



2016 - EOY Report

REGION 8 – SOUTH PACIFIC

Region 8 Director
JASON COLLINS

Letter from the Region 8 Director

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Well what a year 2016 was, moments of adventure, good times and unfortunately some sad times. Region 8 lost 3 members to Heaven 1 all will be remembered and missed.

April the International Board appointed me as the Australian Ambassador and it didn't take long before being put into action with many phone calls and emails back and forth regarding a number of issues that arose throughout the year leading up to the Convention.

As the Ambassador, I travelled to New Zealand in June with the President of Australia 5 and Region 8 Grand Tour Assistant Roger van Kollenburg. There we met with the New Zealand Ambassador Russell Rawiri and several members from a couple of Chapters. Discussions took place in regards to the future for our Region and what could be achieved together.

August I travelled to the USA and attended the International Convention in Wisconsin, where I spoke on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand membership at the Annual Business Meeting on the vote for a Regional Director. The vote was passed unanimously and the process started. Each Chapter received an email with the notification, nomination, and election process of which took us to November when I was elected as the first Region 8 Director a very proud moment.

Janine Nolan received an Outstanding Achievement Award; along with a number of members receiving ride awards (see Grand Tour Report). Many Chapters and members also received 5 year badges.

My focus has been communication and trying to engage our Chapters within the South Pacific, some of the difficulties have been access to the Club email which we seem to be finding the underlying cause of the communication trail. Being part of the club, New Zealand for over 15 years and Australia for over 7, the distance from the rest of the world has created some disconnect. Having a Director located in the Region is a positive step but also will take some time for change to be accepted.

To achieve anything we need to surround ourselves with a team. I've been fortunate to have a supportive team including New Zealand Ambassador Russell Rawiri whom has always been available for a call or email contact with quick responses. Our Grand Tour Representative Roger van Kollenburg has been kept busy with the program. In the absence of a Regional Association New Zealand have Gary Stitt and Mark Godwin to help with Membership etc. and Motorcycle Safety respectively. In Australia Janine Nolan, Arran Foy, Mick Doedee and Andrew Young took care of Membership, Major Events, Motorcycle Safety and Sales respectively. Attached are the short reports that were available. A big thankyou to all of you for your help in this ground-breaking time.

The year has been busy for many Chapters as they continue to meet the Red Knights Mission Statement promoting motorcycle safety, projecting a positive image of motorcycling, enjoying the community of Firefighters and engaging in social, charitable and educational activities. Below are just some of the details on how they achieved our mission goals. To show that we are being spoken about at a high level the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club was mentioned in the Victorian Parliament by Belinda Bath MLC on the 6th of December 2016. *'MLC Melina BATH (Eastern Victoria) — I rise to acknowledge the tremendous community spirit displayed at the various motorcycle toy runs and toy drives that are happening across Victoria in the lead-up to Christmas. Since the first run in 1978 toy runs have played a key part in the festive calendar, and not just in our capital cities but across regional Victoria. Toy runs and drives collect donations not only of toys but also of other non-perishable items for distribution to those in our community who are in need of some love and attention at Christmas time, and this work is done by charities. Two such events were held last Saturday in my electorate of Eastern Victoria Region — the Gippsland Toy Run, which ended in Sale, and the Latrobe Valley Christmas Toy Drive, which ended at Old Gippsdown in Moe — and they were both very successful.*

*To the volunteer organisers of these rides and their helpers I say: thank you for your effort in planning and running these fantastic community events. Without the support of so many people in the motorcycle community, these events would not be the success they are each year. For the events last weekend I thank members of the **Red Knights Motorcycle Club**, the Ulysses Club, the veteran and vintage riders, the Gippsland Motorcycle Club, the Eastern Riders, the HOGs — or Harley Owners Group — and a number of other clubs that participate in this wonderful event. I thank those who show the true spirit of Christmas by making donations to people who might not otherwise find this festive season a joyous and happy occasion.'*

My wife and I have had the pleasure of hosting a number of International visitors throughout the year and attending a number of events. The biggest event for the year was Australia's first KoRT. The event was held at Kyril Castle near Ballarat and attended by the 4 Knights groups here in Australia Red, Blue, White (Medical) and Orange (State Emergency Service). New Zealand was also represented which gave the event an International feel. A very successful 3 days shared in an incredible atmosphere with a terrific spirit amongst those who attended. We also learned a huge amount what it takes to run such an event and captured this in a feedback session held at a round table all very Knightly !

