



Ben Fuller (1/2 rear)	Suzuki GSXR1300	Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000
Mark Humphries	Suzuki GSX1200	Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000
Tony Stegmar	Suzuki GSXR1000	Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000
Mark Rigsby	Suzuki GSXR1000	Ian Payne (1/2 rear)	Honda CBR1000
Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR1000	Raphael Alikakos	Honda CBR1000
David Dolphin (1 st ride)	Suzuki GSXR1000	Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600
Graeme Tattersall	KTM 990	Michael MacRae	Honda CBR600
Peter Fisher	Aprilia 1090 RR	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ZX10
Rhys Callanan (1 st ride)	Yamaha R1	John Willis	Kawasaki ZX10
Rob Langer (lead)	BMW F700	Bill Kennedy	Kawasaki ZX7
			<i>20 bikes, 20 people</i>

I think Johnny Willis has plumbed a lot of Healesville and cleverly consolidated some of his back road discoveries for the morning leg of the ride. Riding through the vineyard and farm roads is most picturesque but I do get a little scared when riding through so many people's semi-rural 'back yards' as we did today. You never know who or what may pop out: a child, dog, horse, or four-wheel drive. One of these roads, which I refer to as a 'goat track' is the Old Warburton Road. I find it quite claustrophobic and prone to having gravel strategically strewn across some corners. Unfortunately, it caught out Michael MacRae who had eagerly returned to riding with MSR after having sorted out some mechanical issues with his Honda CBR600. Only minor cosmetic damaged caused by a 'low side' but enough to wipe the smile off his happy face for the rest of the ride.

The day seemed to be an exercise in elimination of rider numbers. We started with 20 at Yarra Glen. Graeme and Peter disappeared home soon after Healesville; Raphael and Rhys were left behind in Emerald; Dave and Bill left sometime after morning tea; Paul and Michael left after lunch; and Ben F. and Mark left at the top of the Reefton. That left 10 finishers. A couple of 'young

ones' were left behind to enjoy their most belated food arrival at Emerald, and their inadequate fuel supply. Raphael, Raphael... are you getting too distracted with the excitement of having it all? New bike, new MSR rider friend, new glamorous waitering job, new modelling career. On Sunday rides, MSR is on a mission and waits for no-one; my first lesson with the Club.

When we arrive at the Reefton Pub we see two MSR riders from the past: Tony Raditsis, who used to ride an Aprilia, now retired for reasons of self-preservation and marital harmony. His adrenalin rush is delivered these days by a 4 wheeled Italian beauty – an Alfa Romeo 'Giulia' sports car. Very nice... would have loved to have felt the speed in that one. *[Also Paul Tallents, plastic welding and painting guru who has worked on many a Club machine, also dropped in to say hello. ...Ed.]*

The Reefton was smooth-as and such a treat to be on. The dynamic duo, Misho and Steve, go thundering past me. 'Take me with you!' I whisper longingly. Aiden, 'Man of great gadgets' is in hot pursuit of the duo and passes me like a rocket, leaving a flash of nitro. ('Gadgets' is what I call Aiden's well developed stomach muscles, the names of which I never remember, hence the generic reference.)

Upon reaching the end of the Reefton, I couldn't help feeling how 'short' it seemed today, an after-effect from our Tasmanian adventure, I think.

From Marysville the Black Spur sweepers await, but alas, I am all alone as the others hold back with fear of the 'speed police'. Not to worry! They were busy discussing the logistics of 'carbon dating' John Willis's dirt encrusted number plate. As only an archaeologist would do upon a precious discovery, John proceeded to ever so gently remove the offending solidified dust, careful not to disturb what lay beneath. I almost fell over with laughter as I rode past. It was a brilliant distraction as we all managed to get past the speed police without any further ado.

At Healesville Bakery, the debriefing begins with Johnny reconstructing the events leading up to his encounter with the speed police and ensuing conversations. Apart from Johnny's dirty number plate, they also had a warning for the Suzuki rider who was captured on their video doing something not quite right on double lines. Hmm... can't be Tony? Doesn't sound like him at all. All ended well. No fines today, only tales of great caution.

Thanks for a good day's ride, John, and to the patient rear rider, Ben Fuller. It must be a MSR first, a Hyabusa under extreme restraint as 'rear'. Only till lunch though; then the beast was unleashed on the Reefton. Excellent! Thereafter, our illustrious President took up the rear riding duty. Thanks Ian. And thanks to all my fellow riders for the fun you brought to the day.

Pina Garasi