

Tim Emons (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600
John Rousseaux (rear)	Honda CBR1000	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Pierre Ong	Ducati 1098
Peter Jones	Honda CBR1000	Peter Ng	MV Augusta Brutale 1078
Ron Johnston	Honda CBF1000	Rob Langer	Kawasaki ZX1000
Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR954	Marc Marais	Triumph 675

Well it sure was good to be home after my recent overseas trip (*England, Ireland, Scotland ...Ed.*) despite the cold and icy weather that was awaiting me when I returned. After riding on my own for most of the two months away I was itching to go out with the Club and ride with the good men and women of the MSR. The forecast for Sunday initially was not looking good but a quick check of the BOM site on Sunday morning showed mostly sunny and temp of 15 degrees. Good enough, I thought, as I quickly gave the Z1000 the once over and made sure the battery had enough power left to fire her up.

I arrived at Yarra Glen to be greeted by new member Peter on a MV Augusta who was handing out Dainese key rings. I was glad to see Pina back on her own bike again after her recent off in the "Four in One" crash. It was also good to see Peter Jones back riding with the MSR after a short absence. After I said a quick round of hellos to everyone, as well as having an amicable stoush with John over rear riding duties, Tim called the group into a huddle and outlined his planned route for the day as well as warning us to expect patches of mud washed on to the roads from recent rain. We departed Yarra Glen with the sun shining bright and that's how it remained for most of the day.

Chum Creek and Myers Creek roads were damp and wet in the shade but were drying out wherever the sun shone. From Healesville we headed toward Don Valley where I was flashed by an oncoming car but never saw any sign of police. Tim took a little detour around Yarra Junction and came out near Wesburn where we took Tarango Road to the still wet Powelltown Noojee Road. On to Neerim Junction where the roads had fully dried out and the loop through Neerim East saw us arrive at Neerim South for a welcome break and morning tea.

While waiting at the bakery Chris Pointon and I exchanged stories of our experiences at the Isle of Man. After a sandwich and a cup of coffee in the glorious sunshine it was time to shed a few layers of clothing before we headed off again. The familiar roads around Crossover led us to Trafalgar where we turned up Sunny Creek Road. I have never been on this stretch of road before and it was tight and winding and the dirt washed on to the road surface kept me on my toes. Near the end of Sunny Creek Road we turned onto a short section of hard-packed dirt before descending in to Childers which is a one horse town between Trafalgar and Thorpdale.

We refuelled at Mirboo North after 215 kilometres and then regrouped at the bakery for lunch.

After lunch, MV Peter and Pina called it a day and went the direct route home while the remaining group rode south towards Dumbalk and Leongatha. Marc had been riding at a fast pace all day and passed me again as we headed toward the Arawata turnoff and a few more kilometres of dirt before we got onto the Strzelecki Highway and its fabulous twisty corners heading for Warragul.

I can remember turning off at Ellinbank but after that I lost sense of direction till we arrived at Darnum. I thought this was the end of the ride because Paul, Chris and Peter Jones said their cheerios and departed but Tim informed me there was more to come!

We headed off on our final leg zigzagging through some interesting back roads around Drouin and eventually came out near Cardinia to finally breakup at the new BP roadhouse at Officer. Thanks Tim for putting on another great ride with some seldom travelled roads thrown in and to John for rear riding all day.

The weather was so good it came as a welcome surprise. I had left home fully rugged up expecting it to be cool but was toasty warm all day. It's good to win one every now and then, and it was great to be riding with our Club again; there's nothing quite like it anywhere. Bravo MSR!

Rob Langer