

Mount Gambier Overnighter – Ride Report

January 30th/31st

Hi all,

This was to be my first ride as ride leader and although I have been to Mt. Gambier (*or the Mount as referred to*) a few times before, I have learned more from organising this.

Firstly I will introduce the riders that came along with me and the steeds they rode upon:

Alli – CBR 600F

Gary – Buell Ulysses

Mat (Cookie) – GS500

Debbie and Trevor – BMW 1100RT (Debbie being Alli's sister)

Paul and Sonya – CAN-AM Spyder

And me

Aaron – Kawasaki ZX14

The weather in Adelaide was forecast to be hot that weekend, so I was glad to be heading off to the Mount, which is nearly always colder.

Originally I was going to meet at the Mobil petrol station, cnr of Portrush and Glen Osmond rd, before heading of down the freeway, then to turn off and go through Jervois and cross the Wellington ferry. As Gary lives at Noarlunga, he suggested a few days earlier an alternative by going through McLaren Vale, Meadows, Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek and then onto Wellington.

Once consulting and agreeing was done, I made a new start point of BP on Marion rd, Mitchell Pk.

I met at the BP with Alli and Cookie, which I noticed must be the coffee stop for the local police officers, before leaving at 8am. We met Gary at the United Petrol station just before the Victor Harbour Rd turnoff, where I kindly asked him to lead the way till Langhorne Creek as I was unfamiliar with the route he followed. I can't remember the exact roads we followed, but my favourite was the Paris Creek Rd leading from Meadows to Strathalbyn, I don't think I have travelled this road before, but it was fun.

We met up with Debbie and Trevor at Langhorne Creek and were meant to rendezvous with Paul and Sonya at Meningie (our first fuel stop), but as they were always at least half an hour ahead of us, we didn't see them till the Mount.

Lunch was at the Robe bakery and coffee lounge, which although was running low on food selection, was still a good eat. This was my first time in Robe as I usually go through Kingston and I was impressed by the magnificent beach and will definitely visit again.

We arrived at the Mount around 3.30pm, with Alli rolling into the petrol station on very little fuel. I also found out Trevor and Debbie had a close encounter with a kangaroo, which apparently stopped only to admire the sound of Gary's Buell who was in front of them.

The majority of us resided at the Blue Lake Holiday Park, Paul and Sonya were at the Presidential Inn and Cookie stayed at his parents, who live in Mt. Gambier. I like to thank Cookie for being able to borrow a car from his parents to assist us in our shopping.

For dinner and breakfast we utilised the bbq at the cabin which Alli, Gary and I stayed in, with everyone either chipping in with money, food or beverages. Paul and Sonya were treated to a buffet breakfast where they stayed and if we knew their room number, they would have had unexpected guests for brekkie.

It wasn't long before we all headed off for the trip home, going through Millicent, with lunch at Kingston and a quick rest for those who overindulged in alcoholic beverages the night before :-). My original plans were through Naracoorte and Keith, but with the weather there to be in mid 30's, we decided to stick to the coast.

The ride back was a bit breezy, especially from Kingston onwards, stopping at Meningie for some to refuel, before we headed to Taillem Bend for our last stop and for the rest of us to refuel.

I'd like to thank everyone for coming along and any contributions they had made on this trip and a special thanks to Alli for assisting me with organizing the trip and acting as a liaison between people. The overall distance was just a tad shy of 1000k and it was an enjoyable trip with great company.