



### Message from Deane Blaikie – Director

Seasons Greetings to all Hoggies,

I just want to take this opportunity to thank

you all for a great year of rides and to 'welcome' new members to the Chapter this year.



There has been a lot that has happened in the last six months since I took on the leadership role as your Chapter's Director.

We have had a lot of great rides organised by our great Road Captains and I would like to thank them all for leading us safely round the great roads of the Waikato. And not forgetting the Tailend Charlies, thank you for your help during these rides.

Thank you to the Chapter's Executive Committee. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into running a Chapter, and with all being volunteers, I want to say thank you for your time and all your hard work you put into the Chapter.

And it goes without saying how much we appreciate our Sponsoring Dealers. Thank you to Shelly and Barry, for all your support this year.

Coming up in 2020 we have a good line up of rides for you all to take part in. There are a couple of dates that I would like to remind you all about, mark them on your calendars, take note of them in your diaries so you don't miss them.

**14<sup>th</sup> March** - This will be a great event to be part of, the National rally at Ohakune, so if you haven't yet got your accommodation you may need to give it some thought and book asap.

**28<sup>th</sup> March** - Harley-Davidson are taking part in the Beach Hop, Whangamata, which is always a good event to attend if you can.

**18<sup>th</sup> April** - A big event for the Chapter is our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Planning is well under way and we need you all to come along and help celebrate this occasion with us.

As this is just a few of the rides/events coming up in the new year please keep an eye out for more emails coming your way with more details for these main events/weekend rides/evening rides/day rides.

So as the year winds down and you head away to share Christmas and holidays with family and friends please be safe on the roads whether you are riding or driving. A good holiday break is one that you are all safe and can come back and talk about it.

I look forward to catching up and riding with you all next year.

On behalf of the Executive committee, Happy Christmas and New Year to you all!



## Gazza's Kaiaua – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Contributed by Lance Potaka

Well it started off wet, really wet, in the Bay. Scott Left Ngakuru in the early hours to meet up with Matt and Lance at BP Tauriko. Scott is such a nice guy. He left his wife home milking so he could go riding, and brought Debbie, a neighbour instead. So thoughtful.



The ride over the hill was nothing to write home about. Wet, foggy and lousy visibility. Helen Keller would have done it a little quicker than us, but once off the Kaimai's the rain abated, the fog no longer, it made for a good ride.

We were lucky to meet up with Gazza and 12 other bikes at Horotiu BP. I say lucky because that is the first time I've been to that gas station and without any assistance from the HD GPS. The maps are outdated and wouldn't have helped anyway.

So we had 15 bikes in total with 20 persons all up. Only 4 people wearing wet weather gear. Guess who they were??? It was nice to catch up briefly with some members I hadn't seen for a while. Also, nice to see our Director Deane and Janice our Membership Officer out for the ride and meeting the members.

So following Gazza's briefing we headed off towards Kaiaua through some back country roads, with Dave Webby heading up the rear, making sure we all stay on track.



What an amazing ride. I would defy anyone to say that they have been on the same set of roads to get to the same location as where Gazza took us. The road was dry, the scenery fantastic with great flowing corners and a pace that allowed us to take in all of it. Riding beside Lake Waikare, and thru Waiterimu and Kopuku. A short sprint down State Highway 2 to Maramarua where we turned off to head to Mangatangi. Another

thing I was impressed by was the way the farmers up that way dressed their horses. One had a red and white striped horse cover. Possibly Samoan rugby supporters???

Coming down Kaiaua Road the view out over the farm land and down to the Firth of Thames was magical. We lunched at the Kaiaua Pub where the service for 20 people was impressively quick smart and not bad either. It was refreshing we all got to eat in the short space of time. I'm sure we can all remember a ride where some of us have eaten and ready to warm up our bikes when others haven't even been served. From there Gazza took us via some other back roads to Morrinsville for a quick fuel stop for those that needed it and then on to Te Poi to say farewell over a lemonade.

For those who couldn't make it, you unfortunately missed a great ride and great company. We hope to see you on another ride in the future. The feedback from a lot of those present was that it was roads they have never been on, with stunning scenery. Mileage was about 300km for Waikato riders and 375km for Bay riders.

Thanks Gazza from all of us for organising such a great ride.





