



Letter from the Director – Deane Blaikie

Hi all fellow Hoggies,

Wow, what interesting times we are in at present. I, along with the rest of the Chapter Exec hope you are all keeping safe. There is plenty of time for you all to be keeping your bikes clean ready for when the doors are opened again, and we can get out and ride.

You will all be aware that all rides have been stopped at this stage, but we will get them going again as soon as we can, so stay tuned for the updates.

During times as these it is where we notice how much we take even the little things for granted. Like popping out to see family or friends, heading down to Road and Sport for a coffee/pizza, meeting mates out on the road for a ride, or even just going out for dinner. These will return in time, but it may mean we do these differently. All we can do at this stage is take each day as it comes and enjoy everything life brings us all.

In a couple of months, we will be having our AGM, June 20th. We will send out more information for this when it is available, however at this stage I would ask that you think about this event and the future of our Chapter. This is a time when we catch up with friends, talk about the past rides, events and activities and also talk about the future of the Chapter. And this is where you come in 😊. For the future of the Chapter moving forward we need willing members to offer their services to join the Executive Committee. We have a great Exec at present (and I thank them immensely for all they do) but we do have a few positions that are sitting empty. Can I ask that you seriously consider joining the Exec for the coming year. We meet once a month, the first Tuesday of each month. Our meetings are held upstairs at Road and Sport.

It would be great to have all the Exec positions full. The more committee members we have the more ideas for rides, activities and events. It would mean being able to share the load, so it isn't left to the same few members. Being part of the Chapter's Executive Committee is a great way to meet new members, to be more involved in the running of the Chapter, to share ideas and of course – to have fun.

Please give some thought to this as we need your help.

I would like take this time to thank Shelley and Barry from Road and Sport for their continued support with the Waikato HOG Chapter. I ask that you continue your support to them once the lockdown is over. Road and Sport will once again be open for your needs, parts for your bikes, bike services, clothing etc, so please support them during the months ahead.

So from myself, I ask that you stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all out and about soon.

Deane Blaikie, Director.



National Park – 18 – 19 January 2020

Scribed by Lance Potaka

The long awaited weekend finally arrived and we eagerly headed to Road & Sport to meet up with fellow members.

Nigel Hesford was our Road Captain for the weekend with Shirley riding shotgun. They were joined by Cheri Phillips who always gets a head start on the mileage, coming from Auckland. Ash Owens, Rex and Dinese Collins, Ross Collins, Anthony

Collins, (another Collins reunion) Scott and Larisa Anderson (Ngakuru) Shane Avison (another farmer) Peter Ware and our Tail End Charlie David Haycock. I was lucky enough to have one of my daughters (Kate) along for the ride, which made the weekend extra special for me.

Both Kate and Cheri are Registered Nurses, so in the unfortunate event there



were any mishaps, we were in good company. In addition to this, Kate became our trip photographer, so I just hope I can access her photos out of the Apple clutches, on my old PC.

Following the briefing, Nigel lead us out of Hamilton, through Whatawhata, Pirongia, to Te Kuiti and onto the picturesque SH 30, stopping in Bennydale for lunch. SH 30 is one of my favourites. I have 354 favourite!!

At lunch Encyclopedia Rex Collins enlightened use to the following facts about Bennydale. Coal was discovered in the area in 1931, and a mine was built at the town's present location. In 1940 the government bought the mine and created the township of **Benneydale**, which is a combination of two government officials - undersecretary of mines Charlie Benney and mine superintendent Tom Dale. It is thought that the name **Maniaiti** be added to the settlements name, as this name has been maintained through oral tradition with Māori and means "a small slide, slip". **Population:** 170 (2019).

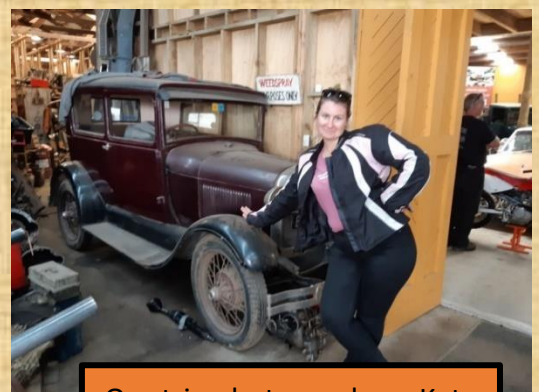


Following lunch we back tracked a little to travel through Waimiha, Onarue and stopped for gas in

Taumarunui. From here we rode through Owango, National Park and stopped at the World Famous in New Zealand, Horopito. Well, the modern times have



Horopito
from it's best
angle.



