

# **VMCC 50th Bathurst Tour Sunday 13 April - Sunday 20th April 2025**

Hans Sprangers

This year was the 50th run of the Bathurst tour which had its humble beginnings in 1975. The first run was held over two days on Easter Saturday and Sunday and was organised by Don Liddle. He and his wife Colleen kept on organising this event for 40 years !

According to Don for many years the participants mostly camped on the field behind what is now the visitors centre. Don has kept all entry records over the forty years. Below is a list of the 40 participants in 1975.

Two of the original participants were still riding on this 50th tour. Don Liddle riding now his blue Harley outfit. The other first timer is Rob Woolley who in 1975 rode his 1928 Triumph. Amazingly Rob still rides the very same Triumph on this rally. See him going in style under the railway bridge followed by some less attractive machinery.....

Photo Rob Woolley on 1928 Triumph



VINTAGE MOTOR CYCLE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) LTD  
ANNUAL BATHURST RALLY -- 1975

No.	NAME	MACHINE	YEAR	CAPACITY
1	L. BLANKSBY	SUNBEAM & SIDECAR	1939	500cc
2	T. BENT	MATCHLESS	1937	500cc
3	P. ELLIS	TRIUMPH	1937	500cc
4	N. LEWRY	ROVER	1912	500cc
5	J. MARTIN	HUMBER	1925	350cc
6	T. HOWE <i>DNS</i>	SUNBEAM	1920	500cc
7	B. HEAFORD	NEW IMPERIAL	1935	250cc
8	P. LEADER	DOUGLAS	1927	600cc
9	R. WOOLEY	TRIUMPH	1927	500cc
10	L. JENNINGS	TRIUMPH	1908	500cc
11	A. PAYNE	B.S.A.	1940	500cc
12	J. SIMMONS	A.J.S.	1934	500cc
13	K. HEUSSLER	TRIUMPH	1927	277cc
14	A. FORREST	NEW IMPERIAL	1931	500cc
15	J. JEREMY	A.J.S.	1926	350cc
16	R. MACCALLUM	ROYAL ENFIELD	1938	500cc
17	R. COLLYER	TRIUMPH	1928	500cc
18	G. BEISMAN	TRIUMPH	1911	500cc
19	C.E. BRENCHEY	BROUGH SUPERIOR	1928	1000cc
20	R. BRENCHEY	RUDGE	1938	500cc
21	C.R. BRENCHEY	SCOTT	1939	600cc
22	J. EAVES	SUNBEAM	1939	500cc
23	C.J. BRENCHEY	NORTON	1939	500cc
24	W. HIGGINS	A.J.S.	1926	500cc
25	C. MILLS	A.J.S.	1923	350cc
26	R. ALLAWAY	A.J.S.	1925	350cc
27	D. GRIMMOND	INDIAN	1940	500cc
28	L. ALBERT	INDIAN	1925	600cc
29	J. TAYLOR	SCOTT	1934	500cc
30	A. SCHUCK	ROYAL ENFIELD	1928	1000cc
31	K. SMITH	RALEIGH	1926	350cc
32	C. SPRATT	EXCELSIOR	1937	250cc
33	R. PENDLEBURY	A.J.S.	1927	350cc
34	A. PENDLEBURY	CHARTER-LEA	1924	350cc
35	D. LIDDLE	ACE	1927	1000cc
36	C. WEISS	N.S.U.	1911	500cc
37	R. HART <i>DNS</i>	RUDGE	1937	500cc
38	D. HANLEY (QLD)	TRIUMPH	1913	500cc
39	J. RUDD (VIC)	DOUGLAS	1928	500cc
40	F. BEISMAN	TRIUMPH	1936	350cc

In addition to participating for 50 years, Rob and his crew of ladies has also organised a tea stop at the Carcoar Dam for the last 30 years on the Wednesday. In the early years homemade scones , coffee and tea and in later years Hotcross buns.

The run in 1975 was for bikes 30 years and older. You will see on the list that all participant bikes were from before WWII. The cut-off date for entries was over the years kept at 30 years . Although I managed to hold the cut-off date the last few years at 1990. There is an argument to let younger bikes enter is that some older riders cannot manage a girderfork bike any longer.

# BULLI ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE WEEKEND



1928 Harley JDH Two-Cam Sam Oppie Cutdown.

Sam modified this bike in 1932 and it is one of a dozen Two-Cams he built to similar specifications. They were known for both their agility and performance.

See and hear this significant early custom motorcycle at Bulli this August.

**FRIDAY 22ND & SATURDAY 23RD**  
**AUGUST 2025**  
**9AM FRIDAY & 6AM SATURDAY**



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So still be able to participate now some ride a modern bike.

We had a record number of 170 entries this jubilee year. More than in the last 10 year. But the last tour organised by Don Liddle had 235 entries. Unfortunately I spotted several "unregistered" participants so we might aswell had more than 200 participants ?? People being reluctant to pay the entry fee and not realising that it actually cost money to organise these event.

With the shift in year of manufacture of the bikes , the event has lost its relevance for the VMCC. Plus we have run out of volunteers willing to organise it . We also considered moving the entry date to bikes from 1970 and older. But the event has such a following that would be rude to many "oldtimers" to put a limit on. The Committee has therefor sought a solution for the tour away from the VMCC. Its is really a "Classic Motorcycle Club" event and not a Girderfork tour any longer. But none of the Classic Motorcycle Clubs I approached were willing to take it on.

Luckily we have had the support of a number of helpers in the last few years. Don Sinclair and Peter Robinson who organised routes, lunch stops and backups. Clyde Ikin who did the entries this year. And people like Rick Nabkey who makes the Happy Hour happen.

We are fortunate that Jim Scaysbrook has now volunteered to manage the Tour forward. No doubt changes will be made . And they need to be made if only to mitigate the cost of the event Head Quarter cabin.



To mark the occasion of the Jubilee we had organised the auditorium at the Bathurst RSL were the Jubilee dinner was held. We packed the hall full with more than 200 diners. It was pay as you go and despite the lines the RSL did a great job getting the meals come through quickly . Everyone enjoyed a good meal aswell.

Whilst waiting for a meal and the presentation hour, Antony Gullick showed some historic photo's and a series of photo's of the week's participants. (courtesy of Jim Scaysbrook)

Don Sinclair had managed to get the mayor of Bathurst to present some awards.



The mayor Robert Taylor spoke some words about his involvement of the motorcycle sport and then presented "Friends of the Bathurst Tour" awards to:

Don Liddle , Rob Woolley ,Don Sinclair, Peter Robinson and the NewCastle club for putting on the Tastie Terriers lunch over many years.

Unfortunately Lee Wright was unable to attend but he and Graham Froud organised five years of the tour between 2015 and 2020. They have put in a lot of effort over the years.

Because of the large number of entries this year we managed to run a surplus of funds. This made it possible to donate \$ 1500 to Life Line

Central West in which Steph Robinson is the CEO.

This Tour has been the premier event for the VMCC in the last 50 years. This year again every participant enjoyed a wonderful number of days riding in the beautiful surrounds of Bathurst. The weather was brilliant , the routes challenging for older bikes.

Due to a developing unsafe situation at the traditional start at Ashmore Drive, we had to change the start to the parking area of the sport fields in Hereford street. Ample of space for trailers and bikes. But being Council ground we probably would have needed to apply for a permit. The coffee van had to be on the sport field side of the fence as she did not have a permit !

I was privileged to having organised the last five years of the tour and managed to get the support of more volunteers. But it is time to pass the baton.

See you next year on the 51st Bathurst Tour.

Photo's of the Tour participants

