

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT



Welcome to the Summer Edition of Mid Life Adventures Newspaper and what a cracker of a edition it is as we expand our editorial to include new segments featuring 'From The Pillion Seat', Profiles of our 'Partners' in offshore lands and our new associations who help us with products and services here in Oz to get us to the destinations on time, every time and with the right equipment and attire.

As we are always on the lookout for 'trick' stuff which will make riding just that little bit better, we will review products worthy of inclusion and lastly we have introduced a 'Wadd'ya Got for Sale' section to help our followers dispose of their goodies.

And then there's the usual commentary of up and coming events to whet your appetite allowing you plenty of time to earn enough brownie points and build the piggy bank so you can store the lawn bowls, golf clubs and knitting needles and come for lifetime experiences that Mid Life Adventures can give you.

Since the Spring Edition my dear mother sadly passed away peacefully at 87 after a short illness. During her last few days I asked her whether she had any life regrets and

was there anything she wished she could have done but hadn't. Her only regret was that 'her' Harry, had passed away far to early (10 years prior) and that she had not done more adventurous things in her life. Her words of wisdom were to live every day like it's your last and ride safely...here here!...good on ya mum!

In wading through her accumulated belongings, I came across a photo of 'Harry at 23 years of age with his Indian outfit and it started me thinking about why we all love riding motorcycles regardless of the size, make, power or genre. All will give a unique experience, totally different but nevertheless an experience and this has not changed since the motor cycle was invented by German inventors Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach in Bad Cannstatt, Germany in **1885**



For most of us motorcycling is a passion which is part of our lifestyle and which brings total strangers together speaking a common language akin to grey nomads in a caravan park.

Add 'adventure' in to the ingredients and watch eyes light up with the idea of riding in unique destinations like the Himalayas or Mongolia moving the excitement needle up a notch.

For those of you who are avid adventurers, you get it and for those yet to experience, take mums words on board and live every day like it's your last and come with us on one of our rides. We are so lucky to have a passionate pastime that is so rewarding and provides lifetime memories.

Van Diemens Ride January 6th 2018

.....from the pillion seat

Our week in Tasmania was an exhilarating experience - from the moment we boarded the Spirit in Melbourne to when we reluctantly farewelled each other a week later. After dinner and drinks aboard the ferry we ensconced in very comfortable cabins to experience a wild night at sea (where some of us slept better than others), to

awake the next morning in Devonport to clear skies and balmy weather. Before we knew it we were out into the countryside and climbing the folds of breathtaking Cradle Mountain in the mid North West and well known for its hiking tracks and trout infested fishing holes.



In the late afternoon at about 'beer a clock' we arrived at the totally enchanting tiny seaside village of Stanley which will forever be remembered for its soft colours: the turquoise of the sea, the quaint multi-colours of the old-fashioned terraces ambling up towards the theatrical green 'nut' of a hill which presides over the quaint

village. We overnighted comfortably in Smithton and set off at 9 am for our next destination – Strahan arriving mid-afternoon in time for a dip in the chilly waters of the Southern Ocean before a sumptuous seafood banquet at View 40 overlooking Strachan Village.

The next day saw the three Pillions, one now 'bailing' the slab seat of the T120 preferring the comfort of the wool covered couch of the GS1200, holding on tightly with eyes firmly fixed ahead as we negotiated the



famous 5 kilometres of crazy road that is known as 99 bends leading out of Queenstown and up into the mountains, presenting breathtaking views from the top of the world across seemingly never ending landscapes, riding alongside vast lakes, a detour off the beaten track to visit to Nant Whisky Distillery set amongst sheep stations and, finally, just as the rain started to fall into Hadley's Orient Hotel in Hobart under increasingly darkening skies where we all fell into an exhausted stupor after feasting on the best of Tasmanian beef at the Ball and Chain in Salamanca. The trip to Port Arthur the following day which won the flip of the coin over Salamanca Market made a lasting impression.



