



The Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia
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RALLY REPORT - SOUTHERN TRIPLES 2023 YASS: 16-19 March

We made the decision to again hold the Southern Triples Rally in Yass after the success of the Yass Rally last year. This should have been a simple decision except when I tried to book the Yass Motel, our 2022 venue, I discovered that all the motels in Yass had been booked out for the whole year by a company building a wind farm north of Yass.

I then tried the pubs & was able to reserve sufficient rooms at the Australian Hotel, which even had a few motel rooms behind.

I organised the rides & the venues & we were ready to go.

Several riders were arriving on Thursday 16th so I had to be there too.

I rode up from Canberra on the T150 & arrived to find Tony Eklom, Mike Drohan & Jeff Skillen already there. However through a mistake of mine Tony didn't have his room & before I arrived had ridden over to Gunning & taken a room there. The motels being booked out had put pressure on the pubs for rooms.

The Rally had coincided with an almost freakish heatwave & temperatures rose to over 30C during the Rally. This was in a way enjoyable as we were all able to ride in light gear, which is unusual at this time of year.

Saturday morning found most of the cafes not open early so breakfast was not up to standard. We spent the morning looking around Yass, which is a very pretty & bustling town. By lunchtime everybody had arrived with the exception of Bernie Clarke who rode in after dark. Late entrant Toby Bateman arrived on a Trike. I should mention that Toby instigated the Southern Triples Rally some years ago based at Kangaroo Valley.

At 2:30 as planned we set off for Wee Jasper 50 Km away over lovely hilly country. I should say that we only had 8 riders & 13 people at the Rally, which is a result of my not advertising the Rally outside TMRA. Our destination in Wee Jasper was a gin distillery; a lovely destination where some of us tasted a gin. I tried a pink gin which was delicious. Trevor & Jenny Fowler had the backup trailer & also had soft drinks & slices made by Jenny so it turned into a lovely afternoon.

We rode back to Yass & had dinner together at the Australian Hotel, a very sociable time. Tony Eklom & Mike Drohan had ridden their T160s all the way from Queensland, a commendable effort.

Saturday found the cafes open & after breakfast we set off on the Saturday ride, the first stop being Harden at the delightful bakery. However before we got there things started to go wrong, at least for me.

My passenger footrest came loose & left the silencer hanging. Mike retrieved the footrest but the bolt was long gone. Toby had some cable ties so they had to do to hold it on. We had morning tea at the bakery then set off for Young where our stop was a massive hardware shop & emporium where I planned to bolt on the footrest again. (Harden has no hardware shop). My plan came undone when the cable ties broke & the silencer fell off outside Young. If that wasn't bad enough the silencer was destroyed when Jeff Skillen, riding behind me, ran over it. It could have hit him.

The stop in Young was a bit of a blur for me & anyway the hardware shop hadn't the suitable bolt: it was too late anyway. I had to ride on with the silencer missing, which was an unpleasant experience. The ride to Boorowa was on lovely roads in perfect weather, a shame I was unable to enjoy it. Mike the landlord at the Boorowa Hotel was his usual hospitable self & a pleasant lunch was served in a private room. At that lunch we awarded the Best Trident award to Mike Drohan for his beautifully prepared T160. We had a second trophy for the best Rocket3 but we had no entries.

We stopped on the way back at Binalong where ace bike painter Adam Best joined us on his Commando. Landlord Ian Paterson is in the process of handing over to new owners. I will be sad to see him & wife Julie leave. The ride back to Yass had no more dramas & our evening meal was as pleasant as the Friday dinner had been. Bernie's wife Sal came out to join us.

Sunday morning brought a much more serious drama. Tony Eklom had decided to set off very early for home due to a forecast for extremely hot weather in Sydney. He had left by 6:15 when I checked. It was still dark. A short time later & received a call from the Yass Police to say Tony had been hit by a kangaroo on the outskirts of Yass & had a broken leg. I rapidly raised Trevor & we dashed out there where we found the police & ambulance there. Tony had a compound fracture so there a lot of blood. His bike was surprisingly little damaged. This was because he came to a halt before

toppling off. We rescued the bike & saw the ambulance set off for Canberra hospital with Tony aboard.

This rather put a damper on the plans for Sunday. After breakfast we visited the Dunsters Classic bike garage, which is in the old Holden dealership opposite the courthouse, which we all enjoyed. Peter Dunster had brought out several silencers to replace my lost one. This was very good of him. One fitted on straight away & although slightly different to the other one it was a worthy replacement. We decided to recover the Sunday plan & we rode over to Gunning for morning tea. The Canberra Club (VVCMMCCACT) had also ridden out there so it was jolly stop. Afterwards those staying on Sunday night travelled back to Yass & Bernie & I rode back to Canberra.

Unfortunate Tony spent the week in Canberra hospital whilst his bike remained with the Dunsters in Yass. The Canberra people visited him to formulate a plan to get him home. Eventually he flew back to Brisbane on Friday morning arriving safely. His bike remains in Yass but may be taken to Brisbane by Bernie on a trailer. And so ended an enjoyable but eventful Rally.

Lorraine Litster
For Triumph Register of Australia
Saturday, 25 March 2023