

Not Bored in Borden

13 members on 5 bikes and in 2 cars set off from Gateways departure point on a Friday morning in early November. There were 6 couples and a lone rider: Colin & Allison, Paul & Anita, Cliff & Kaylene, Carl & Helen, Stephen & Christine and Reg, not that he is a loner! The destination was Borden in the Great Southern of Western Australia. A very small town (pop 137) with a great little guest house which was converted from the old Agricultural Hall. The Tavern was just around the corner, what more do you need?

We headed out the Brookton Hwy then cut through the back way to Pingelly for morning tea. Then it was on to Narrogin for a fuel stop before heading to Wagin, the home of the Giant Ram!

A photo shoot was in order before we had a very nice lunch at "The Lamb Shank Café".

It was warming up to 30c when we left Wagin to head south through Katanning to Gnowangerup, for another fuel stop as there was no fuel in Borden. We arrived in Borden about 4.30 and were met by Rose the owner who showed us our abode for the next two nights. There was great a big central area complete with a large kitchen with accommodation for 15.



After a quick clean up and change of clothes, it was off to the Tavern for a few drinks and dinner. Paul raved about his Reef & Beef Pizza. We returned to the guest house where things continued into the night with much laughter and partying.

We were up surprisingly early to have a cooked breakfast prepared by Cliff and a few helpers. Just what is required for a full day's riding. Gary & Wendy rode over from Esperance (a 4 hour ride) to join in on the weekend.

A 10 O'clock coffee before we headed off to see "The Lily" windmill built by Pleun Hitzert. Pleun, a local who was born in Holland. He has built this magnificent replica Dutch windmill himself after researching windmills in Holland, he proceeded to build everything by hand. Even the wooded cogs are crafted by him. He also has accommodation in little Dutch style cottages and a 1944 Dakota DC3 aircraft that you can sleep in. We were there on the 11th of November so stopped for a minute's remembrance silence at 11am.





We then rode down through the Stirling Ranges to Bluff Knoll enjoying the sights of many wildflowers still out. With the weather being warm and clear skies we stopped for a quick photoshoot and then continued down to the Porongurup's and onto Mt Barker. Well nearly all of us... Carl's Vulcan was about 5km's short. Luckily a local lent us a fuel can so we could get him going again pretty quickly.

Lunch at the famous Mt Barker Bakery was up to its usual standard, I had the Moroccan Goat pie for something different. We headed to the liquor store and supermarket for some supplies before a nice ride back to Borden.

A feast fit for a king was prepared by Allison and Cliff with a few helpers. A roast Scotch Fillet was lovingly prepared with all the trimmings including Yorkshire puddings. It was the only time the place was quiet for the whole weekend as everyone enjoyed the food. More merriment continued after dinner with stories and



laughter. Some of us started to get a bit "tired" later on in the night (that Ginger Beer had a fair kick) and retired, who knows when the last ones went to bed.

Sunday morning was a slightly later start. Breakfast got underway with another cook up co-ordinated by Chef Cliff, we even had Paul on a training course of Cooking Toast 101 (he just passed).



Everyone was packed up ready to leave at 10 so we said our goodbyes to Gary & Wendy before they started their ride back to Esperance. We commenced our ride back to Perth the backway (5 Hours) by backtracking through Gnowangerup (fuel stop for Carl & Paul) then northwest to Kojonup where we stopped for a coffee and refuel. The next leg was long, with no fuel until we reach Dwellingup. It took us up on the western side of the Albany Hwy (Moodiarrup, Darkan and Quindanning) a very nice ride but you get a numb bum by the end of it. We stopped for a late Lunch in Dwellingup at 2.30 before all heading to our respective homes.

A great weekend was had by all, One of those weekends where the people, accommodation, food and rides all come together, thanks to everyone pitching in and doing their bit.

Colin Booth

61215 President Ulysses Fremantle Branch