## Okoroire Dinner Ride: October 2019 Contributed by Lance Potaka

The first of our Dinner Rides for the Day Light Saving period came with dry road and skies.

Road Captains were John Burr (Waikato) and Rex Collins (Tauranga). In Tauranga, some East Coast HOG members just happen to have a ride on to The Oak at this same time, so joined us for the ride and dinner. 7 bikes with 10 on



board left Tauriko BP and headed over the Kaimai's. Personally I enjoy cruising down the other side without braking at all, hence when I could smell burning rubber I was a little confused as was initially just a hint of a smell and then it got stronger. I breathed a sigh of relief to see it was a truckie with a blow-out. I did feel sorry for the truckie, but at least the smell wasn't coming from a bike in front of me. Rex led us on to the Oak via Totman Road. A nice winding country road which was very pleasant, with aroma's ranging from wonderful floral to cow flatulence and deposits.

In all there were 19 souls arrived at the Oak for a hearty meal. Rex had booked the restaurant and after shifting a couple of tables to accommodate our new found friends, we waited to be served. And we waited, and we waited. For a fleeting moment I thought we were at a Jenny Craigs convention and the napkin and cutlery were the closest we were going to get to food.

However finally we got our order taken. And then we waited, and we waited. In my darkest moment I truly thought the chef had gone missing while out collecting the beef from a nearby paddock for our meals, and I would have to mount a Search and Rescue mission. However all was not lost. We had lots of time to socialise which was actually really good.

Slowly the meals started coming out to the eager HOG diners. Some weren't what was ordered, however it was eaten without complaint as we all wanted to get home at some stage that night.

Where was Shirley and Nigel Hesford when you want them?? I almost took over the role of being last to be served with a meal (if at all). They have history for this. I think the waitress could see I was starting to fade away from malnutrition and didn't want another newspaper article about the pub on her conscience, so I did get food, and it was pleasant to eat though not entirely how I asked for it.

It was a nice evening for a ride with friends old and new. I had thought that next time I would order my meal before I left home, however it was a unanimous decision that we would not eat there again and Te Poi would be the place to go if you want a meal with your beverage in that neck of the Waikato.

No one dared order a dessert as it was well and truly time to head home.

Departing well into the dark, it was still a great ride and time with friends. Thanks Rex for organising the ride and taking the photographs of the happy group following our meals.





Briefing just before heading off



## ***Gentle Annie 2019***

Contributed by Lance Potaka

Rex and Dinese Collins had a trip to USA last year. Prior to leaving, Rex said he wanted to do the Gentle Annie and reserved 9 -10 November to do so.

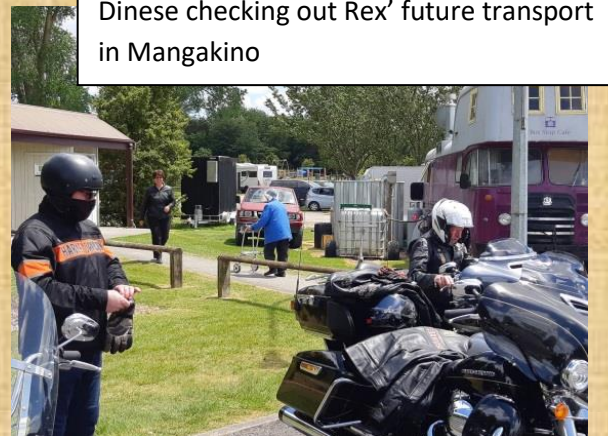
Well 9 lucky members had the pleasure of being led by Rex, with Dinese riding shotgun, over the Gentle Annie. The weather was not looking that promising, however we decided to brave it anyway, and all glad we did.

Nigel and Shirley Hesford, Ash Owens, Ross Collins and myself (Lance Potaka) left Tauranga at 8am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, to meet up with Ted Collins, Peter Ware, Rob and Penny Jefferies at Road & Sport. So, if you counted up, yes there were 4 x Collins on the ride. Anyone would have thought it was a family reunion.

Following the briefing we were fare welled from Road & Sport by not only our Assistant Director, but our Director as well. I think they wanted to make sure we actually left.

After fighting thru the Hamilton traffic, with me at the back, trying my best to do a good impression of a Tail End Charlie, we headed out onto open highway on SH 39.

