

Walhalla MK II Sunday 28th August, 2011

Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Matt Considine (1 st ride)	Honda CBR600
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Marc Marais (leader)	Kawasaki ZX10
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	John Willis	Kawasaki Z1000
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Jason Peters	Kawasaki ZX9
Ian Payne	Honda CBR1000	Roman Biaroza	Kawasaki GPx250
John Rousseaux (rear)	Honda CBR1000	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Nigel Oman (2 nd ride)	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford/Cindy Lee	Suzuki GSXR750
Ron Johnston	Honda CBF1000	Paul Sorrenson	Suzuki SV650
David Sansom (1 st ride)	Honda VTR1000	Dave Chisma	BMW F800ST
Ben Warden	Honda CBR954	Rob Langer	KTM 990 Adventure

What a wonderful first ride Marc Marias took the MSR Club on. True to his Leo star sign, he displayed excellent leadership qualities: control, all went smoothly, no mishaps, no incidents, and lots of happy riders.

The President was there as were the regulars, some irregulars and three new well-mannered riders. What more could you want on a sunny autumn day in Melbourne? Oh yes, I know: characters! Yes, we had them too, one wickedly funny John Rousseaux as my dedicated rear rider – ever so patient with intrepid me, and Jason (green Kawasaki) acting like an honorary Balkan boy, so kindly offering his Kawasaki to Damir to try out, just as it was running out of petrol. Damir didn't know about the manual reserve knob and had a moment of distress towards the end of the ride, much to our amusement.

The only thing missing for the day was our darling Cliffy and... my yeehah factor. Sorry to say, I thought I had it in my grasp last week, but alas, the fear factor presented itself. When I watch everyone having the best fun, I feel so happy for you. I just wish I could absorb a little confidence from each of you so I can run with the pack again. It's a bit lonely and a little sad at the back.

All my gratitude to John Rousseaux for enduring this relearning process with patience and encouragement. And to my fellow riders who always sense when I need a little support; it means a lot to me. Thank you so much.

Pina Garasi