Our trip photographer - Kate

certainly caught up with Horopito, as they now charge \$10 as opposed to a gold coin donation. Some sat out the tour as they had been more than once before, as had I, however I didn't want Kate to miss out on such a 'rustic' spectacle. From here the team was lead back to National Park Hotel for the evening. A great meal and lemonades were had by all. Breakfast was staged and took a little time to get our fill. Following breakie and our briefing, Nigel lead us up Mt Ruapehu to the top carpark where it was a pleasant 12 degrees.



Some members tried to negotiate with RAL staff for a discount to get a gondola ride up to the restaurant, however they were not sympathetic towards us, offering a staggering 10% of the normal \$49. This kind of reminded me of a 'Black Friday Sale' ad I read. 'Stay home and save 100%' The view coming back down the mountain was spectacular to say the least. On my last visit during summer months in 2016, we came across the New Zealand Trike Racing Champs. They closed off the road during races. These guys and girls are maniacs. Can you imagine flying down the mountain on plastic wheels, sliding around corners, with no brakes!!!



We headed off, homeward bound when I got hit by a bee.

Being allergic to bees I was a little concerned when I saw the sting still in my face. We turned into SH 46 heading towards Rangipo. I took advantage of the slow speed and pulled over to get my resident nurse to pull it out. She took hold of my Leatherman and proceeded to operate roadside. I thought Dave was going to faint, but I could see written all over his face that he was thinking, 'Better Lance than me'. Kate did



a great job and we continued on to gas up in Turangi, after being administered drugs by Dinese, and then heading to the Okoroire pub for a farewell lemonade.

I took Kate back to Hamilton where my temperature guage said it was 30 degrees!!!

Thanks to Nigel for once again leading us on a great weekender, over 600 km of great roads, scenery, and company. Thanks to everyone else for coming along and helping make the trip so enjoyable, and to Kate for taking some photos and videos for us. Great to see cuzzin Cheri again and this time sporting a very nice 1200, and meeting Anthony and Shane.

Stay safe until we see you again.





Mokau - 8th March

Scribed by Janice and Deane Blaikie

We had 16 bikes depart the Caltex Hillcrest Service Station and picked up one more at the BP in Cambridge. The weather was perfect for a ride down the coast, and after we made our way through a few roadworks the hum of the bikes could be heard making our way south.



Whitebait patties (yuck) for those that like them then this is the place to go, Whitebait Inn, Mokau. With the weather playing good we sat outside to eat our lunch. There were other people who had stopped for their lunch as well and in chatting with one of the couples we found out that they are HOG members of the Hogsback Chapter in England. It was

great to meet them and hear about their Chapter and also their holiday around NZ. Email addresses were exchanged in light of future connections whilst traveling.

After leaving Mokau some made their way to the Big Apple Restaurant and Shop (Otorohanga) for a final drink before departing our separate ways home.





Get to know....your Head Road Captain:

Lance Potaka

I have been riding bikes for over 45 years, however purchased my first and currently only Harley Davidson in 2015, following the death of my mother. She rode on the back of most of my road bikes and even some trail bikes. She was 79 years old when she last rode on the back of my Triumph Rocket III. I was left with almost enough money to buy a brand new Harley, so a Road Glide was my weapon of choice after completing a lot of research and test rides. I have since covered almost 70,000km of New Zealand roads in the best manner possible. On a Harley.

My wife Raewyn of 35 years no longer rides as a pillion. When I met her at school, I had to buy a car just to take her out. When she started nursing at Waikato hospital, she would ride on the back. However, that changed when we had 4 children and she became an Intensive Care Nurse.

Some of you have met several of my daughters who love riding pillion.

I was encouraged to join Waikato HOG by the attitude of our recently retired Head Road Captain, Ash Owens. So, thanks Ash, since that day I have met many wonderful members and had numerous great rides and times.

I enjoy riding with Waikato HOG and would describe the members I have ridden with, as more mature in their attitude to enjoying a safe ride. I have ridden with many other groups over the years and have found some are a far cry from the responsible manner in which Waikato HOG conduct themselves. This is something I keenly encourage.

I had been a Road Captain for one year, prior to taking on the role as Head Road Captain, following Ash's retirement after 10 years on the Committee.

I have been known to take the odd wrong turn. One of the reasons for this is that I try to design routes that are different, and hopefully take members down roads they may have never travelled or haven't for some time. Often, I have never been down them either as it is not always practical for me to pre-ride all of them.

An example of this was during Easter weekend 2019 when a small group of us did a 4 day road trip. We rode through Wanganui, so why not ride the world famous 'Cemetery Circuit' or the Hill Climb they race during Speed Week in Wanganui. I'm from Utiku so I'm allowed to say it without the 'h'.

Not many people have even heard of Herbertville? I've been there, and maybe one day you will too.

