

# 47th Bathurst Easter Rally

## 9 April – 17 April 2022

For the first time in three years the Club was able to organise an unrestricted Bathurst Rally again. Lee Wright has led the organisation for the last 8 years. Originally supported by Graeme Froud. But he has not been well enough to support Lee the last two years. It is surprising how much work goes into an event like this. A small committee was formed to support Lee. A number of zoom meetings were held to make sure matters were being organised and to provide support where needed. We were fortunate enough to get great support from local members. In particular Don Sinclair and Peter Robinson. They organised the Happy hour, made a Back up vehicle roster and borrowed a BBQ for the dinner on Saturday night. The entry fee was raised to \$ 75. But for this the participants get a week of riding. Free happy hour every day. Free lunches on Monday and Wednesday. The club also provided the back up vehicles with reimbursement of fuel cost.

Each participant received a bag with tourist information about the district. Traditionally there is also a medal for each rider.

With Covid intervening in the previous years, it was nice to welcome some interstate riders. Erik Larsen came all the way from the Sunshine coast to join us. Last year he had an accident on the way back from a rally and his precious bikes got damaged. These had not been able to be repaired before this rally. Lee Wright had brought his BSA M20 for Erik to ride.

This rally spreads out over 8 riding days. A large group of riders come for the full programme and some even extend their stay. We had over 120 entries this year. Bathurst provides an opportunity to



have runs to a variety of towns in the surrounding country side. Although the runs are very similar each year, it always looks different. This year with the rains the country looked lush and green. The run roads have been chosen to be low on traffic and with reasonable surface. The rains have created a lot of potholes , so one has to be extra on their guard. Unfortunately many pubs have closed in the villages and it is difficult to find suitable coffee and lunch stops.

The age limit for entry is 30 years. The club encourages the riding of older bikes. We do get 10-15 veterans each year. But a large number of entrants ride 70's - 80's bikes.

In previous years, my son and I rode a few days at the end of the week. This year my son was not available and I decide to try a few new runs at the beginning of the week. So Monday was off to the the Carcoar Dam. It is decent run of about 150km. Tradition has it that the NewCastle Club puts on a BBQ with the familiar "Taylors

Tasty Terrier" sausages.

The support of the New Castle club is much appreciated. They have a large group of people helping out and putting on lunch is a well oiled event for them. After lunch it was back to Bathurst via Neville and Newbridge.



Happy hour at 4.30pm is always popular. A good opportunity to have a drink and talk about bikes and anything else.

The Tuesday run is towards Burruga via Perthville and

Rockley. I noticed the veterans filling up at Perthville. Riding a veteran you fill up anywhere you can as the range of a veteran's fuel tank is about 100km. Burruga is a small town with a club which unfortunately was closed. There is a general store which offers limited food and drinks. But enough for those with an appetite. After lunch it was towards Black Springs back to Bathurst. In total about 170km of pleasant riding.

On Wednesday I lend my Nimbus for Erik Larsen to ride. My Nimbus is an early model (1935) with handshift. Many early Nimbusses were converted to foot shift later in their life. I enjoy the handshift and it works well. However you have to be careful when you mount the bike after starting the engine as you can easily push the gear lever forward and the bikes takes off before you know it.

The Nimbus has a 750cc four cylinder engine. Not a lot of power but with great torque. So most of the time you can leave it in high gear when going around corners. Nimbusses were built in Denmark between 1934 and 1965. In that period about 12000 were built. Mostly for the post office, police and the army. The post office ones were yellow fitted with a cargo sidecar. It is a remarkable reliable machine and many have survived. In Denmark 2000 are still registered, this is more than 50 years after the last ones were built. It.

Wednesday lunch stop is at the Chifley dam. Great views from the parking area over the dam.



At the rally riders bring a great variety of bikes. Including this early Moto Guzzi from Rick Nabkey. What an interesting machine !

I had to leave on Wednesday afternoon and was lucky in a way. Towards the end of that week COVID lurked around and infected a number of riders. Fortunately all infected were vaccinated and did not become seriously ill. But still.....

The BBQ on Saturday night was well attended with more than 70 people . Antony Gullick and Ian Coulson drove up from Sydney to do the cooking. Thanks to all who have make this 47th Bathurst rally possible.



Report from: Hans Sprangers

