

### Chief Rain in the Face Rally 11 to 13 June 2016

Gary Hogg has done it again, not sure who he organises it with but the Chief Rain in the Face was an outstanding success again this year.

The weather was perfect, 0 degrees in the morning going up to 14 degrees during the day. The sun was out every day and only encountered a couple of very light showers (not enough to get you wet.).

6 of us arrived at various times late Friday afternoon. Jim Tierny had made the run down from Canberra, Peter Kime and Noel Thornby rode together from Seymour and arrived just as Phil Pilgrim was putting the kettle on for a cup of tea. Gary had arrived and was getting settled in by checking out the Bakery next door. George Fitzpatrick arrived later as we were settling in to a decent hot meal at the Railway Hotel. The deal for us this year had accommodation, breakfast and dinner all inclusive at a very reasonable rate. Between the decent meals and plenty of the local red wine all settled into what was to become a weekend of great food, wine that got better the more you drank, lively conversation around the dinner table and the best riding roads you would be struggling to find any better around Australia.



Little bit of cloud but no rain.

After a Friday night of imbibing in the local wine we got up to a clear day, brisk, some low cloud but no sign of rain. Set off from Myrtleford at 10:00am and proceeded out of town on the Ovens Hwy up the through Bright and onto the Gundowering Rd. Had a delay while we had to wait for pushbike riders to get into single file so we could get past. All fingers were still feeling cold and we pulled into a parking bay for a chat and allow the feeling to return to the fingers. At this stage the push bike riders had turned up and instead of giving way at the intersection kept riding through, almost getting collected by a ute that they did not give way too, and I only thought they were this stupid in the City. The sun was now out and warming is up, we then proceeded down the Kergunyah Rd through Mitta Mitta and up the short windy road to the top of the Dartmouth Dam for a short stop and admire the immensity of the dam and a photo stop. This was the only time we encountered a damp road and a short spattering of rain. The top of the Dartmouth Dam was the coldest we experienced all week end, it was 9 degrees but with the wind chill factor it was near zero degrees. Pulled into Dartmouth Hotel expecting a welcoming log fire and a feed only to find there was no meal being served. Set off again and went back to Mitta Mitta for a meal at the Mitta Mitta Pub. Pleasantly surprised to find the inside of the pub had been given a makeover and serving a great selection of decent food.



The coldest we got was at the top of the Dartmouth Dam, stopped just long enough to see the water.

After a wait while Phil investigated issues with an engine light coming on in the Scouts instrument panel we set off the head back to Myrtleford. The well known Indian thirst for petrol reared its head and we had to pull in to Kiewa for a top up for the Scout. It took a couple of circuits of Kiewa to find that the only petrol was from the local Hardware Merchant tucked out of sight behind the Murray Goulburn Factory. It was then back onto the Kiewa Valley Highway and a short run back to Myrtleford.

Sunday was better than Saturday, skies were clear and not a rain cloud to be seen. After another hearty breakfast we were off on another ride through roads that were speckled with sunshine through the trees, hardly any traffic and went through country side that was a vivid green. Went up past Everton and onto the road to Beechworth. Beechworth was crowded with tourists so we continued onto Yackandandah for a short break to have morning tea. After a hot pie and coffee there was a lot of discussion about the benefits of heated grips before we hit the road headed for Tawonga for fuel.



Lots of discussion about benefits of heated grips.

**Peter Kime 2016**



The closest we got to the Snow.

At this stage we decided not to head up to Mt Beauty and decided to cut across the mountains to Bright. Even at this time of year the roads were very dry and spent an enjoyable ride through the mountains back into the Ovens Valley. Found a parking spot in Bright (another busy town) and headed to the Fish and Chip Shop for something to eat. After a feed of oversized chips and potato cakes we headed back down the Great Alpine Road back to Myrtleford. Heading down the road at about 4:00pm you could feel the chill starting to set in but not enough to take away the enjoyment of the road. Back into Myrtleford for a quick cuppa , a brisk walk around the town and into the dining room for a Roast Dinner that was put on for us. George had taken a liking to the cleanskin wine we were drinking and headed up to the Gapsted Winery to load up his car with some very reasonably priced wine. We all had a good yarn and left the dining room for rooms that we knew were going to be as warm as toast and a welcoming bed. At this stage Gary had complained about his room being freezing and it had not been warm since he arrived. He asked Shane if they could get it fixed, Shane's wife showed Gary how to turn the A/C from cooling to heating.

Monday arrived with the same weather we had experienced all week end and after a hearty breakfast we wished each other good bye and headed in various directions to home.

It turned out to be a First Class weekend and could not fault one bit of it, the company was good, weather perfect, roads that you can enjoy at a leisurely pace. Definitely looking forward to next year.