The first stop was in Mangakino for lunch by the lakeside. The setup is a little dodgy looking, however Rex assures me it's all legal. I've been there previously with Rex. The difference this time was he didn't take us down that dirt road. The same great bacon and egg roll, same good coffee. Ok I did have an American Hotdog too.



Dinese checking out Rex' future transport in Mangakino

We also got a taste of the wind on the way down to Mangakino. After gassing up in Taupo, we headed across the Napier-Taupo Road. Going across there we experienced winds that would have closed any ski field and possibly some airports. The odd spot kept me on my toes anyway.

I seem to have a habit of coming from dying communities. Utiku where I was born was a thriving village with lots of small industry keeping it alive. Population today, 64. Heading across Napier-Taupo we passed by a settlement I used to go to Primary School called Iwitahi. Population today, Zero. There is only a Fire Truck parked in a garage. Poronui Station where my father managed for several years, now gone. Once 28,000 acres, right beside Lochinvar Station. That was the only indication of where it once was.

Rex then led us to the right off SH 5 down Glengarry Road. This was a really nice surprise, looking down on rolling farmland and up to high peak tops. At times like this one needs a person riding shotgun taking photographs of the scenery. I know any one of my 3 daughters would do it, however the ride was a little long for them this weekend. We then stopped at the Puketapu Pub. Well what a little gem that was. It looked familiar, however I only think it was because it was a bar. I know I've never been there before. We had time for one lemonade before our taskmaster got us moving again. He had a time frame to keep to.



It was then off to Waipukurau where we gassed up again and then put our bikes to rest for the night. As you can see from the photograph, the publican was a very nice guy, allowing us to park our bikes in the 'back bar'.



Panoramic photo courtesy of  
Ted Collins.

Once we put our bikes to bed, it was time for a shower, shorts and jandals. I got a hard time because my shorts looked like pyjama shorts. The truth is pj's don't have pockets!!

We had a few lemonades and a very nice dinner. Some people even had dessert. I know when I've eaten sufficient, so I had a few more lemonades.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the ride to date, so felt it fitting to present Rex and Dinese with a small token of our appreciation. Lance

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## ***10 Rules to Make Riding More Fun for Everyone***

*Brought to you by Nigel Hesford the Waikato HOG Safety Officer*

### **1. Obey the rules of the road**

When you're on a bike, you are a representative of every other biker. Whether or not it's right, other drivers don't differentiate one biker from another. When you weave in and out of traffic, cut off a driver, or cut to the front of the line at a toll booth, you make every other biker look bad.

### **2. Obey the rules of the road with other bikers**

Most traffic laws are intended to keep people safe, so when you pass another biker, use a separate lane. Passing in the same lane puts both you and the other biker in a potentially dangerous situation. (One caveat is that if you are on a busy road, and there is room for another biker to safely pass you within your lane, you can wave them through.)

### **3. Obey the bikers' rules of the road**

Beyond the general traffic rules, there are unwritten rules bikers follow with one another. One of the most important is to check on other riders if you see them stopped on the roadside. It could be they just need a break. It could also be that they are out of gas, had a flat, or they're having engine trouble. In any case, what goes around comes around, and you'll be glad to have the help when it's you stuck on the side of a lonely highway.

#### **4. Don't skip the wave unless you have to**

The "motorcycle wave" is synonymous with riding. It's an acknowledgment of the familial ties among riders. But it isn't always appropriate. Safety and control of your bike always come first, and other riders should understand if you aren't in a position to take a hand off the controls.

#### **5. Be respectful**

Not everyone can afford a custom Sportster. And not everyone wants a Kawasaki Ninja. The fact remains, whether you're on a V-Rod or a Street 500, you're on a bike, and so is your fellow rider. Respect that. Also, never ask if you can ride someone else's bike.

#### **6. Pass courteously**

"When you're cruising on the open highway and you approach another Harley-Davidson rider, you have to ride with them for a few hundred meters before going past them. This isn't a law or anything; it is proper etiquette to show other riders your respect."

Although this is written with Harleys in mind, the same could be said for anytime you approach another biker.

#### **7. Don't assume**

Don't assume it's okay to join another rider or group of riders on the road.

