

SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

The Rally & Events Scene

Sussex Inlet Boats and Spokes

EVENT REPORT - BOATS and SPOKES, 19-21 September 2025

by Graham Goodwin

We were fortunate to have perfect spring weather at the South Coast town of Sussex Inlet for Boats and Spokes, a unique collaboration event devised by Antony Gullick (VMCC) and Tony Pollard of the Sussex Inlet Traditional Boat Group.

This 'rally' brings together enthusiasts of girder fork motorcycles and wooden boats powered by inboard 'putt putt' motors and steam engines.

'Boats and Spokes' was also part of the Sussex Inlet *Blues and Brews* festival which attracted some very talented blues musicians who performed at various venues over the weekend.

Most participants stayed at the caravan park beside the inlet, right next door to the Pelican Shores café/restaurant which was the gathering point for the bike runs, tech-talks and Friday night 'meet and greet' dinner.

The program began on Friday afternoon with about 17 bikes and riders gathering for the 'shake down' run.

It is always nice to catch up with friends, meet unfamiliar faces and talk about bikes.

Antony's 1917 Excelsior had blown a tyre so he was forced to ride a borrowed Rudge.

It was a little odd to see Richard Czereba and Andrew Butcher wandering about in shorts, no riding gear or bikes in sight, until it was revealed that Richard was Andrew's 'cabin boy' (no relation to Roger) for the weekend on his putt-putt boat.

After a brief welcome by Vice President Hans, briefing from Antony and familiarization with 'mud maps', we headed off.

Unfortunately, a little Douglas wouldn't start and Dave Sallows required Janice Gullick and Sue Goodwin's help with the back-up vehicle before reaching the town limits.

The ride included an afternoon refreshment stop at the café overlooking Swan Lake at Cudmirrah before heading back to town.

Pelican Shores was packed with 'boaties', riders and friends for evening dinner. It was pretty noisy in there, however, Antony managed to hold everyone's attention with an entertaining quiz. Who knew that F1 driver Sebastien Vettel loves old bikes, even owning a Rudge Ulster?

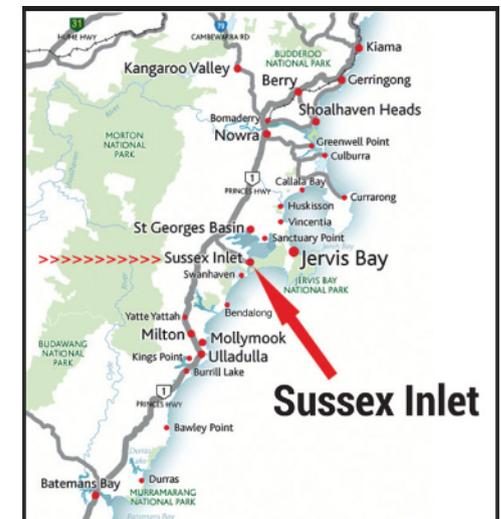
In warm sunshine on Saturday morning, riders and boaties met for coffee and 'tech talks'.

Antony's 1914 Peerless v-twin racer looked fabulous. Antony spoke about the bike's connection with Sussex Inlet and its intriguing history. Unfortunately, ignition problems prevented a demonstration start-up.

Attention then moved to two 'touring' veterans, Mick Johnson's 1912 Lloyd and my 1911 Rudge, with Antony pointing out some features of these early machines.

The little crowd then walked around to the jetty behind the café where several beautiful steam powered wooden boats were moored on the sparkling water.

Here we listened intently to the owner as he outlined the components of his vessel's double expansion engine and the exceptional restoration efforts involved in rebuilding it.



While the boats headed off to explore the waterways, the bikes departed on a 35km ride via the village of Tomerong to the Maritime Museum and Gallery at Huskisson.

Everyone found their way except Phil Thompson who had kindly offered to help with some corner marshalling.

Phil eventually found the museum after a grand tour of the Jervis Bay area on my raucous old trail bike. This is a great museum located on the site of an original boatbuilding yard that among other exhibits, houses the old Sydney Ferry, the Lady Denman that was built at Huskisson in 1912.

