

SITTING BULL RALLY 2011 *[also known as the Talking Bull Rally]*

The Iron Indian Riders have done it again. This inaugural Rally was held in perfect autumn weather that closely resembled the summer we never had. The rally was based out of the Siesta Resort in Albury. This is a good venue with a pool and restaurant and a range of rooms. I scored an upgrade to a Spa room that had its own backyard onto the pool where I could watch underdressed (no not undressed) young women cavort in the water. The next day they popped me back into the budget number I had originally booked out by the Dumpsters. What a come down. Friday night was a biggy with lots of bottles of wine consumed and many, many opinions expressed. I recall having a deep and meaningful conversation with President Smith over a fine drop of "Old Boys " Port in the small hours. This seemed to make John uncharacteristically quite and thoughtful next day.

Rally Kick off was reasonably prompt with a good turn out. Organizer's Phil Pilgrim with Robert Gosper delivered the riders briefing complete with the admonishing *that if you passed the lead rider, YOU were the lead rider and you had better know where we were going.* The run provided a long ride for the later Springfield's and Modern Indians and a short ride for the oldies [Bikes that is] which was accompanied by the back up trailer. It is a Association policy to encourage the use of older bikes.

This short run was patronized by Peter Winterbourne on his fine running 600 1927 scout. This little wonder motored along at a steady 80 clicks' with the odd burst up to a 100 with out missing a beat. No oil leaks either. I was astonished to learn that it was still running its original cast iron pistons! What a revelation these bikes must have been in the twenties. Fast [for the day] and dead reliable with unit construction, geared primaries and minimal maintenance requirements. Rod Leaman piloted his Military outfit With Laurie Keenan riding shotgun in the chair. This hard working rig had just returned from the I.M.C.A, s Tassie Rally To Quote Rod who is by no means a little fellow:

'My 44' chief is hauling 44 and a 1/2 stone of passengers.' and well too. Lastly there was Peter Kime on his 1935 Chief a bike that He originally swapped a B.S.A Bantam for the Chiefs engine [good deal] then he took a few decades to find or make the remainder of the machine. A 741 Bobber suffered a piston nip up early in the run and ended up on the trailer. This bike has been with for many years and through at least 8 changes of address and spent most of that time in boxes, I am sure it will end up well sorted. The rest of us set out for a loop around the state forest out to the East of town. The long route took in Lake Hume, Red Bluff and Dedarang for a smoko and regroup. This is great riding country and Dave Sinclair from the Classic & Enthusiasts Club of NSW as the lead rider set a cracking pace on his 1970 Triumph Bonneville according to him the best part of the run for him

was that the tail end charlie was also on a Triumph. The tail end rider was associate member Garry Hogg on his 2010 Thunderbird. He reckons that the best bit was that a Triumph was leading the pack.

Lunch was at Yackandandah unfortunately the Chef at the local pub had mysteriously gone bush so it was the excellent Bakery for most of us. Club President John Smith was seen chatting up a local lass.[see photo] He said she had a lovely figure but was a little on the quite side which was fine by him. After lunch I swapped bikes with John. He took my 52 and continued his education on the mysteries of the foot clutch. He did pretty well and reported that he was impressed with the performance, handling and comfort of he old Chief. I suspect we will make a Springfield owner of him yet.

Meanwhile I got to sample the very latest offering from Kings Mountain. John had air freighted a brand new Indian Bomber into oz and as far as I know, I am the first to test this interesting machine. For my impressions readers will have to wait for the next issue of the Magazine but many thanks to John for this unique opportunity. As readers are aware, John imports Gilroy Chiefs and there were a couple of proud new owners on the run and Now both these chaps are experienced Harley owners and riders had never ridden any Indian prior to [purchasing one from John who reported that as cruised past on his first ride on his Standard Chief he planted a big kiss on the tank. I guess that's another happy Gilroy owner. Phil had daughter Bonnie with him. He had invested \$ 800.00 and many hours into making a more pillion friendly rear seat on pillion saddle on his 48? When proud dad asked how she liked it she replied "Well its ok I guess" Kids.

We headed for home and another pleasant night. A relaxed and friendly atmosphere seems to be a hallmark of this Association

Sunday saw a slightly smaller group set out for short ride via... On this leg we had our only mishap when Peter Kime's 35 Chief stepped out on a corner fortunately with little damage to bike or rider. We arrived back at base for a midday departure. A number of attendees felt that the would have liked an extra day so perhaps next year this rally will be set back one week to the Labour day weekend?

Thanks to all corner Marshalls & The Classic & Enthusiasts Club of NSW for all their assistance

That's it for now. Cheers

Phillip White