

## South East Multi Overnighter – April 4-7 2009

Late 2008 Morris and I decided it was time to organise another multi overnight road trip. Where to go was the first question, we had done the Flinders Ranges in November and been over to Eyre Peninsular in 2007. The South East and over to Lorne via the Great Ocean Road popped into my head and Morris thought it was a great idea. Next problem was to work out when. I can get time off work for a few days fairly easily but Morris had to work around his busy job at the Glynde Hotel. Easter was out due to difficulty in getting accommodation and the large number of idiots on the road, so we finally decided on the weekend before Easter and I started to hunt for accommodation. All the planning came together well and I put the info on the forum and web site so that anyone else who wanted to join us could. A few people were interested in the trip but could not get time off during the week, so decide just to do the Adelaide to Mount Gambier leg and come home on Sunday. So all was in motion to have a great time away

### *Day 1 – Adelaide to Mount Gambier*

The day had finally come and it was time to head off for our South East Multi Overnight road trip. We had been looking forward to this trip for months and had had to endure the possibility of Morris not being able to attend due to his dislocating his shoulder at work and then both John and Alli pulling out due to back and dog issues.

I finally had packed my gear on Friday night and the bike was ready to go. Up early on Saturday morning and off to the Mobil Glen Osmond which was our departure point. I was the first one there and then Morris, Tony and Gill, Paul and Sonya, Danny and Aaron turned up. We were still waiting for Tony and Huong to arrive, but since they lived closest they had decided to be a bit late.

9.15 and we were off. 7 bikes, 10 people and down the freeway we headed to Taillem Bend where we had a brekkie at the big Shell Road House. Sonya snapping off a few photos as usual and everyone excited about the trip ahead.



At Taillem Bend we decided to head down to Mt Gambier via the Coorong and even though the road is not great, was a good ride. Lunch was at Kingston SE and from there we decided to head inland to the Mount and not go via Robe.

We arrived at the Caravan Park at the Mount mid afternoon and because Paul, Sonya, Tony and Huong had the luxury cabin, complete with BBQ, Paul made the suggestion that we go into town to the Woolworths and get stuff to do a BBQ tea. The idea was well received by all and once the panniers and top boxes were empty we headed into town. A quick trip around Woolworths, food in one trolley and Gill pushing another trolley full of helmets and jackets was a great laugh and got a few strange looks from people who just do not understand us.

Back at the caravan park after a trip to fill any empty luggage spots with some alcohol we waited a while for Tony and Huong to rejoin us as they were off site seeing, as well as Danny and Aaron who were staying somewhere else due to unavailability of cabins. After a while we got too hungry and fired up the BBQ with Sonya and Tony cooking up a storm.



Was a great tea, Morris managed to keep away from the cooking as he usually does when we are away. We were nice and left Tony and Huong some tea as we were all starving and decided not to wait any longer. After tea and the dishes were done by Paul and Danny, we sat round for the evening, chatting about the day, the ride down and the upcoming adventures for the next few days. Tony served the ice-cream he insisted we bought and with that and a few ales we were all contented for the evening.



Morris even had a seat on the Spyder.



### *Day 2 – Mount Gambier to Lorne*

We were up early as we had a bit distance to cover. Paul, Sonya, Danny, Aaron, Tony and Huong were heading back to Adelaide today. Tony, Gill, Morris and I were heading onwards to Lorne via Port Campbell and the coast following the Great Ocean Road. It was looking a bit

grey and rain seemed imminent so we all geared up in our wet weather stuff and headed off to fuel up and for Brekkie at Macca's.



Paul and Sonya dropped by to say farewell and once brekkie was over we rode off, hopefully in the right direction. We headed south towards the coast and Port Campbell in the drizzle and rain, taking it easy, Morris crying the whole way as his bike was getting dirty from the wet roads ☺ At the 12 Apostles it was blowing a gale but we stopped and took a few photos. Gill was practicing taking photos on the moving bike. She wants to get some tips from our famous photographer Sonya when she can but her photos were still good as can be seen in the gallery.



