

Front Liner



Newsletter of Front Line Tourers, ACT

September 2006

New HQ



This is it folk. A bit out of the way but I believe all comers will be putting their tents on the lawn for the next Hunter Wineries trip. 7 Mulwala Drive Wyee Point

From Ed's Head

Haven't done a mag for a while. Here's one. There's Cliff's story about Mollymook and Ed. put in some of his pix from a recent expedition to Broken Hill. Might be a story about it some edition soon —Ed.

Inside

- FLITBITs
- Mollymook
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- Bike sales
- Pic of the month

FlitBits

Pillion in comfort and style

Website

<http://www.geocities.com/frontlineact/>

and provide comments to

rlupke@home.com.au

If you want the password for newsletters please contact Cliff or Ed. at the addresses in the brag box on page 1 or Roger at the address above.



'nother Road Sign

On my recent rrip to Broken Hill I noticed a few examples of a strange sign...something like

Trucks Dump Dust Before Entering Township

But not much style from Hell's Grannies



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Kwakacycle



Phil's Page...



Postcard from Qatar Phil



*An elephant asks a camel:
'Why are your breasts on
your back?'*



*'Well' says the camel, 'I think that's
a strange question from somebody
whose dick is on his face.'*

Motorbike sales soar on fuel prices in NZ

Wednesday July 5, 2006

By James Ihaka and NZPA

Motorbike sales are rocketing as New Zealanders turn their backs on cars to combat the soaring cost of fuel.

Motorbike registrations rose for the 27th consecutive month in June, when 758 machines were sold. That figure is up by a third on sales at the same time last year.

And it is a 45 per cent increase in motorbike sales since January, compared with the first half of last year, Land Transport New Zealand figures show.

June car registrations are down 19.2 per cent on the same time last year.

Climbing fuel prices have been blamed on the rising cost of oil internationally. In June 2004, petrol cost about \$1.20 a litre. A year later it was about \$1.30 a litre. Yesterday the price was \$1.70 a litre.

Mike O'Sullivan, of Mt Eden Motorcycles, said people were finding alternative transport options.

He said sales were "unbelievably out of control" as more "non-motorcyclists" bought scooters and motorbikes to combat crippling fuel prices.

"It's been three really good years of business and it's looking even better for the future.

"If a motorcycle dealer is not doing well, even though it's winter, they are doing something wrong."

High-performance and high-output motorcycles were the most popular among people with money to spend.

But others were being more frugal, buying smaller machines such as 50cc motor scooters.

Mr O'Sullivan said the lure of filling a scooter for between \$6 and \$10 was great when car owners had to spend close to \$100 for a tankful.

"There's a big percentage out there buying scooters now," he said. "It's the frugal people who can't afford to fill their cars any more."

The Land Transport New Zealand figures also

show car-buyers are increasingly opting for small vehicles.

These made up 40 per cent of cars sold in the first half of this year, compared with 30 per cent last year.

In the first six months of this year, 37,115 new cars were sold, compared with the 37,263 sold in the first half of last year.

Goldman Sachs JBWere economist Shamubeel Eaquab said the drop in registrations was a sign of economic weakness and belt-tightening, as the value of the New Zealand dollar had fallen 15 per cent this year.

But the Motor Trade Association said the sharp fall in car sales was not unexpected after booming sales last year and early this year.

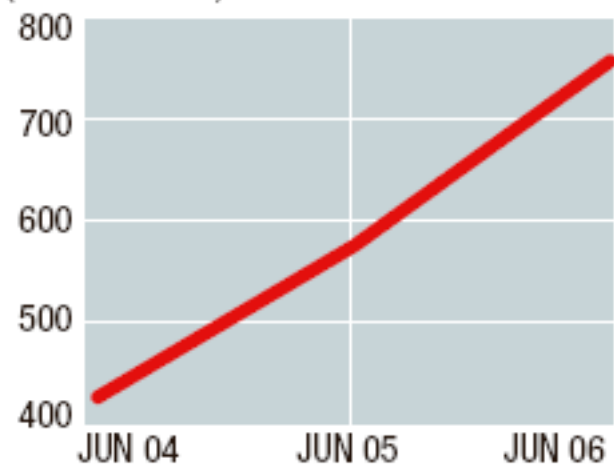
"The drop in the value of the New Zealand dollar earlier in the year meant that car-buyers had looked to snap up lower-priced stocks before import costs rose," said the association's communications manager, Andy Cuming.

"Likewise, buyers choosing to downsize to smaller cars in the face of higher fuel costs had brought forward their buying decisions for maximum advantage."

