

# CSBA

# Life



April 18



# Profile of the Month

## Chris Barrett

### President Hunter Chapter

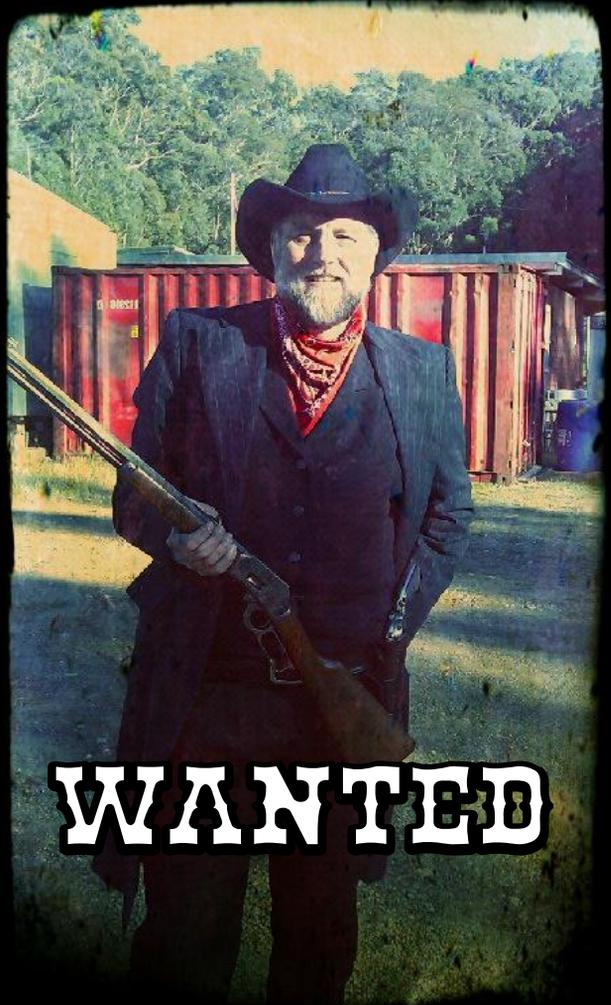
I was born in Sydney into a loving family with 1 younger brother. We lived in Coogee and as my father worked for the Commonwealth Government and was transferred to various places around the state, for 6 to 12 months at a time, every couple of years. So when I was 6 months old we went to Bourke, then to Byron Bay when I was 3 and again when I was 5 where I started school.

Latter we went to Scone before dad obtained a permanent position in Newcastle, so in 1966 we sold up in Coogee and moved to Newcastle finally settling in Adamstown Heights. By the time I started High School at Kotara High I had changed schools 8 times.

Probably the thing that I remember most about this experience was that it seemed that I was always making new friends. My family attended what was

then known as the Church of England (now Anglican) and I remember attending Sunday School at St Nicholas Coogee dressed in a bow tie! Very fashionable in those days.

As you could imagine, school life was difficult and I was a bit of a loner made all the more so as I suffered from a very bad stammer. Stuttering through sentences and finding it difficult to verbalise what I wanted to say. I was often picked on, bullied and the butt of many a joke which only got worse as I got older. In High School, I sought refuge in the library where I assisted whenever I could. Some kids I knew invited me to join the ISCF (Inter-school Christian Fellowship) where Pastor Binks from Islington Baptist would come each week and lead us in discussions and prayer. Through the ISCF I started going to the Friday youth group at the Methodist (Now Uniting) church in Kotara South.



It was here that I made a commitment to the Lord and started my Christian journey. My mother's response to me making a commitment was that we were all Christians as we went to church. My father wasn't fussed about church but tolerated my mother and her need to attend church. I continued attending this, then other youth groups whilst becoming active in The Church of the Good Shepherd (Anglican) Kotara South serving on the alter. Latter I joined Koinonia, a musical group that performed a mixture of song and pantomime with a Gospel theme. I continued with my Christian walk and met the girl I married at a Church of Christ youth camp, later marrying in the Church of Christ, Maitland Rd Mayfield in 1980. We moved to Maitland and joined the newly started Maitland Church of Christ where I remained till around 2007 having served in varying roles including Secretary. I currently attend one of the MEC (Maitland Evangelical Church) home groups weekly and services when I'm able.

