

RIDE WITH THE ROCKERS – Words by Johnny V

The Ton-Up-Boys motorcycle club recently held their annual "Ride with the Rockers 2008" rally in Sydney. This being the 12th annual gathering presented by the club since it's formation in the early 90's catering for like minded enthusiasts sharing interests in the 50's, Rocker, and Ton-Up culture.

This years event was another huge success, celebrating the Ace Café London's 70th anniversary, as well as the official Australian launch of the US Café Racer fanzine & book (available from Motociclo, St Peters).

Well over 100 bikes gathered for the morning meet at the Love #3 Café at Camperdown, displaying quite an impressive line up of Classic, British & European motorcycles, with the older Triumphs again taking dominance. American, German & Japanese bikes were also present amongst the fine collection.

After the leisurely morning caffeine fix, the large group roared into life in a pure delight of sight & sound making their way over the Harbour Bridge for the short ride to Brooklyn via the Old Road & Mount White.

The social lunch stop was the Brooklyn Pub where the group met the Northern contingent riding even more classic exotica including Vincents, BSA Gold Stars, and Fastback Commando's. Sydney's Scooter & Lambretta club were also in force making a brave but welcomed appearance on the day with an interesting mix of classic & highly modified Italian Scoots.

The day continued with the afternoon Rockers gig as the group made their way back to Sydney & to the Harp Hotel at Tempe. Rockin' legends 'Johnny Gretsche & the Wasted Ones' kicked off the afternoon with their distinct brand of Rockabilly & Rock 'n Roll. This was followed with the raucous '8 Ball Baby' who re-formed especially for the day to perform their raw Rockabilly & wild on stage antics. The crowd was kept entertained in-between bands by greaser DJ 'Little Bop' spinning both classics & some obscure discs from the 50's.

An excellent day was had by all and we look forward to next year's event when the plan is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bonnie.