

## **Presidents Report 2011.**

It seems it was only yesterday since Phil Pilgrim, Chris Horner, Robert and Susan Gosper, and I put together the idea of forming an Indian club that would welcome all Indian motorcycles, owners and enthusiasts. A lot has happened in that short space of time. We can be proud of our achievements over the past year as we have close to 80 members. I see that Victoria and NSW are doing well in member numbers thanks to all State section organizers. I think we need to extend a challenge out there and see if we can get some more New South Welshmen/ladies involved. We will give support to all states to expand. Camaraderie is strong and close Our IIRA Australia has had two successful major rallies and various weekend runs, supported by an enthusiastic bunch.

We have our 1st International rally coming up next year to New Zealand. The time will fly, so if anyone is interested, I would strongly suggest you send in your entry form. There are limited spaces/seats available, so if you want to go, book soon. See the website for your entry form.

The website looks fantastic. I know from building my business website, just how much time and effort that has gone into it, both building it and updating it, so thanks to Phil Pilgrim and Richard from Monte Media. The web has had approx. 18000 hits. It shows the strong direction of our club and it can only go from strength to strength. Thanks also to all of the background work, support etc. from members such as Chris Horner, Peter Kime and Chairman Lindsay Urquhart and to many others. I had a great weekend with my fellow members down at Albury a few months ago now. Rode the new Bomber with some other modern Indians and some old ones, along with other brands. I drank way too much. I could not say "NO" to another drink offered from Phil White, Laurie or Rod. I should have remembered, my body does not accept Port too well. I did meet a beautiful woman who sat next to me for lunch. One who did not argue or talk back. She did not argue and appeared to agree with everything I said. I considered her the perfect woman. I think Phillip White may have taken a lovely photo of us two.

Well, you all would have heard about the acquisition of Indian Motorcycles by Polaris Industries. This has changed the direction again of Indian Motorcycles. After following this recent news closely and some careful consideration/ponderings, I believe it will be a great thing for the Indian brand. It is very reassuring to know that a company with a healthy bank balance – last year their annual sales were close to 2 billion dollars and their business is predominantly motorcycles, we will see a very special motorcycle coming from their plant over the next few years from Minneapolis. Now with Indian Motorcycles to add to their motorcycle brands, they can certainly go head to head with the other US V'Twin motorcycle brand.

I will be certainly following this next chapter of the Indian Motorcycle story very closely. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Peter from Victory and any of his colleagues, if they also consider joining. I know we have had a number of members that have also extended a warm welcome and have offered any help for the future, inc. leaving their motorcycle/s for display. Peter has expressed his appreciation and has been overwhelmed by the support.

Once this Indian bug gets into your skin, it becomes a part of your life. Indian is much more than a motorcycle.

Ride Safe

John Smith