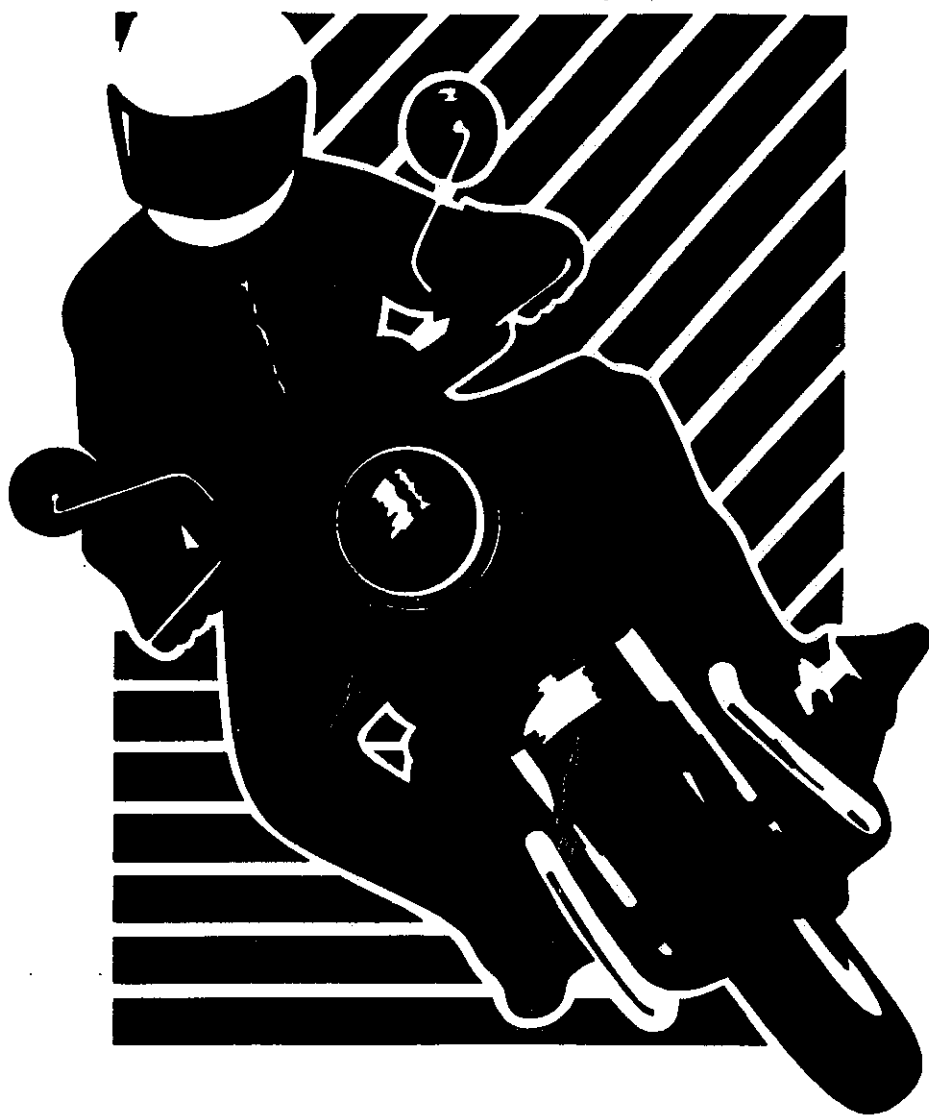


MAR 96

# Good Vibrations



**MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB OF VICTORIA**

P.O. Box 453, Richmond 3121, Victoria

# M.T.C.V. ITINERARY

## MARCH 1996

Saturday 9th - Monday 11th	Camping Weekend Licola 9:00 am KBCP 9:45 am Hallam	Pack the tent, food, spare tyres and a sense of adventure for this weekend in the bush at the end of a VERY twisty road.
Sunday 10th	Licola Rendevous 9:00 am KBCP 9:45 am Hallam	Come for a blast to meet up with those game enough to brave the wilds.
Sunday 17th	Anakie Gorge Mark Dennis leading 9:30 am KBCP 10:00 am Laverton	BYO BBQ LUNCH. Can you fit a half a sheep on the back of your bike?
Thursday 21st	Social Sip Swan Hotel Cnr Swan St & Church St Richmond	Come and join us for a drink and a chat. 7'ish till late.
Sunday 24th	Great Ocean Road 9:00 am KBCP 9:30 am Laverton	Supposedly an odometer calibration trip.
Sunday 31st	Yea train tunnel Andi Sirninger leading 9:00 am KBCP 10:00 am Yarra Glen	Not the King Crystal Mines as previously published, as the road in is too rough for sports bikes.
Thursay 4th April	General Meeting 8:15 pm start Guest speaker Steve Howden - Tiger Angel	Camberwell Town Hall Theatrette, Ingelsby Rd. The ins and outs, slides and scrapes of leathers.
Friday 5th - Monday 8th	Easter Trip Canberra via Coast	See inside magazine for more details and bookings.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Motorcycle Touring Club of Victoria

1st February, 1996

Meeting Opened; 8:35  
Attendances; 24 members, 3 non-members  
Apologies; Les Leahy, Craig Morley

### Captain's Report

### DECEMBER 1995

<b>Sunday 10th</b>	<b>Hanging Rock</b>	<b>Thursday 21st</b>	<b>Social Sip</b>
Leader; John Morley		Retreat Hotel	? people
5 bikes, 5 people, 300 km			
Weather; fine		<b>Weekend 26/12 - 2/1</b>	<b>Xmas Camp</b>
		Bruthen	14 people

**Saturday 16th** Xmas BBQ, Fairfield Park  
40 to 50 people

**Sunday 17th** Eildon  
Leader; Tony Schrader  
21 bikes, 21 people, 370 km  
Weather: fine and hot  
Incidents; Sam S. crashed his FZR 1000 after departing at Marysville. Bike totalled, Sam ok.

