



The Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia
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RALLY REPORT –TMRA ANNUAL RALLY 2024 BATHURST

This Years Rally took place as usual in Bathurst, between 13-15 September. Despite rain on Thursday 12th the weekend was fine & sunny, but with chilly starts to the days.

By Thursday night about half the Rally entrants had arrived ready for the Friday ride. So on Friday morning about a dozen of us set off. We took a road we had not used before from Kelso to Wattle Flat via Limekilns, with our destination being Sofala. This is an interesting road, which I suspect had once been the main road from Sofala to Bathurst.

We arrived in Sofala in good time where we were joined by two others who had missed the start of the ride due to misinformation on the entry form, Jack Stevens & Brian Davis. After refreshments at the café, as the pub had not opened, I decided to change the ride & instead go to Hill End. This is always a popular destination & everyone was happy to ride there.

Hill End was as quiet as it often is but the pub was open for beer & meals. The café opposite had very recently changed hands & had little to offer. All the same we were happy to sit in the sunshine outside the pub chatting.

The trip back was uneventful but very enjoyable. Peter Gallagher's '52 Thunderbird ran excellently as it did the whole weekend, a truly special machine.

By the time we arrived back at 'Panorama' the rest of the Rally had arrived, except for Trevor Fowler & Bernie who had been forced to return to Crookwell from near Tuena due to a serious crash that had closed the road. We had a very pleasant gathering & meal at the 'Panorama' which closed the evening.

Saturday morning dawned sunny & clear & by the time we set off it was quite warm. We had a new road again to experience, the Ophir road from Eglinton to Orange. This back road is excellent for riding & I suggest may be a favourite of local riders. It passes through splendid country & scenery.

The road ends at the Northern Orange bypass where we turned south to the village of Lucknow. Here we left the highway for the back road to Millthorpe & the Millthorpe Hotel next door to the historic Railway station. Millthorpe is higher than Bathurst & hence usually colder. This was the case so several riders decided to eat indoors.

After lunch we moved all the bikes to line up in front of the Railway station for photos. This was a great success. The ride back to Bathurst went south to Blayney, where some got fuel, then to the Newbridge Pub where we stopped for a break & a beer.

Back in Bathurst we made our usual detour to the Panorama Circuit Museum for inspection of the bikes for judging. After returning to 'Panorama' the TMRA AGM was held, which I shall not detail as separate minutes were taken. I shall however record the Major prizes, both of which went to early 70's Models.

The King of the Rally was awarded to Chris Collins for his lovely '71 Tiger.

The Presidents award went to Chris Hayward, for his '71 Bonneville. This bike had a serious oil leak but this did not detract from the quality of the machine.

We had dinner again at 'Panorama' but most finished the day fairly early after a long day.

Sunday dawned again sunny & a little chilly for the last ride of the Rally. Several had already left for home by the time the ride commenced, which was a shame, but we understand people's commitments. It was on this first part of the ride where we had our only breakdown, not a Triumph I must add but Jack Steven's heavily chopped Harley Sportster, which broke down less than 10 miles out of Bathurst. This bike similarly broke down last year, he should have stuck to his Triumph?

Peter Ellwood had been towing Jeff Skillen's trailer all weekend doing breakdown duty & I am very grateful to him for doing so. Finally he had some business!

With the ride back underway we continued from the Lagoon on the Wiseman's Creek road to Mayfield Gardens. Here we stopped for coffee &

cake, unaware that we had lost Ellwood & the breakdown trailer, as they had missed a turning & ended up in Oberon.

After coffee we rode into Oberon but did not stop. Instead we took a third new road of the Rally, the Hazelgrove road to Tarana. This is longer than the usual road which follows the old railway, but is very worthwhile to ride.

We arrived at Tarana to find Ellwood & Jack already there in the café, where we all had a light lunch. This café, opposite the pub, had been closed for several years but is now operating again, which we enjoyed. Then the last stretch back to Bathurst & the end of the Rally: Peter Gallagher, our TMRA President declared it was his most enjoyable Rally ever, with new & interesting roads to ride & of course his '52 Thunderbird running like a bird!

A few of us stayed on Sunday night & had a quiet meal together at the Knickerbocker Hotel, just to get change from the 'Panorama'. On Monday morning a cold spell had arrived for my ride back to Canberra. It was 3C when I set off for a chilly ride home.

It was a very enjoyable Rally for us all I am sure.

Lorraine Litster

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For Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia