

Tim Barrett, a new member of Kyrle Probus Club, gave his first talk at the club meeting on Thursday 7 June with colourful recollections on 'India – some contradictory moments'.



He returned from a ten-week tour of India on a hired and 'extremely robust' Royal Enfield motorcycle, with a host of memories about a 'fantastic country'

Tim said he found the Indian people he met to be among the friendliest, most generous and hospitable on the planet.....apart from when he was riding his motorcycle.

"I had to completely change my riding technique to avoid being wiped out!" he added.

“I had to ride off the road to avoid being taken out. The standard of their driving is appalling! I have been riding motorcycles since I was eight years old and on at least six occasions I have thought ‘this is it’”

On-coming traffic was a constant threat with motorists, many without licences, driving on to the wrong side of the road with no idea of consequences, as they overtake recklessly on a corner, often in fog and without lights, said Tim.

Tim rode across the northern Indian states with one back-up vehicle, in a country of 1.32 billion people with a predicted growth of 7.2 %; food plentiful and excellent; yet, in contrast, facing immense pollution and crumbling infrastructure.

Tim’s abiding memories included the ‘mass of humanity’ in the gridlocked cities; bamboo huts bedecked with solar panels; colonial-style houses and palaces in perfect condition in the middle of nowhere.