



Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Ian Payne	Honda CBR1000	Andrew Newbury	Kawasaki ZX10
Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Andrew Cleaver (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Kawasaki ZX10
Nigel Oman	Honda CBR1000	Phil Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300
Kurn Bridgeman	Honda CBR600	Tony Stegmar	Suzuki GSXR1000
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Glenn Aspden	Suzuki GSXR1000
Ed Simonis	BMW K1200S	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Paul Milo (2 <sup>nd</sup> ride)	BMW K1200RS	Pierre Ong	Aprilia RSV4
Dave Chisma	BMW F800 ST	Stuart Hosking	Aprilia Tuono V4
Robert Langer (leader)	BMW F700 GS	Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1
Geoff Dick (rear rider)	BMW R850	Damian Jones	Yamaha R1
Rod Merrett	BMW S1000RR	Luke Chara (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Ducati 1098 Naked

I was cruising to the Caltex Servo for the start of the ride in Whittlesea but as I passed the United in Plenty Road, I recognised quite a few bikes. So quickly backtracking, I discovered this was the starting point! A few riders had been caught out and had to be gathered up from the Caltex!

Rob gave a very comprehensive rundown of the day's activities, appointed Geoff as rear rider and asked for a volunteer to do the write-up. As usual, deathly silence! A write-up is nothing to be afraid of; I've done a great many and by my own admission they are pretty boring! This comes from my years of employment in the engineering field where reports are of the KIS (Keep It Simple) variety, high in technical detail and to the point. But a MSR ride report is not like this; it can be spiced up with humour and personal recollections of the day. As for the route and rider details, these are easily obtained from the leader or Secretary Ben who always records them. So new members please have a go at a write-up! So enough of the hard sell and back to the ride.

We headed off with Geoff as rear rider and, as reported, found some of the road to Kinglake West littered with a fresh layer of fine gravel. Flowerdale was dispatched with and we continued onto Strath Creek and then the fast run to Broadford before heading north to Sugarloaf Creek where we struck a few kays of roadworks. Then on to Seymour for fuel and a break. Instead of the usual hamburger place, the servo over the road offered more variety of food nearby making it a better choice!

After the break we headed for Highlands but Tony took off in the wrong direction towards Puckapunyal. I quickly rounded him up and then we continued on the back roads to Highlands.

Along this stretch I spied Pierre stopped on the side of the road. I heard later he had gear change linkage issues. We continued on through Caveat, Terip Terip and Gobur and then the Maroondah Highway to Merton. From here we headed north through the Merton twisties to Euroa for lunch.

While having lunch at the bakery, who should appear but Steve and Cindy. They had been at a family do in Tallangatta.

After a leisurely lunch it was off to Strathbogie and Merton where we retraced our steps through Gobur, Terip Terip and Highlands. From here it was south to the Maroondah Highway which we followed to Yea. After some discussions Rob announced he would be heading to Warrandyte for a coffee! For those not going we would have a mini-breakup here!

So after saying our goodbyes, the rest, with Ian as rear rider, headed to Junction Hill, Break O Day, Glenburn and the Melba Highway to West Bridge Road and Kinglake. Then down to St Andrews where, unfortunately, a lack of corner markers meant five riders went straight to Hurstbridge instead of left to Panton Hill. Realising the mistake, I headed straight for Alma Road and found Ben coming to look for us. This smaller group then proceeded to Watsons Creek and Pigeon Bank Lane to finish at Warrandyte for coffee after approx 450 km for the day! Three of the lost riders eventually found us again, Tony coming in from a very strange direction.

We heard later from Rod Merrett, who had a very close shave with the constabulary, that if not for some quick talking and name dropping, he would have been walking home!

**Ian Payne**