I look forward to attending the New Zealand Gathering in March and then onto my first Board Meeting in April being held in Baltimore, Maryland. For the members of Region 8 I look forward to continuing to serve you and wish you all the best for 2017. As an idea of the time involved I am averaging about 5 hours per week at this stage responding, writing emails and making & receiving phone calls. I expect that this will increase as the Region becomes more accepting and after attending Board Meetings.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my wife Karina, forever supportive of my commitment to the Red Knights, love you baby !

New Zealand Ambassador Report

The year 2016 has been busy throughout New Zealand with Chapters getting together when we can and joining with other groups to do some events for charities.

Every year since our chapter started we have been holding "Gatherings" where at first was only our chapter, was to get together all members to a place where we could all meet up and mingle (well more like drink) and since the other chapters have formed we now have it the "gatherings" hosted by that chapter around their area and hosted by a local Fire Station. This has now become a yearly event where we can all get together.

This year 2017 the gathering is being held in Takaka, Golden Bay in the top of the South Island, hosted by Chapter 6 and the Takaka Fire Brigade. I for one am looking forward to riding my Harley to the South Island to attend.

Recently Chapter 6 went on a White Ribbon ride throughout the South Island from Nelson to the Bluff over a period of several days, they with other groups were raising money for the White Ribbon charity.

Chapter 1 had its annual Burns Ride for Kidz First in February 2016 which all motorcycle groups were invited and we sold RKMC badges to those who attended and we raised \$2000 for the Kids of the Burns Unit, as there is only one initial Burns Unit in Middlemore Hospital Auckland. The Kidz First team always attend and always look forward to this ride. Chapter one has been doing this for about 15 years now.

Meeting up with Chapters 2 and 3 where we can for a luncheon is always a good ride, albeit that not all can make it we still try.

When we have a ride south we usually try to get members from Chapter 2 Auckland to meet up with us somewhere in between.

It is with a sadden heart that I report that Adam "Chief" Knezovic Chapter 2's Vice President was taken ill and has had several operations on his heart, including bypass surgery. He is doing reasonably well and although he is still in hospital this New Year he is stable. We all look forward to seeing him back on his Harley in the very near future.

We here in New Zealand have welcomed the start of Region 8 South Pacific and things will get better as time goes on. I look forward to further working with Jason and establishing Region 8 to the betterment of all New Zealand and Australian Chapters and members.

The comradely between our two nations was made better by our members attending the KoRT in Australia last year, from what I've been told they had a great time and were made to feel more than welcomed and that's because both our nations have always had that bond, which will always continue, likened to ANZAC's. May that comradely continue for years to come.

This year's Gathering in New Zealand is going to be attended by some of our Aussie brothers and sisters, and I am looking forward to, meeting up with you all.

I will also be meeting Jason and Karina, in Nelson when they come over for the Gathering.

To all members I hope that you have a very prosperous New Year for 2017, ride safe and never ride faster than your Guardian Angel can fly.

Russell "Bypass" Rawiri , Ambassador, New Zealand

Region 8 Grand Tour Assistant

From the desk of the Region 8 Grand Tour committee facilitator,

As 2016 draws to a close I reflect on the busy year it has been, kicking off with certificates to New Zealand on the 1st day of the year and followed by some Aussie certificates a couple of days later.

This year has been marked with a few milestones which I think will be hard to match, for example, when awarding Neville McKenzie his 4th GTM I joked he had time to complete his 5th before the chapters 5th anniversary – which he promptly did. It was a honour to award the Nifty his 5th GTM, the first to do so in the world and I had the honour of awarding Andy Young his 3rd while receiving my 2nd at the same lunch. In essence with the sun setting on the year there is time for more awards but the tally currently sits at

- 12 station rides = 16
- Fire house rides = 15
- Grand Tour rides = 20
- Red Knight rides = 5
- Alphabet rides = 7
- Grand Tour Master awards = 6 (2 of which are Neville's)

A busy year, but enjoyable, Also rewarding as after some discussion with Henry we were allowed to begin a journey in Australia with a New Patch allowed by the International Board for an "AUSTRALIA" patch. 4 People have completed the ride to date with patches being made as we speak.

