

## Eildon Lookout MK II      Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013



I wasn't surprised to see only our leader Cliff at the Whittlesea servo when I rolled in, considering the abysmal weather forecast. But soon enough Jesvin, Ben and Pina arrived. Then, just as Pina and I were 'flipping a coin' for rear rider duties, Dave Byrne pulled in! As he needed fuel and we were just about to go, Dave would either catch us up, or meet us in Yea.

Although not raining, the roads were wet all the way to Kinglake West and Flowerdale. Turning north to Strath Creek they were a bit dryer so a brisker pace could be set. We proceeded on to Kerrisdale and then the Goulburn Highway to Yea for our first break.

Good to see Dave was already there but having taken the direct route he encountered heavy rain and was quite wet. Not having his waterproofs he decided not to continue on but head home instead. Boy was it cold! About 6° were the estimates. Hot drinks were the unanimous choice!

Having warmed up a tad, it was back on the bikes. Heading towards Seymour we passed an early morning booze bus on the outskirts of Yea! Then it was north to Highlands and Caveat where the low cloud/fog made visibility very difficult. Terip Terip, Gobur and Yarck followed. Then on to the highway for the trip to Alexandra before taking Skyline Road through Fraser National Park to Eildon for fuel and lunch.

It was still very cold, so hot food was in order. While we were enjoying lunch, as if by magic, Marty Thompson appeared! Actually, Ben had texted Marty who is living nearby in Snobs Creek. It was great to see Marty who is having some health issues but could still manage a smile and a few jokes! His dogs were also entertaining, eating all manner of things including bananas! All this eating attracted birds of the feathered kind including a family of magpies, four King Parrots, and a juvenile raucous wattle bird, all vying for our attention and food.

Soon it was time to leave, so across the dam wall, up Jerusalem Creek Road and then up Mount Pinner to the lookout for a photo stop and to enjoy the great view. Next back to Eildon and Fraser National Park, where having already done a 'sighting lap' a bit more enthusiasm could be applied to this great road!

Arriving at Alexandra we headed south on to the back road to Acheron but unfortunately the bridge over the Goulburn River was closed for repairs. Ben and Cliff surveyed the structure to ensure there was no way we could navigate our bikes over the bare beams to the other side. With no possible way, it was back to Alex, then 4 km along the Maroondah Highway to the Whanregarwen Road to Molesworth.

We regrouped in Yea where the police had a man in a dinosaur suit pulled over!

As time was getting on, Cliff decided this would be our final stop for the ride. So on to Junction Hill, Break O'Day, Glenburn, Flowerdale and Kinglake West where I departed, while the others continued on to Whittlesea and home. Thanks to Cliff for a great ride.

**Ian Payne**