



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc.
Office of the Region 8 Director
Jason Collins -South Pacific
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G'day from Down Under,

Hard to believe yet another year has passed. 2017 has been one of the busiest in the history of this great Club with the purchase of our own property and securing the Red Knights Memorial site for the future. This is extremely important in that we now own the very site that honours those of our membership that pass throughout the years and those who pay the ultimate price in our chosen profession LODD. Please take a moment to reflect and remember those members who have passed away this year.

This year I attended Board Meetings in April (Baltimore), August (NY Convention) and October (Baltimore) and felt truly honoured to represent Region 8. On the home front I logged around 7-8 hours of Red Knights related business per week for a total of approximately 390 hours. While most of it was good it did have some difficult times.

Highlights were seeing several countries represented at the Convention, accepting an OCA on behalf of our New Zealand Ambassador Russell Rawiri (congratulations brother) a ride on the NYC Fireboat 343 and many of the friendships formed and strengthened. Being able to connect members from Region 8 to members around the world just shows how far this Club reaches. I need to acknowledge the support from my wife Karina for without it I would not be able to commit to the same level. Thank you Karina.

Throughout the year Region 8 has continued to grow with us welcoming New Zealand 8 (March 2017) New Zealand 9 (July 2017) and Australia 19 (December 2017) with what I expect to be Australia 20 in the coming weeks. In the recent weeks 4 new Members at Large with one in the pipework. Welcome one and all to the family.

The Region 8 structure is working, QM Sales are doing well with a substantial amount of stock that is sent out in quick fashion, the website is getting a number of hits and growing daily, communications are getting better, postcards have been issued to Chapters for distribution on rides and we are starting to develop more multi chapter events. The International event funding has helped this and was utilized for a number of multi Chapter events.



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A Region 8 Logo has been manufactured and sales are going well, cost has been returned and balance is growing for what is expected to be spent on some banners for both Australia and New Zealand to share amongst the Chapters.

Especially at this time of year Australia and New Zealand continue to meet the RKIFMC Mission Statement, as a result many individuals and organizations continue to benefit from their work. Many Chapters have taken the lead in organizing Christmas toy runs while others have joined the numerous events being held at this time of the year. Bringing joy to those less fortunate is one of our strengths.

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.

The Region 8 Director is up for election in 2018 while I have expressed my interest in re-election if any eligible member would like to nominate please refer to the election dates sent out previously, if you have any questions please get in touch.

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

Finally thank you all for your support, from my family to yours we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2018 be a great year for us all !

Yours sincerely,

Jason Collins
Loyal to our Duty