RIDE REPORT

***"2025 AWMEC BUTTERBALL RALLY"* – Saturday 24 October 2025**

Wodonga Services Club (Vets Club)

The 2025 AWMEC Butterball Rally started wonderfully. We enjoyed a superb breakfast at the *Wodonga Services Club* (known as the *Vets' Club*), dining on scrambled eggs, sausages, bacon, baked beans, toast, coffee or tea,. Where could you get a breakfast like this for only $5.00? Answer: nowhere! We extend many thanks to Sandii, Kris and Ethan, for looking after all of us so well.

After breakfast, Club members went outside, and viewed the motorcycles on display. Members voted for motorcycles in the following categories:

- Best British,
- Best European,
- Best America,
- Best Japanese, and,
- Best Overall Motorcycle.

After the voting was completed, 44 motorcycles made their way out of the *Vets' Club* carpark. They were accompanied by two back-up vehicles, plus other support vehicles, and we headed off towards Bundalong, on the shore of Lake Mulwala.

Two rounds of thanks go to those responsible for performing back-up vehicle duties:

- Neil Hilllas and Marion, and,
- John Kirkby.
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We extend many thanks to you, Neil, Marion, and John. Without your efforts, the Rally would have hit big hurdles. During the Rally, there were a couple of motorcycles that needed back-up vehicle transport. We were very fortunate to have two back-up vehicles on hand.

The attraction at Bundalong was our visit to *Indian Engineering Australia*. This mighty little Australian company produced Indian motorcycle parts for the older Indian models, and sends them around the World. In our current era of manufacturing declining in Australia,

how uplifting is it to know that this little company “punches above its weight”, and boosts our country’s financial position.

Older Indians

a brace of Indians

After an education from owner Peter BIRTHISEL, we were pleased to hear from Club Member Roger McGregor. He performs engineering work for *Indian Engineering Australia*. Then Peter Birthisel treated us to the sounds of a couple of their racing motorcycles, one of which was an 8-valve Indian engine, mounted in a Norton frame. It ran on methanol, and when it started, it made the ground shake, and the hairs on most people’s necks stand up!

8-valve Indian engine in a Norton frame

Following the visit, we rode a short distance to the shore of Lake Mulwala. It was a pleasant view.

At that point, the motorcycles diverged into two differenct groups. The more-historic motorcycles went on the *Short Ride* to the *Caffeine N Machine* café at Rutherglen, for lunch.

The remaining motorcycles went on the Long Ride, clockwise around Lake Mulwala, into NSW, and back into Victoria over the John Foord Bridge at Corowa. They also pulled up at the *Caffeine N Machine* café at Rutherglen, for lunch.

Both the Long Ride and the Short Ride returned to the *Vets' Club* via Chiltern, Barnawartha, Cookinburra Road, and Felltimber Creek Road, Pearce Street, and Beechworth Road.

After enjoying "drinks and camaraderie" at the *Vets' Club*, attendees went their separate days before returning to the *Vets' Club* for the *Saturday Night Dinner.*

Again, the *Vets' Club* provided a superbly-priced dinner: $20.00 for two roasts, baked vegetables, mini-pavlovas\ or apple-and-rhubarb-crumble, and coffee or tea. Outstanding!

Trivia quiz

Elsie Romey and her BSA calendar

We had fun during the night with various trivia games. And "big thanks" goes to Elsie Romey, who donated for auction (with proceeds to go to the AWMEC), a limited-edition BSA calendar. "Hooray" to the winning bidder, Sharon Kontista.

Club President Michael Sarroff announced the Winners of the various "Best" motorcycle categories. Club Vice-President Adam Greenwood handed out the trophies for:

- Best British,
- Best European,
- Best America,
- Best Japanese, and,

- Best Overall Motorcycle.

All-in-all, it was a wonderful day, followed by an equally wonderful night.

Many thanks go to Rex Beard, the *Rally Director*, who was ably assisted by fellow *Rally Committee Members*, Don and Bobby Stewart, Joanne Sarroff and Sharon Kontista. A job well done!

John Kontista
AWMEC Butterball Rally Committee member
AWMEC #308