Named Desire
C) Last Tango in Paris
D) The Wild One

ANSWER KEY

AT THE BACK

Mackay - as good now as it was then.



BRISBANE, December 29.

Two 21 years old New Zealanders who hope to tour the world by motorcycle have already covered 7,001 miles in North Queensland. They are Russell Bilhan and Eric Greig, both from Gisborne, New Zealand. Russell is a carpenter, and Eric a joiner, but on their tour, they take any jobs that fall their way when funds run short. They said today, their hardest job was three weeks cane cutting. The best place they had seen here was Mackay, where they got jobs at their old trades. They hope to spend the winter in Mackay after touring the other states, and plan to go to Canada after seeing Australia. They Passed through Brisbane four months ago on their way north and returned today. They will leave for the south in about a week.

News Clip Townsville Daily Bulletin Saturday 30th December 1950

Over Beer

Try This

TEQUILA SUNRISE

INGREDIENTS

2 parts tequila

5 parts orange juice

1/2 part grenadine

1 orange slice and 1 maraschino
cherry, to garnish

Pour the tequila and orange juice into a highball glass filled with ice. Stir. When it settles, pour the grenadine in a circle around the top of the drink and let it fall to the bottom. Garnish with a slice of orange and a maraschino cherry.

TRIVIA

The Tequila Sunrise may have originated at the Agua Caliente racetrack in Mexico in Prohibition times, when Californians drove across the border to take part in the races and enjoy legal hits of liquor.





ANSWER KEY

1. B) 1914
2. A) Milwaukee
3. C) Zongshen
4. A) Steve McQueen
5. B) Hunter S. Thompson
6. D) Robert De Niro
7. B) 1 Bike for every 2 cars
8. C) Germany
9. B) Initiate
10. D) The Wild One



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the Treasurer.**

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Sleeve \$25.00, Polo's Long Sleeve \$30.00,
Machine Badge \$25.00, Lapel Badge
\$5.00, Badge Sew On \$8.00, Stubby
Coolers \$8.00, Belt Buckles \$25.00.