

IMC NW Ride Report 15th June 2014

There was fantastic weather all weekend for our most recent North West IMC ride. 14 degrees on Sunday was pleasant enough, and nearly cloudless sunny skies made it feel even warmer. Roads were mostly dry, though of course we had to be wary in shaded spots as the recent rain over the previous week meant the farm traffic in the back country had left a bit of mud about.

The warm weather resulted in a good turnout – 7 bikes this month, 6 of which were Italian - and a couple of new riders.



L to R: James McCormack, Phil, Julie Tuthill, Kurt Tuthill & Tim Jenkins

Present were: Kurt Tuthill (Ducati 848), Julie Tuthill (Triumph Street Triple 675), Tim Jenkins (Ducati ST4), Michael Ward (Ducati ST4), James McCormack (Moto Guzzi Stelvio NTX) and new riders Mike Brindley (Ducati Monster 1000) and Phil (MV Agusta Brutale 1090RR).

The observant will note that James, or as he now prefers to be known, “Silvio Bunga-Bunga Macchiato”, has purchased a new Italian steed – a 2012 Moto Guzzi Stelvio NTX 1200, to complement his Yamaha XJR1300. As you well know, the unkind amongst Italian bike enthusiasts have been known to refer to the fine products from Mandello del Lario as “tractors”. Well Silvio has made a rude gesture to them involving the back of his hand and his chin and purchased the most tractor-like of all tractors. In fact, she is more Monster Truck-like. Or more correctly, il Camion Mostro!. A very fine ride she is – an understated black dress, big headlights, a sturdy bra and childbearing hips - and James now laughs off the wet and muddy roads, while riding smugly behind his screen and hand guards, toasting himself with his factory heated grips while charging his phone, drinking coffee and smoking cigars which he can light with his dash mounted cigarette lighter plug! I’m pretty sure he has an espresso machine in one of those panniers too for top ups while on the move...

The ride was a very enjoyable one, with some old and new roads explored. Starting from Pier01 in Ulverstone, the group headed out south along the B17 Gawler Road. A nice little turn-off along winding Isandula and Wilsonia Roads got us to Gunns Plains for the charge down in to the valley and back up the other side to South Riana. All well surface roads, though there is still quite a bit of loose gravel from fresh roadworks on the way up the hill out of Gunns Plains.

From the South Riana shop we turned westward for one of our regular rides along South Riana Road and Upper Natone Road all the way over to Hampshire, in behind Burnie, on the Ridgeley Highway. We tracked north and stopped for lunch at Highclere, while watching some of the Go-Kart racing and enjoying the heady aroma of racing fuel. Those karts must be an enormous amount of fun!

After lunch we motored further north along the B18 Ridgley Highway and C112 Old Surrey Road to the coast at Wivenhoe, before turning south again on to the lesser known C102 Natone Road for more twisties. From Natone we followed back country Camena, Cuprona and West Pine Roads which lead you roughly north-easterly through deserted and enjoyable farming country in the hills above Bass Straight, all the way to Penguin.

A quick squirt along the coastal Penguin Road and we were back in Ulverstone around 2:30.

Ciao till next month!

Kurt Tuthill
North-West Representative
Italian Motorcycle Club



