



Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Garry Boucher	Kawasaki ZX14
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	John Willis	Kawasaki ZX10
Simon Wastney	Honda VFR800	Ian Payne (leader)	Kawasaki ZX10
Brian MacGeraghty	Honda CBR600	Gordon Heydon	Kawasaki ZX6R
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Michael Srb	BMW S1000RR
Jesvin George	Honda CBR600	Ed Simonis	BMW K1200RS
Phil Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300	Rob Kolbeck	Aprilia RSV1000
Glenn Aspden	Suzuki GSXR1000	Daniel Barber (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Ducati Panigale
Steven Green (1 <sup>st</sup> ride)	Suzuki SV650	Rod Silver (rear rider)	Yamaha TRX850

It was a chilly morning with clear skies as I started riding to Officer South. About halfway along the freeway I spotted a couple of bikes behind me, so joined up with them. I recognised Gordon Heydon wearing grey and black textile gear on his green ZX6R. The other turned out not be a Club rider and turned off the freeway a couple of minutes later.

A bit further along the police had a rider with his cruiser pulled over to the side of the road. I learnt on reaching the meeting point that there had been some sort of on-road altercation between the said cruiser and another rider on a GSXR. According to other Club riders, the GSXR had been swinging wildly about the road trying to block the cruiser off from passing over a prolonged period of time.

Two first time riders were present at the start: Steve Green on a SV650 and Daniel Barber on a Panigale.

Ian gave a quick briefing noting that he was on an unfamiliar borrowed bike and wouldn't be riding quickly. His regular steed is awaiting fluid for the Ohlin shocks. John Willis helpfully pointed out that Ian was wearing red/black, distinguishing him from John, also on a green ZX10.

A brisk ride along familiar roads ensued for the first leg through to Warburton. There were quite a few other bikes about on the major roads, this being a fair-weather day in the middle of a long weekend. The road surface was quite 'green' in places with a lichen/moss layer growing over the centre of the road.

At the first stop a couple of small boys (about four or five years old) took an interest in the bikes. Red ones seem to be the favourite with this upcoming generation of riders. I wonder what bikes will be like when they grow up. It does seem that we live in a golden-age, and that in another 15 years or so everyone will be riding speed restricted scooters with big-brother tracking devices in them. Hopefully there will always be awesome bikes available for track use.

We continue onwards, minus Steve Green. Daniel Barber had left us at the Healesville fuel stop.

We stopped at Pheasant Creek Bakery (near Kinglake) for lunch. It was cold. Michael Srb on his BMW had been held up with a holed radiator. The pin-hole jet of water was squirting straight on to his front brake pads and looked like an innovative brake cooling system. The leak appeared to be a slow one, so he cautiously rode home.

A few of us had a look over a pristine Victory cruiser in the car-park. It looked like a lot of chrome to polish. A lady, struggling to park her huge 4x4, provided a couple of moments of amusement. Gentleman Ben shifted a couple of bikes to free up more space for her, or maybe he was just worried that she would back straight over top of the bikes. Adrian joined us, having missed the start of the ride but still keen to catch us.

After lunch we set off for St Andrews down the steep winding descent from Kinglake. About three quarters of the way down, three of us got stuck behind an extremely slow moving traffic. A blue van was unwilling to pass a cyclist and hence was holding up a string of 5 or 6 cars. I could envisage the rest of our group opening up a huge gap and wondering what had happened to us.

Eventually we got past once down on the flatter roads, the blue van driver barely any faster once she had overtaken the cyclist. An irate 4x4 driver didn't seem to be enjoying his Sunday drive, particularly when I sailed past with the ease of overtaking that motorcycles afford. He would have had another dozen or so bikes zipping past him earlier.

Flashing lights up ahead in St Andrews proper looked ominous. The police had pulled over Pina. We learnt later that she'd been pinged for 101 in a 60 zone. The other three riders immediately behind her got off lucky, Pina in front being singled out (with an angry pointed finger) as the only rider the police got a radar reading on. That's 6 demerit points, \$600 and 6 months suspension starting in 28 days, unless appealed. She was already sitting on 11 points before-hand.

Next a winding road up to Strathewen, much of it narrow with no centre line and a couple of single lane bridges. I hadn't been up this way before, so another new fun road quite close to the city. We stopped in front of a row of very artistically decorated letter-boxes for a photo shoot by Ben for the magazine cover, and then waited about 15-20 minutes for Pina to catch up along with rear-rider Rod who had waited back to ensure that she didn't miss the turn-off.

Then back through to Eltham for the finish. I started to feel fatigued by this stage so was taking it quietly. Glen gave me a few tips on moving my weight out after observing my half attempts.

Some of the group were planning on doing the Club ride the next day (Queen's Birthday) but I'd decided to save myself for next weekend's Woolamai ride, not having been down that way for ages.

Thanks to Ian for leading us on a fun day out, and to Rod for looking after the tail of the group. The only real black-mark on an otherwise great day was Pina's booking.

**Simon Wastney**