



OCTOBER 2026

In this newsletter;

Pres Report featuring his fantastic trip to India and the Himalayas.

Road Ride Report

News on October rides

New on Waikato Classic Club - after more than 50 years since they separated from us, they are merging back!

President's Report – October 2026

President's Report – My Himalayan Adventure

Well, this month I thought I'd give you a break from the usual President's ramblings and tell you about a motorcycle adventure I've just returned from in the Himalayas.

Our riding trip started in Dehradun, India, and I was riding a brand-new Royal Enfield Himalayan 450. I fitted up my Ventura luggage, which worked perfectly — easy to fit and remove and, most importantly,



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secure. Always a good start when you're heading off for thousands of kilometres in the mountains.

We knew pretty quickly that we were going to have an interesting trip.

Within the first 200 km, our odd bike in the group, a Hero 200, had closed the spark plug gap. Twice! We ended up putting two washers under the plug to give it some much-needed clearance from the piston. Our guide was instructed to organize a replacement bike before the big end decided to let go. Tic, tic, tic...

We passed through Mohali IT City, which I found quite amusing. This is apparently where your bank call gets diverted to, and probably where your long-lost uncle lived before leaving you his huge fortune!

As we headed further into the mountains, things started getting seriously impressive. An 8.5 km tunnel dropped us into the real Himalayas, and it was difficult to comprehend just how big the mountains were. You'd be riding along staring at one massive face, then you'd turn a corner and find an even bigger one. We were soon at 3,000 metres, heading towards our first 4,000-metre pass.

Then came Jispa to Padum, over the Shinku La at 5,070 metres. At that altitude the bikes had lost about half their horsepower, but the roads were surprisingly good. There were some gravel sections and the odd boulder, but overall the surface was good enough that I could happily have run a slick tyre.

The altitude was starting to make itself known too. We were staying at Noyma at around 4,300 metres, and doing anything energetic was hard work. Even cleaning your teeth seemed like an effort.

At one point we rode to what genuinely felt like the top of the world. We were over 5,000 metres, more than a kilometer higher than the highest point in New Zealand — and we were riding motorcycles up there! From the top we could see China.

That's one of those moments that you know you'll remember for a long time.

The riding was spectacular but also demanding. For long stretches we followed rivers through incredibly narrow valleys. Often there was little or no shoulder between the road and the fast-flowing water. If you went off, you were going in. The inside line wasn't always much safer either, with very little holding some of the massive boulders onto the mountainside.

We knocked off several passes around the 5,000-metre mark. The last few days were hard work. Blocked nose, headaches, very little sleep and a brain that seemed to be working



overtime whether I was awake or asleep. but soon as I got on the bike, all of that disappeared.

Not every road was enjoyable. One day we spent most of the ride following what was basically a hole cut into the side of a cliff. There was a massive drop beside us, and the photos don't really capture the anxiety of actually riding it.

Then came Sachs Pass, which I reckon was probably our best day's riding. It was a single-lane rocky track climbing from about 2,400 metres to 4,400 metres before dropping all the way down to around 1,200 metres. There were more sections cut into the cliffs, with nothing but a straight drop on one side. As we started the descent, there was rock on one side of the track and nothing but clouds on the other. We were literally riding in the clouds. We also had a vulture following us for part of the decent.

eventually the trip came to an end. The bikes were returned, mostly unscathed, and we headed back towards civilization.

That's when I realized just how much our definition of "close call" had changed.

Getting back into the built-up areas, the traffic was insane. We were bouncing off cars, leaning on buses, hitting mirrors and dodging cows, dogs and oncoming traffic. Somehow it all seemed almost normal by then.

It was an amazing trip. Massive mountains, incredible roads, crazy traffic, altitude, dust, mechanical dramas and plenty of laughs with good mates.

And the Royal Enfield Himalayan 450? It certainly got put through its paces and came home mostly intact.



I'm now looking forward to getting back on the Ducati's and experiencing some familiar roads, familiar traffic and what I hope will be a little more sanity.

Although after riding in India, I'm not sure what I used to consider a close call anymore!

See you this Thursday at the club

Chris Bridge

President HMCC





Road Riders rides for the remainder of 2026

September Road Ride: A road ride didn't happen this month. I was going to organise one for the weekend of 26 September, but then several members were going to the Classic Register Race meeting at Taupo and the weather wasn't looking the best, so the September ride will happen in October; Yes, the September ride in October!

Where to - Kaiaua.

When - Saturday the 3rd of October (Sunday if Saturday is unsuitable - to be notified on HMCC website and by text to road rider's list).

Meet - BP Rototuna/Horsham Downs at 9:30, leaving 10:00.

October Road Rides:

Yep, there's gonna be an October road ride! In fact, two rides.