Last year, registrations were buoyed by the strong domestic economy and lower car prices caused by the strong currency.

But slow car sales suggested the economy was struggling to grow, and Mr Eaquab said he was comfortable with his forecast of 1 per cent economic growth this year.

NEW MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATIONS (month of June)



Supplied by Brooksie

Mexican FLT?



esta foto

Photos supplied by Pepe

Mollymook Overnighter



If the facts about the weekend were presented to Sherlock Holmes, he would make two immediate observations.

One: It's been some time since we have had an overnighter down the coast – because everyone was at Bungendore on time – even Mick.

Two: It's still winter – because nearly half the attendees went in cars.

If Holmes had been given all the facts, including the names of some of those present (Andrew, Dave, Steve, Chris, Dink, Lyn, Jenny and Mick), he would have made a number of other observations. These observations would have included, the groups quiet introspective reflection on the state of the Universe, their devotion to the majesty of motorcycle riding and their almost religious compliance with a wide range of NSW Traffic laws.

In addition to the well behaved legends mentioned above, there were a couple of others who attended who could be categorised somewhat differently. Teresa, Debbie, Renee, Carita, Pam, Alex and Paula, were their usual unruly selves. Like the rest, I tend to overlook their deficiencies because they hold the balance of power in the club and they can do what they want.

This trip we had two new attendees. Esmay came for the weekend and Gaye came for the Saturday morning ride to the Bay and then returned home. Esmay did the car thing, but Gaye did ride a bike

(well a Ducati, anyway). Talking about Ducatis, there were a number of comments about the proliferation of these rattley, oil leaking wannabe Japanese thoroughbreds. Apart from Tim (996 icon) Steve has one (748) and now, of course Gaye (900). There was a suggestion that we were becoming an Annex of the Ducati club, but I did explain that could never happen as we did not have a support vehicle to pick up the dead ones along the road.

Oh yeah, almost forgot. Bungendore to the Bay was, as usual, good fun. Mick was well behaved carrying Alex as a pillion. Gaye demonstrated her prowess on the Duke and the rest of us enjoyed the scenery. The usual coffee at the Bay, and then onto the Sea-Breeze Motel at Mollymook.

I remember the good old days when we stayed in Caravan parks, bought hamburgers, and drank beer from cans. These days we arrive at our pre-booked accommodation, have cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and boutique beers. If we get any softer we could become an Annex for the BMW Club. The toughest part of the whole trip was waiting for the meal order from Mollymook Golf Club. It appears you order your food, do 18 holes and when you get back your meal is almost ready! See I told you we were soft.

A few drinks, lots of in-depth conversation and something Dink calls dancing, carried us through until it was time to call it quits. I am reliably informed that some of the group did kick on in

Andrew and Chris's room, but details on the evening are a little vague.

During the evening there was a little presentation. As you are all aware Phil, the legend Lowen, has moved to Qatar to earn sufficient funds to support Pam and the kids. Pam, Alex and the others will have moved to Qatar by the time the newsletter is circulated. Shortly after their departure, Paula will also be moving to Qatar to join the ever increasing number of FLT's overseas. They were presented with a little gift to demonstrate our gratitude for the contribution they have made to the Club and the sense of sorrow we feel on their departure.

The Lowens and Paula will be missed. They should be back in a couple of years – probably just in time for our next annual general meeting.

On a happier note, the ride home was excellent. The weather was great the road and traffic conditions couldn't be any better. Coffee at the Bay, and up the mountain to home.

It was nice to see everyone away for the weekend. The interaction between the members is, and always has been, exceptional. No-one causes any grief, everyone gets along and quite frankly, everyone is a pleasure to be with. All we need now is for Tim and the Editor to get their fingers out and get along to a trip. At the moment their places are being taken by Andrew and Chris – heaven forbid the four of them getting together on the same trip.

The next overnigher is Talbingo. It is a trip not to be missed. Contact Teresa for details.

Police urge women drinkers to 'wear nice pants'

Women going on boozy nights out have been warned by police to 'wear nice pants' in case they fall down drunk in the street.

A Suffolk police safety campaign magazine shows pictures of young women slumped on the ground next to messages urging them: 'If you've got it, don't flaunt it'.

'If you fall over or pass out, remember your skirt or dress may ride up,' the magazine says.

'You could show off more than you intended - for all our sakes, please make sure you're wearing nice pants and that you've recently had a wax.'

Readers are also told to stick with friends, book a taxi home and watch the amount they drink.

Police said the Safe magazine's gossipy, tongue-in-cheek style was designed to alert young women to the dangers they could face if they get drunk during a night out.

