



Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Misho Zratic/ Pina Garasi	Honda CBR1000	Bill Kennedy	Kawasaki Z750
Alex Nadelyaev	Honda CBR1000	Gordon Heydon	Kawasaki ZX6
Raman Biarozza (rear)	Honda CBR600	Rob Langer	BMW F700
Billy Simpson	Suzuki GSXR1000		<i>9 bikes, 10 people</i>

It's not often I get to enjoy two different club rides on consecutive days but this year Easter Monday was one of those times. Yesterday we went to Castlemaine and today Ben was leading us on a loop through the Brisbane Ranges and Trentham.

It was a cool beginning to the day as eight bikes turned up for the start at Point Cook. It was good to see a few of our seldom seen members come along to enjoy the day.

Bill Kennedy was there on his on his Z750 with Gordon on his ZX6, both saying work commitments had prevented them from attending rides.

The Russian contingent was well represented with both Alex [CBR1000] and Raman [CBR600] coming along. We have not seen Alex for nine months since the birth of his daughter, mainly because he has had to babysit every weekend while his wife, who is a nurse, goes to work.

Raman was back after attempting the Castlemaine ride on Sunday. He had turned at Yarra Glen the day before with his left hand front brake calliper dragging and went home to try and free it. Today he was back with the problem fixed. It turned out it was the brake pad securing pin which had seized on the brake pad. A little force and some cleaning solved the problem.

Misho and Pina were back for more fun but today Pina left her bike at home choosing instead to go pillion with her belle.

Ben gave us his pre-ride briefing as I gulped down my pre-ride coffee. Cliffy volunteered for rear rider till morning tea and then we were off.

Bill Simpson joined us as we passed through the back blocks of Werribee and then we rode on some unusual back roads which led us to some more familiar back roads which led us to Meredith for morning tea after 80 kms.

A large "Coffee \$2" sign greeted us as we rode past the local milkbar but we stopped at the usual café/petrol station at the other end of town. An immaculate Chevy Bellaire was filling at the pumps while I was in ordering coffee. After we had all refuelled on hot coffee we were off again with Raman now the rear rider.

We left Meredith on my favourite piece of road in the area which takes you through Steiglitz. I noticed Misho's Gearsack bag lid was unzipped and flapping around and tried to get his attention. But he steadily pulled away and disappeared around the next sweeper. Eventually I got his attention and he pulled over before anything flew out of the bag.

A loop down to Maude and back to She Oaks saw us going through Steiglitz for the second time before coming out at Anakie. Marked and an unmarked police bikes had joined forces and were pulling over vehicles for checkups on the edge of town. On the other side of Anakie I started to overtake some of the slower cars but slowed down again as I saw blue and red flashing lights ahead.

As I passed the yellow highway patrol car I saw Ben pulled over. The officer had a huge grin on his face as I cruised by so I thought Ben had just told him a joke. The group pulled up just before the next corner as we were not sure which way we were heading. We waited and waited for what felt like half an hour. *[He was just confirming my points situation by reading my priors (which scrolls off the screen a few times as they can go back more than 7 years! He did agree with my summary: "Been busy!" ...Ed.]* Not good, I thought to myself, but eventually I saw Ben's headlights coming and we set off again. Bill Simpson left us and headed home for family duties.

We rode a few more narrow back roads, still within the Brisbane Ranges area, but would stop and turn around when the roads turned to gravel. *[I did say we would do a "thorough examination" of the Brisbane Ranges. We did! ...Ed.]*

I made a mental note to myself to order a Radguard before the next ride because every time I went to overtake a car on the narrow roads they would put their left wheels on the road shoulder for me to get past them and I would get peppered with stones.

Next was down the steep winding Mt Wallace road where we used to run time trials years ago. Some of our newer members could not believe we would have ever raced up that bumpy gravel-strewn road but times were different back then and the reward of Val Jones' homemade scones and carrot cake after you finished your run was incentive enough.

A few more narrow back roads and we stopped at Bacchus Marsh to refuel and have lunch. A huntsman spider crawled out from behind my gauges as if to see where he was while Ramon and I headed to Subway to buy rolls. The others dispersed in different directions, but we all met back at the central park to eat our lunches together.

We left Bacchus Marsh and headed toward Myrniong on the old Western Highway. Those high speed sweepers took my mind back to my first ever Club ride when I remember trying to round up Life Member Les Leahy on his BMW K100 and I was on my Kawasaki ZXR750.

The road between Greendale and Trentham is now signposted at 80 km/h all the way but we still managed to have fun as we threaded our way through the forest, dodging all the returning Easter traffic. We continued on through Trentham to Spring Hill, Trentham East and Ashcombe before rolling into Woodend for afternoon tea. It was noticeably quieter in town than it had been the day before when the town was filled with revellers going to the Bruce Springstein concert at Hanging Rock.

After an enjoyable latte we headed off on the final leg through Mt Macedon, Heskett, Bolinda, Wildwood and Bulla. The rest of the ride was uneventful except when we passed an oncoming marked Police Ford Territory on the Kerrie back road. We were all travelling at a rapid rate, and so was he, but he must have had other matters on his mind.

After 347 kms for the day we rolled into the viewing area under the Tullamarine airport flight path and I enjoyed a chocolate gelati while we all said our goodbyes.

Thanks Ben for a great outing.

**Rob Langer**