### JANUARY 1996

<b>Sunday 7th</b>	<b>Gippsland</b>	<b>January 21st</b>	<b>Wilsons Prom</b>
Leader; Ben Warden		Leader; Ben Warden	
12 bikes, 13 people, 450 km		9 bikes, 9 people, 550 km	
Weather; fine and hot		Weather; fine and warm	
Incidents; Stewart crashed his ZZR 250 on Arawata rd. Fairing destroyed.		Incidents; Craig M. holed his radiator	
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	<b>Abseiling</b>	<b>Weekend 25/1 - 28/1</b>	<b>Tallangatta</b>
Leader; Mark Dennis		Leader; Ben Warden	
13 bikes, 1 car, 20 people, 250 km		10 bikes, 10 people, 2300 km	
Weather; fine		Weather; Perfect, fine, warm to hot	
Incidents; Ross W. crashed on gravel, Don rd. Fairing destroyed, broken collar bone.		Incidents; Davorin Z., on his K 100LT, had an accident with a car towing a trailer turning right whilst he was overtaking along Snowy Mountain hwy. He later crashed after not seeing a gravel on rd. sign. Fair amount of damage to bike. Dav ok. Gerry E. lost her VFR 750 on some gravel in a corner. Cosmetic damage only.	
<b>January 18th</b>	<b>Social Sip</b>		
Retreat Hotel	25 people		

**President's Report;** previewed upcoming rides  
**Treasurer's Report;** \$900 outgoing, \$400 incoming, \$580 in the bank

### General Business

- 1 Next Social Sip at the Swan Hotel. Cnr. Church and Swan st's
- 2 Saturday 20th April is the Phillip Island ride day. \$85 for members, \$105 for non-members. Supervisor required for the day (non rider, very important job), as well as corner markers. Kiosk may be opened.
- 3 New itinerary coming up. Please feel free to volunteer as a leader or suggest any good ideas.
- 4 The club has a mobile phone for emergency's ONLY. Thanks to Mark Dennis for donating it.
- 5 Michael and Nadine are expecting a child. Congratulations.
- 6 March 7th is the auction night. Bring what you (don't) want.
- 7 Tullamarine M'cycles is selling 2 piece leathers (MCR) for \$430 for members only. \$550 cost
- 8 Steve Howden from Tiger Angel is coming to the April meeting to talk about safety and safety gear.
- 9 A sad note to end the meeting was the passing away of Alec Brown. Funeral was on the 18th of January. Everybody was shocked and saddened. Debbie was grateful for everyone who attended. She will continue riding and intends to join the club when she gains some more experience.
- 10 Door prizes won by:- 1 John W., 2 Rob L., 3 Andrew K.,

**MEETING CLOSED 9:10**

APRIL

THURSDAY 4	GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER: STEVE HOWDEN(TIGER ANGEL)
EASTER W.E. 4-8	CANBERRA VIA COAST, TONY SCHRADER, HALLAM 9.00
SUNDAY 14	HILLS RIDE, ERIC MAKIN, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN
THURSDAY 18	SOCIAL SIP, SEE CLUB MAG FOR DETAILS
SATURDAY 20	PHILLIP ISLAND RIDE DAY, MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THERE GATES OPEN 8.00. SEE CLUB MAG FOR DETAILS
SUNDAY 21	SWITZERLAND RANGES, DANNY KOSINSKI, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN
SUNDAY 28	LUNCH, REEFTON PUB, JOHN RIDDETT, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN

MAY

THURSDAY 2	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 5	DAYLESFORD, BEN WARDEN, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 WHITTLESEA
SUNDAY 12	GIPPSLAND, BRONWYN MANIFOLD, 9.30 KBCP
THURSDAY 16	SOCIAL SIP, SEE CLUB MAG FOR DETAILS
SUNDAY 19	NORTH EAST, SOME DIRT, MARK DENNIS, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN
SUNDAY 26	LEONGATHA, TONY SCHRADER, 9.30 KBCP, 10.15 HALLAM

JUNE

SUNDAY 2	OCEAN GROVE, BBQ, JOHN AND DOTS, 9.30 KBCP, 10.00 LAVERTON
THURSDAY 5	GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER: KEN WOOTTON(AMCN)
WEEKEND 8-10	ARARAT, IAN PAYNE, PUB ACCOM.
SUNDAY 16	WALHALLA MINE TOUR, STEVE LEYLAND, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN
THURSDAY 20	SOCIAL SIPS, SEE CLUB MAG FOR DETAILS
SUNDAY 23	ECHUCA - BORDER RUN, DANNY KOSINSKI, 9.00 KBCP, 10.00 WHITTLESEA
W.E. 28, 29, 30, SUNDAY 30	BIG DESERT DIRT RIDE, TOM SEVILLE, LEAVE FRL P.M. MALDON, ROBERT MATRICCIANI, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 WHITTLESEA

JULY

THURSDAY 4	GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 7	REEFTON / BLACK SPUR, DAVE WARD, 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN
SATURDAY 13	MAINTENANCE DAY, 10.00 JOHN MORLEYS HOUSE, BBQ LUNCH
SUNDAY 14	PORT WELSHPOOL, BEN WARDEN, 9.30 KBCP, 10.15 HALLAM
THURSDAY 18	SOCIAL SIP, SEE CLUB MAG FOR DETAILS
SUNDAY 21	APOLLO BAY MINI GOLF, TONY FABRIS, 9.30 KBCP, 10.00 LAVERTON
SUNDAY 28	SNOW RIDE. 9.30 KBCP, 10.30 YARRA GLEN

## CAPTAINS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1995

**Weekend 4th to 7th;                      Adelaide**  
Leader;                      Tony Schrader, 7 bikes, 9 people, 2300km  
Weather;                      Mostly fine, not much rain  
Incidents;                      Phil Currans XJ 900's rear subframe had to be rewelded.  
Returning to Melbourne on Tuesday, arrived at the scene of an accident on the freeway near Murray Bridge not long after it happened. Woman stuck in a Mini Minor.  
Assisted until ambulance arrived.

**Sunday 12th;                      Snobs Creek fish hatchery**  
Leader;                      Ben Warden, 12 bikes, 12 people, 400km  
Weather;                      Brilliant  
Incidents;                      none

**Thursday 16th;                      Social Sip, 17 people**

**Sunday 19th;                      Creswick**  
Leader;                      Danny Kocinski, 10 bikes, 10 people, 350km  
Weather;                      Fine  
Incidents;                      Tony Fabris on FZR 1000 had a big tank slapper but managed to save it.

