

didn't wave when they rode shovelheads. I smiled when you wrote "you can watch my video on YouTube later". I'd rather use that time to take a real ride. — Matho

ANOTHER WAVE

Gregor's recent comments on the demise of the wave struck a chord. As a rider of 25 years, I too have noticed the steady decline in waves being returned by our motorcycling brethren over the past few years to the point where a wave being returned is the exception, rather than the rule.

It's a sad state of affairs when we can't acknowledge a fellow rider. On a recent trip from home base in Melbourne to the NSW north coast, I decided to make a mental note of which riders returned a wave, or at least a nod.

My results were similar to Gregor's. I found the most likely to return a wave were adventure bike riders. The least likely were cruiser riders. I won't delve into why this might be! I had

almost given up hope when a strange thing happened towards the end of the trip. I started to notice that not only were a significant number of riders returning a wave, but more than a few initiated before I had a chance to.

What prompted the sudden change? It can only be the sheer number of *Australian Road Rider* readers that had seen Gregor's article! Maybe not, but it was heartening to see that all is not lost. Let's get back behind the wave and support our brothers and sisters who choose to ride.

Ian Crawford
Email

KEPT IN CHECK

I liked Geoff Seddon's article in *ARR* #113, where he says that "I don't crash". The more I thought about those words, the more I worried. I thought, that's me. These are words that I've used when justifying my motorcycling exploits to my wife and to others.

It seemed OK when I made those statements, but now reading the same from another, I don't think I'll ever say it again.

Just like Seddo does, I have been lucky enough to join a heap of like-minded mates and ride through the roads of the high country.

When someone does make an error and crash, I wonder whether they have uttered those same words to their loved ones?

As much as it irks me, the answer would be a yes. We are quick to analyse the crash and assure ourselves that the error couldn't be prevented. Yeah right.

According to my kids I'm a pig headed old bastard and don't listen when they try to teach me stuff. Geoff Seddon, in a very clever way showed me that to stay safe, I must never get big headed or think I'm good. Well done, keep that slate clean and thanks mate.

Reg Wilkinson
Email

SHARED EXPERIENCE

You may remember we met on the Ferris Wheels Himalayan Heights trip in 2007. I saw the photo of the BMW Sertao in Iceland in the May issue and thought I'd drop you a line. Last year I did my third Ferris Wheels trip and it was also on a Sertao in Iceland. What a wonderful experience! Brilliant riding with a terrific group of like-minded people and, as always, so well organised by Mike and Denise Ferris.

"My" Sertao was brand new — 3km on the clock when we pulled out of Reykjavik. It was so easy to handle and it gave me great confidence in the varied road and weather conditions we encountered. Never thought I'd barrel along a dirt road at 100km/h standing up on the pegs!

Last year I sold my much-loved V-Strom as I just wasn't getting any time to ride it, but since then I have decided to retire from full-time work so that will enable me to get back in the saddle. I've had a long-held dream of riding around Australia and the dream is now starting to become a plan. The likely timing is March/April/May 2016 and I'd appreciate any advice you or your readers can give me about such a trip, particularly whether, with a Melbourne start and finish, it's better to go clockwise or anti-clockwise!

I will be doing it solo so I will stick mainly to the bitumen and I'm thinking about getting a middle-weight cruiser for comfort and the ability to carry a small tent. Probably campsites and caravan parks rather than wild camping as you can meet more people that way.

Thanks for the great job you're doing with *ARR* — it's almost always a cover-to-cover job when it lobs in my mailbox. Just keep those sports bikes down to the minimum!

David Francis
Email

Good to hear from you, David. That FW Iceland trip is a ripper, isn't it? I really enjoyed the Sertao on my ride. I'll let your letter open up a discussion about the trip you're planning. I've never really been convinced that one direction is better than the other when doing a lap of Australia, but perhaps we'll both learn something from the responses. A lot depends on how long you intend to take for the trip.

The main guidelines are to avoid the Nullarbor in the summer months and, more importantly, avoid the tropical north in the wet season (summer again!). Neither is a hard and fast rule in my opinion, as you

can cope with both as long as you don't let yourself get caught out on the road if a cyclone hits. I like your idea of staying in caravan parks etc for the social side of things.

If you're travelling on your own you'll enjoy the company when you stop, I reckon. The cruiser would do the trip well. Have you ridden one any distance, though? For some people, they're not as comfortable as bikes like V-Stroms — they can put more pressure on your lower back. You can, of course, tailor the riding position to a fair degree, but it'd be worth checking things out before you commit. — Matho