Such hardship and tragedy amidst the most incredibly beautiful surroundings. Interestingly, little discussion could be prompted on more recent history well publicised which again put Port Arthur on the map globally! The ensuing Hobart to Bicheno ride proved to be very challenging for our riders as we were treated to

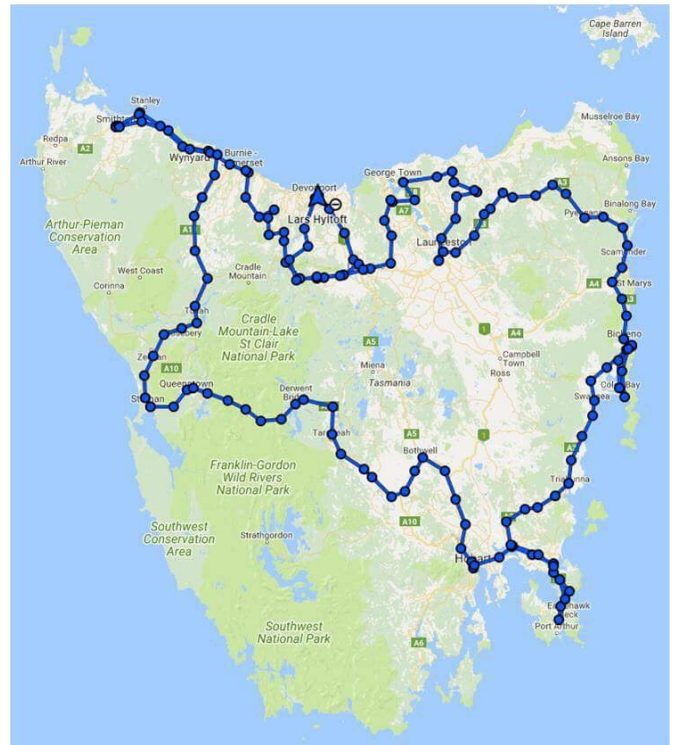
an “unusual surprise of hail and snow... a phenomenon!” according to the local papers! This was so out of context that this particular pillion thought the ground was leaching salt instead of recognising the ice and hail for what it really was (this despite me being underclad and frozen)! We overnighted very comfortably in luxury cabins in Bicheno which proved to be (yet another) enchanting family holiday seaside village offering what looked like world class snorkelling and kayaking opportunities.

The following morning found us at famous Freycinet National Park and the amazing Wine Glass Bay. A morning of spectacular coastal sights included a walk to the lighthouse which offered great photo opportunities and included a delightful tame Wallaby in the parking lot!



The Bicheno to Launceston ride proved to be equally memorable. We rode past fields of lavender, and made a stop at the famous Pyengana Dairy Company where our corner man system failed for the first time, before weaving up the Elephant Pass where we were enveloped by the temperate rainforests with stands of giant Myrtle, Leatherwoods and Pine underpinned by huge, lush tree ferns with swathes of wild foxgloves bordering the road. This Pillion even sighted two camels at the top of the pass – but this has been deemed by the group a hallucination ... maybe the cold did get to me a little!

After a stop off at Pipers Brook we headed SW to the overnight stay at Launceston Country Club and Casino which was a treat as our rooms opened up onto the golf course teeming with animal and bird life. Up early and keeping good time allowed for a private tour of a ‘collections’ store Deloraine (3 Railway Pde – well worth the visit) and another lap around Cradle Mountain – more ‘twisties’ and breath taking scenery – and then the late, very late afternoon call to board the ferry heralded the end of our holiday.



I know that I speak for all three Pillions when I say a huge thank you to all the riders for their great team spirit and to our ‘personal’ riders for taking us on this spectacular ride - and last but not least to the organisers of MLA, Michael, Bob and Tony for all the effort they put into making this one of those stories we’ll be telling (and not listening to Bob!) in the old age home!! Until we meet again.

One thing for sure is this will certainly not be my last ride as a pillion nor my last with MLA who run great tours!

Diana.