**Sunday 26th;                      Early ride**  
Leader;                      Tom Seville, 16 bikes, 16 people, 9 members, 420km  
Weather;                      Fine, cool morning, warm afternoon  
Incidents;                      Andi's TDR 250 clutch packed it in, Dee holed the radiator on his CBR 900, name unknown on GPX 750 suffered a puncture, Tony Fabris on his FZR 1000 copped a speeding ticket between Yea and Molesworth. 126km in a 100km zone

**Sunday 3rd of Dec.;                      Phillip Island**  
Leader;                      Tony Schrader, 2 bikes, 3 people, 0km  
Weather;                      ?  
Incidents;                      None. No ride to Phillip Island, went elsewhere

# TALLANGATTA WEEKEND - THURSDAY NIGHT

BEN	ZXR 750 (LEADER)
GERRY	VFR 750
STEVE	GTR 1000 (R.R.)
TONY	YZF 600

We arrived at Whittlesea at 6.45p.m., Gerry & I being first there and only expecting Ben & Steve. Tom, Andi, Rob and Ryk left earlier in the afternoon. Danny had also gone earlier via Beechworth to visit a friend. Ben, and then Steve arrived and we departed at 7:00 p.m. sharp. We headed for the Hume via Upper Plenty, Wandong and joined the Hume not far from Heathcote Junction.

We settled into the traffic flow not wanting to attract the attention of Mr. Plod as he was sure to be around tonight. Before Seymour Mr. Plod had his first victim, a "P" plater in a Commodore. Just past Seymour we found a pace car and tucked in behind it and followed it all the way to Benalla. Ben's head spun sharply around as he spied a patrol car coming down the on ramp and our speed decreased rapidly. As he passed we all got the "evil eye". As he went by Ben I expected to see the Christmas lights and was relieved when they didn't appear as I suspect Ben was as well.

We sped back up to the speed limit as the patrol car disappeared at about 130 km/h and we were amused to see many cars passing us, obviously unaware of what was ahead. We saw brake lights flashing as the front runners recognised the cop car. He pulled over some poor sod going away for the weekend just to make his weekend figures look good. We increased our speed to put as much distance between us and him as possible then we pulled in at "Operation Coffee Break" somewhere between Benalla and Wangaratta for a free coffee and a kit kat. As it was now dark our visual radar, namely Ben, had decreased efficiency so we slowed fractionally which was just as well as we came across another patrol car parked in the bushes, the reflective stripes the only indication of its presence and proceeded into Wodonga for petrol.

We then made our way to Tallangatta arriving at about 11:00p.m. to find the rest of the group having a few refreshments in the bar. We chatted about our respective journeys and everyone quizzed Ben on the weekends activities and tomorrows destination which everyone decided was going to be sensational, as was the weather forecast. At this point we all called stumps and hit the sack looking forward with anticipation to tomorrows journey.

TONY SCHRADER YZF 600

**Tallangatta Weekend**  
**January 26-28, 1996**  
**Day 1**

Ben Warden	ZXR750	Tony Schrader	YZF600
Geraldine East	VFR750	Tom Saville	FZR1000
Robert Langer	VFR750	Andi Sirninger	YZF750/1000
Steve Baszak	GTR1000	Danny Vits	BMW F650
Ricky Budd	VFR400/RC30 lookalike		

After converging on Tallangatta throughout Thursday 25th, nine riders ( and bikes ) settled for the night at the Victoria Hotel ready and poised for what was to be some serious touring in the following days.

Awakening to glorious sunshine after a dismal week in Melbourne had everyone in high spirits and with Steve volunteering as rear rider we set-off behind Ben east along the Murray-Valley Hwy for a first fuel stop at Corryong. Apart from four big kangaroos crossing the highway in Indian file a hundred meters ahead of me just past the Walwa turn-off, this stretch of road easy, pleasant and quick.

East of Corryong the valley opens wide giving fantastic vistas of the Alpine area up ahead, a feature of the tour that would spoil us for the entire weekend, except for those amongst us too busy moving along to notice much ( some riders even went past a two car collision in the middle of nowhere without noticing!! ). Along The Alpine Way, through Bradneys Gap for a brief morning stop at the Tooma Reservoir and then onto Kiandra via Cabramurra. Kiandra which is nothing more than a wind-swept T-junction between the Alpine Way and the Snowy Mountains Hwy was our next stop to give everyone a chance to catch up and recover from the demanding and sometimes tricky Alpine Way. We also had to give Ricky an opportunity to take many snaps along the way. Ricky, a smiling, happy go-lucky native from California was a first time-rider with the club having met Tom and Andi at the Phillip Isl. Superbikes earlier and this might be his one and only ride through Australia's Alpine region.

Onto Adaminaby ( fast and furious ) for a quick fuel stop and then onto Jindabyne via Berridale, the only brief hold-up being a herd of cattle on the road which saw Ben and others tip-toeing through the unpredictable cows and calves.

Jindabyne seemed like a teeming metropolis after all the little places we cruised through. I opted for the local specialty, smoked trout and together with Robert we were the envy of the rest, in particular Tom who made several attempts to distract me from my plate by pointing out local talent.

After lunch Ben decided to make a 90kms detour up to Charlotte Pass and back. Charlotte Pass is as close as it gets to Mt.Kosciusko on the road and probably the highest road elevation in Australia. As we wound our way up, the wind also became stronger and stronger and by the time we reached Charlotte Pass this had turned into a hurricane making some turns a bit tricky. It was to be the coldest and windiest place during the entire weekend and most of us didn't take our helmets off for the short walk to the look-out whence you had to hold on to the railing or be swept away in the depths of the ravine. One who took her helmet off and regretted doing so was Andi who took some time to warm up again.

After the descent back into Jindabyne the bearing was West to Thredbo. The Village ( a definite misnomer nowadays ) was packed with cars, holidaymakers from far and wide, many

seemingly from the land of Nippon and all garbed in dayglow fluorescents ( someone forget to tell them its summer in these parts ). Village, my foot!, everything reeks of megabucks and what village has \$80 on the spot parking fines!!

