

The Triumph Motorcycle Register of Australia

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BOB RUSSELL'S BEGA WEEKEND 23-25 April 2021: EVENT REPORT

Peter Gallagher-Triumph Bonneville,
Bob Russell-Triumph Bonneville,
Rex Lovelock-Harley,
Greg Swords-Triumph America,
Dennis Ainsworth-Triumph Bobber
Moses- Triumph Thunderbird 900,
Don Mallard-Harley
Ian Wishart-Triumph America
Peter Wishart-Triumph Thunderbird 900
Lorraine Litster Triumph Bonneville
Trevor Fowler-Triumph Bonneville
Ian Wood-Triumph Bonneville
Bernie Clark-Triumph Sprint
Jim Peters-Triumph Rocket
Ray Shipton-Triumph Rocket

Bob's popular Bega Event was on again this April after, of course being cancelled last year for 'You know what'. We were blessed this year with the most perfect weather, almost the last such weather we can expect before the descent into Winter.

Friday 23 dawned with a heavy frost here in Canberra, but I had planned to depart on my T100 later in the morning after the chill had dissipated. I had originally planned to ride with Trevor & Bernie but neither of them could set off until late in the day so I rode alone. Down the Monaro Hwy I rode in glorious sunshine to Cooma where I refuelled & then on to Nimmitabel for morning tea with old friends on their farm.

At Bemboka I diverted to Candelo, both for the pleasant ride but also to approach Bega from the south, where Bob's new house is. I arrived mid afternoon just after the group from Sydney & northward arrived. It was beer & chat time before I departed for the Grand Hotel to book into my room. It was good to see President Peter Gallagher on his T100, He told us this was his first long ride for a long time & he was fatigued as a result. I am sure others were in the same boat. In the pub I met the Wishart Brothers who had crossed the mountains from the Riverina. Ian Wood was the only one to Trailer in, from the Hunter Valley, which is a long way so fair enough.

With the exception of our two locals Rex & Don, all the machines were Hinckley's, a sign of the times for the TMRA.

That evening we all had dinner together in the Grand Hotel, which had very good & well priced food. Trevor & Bernie had been delayed again & sensibly decided to ride on Saturday morning. We had a very pleasant evening in the 'Grand' catching up after such a long time.

Saturday 24th: Another lovely day dawned & we met for breakfast in a café just up the street. With all the machines lined up outside the café we caused quite a stir in Bega, but not an unpleasant one. Bob had arranged for us to ride to Bemboka to meet Trevor & Bernie there. They arrived a few minutes after we did & a coffee break at the well known Pie Show ensued. However trouble had brewed with a group of the tail end riders having taken the Candelo road in error. I am not sure who made the error but Rex & Don, our tail end riders followed them. There was no real harm done as Candelo was our next destination & we met them there.

The next section of the ride was over beautiful Myrtle Mountain, which I have not ridden for many years. Gladly it was unmarred by fire or any other form of damage & was as lovely as ever. We stopped for a break at the Village of Wyndham, where the rustic Robby Burns Hotel was closed, an evident victim of the 'Virus': very sad.

From Wyndham we rode down towards Pambula but did not reach there. Instead we turned onto the 'Back Creek Rd' at Lochiel. I had never ridden this road which was utterly lovely. The descent into Eden gave us the most gorgeous sea views across Two Fold Bay.

We descended on the Eden pub for lunch, eating on the sunny deck, also with sea views. The meals were quick to arrive & very good. Previously we had taken lunch at the wharf side, but apparently that area has been closed down by the State Government. The pub was a fine replacement however.

Our ride back to Bega was via Pambula, Merimbula then via the Sapphire Coast Drive. There were no other cases of missed riders & of course no breakdowns as we were all on modern machines. A few more mentions: Jim & Ray (Rags) were both riding the new revised Rocket 3 which I have to admit looked really good. Also Denis was riding a Bonneville Bobber on which he looked completely relaxed. Denis mentioned that the next year's Bobber had further refinements which would likely make it a more comfortable ride.

From 4pm the party started at Bob's with a delicious spread of food laid out in the garage. Those of us at the pub put our bikes away then changed for the party, being ferried over in Bob's car. It was a most enjoyable evening of companionship & good eating. Judy had prepared far more than we could consume. Bernie rode off to find a motel room but returned on foot later.

The manager at the Grand came to pick us up to take us back to the pub at the end of the evening, which was good of him, & for us that was the end of the party. No doubt however the party continued at Bobs for quite a while.

Sunday 25th: This of course was Anzac Day. I was unaware that there was a predawn service in Bega almost outside the pub so I missed it! Peter Gallagher was there however & he took some pictures, which I will include. At 7am I was wandering the Bega Streets looking for breakfast & ended up at the RSL where I was well fed. It was very busy, with a large group of servicemen, who had been bussed in from ADFA in Canberra. I had a nice chat to them, including two Navy Stokers.

After my breakfast at the RSL I returned to the 'Grand' & packed up. All the others had left. I rode over the Bob's to find all the others about to leave. It was a most lovely weekend & we all owe our thanks to Bob & Judy Russell for arranging the weekend. After our various virus lockdowns & restrictions we were all more than ready for this event.

I rode up to Narooma that morning to stay the night with an old friend. I rode back to Canberra via the Clyde Mountain on Monday morning.

Yours Sincerely

LORRAINE LITSTER
For Triumph Register of Australia