



Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Tony Stegmar (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Billy Simpson	Suzuki GSXR1000
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Glenn Aspden (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Suzuki GSXR1000
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Geoff Shugg	Suzuki DL650
Ian Payne	Honda CBR1000	Raphael Alikakos (2 <sup>nd</sup> ride)	Suzuki SV650
Simon Wastney (rear)	Honda VFR800	Fred Stolk	Yamaha R1
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Cindy Lee	Triumph 675
Jesvin George	Honda CBR600	Debbie Weinlich (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Honda CBR600

325 km, 16 deg, 16 bikes, 16 people

A busy social life over the past two months meant I have missed several rides so I was itching to get out. I had planned to ride on the previous Sunday but after smacking myself in the head with a length of pipe on the Saturday, there was no way I could get my helmet over the 'egg' that had sprouted on my forehead!

Arriving at Berwick in cool and overcast conditions there was a good turnout for Tony's ride. So, after the spiel and Simon taking up the rear riding position, we were away heading down the freeway past Pakenham to Tynong and the back roads to Longwarry. From here we went north to Labertouche, Jindivick, Neerim South, Crossover, and Old Sale Road to Willow Grove and finally south to Trafalgar for fuel and eats. Although still overcast and cold we had been fortunate not to encounter any rain, that is, until now!

During the break, who should turn up but Fred! Living down this way he and Yvette often join us when the ride is on their side of town. The rain had stopped but the roads were now thoroughly wet so it was decided to modify the route so as to cut out the dirt and also get us home a little earlier.

After a leisurely break and the obligatory group photo we headed for Thorpdale, then across to Yinnar and Hazelwood. From here we continued south to Balook and Tarra Bulga National Park followed by the demanding section of road to Blackwarry and the end of the bitumen. After regrouping we turned around for the run back down to Loy Yang and Traralgon for lunch. As it was

still quite cold, most headed for the hot food and a coffee. Poor Raphael was nearly frozen solid as he had only jeans and a T-shirt under his leather jacket! Fortunately, Simon came to his rescue with a spare top to help ward off the cold.

From Traralgon we started on the homeward leg and proceeded to Yallourn North and Willow Grove before backtracking to the Old Sale Road. At the end of the Old Sale Road we continued straight on to Buln Buln and Brandy Creek before stopping at the Longwarry North servo. Although we did have spasmodic rain showers during our 300+ km ride it had not 'dampened' our day too much. Even first-timer Debbie enjoyed herself and would be back in the future.

So thanks to Tony for leading and Simon the rear riding duties.

**Ian Payne**