After a brief stop ( couldn't find any free parking ) it was onto Khancoban via such evocative places as Dead Horse Gap, Tom Groggin, Geehi Walls etc..., not to mention a 15-20 kms section of dirt road past Tom Groggin which really didn't unnerve anyone in this company, although it was to be the nail in the coffin for Tom's tyres.

An amazing feature of the day ( and indeed for the entire weekend ) was the very large number of bikes on the roads throughout the entire region covered, this was accounted for by a large rally in Canberra and another near Jingellic and even here, near Tom Groggin some were subjecting their Hogs to dust and dirt!!

Coffee and petrol at Khancoban and a final saddle-up for the journey back to the Victoria Hotel still over a 100kms away. Seems most of us were hungry and thirsty enough to make Tallangatta in some haste where we were met by Davorian and his K100LT who was then undecided whether he would join the ride the next day. Ominous!

A total of approx. 640kms ( no spills, plenty of thrills!! ).

Thanks to Ben and Steve for a great day.

Danny Vits



## TALLANGATTA WEEKEND DAY 2 - SATURDAY 27TH JAN 96

BEN	ZXR 750 (LEADER)	ROB L.	UFR 750
TONY	YZF 600	RYKK	UFR 400
DAV	K100 LT	GERRY	UFR 750
DANNY	BMW F650	STEVE B	GTR 1000 (REAR)

The weather was glorious again so we were all up and ready to go by 9.00:am. With breakfast out of the way and the bikes fuelled and warmed we headed off minus Tom & Andi who went in search of replacement tyres for Tom's bike. Yes Friday's ride had been that sort of ride!

We headed off along the Murray Valley Hwy, through Granya following the Hume Reservoir, which is a pretty twisty and scenic road. 90 kms along this road we came to our first stop, Walwa where we had morning tea. It was a very picturesque sort of place and the local cop had a keen eye for bikes, but that story comes later.. He had a lot to look out for this weekend due to three events taking place, 12,000 bikes in Canberra, the Pubman rally and a Norton rally in Jingellic, so we saw quite a few bikes raising the Walwa dust.

We carried on along the highway to Corryong, roughly 50 kms, where we stopped for petrol. Did a U turn and made our way to Kiandra via the back roads which were excellent, taking in the town of Towong and headed toward Cabramurra via Elliots Way. At the intersection here there were two cars that had collected each other and had been abandoned by their owners. Many of our motly crew were too busy avoiding the spread of gravel to notice, fortunatley everyone manouvered their way through without incident. Elliots Way was a really good piece of road, nice and twisty, but not too tight. We turned off just before Cabramurra and went into Kiandra. From here, Tony, Rob, myself and Ben, in that order, went ahead of the rest to make our way on to Adaminiby for an unscheduled petrol stop to cater for Rykk's petrol range of only 150 kms. Ben mentioned that it was a good thing my speedo was not working, for had I known how fast 9500 reus was in kilometers I may have backed off a touch. However, blissfully unaware, I pressed on to our fuel stop, food stop and a gasbag. There were bikes everywhere enjoying the great weather and equally great roads.

Yarrangobilly caves were next on our stop list, with me getting left behind in the luo at Adaminaby thanks to a great piece of rear riding..(Good on Ya Steve). As Tony & I were corner marking the cave turnoff, time started to drag on until we realised that something must have happened. A car pulled up to inform us that " the guy on the big BMW had had hit a car." Tony went back to assist. The bikes eventually turned up, Davs BMW severely modified. In fact, quite a lot of it turned up in a car!! Both paniers had come off and the bike sustained a little more than just cosmetic damage. One mirror and a sizeable chunk of fairing had been ripped off and a lot of bits and pieces that I dont know the names of were hanging off or scratched. Dav, most importantly, was unhurt, except for a bit of shock and a gash on his leg where it had come in contact with the trailer that the car had been towing.

The driver had previously indicated her intention to turn but then seemingly changed her mind. At this point Dav pulled out to overtake but the car went ahead with the turn. The panier on the bike struck the trailer as Dav tried to pull back in behind her and he came off doing a number of somersaults, extremely fortunate not to have collided with any trees or rocks. He managed to piece the bike together really well with ocky straps and amazingly was ready to go again within half an hour. Meanwhile the rest of us had gone to take a look at the caves. They were quite breathtaking and well worth the walk. Rykk, who is from America, was impressed with our beautiful scenery and happily snapped away with his camera at every possible moment.

We left the caves, warily keeping an eye on Davs bike and made our way toward Tumut. We stopped at the Blowering dam and took more photos and arrived at Tumut around 5:00pm. We were all getting a bit hungry by now so we stopped for petrol and a snack and kept moving. Off down to Wondalga, Rosewood and Tumbaramba. Along this road is a rather sharp bend that comes up pretty quick with a big patch of gravel in the middle. Fortunatley it has a sort of run off road for idiot motor cyclists who are going too quick to take the bend. I wont name any names but she went a real good shade of white and slowed down a bit after that. There was also about 5kms of fresh bitumen and stones through the beautiful forest area where Ben encountered his favorite large Grey Roo. He seems to attract them everywhere he goes.

We reached the same intersection at Elliots Way, both vehicles had been removed by this stage, and turned off toward Tintaldra. Dav was progressing rather well, all things considered, until a little further up the road where he passed Ben up a hill, into the sun and failed to see a "gravel road" sign and laid the bike down once again. He was actually in a fairly positive mood after this second incident. Positive that he should definitely not have come on the ride at all! I'm told by a reliable source that Rykk had a rather spectacular moment a little further on this road but managed to remain firmly aboard the UFR. Funny that he didn't mention that to the scribe eh? We returned to Walwa where it was decided that tea should be taken as the Tallangatta pub meals may have been finished by the time we got home. It was a good decision as it turned out, the meal was quite good. Dav didn't stay for tea, wanting to get home before dark, and probably before any thing else could happen..as if. Rob went along with him, just in case.

