

IIRA 5 May 19 Ride to Llanelly for the Girder Fork and Single Cylinder Rally.



6 of us met at the BP Calder Park Service Centre. Clouds were looming dark and low, but no rain so far. It was cold and Rob Hadden had just ridden down from Castlemaine, his hands were colder than a mother in laws kiss, his heated gloves had an electrical fault and he had to wear normal gloves. We left promptly at 9:30 and led by Phil Pilgrim up the freeway to meet Owen and Linda Jones and Richard Onyon at the BP Servo at Carlsruhe. As we came to Woodend you could feel the temperature drop dramatically and gradually got warmer as after we passed Five Mile Creek. After ½ hr ride we had to stop at Carlsruhe for a coffee break.

After fueling up again with Coffee and Petrol Richard took the lead and took us off down the Cobb & Co Road and other back roads towards Malmsbury, then Castlemaine. Once through Castlemaine we hit all the back roads to Maldon for a leisurely ride through the town that had just recovered from the All British Rally. Following the roads towards Newstead the weather had improved and the ride was along great roads that did not have much traffic and were in good condition.

We arrived at Llanelly about 11:30am and were warmly greeted by Pam Jones.

After a coffee to warm up we spent some time catching up with familiar faces and waited for the riders to come in from their morning ride. The riders were delayed due to a few break downs and the back up taking the wrong road. As the riders gradually came in it was good to see a lot of '20s bikes as well as some lovely Velo's and AJS's. About this time Sandy was ready to eat a dead horse when the school bell was finally rung to let us know lunch was ready. As is normal with the Bendigo Club they put on a sumptuous feast that had everything from little hot dogs, party pies, BBQ snags and a host of other foods all nice and hot and waiting for a hungry hoard to devour. I must say that the club put on a great feast that was greatly appreciated by all.

After relaxing our belts and chatting to a few of the riders on the rally we decided to head off at about 2:00pm. The plan was to head off back through Castlemaine and get back onto the Calder Freeway. We gave up following Richard as we he gets going he is gone. The trip down the freeway was uneventful and traffic reasonable.

Many thanks must go to the Bendigo Club for putting on a great Rally and for looking after us as visitors.

Thanks to Richard for leading another great ride.

Riders were –

Richard Onyon – Indian Chieftain, Phil Pilgrim – Indian Scout , Sandy Barthelmie – Indian Scout, Rob Hadden – Harley , Peter Kime – Drifter , Owen & Linda Jones – Panza Tank , Friends of Phil – John – BMW R1300, Rhami – '56-'57 Triumph Thunderbird (with 750 big bore kit).