

Mirboo North Café Escargot

Sunday 12th May 2013

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Kawasaki ZX10
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Tim Walker	Kawasaki ZX7R
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Rob Langer (leader)	BMW F700 GS
Adrian MacGeraghty	Honda CBR600	Geoff Dick	BMW 850R
Roman Biarozza (rear)	Honda CBR600	Geoff Shugg	Suzuki DL650



It's the first time I've been on a ride starting from Officer South besides the ride that I was to lead when most of the regulars were in Tassy. On that day only one rider turned up at 10am, just as I was leaving to go home, so I sent him home.

The Officer South starting point is much better than the old start at Clyde Road having more room and better entry and exit points. On this Sunday (Mothers' Day) after a week of good weather, the forecast was for low 20s with late showers. We had 14 arrivals but Michael Srb (bald rear tyre) and Glenn Aspden (bald front tyre) were sent home from the starting point, their tyres unsafe.

Rob, today's ride leader, called for our attention and then ran through the day's itinerary: morning stop at Noojee with a maximum of 10 minutes (good luck with that, I thought), lunch at Mirboo North, afternoon tea at Jindivick, and break up at Yarra Junction. Ramon put up his hand for rear rider and I volunteered to do write up.

At 10.10am we left Officer heading east up the freeway and took the first exit, Cardinia Road, to the Old Princes Highway. This intersection brings back memories of when my car broke down. Back then this intersection was in the middle of nowhere, a complete contrast to now with traffic lights and houses everywhere.

From the Princes Highway we turned left and headed up to Gembrook, Gilwell Park and the great set of sweepers. Then we travelled the well worn MSR route to first stop Noojee where I ran into a fellow Ulysses Wednesday rider. It was his first time back on the bike since a shoulder operation. His bike is a Honda VFR750 with over 250,000km on it, the motor untouched.

Next thing Rob calls time but I'm sure it's a lot more than the 10 minutes he stated. We took the back road from Noojee. Some call it a goat track but I love this sort of road on the V-Strom. I can't remember all the roads we took to Mirboo North but there were a few dirt sections which suited those riding dual sports machines.

On the way to Mirboo North my bike started to misbehave when I accelerated out of corners. The motor seemed starved of fuel. The funny thing is that it has done this before in this area; maybe it's the air!

We fuelled at Mirboo North. My bike took 16 litres which means it still had 6 litres left, so the fuel starvation problem wasn't a lack of fuel in the tank. I know my air filter is a bit oily, the result of the bike being upside down after a fall on a dirt ride. Maybe a wash in kero will help.

Next stop is lunch at Cafe Escargot which stands for wait an hour for a meal that takes two minutes to eat. Some of the riders left after lunch leaving nine riders. Ben and Cliff corner marked every corner. By the time we stopped for afternoon tea at Jindivick we were down to seven riders. It was decided to finish the ride here as it is a more direct route home for most and the weather was closing in. And it would soon be dark!

Most of us headed down to Longwarry North to the Highway. I saw some flashing lights up ahead and thought it's one of us. Sure enough it was Cliff. Three points.

From Pakenham to Endeavour Hills it poured rain and the traffic was very heavy, so I lane-split all the way home. All in all, another great ride.

Thanks to Rob for planning and leading the ride and Ramon for being rear rider. And thanks to everyone else for a good safe ride.

Geoff Shugg