



## **Jamieson - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2012**

Willem Vandeveld	Honda ST1300	Andrew Newbury (leader)	Kawasaki ZX10
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ZX10
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer	Kawasaki ZX10
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Jason Wilson	Kawasaki ZX9
Simon Wastney (rear)	Honda VFR800	Ron Johnston	Suzuki GSX1250
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Cindy Lee	Triumph 675	Dean Bonthorne (3 <sup>rd</sup> ride)	Suzuki GSXR750
Tony Ripepi	KTM 990	Joe Marateo (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Ducati 1098 Monster
Dave Byrne	Husqvarna 900	Marty Ruschena (3 <sup>rd</sup> ride)	BMW K1200R
<i>20 bikes, 20 people</i>			

This is the fourth Sunday in a row I have been riding so things are looking good. The weather has been questionable and I wonder if it is as cold in Jamieson as it is here. Rule of thumb: better to rug up and be too warm than too cold.

Aldi were selling motorcycling gear on Saturday, so I decided to go and check it out in Kilsyth. I arrived at 8.15 am to be confronted by ten people waiting patiently. By 8.30am the number of people had doubled. Door goes up, everybody quietly shuffles in through the gate. Then all hell breaks loose, people racing down different aisles to get to the bike gear, like vultures preying on a dead animal. I purchased a jacket to replace the one I damaged on the Mothers Day accident earlier this year, and a front wheel stand and a tie down strap for the back wheel. Good value.

Back to the ride. As usual I was running late because I had to get money and fuel. I arrived just in time to see a large number of riders. Weird, isn't it. Back to normal wet winters with cold, wind and rain. Yet they still come in droves. We must be doing something right because people are loving it.

Today we have a new rider, Joe Marateo, on a Ducati 1098 Monster. Nice bike, and he only picked it up yesterday. There are a lot of new riders turning up, another good thing,

Today's ride will be led by first time leader Andrew Newbury. He gets everyone's attention and then tells us where we are going, where fuel and food stops are, First Aid, scribe. Eildon first stop.

Back way to Healesville followed by the Black Spur. I ride quietly initially and then speed up. No cops and so every man for himself.

On the way to Marysville there were dozens of cars. I don't know what the attraction was. [*The snow? ...Ed.*] I caught up with Andrew and Ben just out of Buxton and soon after Ben and I corner marked at Taggerty. We didn't have to wait long for the others to arrive.

The bridge before Thornton has now been replaced with a wide new concrete one. The old wooden one had been hammered a bit with the flooding last year.

On to Eildon for fuel, the servo packed, us bikers not helping. Then we went around the corner for food and drinks. A bit of talk the talk, how good is the weather? I expected it to be much cooler.

Soon we are back on the bikes on our way to Snobs Creek. I was late leaving and by the time I arrived at the turn off I spotted a car with flashing lights and stripes like a highway patrol car. Jeez, what is that car on this road for? I ride slowly. You would be unlucky to see one of these cars here.

I turned on to the Jamieson Road and slowly come up behind the above mentioned car, only to find it was a Nissan Skyline, fitted with rollbars. It had a '1300 Collision' sign written across the back. Obviously not a cop car.

There were a few cars parked along the road, as well as a tandem trailer stack with 44 gallon drums...interesting... A bit further on, around the corner were more cars, rally cars at that. What's going on? There was a sign saying, "Road Closed, Tarmac Rally".

The rest of the MSR Club had stopped. Unbeknown to us, there was a tarmac car rally in progress due to complete in about half an hour and we would have to wait until the last cars had come through. I spoke to one of the young blokes and he said that they had done six runs, three in and three out, since about 6am that morning. Cars included a 180B Datsun, probably the oldest car there, late model Lancers, a few Scooby Doos, Nissan Skylines, MK 1 Escort with Minilite wheels, an early Capri 69/70 V8 manual with a lady driver. (There were a few lady drivers.) Porsches, even a Lamborghini, but he was tail-end Charlie behind a Porsche convertible with a camera on the engine cover, filming. They 'drove' the cars as far as the Lions Men's Camp, just before the river, 28 kms in and 28 kms out.

After a brief discussion with the drivers, I left before the group, following a couple of recovery vehicles on the way in. With this lot having been in and out a few times, the road was clean with no gravel or bark on the road. Grouse! Just as it should be.

I had got a few kilometres in before some of our group passed me. Once over the Torbreck River Bridge the road had a light coating of gravel, so I take it easy. Somewhere around here Joe on the 1098 passed me. I followed him for a little while. By the time I got to Jamieson, Cliff and I corner marked. I like my Aldi jacket which keeps me warm, and that's what counts. It was good value for money.

Finally everyone arrives and we make our way to the General Store where there is a limited amount of food we can buy. Bearing in mind that we were held up for 45 mins at the start of the Jamieson Road, everything turned out alright. The weather was now very pleasant.

Soon, it was back on the bikes for some spirited riding on the return trip. Alas, Joe crashed about five kms out of Jamieson on an uphill left hand corner, losing the front end resulting in a low-side slide and subsequent minor cosmetic damage to the day old Ducati. The Oggy knob did a good job minimising damage, (unlike mine). Joe is a racer friend of Steve Mudford. As I came past Joe, I thought it was a funny place to stop, but continued on for a couple corners and then went back. He seemed to have the bike running, but was having trouble with the gearshift. I followed for a while, then passed him.

When we got back to Eildon the ride seemed to stop. Waiting, waiting. I thought something must have happened to Joe's Ducati. Mass confusion at rear of ride, apparently,

Simon started passing corner markers and not collecting them, misunderstanding when Ben had said "I'll wait for Jason to fuel, you keep going." He thought Ben was the new rear rider. *[Sorted out by Fraser National Park ...Ed.]*

I rode slowly up over Skyline, down to Alexandra and along the Molesworth road where I corner marked on the highway with Jason on the ZX9. He had about 10 or 12 lbs in his rear tyre, explaining why he didn't chase me through here, the bike feeling a bit strange in the corners.

On to Yea for fuel and a break. Misho, Steve, Joe and Dean had been working on Joe's crashed bike and rejoined the main group at Yea. They had filled up in Eildon. Cliff and I went and saw some family friends in Yea while the final nine riders finished at Kinglake West in typical nose to tail fashion. We travelled 338km from Yarra Glen to Kinglake West.

Thanks to Andrew for leading the ride. Well done. That little hiccup on the start of the Jamieson road allowed us to see some cool cars. The ride was uneventful except Joe's little slide. Good weather, good company, great day. See you all next time.

**Ron Johnston**