As soon as I was old enough to get my Lerner's licence, I talked my parents into allowing me to buy a motorcycle. I don't really know why other than a bike was something that I could afford and I could be totally free and independent. I remember being the only student in 5<sup>th</sup> form that would leave for sport on their own! In 1975 I purchased a brand new Honda XL125 for a princely sum of \$700 and thoroughly enjoyed rattling around the bush and road. Often after school I would grab a couple of mates and head on down to Kotara Park between Park Ave and the Scout Hall where there was a creek and dirt trails and we would have a blast. In 1977 I purchased the new Honda CB400T (Hawke) which was a copy of the Triumph. I had many trips away with this bike and thought it was great.

As I got older the need for a bike diminished and I ended up settling for a convertible for many years before re-joining the fold in 2011 after my divorce.



My 1<sup>st</sup> full-time job was in menswear; I had wanted to go to tertiary education but in the late 70's traineeships and apprenticeships were few and far between with most of the people in my school year opting to head to Teachers College but many of them never found a placement due to the high numbers of teachers at the time. I did apply for a position in a course that would have lead me down the path of being a counsellor but no school leavers were admitted, only mature age applicants. So with limited options, retail is where I headed. I worked for David Jones, Reuben F Scarfe and Big-W, the latter in the camera department as I had made the transition into photography part time.



# PHOTOGRAPHER PHENOMENON

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

I had been involved in photography from an early age joining the Newcastle Photographic Society in the late 70's, taking on the role as president of the club within a few years of joining becoming the youngest ever president of the oldest Photography Club in the region. In 1984 I purchased Model Studios in Maitland where I worked as a Wedding/Portrait photographer for over 20 years before again making a transition, this time into the shooting sports when I opened Thornton Hunting and Outdoors in Thornton in 2004. I still run this business having served as President of the NSW Firearm Dealers Association for some 8 years and as a Director of the National Firearm Dealers Association for nearly as long.

I am currently the Hunter Valley CSBA President and thoroughly enjoy hitting the roads and twisties with arguably some of the best riders in the region not to mention absolutely top people!

What I have learnt over the years....

- ❖ Friends may come and go, but the Lord is always there for you.
- ❖ Don't let some handicap define who you are – rise above it and meet it head-on and you'll not only overcome it but in spite of it.
- ❖ Take responsibility for your actions, good or bad, and if you are not happy with where you're at, make different choices! Because it's your previous choices that have put you where you are now.
- ❖ Cruelty these days is not fashionable... What I mean is; there are a lot of people who want to eliminate cruelty from the world, cruelty to animals, bullying at school etc etc. They often question God as to why he allows cruelty to exist in the world... Wouldn't the world be a better place if cruelty didn't exist? The problem is that cruelty is very subjective and what is seen as cruel by one person is not seen as cruel by another. If I hadn't suffered the cruelty that I did in my youth I probably wouldn't have had the tenacity to achieve in later life! If you are looking for happiness on the freeway you're on the wrong road! Happiness is found in the corners of life and just as we enjoy riding our motorcycles through corners we should embrace the corners that are put in our life path as it is in these challenging and difficult times that we not only learn a lot about ourselves and how to be better, overcome and achieve but it's where we meet the Saviour!
- ❖ You don't know how much you need Jesus until Jesus is all you have!



# In Memory of Gary Blackman By Brett Taylor

I met Gary about 6 years ago while waiting for the usual suspects at 711 Berowra. I asked him if he was riding with a group and mentioned he was trying out a new group, (not sure who). I bumped into Gary a couple of weeks later and he was riding alone. Apparently the guys he rode with weren't a happy encouraging bunch of guys, either way I asked Gary to come on the CSBA ride. Once he go over the fact that we were Christians he agreed to come along.



From then he became part of the group and attended many rides. Gary loved the MotoGP trip. For a guy not too open about spiritual stuff he wasn't phased hanging out with a bunch of Christians for a week. Gary was a great rider and I hate to say it but he ran rings around me on a bike less powerful than mine... hmm.

I have learnt a lot about Gary over the last couple of weeks. It is amazing how much he was into and all the places he travelled. He lived a full life and has done almost every sport and action activity you could imagine. When you ride with someone you generally chat about bikes and other fun stuff is not really mentioned. We were lucky to have Gary take some great photos of the MotoGP trips and some track days as photography was one of his passions. He had an up and down family life and has two sons Mitchell and Derrick. I lived with Mitch for few months a couple of years back when Gary was overseas on one of his many ski trips. It has been good to know Mitch a little and help out over the last few weeks.



