

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CANBERRA HARLEY OWNERS GROUP**

**Thursday 7 June 2007
Held at Eastlake Football Club at 7pm**

Members present: John Weldon, Col Hosie, Wobbly, Olaf Moon, Hammer and Marie, Ron and Maree Tollenaar, Kym and Ross Benjamin, Carol and John Day, Deb and Alan Fitch, Pia and David Mylan, Paul and Terri Brandy, Kris and Col Macauley, Graeme Swinton; Shaun Cummins, Graeme Cottrell, Sally Crosbie, Karen and Richard Gardner, Emu, Rob Hamilton,

Visitor: Russ Martin, Past Director, Mark Draper

Apologies: Pam Corrigan

Meeting opened at 7.10pm

Secretary's Report: Due to work commitments Jim McVicar is no longer able to be Secretary. Marie thanked Jim McVicar for being a great Secretary and said that there would be a few changes to the Committee due to people handing over their roles to someone else after the AGM. After being warmly welcomed by Marie and CHOG members Michele Gorman undertook her first secretarial duties and distributed newsletters from various Chapters from around Australia. Mail in was the CBA bank statement, rego renewal for the CHOG trailer and an advertising brochure from a B&B in Gundagai.

Treasurer's Report: Graeme Swinton reported that the balance at the end of May for the cheque account was \$2,599.31, and for the term deposit was \$3,166.65, totalling \$5,765.96. Graeme has lodged the Annual Statement and presented the Profit and Loss Statement to the Secretary for filing. Graeme also questioned whether we should register the trailer, and was advised by Marie to go ahead. The cost of

registering the trailer had gone up from \$60 to \$100.

Money banked last month \$1,832.80 which consisted of:

- * \$886.63 for POT refund from JB, Hammer and Kiwi
- * \$15 return of float from Biggles from Hunter Valley trip
- * \$7.27 interest
- * \$923.00 merchandise sales and new memberships

Cheques made out for month of May came to \$717.18 which consisted of:

- * \$165.18 BBQ costs
- * \$352.00 cost of pins (cheque to Robbos)
- * \$200.00 Robbos Gift voucher for prize for membership renewal day

\$ Balance brought forward 4,650.34

Plus money banked in April +1,832.80

6,483.14

Less Cheques made out in April -717.18

Balance at end of April **\$5,765.96**

Road Captains Report: Rob Hamilton advised that the First Aid certificate would cost \$166.00 per person. The training company mail out a DVD to each participant to study and this is then followed up by testing and practical training. Each Road Captain would receive their own kit. A date is to be organised for training. Rob Hamilton asked if a subsidy would be provided to the Road Captains for the cost of the training and Marie agreed. The amount needed to be determined.

Rob reported that there had been a Road Captains meeting to discuss the plans for the National and Victorian Rallies. It was decided that there would be a few road captains taking various groups due to people wanting to leave on different dates. The Road Captains for the rallies are:

- * Marie and Hammer, Emu and Daisy (with the support vehicle) are

riding to the National Rally leaving Canberra on Wednesday 24 October and travelling via Wagga/Finley to Deniliquin and on to Mildura and through South Australia to Nuriootpa.

* Marie and Hammer, Emu and Daisy (with the support vehicle) from the National Rally at Nuriootpa to the Victorian Rally on Tuesday 30 October, taking the scenic route via the Great Ocean Road to Queenscliffe and arriving at Cowes, Phillip Island on Friday 2 November.

* David Mylan from the National Rally Nuriootpa, departing Monday 29 October taking a 2 day direct ride home to Canberra.

* Rob Hamilton will only be going to the Victorian Rally and he will be leading the group to the Victorian Rally on Thursday 1 November from Canberra.

* Marie and Hammer, Emu and Daisy (with the support vehicle) and Rob Hamilton will depart the Victorian Rally on the Sunday (4/11) or Monday (5/11) (TBA) and will probably ride via Lakes Entrance first night and up through the mountains to Bombala and back to Canberra.

Rob also mentioned that there had been some great rides lately, including Binalong and Gunning, with good numbers turning up. The Hash Run was great fun, enjoyed by all with about 25 bikes joining in.

The Junee/Coolamon run is organised, pub accommodation booked and it's a 9.30am for 10am departure from the shop. The Road Captain's briefing will be at Hall, not at the shop. Canberra HOG members will be meeting the Wagga Chapter at Junee for lunch and then will continue on to Coolamon.

