



Ian Payne	Honda CBR1000	Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZX10
Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	John Willis	Kawasaki ZX10
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Marc Marais	Kawasaki ZX10
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Bill Simpson	Suzuki GSXR1000
Rod Silver	KTM RC8	Tony Stegmar	Suzuki GSXR1000
Stuart Hosking	Aprilia Tuono V4R	Ron & Julie Johnston	Ford Fiesta
Robert Langer	BMW F700GS	Julie Warden	Mitsubishi Magna

The previous evening we had met at Station Pier to board the Spirit of Tasmania. There were some concerns at the strong winds blowing across the bay may make for a rough journey across Bass Strait but quite the contrary, it was smooth, and with a 'tail' wind, we arrived early. So early we had disembarked prior to 6:30am!

Saying goodbyes to the cars, we departed Devonport and took the River Road to Latrobe and then back roads to Railton and Elizabeth Town. From here the Bass Highway to Deloraine for fuel and coffee, but being so early, the servo wasn't open!

After a leisurely breakfast, we refuelled and embarked on Highland Lakes Road to Golden Valley and the lookout at Great Lake. This is one of the great motorcycling roads of Tassie and we had to ride back down. Sensational!

With the sun now up high enough not to dazzle us, it was ideal riding weather: a little crisp but fine and with the forecast telling us it was to stay this way at least until next Tuesday. Great!

We continued on to Meander, Caveside and Mole Creek. From here another challenging road to the Mount Roland lookout for a regroup where Mark Copeland mentioned he was on reserve and needed fuel urgently! We would continue onto Moina with Mark rolling down the hills to conserve petrol.

We all stopped at Moina to consult the map as to whether it was to be Cradle Mountain or Wilmot for fuel! As Wilmot was closer, Ben went to check and returned saying it would be ideal for lunch and fuel.

As luck would have it, Marc Marais (not Mark Copeland) ran out of fuel 5 or 6 km short of Wilmot. With the siphon not working he looked to be stranded until Stuart came to the rescue with the emergency petrol bladder that he carries in his backpack!

After an extended break it was decided that as Leven Canyon was close by, it was a perfect opportunity for a visit to the spectacular lookout. *[See back cover ...Ed.]*

From Leven Canyon we backtracked to Wilmot, Moina, Daisy Dell and past Cradle Mountain all the way to the Murchison Highway. Next stop was Tullah which would be our base for the next three days!

After settling into our accommodation, some of the group decided to ride the Plimsol Road, but I would wait for tomorrow.

The first day of our Tasmanian adventure had come to a close.

**Ian Payne**