'We need to raise their awareness of potential problems,' Chief Superintendent David McDonnell said.

'They become more vulnerable whilst under the influence of alcohol.'

- Reuters (from Brooks)

Deb's fire joke...

A fireman is polishing his fire engine outside the fire station when he notices a little girl next door in a little red cart with little ladders hung on the side and a garden hose tightly coiled in the middle. The little girl is wearing a fireman's helmet and has the cart tied to a dog and a cat. The fire-fighter walks over to take a closer look.

'That's a lovely fire engine,' he says admiringly.

'Thanks,' says the little girl.

The fireman looks closer and notices the little girl has tied one of the cart's strings to the dog's collar and one to the cat's testicles. 'Little colleague,' says the fire-fighter, 'I don't want to tell you how to run your fire engine, but if you were to tie that rope around the cat's collar, I think you could probably go a lot faster.'

The little girl pauses for a moment, looks at the wagon, at the dog and at the cat, then shyly looks into the fireman's eyes and says: 'You're probably right, but then I wouldn't have a bloody siren, would I?'

BUSTED MOUNTAIN

Ed. was suddenly inspired to 'Go West aulde farte' recently and did a four day 2750km white line fever weekend to Broken Hill. Here are some photos of that event.



Mine in the heart of Broken Hill



The main drag



Church at Silverton



In memory of Ed.



Kept an eye out for the local fauna



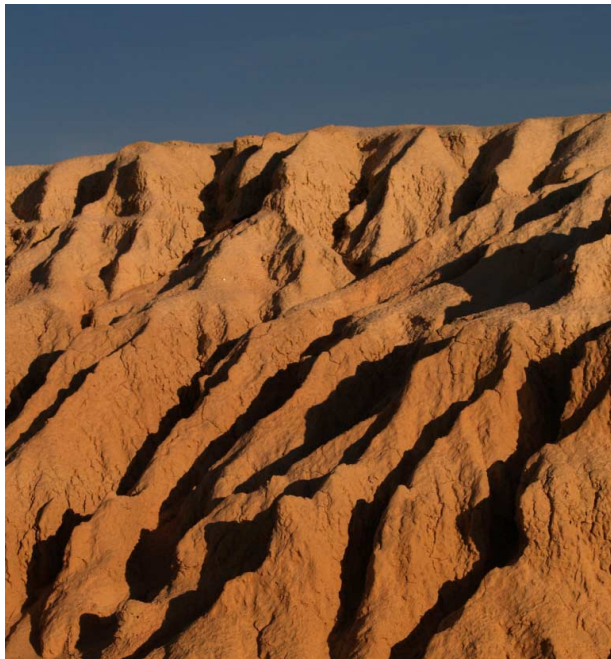
Met up with some all roaders for half a day. They tried to teach me how to ride fast in sand.



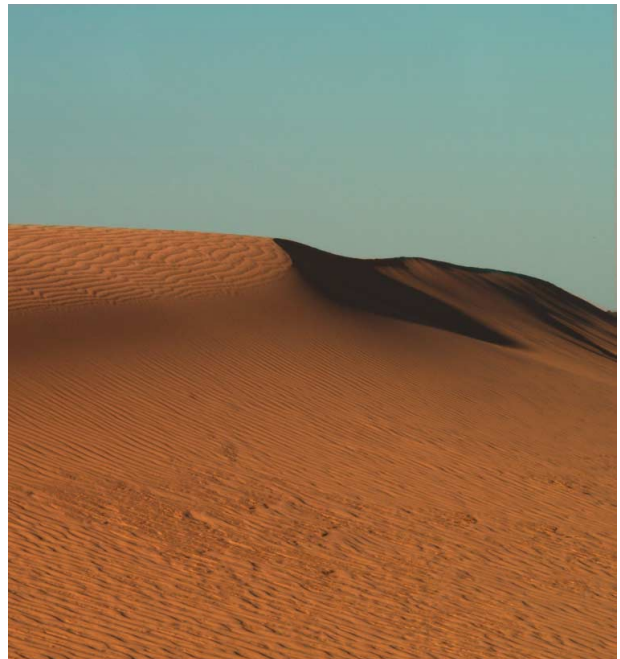
These Square-tailed Kites (I think) abound out that way



Silverton via Broken Hill – the BM parked near a VW emblazoned with emus by local gallery owner Peter Browne.



Part of the Walls of China at Mungo National Park – bit of a beat-up I reckon



Sand dune at Mungo – hardly PhotoShopped at all

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Photo of the Month...



Mad Max-mobile at Silverton