

The Twisty Tracks to Thirlmere.

Our motorcycle train twisted and turned around the back tracks of the Southern Highlands with great elasticity, so that the front carriages could sprint away, while the rear carriages and caboose could still couple up at the next turn, and we could end up at old Train central, Thirlmere, still together.

We had a large range of bikes and riders, even a 125, but no cruisers.

The mix ran from 2 Suzukis, one an Bandit 1200 S model and another a GSX 1400 with Yoshimura cams and a loose chain guard, 2 Triumphs in a Sprint ST 1050 and a 900 Sport, a Yamaha FZ1 1000, and a snortin, rortin piece of Italian mechanical mayhem and artistry all rolled into one Benelli TNT 1130 and a Honda 125 single.

The 125 rider arrived at our designated meeting spot only to find out he was low on oil and the garage didn't have the right oil, so headed back home to top her up and I gave him our next stop at Picton where he could catch us up.

So off we headed down the old Highway and out to Appin at a steady pace then down and up Broughton Pass where some of us had fun and others got caught behind a truck the whole way, that would have spoiled the fun factor.

A turn down through Douglas Park and it's weir always works the brakes and tyres hard and then onto Menangle Road for more twisties before peeling off onto a road I can't remember the name of, but it leads onto Razorback and Remembrance drive where a good surface and nice bends awaited.

After our little bit of fun we cruised into Picton for Breakfast and coffee at a Café on the park in the centre of town, meanwhile the Suzuki rider tried to fix his chainguard.

I then received a text saying, "I'm in Picton whereabouts are you", so as I was standing on the main street replying to the text, the said texter called out to me from about 3 meters away. That saved me having to finish the text and our new crew member could give his suffering 125 a rest before the next thrashing.

After breakfast I suggested we would take about an hour to get to Thirlmere and got some puzzled looks as Thirlmere was only about 10 k's away, but as usual Backroad Rob was going to take them on a tour.

We loaded up, headed south and turned left at Tahmoor along Rockford Rd which twists and turns it's way through farms, past Avon Dam Rd and after a few name changes the road crosses back across Remembrance drive into Yanderra and Yerrinbool. The road then opens up and it's full steam ahead towards Alpine, this is where the 125 must have had it's poor piston pounded to pulp as the rider tried to keep the main group in sight.

At Alpine there is the choice to turn left onto Old South Road and head the back way into Mittagong, then the infamous Range Road to skirt around Bowral, we didn't take this option as it has been reported that there was a crazy bunch of people joy riding in a bus at night, bouncing from crest to dip careering all over the road, taking up every bit of the skinny bit of patched together tar they call a road.

So we decided to go through Alpine, cross over the expressway, wait for our caboose to catch up and turn right at Colo Vale and head into Thirlmere via Wilson Drive. This takes you along the rail tracks travelled by the Steam Engines of yesteryear and there was 2 steam engines we saw, one on the tracks and another little one on the road trying to keep up with us. That 125 was hissing, steaming and creaking when it arrived at Thirlmere, the rider is a big lad and the way it was being revved mercilessly no wonder he uses up all the oil in the motor. The Suzuki rider also had another go at fixing his chainguard.

The Pub in the centre of town provided a respite for rider and machine and we knew if we didn't stay to long we could be back home hopefully around the start of Moto 3 Race that day.

We headed back around Picton, through Douglas Park, Broughton pass and Appin to the old highway and home.

Plenty of fun on a short ride and I got home before the finish of the Moto 3 race so all in all a good day.

The Suzuki GSX1400 rider with the dodgy chainguard got the bonus 10% point score for the club Championship.

Unfortunately the Championship winner was not awarded this year as we only had 2 rides, so these points will go towards next years championship.

Pointscore

Name	Bike	Points
Gus Bridges	Suzuki GSX 1400	537
Michael Rooke	Yamaha FZ1 1000	512

Hanna Whiteley	Barely on Triumph Backseat	512
Rob Whiteley	Triumph Sprint ST 1050	512
Ravi Proctor	Ducati 1098 R	267
Stefan Olk	Triumph Daytona 955	267
Mathew Bolton	Suzuki GS 500	267
Peter De Zwart	Honda 125	245
Chris Baker	Toyota Coaster (Sometimes on 2 wheels)	186
Zara Griffin	Toyota Sidecar Swinger	186
Craig Johnston	Toyota Joy Rider	186
Alan Smith	Toyota Comedian (and Craig knocker)	186
Peter Snow	Toyota Navigator	186
Rob Whiteley	Toyota Assistant Navigator (and Auto correct)	186