

Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Marc Marais	Kawasaki ZX10
Ian Payne (1/3 rear)	Honda CBR1000	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZX10
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ER6-N
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer (2/3 rear)	KTM 990
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Cindy Lee	Triumph 675
Michael Henriksen	BMW R1200ST		<i>13 bikes, 13 people</i>

For the past few weeks it seemed to me many rides were out in the ‘wild west’ – known for straight and bumpy roads so I was eagerly looking forward to a ride in the East for a change. Gippsland can also be a little straight if you don’t know your way around but fortunately Ben was leading this ride and that meant he would take us on roads most don’t know about and roads that offer a chance to ‘clear the cobwebs’ while carving up decent corners. He did not disappoint.

I’ve been on Clubs rides now regularly for just over a year including many trips to Gippsland and this ride was a bit different, lots of decent roads and it seemed to me, in reverse order in some cases just to freshen things up. Tim Emons is also an excellent leader out this way, always full of surprises, leaving one completely disorientated by the end!

We met up at the usual start point in Berwick and after the briefing headed off for Korumburra Bakery via Drouin. The Korumburra road has a decent amount of sweepers – a great warm up for the tyres and riders while the pre-ride coffee fix kicks in. Another coffee / snack down in Korumburra and we’re ready for the next leg back tracking a bit down the same road we came in on but turning off towards Arawata with its short 3km section of dirt where Steve Mudford decided it was time to ride his sports bike like a dirt bike, sliding the rear into the corner – more guts than I have on dirt.

Making our way towards Leongatha we touch on Grand Ridge Road. Once again not many straight sections to be seen and then stop for lunch at Mirboo North where we refuel. The service station attendant who arrived at the station around the same time was not too happy having been overtaken and given a fright by some riders who we assured her were not part of our group! I suppose it can be frightening to be overtaken when you’re driving zoned out in the comfort of a cage.

After lunch we take on the ‘famous’ loop with a small detour north from Hallston along a ridge, a great road, although a bit dirty in places, that I had discovered myself a while back but had forgotten where it was, ending in a dirt section where we turned back and re-joined the loop. Heading back we meet up with some riders who had stayed in Mirboo North while we were away.

From there on back through the Thorpdale twisties (awesome sweeping S-bends), down through Childers, and up to Jindivick to finish at Officer giving most a less boring ride back into the city than it would be from the usual Longwarry service station.

It was great to see Mark Copeland back on the bike after a minor incident a while back at Falls Creek.

Thanks for leading Ben. Thanks to Rob Langer for tail end duty. Thanks to all that joined in on the fun.

Marc Marais