

An eventful North West IMC Ride this month – unfortunately for all the wrong reasons.



Sunday 16/2 was a beautiful day for our regular 3rd Sunday ride, with temps in the mid 20s and dry sunny roads. Riders were: Kurt Tuthill (Moto Guzzi V7R), Michael Ward (Ducati ST4), James McCormack (Yamaha XJR1300), Lee Whiteley (Honda Blackbird) and Ken (Laverda 750). We were also visited by a prospective new member on his very, very tidy Ducati Darmah. His name escapes me, for reasons which will become apparent.



The plan was to head out through Forth, Via Paloona, Sheffield, Deloraine, Bridgenorth and Legana to check out the motorcycle swap meet at Archer's Manor in Launceston. Unfortunately, the best laid plans of mice and men...



After waving goodbye to Ken at the top of Paloona, the next thing I remember is a nightmare black and white sequence of a massive tank slapper and waking up in an ambulance at Elizabethtown on the way to the Launceston General Hospital!

A night in hospital and many tests and dressings later I was able to piece together from the others the shattered pieces of what happened in the intervening period. About 2 km before Elizabethtown on a cresting left/right combination, a series of ripples and bumps induced a tank slapper at 100 kmh which saw me thrown from the bike and my Racer slide 50 metres on it's right side and myself 5 meters on my head and

back, ending up unconscious in the middle of the road. The other riders attended me – I was only unconscious for a minute or two – before I came to concussed and asking the same 3 questions repeatedly (about 100 times): “Where am I?”, “What Happened?” and “How’s my bike?!”

I’ve always been big on protective gear, wearing full leathers and an Arai helmet, so besides the concussion, a minor cut to the back of my head, two skun elbows and a skun buttock were the extent of my injuries.

I can’t say enough about the assistance provided by Lee, James and Michael, as well as a passing, holidaying, mainland paramedic, our local paramedics, the staff of the LGH and Tasmania Police. All consummate professionals. Neighbours kindly stored my bike until we could arrange for insurance transport. Sadly my beautiful custom Racer is a total write off – however Swann Insurance has been excellent to deal with. Launceston BMW – the new Guzzi dealer – has also been great.

So all in all not the sort of ride report I would prefer to be giving – but that’s the way it goes sometimes I guess.

Hoping for a more positive report next month and a new set of Italian wheels!!!

Kurt Tuthill
Italian Motorcycle Club

