



Wagga Classic Motorcycle Rally 2017 and the Pink Rabbit

By Steve Davey

A group of four Canberra Bultaco enthusiasts, Andrew flowers, John Somerville, Mo Calmins and I decided we would go to the Wagga Classic Motorcycle Rally, staying at Bill Rogers place, a fellow enthusiast. We planned to have five Bultaco Metrallas entered, a rare site these days. We arranged to meet on the road just out of Canberra and drive over in convoy. Bill Lewis and Dave Phillis also attended making their own way there.

I wasn't too sure about the five Metralla plan and had delayed putting in my entry. I have been to Wagga before and new that to make the most of the rides there you were going to need a bigger bike.

I decided to enter my '69 Bonneville and when we met up at Hall to drive to Wagga it remained concealed in the back of my van for a while but it soon became obvious I hadn't brought my Metralla. After some initial disparaging comments about Triumphs I must say I didn't get the 'stick' I expected.

People go to rallies for many reasons, socializing, drinking, trophies, checking out other bikes to name a few - I go for the rides and like a good 'blat' if the opportunity arises, so bringing a 650 rather than a 250 proved to be insightful. Bill who I noted had just acquired a very nice BSA Lightning provided comfortable accommodation and cooked up a wonderful Spanish feast complete with Spanish wine on Friday night. Early Saturday morning a short ride to the rally start at Lake Albert, registration and voting done, plenty of talking and finally it was time for the rides. Bill and I chose the long ride, about 250 k's all up (Bill on his Metralla) there were plenty of marshals plus a lead and tail rider in distinctive vests.

The other guys went on the short ride all bikes running well, John's bike in particular being as reliable as usual. Bill and I got our bikes up to the marshaling area for the long ride early, the lead rider was Steve 'Zack' Powell on a Honda CB750, who announced that he was the lead rider and would be riding at the speed limit, fine by me.

As we headed out of town I noted that I seemed to have ended up right behind the lead rider, the weather was near perfect and we were on some great back roads. Then as 'Zack' ramped up to the 'speed limit' I noticed the other riders drop further back in the rearview mirror, finally disappearing altogether. We passed through small towns such as Mundarlo, crossed the Hume highway near Tumblong and followed the Adelong Road to a fuel stop at Adelong. What a great ride.

The other riders soon arrived so time to refuel, regroup and a bit of a chat. The marshals left first (apart from a few riders who jumped the gun) then we were off. Just when I thought it couldn't get any better it did, a lot better. We headed up into the Green Hills on the Wondalga road, I was behind the lead rider again, the road surface was excellent, no traffic and bend after bend after bend for about 90 km. I really started to appreciate Zack's smooth riding style as we constantly swung from side to side, occasionally on a steep climb out of a bend the Honda would pull ahead a bit and I had to push the Triumph a bit harder to reel him back in. The other riders had fallen behind again so there was just the two of us, my bike hardly ever seemed to be upright, Zack's pink riders vest flapping provocatively in front of me all the way to the lunch stop at Oberne Creek. Felt like a greyhound chasing a pink rabbit!