Safely back at Sussex Inlet, we parked the bikes on the reserve beside the inlet outside the Swordfish Brewery where blues bands were entertaining patrons. Wow, free live entertainment!

That evening most of us met at the local RSL club for drinks and dinner. Fortunately, the Black Sabbath tribute band only managed to belt out one 'sound check' number before peace descended.

Maybe the RSL missed the message about the blues festival. Anyway, a few hardy folk headed over to the brewery to hear blues artist Ray Beadle, the rest of us retired to our respective lodgings.

More fine weather greeted us on Sunday morning for a display in a spacious grass area near the main public boat ramp, roped off by Chamber of Commerce volunteers.

Some simple timed events devised by Antony and Janice kept participants and a small crowd of fascinated onlookers entertained.

Peter Scott revealed his competitive streak by entering on a lightweight Villiers-powered Excelsior, certainly a more manageable bike than an ancient Harley with foot clutch.

Wayne Martin won the engine starting event. Mick Smith (HD) the tight 1st gear slalom 'regularity'.

The comical feature event, 'baby in the bucket'. Smiles all round. Over the following days I was surprised by the number of local people who told me how much they enjoyed watching the display.

During the display a local resident approached with a large photo album. Inside were images of his family's veteran BAT including photos from the

earliest days of the VMCC circa 1955. Hopefully, seeing old bikes in action and chatting with members will inspire him to re-commission his father's machine.

The display over, a steamboat and putt putt 'skipper' took us on a cruise out to the river entrance and back. Fabulous!

And basically, that brought a most enjoyable event to a close for 2025.

Thank you to Antony (VMCC) and Tony (chief 'boatie'), Janice and Sue (backup trailer), Phil and Lloyd (corner marshals), Sussex Inlet Chamber of Commerce (promotion and council approvals) and everyone who joined in.

Graham Goodwin







And keep a look out in future issues of Drip Feed magazine for details about the next VMCC-NSW Sussex Inlet Boats and Spokes in 2026



G'day to all of our VMCC members and associated bike club colleagues ...

Do you have an upcoming rally or bike event that you would like to announce in Drip Feed magazine?

Perhaps you have been to an event, or have got a good story to tell about your bike, and would like to share it with our readers.

Drop me your stories and photos (prints, or digital jpg, png). If you can put names or captions to photos, then this really helps too.

Email your article to:

dripfeedvmcc@gmail.com

or by post to:

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Bulli Swap Meet - 2025

On Saturday 23rd August, Vanessa & I attended the 2025 Bulli Antique Motor Cycle weekend. Bulli is just south of Sydney, New South Wales, and at the northern end of Wollongong.

After what felt like weeks of torrential rain leading up to the meeting, the Sun Gods did eventually shine bright on the day.

The Bulli Showground is a good venue for holding such a large event as this, and although the central showground paddock was unusable (due to rain soak), the oval road course surrounding the showground paddock worked well as a well-drained circuit for the swap meet exhibitors and many brave camping over-nighters.

The Showground building facilities are neat, and provided plenty of undercover for the bike displays and the related events.

On my approach to the showground, my thoughts went to possible parking horrors, considering the torrential rain of previous weeks. But the parking experience was not a problem for me. The parking areas were well supervised, set out and well drained.

This years' show theme was "Period Modified Motorcycles", which attracted many makes models, and styles of bikes ... including vintage, classic, modern, racing, original, authentic, and restored, and substantially modified.

In my view, perhaps the American brands represented the majority of the machines at the event, however there were many other marques on display, of various ages, modifications, and styling.

Two nice old girder forked Velocette KTT race bikes caught my eye.

The contingent of swap meet exhibitors included a large amount of Harley parts & memorabilia, But also, there were many other swap meet exhibitors selling other British, American, European, Japanese, Spanish, and related assortments of collectables, oddities and merchandise.

One swap meet exhibit that caught my attention was a trailer with a 1943/1948 girder forked Royal Enfield 350 and a 1938/1939 girder forked Rudge 250 sports, with mixed boxes of parts. Both bikes appeared to be around 90% complete.

Two nice looking projects waiting restoration.

Well done by the AMCA Australia, especially considering the absolutely lousy weather during the weeks leading up to the event.