After tea Steve and Danny headed off leaving Ben, Tony & I partaking of a cool O.J. or two. I left the two boys discussing money or work ethics or something equally provocative and made my own way home, catching up to Steve and Danny who looked liked they were doing some scenic night viewing. However, it seems that the noisy exhaust of the UFR woke the local constabulary who had been nodding off in his car just up from the pub. The UFR roared past followed minutes later by Tony on the YZF, the cop leapt up just in time to catch Ben serenley gunning down the Walwa main street. I believe it was three days before Mrs.Warden was told of the financial damage sustained.

Apart from Davs incidents it was a wonderful day with 750kms of spectacular roads and scenery and fantastic company. Thanks Ben for a great weekend.

GERRY UFR 750

## TALLANGATTA WEEKEND

### Last Day - Sunday 28th January 1996

We had already done a lot of kays: 350 Thursday night up the Hume to Tallangatta, 620km around through Kiandra, Thredbo, and the Alpine Way on Friday, and Saturday, another 720km up the Snowy Mountains Highway to Tumut and back through Tumbarumba and Walwa.

There had been a few dramas starting with Tom destroying his front tyre after day 1 and subsequently missing day 2 with the group while chasing down a tyre in Albury. Of course, Dav had crashed a couple of times on Saturday creating some interesting talking points. Gerry's speedo cable had never worked. I changed front pads after day 1 (and had only time to perform 3 hard stops to bed them in before confronting Granya Pass (similar to Reefton Spur)); Steve's tyres were decidedly square back and front; Rob's chain had a chronic tight spot (ONLY 41,000 km old! - "I have never had a chain-driven bike this long!") Tony and Geraldine had nearly run out of chain lube, while Rick, Rob and Danny never started with any. The Dunlop D204s (not race compound) on Gerry, Rob and my bikes were looking decidedly second hand, and mine had only done Wilson's Prom the week before, albeit 590 km worth. (Tony Schrader mentioned that we may have had some of the so-called "bad" compound tyres that came from America soon after the Kobe earthquake.)

Not to give the wrong impression, these few dramas were sprinkled very thinly over two and a half days fantastic riding on some of the best roads in Australia (co-incidentally, even this weeks AMCN (Feb 9-22 page 36) mentioned "favourite bits of unstraight road ... Alpine Way, Snowy Mountains Highway, Omeo Highway"). The weather had been remarkably kind. Each morning we were greeted with a cloudless, blue sky, the weather warm but not hot.

So.. Being the last day, it was time to settle up: accommodation \$20 per room (doubles same price!). Dav and Steve decided to head home via the Hume Highway, Dav to nurse his cut leg and various bruises and ocky-strap-held-together-bike (panniers, top box), and Steve due to his bike's bald tyres.

After refuelling at the Shell Service Station we were about to leave Tallangatta when I noticed that Danny was agitated. He had lost a strap from his large pack. We regrouped opposite the pub gate in the shade. I think Tom found the offending article and we were away.

Heading west towards Albury around Lake Hume the wide road sweeps up and down, following the shore line closely. There are a few off camber corners and a couple that tighten up at speed. Just the ticket to get the heart pumping first thing in the morning.

We took the Tangambalanga turnoff before heading south on the secondary road parallel to the Kiewa Valley Highway. This road is generally straight but with enough "stock crossing" signs around bl. corners and general farm activity, speeds were tempered considerably.

At Tawonga South (near Mt Beauty) Tom, Andi and Rob left the ride to explore the Falls Creek Road and other delights.

The Tawonga Gap Road across to Bright is superb. It climbs quite steeply for 3 or 4 kays (similar to the Fraser National Park Road up from Eildon) before plunging down, flattening out over the next 17 km. It is all basically down hill and very fast. There are some corners that tighten up unexpectedly (I allowed the bike to run wide twice - the only time over the whole trip) and series of esses guarded by cliff walls. It is very hard on brakes. I love this road. I arrived, almost panting, at the other end. Tony and Gerry came next, then Rick and Danny. We were down to five riders. Danny was rear rider for the remainder of the trip.

We regrouped at Harrietville, our last fuel stop before Omeo. Danny was hanging out for a cup of *real* coffee, and knew of a place on Mt Hotham. I said "go". (Meaning we would catch him up.) I had a certain pressing need which needed relieving. By the time I had emerged from the ablution block up on the right, they had all gone.

The road is all sealed all the way to Mt Hotham Alpine Village, some 31 km from Harrietville. The bikes carburation soon went "flat" (as on previous days) due to the fuel/air mixture ratio being affected by the altitude, and consequent change in air pressure. All the bikes suffered similarly except Dav's fuel injected beast, but he had other problems....

It is a horn(!) road with yellow lines left, right and centre, making it easier to judge the corners. You just get in the rhythm and go. It is like riding in a trance, your mind totally focused on the job at hand, suppressing all outside thoughts or distractions. Time does not exist.

I did decide somewhere that the road is too tight (in places) for my conservatively steered, top heavy (full tank, etc.) ZXR. Great for VFR400's though! And Danny was flying on his BM 650 (Rotax) Funduro.

I caught and passed Danny and Rick above the tree line. Tony and Gerry were waiting at a lookout. We proceeded to the Coffee Shop, drank cappuccino's, ate carrot cake, and chocolate bars, all the while looking out upon the world from large panoramic windows. It was very relaxing and enjoyable. Soon Tony intimated he was ready to go.

There is still 21 km of dirt either side of Dinner Plain. This time it was particularly unpleasant, having recently received 4" (100 mm) of 2" blue metal. Pox. Very dusty to boot.

We did a drive-by tour of Dinner Plain. Very horsey. Some sort of quarter-horse trial was underway. We must have looked like visiting Martians, judging by he looks we received. I stopped for a photo opportunity ; this place has weird architecture, very earthy.

There is probably 35 km of sweeping downhill roads leading into Omeo. We were riding in loose formation, along the straights anyway. Often Gerry and I would come out of a set of corners a couple of hundred metres ahead. She had been riding well all weekend. (I was certainly surprised to see her arrive first on the Alpine Way (apart from Tom of course). No speedo cable, no fear! Her corner entry speed was ... impressive.

At Omeo we refuelled for the next hop to Bruthen - some 96 km of grouse, varied road. Tony suggested to Gerry that VFR's have limited ground clearance compared to ZXR's and that perhaps she bear that in mind when following me ....