Mark, who owns a Harley, joined our meeting and he is thinking of joining the Chapter. He was welcomed by Marie.

Activities Officer: Graeme advised that there are lots of runs coming up including:

Sunday 17 June (not an official HOG ride) to Gundaroo, a charity run organised by the MRA for A Day of Difference – a charity set up by Sophie Delizio's father – more information at the shop if required.

Sunday 24 June to Tarrago Pub, meeting at the shop at 10.30am for an 11am departure – this run is a family day, cars and bikes welcome – Biggles and Casper are the Road Captains.

Graeme asked that members please send suggestions for activities to him, keeping in mind that the Calendar is nearly full.

The AGM is being held on 14 July 2007 at 6pm at Eastlake Football Club and the cost is \$25 per head, which has been subsidised by the Chapter. The meeting will be held at 6pm followed by the dinner at 7.30pm. PK and fellow Rock n Rollers will be giving Rock n Roll lessons and demonstrations and the Club will be paying for their meals. The night should be great and Michele was asked to update the AGM flyer with the Rock n Roll details and send to Marie, and Graeme will send to all members.

Marie advised that the new calendar would be in the next Newsletter. The first 3 months rides are confirmed, and other rides have been mentioned for later in the year so people can put the rides in their diaries, these future rides may change.

Biggles advised that details for the Tarago run were on the board at the Shop.

Marie asked that people please put their name on the Run Sheets at the Shop if they are attending a ride. This is particularly important for good planning and especially for catering.

Merchandising Officer: Pia is organising the embroidered name badges, Cowboy has the list if members wish to add their names. The cost will be around the \$8-10 mark for the regulation size with gold letters. Marie confirmed that the name badges are not mandatory for members. Pia advised that she will not be standing for the position of Merchandising officer for next year.

Membership Officer: Marie advised that the computer system which had all the memberships on it had crashed, but thankfully she had

managed to recover all the records. As of 7 June 2007 Canberra HOG has 230 members. There are two reasons for such a rise in membership numbers. Firstly, new members love the whole HOG experience and are joining, and secondly the Club is unique in that the Sponsors pay for the first 12 months membership for all new HOGs. Cowboy is coordinating the whole process really well, making sure that new members are provided with a current Run Sheet, a welcome letter and a membership card. All details are recorded for mailing lists and other relevant data bases.

Ladies of Harley: Meredith was unable to attend the meeting.

Editor: Marie welcomed Daisy as the new Editor and thanked him for the wonderful job he'd done on his first newsletter. The newsletter will be published bi-monthly. Members are asked that they provide their up to date e-mail address if they wish to receive the newsletter electronically. Daisy said he had enjoyed putting the newsletter together. Marie asked everyone to please give their news articles to Daisy – the more the better.

Webmaster: Emu said that due to work commitments the latest photos had not been uploaded on to the website. He apologised and said he would do this as soon as he can. He also said that he had put a weather watch on the website, everyone thought this was a great idea. The membership form is also on the web. Marie said the website is starting to look really good and she also mentioned that she was looking at a member's log-in for Canberra HOG only information.

Marie is also exploring the possibility of texting updates of events to members.

Safety Officer: Marie advised that the role of safety officer will also become available this year and that the role will work under the Head Road Captain. Rider training courses are one of the responsibilities for the new officer and these will be planned for the near future.

Photographer: Flash asked if there would be a space provided at the new shop for the albums that he is planning to put all the photos in.

Marie advised that there will be a space for the albums and JB advised that there will be a computer to view photos on also.

Marie also advised that after the AGM the newly elected historian will be able to work with Flash on what is best for all the photos and memorabilia, and to look at what will go into the Museum at the new shop. Flash believed that hard copy photos in albums would be enjoyed not only by members but for anyone who is visiting the shop.

Marie advised that she had Flash's original CDs and would return them to him. Flash has a copy of the DVD which he bought of the NSW State Rally and people are welcome to have a look at the photos on it but it would need to be returned to Flash. Copies can still be purchased from the Albury Chapter.

Sponsor's Report: Kris advised that Cowboy is their representative when they are out of the shop. She also advised members that the shop does not give HOG discounts and Harley-Davidson do not encourage discounts, it's up to individual dealers. Kris said that the business contributed a great deal to Canberra HOG, including the BBQ, 1st year memberships, POT, safety training and that everyone benefited from these. She also noted that they can't really do anything about people buying Harley products over the internet. Cash benefits to customers don't benefit a business.

