



**Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc.**  
**Office of the Region 8 Director**  
**Jason Collins -South Pacific**  
**Region8@redknightsmc.com**

**G'day from Down Under,**

**It's been a busy time in the South Pacific since the start of the year, hard to believe that we are already ½ of the way through 2017. I would like to thank everyone for their support and hope that I have served you well and provided you with a much needed representative.**

**Late last year we had the pleasure to share our home with a visiting Canadian MAL we showed them around our little area before sending them on to a number of Australian Chapters that showed them just a bit more. I'm sure that they needed a rest from us by the time they left having driven over 5,000 kms (3000 miles) themselves on top of what they did with our members.**

**Since the beginning of the year I have logged approximately 180 hours of Red Knights related work some of it bringing fresh ideas in the working and structure of the South Pacific. Yes we are a little different Down Under! Behind the scenes a Region 8 Quarter Master has been put in place to alleviate some of the postal delays from the USA by having a substantial stock of the International Regalia in stock. This has had some huge benefits not least the fast turnaround of members receiving items.**

**Communications and relations between Australia and New Zealand continue to be strengthened with the sharing of ideas including both successes' and failures along with the sharing of manufactures hopefully leading to cheaper Chapter related items.**

**A number of initiatives have been implemented; a Motorcycle Safety Portfolio where available literature is sent to Chapter Road Captains as discussion points for Chapter Meetings. A Marketing Portfolio designing a website and marketing material that is Region specific. A postcard was designed and manufactured with the assistance of the International that was distributed to all Chapters for use on their Chapter rides, a professional, high quality robust card that is easy to carry and has a writable surface for individuals to personalize each card. The intention is to increase our membership by dropping these off on rides and at Fire Stations.**



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A number of new MAL's have come on board that I have been heavily involved in with assisting the International VP. Chapter growth has been good with 2 new Chapters in New Zealand and a further Chapter potentially in Australia.

The Region now has 2 Reporters 1 in each country and I thank both Shaun and Dave for taking on these roles to share what is happening in Australia and New Zealand hopefully you will all see some of the great work that the Red Knights are doing in both countries.

For the first time in 15 years New Zealand has received a funding grant to run their annual event of which both Karina and I had the pleasure of attending and what a great time it was. The 'Gathering' was well attended with 40% of the New Zealand membership in attendance. While the weather was a little on the damp side, spirits were high and a local Volunteer Fire Brigade benefited from the generosity that Red Knights are renowned for.

A Region 8 Logo has been designed and will give us a sense of identity; I hope to eventually have some merchandise available in the near future.

Australia and New Zealand continue to meet the RKIFMC Mission Statement, as a result many individuals and organizations have benefited from their work. From raffles, BBQ's, Poker runs, Burn Rides and Show & Shine's organizations such as Burns Units, Hospital Emergency Departments, Hospice, Fire Departments, and those in most need have been recipients of the hours of work that many in the club have put in. To say I'm proud of each and every one would be an understatement.

I look forward to what the rest of the year brings and look forward to continue to serve you the membership.

Yours sincerely,

**Jason Collins**  
**Loyal to our Duty**