



**The Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia**

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## **SOUTHERN TRIPLES TUMUT 2024 RALLY REPORT**

**15-17 March 2024**

This year's Southern Triples Rally took place in the lovely town of Tumut. It was very popular with 25 entrants, which far exceeded my expectations. Indeed we had six people from Victoria entered, & four from Queensland included.

The weather for the whole weekend was splendid, warm & sunny with no rain, despite heavy rain falling in both Sydney & Canberra.

Most entrants arrived on the Thursday & we had a very enjoyable meal & drinks in the Oriental Hotel. The Queenslanders were in high spirits led by Tony Eklom, now fully recovered from his serious injury incurred at last years Rally in Yass.

On Friday morning the Canberra contingent arrived in time for the ride, including TMRA Membership Director Bernie Clark who towed the breakdown vehicle (the trailer loaned by Jeff Skillen). My plan for lunch in Talbingo had to be cancelled due to Kyle the café owner having to rush away on family business. Instead we rode the short distance to the Riverside Café on the outskirts of town. This allowed everyone to get to know each other over coffee.

The ride took us along the Tumut River valley before climbing to the Blowering Reservoir. This is a most lovely ride with views of the lake all the way to Talbingo, where we rode to the Tumut 3 Power Station This is a most impressive sight with its six very large pipes descending from the Talbingo Reservoir several hundred metres above.

Thanks to Kyle from the Talbingo Café, Peter Symons the manager of the Station allowed us into Tumut3 & gave a comprehensive lecture on the workings of both the Station & the Snowy Scheme power supply. Peter then took Chris Collins into the bowels of the Station where his father's name appears on a plaque. His father had been the Commissioner of the Snowy Scheme.

When we left the Station things went a little awry with some leaving for fuel in Talbingo & others ascending to the Lake viewpoint. Somehow we never reassembled. I then led the remainder of the Rally up the mountain towards the Yarrangobilly Homestead, however we only got halfway there before we came across Jeff Skillen &

Gary Hall at the lookout lay-by. Gary had collided with Jeff: both were injured but gladly not seriously. Not so the two bikes, both were damaged & unrideable. Bernie was following with both the breakdown trailer & a first aid kit, not to mention cold drinks.

Sorting out this crash took some time but eventually the remaining riders did continue to Yarrangobilly whilst the injured & their bikes were returned to Tumut by Bernie. Ron & Oliver Guyett (Father & Son) continued on to the Caves to have a dip in the hot pool. I had discounted taking the Rally there as the dirt road was shocking when I was on the Recce' trip in Feb. I had complained most strongly to the RTA, who had apparently repaired the road since to an acceptable standard. They had a good dip apparently.

Back in Tumut, Trevor took Gary to the hospital to treat a nasty gravel rash. He did return later during dinner all bandaged & cleaned up, & a little sheepish. Jeff refused further treatment though his left big toe was suspected broken.

We had a very pleasant meal in the Oriental on two large tables, including both Jeff & Gary.

Saturday dawned sunny & warm again for the long ride of the Rally. We rode first to Adelong to the Victorian Gold working; said to be the best preserved in the country. Those who had never seen them were suitably impressed. We had lost Rick Moss however whose T150 was misfiring: he remaining in Tumut.

After Adelong came the long climb to Rosewood: this is a most spectacular road, I have never seen a more impressive road & many of the Riders agreed with me. However a close call occurred: two emus darted across the road right in front of me & I think I missed the second one by inches. The Lord was looking after me.

I had arranged for a coffee stop at the Rosewood Café, which is also the start of the Rail Trail to Tumbarumba. The coffee was very welcome & my nerves settled after my near disaster.

In Tumbarumba we split up to the various lunch venues in the main street & more petrol was purchased.

Some of us stopped in Batlow for a cold drink on the way back, where we saw an elaborate mobile sculpture of a tree in a Park. We all arrived back in Tumut without any further drama or breakdowns.

Before dinner 11 of us had a tour of the historic Montreal Theatre which was fascinating & I thank Joy for conducting the tour.

The dinner in the evening at the Oriental Hotel was a lovely evening where we gave awards to notable bikes. The Bike of the Rally was awarded by the TMRA President

Peter Gallagher to Bryce Bathe, for his lovely T160. It had been a close race between him & Colin Webster for his equally lovely Rocket3. We awarded a special prize to Mark Leverett who had ridden his T150 from Geelong. His award was a clock with a motorcycle headlight glass, made by Jeff Skillen. Both he & Bryce were delighted. We also awarded a 'hard luck' award to unfortunate Gary. We were shooed out of the dining room later for the disco to take over the room: we didn't stay for that!

Sunday was again sunny & the last ride of the Rally. Several were leaving us in Gundagai, including the Queenslanders who had loaded their hired truck with their bikes. We took the back road via Brungle, a more interesting ride than the main road.

In Gundagai we visited the Truck Museum which is small but was most interesting, with trucks we remembered from our youth. The Queenslanders left us to head north up the Hume whilst the rest of us rode to the famous Niagara Café. Its fame comes from a Winter night during the War when three prime Ministers stopped for a late night meal: Curtin, Chifley & Fadden. Trevor & Attilio left us after lunch on their Hinkley's for the ride back to Canberra. The rest of us rode back to Tumut.

The Rally was formally over at this point, however several were still keen to ride again. Hence Ron & Ollie & Bryce with me rode to the Blowering Dam to see a pedestrian suspension bridge & afterwards to Talbingo & Tumut to ride to the top lookout which gave a good view of the whole complex. We ran into a heavy shower on the way back to Tumut but it was so warm we were dry again by our arrival.

That evening those who remained had dinner on the verandah of the Star Hotel, a suitable end to what had been a most enjoyable rally, except for the awful collision which put Jeff & Gary & their bikes out of action.

I am planning another trip to Tumut for Southern Triples 2025.

LORRAINE LITSTER

For Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia

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