



THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN ADLER RALLY



Canberra, 24 - 26 January 2009

The First Australian Adler Rally, Canberra, January 2009

The First Australian Adler Rally,

Canberra, Australia Day weekend,
24 - 26 January 2009

My personal thoughts - by Don Littleford

Most rally reports you see printed in magazine are usually impersonal stories full of basic facts about, what bikes, how many, when, where and a précis of what happened.

But the Adler rally was more than this, it was more of the why I attended.

Why would a few people who in general had only had contact with each other by email over the internet, travel half way across Australia, towing a bike on a trailer, to meet with people who had only one thing in common, a very rare small two stroke motor bike.

One would have to ask oneself the question, what would this small handful of people with names like Ralph, Fe & Hans, Steve, Tom, David, Gus, Keith and Allen be like face to face and would it be all worth the effort in attending.

This is the why and to answer that I will have to go back over 50 years.

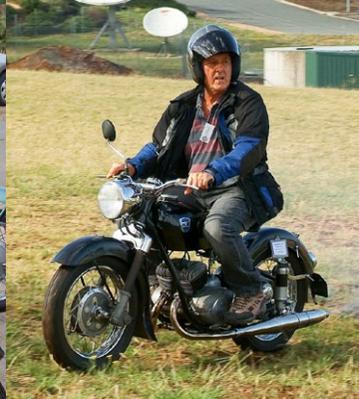
In 1957 I owned a BSA Bantam (the big 150cc engine model) and I had friends who I rode with on the English bikes such as Matchless.

I had seen this little green flying machine on the road which attracted me and I found out it was an Adler MB 250S.

I didn't know anything about Adlers as there wasn't many around and they cost more than the bigger British bikes.

But I had to have it and after finding out it was for sale the Bantam went and I found the love of my life.

When I rode with the mates, no helmet but with a



Keith Wall



David Wearne



Gus Priem

The First Australian Adler Rally, Canberra, January 2009

Brando leather jacket to set the right pose, I was in a different world.

Without knowing it, this is when the Adler was to become part of my life.

In those days it was all about the pleasure of riding, taking risks (not many cars then) and enjoying the freedom that only a bike could give.

Fool that I was, the bike and the mates were even more important than girls.

Time moved on, the Adler was sold and replaced by a car and girls and little did I know at the time but the affection towards this bike was to stay with me.

Move on to 1995 and the bike urge caught up with me, something like second childhood, so I bought a Harley followed by two others.

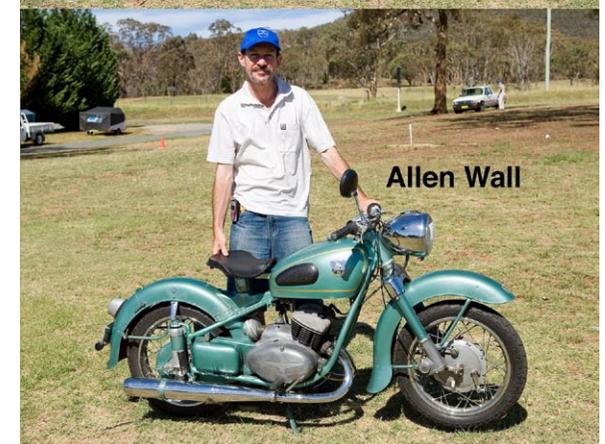
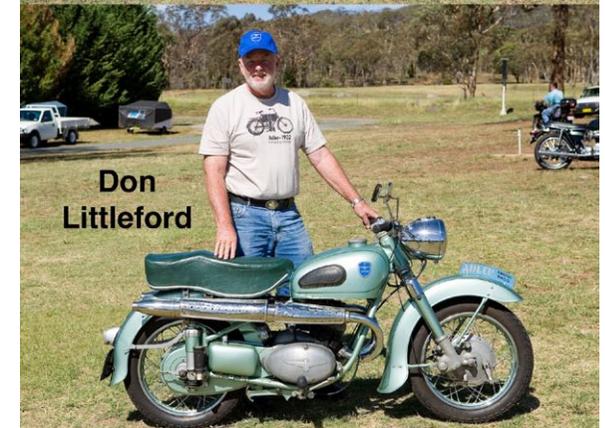
In 2000 I found my second Adler a MB 250 which had just been restored and was ready to go. The riding enjoyment started all over again. I set up a web site and with loads of information from Michael Liebig in Germany and the site became a contact point for Adler owners from many countries.

Fast forward to 2007 and contact was made with Steve Keough from Canberra who also had recently purchased a Adler.

RALLY ROLL CALL:

DON LITTLEFORD	1955 ADLER MB250
STEVE KEOUGH	1956 ADLER MB250
GUS PRIEM	1957 ADLER MOTOCROSS
RALPH ROLES	1956 ADLER MB250
HANS & FE SCHIGULSKI	1954 ADLER MB250
TOM STEVENSON	1958 ADLER SPRINTER
KEITH & ALLEN WALL	1955 ADLER MB250
DAVID WEARNE	1955 ADLER MB250

BERNARD ANDRIVON
PETER HEUZENROEDER



The First Australian Adler Rally, Canberra, January 2009

By this time and other contacts made through the web site, the known population of Adlers in Australia was about 20.