Temijun Ride of Mongolia – July 2018

TEMUJIN TOUR ADVENTURE RIDE
MONGOLIA July 2018



Join Mid Life Adventures on Royal Enfield 'Himalaya' Adventure motorcycles to explore the land of Temujin (Genghis Khan) where vast plains meet the sky and where the nomadic life is still a living tradition. Our tour starts with a two day tour of the 'best of Beijing' including the Great Wall and Forgotten City then following the short flight to Ulaanbaatar where we embrace Mongolian culture and history, we ride in to the vastness, the forests, the plains, the sand dunes and the valleys. Sleeping and dining in traditional gur camps is an experience in itself. Swim in volcanic hot springs, walk through 200 year old monasteries and celebrate two days of the spectacular annual Nadaam festival.
"It's your time to enjoy!"

Tour date 30th June - 13th July 2018. Cost US \$3000. Including Beijing tour US\$3800 (land content only)
For bookings contact Mike Burton mike@midlifeadventures.com.au or call on 0409-512546

With Van Diemen's Ride now behind us, it's time to turn MLA's attention to the July Temujin Tour of Mongolia. Logistically this tour is challenging as unlike Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and Australia, tourism in Mongolia is at the embryo stage and whilst the capital Ulaanbaatar offers modern accommodation and tourist experiences, once 100 kilometres out of the city circle in any direction is a whole new experience. Concrete, swimming pools and multi-cultural cuisine give way to canvas gurs (or yurts), traditional food and open plains which stretch as far as you can see interrupted by the sights of solitary nomads herding livestock. With sensitive stomach, I doubt even hunger will encourage me to attempt the Boodag!



In case you are wondering, a Boodag is a whole goat or marmot (squirrel) with filling of hot stones and whatever vegies are locally available cooked over an open fire. There is always the popular dish Uuz (lower fatty back and the tail of mutton slow cooked) as an alternative. Best pack a few protein bars and lomitils!

Meals aside, 10 riders are going to get an unbelievable experience with the Temujin Tour starting with a 3 day tour of Beijings best and following the short flight to Ulaanbaatar, we board both KTM's and Royal Enfield Himalayan's for 10 days riding west finishing at the remote isolated village of Ulgii where 80% of the Kazakh people live. Here we'll witness the talents of the eagle hunters and we'll dine with a Kazakh family before spending the night in traditional Kazakh Yurts which are different to Mongolian Yurts.



Contact: Michael Burton 0409 512546 email: mike@midlifeadventures.com.au
Bob Moffett 0408 118184 email: bob@maxipak.com.au

www.midlifeadventures.com.au




A 3 hour flights will deliver us back to Ulaanbaatar in time for the annual Naadam Festival known as the world's second oldest Olympics.

We look forward to giving you a full rundown, good and bad in the Winter Edition of the MLA Newspaper.

Himalaya Ride September 2018

Himalayan Adventure Ride 2018



Travel with Mid Life Adventures to the hustle and bustle of vibrant Delhi where after an exciting two day tour including a rickshaw race through the spice markets, we travel through the lush plains of India on local train to the summer capital of Shimla where your journey begins. Fourteen days on Royal Enfield 'Himalayan' motorcycles through the astounding Himalayas staying in local accommodation, visiting 1000 year old temples and Tibetan monasteries. After reaching the peak of the highest motorable road in the world, we stay in magnificent royal houseboats in the ancient city of Srinagar before departing by air to Delhi for our final night together in the magnificent Leela Palace.
"It's now your time to enjoy!"

