

Ben Warden (leader) Honda CBR1000 Leanne Newson (1st ride) BMW S1000RR
Rob Langer (rear rider) KTM 990

I had missed the previous Sunday's ride so I thought I would make an effort to attend the Anzac Day ride this year which happened to fall on a Wednesday. After a look at the weather forecast for Wednesday, my enthusiasm for a midweek ride dissipated rather rapidly. The forecast was rain, rain and more rain. It was eight o'clock when I woke up to the sound of the expected heavy downpour and I got ready with every bit of waterproof bike wear I owned.

I reached the Berwick pickup to see Ben and Leanne waiting for riders to arrive. It was Leanne's first ride with the MSR and she looked resplendent in her bright fluoro race leathers standing next to her new BMW S1000RR. She looked the part of girl racer but I noticed she had no wet weather gear despite the poor forecast.

After waiting a while and no other riders showing up, the three of us left Berwick headed for morning tea at Korumburra.

Apart from one heavy downpour while still on the freeway, the roads to Korumburra were mainly dry. Leanne, who had bought her S1000RR only a few weeks earlier, was riding very cautiously in the damp and patchy conditions. Hot coffee was ordered by all at the Korumburra bakery and, after we warmed up, it was time to move on.

Leanne left us here and headed back to Melbourne while Ben and I headed towards our next stop for lunch at Yarram. It was a cleverly put together route and I remember travelling through places such as Meeniyar, Fish Creek, Foster, Welshpool and an interesting back road around the Toora wind farm. We finally arrived at Yarram where the sun was shining and the roads were dry.

After a relaxing lunch break we headed off to Tarra Bulga National Park up the tight and narrow pass through the Tarra Valley that had no room for error. At the top of Tarra Bulga I adjusted my rear brake before we took off again but after a few kilometres I had to stop again as my rear brake was dragging and had boiled the brake fluid. I released the rear brake but after that it did not work for the rest of the day.

From the Tarra Valley we headed to Balook, Traralgon South, Churchill, Yinnar and Thorpdale where the roads were wet again. We enjoyed a leisurely late afternoon break at Trafalgar where we munched on local fish and chips. Ben received a "come home soon" call from Julie as they had dinner guests on the way. So home was the direct route via the freeway, which was just as well because the weather had closed in again, and the rain came down steadily.

From Berwick to Trafalgar we travelled 370 kms on mainly dry roads.

It was a shame the poor forecast deterred most people from venturing out but I hope Ben does a rerun of this ride as we travelled on some fabulous, seldom-travelled roads. I had a great day out.

Rob Langer