The roads were great as we continued on but we remained careful because of the very gusty wind and damp roads. Finally we got the Great Ocean Road and had a reasonable run through there, thinking to ourselves how much better this would be if the weather was warm and the roads were dry. Was still fantastic and we all had grins on our faces when we pulled in to Lorne, yep, even me.... ☺

After unpacking, Morris, Tony and Gill headed off on the bikes towards Torquay to do the rest of the GOR. I relaxed and took some pain relief as my joints and muscles were quite sore from the ride and waited for their return. One they returned, happy with doing all of the GOR we

headed up the main strip of Lorne and found a good fish and chip shop for tea. John rang us up to see how we were going and we had great pleasure in telling him what a fantastic trip we were having. Poor John, he so much had wanted to come with us. Sorry John, we know you wanted to be with us but there will be other trips.

After tea we headed back to Tony and Gill's cabin for a coffee and then had a fairly early night as we thought we would all be on the road early again the next day.

### *Day 3 – Lorne to Naracoorte*

Up early yet again. Why waste a day when there are good roads ahead. Wet weather gear went on again as it had rained overnight. By now Morris was beside himself as the Blackbird was wet again. Poor Morris, we had to laugh ☺ We handed our keys in and then it was time to hit the road. We discussed going via the GOR again but as it was about 100kms further, decided to go inland via Colac. Destination Naracoorte, 350kms. As it was still damp with probably rain and Morris had the TomTom Rider, a waterproof GPS we decided that he could lead. Well..... that was an interesting choice. I think Morris's GPS should have been talking to him in Italian. Every time we saw a sign that said to the town we wanted to go to, Morris headed the other way. I have to admit that we found some absolutely fantastic roads, great sweepers and the road through the forest inland of Lorne was amazing. Again they would be more amazing in the dry, but were still great. As we ventured on after lunch in Hamilton (yep, we were supposed to go via Hamilton), I could have sworn we were heading away from Naracoorte and back into central Victoria. A fact proven when all our fuel gauges started showing minimal fuel left. Tony's fuel light was on and mine was flashing and for some reason we were near Horsham!! Tony ran out of fuel 10 kms out of Horsham and I limped in with a couple of litres left. Filled up my tank and went and bought a small 5 litre can to take back to Tony and Gill who were patiently waiting for us on the side of the road.



Once we had Tony and Gill running again we headed back into Horsham so they could fuel up fully and realised we still had 145kms to go to get to Naracoorte. It had only been 175kms at lunch time and we had emptied our tanks. We finally found Naracoorte as by this stage as it was not raining, I connected my GPS and led the way. We were all scared that if Morris continued to lead, we'd land up in Melbourne. Total distance for the day was around 600kms and boy were my joints telling me so. Admittedly we rode some brilliant roads and it was because of that that we did not throw some more dirt over Morris's bike. He had luckily redeemed himself with great roads.

After relaxing for a while, we walked in town and had a good counter meal at the Naracoorte Hotel. The food there was almost as good as the Glynde and with a drink or two inside us, we headed back to the cabin for an early night.

### *Day 4 – Naracoorte to Home*

Heading home today. Up early as we seemed to do and on the road by 8am. I reversed my bike carefully out after putting all my gear on it and got it onto the main caravan park roadway which was a bit downhill inclined. Went to swing my leg over the seat and the bike moved forward, rolled off its side stand and bang onto the ground. The handlebar had swung around so the tank bag was pressing against the horn and the bike was lying on its side making lots of noise. I stopped the horn and we all stood around looking at it for a moment before picking it back up. The left front indicator was busted and so was the clutch lever. At least there was enough clutch lever to use to get home and we tap the still working indicator back. Not very aesthetic, but completely legal. The back end of the bike had been protected by the soft panniers, and the side by the big engine mushrooms I had fitted, for an instance just like this, so all in all, I got off very lightly. I remembered that I had the rear indicators at home from when I changed them to LED's so should be able to swap them around. Finally we headed off, me a bit p\*\*\*\*d off for dropping the bike but glad that the damage was minimal.

From Naracoorte we headed up to Keith where the breakfast was welcome and we fuelled up for our last time. Morris and Tony were already excitedly planning the next road trip, back into Victoria, but this time basing it in Hamilton and then going on long day cruises. Stay tuned for details on that one. From Keith we rode to Tailem Bend where we said our goodbyes and headed home.

Summary.

Great trip, great roads, great food and great company

One small incident

1800kms of fun and friendship

and

Never trust Morris to lead a ride even with a GPS ☺

Photos are up in the gallery

Cheers

David