Well done Allison, Brutus and Tony on joining me on the ride.

It's an Honour to serve Red Knights in Australia with this role and I look forward to getting out and handing you your awards, or posting them, in 2017

Roger van Kollenburg

Team Leader Sales and Distribution

Since taking over the responsibilities of National Sales on 1 Oct 2016 we have made considerable sales on behalf of our member chapters , KoRT and the National Association.

Gross Sales for the Quarter are \$ 2324.50 from 54 orders

Further to this, I have used around 40 hours processing and packing orders, stocktaking and stock level management, phone calls from customers and maintenance of the Shopify website.

Our website lists products from many Australian Chapters, one New Zealand chapter and of course, International Regalia. Our website is currently being revamped and the new version will go live soon.

Delivery times have significantly decreased over past history, with the average order packed and posted within 1 business day for stock on hand. The fastest order was filled and delivered to our customer in less than 1 hr.

We have 9 pending orders that are awaiting stock to arrive from the USA to be fulfilled.

Andy Young

Team Leader Motorcycle Safety

One email has been sent out to all road captains with a road safety message. This resulted in 4 or so bounce backs that I have yet to follow up but shall do so soon and update the contacts accordingly.

An email has been sent to Ulysses Club asking for their permission to utilise their road safety messages, receiving permission, by working with other clubs this will enable us to spread much more information much further.

I have booked in to an accident scene management course for next year in Geelong.

I will be contacting the TAC next year along with Road Warriors for permission to pass on any relevant road safety messages too, I would like to get these in writing, I don't see why anyone would have a problem with a motorcycle safety message being spread again to a different audience but I would rather be safe than sorry.

Yours in motorcycling

Mick Doedee

Team Leader Membership and Marketing

It's been a very busy year! In August 2016 I was allocated the role of Team Leader of Membership and Marketing. Below is the list of my responsibilities, along with actions I have taken to achieve them.

Responsibilities:

Provide a point of contact for membership enquiries.

I monitor and respond to webform enquiries and emails provide a phone and email contact to prospective members through our website and marketing materials. I also facilitate contact between prospective members and their local Chapters.

Assist with New Chapter start-ups, applications / TMLA's etc.

I, through the Association, assisted in the raising of Chapter 18 in September 2016 by providing guidance, administrative and financial management support.

Develop membership welcome packs

The broad content of the welcome packs has been identified and are pending approval from the Chapters prior to further development.

Design and develop promotion material for Chapter use

Postcard Development

The purpose of developing postcards is to assist in the promotion of RKIFMC when members are out riding. They are a gloss front with a matt back suitable for writing a personalized note and contact details. They are small enough to be carried on the bike and thick enough to not get damaged too badly in transit. The postcards are pending Chapter approval prior to printing.

Regional Flyer Development

A regional flyer was developed and electronically distributed to all chapters.

Maintain Smartsheet, Facebook and Website page

Smartsheet is a very versatile and powerful tool which assists in managing membership and chapter data. Unfortunately, the MALs and Chapters are under utilising the program and it is currently being discussed if we will continue its use in the future given the costs per year.

Facebook is operating well and appears to be the main communication tool preferred by most. Except for one Chapter, all other Chapters maintain a Facebook page/group and utilise it to promote rides and events for their Chapter as well as providing other news and information between the Chapters and its members.

In early 2016, rkmcnaoa website was developed. It was decided (due to costs) to develop a regional based website through a different provider to replace it. This change should occur by mid-January 2017. The new website is www.rkifmcregion8.com. The new website will provide access to information on all Chapters in the region as well as a shop to purchase regalia and chapter merchandise.

Janine Nolan

Team Leader Major Events Report

Knights of the Round Table November 2016

The weekend of 25-27th November 2016 saw the inaugural Knights of the Round Table (KoRT) held at Kryal Castle, Victoria, Australia. The weekend was a great success with over 380 Knights, their families and community members joining in the event.

