

Presidents report October 2024

The first vehicle matter to attend to after having returned from our annual stay in Europe was my insurance renewal. I got a bit of a shock to note a 30% increase in cost !Having worked in the industry for many years I needed to find out what is going on. I spoke to my trusty underwriter who explained that repair cost have risen so sharply that premiums had to increase substantially. To keep my own cost under control it made me think if I really needed all the bikes in that full garage and shed. No, I have too many bikes and many have not been used for years. I have also run out of space to work on my projects. So I decided to put a few up for sale with more to follow. Buying goes very quickly , but selling is a bit harder . The market is as dead as anything. I was lucky to sell two quickly. The rest will have to follow later. So that is two less on my insurance renewal. Also decided to not insure some unregistered not so expensive bikes. The insurance companies often have a minimum premium per vehicle (eg \$ 150 +) That is a fair bit for a simple bike. Overseas the cost of insuring is lower. In Australia we do not have enough competition. (like in the UK)

I also feel that it is better to rationalize my collection whilst I can still do it. Rather than wait until it is being done without my input. Our club has many older members and I would think that several of you reading this have the same problem. Too many bikes and not enough sense (or space).

Unfortunately we see less and less veteran bikes on our events. It would be nice to pass on in particular the veteran bikes which hopefully can be picked up and ridden by younger and new members.

We have an AGM coming up in November and we need renewal here as well. Most people on the Committee have been there for years. It would be nice if others are willing to step up and take over from “the old Guard” .

The Club is preparing for some jubilee's. Next year the club will hold the 50th Bathurst tour. The tour has become less relevant for our club. Entries are open to bike 30 year and older. This means that we see less and less older girderfork bikes. We are fortunate that a new member has stepped forward and is willing to take on the registrations and some other duties.

The Club will also celebrate its 70th anniversary. We have a few active members from its earliest beginnings. Please let us know if you can participate in a sub-committee to prepare for these events.

Safe riding, Hans Sprangers