Kris also said that they have a good customer loyalty program at the shop and the more people spend the better the program is for them individually.

Kris reminded the meeting that all HOGs should read the Chapter Charter. It is very plainly set out and easy to read and sets out all the HOG rules and regulations clearly.

The new shop will be open for trading from Monday 2 July 2007. The grand opening of the new shop is 28 July 2007. Senator Gary Humphries and John Shingleton, Managing Director of Harley-Davidson Australia will be attending and Greg Robson (aka Robbo) will be MC for the event. Kris asked Flash to be the official photographer, Flash

accepted. Other people attending will be Barry Robinson (another Robbo), and a few other special guests.

Regarding CHOG memorabilia Kris said that we would have to find out what the Club owns and then decide what to do with it. Marie said she will help to go through and decide what has to be displayed, what has to be stored and where. More discussion is needed as to archiving and lockable storage. Kris also mentioned that they will have a flat screen TV on the wall at the shop. Photos and DVDs can be screened on the TV.

Kris mentioned that there would be some fun artwork displayed on the walls at the new shop.

Assistant Directors Report: JB mentioned that he attended his first POT training in New Zealand this year and after talking to other Chapters he realised how lucky Canberra Chapter is to have such supportive Sponsors. Not many other Chapters have this great support.

Russell agreed with JB and said that as a Chapter we stand out.

General Business: Marie said that nomination forms for the Committee were available at the shop. Cowboy is looking after the completed ones due to their confidentiality – please see Rob to put the nominations into the envelope.

7 July 2007 is membership renewal and Club photo day at the shop. When members renew their membership their name will be put into a draw for a \$200 prize. The prize will be drawn at the AGM. This is great way of encouraging members to renew on the day and members don't have to be at the AGM to win the prize. Full memberships are \$35, and \$25 for an associate.

All the general meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month are now back at Eastlake Football Club. From August two tables have been reserved (Table 1 & 2) for members to have a meal before the

meeting.

Marie also mentioned that when photos are given to Flash or Daisy for the newsletter please make sure you have permission from everyone in the photos for the picture to be published. Some people would prefer that they are not in published photos. It was also suggested that members could put a note in the HOG box if you don't want your photo published.

Flash would also like personal profiles of members, if members haven't already given theirs to him already.

T-shirts – Marie advised that she had checked with other clubs Directors (15 Clubs responded and with some very funny replies) to make sure we didn't double up on colours. The voting for the t-shirt colour choice was collated and only 25 people voted out of 230 members. There was no clear colour chosen.

Marie showed members a picture of the style of shirt which Perth are planning to use and said Canberra HOG should also have a unique shirt and design. Marie suggested that the logo on the CHOG stubby holder of the flag pole at Parliament House could be used on the t-shirts. It is the perfect logo because all other Chapters will know who we are and where we are from. It was also mentioned that if we don't use the HOG logo we don't have to use ACME to provide the t-shirts.

Biggles mentioned that we still need the background to be bright so that we stand out and are unique.

Marie added that the Canberra colours are blue and gold and perhaps these colours would be appropriate to use on our shirts. Flash mentioned that the national colour is green.

Marie said she has done some homework regarding prices and we can get printed t-shirts for around \$25 each and they can be supplied within a 2 week period. The meeting said that they wouldn't mind

paying a bit more so long as the quality of the t-shirt is good.

A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous for a new shirt with the Parliament House logo. An amendment to the motion to change the t-shirt colour was amended to include the new logo design. Marie will present to the members a few options with the Canberra logo before proceeding with the order. This was hoped to be before the next meeting.

Ross said the stubby holders needed to be ordered and Kris mentioned that she can send an EPS form with the order. The cost will be \$7.50 each.

Ross also mentioned that he had been reading the HOG Charter and said the membership cost should not exceed \$US24. He also mentioned that a quorum of 50 is not possible at our meetings as we generally don't get this many people at meetings. He also mentioned that voting of Primary Officers had to be 4 – need to look at percentages.

Overall Marie and Kris Macauley advised that the Canberra Chapter By-Laws will be updated as these were formed in 1993.

Rainman reported that the buddy system was working well. Leon, who is a very recent new member was very keen to join HOG, he is very enthusiastic and he loves us. There is another new member that Ron has to contact for a buddy.

Michele advised that from now on all the newsletters would be kept in a 2-ring binder for everyone to read, and it will be stored at HOG Corner at the shop.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.