

## North West Ride Day: September 24<sup>th</sup> 2014: by Kurt Tuthill

I have entitled this ride "**Undici Bottiglie Verdi**" or "Eleven Green Bottles".

It was just one of those rides - cloudless North West skies, an air temp of 20 glorious degrees, dry and excellent roads, a great turnout of machines and people - but one by one the bottles fell off the wall. Metaphorically of course.



The August NW ride saw a record 17 bikes turn out - 14 of which were Italian. With the unavoidable absence of a few regulars, September still saw a respectable 11 machines - so also promised much fun. We even had a great turn out of IMC visitors who weren't riding, including Michael & Jackie Ward, Andrew Rand's partner Carla, James McCormack's wife, and acclaimed artist Louise Daniels as well as Hobart IMC member Phil Vincent.



Riders on the day were: Kurt Tuthill (Ducati 848), Tim Jenkins (Ducati Pantah 600SL), Michael King (Moto Guzzi V7 Special), Andrew Rand (Moto Guzzi 1000S), Peter Symonds (Ducati Monster 796), Phil Hall (MV Agusta Brutale 1090RR), Lee Whiteley (Honda CBR1000XX), James McCormack (Moto

Guzzi Stelvio NTX), Ken (Laverda Formula 750), Julie Tuthill (Triumph Street Triple) and Suze Woohouse-Evans ("Ducati" Skyteam Ace 125).



Ken had other arrangements so had to skip the ride this month and Jules and Suze headed off along the coast for coffee - so that left 8 green bottles to charge into the back country. The plan this month was to go up over the top - through Wilmot and Cradle Mountain to the West Coast, then to Waratah for lunch and the famed winding road in and out of Savage River.

The group set a brisk pace and formed up again at Wilmot, before turning up the wick a little more for the varied and fast sections above Wilmot and Moina, before forming up again at the Cradle Mountain turnoff. Sadly only 6 green bottles arrived at the turnoff and waited for 20 minutes to see where James and Phil had got to. Andrew had to head for home at this point, so it was 5 green bottles that made the group run back down the hill to find our errant brothers.

At Wilmot we found that Phil had been having handling problems and had decided to head for home. Hey, it's an MV Agusta - if 18 500GP World Championships don't entitle you to only want to turn left, I don't know what does! James on the other hand had issues that were more self inflicted. Keen readers of previous reports will have noted that James has utilised all the commodious luggage capacity of his Stelvio NTX to pander to his weakness for the better things in life - an espresso machine in one pannier, a prosciutto





smoker in the other. Sadly the addition of a top box mounted Gelato machine was a step too far and he couldn't keep the lid closed and had also decided to head for home.



At this point Peter scooted off, leaving 4 green bottles to decide that Savage River was a step too far this month - and to decide instead to make for Sheffield for lunch, via Moina (again!) - good thing it is such a stonking road. Cethana, Gowrie Park, Claude Road and Paradise followed, with Michael scooting off homewards at the top of the hill at Cethana. So it was the 3 green bottles of Kurt, Tim and Lee who pulled in to the Sheffield Hotel. It was wall to wall bikes on the day, including some vintage stuff and lunch went down very well. We finished off the ride with a downhill blast through Paloona Dam - an eventful and enjoyable ride!