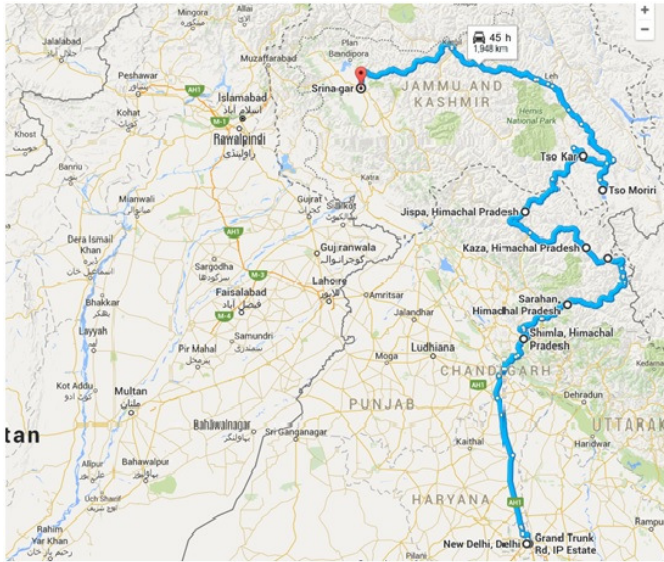
Be part of this fascinating adventure back in time and through the most remote mountain range on the planet.
Tour date 29th August - 15th September 2018 (18 days). Cost US \$3480 (land content only)
For bookings contact Mike Burton: mike@midlifeadventures.com.au or call on 0409-512546

The August/September Himalayan Ride starting with a three day tour of Delhi and environs then heading to the highest motorable road in the world is fully booked with 20 adventurers all keen to try out the Royal Enfield Himalaya and experience the wonder and serenity of the magnificent Himalayan mountain range.

This is a repeat of the tried and tested 2015 inaugural Himalayan Ride, the route mapped with the assistance of or Indian mates at Motorcycle Expeditions who support us through India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

As mentioned in the Spring Newspaper, if this tour is on your bucket list, email either Bob or myself mike@midlifeadventures.com.au for information.

We will be running it again in June/July 2019 but don't wait till then to contact us as this tour books out quickly.



-Himalaya Ride June/July 2019

As mentioned earlier in the Newspaper, the Himalayan Trip for 2019 will be moved forward to June/July which will give us a new perspective of the Himalayas as we are 2 months earlier than past rides. 8 weeks doesn't seem much but above 4500 metres and coming out of winter months promises to offer riders the excitement of seeing the mountain range at its best. The invitations will be out in a couple of months.

-Vietnam South to North September 2019

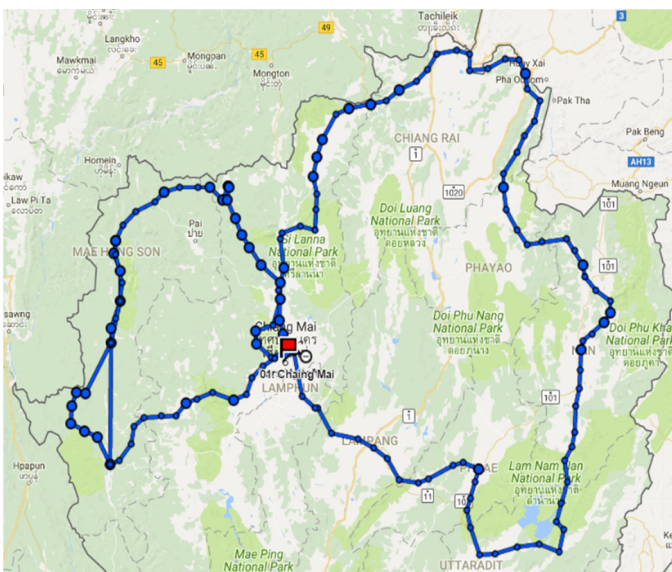
Having recently returned from my recon trip of Vietnam travelling North to South taking in SaPa, Ha Long, Hanoi, Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, and Saigon, I couldn't wait to further my discussions with the best bike tour operator in Vietnam to draft a route taking us from Saigon to Na Trang, south to Vinh Hy for a half day fishing in crystal clear waters where you can see the fish, then North along the Ho Chi Minh trail through the central highlands finishing in Hanoi where you will be able to continue your tour if chosen with an overnight experience on Halong Bay. We will have more detail on this tour as the 'draft' route is finalised. Vietnam is a fantastic country to ride especially with an experienced operator. The scenery is magnificent, the people are humble and the food is what you would expect from Vietnam.

2019 and beyond.

