

Ben Warden (lead)	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer (1/2 rear)	KTM 990
Alex Nadelyaev	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Jason Wilson	Kawasaki ZX9	Cindy Lee	Triumph 675
Geoff Jones (1/2 rear)	Yamaha R1		<i>7 bikes, 7 people</i>

Facebook power at work during the week prior to Christmas Eve saw the above seven people gather at Whittlesea for a Saturday ride. Cindy had arranged the whole thing on the Club Facebook site and Ben took on the leading duties and did the pre-ride spiel. The compact group, maybe not so compact after Christmas feasting, headed for the hills. First stop Lancefield.

Traffic not as heavy as expected; I guess most people were doing the last minute shopping (hello Ern) so the pace was upped on those sweepers up to Kinglake West and through to Flowerdale where the corner markers for most of the ride, Steve and Jason, waited.

Left at Strath Creek, up the Murchison Gap and on to Broadford. Back roads to Pyalong with no sign of the candy car that featured in a recent ride. Then down to Lancefield for fuel and food. I joined Ben in the milk bar where the ladies were building one of Ben's healthier snack options. Instead of my usual pastie, I joined him in a tasty ham and salad roll, onions on mine. Weather by now quite warm. 115km covered.

Burke and Wills Track with its many bumps to Emu Flat, Pyalong again. Then through Glenarua to Tallarook, Trawool and the outskirts of Seymour and up into the hills to Highlands and a shady regroup after 122km. Rob took over the rear ride role and I tried to keep in touch with Jason and Steve. No easy task as it turned out; they were on a mission for most of the day. Steve mentioned later that he was still not completely happy with the GSXR and was considering mods to the rear linkages. Some thoughts of another bike also on Steve's mind.

Cindy seemed happy to be out and about on two wheels but noticed the wind buffeting that goes with an un faired bike. Some kind of windscreen may be a part fix. Could have been something to do with the average speed of the group also, Jason quoting some interesting numbers appearing on the Kwaka's speedo, but at least the spare fuel pump stayed in its bubble wrap. No problems with fueling noted, the front wheel off the deck keeping the fuel well mixed, me thinks. Through Yarek to Alexandra where fuel was taken by some, then on to Eildon for lunch.

After the break I went for fuel as the rest of the ride crossed the dam wall and headed for Mt Pinniger. Cindy went past the stop and Alex had a small off on the gravel. Some slight damage to right side blinker.

Great views of the lake at 97% then back through Eildon on to Skyline road and some PR work with a group of tourists looking for the best views, Ben's trusty maps put to good use. Through the tight stuff to Alexandra and on to the famed Molesworth road and in to Yea where the ride finished after 406km. Signs of storms with patches of wet road over Junction Hill and on to Whittlesea. I took the road to Wallan and found lots of standing water through to Gisborne but arrived home mostly dry.

Thanks to Cindy for the Facebook invite, Ben for leading and Rob for the rear riding.

Geoff Jones