

2019 TRIUMPH CHALLENGE - ANOTHER GREAT DAY! Bill Revill

Again the MSCA hosted various Triumph organisations all pooling together to have a day's enjoyable motorsport. The Victorian TSOA seem to have really hit on a formula for success here - a day of competition, a touring run, a nice lunch and a circuit run, so there is something to please everyone.

Coupled with the option for people to visit the flag points for a first - hand look at the racing, it again provides a wonderful and fresh approach to pleasing the local members of the TSOA, as well as the rest of the Triumph clubs in Victoria. So many motorsport clubs are gasping for members to attend competition events and wondering why they get few responses - Michael Kip, Ian Cowie, Roger Jeary and the rest of the TSOA Team are actually out there doing something different and reaping the rewards!! Well done!!

The overall story is provided by Michael: But every competitor has a story.

Mine started with "Sabrina" having some problems which needed new body mounts, springs, bushes etc... all the usual 'old car' needs ... and of course it took longer than expected. With the help of Brother Graham, Jim Bushrat and Tony Stonethecrows the job was completed at 1 PM on Saturday. So the car had been off the road for 10 months, and its first run was heading for Winton!!

I had planned to trailer the Triumph up to Winton, so despite the horrible weather predicted, we could sit smugly in the warm of the car all the way. But the week before, we hit a deer on the M1 Motorway.... thus putting the towcar in for repair and awaiting the smile of the panelbeaters. So the



TR had to be driven up and back..... so with Melbourne's coldest weather for the year, widespread snow and, of course, Sabrina has never had sidescreens or a roof, it was a chilly trip up. Cold, yes, but it's so nice driving the old girl... feeling the cutaway doors, the huge steering wheel, the absolute vintage feel of the car, listening to the booming exhaust, monitoring the temperature and oil pressure, using the gears and overdrive to keep it going and acknowledging the friendly waves and photos you always get from passing motorists. it's

always nice to drive a sidescreen Triumph, don't ask why... it just is!

We plunged off on Saturday afternoon: Me driving, Tony and Danute following in a snazzy and heated Commodore. All went well for less than a kilometre: then the engine died and I pulled to the roadside. Ah well. Bonnet up, it was soon evident that the coil lead had fallen off. Why? Who knows, but it was replaced easily and away we went again. The trip up was not too bad: A couple of heavy showers, generally dry but very, very cold. We hit the motel at 6 and headed out for dinner. We were a bit late and missed the main tables, but we still managed to catch up with some old friends.



So we were ready for the 'orrible early Sunday AM start.... out to the track with the usual rush for prepare/unload/numbers/scrutineering/spanner check/get dressed/drivers briefing/coffee.... then ready for a run. SO out we went... and then I realised I'd made a mistake! I had decided to use my old road tyres, given that they had plenty of tread and I expected to drive up in constant rain and to compete on a totally wet track. But the trip up was largely dry and the Sunday track was dry as well. And my poor old Bridgestone's has no grip at all. So we can only do the best we can.... but I was taking it very slowly. And that was the pattern for the next runs... It's always nice to put in a few laps at Winton, but I was using a low RPM limit and not even trying to get to my personal best lap times. But look on the

bright side... spending a Sunday driving around Winton with a whole swag of other Triumphs can never NOT be fun!!!

Lunch was nice to catch up again with friends, but a few other non-car problems got in the way and we had to leave early. So once again we plunged into the icy afternoon, again into sometimes heavy showers and the Southern cold of midwinter.

Home again in the dark, Sabrina had clocked up another almost fault - free 650 km, we'd had a good time meeting friends and had a run at Winton. What a great weekend!! Again thanks to the TSOA organisers, the MSCA and all of the members - TSOA, TSSC, TR-Register - who came out and supported the event. 2020? Can't wait....!