I am glad I had travelled the Omeo Highway a few times before, otherwise I would have been holding Gerry up! It was horn. We were flying. We lost the others.

As we ran down into Bruthen, Gerry pulled over to corner-mark and promptly dumped the bike in a pile of gravel, at 5 km/h. Locals appeared out of the woodwork to help pick the bike up. Tony crested the hill.

The bike suffered minor (but expensive) cosmetic damage to the r.h.s. fairing panels. More importantly Gerry damaged her right thumb when "stepping off" awkwardly. She was most disappointed to have ridden so far, so fast, so well, only to fall off at 5 km/h.

Lunch was taken, brackets straightened, panels refitted. Tony worked in the hot sun. We watched. The spell was broken.

The next 300km were long, and slow. We headed south through Meerlieu avoiding the nasty, radar infested Bairnsdale to Stratford section. Back roads to Maffra, Heyfield, Yallourn North, Yarragon, Ellinbank and Drouin. (A number of people asked me if I had considered the Noojee Powelltown route. Of course! But due to the hour ....) Home by 6.15 pm.

I had a great trip, though it took me a couple of days to recover mentally. It was hard going to work the next day, suffering from what I term "post weekend depression".

The bike handled and went well. It didn't miss a beat. It still impresses me.

It was an epic ride, some 2,340km in three and a bit days, mainly corners! Everyone made it home safe and sound. Dav's bike will take \$4-5K to fix. I was shocked to work out it cost about \$700 in food, fuel, accommodation, tyres, and fines. That equates to 9 or 10 visits to the hairdresser for Vicki, a certain mischievous friend pointed out.

Thanks to the other participants for their good company, good humour and skilled riding.

Ben Warden (ZXR 750)

## Pillion Ride Sunday 11 February

I guess we should have known that it was going to be wet, but in true optimistic style Di and I left Merton St South Melbourne sans waterproofs, By Clarendon St and a tank full of petrol at chez BP we submitted to the inevitable and donned the aqueous resistant garments.

Just as well. By K.B.C.P. it was fairly oozing down.

A 'pillion ride' was something quite different for the touring club, in fact I can't remember one ever having been run before. I expected the troops to make a bit of an effort, but no, if it hadn't been for our good selves and Robin and Michael Barnes (whom I invited) it would have been a very poor attendance of regulars.

Those riding 2-up were...

Geraldine & Tony VFR750  
Steve & Sue GPX750  
Stuart & Anita ZZR250  
Michael & Robin BMW800  
Les & Di NX650

You would have thought that a few of the solo punters would have rung around and teamed up as two's just for a bit of a hoot. But no.

Anyway guys, I've left you off the list because it was advertised as a pillion ride and that's how it's going to be.

The usual Boulevard, Kangaroo Ground, Christmas Hills wander eventually brought us out at Yarra Glen. And still it rained. I noticed Stuart and Anna flip a 'U' turn at the Glen and immediately thought "We won't see them again". You see, they were wearing jackets and jeans (no waterproofs). Wrong, they stuck with us all day, clothing taking on an ever darkening hue as the damp progressed. 'Red Badge of Courage' award for the day definitely goes to Stuart and Anna.

Geraldine had prepared an excellent route for a pillion ride, up the range to Castella, Toolangi, Chum Creek Rd to Healesville. Riding two up is quite an interesting thing. You use a slightly different technique to solo riding and it adds a little more work for the shoulders to do. Riding two up in the rain is different again. It starts to separate the men from the boys, or in this case the girl from the boys. Heading up through Toolangi I was only just able to catch Geraldine and was then privileged to watch her ride the wet twisty road with the added bulk of Tony on the rear perch. No-one else was even close. The lady rides very well.

On through Launching Place headed for Gembrook. Holy shit, what about the unsealed sections of road, and in the wet too. We all seemed to survive, although the pace was definitely dropping off by the end of section two.

At the main Gembrook intersection Geraldine turned left. "LEFT!" The woman has totally flipped. There will be a mutiny when the troops find out. You see, there are only two alternatives if you turn left, both of them spelt D.I.R.T. Well actually there is a third, which Mark had thought of as he pulled up on the chook chaser, big eyes rolling in their sockets. "Going down the power line track are we?" he ventured, and I immediately burst into laughter inside the Nolan.

Well, Geraldine finally composed herself and we trundled into the township for a very welcome hot soup, coffee and cake.

The day had become patchy wet, and we progressed on down to the highway at Pakenham, Beaconsfield and back towards the Dandenongs through Emerald. I always get confused in this area and imagine myself riding around in ever decreasing circles. Olinda looked familiar and sure enough we soon took the turn to the Mt. Dandenong lookout.

What a pity it had been wet, overcast etc. On the right day it would have been a spectacular finish to the ride.

A little bit of drying out and consumption of pies, chips and in my case nachos, which in hindsight seemed a better choice than Di's so called gourmet pie.

The group finally dispersed with the official contingent calling it a day at Ferntree Gully.

Despite a few teething problems, I thought it was a terrific idea to have a 'pillion ride' and hope it goes on the itinerary again real soon. Thank you Geraldine.

See you on the road somewhere.

Les & Di (Honda Dominator)

**Black Spur Inn Social Sip &  
Steavensons Falls Night Ride  
Friday 16 February**

26 People at the pub, 16 Bikes, 3 Cars.

Friday was sunny and warm, I hadn't seen the weather forecast but I expected a cold night so I strapped my woolly to the back of the XT and headed for the bush to try out my recently built PTR shocker. It has given the bike more ride height and better dampening, with more travel in the front obtained by replacing a spacer with a spring. Working nights gave me a few hours through the day to play, so I used as many dirt roads as I could from the Basin to Narbethong.

I arrived at the Black Spur Inn at about 6:30 to find Danny V and Rob L on the sun deck. Rob had his 400 km old CBR600. We went inside to order our meals and the troops arrived. Ian and Kerrie on his week old RF900, and no, I haven't got mine yet, it is a question I'm getting tired of hearing.

