

Ben Warden (lead)	Honda CBR1000	Richard Paulsen (4 th ride)	Kawasaki ER-6N
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ER-6N
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Eddie Simonis (rear)	Moto Guzzi 1200S
Craig Morley	Honda VTR1000 SP	Michael Henriksen	BMW R1200RT
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Geoff Dick	BMW R850
Phill Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300	Stewart Hosking (2 nd ride)	Aprilia V4R Tuono
Ben Fuller	Suzuki GSXR1300	Mark Rigacci (1 st ride)	Aprilia SMV750
Vince Green/Kathy	Yamaha XJR1300	Cindy Lee	Triumph 675

The leathers get first preference over fabrics today, despite the quite cool day ahead. Consequently, a few of us were reminded of how chillingly cold and cloudy Autumn mornings can be... perhaps this is why a few riders left before lunch. The same mistake in choice of riding attire was repeated by Misho and me (upon his determined recommendation) on the Easter Monday ride as we rode in arctic conditions to Noojee, abandoning our original destination to Mt Baw Baw due to snow falling. I feel a touch sad at having to “retire” the leathers as they represent the fading away of happy warm and sunny days.

The roads through the Strathbogie Ranges are not the easiest to ride, even though they were mostly short sweepers. However, given the nature of the vegetation line, the number of dirt tracks running off the main road causing one a moment of alarm as they draw you in, unexpected gravel mid-corner, limited ability to predict road direction due to crests, and bumpy conditions – and there you have the flavour for the day. I feel most grateful that Honda engineered an electronic steering damper into the CBR600RR and for the fine suspension work provided by Steve Mudford, our “on-board” MSR Ohlin’s technician – as Michael Henriksen described him.

First time rider, Mark, arrived on an interesting looking Motard, an Aprilia Dorsoduro (translated literally, means “hard back” and is also the name of a city in Venice). The bike added a bit of variety to the Honda dominance and it looks like Mark had himself some fun, judging by his big smile and happy farewell at the end of the day. He may be back. Eddie, our very knowledgeable Peter Stevens “connection” who has assisted many of us in our motorcycle apparel selection (the latest being Aiden with a new pair of Alpinestar boots), rode with us today, given that the ride finished close to his home in the north. He also kindly did the rear riding for the day... thanks Eddie x

Ben, as usual, did a fine job leading the ride in the absence of Damir who was originally listed to lead. Damir is missing in the land of lust/love, subsequently disappointing his riding ‘playmates’, Aiden and Jason, both Kawasaki lovers, drawn to Damir in recognition of his suppressed desire for a Kawasaki. They realise that Damir is currently compromising himself by riding a Honda. Such sacrilege... I think Damir may be tempted to jump the fence to the greener Kawasaki pasture. In the meantime, we await the re-emergence of Andrew and Gordon on new Kawasaki’s, and the return of the ‘quiet as a whisper’ jet Cliffy... we miss you heaps.

Pina Garasi