

## Castlemaine      Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Willem Vandeveld (rear)	Honda ST1300	Robert Langer	KTM 990
Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Tony Ripepi (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	KTM 990
Chris Bouwmeester	Honda CBR1000	Gordon Heydon	Kawasaki Zx6R
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ER6N
Matt Considine (3 <sup>rd</sup> ride)	Honda CBR600	Damian Jones	Yamaha R1
Ian Payne	Kawasaki ZX1000	Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1
Roland Anthony (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Kawasaki ZX1000	Matt Archer (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Triumph 1050
Rob Anderson	Harley 97 Fatboy	Ed Simonis	MotoGuzi 1200S
& Trish O'Connor			<i>16 bikes, 17 people</i>

Gisborne to Yarra Glen is a warm up for the ride proper for me. After the tight Alma Road and the now speed restricted Christmas Hills road in company with Ed, it was a scene of concern as we came upon Nigel after his roo incident, though not aware at the time of who was down. There were bits of CBR all over the place. Nice to see Nigel on the Club Facebook later in the week. Damian filled us in with the crash details at the Yarra Glen ride start.

Rob did the pre-ride talk which, with three first time riders, adds a bit of an edge to the proceedings, making sure the details of corner marking etc are covered. Willem got the rear ride spot, as he often does, and, after a brief pause, I got the write up gig.

We got away around 10.30am and headed towards the Nigel crash scene which by now had multiple police units, ambulance and Nigel on a stretcher with the pain medication dispenser doing its thing. The air ambulance chopper was about to land as we waited on the traffic controllers to let us proceed.

On to Alma Road for the short connection to the Kinglake Road. Then through Panton Hills to St Andrews and on to the tight run with the many cyclists who have made this section of road their own it seems. In to Kinglake and on to the tasty section to Glenburn for the run to Break O Day and Flowerdale for that blast to Strath Creek.

Ian, on Rob's ZX1000, was leaving an interesting scent trail which reminded me of castor-based smells from my two-stroke past. It seems it's the Shell high octane fuel that has a distinct odour. Gone later, once the fuel was replaced with less exotic stuff. Fuel use now climbing, although Ben's CBR, as always, is running on the smell of an oily rag.

Heading for Broadford, Roland had the pleasure of a chat with a motorcycle policeman on the section after the Murchison Gap. Ben came upon the long arm of the law at high lean angle and a surprise for both. May have got the tension level up as I got a finger waved at the R1 as I pulled out from behind a van, just as I passed Roland, BMW with lights flashing. Did he mean pull over? Maybe, but I got into the torques and went, expecting to have a visit of the costly kind in Broadford where fuel and first break were scheduled.

Roland got a one pointer and fine. Maybe the twisty nature of this piece of road with short straights limited the radar use a touch. *[Maybe not; it was knocked down from 127 to 107 ...Ed.]* Rob's KTM got a mention in the exchange, Roland reported. There was also an ambulance with lights flashing travelling in the same direction as the policeman so there may be a reason we did not get further attention.

Rob and Trish left the ride here; the Harley may be not the best tool for these sort of roads and, as was suggested, "things will only get faster from here."

We continued out of Broadford via the back streets to Glenarua and Pyalong, then down to Lancefield and up the Burke and Wills Track, through Pastoria to the outskirts of Kyneton and on to the Metcalfe road. Passing a restored Austin 7 Sports, all polished aluminium and British Racing green, I had to give the couple a thumbs up.

Through Metcalfe and Elphinstone and the twisties into Chewton for fuel and lunch at Castlemaine.

Bikes on the footpath and some eye candy strolling past; nice. Talk the talk as we do, then back to Chewton to pick up the twists and crests to Fryerstown and Guildford. Through Shepherds Flat and into Hepburn Springs, avoiding Daylesford and Trentham, to lob at the Woodend bakery.

Photo shoot featuring Roland's infringement notice – see front cover. I take the rear ride role for the run to the finish at Tulla. Willem headed home to Sunbury. Ed also left here. Roland did have a small off at start of Wildwood Road, minor cosmetic the verdict. Quite a day for first timer Roland.

Ice cream for some under the landing planes. The ride breaks up.

Thanks Rob - great roads strung together well; Willem, for the rear ride role, and to all who came.

**Geoff Jones**