We finished eating and rode straight to Steavensons Falls at about 9:00, the falls are floodlit using power generated by the river, and with the recent rains they looked spectacular. It was interesting to see in this light that Gerry's dress was see through.

Some of the troops went home from here but with the night being clear and mild the rest of us headed up to Lake Mountain. Once our eyes adjusted to the darkness millions of stars and a few satellites were observed, Danny V naming a few of them, but who would know whether he was spreading the old B.S. Dianne said that it was quite romantic, but was it the stars she was talking about, or standing in the dark with a bunch of blokes.

We then headed back via the Black Spur to Healesville and fuelled up, a few more going home from here, leaving five of us to ride back via Yarra Glen, Christmas Hills, Kangaroo Ground to Warrandyte. Dianne left from here, with the four of us remaining going for a tour along the Boulevard before we split. Coffee was offered, with only Phil C joining me at my place at 2:00 am.

Thanks to everybody that came. I was really pleased to see so much interest in the ride.

Mark Dennis XT600

Riders that made the distance:

Mark D      XT600 Leader, Writer  
and Coffee Maker

Steve L      GPX750

Sue W      Pillion

Danny K      XT600

Dianne W      CBR600

Phil C XJ900 World Champion

Biscuit Eater

Riders that departed from Marysville

Ian P      RF900

Kerrie G      Pillion

Tom S      FZR1000 passed the  
leader going to the falls.

Andi S      TDR250

Ricky B      VFR400 Been on 2  
rides

Steve      RF900

Andrew K      Shadows can't be seen  
in the dark.

Riders that departed from Healesville

Jon R      R100RS Rear Rider

Suzi      Pillion

Rob L      CBR600 Eat the menu

Danny V      BMW F650

Steve B      GTR1000

Those that departed from the pub:

Denise F      GPX250

Dicky      Car

Dee      Car

Those that went to the pub and  
departed from the falls in the car:

Tony S

Gerry E

Stephanie E

Suzy

**NEWS   NEWS   NEWS   NEWS   NEWS   NEWS   NEWS**

Les Leahy has purchased a Yamaha XTZ 660, and is now wondering whether or not to dispose of the Honda Dominator. Stay tuned for more information.

Mark Dennis has finally received his new Suzuki GSXR 750, and says that it was worth the wait for the white and blue colour scheme.



## SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY - WELSHMANS REEF

IAN	RF 900 (LEADER 1)	DANNY V	BMW F650
BEN	ZXR 750 (LEADER 2)	DANNY K	XT 600 (REAR)
JOHN	CBR 600	RENNY	CBR 1000
ROBERT	GSX 750F	STUART	FIREBLADE
LYN	GSXR 750	GERRY	VFR 750
A.F.K.	NX 650	GEOFF	RZ 350
LUKE	XJ 600 SECA		

This was going to be a "swimming" expedition and Saturday had been lovely weather. However, Sunday morning at 8.00 a.m. it didn't look too promising. None the less, I stashed the bathers and a towel and got to the K.B.C.P. By 9:30 the park had filled with the 12 of us all ready to go ..the weather still didn't look too promising but things can change.

Headed off over the Westgate and on through Exford to Bacchus Marsh, (where Luke joined us) Myrniong, Trentham and into Daylesford for morning tea/lunch. The weather was now gorgeous and the ride incident free. Ian was running in his new RF 900 and sticking religiously to 6000 RPM. It's a good pace and the roads were not particularly good for tearing about on. It was explained to me that with all the rain and continual dampness the roads deteriorate fairly quickly. We stayed here for a good while, watching the locals watching us. A number of Ducatis ranging from quite old to the new Superlight cruised through town making a hell of a ruckus but looking fairly impressive.

I was chatting to Lyn who has done roughly 6500 kms on her GSXR and it seems the boys at Melbourne Yamaha failed to mention the upcoming "T" model when she was looking around for her new bike. She is reasonably impressed with the bike regardless but I bet she'll go sick when she sees Marks new monster, his bike that is!

From Daylesford we headed off to Newstead and Welshmans Reef for the turn off to Cairn Curran Res. The weather was now almost "hot" and those of us who are not "BIG GIRLS BLOUSES" took to the water. The participants were myself, Lyn, Stewart and Robert. Once the locals had shown us the best place to swim, that is minus the rocks and three foot deep mud, we had a lovely splash about. The non-participants choosing to stand around in the shade making remarks like "I tried to call Whale Watch but they said they don't do lakes". God Ben, I'm so pleased you could make it.. the conversation gets just a little too intellectual when you're not there. We sat in the sun chatting for an hour and a half, it was most pleasant. Then back to Newstead for petrol and a bite to eat. Ben and Geoff swapped bikes from here, as Ben said the only way to make sure you avoid the dreadful smell of the two stroke is to be sitting on it.

We headed across to Fryerstown, Elphinstone and Mia Mia then down a lovely stretch of road to Lancefield. Ben passed Ian here as did Stuart and myself. On to Romsey where a few of the boys left us to carry on down the main road. Ian asked Ben to lead from here on as his wrists were aching being unused to the grip position of the RF I suppose. We headed off to Kilmore Wallan and Whittlesea for break up. Thanks Ian for a pleasant 300 km trip.

GERRY VFR 750

Early Ride

Sunday 25th Feb

Distance: 250 kms approx.

Weather: Bloody *Hot*

David	YZF 750 Leader	Rob	CBR 600	Rear Rider
Bronwyn	YZF 750	Tony	GPZ 1100	
John	YZF 750	David M	GSXR 750	
Eric	YZF 750	Danny	XT 600	
Craig	YZF 750	Mark	GSXR 750	1st Ride
Ben	ZXR 750	Rykk	NC30	
Andrew	NX 650	Robert	GSX 750	
Ron	CB 400			

David, David Moore and myself left East Bentleigh at 7.30 am. It was nice and cool and I wasn't looking forward to the hot day ahead but I was looking forward to the great roads.

We met everyone at Kangaroo Ground at 8.30 am. Since Tony Schrader whimped out of leading the ride earlier on in the week, David was our leader for the day and Rob volunteered to be rear rider as he was running in his (very flashy) new CBR 600. There was no shortage of the very awesome YZF 750's on the day! A couple of other riders joined us but departed at Yarra Glen when one of them decided to pop a wheelie in front of a policeman, not the done thing!

