



Nagambie

Sunday 15th July, 2012

Willem Vandeveld (rear)	Honda ST1100	Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ZX10
Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer	BMW R100
Josh Letson (3 rd ride)	Honda CBR1000	Geof Dick	BMW K100
Simon Wastney	Honda VFR800	Ron Johnston	Suzuki GSX1250
Jesvin George	Honda CBR600		<i>15 bikes, 15 people</i>

I have been looking forward to doing some riding because I haven't done a lot since the accident. Although I have bought a bike, it hasn't seen much daylight, though I managed to do a thousand kilometres on it before coming on a Club ride. This morning Cliff called in on the way out to Yarra Glen, having ridden up from Geelong. Julie made him a warming cuppa while I got ready.

Time to go, so we head off to Yarra Glen, a few riders there already. The tank is a pig of a thing to put the last couple of litres in. Annoying, because it usually spills out. It's going to take a bit to master it.

A good crew has turned up, even if it is cold. So long as it doesn't rain. Ben does the cards, gives the usual spiel about what is going to happen, the route, first aid, write up, corner marking system, Willem rear rider. Time to go. I stay down the back of the pack to start with. Christmas Hills, then Clintons Road, a nice tight and twisty little track. This road takes you to and past the entrance to the Rob Roy Hill Climb. I went there many years ago; I should go back and check it out. Pina was taking it very quietly through here as well.

About half way through we came across a horse riding event. It looked well patronised. If you think motorcycles cost a lot of money to maintain, horses are much more expensive. Just ask Peter Jones.

On to St Andrews where the market is in full swing. Up to Kinglake, a right turn at the pub and we take the road to Glenburn. I take it easy as the road can be greasy.

Back on to the highway and we head for Glenburn where we left turn where the pub used to be. I had sudden thoughts about the road. I had been through here a few weeks earlier and the council had been doing road works and it was wet clay which made a mess of the bike. But as luck would

have it, the road had been sealed, but still a mess! Next the road to Flowerdale and Broadford which I love.

The servo at Broadford is closed. Servos are becoming scarce. A few people needed fuel because they didn't fill up at the start.

A group of Ulysses riders arrived and some of them were in the same predicament as us, the options for fuel being Kilmore or Seymour, Kilmore being the closer. Some MSR members knew some of the Ulysses people and it was good to catch up.

My phone rang and it was Cliff saying he was in Seymour and that he would see us there. He said something about nearly out of fuel. Hmm. I didn't even know he was missing.

Soon it was time to move on, so we took the back way out of Broadford to Sugarloaf Creek, Hilldene and into Seymour for fuel.

After all the excitement of bikes running low on fuel, we head back towards the Hume Freeway, turning right just before and following the river through to Northwood and Mitchellstown. There was an almighty bang mid-corner among the trees in the twisty bits. I nearly got flung off the bike, the mirrors springing backwards. I wondered what caused such a bad hit, guessing tree roots or worse across the road, hiding amongst the shadows. Everyone else hit the bump as well.

Near Nagambie we rejoined the highway via a detour where they are putting in a bridge over the freeway. Nearby was an old house with sheds and lots of old machinery. I spotted a car with wooden spoke wheels on it, which would put it in the 1920s. A bit further on there was an old ute, also with wooden spoke wheels which looked like it may still be in working order. There were a lot of other interesting things, but without stopping and having a good look, who could tell.

Back on the highway and on to Nagambie. At first I wondered where we were, because I haven't been up here for a very long time. Everything looked different with the lake full and the caravan park at the end of the lake full of buildings.



Just out of Nagambie we turned off for the Kirwans Bridge which I have heard a lot about. The locals want it replaced. So I was keen to see it for myself. Surprise, surprise, the local council and

State Government should hang their heads in shame: that bridge, if you can call it that, is stuffed. I am surprised that the old thing is still standing. It looks like it was originally a two lane bridge, now down to one with three passing bays. I couldn't believe my eyes how rotten the bridge is. I am surprised the locals are still allowed to use it, but it is their only means across the river without doing a 30 km detour round the other way. It was certainly a bit hairy riding across it and I was glad to get to the other side.

On to the Goulburn Weir, but not before a U-turn, the location well disguised and completely unsignposted. It is the first time I have been here and I don't know its history, but the water is obviously used for irrigation. There is a mixture of old and new structure, with plenty of water backed up behind the dam wall, which is good to see.

We stayed for about half hour, took a group photo, before heading off to Heathcote for lunch. On the way back we bypassed Kirwan's Bridge picking up the Heathcote/Nagambie road passing through Greytown and Costerfield. I don't recall having travelled on that road before either. I thought it was very good - fast and flowing. There must have been some gold mining up here in the early days because I spotted an old building that looked mining related.

In Heathcote, people were everywhere, the bakery very busy. Too much food, too many choices. I settled for a pie and hedgehog. Pie, because the weather was cold and I needed warming up, hedgehog for the sugar fix. That's the theory. Washed it all down with a coffee.



We had a visit from Mr Plod who asked to speak to Clifford Peters. A car driver had reported him in regards to overtaking. It was denied of course, and with Cliff's 15 year clean record (!), who could argue.

Willem was heading home part way on the next leg, so Ben asked me to be rear rider. I obliged and soon we were on our merry way back down the highway to Tallarook before branching off to Emu Flat, then across to Pyalong and down to Lancefield. The roads were now slightly wet.

At Lancefield, Andrew on the ZX10, said he was low on fuel. I suggested he fill up rather than run out down the road. Since he installed the Power Commander and had the motor re-mapped, the bike has been sucking gas at a shocking rate. His once reasonable fuel consumption has gone through the roof. The joys of power and performance. Not.

We held the ride up, but soon we were back into it. Through Romsey to Wallan where the ride finished. The final cards were drawn. My hand was looking good, but Misho won the day. Thanks to Ben for leading, Willem for half the rear riding, reasonable weather, good company and no incidents.

Aiden Baker	K ♦	10 ♣	9 ♥	8 ♦	A ♦	King high
Andrew Newbury	A ♣	J ♦	K ♣	8 ♦	Q ♣	Ace high
Ben Warden	J ♠	J ♣	K ♠	9 ♠	A ♦	1 PAIR
Cliff Peters	A ♣	A ♠	K ♣	K ♠	9 ♥	2 PAIR
Geof Dick	Q ♠	8 ♥	9 ♥	A ♦	10 ♣	1 PAIR
Jesvin George	10 ♦	10 ♣	Q ♣	A ♠	9 ♣	1 PAIR
Josh Letson	Q ♠	Q ♣	10 ♠	A ♥	9 ♣	1 PAIR
Misho Zrakic	10 ♠	10 ♥	10 ♦	8 ♥	K ♠	3 of a KIND
Paul Southwell	8 ♥	8 ♣	10 ♥	A ♦	J ♠	1 PAIR
Pina Garasi	J ♥	A ♠	K ♦	10 ♠	9 ♠	Ace high
Rob Langer	10 ♦	9 ♥	8 ♥	Q ♠	K ♠	King high
Ron Johnston	Q ♣	Q ♦	8 ♠	8 ♣	J ♦	2 PAIR
Simon Wastney	J ♥	J ♣	10 ♣	Q ♣	K ♠	1 PAIR
Tony Stegmar	A ♣	A ♠	8 ♠	J ♣	9 ♥	1 PAIR
Willem Vandeveld	9 ♦	9 ♥	8 ♥	8 ♣	A ♥	2 PAIR

Ron Johnston