-Thai 2 Loop Adventure Ride March 2019

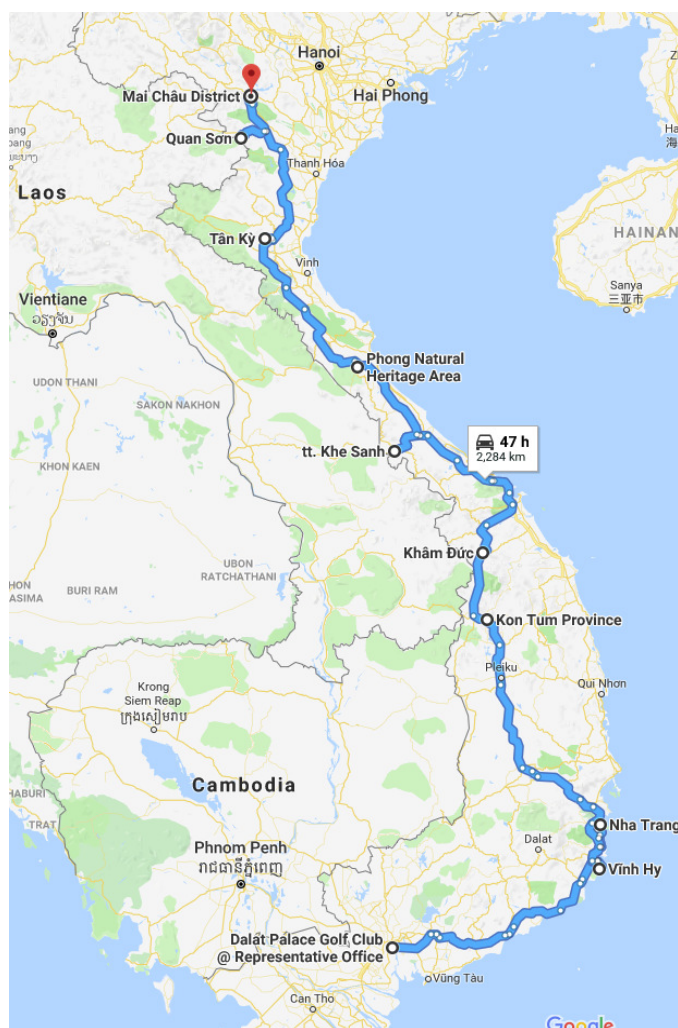
The March 2019 Thai 2 Loop is **now open for booking** and if your passion is riding 5 days on perfectly formed roads in the Golden Triangle of Thailand's north followed by 5 days in the wilderness of the national parks running along the Thai/ Myanmar border, then this is the ride for you. Whether you are on a 650 Versys, CBR600 or CRF250, we can promise, you will have a great 12 days whilst enjoying resort hotels (single room) and Thai banquets.

The tour is only 12 months away so get in early expressing your interest.



This will not be an enduro on KTM's or CRF's. It will be an adventure of a different kind and pace open to riders and pillions who you want to share the experience with.

In the Autumn Newspaper we will have more detail on the route and final pricing for you.



(Vietnam Discovery Ride Draft Route)



(Typical roads in Vietnam's central highlands)

Wadd'ya Got for Sale'

Had enough of your 'pony' and are looking to upgrade or are no longer in need of some of your adventure riding 'stuff' in your shed, send us the details and pic's and well

try to help you collect a few pennies for your next MLA adventure.