The idea of KoRT was first floated by National Association Secretary Janine Nolan at the National Association meeting held at Wendouree fire station in June 2016. In no time at all the planning for KoRT was in full swing. I was asked to take on the role of Major Events Coordinator by Australian Ambassador Jason Collins following a few issues with the RKMC NAOA, I accepted this position and promptly set about gathering an organising committee. The committee consisted of:

- Arran Foy
- Janine Nolan
- Al "Colonel" Ray
- Tina Ray and
- Overseeing the committee Jason Collins.

The organising committee put in a huge amount of work to make the event a success. Meetings were held on a regular basis as well as many, many hours spent on text messages, phone calls and messenger chats. I won't go into the details involved but, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the entire organising committee in particular Janine Nolan for all their hard work and the time that they gave freely to ensure KoRT was a success.

Special mention also needs to go to the sponsors and supporters that helped to make the event a great success. Our sponsors were –

- Harley Davidson Geelong – Sovereign Sponsor
- Ambulance Victoria – Sovereign Sponsor
- Spokes/TAC – Noble Sponsor
- Mr Badges – Noble Sponsor
- Shannons Insurance – Aristocratic Sponsor
- Stay Upright
- SEM Fire Rescue

- Ballarat Regional Tourism
- Red Knights International Motorcycle Club (America)
- Red Knights Australia 6
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Brendan Kosmer (JP)
- Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
- Eagleriders Melbourne
- Granger Legal

So on behalf of the Major Events team and all those who attended KoRT we thank you for your generous support.

The weekend began with a meet and greet evening at Kryal Castle on Friday 25th November. Wow what a fantastic evening. The food was amazing and plentiful. The entertainment was second to none! Not many people can say they have had a private jousting display performed by the current International jousting champion!! But the best of all was the awesome company. It was great to see so many Knights from all four clubs there and enjoying themselves. This is what the event was all about. The Knights of Australia and our visiting brothers and sisters from New Zealand getting together and enjoying each other's company.

The Saturday kicked off with an early start with the inaugural Shannon's Pack Ride. A ride supporting a local Charity that aims to provide support for palliative patients to stay at home. The support for the ride was amazing with around 80 riders taking part. A big thank you also needs to go to the New Zealand Red Knights who donated some stickers to the event with proceeds (gold coin donation) from the sale of these also going to support this amazing cause. Over the course of the day we managed to raise \$1057 which was presented to Jeremy McKnight during the Knights Banquet.

Following the morning's ride the fun and games began! There were various events held on the main arena of Kryal Castle as well as various other venues around the Castle. The kids even had their own scavenger hunt to keep them busy. All members who participated in the events had a great time with some of us even winning.

The castle was also host to a community safety expo. Various arms of the emergency services were present including Victoria Police, Victoria Ambulance, CFA and SES. The expo included a multi-agency road rescue display. There was also an opportunity for various sponsors and interested parties to have stalls and displays set up around the castle. An awesome day was had by all who attended.

The Saturday concluded with the Knights Banquet. It was fantastic to see all those who made the effort to dress up and join in the festivities. The memorial table, remembering our fallen brothers was an integral part of the evening. The evening included presenting the proceeds of Shannon's Pack ride, the awarding of medals from the day's events, various speeches from each of the four knights clubs and our international cousins, and various performances from the very talented Kryal Castle actors and actresses. The food was amazing and again very plentiful. A great night was had by all. A special thanks needs to go to the Wendouree Fire Brigade for the use of their brigade bus to ferry people to their various accommodations and also to Shaun Russell for driving us all home and keeping us safe.

The weekend concluded on Sunday morning KoRT Council held in the Knights Round Table Tower at Kryal Castle. The gathering included representation from the Red Knights Australia (various chapters), Red Knights New Zealand, Orange Knights, Blue Knights and White Knights. It was an opportunity for us all to reflect on the event, discuss what was done well, what could be improved and what could be dropped or included in future events. There was also discussion about future KoRT events, when and where. The general consensus that came from the meeting was to hold KoRT as a bi-annual event.

In conclusion, I would like to again thank all those involved with KoRT for their time, effort and energy. It was a fantastic event and a great time was had by all. Can't wait for the next Knights of the Round Table. See you all then!!

