

The Bay to Junee

(by Peter Anderson, ed)

The following is a copy of a post I recently put on the Ulysses website forum.

Well I have just completed my first "tour". On Wednesday (12th March) I left Batemans Bay at about 8:00 AM bound for Junee. The plan was to ride over on Wednesday, do some sightseeing on Thursday (in particular have a look at the Junee Railway Engine Roundhouse Museum - <http://www.rhta-junee.org.au/>) and then ride home Friday.

I can hear people scoffing - "that's not a tour!" Well it was for me. I've had the Hornet for nearly eight months and done lots of local Branch one day rides but never been away overnight. You ought to know that the Hornet replaced my retirement folly of a Vespa 150 which followed fifteen or so years of no motorcycle at all. But enough of that and back to the trip.

I had asked a couple of local Branch mates if they were interested in joining me but had no takers so set off on my own. The route over was Batemans Bay to Bungendore via the Kings Highway. A stop in Bungendore for coffee (which was pretty grim - can't recommend the cafe in the square). Then across country via Bywong, Gundaroo, Murrumbateman to the Yass Service Centre for fuel for the bike and the rider (again I can't recommend the Mac Cafe). Then a short squirt down the Hume Highway (God riding the Hume on a naked bike is bloody boring) to Bowning (I would recommend that you go a bit further south and turn onto the Burley Griffin Way directly from the



Hume; there are road works just out of Bowning that have long delays and look like they will be there for a while). The Burley Griffin Way is a good road and heads west through Harden-Murrumburrah (with a quick stop to look at the local

museum that is supposed to have a good railway related collection but turns out to be open only on weekends) and on to Wallendbeen. Here we turned south west on the Olympic Way to Cootamundra, reaching Junee just before 2:00 PM for a total of 350 km. The cross-country run from Bowning to Junee is great riding roads, well sealed, open bends and not much traffic.



The Round House Museum doesn't open till 12:30 PM so I filled in Thursday with a run to Temora (approx. 55 km) to have a look at the Aviation Museum - <http://www.aviationmuseum.com.au/>. A volunteer guide called George made an already interesting museum absolutely fascinating with his depth of knowledge and anecdotes - well worth a visit if you have never been.



On the way back I detoured via Junee Reefs and Illabo. This was a series of one lane, but sealed, roads that meandered across country and turned out to be the best riding of the whole trip - I love those sort of roads. Illabo is back on the Olympic Way and is famous for its 360

degree loop for the north-bound railway line (the range of hills were too steep for steam engines so the grade was altered by implementing a loop - its

possible to see the locomotives of a long train passing the last carriages, I guess you need to be interested in trains).

The Round House Museum was another very interesting visit. They clearly don't have one of Australia's richest men bank-rolling them like the Temora Aircraft Museum but what they have is still quite interesting. These days half the Round House is a working engine repair facility and I was lucky enough to see the turntable used four times while I was there.



By the way, I stayed at The Crossing Motel in Junee which was really good and has secure bike parking if you feel you need it. <http://www.thecrossingmotel.com/?file=home>

The run home on Friday again started about 8:00 AM and was yet another great cross-country ride to Gundagai (and the first Highway Patrol car of the trip). From Gundagai it was a drone up the Hume Highway to the Yass Services Centre again for fuel and feed (the choices are Macdonals and Kentucky Fried Chicken - ughhhhh!) then more droning to Goulburn where we tuned south to Tarago, the Kings Highway, Braidwood and then a roll down the hill to home. Again the trip was done in a bit under six hours and included a quick trip to the Bay car wash to blast off the bigger insects.

The total distance was 883.5 km and the Hornet averaged 5.24 l/100 km.

I really enjoyed the three days. I traveled very light with just a back pack and covered some great riding roads. I think I have been bitten by the bug. I've been planning a slightly longer trip down to Lakes Entrance and up through Omeo and Tallangatta, Albury, Tumut, Cooma, Canberra and home - I can't wait to give it a go. Touring light over shotish distances on a naked bike is really good fun.

Regards,
Peter