As the Head Road Captain, I hold four 'Information Days' throughout the year for new members, to introduce them to the HOG way of riding, which is really all about riding and having fun, safely. I support and encourage our Road Captains and Tail End Charlies, who are the dedicated few, who plan the rides and look after their fellow members on Chapter rides. Without these members, we would not be having Chapter rides. So I have recently introduced a ride, just for the Road Captains and Tail End Charlies, where we can spend time together as a team, with their partners, who also give up time with their partners to allow them planning and ride time.

Our rides are well attended by members, which is very encouraging, as I believe we need to encourage not only new members, but older members who haven't ridden for some time with us. Hence I enjoy writing articles about our rides, in the hope that they may enjoy reading these articles and at some stage come out to join us once again.

So, I would like to thank our Road Captains and Tail End Charlies for the work that you do, to enable the Chapter to ride throughout the country in a safe and enjoyable manner. And we also wouldn't have a Chapter if it wasn't for our members. So, thank you too. If you would like to talk to me about what's involved in being a Road Captain or Tail End Charlie, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I believe we have the best H.O.G Chapter. Help us make it better.

Lance Potaka

Road and Sport Harley-Davidson, Waikato HOG and Fat Boy

Celebrating 30 Years

Weekend Rides, Rallies, Parties, Road Trips, Vacations,
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Harley-Davidson owners, customers and enthusiasts
from the Waikato and beyond.



ROAD AND SPORT
MOTORCYCLES



Have you ever given any thought to how a ride is put together?

Your Chapter is in need of additional Road Captains and Tail End Charlies

A Road Captain leads the ride and

A Tail End Charlie offers assistance to members on a ride, if necessary

- **You will learn how to plan and organise a ride the HOG way, which includes all the necessary steps to make the ride enjoyable and safe**
- **You will learn about the policies, designed to make the rides enjoyable and safe for all**

As a Road Captain, you would plan and lead several rides a year.

As Tail End Charlie you follow the group several times a year and offer assistance to members along the way if needed

(assistance is there if you need it)

If you are interested and / or want more information

Please contact

Lance Potaka

headroadcaptain@waikatohog.co.nz

027 287 4731

Whakatane Sport Fishing Club Ride: Sunday 9th February 2020

Scribed by Lance Potaka

Another fantastic day for those of us living in the paradise of New Zealand. Road Captain for the day was myself, and TEC once again was Dave Haycock, who brought a bunch from the Waikato to meet with other members at Tauriko BP. 16 persons in all with a further member from Rotorua to meet us on the way. There were some new and old faces, but great to see them all. There was only one slight hiccup in my planning. We needed a Fishing Club member present to get in for lunch.

Brian Legg luckily put his hand up, and I sighed with relief. We headed up Pyes Pa Road and I thought it would be a good idea to take some roads that perhaps our Waikato brothers and sisters haven't ever been on or not for a long time. So, we went left into Kaharoa Road, then right into Perry Road, coming out onto Hamurana Road via Te Waerenga Road.

From here we continued onto the Rotorua/ Whakatane Road SH 30. No sooner had we got onto SH 30, when a Rice Burning flew passed us in a display of 'I'm faster than you'.



Undaunted and unimpressed, I continued on at my 'large group cruising speed' to keep us altogether as best I can. Eventually getting to the Sport Fishing Club. The Duty Manager John was impressed we had a member to sign us in and 'Cookie' a volunteer Fireman who owns the catering business at the Club, was also there to sign us in. 'Cookie' rides a CVO Street Glide and was immediately our best mate.

Steve from Rotorua thought he had missed us so shot straight through to the Sport Fishing Club and was there to greet us. Following lunch, we gassed

up and newly met Dan, was happy to lead us to the Mata brewery just out of town. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to stop, however will consider for the future.

We hit the road again heading towards Tauranga on the Thornton Road, and turned left onto West Bank Road, immediately after crossing the Rangitaiki River. This road continues on through Edgecumbe and onto Te Teko Road, and back onto SH 30 after travelling via Kawerau, just for something different.

The best part of this road heading towards Lake Rotoma, was spoilt somewhat by a couple of slow vehicles that didn't want us to have any fun in the corners. Nevertheless, it was still nice to be out on the bike.

We got back onto Hamurana Road heading towards Ngongataha, when we witnessed a superlative example of absolute stupidity by a Rice Burner passing us and cars on blind corners. Dave H said it was the same guy who passed us earlier. I didn't think it was because I thought the first guy wouldn't still be alive, however if Dave was right, I take my hat off to the guy for his continued effort to take himself out.

We had an impromptu stop at a park in Hamurana as the traffic was heavy with horse floats and an opportunity to stretch the legs again, and powder our noses.

We took a right off SH 36 into Dalbeth Road, which is a short cut through to SH 5 and on towards to Okoroire Hotel for a final farewell to those still with us.

Covid-19 and our Chapter.

