

Melbourne Cup Weekend Day Two
Sunday 4th November 2012



Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Ben Fuller	Suzuki Hayabusa
Matt Considine	Honda CBR1000	Ron Johnston	Suzuki GSX1250F
Dave Byrne	Honda CBR1000	Rob Jones	Suzuki GSXR1000
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Darryn Hutchinson	Suzuki GSXR1000
Dave Ward	Honda CBR1000	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Nigel Oman	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Ian Payne (rear)	Honda CBR1000	Craig Davidson	Suzuki GSXR750
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10
Misho Zrakic & Pina Garasi	Honda CBR1000	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZX10
Mark Rhodes	Honda CBR1000	Robert Langer	Kawasaki ZX10
Mitar Marescuk	Honda CB1000	Marc Marais	Kawasaki ZX10
Graeme Tattersall	Yamaha R1	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Damian Jones	Yamaha R1	John Willis	Kawasaki ZX1000
Ross McCurdy	Yamaha R1	Michael Henriksen	BMW R1200
Pierre Ong	Aprilia RSV4	Rod Merrett	BMW S1000RR
Cindy Lee	Triumph 675	Peter Fisher	BMW S1000RR

This was the second day of the long weekend, but it was actually my first day of riding having driven up in the van in the company of Dave Ward and Paul Southwell on Saturday.

We left Corryong for the 33 km stint to Khancoban (or as Rob Jones nicknamed it, Kurt Cobain!) After getting fuel we head around to the coffee shop where we are greeted by a magnificent site of 32 bikes! Wow, what a sensational turnout. The full contingent of riders was ready for today's ride.

Ben gave a rundown on the day and I nominated for rear rider and we were away, first backtracking a little before picking up the climb to Cabramurra. This section can be quite intimidating especially

through the cuttings but we make good time. After a short regroup we were away onto the Elliot Way and then down to Sue City (the southern extremity of the Talbingo Reservoir) for a photo stop.

From here the road opens out but some of the small bridges have deceptively sharp turns on the exit and in previous years they have caught out some of our group who have made use of the slip road! I find the fast section through the State Forest a little daunting as you are always on the lookout for native animals ready to cross the road.

We cruised into Tumbarumba for fuel and a regroup before tackling one of the great motorcycling roads of the area, the Rosewood Road. This logging road is wide and smooth, although some bumps are beginning to appear but the sensational open sweepers and tighter bends make up for these. From here it was a short run into Tumut for fuel and lunch.

After lunch, Ben had planned an interesting 140km loop for those that wanted! Seventeen riders took up the offer with the rest opting to either stay in Tumut for a leisurely lunch or head directly back to Corryong for Beer O'clock. The route included a variety of different roads and went via Bondo, Tumorama, and Adjungbilly, then skirted close to Gundagai where one section of road is like riding a roller coaster with a set of short sharp crests that really punish the suspension. We then returned to Tumut for fuel.

When we got back to Tumut, Michael Henriksen had arrived after getting his BMW running. Michael had broken a throttle cable on the way up from Melbourne the previous day and with no spares available had bastardised the cable and twist grip to get the bike mobile. Only problem was the short cable would not close the throttle if he exceeded 100 km/h! So it made for an 'interesting' if not slow ride.

After regrouping, it was time to head for home. Firstly back along the Rosewood Road and eventually Tumbarumba for fuel and another regroup. Due to the lateness of the day it was decided to head directly to Khancoban and then back to our respective accommodation in either Towong or Corryong.

After giving the bikes a once over in preparation for the next day's ride, we shower, change and head for the pub where we have booking for a counter meal. Eventually the whole group arrive and much laughter and good-natured banter ensues. During the evening Ben gets a call from Michael who can't find us but he's just outside looking for the 'Bottom Pub which is the Corryong Hotel where we are but it's at the top end of town! Confusing, but not if you've a local!

Another great day comes to a close.

Ian Payne