



Ben Warden  
Ian Payne  
Jesvin George

Honda CBR1000  
Honda CBR1000  
Honda CBR600

Cliff Peters  
Pina Garasi

Kawasaki ZX10  
Honda CBR600  
*5 bikes, 5 people*

Five minutes to ten and I'm the only one here. I'm starting to think I'm at the wrong start point so I phone Barb to check the magazine - it was Whittlesea wasn't it? Yep. Ah, here they come: 1,2,3,4.

The weather is cold but sunny. Forecast was cool with possible showers in the afternoon, which didn't eventuate. I give a rough and ready route explanation because everyone here knows the drill and soon we are ready to go. Hello! A late arrival, Dave Byrne, and he needs fuel. We head off leaving Dave to catch us at Yea.

Heading up the hill I was flashed by a four wheel drive. Possible police ahead but likely spots arrive and depart with no sign and we get almost into Kinglake West and there it is: a camera car parked on the left. I flash the next few oncoming cars a warning with the pass button. A couple acknowledge; the rest don't.

We press on to Flowerdale, turn and pick up the pace to Strath Creek, then right towards Trawool and right at the Highway to Yea. Dave, having beaten us here by taking the short route over Junction Hill, hasn't been on a Club ride since March. He showed me a nice photo of his new Harley. Hmm. We stand about, stamping our feet and waving our arms around to keep the circulation going. It's very cold! Drink our teas and coffees. Next stop Eildon for lunch.

We ride out of town, past the police setting up their booze check, and take the Highlands turn up and into the fog. This is exciting. The fog wasn't that thick, but thick enough to slow the pace considerably and make proceedings challenging, visibility poor, visor fogging badly. We drop down out of the fog just before Gobur and head for Yarck and then on to Alexandra and Skyline Road, watching out for gravel, rocks, sticks, bark and algae. It's all here today, boys and gal.

We fuel up at the servo and head round to the shops for lunch to be joined by Marty Thompson and his two dogs which he uses to hunt deer and the odd bunny. Marty's a long time member now living at Snobs Creek. It's good to see he still has his sense of humour.

Lunch done, we head up and over Lake Eildon dam wall. I nearly missed the turn. I've been to Eildon many times with the Club but never seen the Dam Wall which is quite impressive.

Next Mt Pinninger Lookout, with 1.8km of dirt at the top, according to Ben. An excellent view. I bet the house boats are enjoying the plentiful water of the last couple of years, after the Lake being virtually dry. At Bonnie Doon last week the level was still way up near the top of the rail bridge whereas a couple of years ago there were cattle grazing beneath – an amazing change

Ben decides he is not high enough so rides up the narrow track (if you could call it that) to the picnic tables at the top. I thought coming down may be risky (wet clay, gravel) resulting in a slip, scrape, scratch, and bang. But no, a masterful display sees him safely at the bottom.

We head down the Jerusalem Creek road to the boat launching ramp and then return to Eildon. Back over still damp Skyline Road dodging the rocks, avoiding the gravel, and dodging the family of deer. Well, not quite, but three or four of them were scrambling up the bank just above the road.

On to Alexandra and then south towards Acheron via the back road which has a "*Road Closed Bridge Work Ahead*" sign. In true MSR spirit I figure we lightweight and skinny motorcyclists may be able to cross anyway, so plan to have a look.

Half the deck is missing and it is a six metre drop to the river. Okay, back from whence we came and then along the Molesworth or Whanregarwen Road to Yea where we stop for tea and coffee. The police have stopped a couple of guys in fancy dress. Lights flashing, so must be official.

Break up will be Kinglake West but we say our goodbyes here and depart for home. I arrive home around 5:20pm in time for the 5:30pm World Superbikes at Moscow Raceway in Russia. Thanks Ian for rear riding, Pina, Jesvin, and Ben for enjoying the ride with me, and Dave for his brief visit. 317km for the day.

**Cliff Peters**