

Castlemaine Sunday 14th August , 2011

Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Marc Marais	Kawasaki ZX10
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer (leader)	KTM 990 Adventure
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1
Ben Warden	Honda CBR954	Steve Mudford/Cindy Lee	Suzuki GSXR750
Pina Garasi (rear)	Honda CBR600		<i>9 bikes, 10 people</i>

Taking advantage of the likelihood of fine weather after last weekend's wetness, the above group gathered at Yarra Glen for Rob's ride to Castlemaine. Marc had corrected some previous Triumph problems by wandering in to Peter Stevens and, to his surprise, coming out of the shop with a tasty 2010 model Gen 3 ZX10R. Green as. Even the pillion seat is green. What to do with the Triple? Import motor? Wreck? Sell as is? Not decided yet despite much discussion during the day. Talking of bike colour, Tony's new CBR is black as black. Gothic comes to mind and, as some wit mentioned on the Club's Google Group blog, Tony is trying all the CBR colour options.

Rob did the pre-ride talk. Fairly brief as the group are all long time members. Pina took the rear rider role, I got the write-up gig and Steve and Cindy turned up as we were taking off. Back the way I had come to Yarra Glen through Christmas Hills to the tight and twisty Alma Road with its blind crests. On to Panton Hill and St Andrews and then up the Kinglake road through the National Park, densely populated by the Lycra set. Through Kinglake and down to the more open stuff and the Melba Highway.

At the highway intersection I noticed a tasty Vincent V-twin out for a gallop, seen later coming in to Glenburn. Left at Glenburn to Flowerdale. Some carbon cleaning to Strath Creek and then up the Murchison Gap sweepers, past the Motorcycle complex and in to Broadford for the first stop of the day. How strange to be in sunshine. Fuel for Yamaha and Suzuki, food for most, and talk the talk till Rob gives the one minute call, which is ignored or not heard through the chatter until he rides the KTM on to the footpath to get the message across.

Second leg takes us through Glenaroua, Pyalong and down that piece of low flying road to Lancefield to pick up the start of the Burke and Wills Track to Mia Mia, passing the first flight memorial on what was probably the roughest section of road on the day's ride. Over the interesting old bridge at Redesdale and through Sutton Grange to Faraday and its famous school (hostage incident). We take the back road to Chewton. The ride became part of a Ulysses group along here so pace was adjusted to suit.

In to the Chewton Shell for more fuel and maybe just in time for certain Hondas. I noticed Paul running at fuel-conservation speed prior to the stop; I believe he had one litre left at the refuel. Noted at the fuel stop a vintage Sunbeam, polished aluminium bonnet hiding some sort of monster engine judging by the length of its cast alloy sump that could be seen under the chassis. Ben commented on the large exhaust system on the side of the car. Paul's theory that it had an aircraft engine confirmed by the sound as it roared off.

Lunch in the sun at Castlemaine, more feisty talk-the-talk with all sorts of subjects covered including Marc noting that the lower riding position of the ZX10 was showing up some muscles he did not recall protesting on the more upright 675. The world's problems solved as usual, a great way to while away a very pleasant break.

Time to go, so back to Chewton and down to Fryerstown and Vaughn over more blind crests to Guildford picking up Limestone Road to Newstead and the Hepburn Springs road. What a great

section of sportsbike heaven, livened up by a Buell and Harley running together at a very unusual rate for the American V- twins.

Left turn at Hepburn Springs and through the tight stuff to the turn off to Glenlyon. Low flying to the Springhill to Tylden section, through East Trentham and in to Woodend for the final break and photo shoot. And the odd extra cake. Some advice from Misho on using carbon fibre look-a-like vinyl to cover up the original R1 red on the fuel tank that is now a different tone to the red on the Chinese fairings recently fitted.

Around the back of Mount Macedon, on to Straws Lane, past an oncoming police 4x4 who flashed but did not do the U-turn and chase thing. Through Hesket, around Cameron's Corner, and down through Kerrie. I left the ride here so the Wildwood Road section to the finish is one of life's many mysteries. I will assume all arrived OK.

Thanks to Rob for a great variation on the normal route to Castlemaine, and to Pina for rear riding. Hope all enjoyed the day as much as I did.

Geoff Jones R1 (slightly tarted up)