



Club Newsletter for Jan - Mar 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Riding Season!

Your Committee would like to welcome all our members to the 2021 season and trust you are excited about getting out on your vintage Classic machines for a great season of racing and enjoying the camaraderie that is classic racing.

We have had three warm up riding events so far in 2021 being a Ride Park Australia (RPA) Day at Harrisville on February 28th (with 85 riders enjoying the day), Practice at Nudgee in the wet on March 21st (with 13 riders braving the elements) followed up with a second RPA day at Harrisville on March 28th with over 100 riders attending.



Stylzee mud larking at Nudgee

Graeme Simeonidis on the gas.
Kevin Macdonald also on the gas!

Harrisville RPA day 28/3/21 – Photos courtesy Craig Mayne





We also held a **Swapmeet at Nudgee** on February 21st where club members and others had the opportunity to buy and sell those important items needed for their next restoration or just to keep their current mount on the go! Whilst there were a few challenges with the arrangements including a late switch of the day from the Saturday we originally advertised to the Sunday (due to the dirt track speedways arrangements with their promoter) we went ahead anyway and ran the Swap meet and the club made some valuable income from it. Our club secretary Randall Goldsworthy volunteered to be on site early Saturday to apologise and explain the date change to those who didn't get the news of the date change. This was very much appreciated by all and showed respect to our valued swap meet participants – most of whom came the next day! Next year we should be able to do it bigger and better – including a much requested coffee van! Thanks to Rory for the vision to hold a swap meet originally, Kevin and Marja for collecting the entry fees, Randall for customer relations ☺, Bert, Wayne and Kevin for site prep and Wendy Skyring for helping Steve with the “canteen” (snags and soft drink).



A lovely day for a swap meet and a sausage!

Injury Report - Machine Safety

We have unfortunately had two riders suffer broken bones at Harrisville at RPA days, with both requiring surgery. Both were due to crashes at jumps reportedly due to the throttle jamming wide open on the jump face. Mechanical failures are always possible (potentially more so on vintage machinery?) and these incidents are a reminder to us all to check our machines following maintenance and prior to riding. Remember scrutineering may not pick up all safety problems on race day and scrutineering checks do not happen at RPA and Practice days. Take care and double check your machine!

Your Committee

Following the AGM in December there are some new members of the Committee and some who have stayed on. Your 2021 Committee is

President Steve Berquist
Vice President Sean Allanson
Secretary Randall Goldsworthy
Treasurer Marja Macdonald
Committee David Hull, Alan Bressan,

Greg Michell agreed to continue as the clubs spiritual leader of track maintenance at Harrisville for which we thank him very much. Greg knows the track inside out having created it from scratch and he continues to care for it even after selling the property to Frank Klan. Greg will teach a few others in the club how to look after the track so he can spend more time riding less time working on it.

The outgoing committee members from 2020 are all thanked for their work during that difficult COVID year doing their best to keep us riding and enjoying our sport!

Working Bees and Track Maintenance

Our tracks do not prepare themselves for us to enjoy on race day. It takes considerable input from what is becoming an alarmingly small number of “the usual suspects” to get the track and pits ready for us to enjoy. While we all have busy lives and riding our vintage dirt bikes is a discretionary activity that can be hard to find the time to do, we must all be prepared to lend a hand from time to time or find other ways to take the load off a very small group of volunteers – some who may not even get to ride on the day for a range of reasons.

The Committee will have more to say on this soon, and invites your thoughts on how this issue can be addressed – perhaps from your experience with other volunteer based organisations and clubs? Some tasks will require training in use of the track equipment but others do not – tyre placement, whipper snipping, weed spraying, fence repairs, basic equipment servicing etc. If you can restore and maintain a vintage bike then you probably have the skills to help around the track! Stay tuned for more on this topic.

Around the Traps

Nudgee has two official working bees this year with other odd jobs thrown in. Wayne Skyring was the leader of a small team (Steve B and Kevin M) who repaired the slasher skid plates over two days so Bert could mow the grass again! Sparks flew as Wayne welded up the sorry looking skids until they were fit for service again. Bert Cavell is our champion grass slasher and weed sprayer at Nudgee (as well as our latest Club Life Member) and has done a great job over the summer “grass growing season” to keep Nudgee from becoming a jungle! The track was in great condition the day before the Practice day on March 21st but unfortunately the rain the evening prior made the track waterlogged in places but that didn’t stop Robert Styles from having a ball in the wet! Dust was not an issue....

