

Southern Triples at Kangaroo Valley 20-22 March 2015 Rally Report

The Riders:

There were 14 motorcycling entrants, plus 2 extras for Friday night nibbles/BBQ - see below.

- 1) Andrew Maxwell (a non TMRA member) - T150V – '74 From Goondiwindi QLD - ph 0428 571 059 - no email.
- 2) Lorraine Litster - T150V – '74.
- 3) Gerard Rowley - Rob North R3 850, 1970 :From Vic
- 4) Ken Phelps - X75 – '73: From Vic
- 5) Ross Newton - T150T – '69: From Vic
- 6) Chris Robinson - T150V – '74
- 7) Steven Lord - T150V – '74
- 8) Toby Bateman - T150T – '72 (Rally Organiser)
- 9) Barry Garner - 1998 Thunderbird Sport
- 10) Peter Shoemark - T150T – '72
- 11) Peter Smith - T150T – '71 Manyana (friend of Bobbie Townsend)
- 12) Rick Moss - T150V – '74
- 13) Trevor Fowler - T150V - 1974
- 14) Tim Tapsell - T160 – '75.

Brian Eldred - Friday evening BBQ (President TMRA)
Attilio Sciannimanica - Friday evening BBQ (Treasurer TMRA)

This was the third 'Southern Triples Rally' to be held at the Glenmack caravan park in Kangaroo Valley. All three events were organised by Toby & Kerry Bateman, as a complimentary event for the highly successful 'Triples Down Under' held for a number of years in Ballina in Northern NSW.

We had hoped for good weather this year but Kangaroo Valley gave us fickle weather yet again with steady rain both Friday & Saturday nights. Gladly however our Saturday ride was held in cool cloudy but dry weather. The week preceding the rally had been very pleasant & even the Friday was warm & pleasant until I approached the Southern Highlands when the temperature suddenly dropped 20C & rain started. The descent into Kangaroo Valley was marred by a semi trailer which had left the road & crashed into the forest. The poor driver was later found incinerated in his cab.

Our fourteen riders & several wives & partners were soon gathered in the camp kitchen in good spirits enjoying nibbles & 'beer o'clock' As in previous years the Friday meal was a simple BBQ which was cooked in the camp kitchen. Brian & Attilio arrived as the light was failing with the polo shirts embroidered by TMRA member Greg Carmody. Despite the steady rain it was not cold & a pleasant evening ensued.

Gerard Rowley had arrived with two of his stunning machines a Rob North BSA Rocket 3 & a Hurricane. Both of which were coveted by all present & no doubt everybody who saw them! Accompanying Gerard were two other Victorians Ken Phelps (who rode the Hurricane) & Ross Newton who was riding a lovely early T150 with a US 'Beauty Kit' fitted. This machine needed a little welding done, which was organised at an agricultural workshop in the village early on Saturday morning.

Locals Chris, Steve & Toby were all T150 mounted, whilst Sydney members Barry, Rick & Tim were all present & sharing a cabin. Peter Smith & his lady Sandra were in the next cabin to Lorraine. Peter is fairly new to Tridents & he had done a good job preparing his '71 large tank T150. They too were almost locals & had ridden in from Manyana further down the coast.

A notable entrant was Andrew Maxwell who had brought his '74 model on a 'ute from country QLD. Over dinner on Saturday he told me his motorcycling story of early Japanese tiddlers gradually leading to large bikes & trikes. His Trident was his first ever British bike. I asked him why a British bike after so many Hondas, he replied that he wanted a classis bike & liked the sound on the Trident. Tim Tapsell's T160 now runs beautifully after a ghastly 'blow-up' on the way back from the Ballina Rally several years ago. His perseverance in rebuilding this machine is admirable.

I had forgotten my bike cover (for the second time) & the following morning bitterly regretted my oversight as the rain overnight must have been laden with salt as my polished aluminium was now a mass of corrosion: others were similarly afflicted. Saturday was a brighter morning & breakfast was soon sizzling in the Camp Kitchen: with Lorraine cooking the eggs this time.

It was a bit of a slow start to the morning as the salt rain had affected Ride leader Toby's T150 which refused to run. Toby handed the ride lead over to Chris Robinson, but his machine too failed to run (a stripped carb banjo thread). With both the ride leaders out of action & us running late Toby's planning began to unravel. Our first stop was Culburra Beach but when the second half of the rally arrived there; there was no sign of the first half! We had a pleasant coffee there & awaited Toby who was going home to fetch another machine. During these proceedings Toby was rung & we received new instructions to abbreviate the ride & to go straight to the lunch venue at Sanctuary Point. So off we rode led by Steve with his wife riding pillion.

Unfortunately the two tail-enders Lorraine & Andrew got separated from the other riders by a line of slow cars & the two of us arrived at the wrong headland, apparently an old RAAF flying boat base. This error was soon rectified & the whole rally was reunited for lunch. The first half of the Rally was adamant that they waited for us at Culburra Beach but Toby suspects they were actually at Currarong.

Sophie Robinson had joined us for lunch on her T100 but she did not ride back with us. After lunch the rally split again with several deciding to return directly to Kangaroo Valley whilst the remainder rode to a very interesting bike café in Wandandian. The owner seems to get hold of wrecked Japanese sports bikes & chops them into far more interesting creations. We enjoyed this side trip.

The return back to Nowra was enlivened, at least for myself & the Victorians, by a detour up BTU Rd to HMAS Albatross & later a run along the Barrengarry Ridge Road & a descent into Kangaroo Valley via the 'tourist road' It was late afternoon by now & Toby had booked tables in the pub for dinner at 6:30 pm. Sadly a group elected to eat pizza instead of joining us for a sociable dinner together. After dinner a group of us returned to the camp kitchen where Lorraine lit the fire & we ended the evening sat around the fireplace snacking on nibbles.

It rained again most of Saturday night, but this time I had a bike cover, thanks to Trevor who had left for home on Saturday afternoon & loaned me his cover. On Sunday morning we again cooked breakfast before we began the clean up & pack. Chris's T150 again failed to start again, a victim of the salt rain perhaps, & we loaded his bike onto Toby's trailer to be taken home.

So that was the end of the Rally. I should be here telling you who got awards but the trophies had gone missing: we suspect they were in Attilio's car. But my choice for best machines would have to be the Rob North BSA & the Hurricane of Gerard Rowley.

We have decided to move this event next year as we have limited ride options from Kangaroo Valley & the Nowra traffic is a problem. We may move to Goulburn next year, where there are great roads for Tridents, but keep an eye on the TMRA website on this front. Toby & Kerry deserve hearty congratulations for organising & running this event for three years.

An interesting aside here to close: two fellows Peter & Mike were there from Bathurst. They were both building T160s & had come to take a look at the triples after seeing the rally on the 'net'. Mike Goodwin had a family album which he showed me dominated by Tridents going back over 30 years. All weekend an older fellow had been nervously looking around. As we were packing up he found the courage to speak & it transpired that he too had been a Trident owner & had come to take a look after seeing the rally on the web.

Lorraine Litster

22 March 2015