Aaran Foy



Rides / Events / Safety Initiatives / Fundraisers / Recruiting Conducted

Date 2016	Location	Details	Community of FF		Competency, Sportsmanship & Participation in the Sport of Motorcycling		
			Promote Safety	Positive Image	Social	Charitable	Educational
Australia 1							
September	Canberra	Wall to Wall		x	x	x	
September	Williamstown	Catch-up Sunday		x	x		
October	Euroa	Show & Shine	x	x	x		x
October	Alexandra	Parma Run	x	x	x		
November	Ballarat	KoRT	x	x	x	x	x
December	Wandong	Christmas Party		x	x		
December	Melton	Melbourne Toy Run	x	x	x	x	x
New Zealand 1							
February	Whangarei	Burns Ride	x	x		x	x
	Hikurangi	Fire Station display	x	x		x	
	Hikurangi	Christmas Parade			x		
	Whangarei	Christmas Parade			x		
		Chapter Ride		x	x		
March	Masterton	Red Knights Gathering 2016	x	x	x	x	x
November	Ballarat	KoRT	x	x	x	x	
Australia 2							
August	Axedale	Election - President					
September	Blackwood	Chapter Ride – Monthly meeting & lunch			x		
October	Nagambie	Chapter Ride – Monthly meeting & lunch			x		
December	Bendigo	Bendigo Toy Run		x	x	x	
Australia 5							
July	Dandenong	Harley Davidson BBQ – fund raising Alfred Hospital Burns Unit		x		x	x
August	Dandenong	Harley Davidson BBQ – fund raising Alfred Hospital Burns Unit		x		x	x
September	Dandenong	Harley Davidson BBQ – fund raising Alfred Hospital Burns Unit		x		x	x
October	Euroa	Show & Shine	x	x			x
October	Mirboo North	Blessing of the bikes	x	x	x		x

Date 2016	Location	Details	Community of FF		Competency, Sportsmanship & Participation in the Sport of Motorcycling		
			Promote Safety	Positive Image	Social	Charitable	Educational
Australia 14							
October	Tatura	Tatura Show and Shine	x	x	x		
October	Bairnsdale	Barry Sheen Tribute Ride		x	x		
October	Lockington	AUS 14 Dinner		x	x		
November	Nathalia	Nathalia Bike Show and Shine	x	x	x		
November	Rochester	AUS 14 Dinner – Regional Director Meet and Greet	x	x	x		
November	Rochester	School Visit	x	x	x		x
November	Echuca	Ulysses Toy Run	x	x	x	x	
December	Bendigo	Bendigo Toy Run	x	x	x	x	
December	Lockington	AUS 14 Christmas BBQ		x	x		
Australia 15							
February	Ararat	Grampians Ride for Remembrance 2016	x	x			
May	Mulwala	White Knights National Ride	x	x	x	x	
September	Canberra	Wall to Wall	x	x		x	
October	Shepparton	Autism Support ride for RISE Centre		x	x	x	x
November	Ballarat	Shannon's Pack Ride (inaugural)	x	x		x	
November	Ballarat	KoRT	x	x	x	x	x
December	Ballarat	Toy Run	x	x		x	
December	Linton	Snake Valley / Linton remembering those that paid the ultimate sacrifice					
Australia 18							
September	Canberra	Australia 18 Chapter raising		x	x		
September	Canberra	Wall to Wall	x	x		x	
October	Canberra	MRA ACT Pink Ribbon ride – Canberra - Bungendore	x	x		x	
October	Canberra	1 st Chapter meeting		x	x		
December	Canberra	MRA ACT Christmas toy run		x		x	
January	Sutton/Crookwell	White, Blue and Red Knights lunch ride		x	x		

Rides / Events / Safety Initiatives / Fundraisers / Recruiting Conducted in the *future*.

Date 2017	Location	Details	Community of FF		Competency, Sportsmanship & Participation in the Sport of Motorcycling		
			Promote Safety	Positive Image	Social	Charitable	Educational
New Zealand 1							
March	Takaka	Red Knights Gathering	x	x	x	x	x
February	Whanarei	Burns Ride	x	x	x	x	x
Australia 6							
January	Sale	Chapter Ride TBA	x	x	x		
September	Canberra	Wall to Wall	x	x	x	x	
Australia 15							
	Ararat	Grampians Ride for Remembrance		x	x		x
	Canberra	Wall to Wall	x	x	x	x	
	Ballarat	Shannon's Pack Ride	x	x		x	x