

# President's Report December 2023

We just held the 68th Annual rally of the Club in Blaney. A very good attendance of about 50 riders and many more bikes. A big thank you to Mark Turnbull for putting the program together and arranging for corner Marshall's. The weekend was enjoyed by all !

The AGM in November will have been held when you read this. It was my intention to handover the hooter to a fresh new (younger) president..... The key positions in the club (President , Secretary, Treasurer and Drip Feed editor) should rotate every few years with change bringing some fresh ideas and new energy and relieve the sitting officers. But unfortunately no-one put up their hand to relieve them. We do have another Vice President though in Kon Helidoniotis. Thank you Kon in helping out . I am appreciative that my colleagues on the Committee are prepared to continue for another year. In the meantime if there is someone out there who is prepared to step up and relieve the current Committee members, that would be appreciated. In the last few years we have worked to simplify the workings of the Committee which means that a position does not require that much time. Being on the Committee means that you do not have to attend all meetings. I usually miss a few meetings in the winter and others skip meetings and events aswell. We just have to make sure that events are managed by someone responsible.

The Club continues to evolve as new members have often a different interest than members in the past. Judging of bikes used to be highly competitive. Presenting a crusty "original paint machine" was an absolute no no. These days original bikes attract a premium. "Barn finds " are highly sought after and prized accordingly.

We realized in the last few years that one day runs are not attended as much any longer. Getting around in the city has become more and more difficult. Getting to a start often requires more than an hour driving. We will continue with these, as a run with a few bikes can still be a lot of fun. We have dropped a few of the day runs and replaced them with 2-3 day weekend runs. Or with a special event , like the sidecar run. In case there is a special run (like the sidecar run) it does not mean that you cannot attend without a sidecar. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AT ALL EVENTS**, preferably riding a girderfork bike.

We also encourage members to participate in other Club events around the State or country and try to list them if we get notified about these. The Club has some big milestones coming up. The

50th Bathurst rally in 2025 and The 70th anniversary of the Club also in 2025. We have started to prepare for these already and are hoping on a big attendance. The event calendar for next year is out. Please plan to attend as many as possible events and support fellow members and the Club.

May I wish all of you a good Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Hope to see you at the next event. Best wishes , Hans Sprangers

NOVEMBER 18TH, 1903

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# Inaugural Side Car Run

Sunday the 15th of October was a great day for a ride, Sunny Spring weather with a light breeze, But as per Murphy's law being the organiser of this event on Friday on a shake down run I blew a head gasket and at 3 pm was frantically calling around to find a spare, many thanks to Hans who had a set in the shed and kindly lent them to me. I raced across to the other side of suburbia to get them and first thing Saturday stripped out the old gasket to find the head was a bit warped. An hour of rubbing it on emery paper didn't quiet get it right but in desperation I put in the new gasket torqued down the head bolts and crossed my fingers. Would not do to be the initiator of this ride and not turn up with a side car!

I arrived in Bowral at Bradman Oval early to check out the parking and greet the Riders and their passengers, There were a few of the

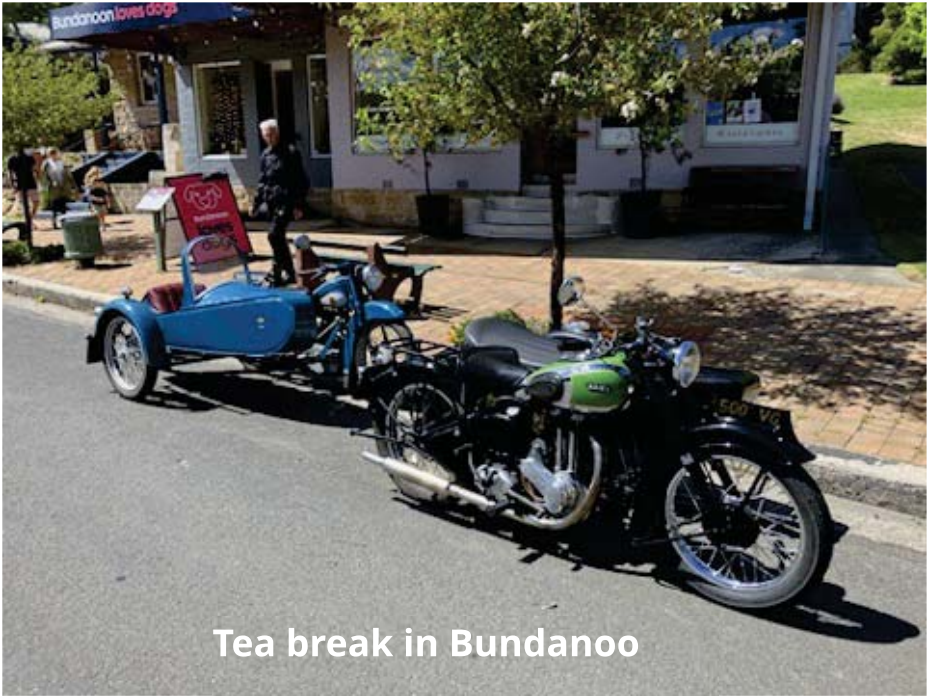






**Bryan, " A rubber Band ??"**

local Classic Club members there to see the start of the run and the bikes. They were very supportive and happy to spread the word for next year. 5 side cars in all turned up , Zoe and I in our 1924 Scout special, Wayne Smith on his 500 single Ariel, Hans Sprangers on a Nimbus with a right hand side car! Bryan Fowler and His wife Zuzana on a Late BMW with a 1960 Watsonian side car. And a Late model Harley & chair that just came for a look, One of the local members brought out his 1926 Super X, a very nice bike, but was having issues with it missing so retired home. With Rick Nabke on back up we headed off to the south-east out along Kangaloon Rd past Wingecarribee Dam and towards Fitzroy falls. I picked the quiet secondary roads and we had very light traffic. Though my blown head started to manifest by the time we reached Avoca the front plug was failing and deciding caution was the better part of valour parked it on the trailer , Zoe popped into the side car of the Nimbus and we proceeded into Bundanoon where there area a choice of very nice cafes, we adjurned for a cuppa and a chat. Sufficiantly sated we set off, I took a seat in the Nibus for the last



Tea break in Bundanoo





leg very odd being on ther "wrong side of the bike but fun none the less, Just up thr road we passed a drab green Ural with side car, proceeding on the quieter Eldridge Rd (a bit rough in patches, like so many tertiary roads still not repaired after the big rains of 2021--22) We rolled on through my home town of Sutton Forest a quick blip into Mossvale and out past Mt Ginnenbullen the biggest and Hardest single chunk of Blue metal in the nation. To arrive in Berrima for our lunch break at the Bike friendly Schmokin Cafe. And as is the case where ever the VMCC go we drew the attention of all with our little entourage. As we were leaving lunch I spotted two women getting into a recent model burnt orange Ural with side car. twhat were the odds of seeing a second such out fit in one day!

The last leg back into Bowral was an easy run down the old Hume Hwy and past Centennial oval the site of Bradmans debut in First Grade Cricket to our meeting point, a round trip of 75 km which I hope was a good and pleasant route for our participants .All in all a very nice day and I look forward to running it again for years to come. Ray Elbourne



Berrima Lunch stop Yours truly and my earst while driver Hans