Pete



Velocette KTT

With apologies for the poor photo quality



Velocette KTT



Above: a 1938-1939 Rudge 250 Sports



Right: a 1943-1948 Royal Enfield 350

The Borradale Memorial Run

Jack Borradale was an enthusiastic VMCC-NSW Treasurer & Secretary during the 1960's. Read more about Jack in later pages.

Report by Gail Scott

Well, I had a great time.

After several days of rain, which turned into a very wet month, we were blessed with a great day.

This event was supposed to have been held two weeks prior, but the venue was rather boggy.

The run was hosted by Ian and Paula Richardson on their property at The Oaks.

We were greeted with tea and coffee, great for the cold morning, along with homemade cakes and biscuits.

Seven Vintage Club bikes and roughly the same from the Classic club. Most of the Classic club guys acted as corner marshals.

Thanks guys, much appreciated. Ian on a modern machine rode ahead of us to keep us on track.

This event being a timed run, Paula clocked us out. Riders nominate the speed they think they will average.

We followed instructions, aided by marshals at all corners, through lovely countryside over some good roads but, also, some shockers. Our instructions told us which were the worst.

Our first stop, for a catch-up and look at the view, was Burraborang Lookout. Always a lovely spot to stop.

Paula caught up with us and became a marshal on the first turn-off after the dam. She then took a short cut home and was in place to clock us in upon arrival. Grand job, Paula.

Lunch was a very tasty sausage sizzle followed by left over cakes. Most people chatted and relaxed in the sunshine or looked enviously at all Ian's motor vehicles.

The results of the event were announced. The top three times were very close, but overall winner was Richard Czereba.

After a good rest it was time to load-up and head home. Thank you, Ian and Paula, for a great day and ride.

Also, thanks to those who turned up as you make it an event to enjoy.

Gail

Results posted by Ian Richardson:

1st : Richard Czereba - Estimate 50kph - actual 49.9 kph

2nd : Ian Coulston - Estimate 48kph - actual 47.7 kph

3rd : Laurie Dehler - Estimate 48kph - actual 49.3 kph



Macquarie Towns Show

Sunday 14th September was the Macquarie Towns Motorcycle Show Day, held at Macquarie Park in Windsor.

It was one of those "spot-on perfect" Spring Days for holding an event like this, and the venue at Windsor Park was a treat.

A wide range of motorcycles were on show ... representing recent classics, and venturing back though the decades to vintage & veteran machines.

Macquarie Towns Club exhibitors were competing for awards.

Non-members were also welcomed to participate, with a part of the bike display provided for non-members machinery.

A large crowd gathered around the machinery, generating vibrant discussions and photo opportunities.

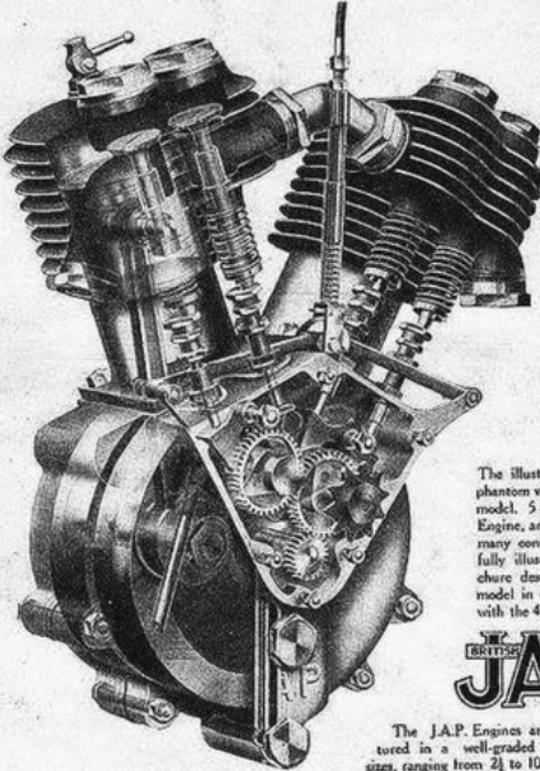
It was especially pleasing to see many younger age admirers showing their genuine interest in the vintage bikes.

Pete



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