We headed off to Warburton via Xmas Hills, Yarra Glen, Black Spur, Marysville to the Reefton Spur where we regrouped before heading down. No mishaps today. We stopped at Warburton for morning tea and the usual chatter - bikes and more bikes.

As we departed, (John, Eric and Mark left us), we headed to Yarra Junction, Powelltown then a high speed blast to Noojee, for some people anyway! I was too busy creeping through the gravel that was on the road. Naturally the twisty section of road was scattered with gravel and stones on every corner.

Lunch at Noojee then back to Yarra Junction where we broke up officially.

David W, David M, Rob, Tony, Rykk and myself headed back home via Xmas Hills, including a hot ride through the suburbs.

Bronwyn.

A rumble was heard round the camp  
From out beyond the trees  
Quite indistinct, but surely there  
Blown over on the breeze.  
It slowly grew and filled the air  
Though still so far away  
And made the campers wonder who  
Was coming out their way.  
They'd travelled there from far and near  
To leave city life aside  
Into the densest, roughest bush  
On their rough, tough dirt bike ride.  
There were XR'S, TT'S  
DR'S and a KTM  
DT'S a KDX  
And even a Husky 610.  
Someone caught a fleeting glimpse  
Of something through the bush  
But couldn't quite be sure of what  
Was trying to make the push.  
It was coming up the Madman's Track  
Which was too rocky and too steep  
The track was washed almost away  
Leaving ruts so very deep.  
The motor groaned, gearbox whined  
The diff had had enough  
And a cloud of dust reached the top  
As the vehicle cleared the rough.  
The dust upon the campers fell  
Thick enough to block the view  
But as it cleared and settled down  
There stood a great big BMW.  
The campers stood all shaken up  
Could not believe their eyes  
All that noise and up that track  
On a dirty bike that size.  
The rider smiled a grimy grin  
Picked dirt from 'tween his teeth  
But no-one moved or dared to be  
The first one game to speak.  
"G'day", he said "that track's sure tough  
It really blew my mind  
Oh and by the way, down the track  
There's 10 more BM'S behind".

## DETAILS FOR 1996 ADDRESS LIST

If any of your details need changing on the address list please advise:

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Ph: (H) ..... (B) .....

Bike: Make ..... Model .....

PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

.....

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### A WRITE-UP ON WRITE-UPS!

The following are a few guidelines to keep in mind when doing a write-up for ease of adding up the club points at the end of the year. They may seem obvious to most of you but on counting the club points we noticed just a couple with some details missing which meant trying to pick some brains to remember who went rear rider or sifting through the write-up for the names of attendees etc.

1. Destination and Date of ride on top of the page.
2. A list of the riders and their bikes (surnames if known can actually make life a little easier too).
3. A mention of who was leader and who was rear rider for the day.

Thank you for all who have done write-ups so far throughout the year. For those who shy away from it, give it a go, it gives you a chance to give your account of one a ride, and if quite a few different people do it it gives variety to the mag and means the job is shared more evenly.

Please also endeavour to get your write-up to the editor before the end of the month for publishing in the next mag, you'll also find it easier if you do it while it's still fresh in your mind.

So get those pens ready and we look forward to many more exciting write-ups.

M.T.C.V. EASTER 4 DAY HOLIDAY  
CANBERRA VIA THE COAST

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL :

DEPART HALLAM PICKUP AT 9:00 A.M., FOR GENOA VIA DROUIN, MOE, YALLOURN  
NORTH, HEYFIELD, STRATFORD, BAIRNSDALE, BRUTHEN,  
NOWA NOWA, ORBOST. APPROX. 550 KMS.

ACCOMODATION BOOKED:

GENOA HOTEL: [051] 588 222

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL:

VIA THE COAST TO BATEMANS BAY, THEN INLAND TO CANBERRA. APPROX. 450 KMS.

ACCOMODATION BOOKED:

NATIONAL CAPITOL VILLAGE MOTEL PH: [06] 241 3188

SUNDAY 7TH APRIL:

SIGHT SEEING AROUND CANBERRA, EITHER AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY. HEAD TO ADAMINIBY  
LATE AFTERNOON APPROX 165 KMS.

ACCOMODATION BOOKED:

COUNTRY CLUB PH: 064 54 2470

MONDAY 8TH APRIL:

RETURN TO MELBOURNE VIA CORRYONG. APPROX 550 - 650 KMS DEPENDING ON ROUTE  
TAKEN.

PLEASE NOTIFY ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT I CAN FINALISE ACCOMODATION  
ARRANGEMENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TONY SCHRADER [AH]9459 3293

[BH]9359 7688

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PLEASE BOOK FOR ME:

NAME..... PHONE.....

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL      DOUBLE / SINGLE

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL    DOUBLE / SINGLE

SUNDAY 7TH APRIL      DOUBLE / SINGLE

PRICES FOR ACCOMODATION VARY BUT WILL AVERAGE AT APPROX. \$25 PER PERSON PER  
NIGHT.

TEAR OFF AND RETURN WITH \$20 DEPOSIT BY TUESDAY 19TH MARCH TO SECURE YOUR PLACE  
FOR THE WEEKEND

RETURN TO:

M.T.C.V.  
3 MARY AVENUE  
HEIDELBERG HEIGHTS  
VICTORIA 3081

MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB OF VICTORIA

40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

We invite you to celebrate the 40th birthday of the Touring Club by joining us for a dinner and joining in the celebrations:

On: Saturday 16th September

At 7.30pm

Venue: East Melbourne Hotel (formerly The New Boundary Hotel)  
Cnr Hoddle Street and Hotham Streets  
East Melbourne

Cost: Approx \$15-\$20?  
Depends on whether you order salad or 3 course meal!

**Les Davis will be our MC for the evening sharing many exciting memories of the Club's history.**

We have made a booking for 60 people to have full meals so could you please advise as soon as you can whether you will be attending.

Please ring your Club President on

(H) 857 4017 or  
(Mobile) 019 173 420

to let him know you will be attending this fabulous celebration!

DIANNE WELSFORD  
MTCV TREASURER

