



The Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia
PO Box 231 Fyshwick ACT 2609
Tel: 0419.402.341
Incorporated in the ACT: A03791

A report on the Rick Lord Memorial Ride in Kurri Kurri 18-20 November 2022

First a little history about this ride for more recent members who did not know Rick: Rick Lord was an early member of TMRA & a truly lovely fellow, He was also, in my opinion the best rider in the Club. Back in those pre-Covid Days we had a regular weekend event at Cabins in Mystery Bay on the NSW South Coast. On the Saturday ride Rick seemed to be not his usual self, his riding was off the pace. I don't suppose any of the others were aware of this, but I was. It was only a short time later that Rick was diagnosed with Motor Neuron disease, a dreadful illness that took his life in under a year. We have run this event in his memory ever since.

I do not usually attend this event but this year I decided to go, with serious consequences as it transpired. The Spring had been cold & wet with floods, but this weekend beckoned with sunny weather. I elected to trailer my T150 as the motorway route was uninviting. I arrived in late afternoon to find all the others already there. Bega Bob had ridden with his friends & the two Wishart's had also ridden in. Rick Moss was also there with Red & with Tim Tapsell who had ridden up from Sydney on his ever reliable T160. Jeff Skillen, a local, was there with Woody. The two of them had organised the event, which was a challenge due to recent floods closing many roads. Our President Peter Gallagher was there & also our previous long term president Brian Eldred who was paying a flying visit.

The venue for the event was the Station Hotel in Kurri Kurri, specifically in the motel attached to the pub. The pub unfortunately had closed its bistro so most of us went to the nearby Bowling Club for dinner. The Club was very crowded which made me wary in these Covid times. I was wise to be wary as I caught Covid there, I feel sure. The evening was lovely however with beer & good company of old friends. Bernie Clarke rode in on his Sprint from Canberra just before darkness.

The Sat ride started at 9am in sunny warm weather, a welcome change from cold & wet Canberra. The ride took us across lovely country past many

expensive looking wineries. We stopped for fuel in Broke before venturing into the destroyed landscape of Singleton. There Tim lost his chain, seemingly a victim of his homemade chainguard. This caused a major delay, but one of the local men fetched his trailer & took Tim & his bike to another mutual friend who was known to have a spare chain.

The next stop was at the excellent Army museum in the Singleton Barracks. I had not heard of this museum but a visit was well worth it.

We rode on to our lunch venue at the Bradford Hotel on the outskirts of Maitland: A large & very crowded pub. To my surprise Helen Ryan had come to lunch, Danny's widow. Danny had been killed on a bike last year. It was lovely to see her. After lunch it all went a bit pear shaped with riders disappearing in all directions. I stuck with Jeff & Bernie & we rode back to Kurri Kurri without incident. This is a very charming old industrial town which reminded me of the Australia I remembered from when I first arrived 40 years ago this year.

That evening most decided to order pizza for dinner, but several of us went again to the Bowling Club, which was just as busy as Friday. Sunday morning soon arrived & all the southerly riders decided to set off at 7:30am which brought the event to a rapid end. Peter Gallagher helped me load the T150 & I was on my way by 9am. My trip to Camden to see my Son would have been fine except when I ran over broken glass from a recent bingle on the M7, which of course punctured a tyre. The NRMA & my new spare soon resolved that problem but the tyre was wrecked. After seeing my Son I drove back to Canberra arriving just on darkness. My neighbour helped me unload the T150, which incidentally ran well all weekend.

The next day I started to feel a little poorly which turned into Covid. I had not had the virus before but became quite sick with it for a fortnight. Now, three weeks later I am recovered but I certainly don't want to catch it again. A very nasty virus which for me spoiled a most delightful event. Thanks to Jeff & Woody who did the organising.

Lorraine Litster
For Triumph Register of Australia
10 December 2022