

IMC NW Ride Report January 2013

Sunday January 20 was the date for the regular monthly Italian Motorcycle Club ride in North West Tasmania. And what a day – a bright and sunny 21 degrees C (70 F) and no wind to speak of made for perfect riding conditions!



Pier 01, Ulverstone Wharf

The regular crew formed up at our new meeting point, Pier 01 at the Ulverstone wharf. Both the design of the new wharf development and the views from the venue are open and inviting, with the Dial Range and the Leven River providing a beautiful backdrop. Along for the ride were Kurt Tuthill (Moto Guzzi V7 Racer), Julie Tuthill (Moto Guzzi V7 Classic), Tim Jenkins (Ducati ST4), Michael Ward (Ducati ST4) and James McCormack (Yamaha XJR1300).



Tim Jenkins, Julie Tuthill, Michael Ward, James McCormack

The group decided to head for the hills – with the intent of pushing on to enjoy more of the excellent roads beyond Cradle Mountain and one of the very best stretches of road in Tassie Motorcycling – the Hellyer Gorge.

From Ulverstone the pack headed to Forth and down the Wilmot Road. The IMC has ridden this section of road several times before – suffice to say it remains a favourite, with a great mixture of tight corners and open highland sweepers. If you haven't ridden it, what on Earth are you waiting for?

After a stop at Cradle Mountain to restock on caffeine, the party pushed on along the Belvoir Road to the West Coast. This is fantastic motorcycling – open sweepers, vision that often extends all the way down a valley and back up the other side and an excellent grippy surface throughout.

After joining the Murchison Highway it was worth restraining the right wrist briefly for the short haul north to the turnoff to Waratah as the main West Coast highway is regularly policed. Lunch was called at the Bischoff Hotel at Waratah. This is another stop definitely worth making. The publican is a Moto Guzzi Stelvio rider and the bar has a small selection of motorcycling memorabilia. It's a popular stop for motorcyclists, with the Ulysses Club also pulling in for lunch. The temperature had risen during the trip up from the coast – with a balmy 27 degrees C (81 F) in Waratah.



Bischoff Hotel, Waratah

After lunch the group headed for the real fun – the main West Coast highway becomes the B18 Ridgeley Road at the Waratah turnoff – the trick to a great ride is to instead turn North onto the A10 Murchison Hwy, just before the main turnoff. The surface through this section of road is first class and mixes open corners through plantations, tunnel like sections of native forest and for the section through Hellyer Gorge, becomes an absolute scratcher's delight. Ear to ear grins were the order of the day. You really need to ride this road!!!

At Yolla a further turn North on to Mount Hicks Road led the group through the rolling hills that flow down to the coast and Wynyard. A short hop then along a brief section of Bass Highway eastwards and back to Sulphur Creek for the final push along the coast through Penguin and back to Ulverstone.

Another outstanding NW ride – through 250 kms of some of the very best roads in the state. Join us next month – we ride the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM at Pier 01, Ulverstone!

Kurt Tuthill
Italian Motorcycle Club

Other NW January 2013 Ride Photos



James McCormack, Pier 01, Ulverstone



Ulysses bikes, Waratah Hotel



The view from the Bischoff Hotel