

Maldon

Sunday 10th November 2013

Richard O'Hagan (1 st ride)	BMW S1000RR HP4	Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000
Rob Langer (rear rider)	BMW 700	Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000
Geoff Jones (leader)	Yamaha R1	Dylan Barter (1 st ride)	Honda CBR1000
Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10	Mark Copeland	Honda VTR1000
Asgar (Oscar) Shah (1 st ride)	Multistrada 1200	Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600
Glenn Aspden	Suzuki GSXR1000	Jesvin George	Honda CBR600
Stu Hosking	Aprilia Tuono		<i>13 bikes, 13 people</i>

Weather radar not too shabby after the recent wet season so head for Whittlesea through some light rain to await some likely takers for the Maldon ride. Text from Ben about reasons for staying in bed and so the group assembled as per list above.

Noted in the Gisborne local papers an addition of unmarked police vehicles in the area thanks to financial support from TAC, our fines at work, so adding to the tension at the pointy end and passing moves.

Corner marking talk extended for the new people and a general spiel about not being lost as I was on the Simpson ride. A new road to try out over Mt Alexandra but no takers for the write up so here is a view from the front.

Up the mountain with that increasing number of oncoming headlights flashing featuring and onwards to Flowerdale, the first corner mark test for the new guys. I pull over and wait and Glenn arrives and takes up position. Next up is Oscar who makes the turn but does not stop. I leave Glenn and take up the chase, the Multistrada grunting off at a very MSR rate so I sit in behind for a very spirited run to Strath Creek. Oscar stops at the shop which gives me a chance to re-explain the system. Much apologies for missing me but no harm done and I got to hear that Ducati rumble, just like Pierre's Duc sounded. Dylan next to arrive so the second corner mark of the day featured two first time riders. No further problems reported.

Up the Murchison Gap and on to Broadford where Stu left for home. On to Pyalong for that fast run down to Lancefield and first break. Fuel and food and a loan of some cash for Richard who found he was missing the required cards. Mark joined here on the VTR.

Noticed during the break Brembo discs on Misho's and Pina's CBR's. They seemed pleased with the replacements which have 10 pin location instead of 6 pin. Half the price of Honda replacements. Pina had noticed brake vibration and Misho discovered wear at the connection between carrier and disc. Ben's well used CBR also showing wear at this area. I always liked the lighter look of the later models with 6 pins and thought my R1 with 10 pin units could do with an upgrade but maybe I will stay with what I have; 15 years and no sign of movement. Obviously, I don't brake hard enough.

Burke and Wills Track to Mia Mia with its bumps and changing road widths. Paul left at Baynton. Over the historic bridge, in to Redesdale and on to Sutton Grange. I used to turn right here and come into Harcourt North from the north, as you do.

Cup Day and Val and I have lunch in Kyneton and then head to Redesdale and on to check out the road over Mt Alexandra (750m). I became aware of this option while map reading during work lunch break. Not sure of its surface but it turned out to be sealed and twisty - wasted on the car though. It was a nice variation to the mostly open stuff in this area and got us to the freeway and onto Fogarty's Gap Road and the blast into Maldon through Walmer and past the old mining dredge.

Maldon was having its first ever market and so seemed to be busier than usual. We wander the town for food and then head to Castlemaine for fuel. No lookout visit as time was marching on, and Glenn needed to be back at Tullamarine for a flight later in the afternoon. After filling up, Misho and Dylan discussed CBR oil use and on checking the level in Dylan's motor decided some oil addition be made. A bit of dipstick action and a squirt from Misho's container and we head off.

Chewton and then into the gold digging area with some tighter roads featuring crests. On through Fryerstown and Guildford and into Hepburn Springs, passing an oncoming police 4WD at speed but no blue/red reaction noted.

Springhill road to Tylden, Fernhill and past the Pig and Whistle Pub to Woodend. Glenn headed for the freeway and the rest of us had a last break. Fuel for Oscar and then along the north side of Mt Macedon to Straws Lane and Cameron's Corner. Down to Bolinda and on to the Wildwood Road with the ride end at the Tullamarine plane viewing area.

Thanks to Rob for rear riding. Weather fine and no incidents. My chance for a set of tyres improves.

Geoff Jones