Due to the current Level 4 alert during this pandemic we have cancelled all rides until further notice and put our 30th Anniversary celebrations on hold.

As an Executive we would like to express our gratitude to any of our members who are essential workers during these times. Our thoughts are with you. Keep safe!

We look forward to getting out on our bikes with you again soon. See you on the other side!



Thunder Mountain Rally – Ohakune – 13th/15th March

Scribed by Janice and Deane Blaikie

We were looking forward with much anticipation to this weekend for quite some time, and the day was finally here. The bike was loaded and away we headed.



We meet fellow HOG Chapter members as well as other Harley owners who were joining us for the ride and we departed Road and Sport at 10.30am.

We stopped for lunch at the Dam Café in Whakamaru, spending well over an hour there giving everyone time to catch up, and make new friends.



We arrived in Ohakune mid-afternoon and drove up to the hub of the weekend, the Powderhorn Chateau, at the Station end of Ohakune. It was great to arrive with a group of bikes and park outside the Powderhorn. There were people everywhere! The balcony of the Powderhorn was full of people drinking and watching bikes arrive. Here we registered and got our Thunder Mountain packs.



After settling into our accommodation, we then mingled amongst the hundreds of people walking around looking at the bikes, having their evening meal and catching up with friends. We were amongst the group of bikes that rode to the Maungarongo Marae where we were officially welcomed.

This was great to mix and mingle with Ohakune locals and to share in some savouries, biscuits and cakes that they had provided for us.





Arriving back at the Powderhorn Chateau the atmosphere was buzzing, meals, music, laughter and of course the sound of the 'star' of the weekend – the Harley Davidson motorbike.

Some of the Chapter's Exec Committee offered to volunteer with registrations and manning the movement and parking of Harley's on the Saturday morning. It was good to see our Chapter helping out. If any of you have been to Sturgis then you will know what I am meaning when I say the road that was allocated for the parking of bikes was completely lined up with bikes, both sides of the street and down the middle of the street as well. It was every bikers dream (and pillions) to walk up and down checking out the chrome, the paintwork, comparing bikes etc.



Being one of the road marshals Deane and I along with Nigel and Shirley Hesford headed up the mountain before the Thunder Run departed Ohakune. There was a small section of the road that had not been resealed and still had loose metal on it and we were there to make sure riders were aware of the loose metal and to keep their speed down. We could hear the roar of the bikes making their way up the mountain getting closer to us and then one by one they rode past, waving and nodding to us. They were all taking it easy and rode smoothly around the



corner making their way up the mountain. There were many riders who were quite uneasy riding on the loose metal around the reasonably sharp





and steep corner, you could see it in their riding but luckily there wasn't any accidents or dropping of any bikes, so that was good.

After reaching the top of Mount Ruapehu and arriving at the Turoa ski field we were again

officially welcomed by people from the Ngati Rangi iwi. The view from up there was simply amazing, you could see for miles, not a cloud in the sky. I don't know how else to describe the beauty of what we could see that day up the mountain other than, spectacular, impressive, beautiful, stunning, striking ... I could go on and on.



With the 17 km descent back down to Ohakune complete the street party would soon be in full swing. The closed street by the Powderhorn Chateau was now bare of bikes, but full of food and beverage stands, a massive stage, bands, Harley owners and pillions. It was great to see a lot of Ohakune locals join in the evening with us, enjoying the entertainment and the food and drink vendors. I am not sure what time most people went to bed by I do know that there were some that partied well into the small hours.

Sunday morning saw bikes departing Ohakune in all directions. Plenty stopped at the Big Carrot park where there were stalls with all the kinds of breakfasts you could want. Very reasonably priced breakfasts from freshly baked hot muffins, toasted muesli with yoghurt and berry topping to bacon butties, hot ham



sandwiches and more. It was pleasing to see so many supporting the local schools and clubs, Ruapehu Lions Club, Ohakune Primary School PTA, Ohakune Kindergarten and the Ohakune Carrot Park Trust and more.



If this Rally was to be repeated in a couple of years we will definitely attend again. We can see this weekend growing bigger and bigger each time if it is based on what this weekend was like.





Waikato Chapter AGM.

All going well and we are back to normal after the current lockdown, our AGM will be on the 20th June. We really want you to think about joining the Executive Committee. The more people we have working, sharing ideas and making decisions, the better we think for the whole Chapter. Most roles require only a limited amount of time each week and you don't have to live in Hamilton to be part of the Exec!

We have a few positions available so please seriously consider joining. You would be supported in any role you choose to take on. To show your interest please get in touch with our Director, Deane. director@waikatohog.co.nz or 021 275 5056"

He rau ringa e oti ai

Many hands make light work

Final note...Please send your articles and photos to add to the next edition of our H.O.G. WASH. Also let us know if there is anything else you would like to see within these pages. editor@waikatohog.co.nz

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