



Simpson **Sunday 30th September, 2012**

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Quinn Myers	Kawasaki ZX14
Pina Garasi (1/2 rear)	Honda CBR600	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZX10
Jesvin George	Honda CBR600	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Richard Paulson (1/4 rear)	Honda CBR600	Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10
Pierre Ong	Aprilia RSV4	Ron Johnston (1/4 rear)	Suzuki GSX1250
Dave Williams	Aprilia RSV4	Bill Simpson (leader)	Suzuki GSXR1000
Cindy Lee	Triumph 675		<i>13 bikes, 13 people</i>

I arrived at the Point Cook Shell Servo meeting point to be greeted by a small contingent of riders, probably due to Grand Final celebrations (or commiserations) the day before. I then remembered we were picking up more riders at Moriac.

Ben gives his talk specifically warning us about the roundabout at the exit of the servo. As we leave I enter the second roundabout and notice a rider turning to my left. Thinking this was Ben I follow only to realise Ben had gone straight and the person turning left was in fact not part of our Club. I waive my hands to riders that had followed me to turn around and was confident everyone followed my instructions. Unfortunately, Cindy and Jesvin continued on and I didn't realise this until later on in the ride. My sincere apologies to Cindy and Jesvin.

The roads to Moriac are fast but fraught with danger at the intersections. Care needs to be taken as concentration can relax due to the open nature of the roads. We arrive at Moriac and meet Billy, Mark, Cliff and Dave.

The ride through Deans Marsh and Forrest was challenging. The roads were wet and littered with pollen. I enjoyed my ride behind Andrew until he let me pass. I later realised his rear tyre was shagged and he probably didn't want to take the extra risk.

Ron was booked by Mr Plod in Apollo Bay in an oncoming local police car. He was passing a RAV 4 in an 80km/h zone. This was not a good outcome for Ron as he's already on 13 points. Richard, on his new CBR600, departs the ride and heads back to Melbourne. He too, unfortunately, received a ticket from the state revenue department on the Western Ring Road prior to the start.

A quick stop for fuel in Apollo Bay and then on to lunch at Lavers Hill. This is one of my favourite stretches of road and it was great to see Cliff in his backyard destroying these roads.

Lunch at Lavers Hill is almost as entertaining as the ride so far. Most of the content cannot be published due to its explicit nature. Billy, as usual, had everyone in stitches with Pina working as his side kick. A lady offers to take our group photo and Ben lets her. I can't say too much about this lady so you may have to ask Billy when you see him next time.

Andrew was telling me about his ritual routine regarding chain maintenance. He cleans every roller individually and it takes him hours. Cliff was laughing saying it makes no difference. Just for the record, I do the same thing and can spend a whole day cleaning my bike. I find this relaxing. It's good shed time with a few beers and no deadlines or KPI's to meet.

Jesvin arrives minus Cindy and I'm quick to go over and apologize. He tells me they rode to Winchelsea and waited. Unfortunately, we didn't (and typically never) go through there. Cindy turned around at Apollo Bay and headed home.

As we leave Lavers Hill and head for Simpson, it starts to drizzle, which is not uncommon around this region. Roads are again wet and dry so you never know what's lurking around the next corner. I sit behind Quinn and I'm impressed with his riding skills. He handles that big bike well around corners and it has phenomenal torque on the straights.

After refuelling at Simpson, we make a quick stop at the Shoe Tree which is exactly what it is: a tree out in the middle of nowhere with shoes hanging off it. Quite bizarre, but strangely entertaining. It's located near a corner and I'm thinking this is not the safest place to stop. Sure enough a P-plater comes around the corner at great speed and I hold my breath. Billy thinks it was someone coming back from a B&S ball. I can't print Pina's explanation for what B&S stands for.

Afternoon tea is at a great little cafe at Deans Marsh with all riders looking relaxed and content with the day's riding. Mark feels like a beer and so do I but that's not a good idea on these rides. I compare notes with Dave on his new Aprilia RSV4. It turns out he bought it from the same dealer as I did.

We finish at Batesford just outside Geelong with my fuel light on for 42km. Dave tells me I probably could have made it to 55-60km before it ran dry.

Another great day of riding, together with great company and very entertaining stops. Thanks Billy for leading, and Richard, Pina and Ron for rear duties. Ron, I hope things work out in your favour regarding your incident today.

Pierre Ong