Steve came up with the suggestion that maybe we should all meet and have the first Australian Adler rally.

Steve was associated with the Veteran Vintage Club in Canberra and suggested this could be a good option as they ran a good rally and it was somewhere in the middle between Mackay and Perth where Adlers had been found.

The suggestion met with great enthusiasm and a date for January 2009 was set.

Fast forward again to Friday 23rd January 2009 when I rode into the Carotel Motel, which was the rally site, and met the other owners. My excitement and expectations was well and truly met with this crowd of Adler fanatics. For that is surely what we must be.

This is my why and everyone who attended the rally had a different why to tell of their long trip to Canberra starting from their first contact with the Adler, but all with basically the same reason. To take their pride and joy to a higher level.

To see 8 Adlers and their owners lined up for a group photo was one of the best moments of my over 50 years of riding.

To see the interest that the Adler attracted, even from the older bike owners who may have heard of an Adler but had never seen one, to those who had never even heard of the bike.

Somehow we all felt exclusive and special and we did our best to flaunt it all weekend.

We always parked together, made the two stroke noise and blew smoke at the right time and turned up to create as much attention as possible, even down to the



The First Australian Adler Rally, Canberra, January 2009

blue caps so we would all be recognised in the crowd.

The Adler made its mark at the rally and this was a very satisfying feeling.

The motocrosser of Gus Priem attracted a lot of attention especially when he started it up and that high pitched howl emitted from the design exhaust. The work involved in the restoration was depicted in a photo album which also showed the special tools he designed to work on the motor.

The official rally program included a ride on Saturday of 60km and Sunday 130km. Both runs were completed by lunch and this gave plenty of time to sit around and discuss bikes.

The two rides were completely different with the Saturday ride held in a strong cross wind where it took a lot of care coming out of the cuttings to hold the bike up. Probably one of the only disadvantages of owning a small light bike as they are affected this way.

Sunday was completely different where the ride took us into the hills behind Canberra with the roads all twisty and winding. Here the handling of the Adler came into its own as not many bikes could keep up in the tight curves. A most enjoyable run with the 180 other bikes.

On Saturday afternoon we all sat down and had an Adler talk fest.

A few hours of finding out what everyone else was doing with their bike, what replacement pistons were being used, a lot of restoration information and how to, was discussed.

Steve recorded the lot on his phone and a precise of points raised will be sent out to everyone.

The next rally was discussed and it was decided to hold it in two years time somewhere in NSW that was central to our far flung members.

Probably around the August to November time.



The First Australian Adler Rally, Canberra, January 2009

One thing that struck me was that members of other Clubs invited the Adlers to be part of their rally. We must be a bit of a draw card.

Steve has got the job of finding a rally we can join up with.

One of the big challenges that we all took on was to find the Adlers around Australia and get them to our next rally. We are aiming for 20 bikes, so those out there who know of an Adler somewhere or are doing a bike up, you now have two years and counting, to get there.

On Saturday night at the presentation of trophies Keith Wall received the Adler trophy. Keith bought his bike new in the 50's and it is a credit to him that it is still in such good condition, although he has had to work at it.

On the Monday Steve took Hans and myself for a tour of Canberra.

It was great speeding around the big roundabouts especially as Steve knew the way and we put our trust in him.

We had a slow climb up the mountain to one of the viewing points and this had an impact on the bikes. When we started again we all had fouled plugs but a few quick bursts down the mountain sorted the engines out.

A few people need to be thanked for their efforts in making this a memorable experience.

Steve for thinking that it could happen and asking the question, Ralph for producing the disc which will be updated each year, and the Veteran Vintage Club for a well run rally.

A lot of preparation had gone into the rally and special mention must be made of the disc that Ralph had prepared and handed out to those attending.

The disc is the collective knowledge of Adlers from a few people in Australia and Germany, and includes everything from tuning tips, to engine and clutch rebuilds, to the recorded sound of a RS Adler in full flight around a racing circuit.

The disc is to be updated around December each year

and a fresh copy sent to all Adler owners in Australia

My why for attending the rally has been well and truly answered.

I made some good new friends with a common interest and learnt a lot more about my bike.

Will I be there in two years time?:

There is no need to answer the question as it will be bigger and better so I will be the first to enroll.

- Don Littleford

More photos from the Rally

can be seen online at the following link:

<http://classicbikepics.com/adler/>

and photos of the other bikes at the rally can be seen at the VVCMCC website:

<http://www.vvcmcc.org/pastrallies/ar2009/>

Thanks to all those who came along to the Rally, especially those who travelled long distances to get there, also Bernard Andrivon and Peter Heuzner, who did not enter a motorcycle in the Rally, but came a great distance just to meet the other Adler owners and see all the Adlers together.

Thanks to Don, for supplying the excellent blue Adler caps and cloth badges which made all the Adler owners very recognisable, and to Ralph for compiling a very comprehensive CD-ROM of technical information, photos and specifications, which he handed out to all the Adler owners at the Rally.

The next Australian Adler Rally will be in approx 2 years from now.

It will not be held in Canberra, but somewhere (yet to be decided) in New South Wales, as to keep it reasonably central.

Cheers, and **“keep those Adlers alive!”**

- Steve Keough

