

# *Iron Indian Riders Association*

IIRA Ride to Daylesford 23 May 2020.

How do you describe the 1<sup>st</sup> day of freedom allowed by Dan Andrews but as "FANTASTIC".

It was great to see nearly 16 riders pulled up at the BP Calder Park, enjoying the brisk but sunny weather and happy to be out on a motorcycle (except for myself in the HR Holden still nursing an injured left ankle). We were going to meet Richard at Greendale and Mark at Daylesford.

Intrepid Ride Captain Owen Jones was last to arrive on his new 46 Indian and outfit. Owen had to stop at Wallan to allow Linda to warm up. When they left Tallarook it was probably on 6 degrees and Linda need some coffee and a warm environment to get some heat back in he body. Sandy brought along a friend Nick who was on a 46 Chief and we were also greeted by Gary Jennings who came along to wave us off. Martyn Goodwyn represented the VRV on his Comet and Phil Pilgrim supporting him on his Vincati.

After a brief talk by President Alistair, Phil and me we were of at 10:00 am on the dot.

By this time it was about 13 degrees and the sun was out. We headed down the Calder Highway for about ½ a kilometre before we took the turn of too Diggers Rest and on towards Bacchus Marsh through Toolern Vale and past the Merrimu Reservoir. Great road, not much traffic and a gentle ride. All kept together and Owen led a reasonable pace. Slowed down a bit going through Bacchus Marsh until we got to Maddingley Park where we turned left and headed up the hill towards the Bacchus Marsh Race Course. We missed the first turn off but headed down the road until we turned right towards Rowsley which would takes us into Ballan. As you come into Rowsley the is a fairly steep hill, the problem with the hill on this day was a lot of gravel on the road. This gravel was of epic proportions and the size of ball bearings. We had a couple of mishaps slipping in the gravel.

This held us up for a bit of time but once sorted we were on our way to Ballan. One thing we must remember when we go this way is that there is no operating petrol station. After a lot of discussion about where to get petrol the group

proceeded back towards Melbourne, turned left onto the Western Freeway and filled up at the BP Servo just before the turn of too Greendale. I headed directly to Greendale hoping to catch up with Richard Onyon who was waiting patiently for us. Very unusual to arrive in Greendale and not see the Pub parking lot full of cars and motorcycles. Disappointingly Richard had moved off and I parked opposite the Pub waiting the rest of the group to catch up. Was interesting to see the number of red plate vehicles going past, even a couple of Vincent's came from the Trentham direction, heading towards Ballan. It was at this point we lost Chris Knoop who missed to turn off and headed back to Melbourne.

The ride through Blackwood and Trentham is a great run through to Daylesford. Arrived in Daylesford to find the group all parked and spread out correctly on the small park opposite the pub. Some of us carried a bit of lunch with us and some took the gamble to join the people appropriately distanced waiting outside the various cafes that were selling takeaway. Some of the group went for a walk around Daylesford while the others stayed in the park catching up with each other after months of isolation. Weather was still brisk but just right for a ride. The smiles on everyone's faces proved that it was a relief to be out and about on a bike. About 3:00pm most split into separate groups and headed back home.

Thanks to all that turned up, great group and as always great company.

Look forward to the next ride on the 7 July to Mansfield.



Waiting for the start at BP Calder Park. The hill into Rowsley, watch for the gravel



Waiting at Ballan, where do we get petrol?



Owen Jones is now the proud owner of Phil Pilgrims new Indian, suitably decked out with sidecar for Linda. Bike performed superbly with a very happy Captain Jones (no longer Capt Slow?)