



## Meredith

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10
Simon Wastney (rear)	Honda VFR800	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Bill Kennedy	Kawasaki Z750
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Gordon Heydon	Kawasaki ZX6
Michael Macrae (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Honda CBR600	Ron Johnston	Suzuki GSF1250
Sam Pride (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	BMW S1000RR	Bill Simpson (leader)	Suzuki GSXR1000
Dave Byrne (2 <sup>nd</sup> ride)	Husqvarna 900	Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1

Eager expectation. That's what I felt on the morning of the ride. The day was overcast with the threat of hail in Melbourne and a cool 10C forecast for part of the ride. Finding the meeting point was a challenge, there being no Shell service station in Point Cook. Thanks to Ern Reeders on the Club's Facebook page and some Google-fu prowess I took a punt on the meeting point being close to Point Cook Road on the Westgate Freeway. Success! I see a group of bikes as I pull into the servo and fill up to the very top of the tank. If you remember my last ride report, I'm now wise to this requirement. A quick briefing from Ben, some warnings about the exit path and the dangerous double roundabout which makes corner marking an art form, and we're off to meet Bill and Cliff in Anakie.

Scooting down the back roads to Anakie, I spy the solitary You Yangs recumbent on the plain. This is an area I know well so I'm intrigued and full of expectation of what routes are in store for us today, this being my first Meredith ride with MSR. I'm always suitably impressed by riding with the Club, how even somewhere I think I know well delivers new roads.

At Anakie Bill provides a thorough briefing complete with printed notes. Sure enough, within minutes of leaving we're taking a turn off the main road down an innocent looking track. Then the fun begins: ascending a few tight twisties through the gum trees and I'm off into the unknown.

During the briefing Bill mentioned that we might traverse the same roads, but in different directions. I counted one particular intersection at least three times but was only alerted to this by an ominous looking car with tinted windows parked adjacent to the bitumen. On the first pass I considered it to be a *frumious Bandersnatch*, after which I couldn't get lines from Lewis Carroll's *The Jabberwocky* out of my head for quite some time. After loops within loops through Maude and Steiglitz, we arrived at Meredith for a quick break, shunning fuel, coffee, and a first breakfast for some.

Our second leg took us through She Oaks, Maude, Lethbridge, Teasdale, and Shelford.



With a quickening pace on some excellent fast sweepers, we arrive at Inverleigh for lunch. Munching on lunch whilst ruminating on the generally good state of the roads with the surprisingly decent weather, we spy a real life *Bandersnatch*. This took the form of Vic's Finest in a highway patrol car who'd stopped for a bio-break and then headed off down a side road.

The warm sunshine abated and gathering dark grey clouds threatened. On with the wets and we take off on the next leg.

From Inverleigh we track through Teasdale again, but in a different direction (!), light rain making the going more interesting. We make a mid-afternoon pit stop at Bill's house in Bannockburn where plates of dark and milk chocolate biscuits and assorted nibbles are conjured up, tea and coffee proffered and the man cave is opened up. Much admiration is displayed for Bill's unique gas cylinder conversions. Then we're off again.

Through Maude for the second or third time, again in a different direction, we wend our way through to the Anakie Junction, then across Staughton Vale and back towards Little River to finally land at the Werribee Caltex.

Highlight of the ride? Bill motioning and pointing to his tank within sight of the finish line. What shortly follows in a blur of motion is the fastest appearance of a length of plastic tubing, an empty drink bottle and an adroit syphon. In the time it took me to remove my wets, rear rider Simon is looking at me as the rest of the crew is astride their mounts and taking off.

Just up the road a small boy is waving, with a proud mum and dad, admiring our departure. I cheerily wave as I pass and hit the rev limiter for good measure. At the Werribee Caltex Ben is overheard saying that his fuel economy is now so good that he carried enough fuel for two bikes.

Many thanks to Bill for his hospitality and especially the dark chocolate biscuits. Until next time.

**Andrew "Arc" Newbury**