

Woodend

Sunday 5th May 2013

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Ed Simonis	BMW K1200R
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Rod Merrett	BMW R1100RS
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer	BMW F700
Ian Payne (rear)	Honda CBR1000	Mal Djuric (1 st ride)	Buell 1200
Nick Stafford (1 st ride)	Honda VFR800	Phil Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR1000
Stuart Hosking	Aprilia Tuono V4R	Gordon Heydon (lead)	Kawasaki ZX6

14 bikes, 14 people



Cruising to the Caltex Servo in Whittlesea, I saw up ahead the dreaded red and blue flashing lights of an unmarked dark blue falcon. Fortunately, not one of our group, but an unlucky car driver.

Suffering from ‘painters back’, I was feeling quite stiff, so elected to go rear rider. Gordon then gave a very comprehensive rundown of the day’s activities and asked for a volunteer to do the write-up. As per usual, deathly silence! Just as Gordon was finishing, Mal arrived on his Buell and, being a first timer, Ben quickly filled him in on the ride etiquette and our corner marking system.

Just then the unmarked Falcon cruised past with the TOG’s inside having a good, long look at us! Well, this put a ‘cat among the pigeons’. Were they going to Kinglake? Yea? Or going to hide and wait for us? I was now quite glad I was rear rider!

We set off tentatively to Kinglake West, then Flowerdale at a brisker pace. Still no sign of the plods, Junction Hill was taken quite quickly. Low and behold, who should be up a driveway at the top waiting for us? Yes, the plods! Fortunately, they were baulked from exiting the driveway by the bulk of our group, so didn’t catch up until all were at the legal limit! Meanwhile, the front four were long gone, though Ben did come back, wondering why the following group had suddenly disappeared. The police followed us closely for a long 18 km.

Maybe out of frustration the plods pulled over Ed and Rod for a routine licence and breath test in Yea outskirts. The rest of us continued in to town for morning tea.

After a leisurely break it was back on the bikes for the four kilometre trip along the highway to the Highlands road. From Highlands we continued down to Seymour, over the Freeway and west to Pyalong and Emu Flat. On the short dirt section Nick pulled over. He wasn't sure if we were meant to ride on dirt roads! I assured him it was quite okay and so we continued on to Lancefield for fuel and lunch.

While having lunch, Ron and Julie Johnston arrived. It was good to catch up with them. We also got to talk to Nick and Mal about the ride so far. Mal's comment of "You guys are crazy!" summed up his thoughts.

With lunch over, it was back on the bikes, now heading to Rochford, Newham and Woodend. Then up Mount Macedon, down Straws Lane and on to Romsey before taking the Kerrie road to Bolinda. Then south towards Melbourne before taking the Wildwood Road detour to Oaklands Junction stopping at the "Melbourne Airport Aircraft Viewing Area" where the ride finished.

Thanks to Gordon for a well planned ride.

Ian Payne