Harley Electra Glide for sale

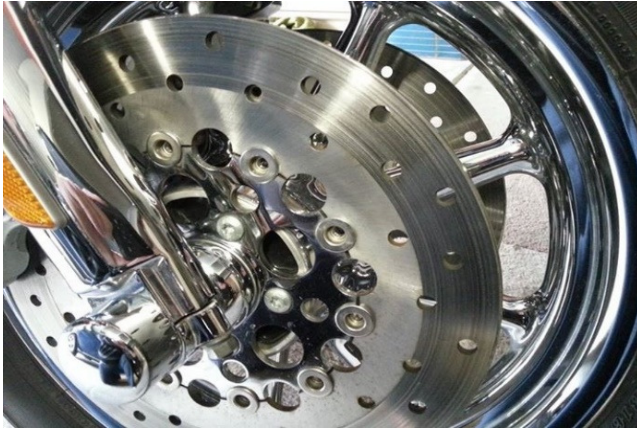


Bike is a 2008 Screamin Eagle CVO with 48,000 klms but has recently had a performance engine rebuild. It has a Stage 3 race kit and more including gear driven cams and high volume oil pump which was part of the \$10K rebuild by Rosnar Racing in Ringwood. Standard features are premium sound system with MP3 player, ABS, Heated grips and seats, cruise, Commander comms and central remote locking. Extras - 3 windscreens, 3 sets of pipes including street legals worth \$1500, straight through headers, back rest, CVO cover, highway pegs, and fairing leather bra. Dyno'd at 115 BHP at the back wheel and has just had progressive shocks fitted. This is a serious performer. New bike price \$61,000.

I've personally ridden this bike before purchase by the current owner and I've gotta tell ya, whilst it's not my cup of tea, it's a really nice bike, albeit big, to ride over long distances. With the work on the engine, it really sings with a twist of the throttle and the saddle is one you would expect at the Park Hyatt. If big bikes are your thing, here is one for you.

Selling for \$25,000. Contact Peter on 0413147834





Product Stuff

Quadlock phone holder



For a while now I have been searching for the 'right' mobile holder which was strong enough to stand the rigors of off road riding and small enough so it didn't interrupt with the dashboard on the GS or 690.

Well I can assure you, the Quad Lock iPhone mount is the 'ducks nuts'. This mount comes with either a bar or

mirror kit with a number of different plastic sleeves to fit narrow or fat bars. I recently fitted it to both bikes and gave it a thorough testing on the 6 day Van Deimens Ride with no issues at all. The cover is a slim design and every bit as good as my previous Otter cover providing excellent case protection. A poncho is also available as an accessory which is a handy item and it kept the iPhone dry during a solid hour of rain. The only drawback is that the rain jacket does not provide for a charging cable and Google maps does suck the power quickly.



If you are looking for a failsafe mounting system for your mobile that is simple to install, adaptable to any mobile with the security of a double lock system, then this is for you.

All parts are replaceable and upgrade of phone, whatever make simply means a new case. RRP \$84.90 Available at Andy Strapz 1/95 Brunel Rd, Seaford or on line www.andystrapz.com

New MLA 'Sponsors'

New Farm Travel **helloworld**
Innovative Travel Solutions **TRAVEL**

As you can imagine, arranging 10 to 20 riders to be in one place at one time and home again is like herding wild ponies in to a corral. Fortunately Jenny Gill of New World Travel and sister of one of our regular riders has kindly come on board to support MLA with travel arrangements, flights, supplementary tours, insurance and visa management at discount prices (where possible). On all tours we encourage our adventurers to use Jenny for all their travel needs. That way we know that you will at the start destination on time, every time.

Phone Jenny on 07 3358-6588 to discuss all of your travel needs.



Need that special item of luggage, adventure boots, portable travel equipment, a classy tool kit, or a heap of quality gear specific to adventure riders, then call Andy at Andy Strapz on 03 9786-3445 or call in to his showroom at 1/95 Brunel Rd Seaford. Alternatively order on line www.andystrapz.com

Make sure when seeking prices to quote MLA for 'MLA only' prices on selected items.

If any readers want to come on board as sponsor partners of MLA and share in our growth whilst promoting your own product or services, then now is the time so contact the editor at mike@midlifeadventures.com.au

Who we partner with....

Mid Life Adventures would not be in operation without our overseas affiliates who provide the logistics for our tours.

In this edition we feature Motorcycle Expeditions and its owner Buddhi Singh Chand.



Contact: Michael Burton 0409 512546
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What is it you love about motorcycling Buddhi?

Traveling has always been an essential part of my life; it hasn't just changed me but transformed me into a better person. My affair with motorcycle is an epic story. I didn't buy my first motorcycle - rather stole one from my elder brother and left home to explore the wonders of "Mother India", Indian sub-continent. 8 months, 30 states, four countries, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet, a total of 35,550KMS. Having no documents and driving license, wasn't a big deal but leaving family and friends behind surely wasn't the right decision.



