

TUNGKILLO PUB RUN

4th July 2009

Dear SABERS

Had to jump start the bike this morning...seems direct wiring the intercom to the battery is not such a good idea...even though it's not supposed to turn on till you plug the rider's headset in. Perhaps it too suffered in the bucketing rain which completely drowned my phone a couple of weekends back. So much for expensive wet weather clobber!

Trish was my pillion for the day...Lyn being not so keen on the wet forecast elected to spend the day at work instead.

After fuelling up at my local BP (the max likes the 98 octane stuff) we joined the early birds at maximoto for breakfast. Henrik & the crew had the barbeque cranked up with sausages and onions sizzling. A few who couldn't ride joined us for breakfast. Henrik tried the old American Indian communications technique of smoke signals from the drip tray of the barbeque to attract some more early morning custom. Quick work with his fire extinguisher soon sorted that out.

With the later than usual leisurely start we had plenty of time for pre ride socialising and checking out the goodies at maximoto. David was busy receipting membership renewals and I went around getting visitors to sign in and give us their ICE details. By the time I delivered the rides briefing we had 16 bikes and 5 pillions...21 for lunch at Tungkillo. A great turnout for a wet looking Saturday.

We got out of maximoto without much drama despite the road and tram works on South Road. Then left turn up Cross Road, Portrush Road, Greenhill Road, Glynburn Road, Lower North East Road with a pause to re group before heading up Anstey Hill and on through Chain of Ponds for our first stop at Gumeracha. Some of the group were caught in traffic through Chain of Ponds and the roads were wet.

The roads were much drier after our stop and quite soon we were in Tungkillo. Our host Catherine had set up the billiard room for us so we could all fit in the one space. Mark joined me to head back looking for my phone which had slipped out of the map pocket of my tank bag. We found it just a few kilometres back on the verge of the road. Scratched but still working. It was in a ziplock bag...maybe that acted as a parachute. Much relief as it is only 2 weeks old! Thanks for helping out Mark.



Another visitor joined us here. On his way across the range to meet us he had an off on a wet corner. Luckily he just crashed up a grassy embankment...no injury and no damage. That made 22 for lunch. It took a little while to get the meals out to us but no matter we all had a good feed. One meal was doubled up on but Mark soon made short work of it! He reckons he is in training for the presidency of SABERS!

A short ride along some very nice roads took us to our next stop at Lobethal. Great coffee as usual at the Amberlight Deli but perhaps a bit too soon after lunch. Ian L made his goodbyes before we headed off.



Damp roads again after Lobethal and rain at Stirling through Ironbank and Cherry Gardens Road. Still it was a good run through here with one stop to re group and another to take a call from David and Bronwyn who left us at Stirling. Thanks to all the riders who took on marshalling duties as the few dedicated marshals for the day had a hard time of getting back to the front in the poor conditions. One of the temporary marshals lay his bike down in the last corner for the day. Just slipped in the slime I pointed him to. Sorry John (first time SABERS visitor) to be the precursor of your first drop in 20 years! Some scratches and a cracked fairing to the big Kawasaki.

We just made it to the Clarendon bakery before closing. Some more socialising with pastries, sweets and coffee. This was the end of the ride. Another good day with some unfortunate mishaps but nothing serious. Thanks to first time Tail End Charlette Bec and to David for looking after her. Thanks to my 2 official marshals Grant and Tony M and other riders who filled in the gaps.

A big thank you to our sponsor for the day maximoto and our lunchtime host the Tungkillo Hotel.

Good day
Fred

