

Mid-week ride 27 February 2008 by Peter Anderson

The scheduled mid-week ride for Wednesday, 27 february was to Cobargo-Tilba. The Batemans Bay contingent left the Information Centre car park on time at 10:00 am. Thirty minutes later the size of the riding group was doubled when Stuart Davis joined me at Moruya. By the way, we may need to find an alternative meeting spot in Moruya, the old garage on the highway south of town has been demolished and the site is fenced off leaving nowhere to park.

We had a good, relatively traffic free, run down to Narooma only to be disappointed by the small number of fellow club members waiting there for us - there was in fact nobody! Undeterred we pushed on, skirting the two Tilbas by sticking to the highway until we reached the Bermagui turnoff where we left the billiard table smoothness of the Princess Highway for the tight bends and pock-marked surface of the Wallaga Lake Road. I always find that last bend as you arch down to Wallaga Lake and slow for the one-lane bridge a joy, one of the more picturesque vistas

on the South Coast. It was high tide and the Lake and foreshores looked its best. Showing a considerable lack of imagination we chose not to ride all the way into Bermagui but instead turned right onto Cobargo Bermagui Road. Stuart revelled in the mix of tight and open bends and short straights that this road offers. For me, my relative lack of experience tends to see me take roads like this a bit more slowly (although I find I'm no longer the mobile chicane that I was the first time I tackled this road - my first Ulysses ride and shortly after upgrading from my previous Vespa 150 to my current Honda 900). All too soon we were back to the highway and tootling into Cobargo.

Time for a coffee break and a coffin nail for my companion. We parked in the main street and chose the Wattle Junction Train Stop Cafe for our refreshments. The second round of the World Super

Bike series is being held at Phillip Island between February 29th and March 2nd; two days before the event starts there was a considerable number of fellow motorcyclists on the the Highway. We sat back, drank or coffees, chatted and watched the bikes go by (and one of us hammered in a few more nails while inflicting his companion to a fog of passive smoke).

Back on the bikes for the quick run up to Central Tilba. The plan had been to have lunch at the Bates Emporium. When we arrived we both wondered why we had bothered with the caffeine stop at Cobargo given the closeness of the two towns (hindsight is a wonderful thing). We parked the bikes and ambled into the forecourt of Bates Emporium to be greeted by Ken and Linda Jamieson (sitting in the sun and finishing their lunch). Both Stuart and I are normally quite reticent but Ken was able to get us chatting. What followed was one of those memorable sessions where everyone prattles on about nothing much but really enjoys each others company. I should also mention that Ken's sandwiches were very tasty and quite filling. He is also a dab-hand on the espresso machine. We could have stayed longer but Ken and Linda were constantly being interrupted by other customers (none of whom seemed to have any interest in motorcycles) and we wanted to be home before the forecast afternoon showers. Reluctantly we climbed back on the bikes and pointed them north. I assume members always stop to call in and see Ken and Linda - if you don't then you ought to, they are really nice people.

Between Narooma and Bodalla the heavens open up and it rained quite heavy (Make a note to myself: I really need to get myself some water-proof pants). On the way down we noticed that the old bakery in Bodalla had undergone a restoration and had a spivy looking deck out the front. We agreed to stop there for our return journey coffee. The rain had stopped and so did we. Again a really good coffee supplemented by some pastries; I chose a low-fat apple

turnover that was guaranteed to have minimum calories and next to no fat - "You won't regret it" the lady in the bakery said as I fought with my conscience (and lost); and she was absolutely right. This is a "newish" cafe stop on the Highway and we ought to think about using it more often (as a Batemans Bay member, I would rather ride down there for a Saturday social than go into the bakery in Orient Street).

The clouds were starting to build again so it was back on the bikes and time to head for home. We separated in Moruya, half the ride staying there while the other half continued on to the Bay. As I parked the trusty Honda in the garage, my trip meter told me that I had travelled 230 Km and I must say it was a rather enjoyable run. It surprises us that more members don't do mid-week runs. The roads are less congested and the cafes are not so crowded. We are continuing to do mid-week runs, probably every two weeks so if you would like to join us please do. We are thinking about an over-night run to Gunning soon (good, cheap accommodation and a cosy pub).

*Regards,
Peter*