

## Trentham Ranges

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 2013

Geoff Jones (leader)  
Willem Vandeveld

Yamaha R1  
Honda ST1300

Tony Stegmar  
Bill Kennedy

Suzuki GSXR1000  
Kawasaki Z750

Geoff's ride to the wild west. Early start for me as it takes over an hour to navigate to Whittlesea.

On arriving I see no one at the Whittlesea United so I fuel up and ride around to the Caltex to see how it is going over there. To my surprise it's open so I have a look; it's just as it was before! What was all the fuss about? I ride back to United.

A four wheel drives pulls up for a meeting. Still no bikes so back to the Caltex, making sure my winter gloves are firmly attached to my bike. I don't want to lose one of them like I did last winter.

Soon Geoff rolls up then new (to me) guy Bill and Willem. No more people. That's it! Geoff does the pre-ride spiel and then we ride past the other servo to see if anyone is there; no luck. So it's just the four of us with Willem at the rear. We head off for Seymour for morning tea after 112kms.

Steve Mudford, on the Suzuki 750, had my new Suzuki GSXR1000 at his workshop during the week to fit an Ohlins shock absorber and a front forks cartridge kit. I didn't think the bike would be ready in time for me to ride this week but I had a call to say the bits came in and it's all done! Thank you, Steve. Great job. When I rode home from the workshop I immediately felt the difference; the bike felt very well supported.

At Flowerdale we turned towards Strath Creek with a good run all the way through Trawool, Highlands and the Seymour servo. Willem suggests we go around the corner to a café where he had spent about five hours waiting when his bike died one year ago. So we ride 250 metres up the side road to a very good café.

I only had the table and chairs and my home made vegie man-juice which sparked a talk of health food. Geoff talks about the effects of food. Willem is having hot soup and tells me how he makes it. Then I talk to Bill for a bit.

Next stop Woodend for lunch after 107km so we head off towards Pyalong. Along here I met Skippy looking right through me, as they do. You can tell they can't see a thing when they look straight at you; I think they need glasses. I'm getting closer and he's off. He does a 180 degree turn in the gutter and bounces along in my direction. The gutter is steep so he is all over the place and I think this is looking good for the party trick where he bounces across the road. When I go past, just when I think it's time to brake really hard, he bounces up high through a hole in the fence to a paddock. I bet he has done that before. We both have the rest of the day to ourselves.

Emu Flat, Baynton, Bourke and Wills Track, Lancefield, Cobarr, Macedon twisties, Woodend. We fuel up and then head off to the bakery for lunch where it's always busy. We stand and talk and then I walk off to a shop to get a roll. We talk some more and then it's time to go. Willem leaves us here.

So with Bill on tail rider duties, we head for Blackwood, Greendale and Ballan. The road is like a highway but it's all signposted at a ridiculous 80km/h. We continue on to Meredith for fuel and a stop where we bump into Billy Simpson out for a ride. After a chat he rides with us. Good to see you, Billy. Then we get to Werribee, the finish point.

Thanks, Geoff, for another good ride and Willem and Bill for tail riding. I had a rest at the servo then rode home.

**Tony Stegmar**