

IMC Southern Ride Report February 2013

Once more the unruly masses assembled in Kennedy's Lane for the final IMC south monthly ride of summer. The choice of course was a bit limited due to Targa Wreast Point being staged in one of our playgrounds, midday showers on the East Coast and predicted high volumes of traffic touring the fire affected areas of the Forestier and Tasman Peninsulas. The decision was to ride to Bothwell via Bushy Park, Ellendale and Hamilton.





It was great to see some members who hadn't been on a ride for a while and consequently numbers on the actual ride were a bit higher than the previous couple of months. We headed off pretty much on time at 10AM and embarked on the first transport stage to New Norfolk via the Brooker and Lyell Highways. A fairly quick regroup opposite the pinnacle of Derwent Valley cuisine, the Eagle Snack Bar, and we were off. We headed west and not long after the tyre warming bends at Plenty we turned onto the Gordon River Road. Between the turn off and Macquarie Plains is a lovely ribbon of track quality tarmac, but as tail end Charlie I took in some of the scenery on offer. Riding through Bushy Park it was obvious the hop harvest was about to happen with the vines heavy with flowers.

Beyond Westerway, the Ellendale Road is decidedly different from the GRR being much narrower and rougher. Not much to see in the sleepy town of Ellendale so we continue on to our second regroup point after crossing Dunrobin Bridge over Lake Meadowbank. On the way I stopped to check out some of the fire damage from the Lake Repulse fire last month.



The intensity of the fire must have been incredible as everything bar the sturdiest of trees has been vapourised. From our regroup point we then headed back to the Lyell Highway and turned right. The road between here and Hamilton is great in that it has fast flowing bends with good vision, and you need good vision as the Hamilton cop regularly patrols this section of tarmac. We continued through Hamilton and up the hill to the Bothwell turn off.

Hollow Tree Road is (usually) one of the motorcycling gems of the state. Unfortunately for us there was also a significant amount of resurfacing being done and the quantity of loose stones meant our progress was somewhat slowed. The roadworks cleared a few kilometres out of Bothwell so there were a couple of straights where the MV's legs could be stretched and I took the opportunity to give Anthony Bonnitche an earful of unbridled four cylinder music.

In the choice of a bakery lunch or something more substantial, the Castle Hotel won out and I demolished a Ploughmans Lunch and a beer at a leisurely pace, in the convivial company of Rod Taylor. After a brief chat with the publican it was time to head for home, with the preferred route being the Highland Lakes Rd down to the Midland Highway at Melton Mowbray. This is a lovely piece of tarmac which must have relatively light traffic as there's very little in the way of bumps. The bends going down the hill to the Jordan River are particularly enjoyable, and focus is required because there's nothing in the way of runoff on either side. All too soon we were on the Midland Highway and the transport stage back to Hobart which is now slightly quicker thanks to the new Brighton Bypass.

Given that I was home relatively early I treated the MV to a bit of a detail before tucking her up in bed ready for the next adventure!

James Benham