Grant Black has made our PA system great again and as long as you remember to keep a line of sight between the microphone and the PA “black box” it works well. Thanks Grant!



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- 1) Wayne welding and hammering things back into shape.
- 2) Kevin standing by ready for the next task.
- 3) All systems go with the repaired slasher!

Harrisville has had two track prep working bees the day before each RPA day. We had only 3 or 4 club members attend each working bee to help provide a great track and pit area for 85 riders at one and 109 at the other..... ☺

A specialist team of “**Dirt Werx**” specialists from the club who with their own machinery and one borrowed from Frank Klan spent a full day putting 160 tones of new material on the track and modifying some of the jumps. A huge thanks for Alan Bressan, Simon Broad, Greg Mitchell, Tyrone James and Alan’s mate! This team contributed their time (and money) into the days work made a big difference to the track. Whilst there are requests for a few adjustments to some jumps, the feedback from the vast majority of riders has been positive. It’s a challenge to make a track suitable and fun for both short travel and long travel bikes and also for riders of a wide range of capabilities. Harrisville ticks most of these boxes already and with a few tweaks can be even better and generate even more smiles by our members!

Greg sourced a good second hand set of harrows to replace the old worn out ones and they are in service now on the track. Thanks Greg for investing your time finding and collecting them!

Wayne continues to provide TLC to the big water pump used to fill the water truck with a range of repairs carried out to keep it operational. He is very skilled in these dark arts and we need to get more of us involved in learning how to operate and maintain this critical equipment.

Coming Club Events

April 18	Round 1 of Club Champs at Nudgee. Entries open now!
May ??	Proposed closed to club Practice day at Harrisville. Date to be confirmed
June 6	RPA day at Harrisville

June 20 Queensland Classic MX Titles at Harrisville
July 25 Round 2 of Club Champs at Harrisville.
August 15 Inter-club at Harrisville
September 12 Round 3 of Club Champs at Nudgee
October 31 Round 4 of Club Champs at Nudgee

Other events may be considered based on rider demand and level of support available to prepare tracks.

Working bees are necessary to prepare for each event and will be scheduled the previous weekend to riding whenever possible. Working Bee on Saturday and riding on Sunday does not work for many people for a range of reasons.

It's a big effort organising a State Titles event so please let the committee know if you can join the organising team. Sourcing sponsors, preparing the program, track prep, race day assistance to officials etc are all things that you or your friends might be able to help the club with.

Gallery of Modern Art – Motorcycle Exhibition ends April 29

Some club members recently visited the GOMA exhibition of 100 of the most iconic motorcycles ever produced over the ages - including dirt bikes. Highly recommended to all club members.



Membership Renewal Due

Thanks to the more than 60 members who have already renewed for 2021. We need everyone else to do likewise. Please renew and encourage your friends to join. Membership strength is what allows the club to minimize club fees, invest in track improvements and plan to put on better events. Remember the club champs are only open to club members so get on board and be proud to belong to this club that is nearing its 100th year – in 2025.

Sponsorship

The club welcomes interest in sponsorship of the club for 2021. From as little as \$200 and upwards sponsors can have various levels of exposure to club members and to our event participants and spectators. We all have choices how and where we spend our money on both bike and non bike related activity and our sponsors can benefit from being featured at the club. Please speak to a committee member about any ideas you may have for sponsorship. Cash, goods and services or

even donations of equipment (new or used) can all benefit the club and help improve the riding and racing experience for members.

Track Markers

The club is trialing some new track markers sourced from MA. They are lightweight plastic that bend when struck and may be a viable alternative to heavy tyres if they can survive the rigours of VMX. We have a box of 60 and will be placing them “in the line of fire” soon. Your feedback will be appreciated when you encounter them first - Round 1 at Nudgee most likely.



Last Words

Your input into your club is always welcome by the committee. Any ideas to improve the club and how we operate is most appreciated. Contributions to future newsletters and other forms of communication also welcomed – even on that Facething!