

Chief Rain in the Face Rally 30th May to 2nd June 2019



I can't recall when the Chief Rain in the Face Rally lived up to its name. This year's rally in sunny Beechworth was another success. The weather was perfect, not a cloud in the sky and the sun was shining brilliantly.

As usual we can't thank Gary Hogg enough, his organization of the rides was perfect and his good friend upstairs looked after the weather. Thanks also go to Bev Hogg who patiently put up with following a bunch of motorcyclists who were having a ball on the roads travelled. The hard luck story for the rally has to go to Gary. He has a way of getting great roads and scenery as well as perfect weather but can't get Lucas the Prince of Darkness to support him. His Triumph suffered alternator failure and had to resort to putting the battery on charge overnight. He even had Bev carry an extension lead in the backup car and when we got to Bright a friendly Shell Garage allowed him to put his bike on charge while we had lunch.

We had 12 riders on a mixture of old 7 bikes) and new Indians (2 bikes) as well as 2 Triumphs and a Royal Enfield. It was a pleasure to see Bonnie Pilgrim going pillion with Phil. Heath was having back problems and Bonnie stepped in to go pillion. Bonnie has just returned from Japan, hopefully she enjoyed seeing some beautiful Australian scenery again. Also welcome back to Stevie York, since Stevie and Chrissy moved to Tassie we have not seen much of them. It was great to catch up with Stevie and hear about his adventures in Tassie and crewing on a sail boat to Sydney. His 500 Royal Enfield is still stored in Melbourne and he had his motorcycle legs in action.

We stayed at the Carriage Inn at Beechworth and were well looked after by them. Clean rooms and a pleasant outlook. It was close to the main street and only a short walk to everything Beechworth had to offer. Beechworth was a good choice because if Chief Rain in the Face lived up to his name there was plenty to do if you did not want to go riding.

7 members made the most of the weekend and arrived on Thursday, the other 7 arriving Friday afternoon.



Friday 31st May.

The morning was very foggy and as the riders were only going for a short ride they had a late breakfast and hit the road about 11:00am. It was still foggy most of the way to Chiltern. After Chiltern they headed towards Wangaratta with the fog clearing and the sun coming out. All the rain clouds were heading for Melbourne. Friday night most of us went to the Hiberian Hotel for dinner then came back and gathered around Gary's bike to look for his battery problem. After finding the problem was in the charging system most of us adjourned to Alistair Piercy's room for cheese and bikkies washed down with a decent red.

Saturday 1st June

The morning was brisk (about 7 degrees) but not a cloud in the sky and the sun was smiling down at us. After a decent breakfast in the tea room just up from the motel we were ready for a ride.



This is how real men have breakfast.

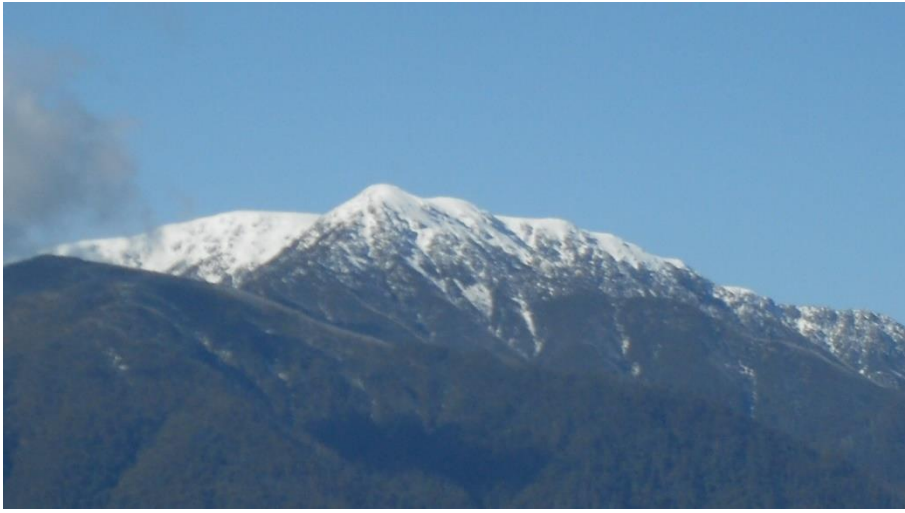
Everyone was ready at 10:30 and we all took off with the sun behind us and well rugged against the morning chill. We stopped at Tarrawingee for morning tea. At this stage most riders striped of their wet weather gear as it was now getting warm. Next stop was Bright for lunch. The roads were perfect, no moisture on the road and it was good to see the country side so green.

As usual Gary set a gentle pace and kept us all together. Corner marking worked well and we only need the occasional stop to regroup.

We stopped in Bright for lunch, due to variety of eateries members scattered in all directions to find a venue suitable for their tastes. Some thought a good old pie and sauce followed by a vanilla slice was the best way to feed the man.



Sunny Bright, no rain, not a cloud in the sky – perfect.



The closest we got to the snow.

We left Bright late in the afternoon and decided to head straight back to Beechworth. The sun was starting to get low in the sky and the country side was bathed in sunshine. Again perfect roads and smooth riding. All bikes performed well and other than Garys Trident there were no mechanical issues. Even Owen on his first big outing on his 46 Chief was amazed at how well his Chief went and what a comfortable ride it was. Having ridden it from Tallarook to Beechworth he was always looking down to make sure nothing fell off and was so pleased to see it run so well.

Saturday night saw us all at the Hiberian for dinner. Great food and company, what better way to finish off a fantastic day.



A pleasant evening at the Hiberian

Sunday 2nd June

Sundays weather was just as good as Saturday. Some riders headed for home and the rest were ready for a short ride for morning tea. Unfortunately when Gary wheeled his bike out it would not kick over, the battery charger had not been turned on and the battery was now dead flat. Rather than risk any problems with his bike we decided to call it a day and head for home.



No oil leaks, new wiring loom but the Prince of Darkness still gets you.

Alternator not charging.

Thanks again to Gary for organizing another great weekend. Also thanks to everyone who turned up for the ride, again great riding with some really good people.

Phil Pilgrim & Bonnie	Vindian	George Fitzpatrick	'42 Chief
Owen Jones	'47 Chief	Sandy Barthelmie	'46 Chief
Phillip White	CHIPS & Drifter	Peter Kime	'35 Chief
Noel Thornby	'46 Chief	Alistair Piercy	2014 Chief
Brett Buckland	Kings Mountain Chief	Gary Hogg	Triumph Trident
Marcus Robertson	Thunderbird	Stevie York	Enfield 500
Bev Hogg	Holden Commodore		