

Question on Notice

How do Outlaw Motorcycle Club Members Treat Women?

The answer to Senator Ley's question has dumbfounded researchers since the 1960's. Every researcher, undercover police agent, former club member and journalist agrees – "Women are drawn to them like bees to honey". In my many years of hanging around these clubs, I haven't seen women disrespected any more than other male collectives – for example football clubs, etc. What is considered etiquette varies between clubs.

Every description of these men's behaviour towards women at public venues concurs that there is little difference between those belonging to clubs and those who are not. Their rejection of mainstream society is classic Equal Opportunity.

"They are against everything, so their racist and sexist comments are just part and parcel of the lifestyle. They equally dislike or must be seen to dislike straight society in all its forms." writes Hunter S Thompson.

The women who are most liked by the members are the ones who treat them like children. Their lawyers tend to be gender representative of the profession. So, I can't really see that their behaviour is all that different to working class male values.

On the other hand, there seems to be no end to women who seek out the 'company' of major clubs and their members. These include:

- Women seeking a night on the wild side who go into the most notorious of clubhouses for any way you want it sex and parties. The old saying "Good girls are drawn to bad boys" certainly seems to best characterise matters of attraction.
- One woman calling herself a 'bikie slut' moved from Victoria to South Australia specifically to be with a club... to be part of something. She is a Grandmother and the move had no apparent basis except for a calling from within her.
- Another woman was injured in a bike crash after having sex with a club member at a beach. She was a married woman with four children. She and her friend went to the pub where a club was on their annual run with the tacit goal of having a bit of time out, a walk on the wild side and to let her hair down as the saying goes.... Unfortunately, the crash exposed her peccadillo and her family couldn't cope and subsequently was dissolute.
- For other women, it's the club and the *gentlemen* that you meet in a club. "Give me a biker over a banker any day." Says Raine. Nyleta from Townsville

described to me how she met a gentleman biker belonging to a very notorious Australian 1% Club. For her, the clubhouse scene was so good that she (eventually) talked her mother into going to the Clubhouse with her. Mum ended up having a fabulous time as the full members and Life Members were closer to Mum's age than Nyleta and, therefore had more in common to talk about! Both mother and daughter bought their first body art following their decision to move away from the club scene.

- Sisters, Mothers and, especially daughters are truly loved by the members of these clubs. Other than Dad dropping off his daughter on her first day of High School with a few mates in full colours so that any potential unwanted or mischievous schoolmates (especially boys) get the idea with whom they are messing. The story of Steven 'Horrible' Williams and his family is legendary in Adelaide for under this huge looming and menacing father's skin was a man who lived for his Mum's and daughter's love.

So, I guess the women are into the treatment by these men, big time and manage these men as easily as any man is managed by women, more generally. On the whole, it is widely agreed that women partners of OMC members are more subservient than your average woman. No doubt, this varies dramatically between clubs. However, the generalisation is that the more powerful clubs have harsher rules of display and etiquette which a woman partner must show in public or in the presence of any club member. What she does after the others are gone is a different story altogether. The men are in charge of the club and work; the women call the shots completely at home, albeit with the club having significant intrusion into nuclear family life.

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Is there all women motorcycle clubs who are partners of 1% club members formed into their own clubs in Australia?

It appears that such clubs do not as yet exist in the Oceania context. They will definitely be here soon, though according to my sources. Currently, the closest club is:

Celtic Warlocks Brotherhood and Sisterhood
<http://www.freewebs.com/celticwarlocks>

Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Non Back Patched, Non Political, Non Territorial Motorcycle Club with prospect period for new members.

The remainder of women's clubs appear to be promotional, safety and enthusiast clubs. I have listed some examples below.

Name: Feral Femmes

Description: We are a motorcycle club run by women for women with the aim of giving them a collective environment to ride and learn to ride in, and also to have fun fanging around Australia.

Url: <http://www.feralfemmes.com/>

Girls On The Move (Got'M)

<http://www.girlsonthemove.com.au/>

Girls On The Move (Got'M), consists of a group of female motorcycle riders and enthusiasts. Our aim is to provide a social network for female motorcycle riders and females interested in motorcycles. We provide an opportunity for the sharing of information to enhance women's knowledge of motorcycling, support new riders and those returning to two wheels.

Name: Girls Ride Out, Sydney 

Description: Girls Ride Out Inc. aims to provide a supportive and fun environment for riders whilst encouraging them to experience all aspects of the motorcycling community.

Url: <http://www.girlsrideout.com/faq's.htm>

For more information, please ask Sue Hines of Allen and Unwin for a preview of my new book *Biker Chicks: The magnetic attraction of women to bad boys and motorcycles*. Her email address is SueH@allenandunwin.com.

Professor Arthur Veno, PhD.

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