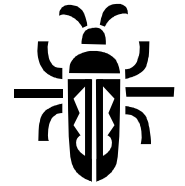




THE BUG



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EDITORIAL

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to "SPRING". This weather makes you feel more alive!!!! So we can dust of the bike gear that has been hanging in the back of the wardrobe, charge the bike battery up? Get ready!!!

Well I started off well with putting this month's BUG together, sorry to say the wheel have fallen off. The concentration is not happening as I'm a little under the weather; I have come down with a bad case of tonsillitis. At least I have majority of the bug together. So my piece is short & sweet this month.

Thanks William for your first installment from your last trip. It is a great read. So grab a cuppa & enjoy.

IMPORTANT DATES 2009



SEPTEMBER'S RIDE:

Meet at the back of Macca's in the car park at 10am

Bathurst, O'Connell, Oberon, Hampton, Balckheath, Bell, Lithgow for lunch at Lithgow Workies, then ride home.

OCTOBER'S RIDE: 17TH October 2009.

Meet at the back of Macca's at 9am.

Bathurst, Lucknow, Orange, Mullion Creek, Euchareena, Stuart Town, Mumbil for lunch at the pub. Wellington, Molong, Orange then home.

IMPORTANT DATE 2010

GATHERING FOR OUR END OF YEAR & AGM 2010 WILL BE ON SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY OUT AT JAN & BOB DICKIE AT NEWBRIDGE. SO MARK THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW.

SOCIAL GATHERING WILL BE ON FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2009 AT SHANAHANS FAMILY HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF RUSSELL ST & BENTICK ST. OUR NEXT FROM 6.30 FOR A 7PM DINNER.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME PLEASE RSVP BY THE 14TH SEPTEMBER, EITHER BY EMAIL OR PHONE.

AUGUST'S RIDE

Saw 9 bikes, 14 bodies head off from Bathurst. From memory it was a great day for a ride. I made reservations at the Tarana Pub for lunch for 16 as Alan & Meredith caught up with the group there. It was a good opportunity to relax over a lovely meal.

CAPE YORK 2009

One snowy July morning I set off to meet Hugh Goodfellow, Bruce Weise and Paul Gilchrist at Gilgandra being the first leg of our trip to the top. Having fuelled up both men and machines we headed for Dirranbandi for our first overnight stop.

Bright and early we made tracks for Clermont where we met Rob Sandow,

the instigator of this trip. A feed and a sleep had us ready the next day for the journey via Townsville to Cairns where we rested for a couple of days (we're old men you know) and had knobbies fitted, bikes serviced etc.

Rob was rearing to go on his new 1200 GS Adventure, Paul on a 1200 GS, Hugh and Bruce sporting new DL 650's and I chose to give the old blue DL1000 a run. We had clothes, camping gear, cooking things, tucker tools and provision for extra fuel.

This is the first day of the real trip and we motored along the scenic road to Port Douglas to show Bruce and Paul who hadn't been there before, then back to Mossman on our way to the ferry over the Daintree River. We then took the Coast Road through the National Park which was rough, slow with some challenging creek crossings. We all had varying degrees of trouble with the exception of Bruce who sat back, watched the rest of us then took the perfect line. I lay my bike down in one creek; wet a lot of my clothes and worse still gave my camera and phone an unintended swim. Oh and my pride got washed away too. Having negotiated this road we reached a pub called The Lions Den where we had a well earned drink and a look about before travelling to Cooktown. I let the others go on ahead so I could put some laundry on each mirror and hold the sodden phone in

the wind to dry out without being laughed at. From Cooktown to Lakeland where we met an old school mate of Bruce's was uneventful. Discussions over a few drinks and dinner determined that we would spend two nights there to enable our newfound friend, Peter to give us a guided tour of a large organic banana operation, his grazing property and whopping great dams he constructed for irrigation along with an insight into his fencing business.

When we finally got going again we went to Laura then turned East towards Lakefield National Park. This is where things went pear shaped. We were on a good gravel road when it deteriorated to sand and corrugates without warning which was almost impossible to see resulting in Paul coming down. As I approached I saw Rob sitting on the road with Paul who was unconscious with the bike on its side nearby. Bruce and I stood the bike up and then I headed back to Laura for help. Paul was transported to Laura by road then by chopper to Cairns hospital. We took his bike back to Lakeland and put it in Peter's workshop. Remarkably apart from some cosmetic damage which required Rob and me to spend the next morning on it. Otherwise the bike was fine.

The next morning Bruce and Hugh rode to Cairns to collect Paul from hospital and procure some accommodation for a few

days so he could recover from his ordeal and for all of us to reflect on the event and ponder as to how much worse it could have been.

It was decided to hire a troupie as Paul was advised not to ride for another week. I put my hand up to steer it and we filled it with all the gear reducing the load on the other three bikes. Musgrave Roadhouse was our next overnight stop. We arrived in time for Rob and Bruce to do a little excursion to a bird sanctuary with accommodation. We had small but very clean rooms with the eating area fifty metres away underneath the old telegraph building. There is a lot of history in these old places.

From there our next stop was Coen for fuel. The road ranged from very good in places to extremely corrugated with some patches of sand which required constant concentration so Bruce and Hugh in particular took it very easy. I must say the Toyota motored along beautifully allowing its pampered occupants' to have a good look around.

We enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch at the turn off to Weipa before continuing on a really good road to see the bauxite mining which involves stripping about two metres of topsoil off before digging it out and trucking with massive mining trucks on a haul road to Weipa for shipping. There is about three metres of the ore to mine after which the area

is reinstated to its original condition. The town itself sports a Woolworths with a few specialty shops in a centre and plenty of engineering works and associated businesses gaining their livelihoods from the mines.

To be continued
By William Gilmore

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resemblance to facts or the truth, and are not endorsed in any way by the Ulysses Club Inc. or anyone else for that matter

Contributions are appreciated and will be edited and published subject to available space

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