

Xmas Camp Riding Statistics

Day:	1	2		3		4	5		6	7	
Date:	26	27		28		29	30		31	1	
	Mt Buffalo	Falls/Omeo	Mt Buffalo	Mitta/Tallangatta	Mt Buffalo	Omeo/Benambra	Happy Valley	Mt Buffalo	Omeo/Falls	Falls Creek	Mt Buffalo/Horn
Kilometres	54	392	54	529	54	396	262	54	340	192	70
Ben/Julie Warden	X	X	X	X	XX	X	X	X	X	X	XX
Ron/Julie Johnston		X	X	X			X	X	X		
Ian Payne		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Paul Southwell		X		X		X	X	X	X		
Cliff/Barb Peters											
Tony Stegmar		X	X	X		X			X		X
Rob Langer	X	X									
John Willis	X	X							X		
Renée/Aven/Marc Marais						X			X		
Lyn Duncan											
Peter Hill											
Ern Reeders				X							
Ha Du											

Miscellaneous:

As Ian noted above, **John Willis** and **Rob Langer** rode their dirt bikes out to Wonnangatta Station, camped overnight, and then rode on to Dargo, making a total of 200 km of hard dirt riding. They then rode back over the High Plains Road to Hotham and back to camp, another 100 km. The ride included about 20 river crossings and meeting a 4WD and trailer stuck about half way up a steep 45 degree hill with no way to turn around. They kept going!

Excessive **tyre wear** and the resultant need to change tyres became imperative on Day 4 (29th December). Ben swapped out his rear wheel with a spare wheel and rotated his front wheel/tyre; Ben and Cliff assisted Marc Marais with changing Marc's ZX10 rear tyre with a new one brought from home. We were unable to remove his front axle - no 21mm Allen key – despite all manner of butchery resulting in a bent screwdriver and a chewed up plug spanner. So next morning Marc went off to Myrtleford to get it changed. Ian got a couple of tyres fitted at Bright Tyres, just out of town for a very reasonable \$10 each. Ron had to find the rare 160/60 (standard fitment) for his CBF1000 at Myrtleford.

Numbers were down this year, 18 versus 26 last year and 39 in 2009. But what we lacked in numbers we made up for in enthusiasm! We tended towards easy half day rides, with only a couple of long rides. Cliff and Misho weren't there looking for more kays every day.

Road conditions were generally excellent, though reading this you would think they were a mixed bag! The good roads included the Mt Beauty to Falls Creek Road, Tawonga Gap – except for the bottom of the steep side which had some recent road works starting to break up, Mt Hotham – in the mornings before the shiny stuff started to melt, the Omeo to Hotham Road, the Cassilis Rd, the first 10 km up to McMillan's Lookout overlooking Benambra. Omeo to the Blue Duck was mainly good except for where storm damage had flooded debris across the road and caused various sections to

break up. Mt Buffalo was in excellent condition apart from about three sections of new soft cool climate bitumen near the top.

As a **sign of the times**, there were more people staying in cabins than camping – or at least it felt that way. Of those who stayed more than two nights only the Warden Taj and Johnston communal village camped. There was no-one under The Willows, our traditional spot for 10 or more years. Luckily, our reserved spot (\$100 deposit) was given to a caravan and the Club deposit was refunded.

Lyn Duncan and **Peter Hill** visited the group on their dirt bikes, Peter taking Julie Warden on a day trip up the Kiewa Valley, checking out various lookouts along the way to Yackandandah and Allans Flat.

Tyres sizes. At one point we had three different rear tyre sizes on CBR1000s: Ben (180/55), Ian (190/55) and Paul (190/50). The standard size is 190/50. This made for quite variable odometer readings with as much as 20 km discrepancy between the lowest and highest readings over 200 km. Nominally, the smallest tyre is 190/50 (95mm high). Next is the 180/55 (99mm). Then the 190/55 (104.5mm). The smallest tyre will give the highest odometer (and speed) reading as the sensor is driven off the front sprocket ie the back wheel. Just to confuse things, when Ian put a new rear 190/90 tyre on and my rear 180/55 was worn right down, I started to read higher kays than Ian for the same distance, despite having the taller tyre by profile. Bear all that in mind when reading the nominal day ride lengths. If you went on all the day rides (excluding the dirt adventures), then summing the kilometres gives **2,397**. That is a lot of corners!

Fuel economy. These modern CBRs are sensationally economical when ridden smoothly. Despite leading on every ride, and not sparing the horses as Ronny would say, I regularly got 300+ km out of a tank. Day 2 to Tallangatta I got 346 km (17.50 litres) and on Day 4, 337 km (17.92 litres, 3.7 on the count up low fuel warning indicator). This is more than 50 miles per gallon in the old money. Ian was getting over 300 km as well. Tony was generally 25% worse off. Something to do with his right hand I believe.

Ben and Julie's big **blue tent** has gone. Affectionately known as "The Taj", it was time to try something lighter and easier to erect. Coincidentally while out riding with Peter and Lyn, Julie got talking to some of their friends they visited who noted they were looking for a big tent to take the tribe camping. Done deal. Beatle arrived Tuesday morning to see the tent standing, and to learn how to put up and dismantle. Stuart, caravan park owner, hearing that we were in the market for a new tent, offered to sell his large family tent, not used for many years. Another done deal! Thanks go to the many pole holders who have assisted in putting up the tent over the past 13 years.

Ben Warden

Porepunkah Prattle

Harry from Harry's Fruit and Vegetable at the Porepunkah roundabout was slow to open his stall this year. He was operated on for a double hernia during the year and then got shingles. He is still recovering.

Ringer Reef was 'discovered' by John, Rob and Julie. A leisurely pushbike ride from the roundabout, Ringer Reef is owned and operated by very friendly hosts Bruce and Annie. Bruce first put his vines in here in 1996 and opened the cellar door in 2006. Annie served the wine tastings and antipasto platters including many home made ingredients: baguettes, chicken liver pate, slow roasted capsicum, basil pesto, chilli tomato relish, roast beef and salami. Add some blue cheese, camembert, black olives and rocket, and Rob and Julie had a magnificent lunch, while John headed off to go paragliding.

Julie also discovered the upper and lower Bright Reservoirs, located along the road at the top end of the Bright shopping centre. It was a steep pushbike ride there, but rolling back home was a breeze.

Julie Warden