



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,

2019 is all but finished.

This year for me has been one of focus on work, finally finishing my required modules and being promoted to the rank of Station Officer (Captain). I did take a bit of time off and extended my time to Convention to do a little ride around the USA. I was fortunate to be joined by my brother for a little over a week and shared Sturgis bike week with some longtime friends. After Sturgis I went on a little run (8700 km / 5400 miles) finishing up in New Hampshire for the Convention. During the convention I attended Board Meetings and the AGM, congratulations to both the outgoing officers and the incoming. On the home front I logged around 2-3 hours of Red Knights related business per week for a total of approximately 130 hours.

The Convention was a great time, as always and the Host Chapter certainly did an outstanding job. Apart from the organized rides the social aspect was outstanding with an awesome live band / BBQ one night and banquet dinner cumulating in numerous awards being presented. Congratulations to Region 8 member Neville McKenzie on his Outstanding Contribution Award and to all the other recipients.

Throughout the year Region 8 has continued to grow with us welcoming Australia 21 from the Hunter Valley Region in New South Wales. Welcome one and all to the family. Region 8 ever changing Membership now stands at 600.

November saw the 2nd Australian Gathering hosted by Australia 6. Friday saw us with a meet and greet, BBQ and trivia night, at the Sale Fire Brigade. Saturday attendees braved the pretty terrible weather (it was also agreed that I would no longer have any input on date to be heard given 2 wet years in a row) for a guided ride through Gippsland enjoying lunch at a little country ton pub. Saturday night dinner and party was hosted at the home of Dan and Jade (huge thank you) who opened the door for dinner and what turned out to be a favourite for many karaoke. A Red Knight auction raised not only some funds for the local Fire Brigade but also piece of hose used in cutting ceremony of our Memorial was made into a plaque with the sale amount donated to the Memorial Foundation. Sunday was the farewell breakfast with a slightly dryer day.



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A little over 8 weeks from writing this I'll be attending the New Zealand Gathering hosted by New Zealand 8 being held in Bluff South Island. From early signs it should be a very well attended event I'm sure there will be an article in future Newsletters and I will report further again later in 2020. Many Red Knights are heading to this one a little earlier to attend the Burt Munroe Classic (The Wolds Fastest Indian lived in a nearby town) to enjoy the festival and support one of our own as he races along the beach just as Burt did in testing.

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.

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 2020 be a great year for us all !

Yours sincerely,

Jason Collins
Loyal to our Duty