

UNLIMITED!

HORIZONS UNLIMITED TRAVELLERS MEETING, 2012

WORDS/PHOTOS SHANE KUHL

“IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO THAN SPEND A LONG WEEKEND WITH 130 OF YOUR BEST MOTORCYCLING MATES...”

Want to do some serious motorcycle travelling? You should probably sneak a look at www.horizonsunlimited.com, or better yet take in one of the Horizons Unlimited (HU) meetings. There are two in Australia this year (see box).

And what is HU? Well, your hosts Grant and Susan will tell you all about it on the website; they are veteran motorcycle travellers – around the world north to south, two up on a 1986 BMW R80 G/S from 1987. They’ve been to over 50 countries since then, traveling and working all over the world, and they reckon they’re not finished yet.

And just to prepare you for what you’re likely to find at one of the meetings, here’s Shane’s description of the last one...

8 June 2012, the long weekend in Queensland to celebrate the birth of the Queen. Is there anything better to do than spend a long weekend with 130 of your best motorcycling mates, swapping stories, eating some good food and talking bikes and travel? I think not.

The riders started arriving as early as the Monday before and kept coming right through to Sunday morning, riders and bikes of all types and ages. Everything from a Russian Ural with side-car to hybrid Honda Transalps crossed with Africa Twins. Riders from the UK, Germany, New Zealand and across Australia arrived to join in this annual get together of people who ride, or would like to ride, their bikes around the world.

Throughout the event we enjoyed a range of presentations starting with Martin who rode his KLR across Mongolia, Siberia, Europe and then the UK. His bike is still over there under a tarpaulin, covered in WD40 waiting for his return. This quiet unassuming gentleman had cracked his pelvis when arguing with a kangaroo only six weeks earlier and yet still came up by train and hire car to deliver his amazing presentation.

After Martin’s presentation we enjoyed the great company and great tastes of the Dayboro Bowls Club; an absolute must for anyone passing through on a Friday night. Then more presentations, including Paul Dwyer’s multimedia display of travels through Africa and lots of catching up. During the evening Lisa and Simon Thomas arrived after having travelled 1000 kilometres during the day. Champion effort but it wouldn’t be the last.

Saturday started fairly slow with a cook-off and then a range of presentations throughout the day. More information from Paul followed by an informative presentation on meeting up with local riders from Frank and Simone from Germany who are on their around-the-world trip. Lisa and Simon gave an excellent workshop on photography and how to make those happy snaps real memories. Mike and Jo passed on some great information about writing a blog and how to turn a good blog into an even better book. Frank Kurucz spoke to us about riding



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in western Europe and up to the Arctic Circle. Derek and Carien took us on their journey through the Americas and then it was time for tea. The Dayboro Show Society served us generous helpings of home cooked dinner and desert and this was topped off with an excellent evening of Lisa and Simon's tales of nine years on the road. Not an easy life, and they are an inspiration for us all.

Sunday breakfast was another Dayboro Show Society delight followed by Peter and Kay Forward. You may have heard of Peter and Kay, they have been on the road for 15 years on a Harley Electraglide, travelling through every UN recognised county in the world. Frank Wheeler then slam dunked the morning with his tale of crossing the Tropic of Capricorn on a postie bike, all six foot five inches of him; what a hoot.

After lunch we had an hour or two of bench racing, outside style. Riders lined up their bikes and told us about their gear modifications, why some loved their bikes and some did not. This was an education in itself. After that we had a presentation from Stephen West with the most sensible advice I have ever heard on travelling with and using IT equipment. Helen Black regaled us with her tales of a single female rider in the Middle East. One not to be missed.

Throughout the weekend riders had the chance to mingle with our supporters; Ron from Motorcycle Adventure Products (www.motorcycleadventure.com.au), Steven from Moto-Tech Diagnostics (www.mototechdiagnostics.com.au), and Lachlan from MTD Luggage and Tours (www.mtdtours.com). These guys put on informative displays for us and without them the weekend would not have been possible. They also have great gear and are worth browsing through their websites or calling for a chat.

After tea we have an old fashioned camp-fire and gab-fest. What a way to end a weekend of shared dreams and occasional nightmares. A big thanks to all the volunteers, presenters, Dayboro Show Society and local community who made it all happen. ●



2013 HU GET-TOGETHERS

Horizons Unlimited 10th Australia Travellers Meeting
Thursday Sep 26 - Sunday Sep 29, 2013 - Dayboro, Queensland

Pre-register and pay before June 30 to save \$20 (\$60 at the event; for price details see website)

Registration from 1 pm on Thursday, Sep 26, with the first presentations beginning at 6 pm. Last presentations will be Saturday night.

There will be slide shows and tech clinics on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and all day Friday and Saturday.

As well as hearing inspiring stories of overlanding adventure from around the world, you'll get the low-down on preparing for your journey, navigation, first-aid, photography, filming and a host of other essential topics.

Sunday morning - after breakfast, no presentations are scheduled but possibly a ride-out if weather permits.

HORIZONS UNLIMITED AUSTRALIA (VIC) TRAVELLERS MEETING

Friday Oct 11 - Sunday Oct 13, 2013 - Cavendish, Victoria

Pre-register and pay before June 30 to save \$20 (\$60 at the event; for price details see website)

Friday - meet and greet.

Saturday - Presentations, demos, tech sessions, forums/discussions (to be announced). At the Football Club.

As well as hearing inspiring stories of overlanding adventure from around the world, you'll get the low-down on preparing for your journey.

Saturday night - Social meal.

Sunday - Ride-outs - two to pick from if weather permits.