CLASSIC ROAD RIDE 10th Oct

To celebrate the Waikato Classic Motorcycle Club members re-joining the Hamilton Motorcycle Club, this will be a short, classic bike friendly ride, ending up back at the Club Rooms for a BBQ, and ogle at all the great bikes.

If you don't have something older, bring your modern, but be prepared for a relaxed ride.

Where to - Te Pahu

When - Saturday the 10th of October

Meet - HMCC clubrooms at 10:30, leaving at 11:00.

We will return to the clubrooms for a BBQ and a welcome the WCMC members into the HMCC.

MODERN ROAD RIDE 17th October

The Te Anga Loop

Where to - The Te Anga Loop

When - Saturday the 17th of October (Sunday if Saturday is unsuitable - to be notified on HMCC FB page and by text to road rider's list). Decided not to mix it with Labour Weekend tin-tops the following weekend).

Meet - BP Tristram at 9:30, leaving at 10:00.

November Road Ride: Weekend ride

Where to - OVERNIGHT at the Bushlands Campground (Forgotten World Highway just off SH43).

When - Saturday the 14th of November. (the following weekend if the 14th is unsuitable - to be notified on HMCC website and by text to road rider's list).

Accommodation - camp sites available and cabins. Expressions of interest in booking cabins will be sought later. Check out the website by searching for Bushlands Campground.

Meet - BP Tristram at 9:30, leaving at 10:00.

December Road Rider's Xmas Dinner Ride

The previous traditions of the November Fish 'n Chip ride and the December Xmas Dinner have been combined into these two being held on the December club night.

Where to - Raglan

When - Club night, Thursday the 3rd of December

Meet - ride your own ride, or organise a ride with others, and meet out in Raglan around 5:30 - 6:00. We will then ride back to the clubrooms for club night.

HMCC club ride to Coromandel via the "loop" 15/16th August 2026.

9 bikes met up at BP Rototuna for the 10am leaving time. Those gathered were Steve D (Husky 701), Michelle and I (BMW R1200R), Steve S (Triumph 1050 Sprint ST), Steve W (BMW R100RS), Terry (BMW K1600GT), Mark H (BMW R1150RS), Kev H (on Terry's 1250 Suzuki Bandit), Ray (Honda VTR 1000), and Matthew on his Triumph Rocket 3.

After a bit of socialising and figuring out that that was the whole contingent of us, we headed out of town to Gordonton and turned right into Woodlands rd, which



led us onto Law rd to Whitikahu. We took a right turn, then along there somewhere we found Tainui rd through to Hoe-O Tainui, and through to Tahuna. A short road past the pub and we were on to SH27, through Patetonga to Kaihere where we turned towards Ngatea which was a very roundabout way for all of us to get to Kopu (in 3 different groups, but we all got there).

We were scheduled to meet others there which we did. Pete was there on his classic Triumph, A classic BMW R75 and a V7 Guzzi café racer (sorry, but those guys names elude me), Dave on his Royal Enfield 650



(all from the Thames area) and Bob and Brett had arrived that morning from Auckland on their 2 Hinkley Triumphs. An eclectic bunch all-round all-round!

After gassing up it was up and over the Kopu – Hikuwai road towards Tairua as we were planning to stop at the Coroglen pub for lunch. We got a bit spread out going over the hill, everyone was just casually riding along at their own pace. As were rounding a corner close to Tairua, there seemed to be trouble ahead with a few cars parked up. As we got closer, we saw that Steve had hit a dog and crashed. Others had



stopped and we also stopped to give assistance. It turned out that a dog had dashed across the road from the right, from in between 2 cars which were coming towards him. He hardly saw the animal and had no time to react before it ran sideways into his front wheel. Luckily he wasn't too badly injured – he was a bit concussed and very knocked around and ended up with a couple of broken ribs.

An ambo attended, as did the fire brigade as back up for the ambo. After about an hour or so of checking him out, the ambo team were ok with him



getting on pillion to carry on to Coromandel. Hence, we were all very late getting to the Coroglen pub for lunch, but at least the kitchen was still open.

After lunch Michelle and I left the group and headed south to Pauanui while the rest carried on. I think Ray will take over the story from here. Cheers,
Bruce.

TRIALS

Next Waikato Trial will be held at Jenny and Ray Skinner's property on Sunday 11th of October at 222A Peach Hill Rd, Ramarama.

This will be Round 6 of the Waikato/BOP championship series but will cater for all Trials bikes and all riders from "newbie" to expert. Ray informs us that he has a new area for us to use and is keen to set sections for all abilities.

Why not come and enjoy some great Skinner hospitality.

Sign on at 9.30am and riders brief at 10.15am.

Cost of entry \$20 for adults and \$5 for juniors.

New riders are welcome. For more info ph Ray on 0276012873