

2021 TCMCC Run to Pt. Pirie.

This event was scheduled to take place on Sunday 28th March, starting at the Club HQ at 8.45 am, so I had to make a special effort to wake up by 7.00 am. This was made easier coz my friend Wendy rang me at 6.45 am to make sure I was awake, & reminded me to take my camera, so I managed to arrive on time. Because I had tripped over a month ago in the driveway & broken a cuppla ribs & hurt my left shoulder I had arranged to travel in the bus that Bob Finney organised with about 20 other Club Members & I reckon there were around 15 or so motorcycle riders. The bus was ably driven by Bob's grandson & he was accompanied by his mother. I managed to get the second window seat back & off we went.

The early stages of the trip were interesting because there is a lot work going on. There is a new town in the early stages of development at Riverina, just after the turn off to St. Kilda or something like that & lots of road works. Then around Pt. Wakefield there is a By-pass being built which will involve a bridge over the road to Yorke Peninsula & there is a large road works camp there.

At this stage I hadn't notice the cramped conditions in the bus, but more of that on the trip home. After three hours we arrived at Pt. Pirie & followed the riders to a house that had a large shed at the back & we all filed in. There was a line-up of ancient motorcycles dating back to the 1920's with a lot of strange names, but the star of the show was straight 4 Indian in as new condition. I got the owner to wheel it out into the open so I could photograph it. It was then that I found my camera was telling me that the card was full, but I managed to get some obliging joker to delete a few frames so I could photograph the motorcycles. Then in another shed he had a very nice 1920's car & a Tilbrook sidecar by itself. I noticed Alan Wallis, who worked at Tilbrook's factory in Bridge St. Kensington & who probably made it, talking to the owner.

Then it was time to move & the next stop was near-by where there were several large sheds & a shaded area with tables set out & BBQ cooking. So we all found a seat & a woman instructed us in how to get lunch. All the buildings were displaying road signs & included a toilet block, so the place was well organised. After lunch our commander-in-chief, dunno who he was, said we'll be taking off in an hour & go & explore the buildings. The first one was full of shelves that contained literary hundreds of thousands of bits & pieces, dinky toys, military bits & pieces with their stories attached, you name it, it was there.

& the second shed was similar. How the owner had collected it all I dunno, must have been a life-time.

Then there was movement at the station! Word had got around that we were leaving soon so we piled into the bus & followed the riders back to the main road. I had mentioned to Bob Cole, who used to manage McKecknie's foundry, that just up the road were a number of cast iron parts that were used in the Pt. Pirie smelter, including the large lead kettle top. I had made the patterns for them at Perry Engineering in the 1960's & they were cast there initially, but went to McKeckie when the foundry closed. Brings back a lot of memories.

Now the trip home. With so much to look at on the way up I hadn't noticed how cramped we were. The seats didn't have enough padding, were much too close together, & the headrest was far too high, making straight forward vision difficult. So my knees were jammed up against the back of the seat in front. All of this for three hours, so when we finally arrived back at the Club Rooms I was stuffed. So I said goodbye to Bob Finney & a few of the others & took off home. I was so stuffed that I was in the cot by 8.30 pm, & slept until around 1.30am when I have to get up to pee, then back to bed, but then the tummy pains started, & from then I was up & down with diarrhoea for the rest of the night. Must have eaten something that was off for lunch.

Fortunately, the tummy pains cleared the next morning & I didn't have to get up at dawn to catch a bus so I was back to normal!

Beaudy Newk!