Over the last 5 or so years Gary has had to battle cancer. He seemed to be hit from all sides. Every time we caught up there was another test or treatment being done or coming up. He battled for years and as much as the end of his life was tough he was still able to ride to hospital only a couple of weeks before he passed. Many of the CSBA crew were able to visit Gary in his last few weeks. I was greatly encouraged to see members of CSBA sit with Gary and encourage him in his relationship with the Lord. Gary had a hard heart and hadn't had a great experience with the church in the past. He came with me to St Matts in Manly once and was shocked that church was so different to what he had previously experienced. I know many of us prayed with Gary but to be honest I am not sure how his heart opened up to the Lord. I have faith in a merciful God and I am trusting that the Lord revealed Himself to him.



Gary had become a member of CSBA and it came as a bit of a shock. It is encouraging that CSBA has that effect though. Its great that people who probably never go into a church are keen to be part of our community. I want to encourage everyone to share with other riders their faith and relationship with Jesus. We are truly blessed to be able to be open with those we ride with and it is great to use as many opportunities that come by to share the good news of Jesus. See you on the road. Brett.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*Brett Taylor*

MotoGP 2016 -  
The Magnificent Seven ride again



# THE GUNN RUN

*What a sensational weekend - Take a look at the link below and you'll soon see why this is the most loved event on the CSBA calendar!*

<https://www.facebook.com/csbaaustralia/videos/1497568950370744/>



# SydneyLife

## WHAT'S COMING UP

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

### *Bylong Valley*

Come and join us for an epic ride out to Rylstone! This is a big day, so come prepared.

Arrive: 7:30am

Depart @ 8:00am 7-Eleven Berowra

Brekky: 7-Eleven Berowra

Lunch: Rylstone Pub

Ride End: Pie in the Sky

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

### *Wollombi*

Come and join us for a ride to Wollombi!

Arrive: 7:30am

Depart @ 8:00am 7-Eleven Berowra

Brunch: Guesthouse Mulla Villa

Ride End: Cowan Pie in the Sky

- Please start all rides with a full tank
- Riders can purchase fuel and food at indicated stops
- Weather permitting, check Facebook for updates

Contact Tony for more info on the Sydney Chapter

Mobile: 0419 941679

Email: [csbasydneyrides@hotmail.com](mailto:csbasydneyrides@hotmail.com)

# Hunter Corner

## ROAD CORNER

### WHAT'S COMING UP

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

**Bylong Valley**

Meeting 8:00am BP Beresfield on John Renshaw Dr at the end of the M1.

Hunter Bike Night  
3rd Thursday of each month 7pm  
Harry's De Wheels Newcastle

*Come along*



Our members meeting is on the 2nd Monday of each Month at 6pm for tea and fellowship. Our Chaplain Dusty Taylor leads us in what has been some great meaningful evenings where we are able to share with each other and encourage each other.

Contact Chris for more info on the Hunter Chapter  
Mobile: 0425 267808  
Email: [csbahvrides@gmail.com](mailto:csbahvrides@gmail.com)

# Hunter Valley CSBA Chapter Meeting

This Monday, 9th April, 6pm will be our next Hunter Valley Chapter meeting but as Glenn is away it will, for this month, be at Chris' place 31 Francis Ave, Lemon Tree Passage NSW 2319. 6pm - 8pm

To appease the Dusty, we'll smoke up some chicken wings on the barbie to take care of the tape worms and enjoy some stories and photos from the recent rides.

Expect the usual good company and conversation! You know you're welcome no matter what you ride.



# DUSTY'S CORNER

## Tracks4Life

*Dusty's Thoughts*



What if you asked a mate RU OK and they **DIDN'T** just answer like most blokes do... "Yeah, I'm alright mate!"? What would you do if they told you they **HAD** been thinking about ending their life recently? Maybe that's why we don't ask the question, because, well... honestly... what can you say to something that serious?

The old saying, "To be fore-warned is to be fore-armed!" could be good advice here. Lately we have been talking more about men's mental health especially with Darren Cook and his Tracks4life around. We all agree that it's something that we want to do something about, but what?

