

## AGM 2016 - Central North Island Motorcycle Report

### Overview

There has been increasing interest in IAM membership from riders in the Central North Island. There are logistical difficulties in supporting these riders from Auckland alone because of the travel involved and it was considered an appropriate time to commence setting up the CNI as an independent region. At this stage, regional development is for motorcycles only.

### Current membership and activity levels

As of the beginning of September, there are 15 current financial IAM members. Nine of these can be considered to be active, the remainder being currently inactive for various reasons.

There are only two qualified Observers in the region, one based in Coromandel Town (the writer) and the other in Tauranga. The Tauranga-based Observer has major work commitments and in the short term, is unlikely to significantly contribute to IAM growth in the Bay of Plenty. The Coromandel-based Observer is also adversely affected by distance considerations, covering over 15,000 km in the last 12 months on IAM business.

### Growth strategy and main focus

It is imperative to increase observing capacity closer to the major centres, principally Hamilton. With this in mind, the main goal in 2016 has been to coach two centrally-located Waikato Associates to attain Advanced Test passes and enter Observer training. Both of these goals have been achieved and based on current progress, it is expected that they will attain full Observer status by early 2017. There is also a third Trainee Observer who has recently relocated to Cambridge. No training plans are currently in place but mentoring may commence later this year. The active Associates are currently being mentored by the writer in conjunction with the two trainee Observers to provide simultaneous coaching at both levels. Two Waikato Associates in particular who joined in 2016 have made significant and regular progress towards their Advanced Test. The objective is to schedule their tests and be ready for Observer training at a similar time that the current Trainee Observers sit their full Observer tests. This will ensure a sustainable and consistent growth in the region. Additional Advanced Test passes by other Associates will support this growth.

### Challenges and outlook

In the longer term, the writer's current workload is unsustainable but is acceptable until the two Trainee Observers mentioned above qualify. Provisional support has been offered from the Auckland region and this may be necessary to support additional membership enquiries for the region.

Current development is focussed on the Waikato as growth is relatively easy to achieve by implementing the strategy mentioned above. Achieving growth in the BOP is more problematic but with observing capacity in the Hamilton area, there may be scope for supporting enquiries from the Rotorua and Tauranga areas. In the longer term, the CNI covers too big an area to be a single region but for present administrative purposes, it is the best option. A separate CNI budget is not currently required.



### **Other support activities**

Good communications are essential to cope with the large geographic spread of CNI members. An IAM CNI Facebook page has been set up (thanks to Catherine Merrick) and is in active use. There is also a bi-monthly newsletter specific to CNI activities and strategies and has been well-received. The third issue is due in October. A Google Drive folder has been set up for regional Observers and Trainee Observers to have access to essential information.

At present, the scope for social activities is limited because of the necessary focus on building observing capacity. CNI members are notified of social rides organised by the Auckland region so they can take part in these if circumstances permit. The same applies to month-end rides based out of West Auckland.

During the previous 12 months, the writer has also conducted one full Observer Test and a pre- Advanced Test cross-check, both for the Auckland region. Also contributed to the July Observer training course run in Auckland, which was the largest ever undertaken.

### **Summary**

Good progress has been made towards establishing a CNI region in a measured and sustainable manner and 2017 will see significant further growth. In practice, most of this growth will initially be in the Waikato for the reasons previously mentioned. Strong links will be maintained with the Auckland region as they are geographically close, meaning that resources and experience can be shared as appropriate.

Geoff James  
Senior Observer – Central North Island.

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