

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZZR1100
Ian Payne	Honda CBR1000	Gordon Heydon	Kawasaki ZX6R
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	Max Taylor (1 st ride)	BMW R1150 GS
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Stewart Hosking (1 st ride)	Aprilia V4 R Tuono
Ron Johnston	Honda CBF1000	Phil Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Bill Simpson (leader)	Suzuki GSXR1000
Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10	Steve Mudford/Cindy Lee	Suzuki GSXR750
Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10	Dave Bertuch/Jenny Sammons	Moto Guzi Brevia
Jason Wilson	Kawasaki ZX9		<i>19 bikes, 20 people</i>

Hi all! I have been asked to write an article about the Simpson via GOR ride, so I'll give it a go.

I left home for the MSR meeting point at the Westgate Shell service station about 8.45am to get there at 9.15am with a leaving time of 9.30am. After the usual group discussion, Ben lead us over the Westgate Bridge out-bound towards Geelong. The weather was looking a bit iffy when we turned off the freeway at Little River. The plan was to head the back way to Batesford and Moriac for morning tea and to meet up with the other MSR riders, including leader Bill.

A couple of kilometres north of Lara there was an accident involving two MSR riders and a car turning right travelling in the same direction. Andrew on the ZX10 and Gordon on the ZX6 crashed into each other. Both bikes are probably a write-off. Luckily, both riders survived with minimal injuries, to ride another day. I have been asked not to go into too much detail for insurance reasons. Suffice to say I was right behind when it happened and it was like an explosion of fairing parts.

We caught up with the other MSR guys at Moriac for morning tea. As we set off the lead rider Bill was immediately pulled over by police for speeding just on the edge of town, still in a 60 zone. The ride kept going, and with 18 bikes available for corner marking, Ben assumed the lead. We continued riding towards Apollo Bay passing through Deans Marsh and back roads to the Forest twisties where the roads were wet and slippery. We took it easy.

We got all the way to Apollo Bay before Bill caught us. He had earned three demerit points and his wallet was lightened by a few hundred dollars. It could have been worse as the reading was knocked down from an uncomfortable number.

After fuelling up we headed off to Lavers Hill. This is a great bit of road but I didn't go silly. We stopped at the little shop and had lunch. I had the best pie I've ever had.

The weather was still a bit wet. After the short break we headed off to Princetown and then Simpson. I gave the `busa a bit of throttle through this section of road heading in to Simpson. It is a great road with some fast stuff. I thought a cop car passed us going the other way, so Bill and I opened it up to try and put some distance between us and him. False alarm, but good fun.

We stopped at Simpson for a splash of fuel but I didn't need any till the next stop. The `busa goes a long way with its big fuel big tank. We formed up for the group photo with Bill telling jokes.

The weather was better now as we headed to the Shoe Tree for a look at this very strange sight. Then on to Carlisle River and Barongarook, stopping at Deans Marsh for coffees and cakes and Billy's "Lucky, Lucky, Lucky" joke. After the break we headed to Moriac and Batesford servo to finish the ride after another 86 km of riding.

Thanks for another great days ride; can't wait for the next one.

Phillip Hotschilt

Editor's notes from Simpson ride:

- Misho, Pina and Damir caught up with us at the crash site – missed the start
- Mark Copeland caught us at Apollo Bay – missed the start
- Steve and Cindy caught us at Apollo Bay/Lavers Hill – missed the start
- Damir left us at Apollo Bay
- At Moriac were leader Bill Simpson, and first timers Dave and Jenny, and Max
- Cliff Peters first ride since The Crash; welcome back Cliffy
- Took 5 calls to get on to someone in Geelong South Towing to collect the bikes
- Andrew rang Ben at Batesford at end of ride to say both he and Gordon had been checked out at The Alfred Hospital and no injuries other than bruising and a sprained ankle
- Ride length 475 km from West Gate Shell Servo to Batesford
- New riders stayed at Deans Marsh while rest of ride continued on to Batesford
- 5 or 6 of us rode together down Geelong Road back to Melbourne