

3 DAY RIDE REPORT

Day 1 – SPRINGWOOD – BELLINGEN 29.9.18

10 of us headed out 9 bikes and 1 pillion.

We headed off on time at 7.30am and headed out to Bellingen via Lions Road, Kyogle and stopping at Grafton for lunch, where Compass headed off early to pick up some Wet Weather pants. Proud to say she got to BCF all by herself in an unfamiliar town. The rest of us met her there.

We then headed off to Coffs via some more back roads. By the time we got to Coffs the skies were not looking in our favour, but we all needed fuel, so as we headed to the first servo on the Left, the heavens opened, some of us were already wearing our wet weather gear, but the corner marker, Greg and Jo were not quite so lucky.

Then off to Bellingen for our first night, via some more back road, covered with cow dung, now known as Cow Dung Alley, finally arriving in Bellingen after a great day of riding to choose our beds in our communal bedroom. Ear plugs were on offer for \$16.50 each from Plonk.... Surprisingly he had no takers.



*Dinner at Diggers
Tavern, Bellingen*



*Belling River, very
pretty*



*Adam Gilchrist –
Bellingen's favourite son*

Off to the bar for a few well-earned drinks, while some wandered around town. Dinner was great, then there was a Pool Table challenge, with Greg being called the Shark.

Some of us headed off to bed early only to find that someone namely Greg and Jo, has proceeded to short sheet most of the beds. Of course I had to be the first to find out.

Our bikes were put away for the night, however we could not get them out till after 9am the following morning so the start was a tad late and still quite chilly.

Day 2 – BELLINGEN TO ULMARRA 30.9.18

We headed off to Armidale via the “D” place (Dorrigo) and Ebor. Once arriving in Ebor we were all freezing, so a stop was done to put on our wet weather gear just to keep warm. In Armidale we met up with Ken and Jenny from the Glen Innes branch who came to join us. We then followed them back to Glen Innes, their bike and side car different to be behind especially for the left hand turns. Lunch in Glen Innes then off we headed to Grafton and Ulmarra, unfortunately the twisties this time were quite wet, Ian headed off at his fast neck speed, and the rest followed at their own pace.

Arrived in Ulmarra for the night where we had separate rooms, well most of us, some had twin shares. Down to the bar for a few drinks and to watch the Grand Final. No food there so Mel and Greg headed off into Grafton with the Food Orders, Red Rooster it was.

It was decided that a 7.30am leave was to be had so we could all be home just after lunch.....



*All the 3 day riders about to leave the
Ulmarra Hotel.*

Day 3 ULMARRA TO HOME 1.10.18

Again via some amazing back roads, which sadly turned into a bit of gravel, but we all managed them quite well.... Not so a couple of the bikes. Leo lost a pannier on the rough surface. With 6 bikes waiting for the other 3 (Leo, Ian and Lea), we started to worry so Mel-Bin and Plonk headed back to look for them, while the rest of us waited. Note to everyone when you get through to someone via phone, first thing NOT TO SAY IS, we've had a bit of an issue, first thing is bike issues, nobody hurt. My heart stopped for a split second.

Leo's pannier was tied to Plonk's bike and they arrived back with the rest of us safely. Giving the 3/5 new arrivals a few minutes to stretch and recover.

We went to head off only to find that Mel-Bin's bike now had a puncture, we were around 50km outside of Casino, trusty Plonk had his compressor and the tyre was pumped, but with concerns of leaking. It was decided some of the group headed off to Casino with instructions to find somewhere for lunch and the rest of us would meet them there.



Not sure how it happened, but Mel-Bin's tyre got slashed somewhere along the gravel road (Clarence Way)

Greg, Plonk, Mel-Bin and myself rode into Casino at a much slower pace with the boys keeping a close eye on the tyre. We met the rest of the group in Casino at the Servo, then headed to the pub for lunch, where Greg rang his son Dylan to assist with the recovery of Mel-Bin's bike.

After lunch the rest headed off back to Beaudesert for their goodbyes, with Plonk taking the Ride Leader position.

Mel, I, Greg and Jo waited in Casino for Dylan to arrive. Leaving Casino at around 4pm.



Sadly Mel-Bin's bike got it's own lift home from Casino.

A nickname was awarded over the weekend - Mal will now be known as "D-Bear"

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