#### **8. Riding in groups**

Each riding club or motorcycle club has its own personality, but there are some universal guidelines for riding in groups. Maintain your position in the group, although you can and should wave faster riders ahead. It's okay to fall behind as you can always catch up when the group stops for a break. Remember, it's not a race. Riding ahead, however, is rude.

#### **9. Ride in formation**

Along with keeping your place within the group, you also need to maintain your spot within your lane. A staggered formation gives you better visibility, and it also gives you more space and opportunity to react to road hazards or accidents.

The lead bike in the right side of the lane, while the second bike stays 1 second behind in the left side of the lane then the third bike in the right side of the lane 2 seconds behind the lead bike and so on.

By increasing this by 1 or 2 more seconds will help keep things safer and minimizing risk in bad weather and unfamiliar areas. If the leader gives the signal for single file the group should form a single file and remain there until the leader gives the signal to resume staggered formation.

#### **10. Don't ignore your skill level**

This is perhaps the single most important piece of motorcycle etiquette. Whether you're on a solo ride, a quick trip to the dairy, or on a long-distance ride with a group, don't ignore your comfort level with your bike. You don't have to be the first one off the line at a stop light. You don't need to take that curve as fast as another rider, nor do you need to push your bike to top speeds on the highway. You know your skill level. Trust that. After all, you're already on a bike; you've got nothing to prove. Ride your own ride.

With the hot summer weather, it is very important to keep hydrated (keep the beer for the end of the ride) with plenty of water, you would be amazed by how much fluid you lose on a hot day riding.



## 2019 POKER RUN

Contributed by Penny Jeffries

The traditional yearly Waikato HOG Chapter Poker Run, proudly sponsored by Road and Sport Harley-Davidson.

As members from all over the Waikato and Bay of Plenty arrive at the Road and Sport business car park, talk quickly turns to the grey clouds and misty rain wetting our seats. Ignoring the negative grump's Director Deane and wife Janice Blaikie get straight into signing members and giving out patches.



Then the lucky first cards are drawn!

After a briefing from our nominated road Captain Gazza Tucker on HOG rules, road safety and bike pre-checks, we hear a loud voice saying "Hey your front tyre is flat". Smiley pulls out his tyre pressure gauge to double check Trev's tyre only to find out the obvious. "You were right Smiley". A quick investigation discovered that there was no puncture but instead a jammed tyre valve was to blame.

Our TEC for the ride was Dave Webby and John Burr added some breakdown support following us in the company Road and Sport van.

With helmets clicked and jackets zipped thirty-seven Harley-Davidson v-twin engines roar into life, what a beautiful noise!! We head north up Te Rapa straight leaving Hamilton and its misty rain. Destination Muddy Water Irish pub in Mercer.

To get there Gazza leads us on some beautiful but challenging Waikato back roads, from Huntly we take Glen Murray road then onto HWY 22 through the towns of Opuata and Pukekawa, then over the Waikato River to Mercer.

With engines still hot Kay Waddle joins Janice Blaikie to sort members for their second card draw, then some riders grab a late breakfast and coffee from MacDonald's.

After a brief from Gazza about road safety and congested traffic, he reminds us about corner marking and that our next destination is Kaiaua via St Hwy 2, then on to Mangatanga Rd.





A voice in the crowd yelled out "Hey Gazza, I'm out of spray paint to do my corner marking"!!! "Ha ha ha! Good one Smiley", said Gazza.

Skies still blue and hot sun on our backs, we roll down the hill to Kaiaua to the Bayview Hotel, they had a \$10 fish and chip special for lunch on offer for us.



But first is the lucky third card draw, I'm not feeling so lucky this time, but after a cold refreshing drink and a yummy lunch our thoughts turned to see more country.

Tahuna Tavern will be where we will have our fourth card drawn, so with sun still shining and a coastal breeze we head out again. Hey you BOP riders look at the weather now. Glad you came?

At Waitakaruru we make right turn onto SHWY 25, heading back towards Maramarua onto Okaeria Rd. Taking in the sights and smells of our beautiful farming country, on these roads with tractor worn tarmac, pot holes and one lane bridges it was a good test of our riding skills.

But when you ride a Harley-Davidson with that v-twin big block, loud pipes and shiny chrome it's the only real way to appreciate this country we call home.

