

## Highlands      Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2011

Paul Southwell (leader)	Honda CBR1000	David Djuric (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Kawasaki ZZR1100
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZX10
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Marc Marais	Kawasaki ZX10
Ian Payne (rear)	Honda CBR1000	Aiden Baker (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Kawasaki ER-6
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	Graeme Tattersall	Yamaha R1
Ron Johnston	Honda CBF1000	Paul Grant (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	BMW S1000RR
Ian Handforth	Honda XL1000	Peter Fisher	BMW S1000RR
Craig Morley	Honda VTR1000SPII	Mark Rigsby	Suzuki GSXR1000
Ben Warden	Honda CBR954	Rob Jones	Suzuki GSXR1000
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Rob Langer	KTM 990 Adventure

For the last three weeks I have been laid low with a severe cold. I have tried most pharmacy products with no improvement. I even tried some 'Chinese herbal' medicine (it had the taste and consistency of something that had oozed out of a compost heap) but still no improvement. Even so, I was determined to get out riding.

At Whittlesea there was a great turnout of 20 bikes with three first-timers. Paul gave a comprehensive rundown of the ride, I volunteered for rear riding and we were away heading towards Flowerdale. The new guys were sticking together and riding at the speed limit, so it was a leisurely run to the first intersection.

We continued on to Strath Creek and Broadford, then Glenaroua. The pace picked up slightly through here, perhaps due to the more 'open' countryside that allowed the riders to see where the road went! We eventually passed Pyalong and arrived at Lancefield for petrol and morning smoko.

After speaking to the newbies it appeared they were all enjoying the ride and were quite happy maintaining their current pace.

After Lancefield, we headed towards Redesdale but detoured to Baynton and Emu Flat. At the end of the dirt Damir had stopped and was checking his front wheel. Seemed he didn't notice the 'gravel road' sign and hit a large pothole at speed! The loud metallic 'crunch' convinced him he had damaged the front rim but no damage was visible; more likely just bottomed out the suspension.

Just after we get going again, Misho indicated for us to slow down. A stray cow was roaming about.

We continued on to Emu Flat and Pyalong, then backtracked to Glenaroua and finally the Seymour burger bar for lunch. As the food is freshly cooked, it can be a bit of a wait but it's well worth it!

After the leisurely lunch we headed off for Highlands without Craig, who had other plans. This wonderful undulating road climbs slowly into the 'Switzerland Ranges' then descends to Ghin Ghin and the Goulburn Valley highway. We continued on to Yea and then the quick run to Kinglake West where the ride finished.

Thanks to Paul for a very enjoyable day where unfortunately all I could think about was when's the next stop so I can blow my nose!

**Ian Payne**