This morning I was reading through the **Glove Box Guide to Mental Health** that Darren gave us after the Tracks4life ride. There seemed to be a lot of articles about "We need to talk about it..." and "We need to be more aware of it..." but not much about what we can do practically to help a mate if he did give you the non-"Bullshit" answer. That was until I came across the article on the next page:

# THE FOUR STEPS TO START A CONVERSATION

## 1. Ask R U OK?

- Be relaxed, friendly and concerned in your approach.
- Help them open up by asking questions like “How are you going?” or “What’s been happening?”
- Mention specific things that have made you concerned for them, like “You seem less chatty than usual. How are you going?”

## 2. Listen

- Take what they say seriously and don’t interrupt or rush the conversation.
- Don’t judge their experiences or reactions but acknowledge that things seem tough for them.
- If they need time to think, sit patiently with the silence.
- Encourage them to explain: “How are you feeling about that?” or “How long have you felt that way?”
- Show that you’ve listened by repeating back what you’ve heard (in your own words) and ask if you have understood them properly.

## 3. Encourage action

- Ask: “What have you done in the past to manage similar situations?”
- Ask: “How would you like me to support you?”
- Ask: “What’s something that you can do for yourself right now?” “Something that’s enjoyable and relaxing?”
- You could say: “When I was going through a difficult time, I tried this...You might find it useful too.”
- If they’ve been feeling really down for more than two weeks, encourage them to see a health professional. You could say, “It might be useful to link in with someone who can support you. I’m happy to assist you to find the right person to talk to.”
- Be positive about the role of professionals in getting through the tough times.

## 4. Check in

- Put a reminder in your diary to call them in a couple of weeks. If they’re really struggling, follow up with them sooner.
- You could say: “I’ve been thinking about you and wanted to know how you’ve been going since we last talked.
- Ask if they’ve found a better way to manage the situation. If they haven’t done anything, don’t judge them. They might just need someone to listen to them for a moment.
- Stay in touch and be there for them. Genuine care and concern can make a real difference.

# TRACK RECORD

*With - Jeff Tilse*

## Phillip Island

*Below are some comments from the group the attended the Phillip Island Track Day.*

Ross: This is an experience of a lifetime that every enthusiast must do at least once. It doesn't matter what you ride you'll definitely come away with a huge smile. The big drive is certainly worth it.

Jeff (Me): This Island, this facility, this track; exquisite. As you peel into the long, long, left that is turn two and lift your eyes (only for a moment) you will catch a glimpse of Bass Strait. The surface at turn two is so smooth, you just keep pushing down with your left hand, your bike doesn't complain and you know you're doing something special. Turn three appears on the horizon. A short straight; fourth, then fifth and tip in. Seriously, the track feels that dependable. A yellow-group hack from Sydney (that'll be me) can take this corner at 200 kph. Get it right and it will change your life.

Four CSBAers took two vehicles towing trailers to Phillip Island to ride on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March. With perfect weather, save for a little wind, we enjoyed 12 x 20 minute sessions each. The accommodation was comfortable and inexpensive. The ride days were run professionally, as always. First-timers receive special treatment. It all happened easier than anyone, who hasn't attended before, would expect. Len, Pete and I agree with Ross; it is an enthusiast's must-do.

**Jeff**



# More Photos from Phillip Island



# Track Rider Training - H.A.R.T.

**Saturday May 19th 7:00am - 4:30pm**

<https://hart.securewebsite.com.au/course/new-south-wales/nsw-advanced-motorcycle/advanced-iii---track-master.html>, Ferrers Rd, Horsley Park NSW 2175, Australia [map](#)

If you are a novice to motorcycle track days, here is a good course to get a start on motorcycle track training. When your track riding slate is clean, or almost clean, you can obtain good long-term payback from attending track training course. You get to learn the correct techniques before the obstructive habits develop. If you have confidence issues, as an inexperienced road rider, track training will help you work through what is causing the issues. You will be able to work at how you can break through the barriers that are stopping you from being smoother and faster. This event is track rider training for registered road bikes. The training is conducted in graded groups, according to experience levels. No one is made feel slow or inadequate. (Even those who don't ride a Kawasaki.) The event is conducted by the Honda Australia Rider Training team. CSBA members have been participants on this course on three previous occasions. Not only do novice riders benefit, our experienced track riders also gain from this day. Our friends at HART do a great job and previous events have all received positive reviews from CSBA members. Interested? Find out more at the link below. Then register your interest by indicating with the voting buttons above. If you have already registered, select "going". If you are still considering, select "interested"

<https://www.facebook.com/events/136282500542739/?ti=icl>

