

Willem Vandeveld	Honda ST1300	Phil Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300
Misho Zrakic/Pina Garasi	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Stuart Hosking	Aprilia Tuono 1000
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Sam Allitt (1 st ride)	BMW S1000RR
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer (leader)	KTM990
Ian Payne	Honda CBR1000	Cindy Lee (1/2 rear)	Triumph 675
Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10	Ed Simonis (1/2 rear)	Moto Guzzi 1200S
Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10		<i>15 bikes, 16 people</i>

Arriving at Yarra Glen the ‘buzz’ was all about Rob’s purchase of a new ZX10! Incidentally, the Club’s Fireblade numbers almost came down a notch with the news that Dave Ward’s CBR took a tumble! No, not Dave’s fault, but at the hands of a mechanic test riding it after a service! Fortunately, only minimal scuffing and the bike shop will replace all damaged parts!

After Rob gave the run down on today’s ride we headed off with Cindy as tail-rider. In cold but dry conditions we rode towards Kangaroo Ground before detouring up Alma Road and then onto St Andrews and Kinglake. From there we took the Old Glenburn road to the Melba Highway and Glenburn, then across to Flowerdale and Strath Creek.

The next section to Broadford is usually quite enjoyable but the last time we travelled along here, Mr Plod was out patrolling, so a bit more caution this time!

We refuelled at Broadford and then hit the bakery for some nourishment. Cliff, Steve, Willem and Ed joined us here. The stop allowed us to have a good look at Andrew’s newly replaced Kawasaki with Rob pointing out all the technological wizardry of this model when compared to Cliffs. Also spoke to Sam (a friend of Andrew and Stuart’s) about his impressions of the ride so far.

As time was moving on, we hit the road and headed off to Glenaroua, Pyalong and Lancefield, then Baynton, Pastoria East and Kyneton. If you think you have good suspension then these are the roads that will test it! We continued on to Metcalfe and Sutton Grange.

Just after negotiating some roadworks I was surprised to see Rob coming back after missing the turnoff. We regrouped and continued on to Chewton and finally Castlemaine for fuel and lunch. Although fine, it was still very cold, so most headed to where the hot food was.

After a leisurely lunch it was now time to explore those brilliant roads around the old Castlemaine gold diggings, but this time with Ed doing the tail riding duties. We passed though Fryerstown, Vaughan, Guildford, Yandoit, Shepherds Flat and Hepburn Springs. We then headed east to Glenlyon, Trentham East and Woodend for a warming cuppa.

With the very overcast conditions it seemed later than it was, so we pushed on but without Willem and Ed who headed straight home. Our trip home would encompass Heskett and Bolinda, then Clarkefield, Wildwood and Bulla where we finally stopped just north of Melbourne Airport at a popular aircraft viewing area. Plenty of people were watching the comings and goings of landing aircraft: plane spotters taking photos, lots of families, even a Mr Whippy van. It’s a cheap family outing, I was told!

Thanks to Rob for a great 430 km ride through interesting towns and over a variety of roads. Also, thanks to Cindy and Ed for the tail riding.

Ian Payne