

The Wise Monkey Ride – 21 & 22 March 2015

Once again we had a very enjoyable weekend retreat at Tim and Vonette Meads shack at Moina.



Who wouldn't have a great weekend though - with 2 days of trail riding up and down monstrous hills and tricky trails with logs fallen across, and man fern fronds caressing your face as you rode through the tight spots.

We all arrived lunchtime Saturday and prepared for a ride while our partners set up in the shack around a bottle of Chardonnay. The ride took us down to Lake Cethana via the old Van Diemens Land Company track among the many we rode. When we got to the lake it was totally full and as you can see from the photo below there was no beach to ride along.

Multiple Choice -Tick the correct description for this photo

- a) This is a photo of Nigel Munday completing a crossing of Lake Cethana, on the Aqua Sherco.
- b) This is a photo of the Cethana Ness Monster emerging from the mysterious and dark water of Lake Cethana.
- c) Nigel got lost and took a wrong turn

Or you could just ask....why is Tim Mead missing from this photo? (Read the report and see if you can figure it out!)





Tim Mead clearing the track.

At the bottom of the hill near lake Cethana, Harvey Wynne, Andy Rouse and Ian Gabbedy taking a break.

Harvey did well to negotiate some of the tight tracks on a Yamaha IT175 with a very high 1st gear



We returned back up the long, long, hill to our fuel dump to allow us to go further up the lake. However there was one bike missing at the top of the hill..... The Ossa got a bit hot under the collar and decided it needed a change of coolant. Moina can test your bike out and find any problems.



Radiator Cap off waiting for a coolant top up – rider doesn't look happy!
(Fault eventually traced back to faulty O-ring in the cylinder head)

When all riders eventually arrived at the top of the hill there was an impressive vista of the Cethana lake and valley



On the second half of our ride Tim decided to take us on a new trail..... After we had gone up the same track 3 times I was starting to feel like I was on an episode of F-Troop with Captain Wilton Parmenter (Tim) in charge, with Sergeant Morgan O'Rourke (Nigel) very, very close behind. Corporal Randolph Agarn (Harvey Wynne) had a GPS unit on his bike but could not tell us where we needed to go ! The rest of the platoon following behind. I think we were about to ask the Heckawi tribe for directions, but we couldn't even find Chief Wild Eagle. As fuel was running low I was a bit worried Captain Wilton Parmenter (Tim) might never see his wife Wrangler Jane (Vonette) ever again.

Eventually we followed the smoke signals and made our way to the lake again and then returned to the shack in the fading light.

You may recall last year after running out of fuel and pushing his bike for 5km Nigel managed to beat me home by ½ a metre as he slid sideways into the gateway near the shack, totally locked up, just in front of me. After I had ridden for 30 mins in 1st gear to get there. Well this year the wrong was righted ! I managed to take off with 100m to go and be 1st back to the shack....ha ha.

We had a banquet on Saturday night with all the favourite dishes that the riders and partners provided. A full 3 course banquet with soup, Main and delicious deserts! Jenny Gabbedy brought a delicious casserole in a slow cooker..... only problem was Jenny forgot the 240v cable to plug into it. This was soon sorted by using the wood fire to heat it. A few refreshments were had during the night, so it was just as well we were stopping in the Meads 15 bed shack for the night.

There was a large selection of vinyl records to play and either an 8 Ball competition or some comfortable seats around the large fire place to temp you.



These photo's of the interior of the shack are from a previous year.....

This was followed on Sunday morning with eggs and bacon for breakfast, cooked by Tim Mead, who is an excellent cook.

We all then gathered for another ride on Sunday morning to the dam wall, then up and over the hills behind Lake Gairdner.

The hill from the Dam wall up was a corker, twisty, narrow, rocky, then loose white rock. It demanded all your attention. It proved too much for Harvey's IT175, and was a worthy hill for the TY175 I was riding that day. But the "Little TY175 That Could" made it to the top. The Modern bikes were kept on their toes as well. This is a C+ track I think.



The Dam Wall for Lake Gairdner



Taking in the view at the top of the hill above the Dam Wall at Lake Gairdner

While the bikes were away, The partners went to Cradle mountain and walked a couple of the tracks near the Cradle Mountain Lodge.

After the ride on Sunday morning we polished off the rest of the food from the night before, cleaned up around the shack and headed for home – Talking about what a great weekend it had been and wondering when the next Moina Monkey Ride would be????



I found the best coolant for the Ossa – not in the specifications – but the Ossa ran better and felt it could go over anything afterwards.

Funny Bits from the weekend

- Nigel on his Sherco was following Tim on his Gas Gas so, sooo closely over the weekend, that I think we are expecting the delivery of a Sher-gas mini trials bike (or maybe a Gas-erco?) in the not too distant future.
- The Moina Yeti was not sighted this year – where were you Mick Luscombe?
- Ian Gabbedy was having spark plug issues and decided to go back to the shack after filling up with fuel at the fuel dump. When we finally returned to the shack, Ian was a bit the worse for wear, having been lead astray by the Chardy drinking girls at the shack.....did he really have a spark plug issue?
- Tim is a very smooth driver – a pair of pliers left on his 4wd bulbar were still there after he took it 2km down a track to pick up the fuel cans and returned !

Good News – there will be another BRASS MONKEY RIDE this year on 4 & 5 July as part of the Xmas in Winter for the NW Coast – but all are welcome.

Put it in your calendar today – it will be a great weekend

Report by Ian Pickering

Photo's courtesy of Tim Mead & Andy Rouse