A young man on an old motorcycle, a 350cc Royal Enfield set-off his adventure and didn't look behind ever since. I rode through major cities and took the remotest roads to explore the exotic sights, living with locals, meeting wonderful travellers and visiting stunning places I never ever thought in my wildest imagination would exist. I travelled roads one wouldn't dare to take living with Tibetan Nomads, the last Headhunter tribes, Vasnois tribes, with Himalayan Shamans and Himalayan shepherds.



Why do you love the Royal Enfield?

Royal Enfield is the best bike to explore India and Himalayas; it's designed to take the abuses and harsh condition of high Himalayas. Only recently have they released the Himalayan, RE's first attempt at building an adventure bike and despite some teething problems which are now sorted, they have produced a great bike.

In the past we have used the RE Classic and Bullet models in our fleet for the simple reason that they are reliable, easy to repair and have no issues with the altitudes of the Himalayan mountains. The other reason is of course is that they are 'made in India' and we like to support local industry.

When did you establish Motorcycle Expeditions?

After many years on the saddle, traveling on motorcycle become part of my life and I decided to make it a lifetime journey hence in 2005 at the age of 23 with no real job and hardly any money to back me up, I decided to establish Motorcycle Expeditions to take motorcycle enthusiasts from all around the world on unparalleled adventures across Himalayas, on roads rarely displayed on maps.



Tell us a little about your operation.

Motorcycle Expeditions offers tailor-made motorcycle adventure holidays in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and Mongolia, Sri Lanka with two international presences in Europe, Italy and Germany and we are soon opening in France.

We employ a team of 15 motorcycle enthusiasts (mechanics, guides, office, and media) to provide a pure motorcycle experience across Asia. Today we have a fleet of 60 RE's in India, 20 in Nepal, 10 in Sri Lanka and 10 RE in Mongolia. Only recently we have added 5 KTM 350 EXC's to our fleet which will be trialed in our inaugural Trans Mongolia ride with Mid Life Adventures in July this year. We are also soon opening in Thailand.

Despite the nostalgic, almost romantic feeling sitting astride a Royal Enfield Motorcycle, not everyone loves the thump thump of the 500 cc single and therefore we are planning "Enduro tours" in different countries like middle east and Mongolia using KTM's or similar to satisfy the different client demographic.

Our goal is to take Motorcycle Expeditions across the globe. This is what we do for living today and this is a lifetime adventure now.

How did your association with MLA form?



In 2014 Mike contacted me (and a number of other motorcycle tour companies in India) with a proposal to form an affiliation whereby Motorcycle Expeditions could support a newly formed partnership - Mid Life Adventures. Mike had reviewed our tour offering and in 2015 we did a successful collaboration with Mike and Bob (MLA- Mid Life Adventure). These two passionate Australian motorcyclists are facilitating tours providing Australian travellers motorcycle adventures and lifetime experiences. When we met the guys on their first trip with us in September we immediately gelled and now have a fantastic working relationship and friendships.



We have designed some particular itineraries for MLA which distinguishes MLA from the regular rides on the Motorcycle Expeditions list. MLA Motorcycle tours are not regular tours, they are "Adventure Tours" specifically

catering for riders who want full days in the saddle, a hot shower at night, comfortable beds and a good feed at the end of the day. Bob once said: I don't want to be the one listening stories, I would rather like to be the one telling stories of my adventures.

Closing comments

Well that's it for the Summer Edition of the MLA Newspaper. As you have read 2018 promises to be a sensational year for those riders who are coming to either Mongolia or the Himalayas and 2019 is shaping up to be equally as adventurous as we retrace two of our previous rides and add Vietnam South to North Discovery Ride to the MLA tour menu.

We hope that you have enjoyed the read and we love feedback which helps us improve what we do, so good or bad, give it to us so that we can improve what we do.

For details on any of our tours contact:

mike@midlifeadventures.com.au or

bob@maxipak.com.au

Remember....

'It's now your time to enjoy'