

We rode into the Mobil service station where we were all meeting and could you believe it; out of the 5 of us that we knew were going we were last. Grant, Dave, Miriam were already there so we waited until 6:30 just in case anyone else was to show up. At 6:30 the 5 of us decided to set off. Grant, Paul and I on the 2 bikes, while Dave and Miriam went in the car. Dave under doctor's orders was advised he had better drive not ride. I must say that the fresh 6 degrees C was noticeable on my legs threw the hills.

Our first stop was Tailem Bend for a quick legs stretch and smoko break for Grant. By the time we set off the sun was rising and what a sight that was. As you would all probably know nothing beats riding and seeing the sun rise or set. The best thing was the temperature will now start to warm up. Bordertown was our next destination where we all took the chance to get a bite to eat. We were surprised by the lack of both police and rain, we all agreed it was a good thing and don't jinx it. We left Bordertown and headed for Nhill which would be our next leg stretch and smoko break. Our final stop was going to be Zumstiens. This would be our first taste of The Grampians. What a wonderful place Zumstiens was, so peaceful and tranquil. We all thought of Morris and how much he would love it here. Our final ride into Halls Gap was a road that was twisty and surrounded by terrific views. I tried to capture as much as I could with my camera for the people that couldn't make the trip. My head was spinning from side to side trying to get that perfect shot. I must say that was the best bit of road.

We made it to the hotel and settled into our rooms. After letting everyone know we had arrived safe and sound we jumped into Dave's car and went to the main street. Got had a bite to eat at Ralph's. Whilst we were in the main street we literally bumped into Doug and Jackie. Who were there with the Suzuki SV Club. We decided to head out to McKenzie Falls. The 5 of us started on the walk down to the falls. Dave and Paul stopped at the look out while Grant, Miriam and I made the trip down to the base of the falls. It was a steep descent, but did not look that bad. On the way down we were wondering if we had made the right decision as some of the people we were passing going the other way look rather exhausted. The site at the base of the falls was wonderful and then we then contemplated our trip back up to the boys. We quickly understood why the people were looking exhausted as this section really got your heart pumping and your legs burning, I kept telling myself that the view was worth it. We had to have a couple of stops before we made it back to Dave and Paul. After the falls we stopped at Boroka Lookout, that view was spectacular as the clouds were just starting to roll in over the mountains. We then went to Stawell to get some tea where we found a Pizza and Pasta takeaway shop. We all had come to the same consensus that the pizza was great, I can highly recommend a Taco Pizza. We went back to the hotel and resided to our own rooms and called it a night.

We met at 9:30 in the morning and took a stroll into the main street to get some breakfast, the fog was still low which made interesting views over the mountains. It took us a while to find somewhere to eat as the place was buzzing with people. We discussed what we were going to do today. As Paul's knee was still sore we were going to go in Dave's car, I could have sat on the back of our bike, but it would have been an uninteresting time sitting in the hotel car park. Grant wanted to take his bike so off we went. Our first stop was Mt William. Grant states that that was the best bit of road he had been on. We took a couple of photos and then headed to Silverband Falls. After an easy 1 km walk we made it to the falls, the re growth from the 2006 bushfires is truly amazing. It is hard to comprehend that all this was destroyed by bushfires a year and a half ago, it is also amazing to see some trees burnt yet others

looked untouched. After Silverband Falls and Paul realizing that the pictures he had taken this morning were not saving to the card, "bloody technology", we headed to Lake Bellfield, and then back into Halls Gap to pick up some lunch, which again seemed to be a difficult decision. After lunch we decided to go play mini golf. none of us has played mini golf in a long time so it was rather funny. Some holes turned out to be a challenge whilst my ball seemed to like the water hazards. It was a fun way to spend a couple of hours. The final scores were Paul 75, Dave 93, Grant 99, Sonya 104, Miriam 114. I don't know if I should tell you that par was 64. Some how I don't think we will make the mini golf championships. Lucky for me after 8 shots you can pick your ball up and finish the hole. We went back to the hotel room and got ready for dinner. We were having dinner at the pub.

The next morning we agree to meet at 7:30 and head home. The roads still looked slippery from the night's dew. The boys agreed they would take the same road out as we took in, but a lot more gingerly. The man at the service station said that the road should be ok, but watch out for the black wallabies as they tend to blend in with the burnt trees. Since Paul has to be alert and the roads were damp I decided not to move too much for photos. So I took what I could. I managed to miss the deer (I managed to miss the deer with my eyes and it was right next to the bike.), the kangaroo that jumped across the road in front of us, the kookaburra in the tree, and the kangaroo that jumped along side of us. The reason I missed that kangaroo was because of the trees. I have worked out that my camera is addicted to trees as that was all it seemed to be taking. We all including the wild life made it through unscathed. It was amazing to see the amount of kangaroos in the paddocks eating the grass. We only had a light shower. We stopped at Horsham for breakfast. Nhill was our first leg stretch and smoko break. We discussed the state of Grant's bike and what Morris would think of it. We made our way to Bordertown to fuel up. We met up with a couple of guys who had made the trip to The Grampians with the Suzuki SV club. We then stopped at Coonpyn for our last leg stretch and smoko break. . Our last stop was Taillem Bend for some lunch. This is also where we said our goodbyes.

Cheers Sonya

The Trip to The Grampians was fantastic and it is something SABERS will need to do again as we missed out on seeing so much.