

## North West Ride Report: Sunday 19th October 2014

The regular North West ride last month was a success, despite clashing with the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, the Burnie 10 and a seriously gloomy weather report (do the BOM ever get it right?...)



The ride, held on Sunday 19 October had a good turnout – Ken along with his wife Jan (on his lovely yellow – and rare – Laverda 750S), Lino Tovin (Moto Guzzi V50 III), Michael Ward and Jackie (Ducati ST4), James McCormack (Moto Guzzi Stelvio NTX), Julie Tuthill (Triumph Street Triple), Kurt Tuthill (Ducati 848) and Peter Symonds (Ducati Monster 796). Despite warnings of a 60% chance of rain, the day itself was a ripper – 19 degrees and sunny!

Because of the MotoGP viewing later, the ride itself wasn't planned to be a long one – but it was contrived such that the short hop from Ulverstone to Railton and home (less than 30 km each way as the crow flies) ended up taking about 150km, via some of the lesser known (but nonetheless very good) winding country lanes in the NW hinterland.

Leaving the Ulverstone wharf area, the group headed west to Forth, turning right on to Forthside Rd at the top of the Forth hill. From there Bellamy Rd took us to Melrose Rd and Tarleton Rd and the pretty township of Latrobe.



From Latrobe there are several options but we opted to track up Moriarty Road, which after a short section of the Frankford Highway leads you to Greens Creek Rd, Chapel Rd, Valleyfield Rd and Oppenheim's Rd.

A quick 500M section of the Bass Hwy takes you to the bottom of the dip near Sassafra and a right turn on to Native Plains Rd and Mersey Lea Rd then take you on a long winding downhill run to the Railton Rd. Still looking for more corners, after a quick 300M blat up the main B13 Railton Rd we turned left – via Sunnyside Rd – up over the top and plunged down the other side to Railton.

Railton Pub was in a quandary – the publican's wife (and cook) was off running in the famous Burnie 10, so all they could offer were cold drinks and reheated toasted sandwiches! We declined the sangars. Lino made his farewells there, having already made the long trek from Scottsdale that morning. Lino is a committed Moto Guzzi and Laverda man and always has a new project in the works. His V50 III he brought on the ride is very tidy indeed – see pics. Among his extensive stable he also has a rare and very clean V35 Imola (the baby brother of the V50 Monza) complete with a 4 valve V65 Lario motor. A little classic rocket ship!

With the dearth of food options the group elected to take the quick 9km run up the hill to perennial favourite the Sheffield Hotel. Now this pub, as you may recall from previous reports, is normally packed with bikes on the weekend – but we almost had the place to ourselves this month – must have been the Moto GP pre-show!



Without a word of a lie, after lunch my perfect wife suggested we head home to drink beer and watch the MotoGP. How could I refuse?!

All that was left was the excellent run from Sheffield back down to Forth and Ulverstone via Palooka Rd and Wilmot Roads – always a great ride.

Ciao till next time

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