

IIRA 5 Aug Ride to Antique Motorcycles & Crazy Horse Moto.

We are truly blessed and the Motorcycle Gods smile upon us when it comes to rolling out the bike for a IIRA Club ride. The weather was better than expected for a winters day.

This ride was a bit like a progressive ride, started off with 5 bikes and riders and progressively picked up riders along the way until we ended up with 15 riders at the end.

The group of 5 at the Mill Park headed of up Plenty Rd at 10:30am with intrepid ride captain Owen leading the way. Traffic was light and it was an easy ride all the way to Gorge Rd and on towards Eltham. Headed through Templestowe to Doncaster and onto Springvale Rd. This where country boy Owen faulted and Richard (armed with Sat Nav on his Indian Black Bomber (as well as every other gadget under the sun.)) took over the lead and guided us through the morning traffic. The progressive riders then started to join in just after the Eastlink Freeway. Phil Pilgrim and Chris Horner were late starters and joined in the ride while we were stopped at the traffic lights. We headed through numerous traffic lights, picking up a lot of red lights along the way.

As we got towards Oakleigh Phil took over the lead and took us off at Heartherton Rd, Tootal Rd and into the Moorabinn Airport Precinct. We then pulled into Grange Rd and onward to Antique Motorcycles. It is an easy place to Find, just look for the corner with all the Motorcycles Parked out the front. The parking area with a large variety of bikes parked out the front that are nearly as interesting as what John Gee has parked inside. At this stage we picked up another 3 riders who had opted to meet us at Antique Motorcycles for the next leg of the ride to Marks at Crazy Horse Moto.

Being at Antique Motorcycles is like sending kids into the lolly shop with \$1 to get some lollies. Riders went in ten different directions at once. Some to enjoy a coffee and a snack at the well presented café (already doing a healthy business with people already at the tables enjoying a meal).

Wandering through John's collection of bikes and memorabilia makes you realize that you need a lot more time than we had as well as a lot more money and an understanding wife in case something followed you home.

Before we left John gathers us all up and took us to his newest acquisition – a 1904 FN, 362cc 4 cylinder. This was the ultimate barn find, still in good order and everything there except for the magneto. For 1904 this bike was a work of art. The mechanical linkages and their joints were tiny and well made. The drive shaft (yes 1904 – not belt driven, no chain – a drive shaft!) was petite in its diameter and precision made. John was very proud of his acquisition and went through the full detail and history of the bike, certainly impressed us. Thanks to John for welcoming us to his shop and spending the time to talk to us about what he was doing and showing us the FN.

By then it was approaching 1:00pm and time to take the 15min ride to Mark's in Govenor Rd. Mark and Sandy meet us at the gate and directed us down his drive to park near the BBQ that was nearly ready to have a snag on it. We picked up another 3 riders and 1 on shanks pony with his mate. Again another lolly shop experience and money passed over the counter to take advantage of the goods that Mark had heavily discounted to move on stock in readiness for the next stage of his business dealing in Indian parts only.

Sandy had full control of the BBQ and cooked the sausages and chicken wings to perfection

We all spent the next 3 hours chatting and going over Marks bikes and his plans for the Business. We wish Mark every success with the next stage of his business.

Our thanks go to Mark and Sandy for putting on the BBQ and spending the time with us.

Another great ride for the IIRA, thanks to everyone for coming along.

Ride attended by –

At Mill Park -

Owen & Linda Jones – BMW outfit

Richard Onyon – Indian Chieftain Black Bomber. (what a great bike!)

Gary Wilkins – Indian Chieftan

Rob Hadden – Harley Bobber

Peter Kime – Drifter

Along the way –

Phil Pilgrim – Indian Scout

Chris Horner – Triumph Daytona (Indian Scout had flat battery, must need to be ridden more often.)

At Antique Motorcycles –

Andrew Pobjoy – Indian Chief

David Galea – Indian Chief (Springfield)

Charlie Poulton – 47 Indian Chief

At Mark's -

Alastair Piercy – Indian Chief (Polaris)

Marcus Robertson – Triumph

Andrew Guy – Indian Chief

Michael Dietrich – Indian Chief

Allan Fagan –

Jillian Ramsden – ex member out with her dogs and partner Jan.

Apologies if I have missed anyone.