After a few more roads, some 25km of corners to wake us up we finally arrive at the Tahuna Tavern. Its card draw number four and some much needed refreshments before getting back on our wheels

to head to our final destination. Hang on Shorty! That loose gravel's a bit of a hazard but you got it. Nice save!!



Feeling hopeful and anticipating a winning hand we ride into Hamilton and arrive at Eastside Tavern, before the final card draw, a group photo with our HOG flag is taken in the car park.





As we wait for the winners to be revealed we enjoy cold refreshments and an afternoon tea was paid for by the HOG chapter and provided by Eastside Tavern.

Now the winners of the Poker Run 2019.



First Place: Steven Brown      \$1000 HD vouchers.

Second Place: Nigel Hesford      \$750 HD vouchers.

Third Place: Trevor Tucker      \$250 HD vouchers.

A special surprise was a presentation for Road Captain with cloth badge presented to Gazza Tucker by Lance Potaka on behalf of the HOG Chapter. Well done Gazza you've earnt it!!!

Finally a big thankyou to the staff at Eastside Tavern for providing a venue, and Chris Ronke from Road and Sport for sponsoring this event.

Also thankyou to our Director Deane and Janice Blaikie, Kay Waddle, Gazza Tucker, Dave Webby, Lance Potaka, John Burr and all those that helped.





## *Waikato HOG Chapter Christmas Ride, 8-12-2019*

*Contributed by Janice Blaikie*

*We were very excited that Shelley and Barry (Sponsoring Dealers) accepted the offer to join us for the day. It was great to see them out on the bike and we all enjoyed their company.*

*The day started out fine but the forecast was for some rain in the afternoon. With this on our minds we left the Horotiu BP Service Station, 18 bikes, 28 riders and pillions.*



*Taking back roads we wound our way through the countryside to our destination, Waitomo Homestead. We had placed Santa hats on the tables and it was good to see some members getting into the Christmas spirit and wearing them. We had also prepared a Christmas quiz with wrapped gifts as prizes and surprisingly only a few knew most of the answers, maybe the rest were being Christmas Grinches for the day lol.*

*There was plenty of food with some people going back for seconds and still leaving plenty. I don't think anyone left there feeling hungry.*

*With the look of the weather turning bad and the clouds getting darker we saddled up and started on our journey home.*

*Thank you to those who came on the ride.*

*Trust you all have a happy and safe Christmas.*







**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**

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### Sponsoring Dealer

Road and Sport would like to thank all Waikato HOG Members for their active participation over the past year. There have been some great rides put together by the Road Captains, Tail End Charlies and the Activity Officer, and as Deane has already pointed out, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make this happen.

I would personally like to thank the Chapter Exec Members, Deane Blaikie Director and wife Janice Membership Officer, Erin Burr Secretary and Editor, Lance Potaka Head Road Captain, David Yeo Treasure, Nigel Hesford Safety Officer and not to forget John Burr Activities Officer. Regretfully John needed to vacate his position in late October to take some time to get a few aches and pains sorted in his back. Hope that we see you back on that Sport Glide again soon John.

It goes without saying that the Exec team have done a great job in running the Waikato Chapter, thanks Deane in heading up the Chapter Exec and making sure things run as smooth as possible.

Now that summer is here, Road and Sport will also be kicking off the mid-week shop rides again so keep an eye out on our Facebook page and the Chapter Member Jungle app for the notifications. With that in mind, I know that there have been a lot of niggles and teething issues with the Member Jungle app and some members have struggled to get it functioning correctly on their phone for one reason or another. If you are experiencing problems with login etc. please let me know as it's a very easy fix and we are here to help you get it sorted so you get the information you need to stay updated at all times.

As Deane has already mentioned, 2020 is going to be a big year for some significant events, with the return of the National Rally in Ohakune kicking things off in March and the big one, the Chapter 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April.

Once again, from Road and Sport, thanks to all Chapter Members for your continued support to make what we see as one of the best Chapters to be part of in New Zealand.

On behalf of Road and Sport, we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year, safe riding over the Xmas break and see you all in 2020 for some great riding.

Chris Ronke

General Manager

Road and Sport





*Lastly... some photos from The Great Northern Muster in Rotorua, October 2019*







**Rides calendar.....**this is up and live on the Chapter Website, Member Jungle app and website and Road and Sport website.

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