

Highlands MK II Sunday 21st August , 2011

Paul Southwell (leader)	Honda CBR1000	David Djuric (1 st 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 st ride)	Kawasaki ER-6
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	Graeme Tattersall	Yamaha R1
Ron Johnston	Honda CBF1000	Paul Grant (1 st 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

I wanted to go on a ride with the Club for a long time but it had not worked out. But this ride looked promising: we would depart from Whittlesea and finish at Kinglake West, close to home. The weather early in the week did not look good but as the weekend drew closer the report improved greatly.

It has been a while since I have ridden with the Club and a check of my riding log book said 22/8/2008 – time does fly. Thankfully, some of the older hands remembered me. I arrived and filled up with petrol with time to spare. I found Paul (leader) and had a chat and offered to be rear rider. I also had a chat with Ben.

The weather was great so off we went up the hill to Kinglake West with Ian Payne as rear rider. I passed a bike going up the hill with most of the crew passing me before Kinglake West. Then on to Flowerdale, Strath Creek and then left up the hill and on to Broadford. Then on to Pyalong with our new man on the ZZR1100 for company all the way to Lancefield.

After finishing morning tea it was on the road again back to Pyalong via different roads. I caught up with Pina on the dirt section and stayed behind her for quite a while. She pointed out some dodgy bits of road. Thanks Pina.

Seymour came and lunch followed. There must have been something in the food as everyone seemed to be on a mission after lunch when the pace lifted dramatically. I didn't see the ZZR1100 again, only Ian in my rear view mirror.

Coming down the hill from Highlands we came up behind two riders behind a ute. As we got to the Yea road I see the ZZR1100 again and I thought "I'm back in action!" But it wasn't to be. Ian pulled me over to say he was leaving the ride and asked me to be rear rider. There was no hope of catching up now so it was a solo trip back to Kinglake West and the finish.

It was good to see the old familiar faces again. I just hope it's not another three years before my next ride with the MSR. Thanks to Paul and Ian leading and rear riding.

Ian Handforth