



Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR1000
Ian Payne (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters	Suzuki GSXR1000
Raphael Alikakos	Honda CBR1000	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Tony Stegmar	Suzuki GSXR1000
Adrian MacGeraghty	Honda CBR600	Jon Hoare	Suzuki GSXR600
Jesvin George	Honda CBR600	Chrys Kioseoglou (2 nd)	Suzuki TL1000S
John Willis	Kawasaki ZX10	Geoff Shugg	Suzuki DL650
Al Sobotker (2 nd ride)	Kawasaki ZX10	Neville Hoare	BMW K1200RS
Cindy Lee	Triumph 675	Michael Srb	BMW S1000RR
Rob Langer (rear)	KTM 990	Dave Mann	BMW S1000RR HP4

I have missed out on the Club rides for too many Sundays in the last few months due to getting stuck into the house renovations. Lou and I have been living in a building site, but the chance of a half day local ride on a 20 deg sunny spring day tempted me away from the paint brush and circular saw. But the well knackered front tyre needed a new 2CT Michelin fitted; a bit under an hour on Saturday night had it sorted.

So, up early, quick coat of paint on the bathroom, check bike tyre pressures and I'm off to meet the team at Emerald. Ian had lined up morning tea at Monbulk but changed plans due to a hot rod car club meeting in the main street. Emerald was the second choice. The trouble was when I got there, Emerald's monthly street market was happening. I had a coffee before the guys arrived, wondering where 20 bikes would park. Soon Ian appeared, looking bemused. Nowhere to park. He saw my green Kwaka and managed to get around 10 bikes in two car parking spaces next to it.

It was great catching up with everyone's news. Chrys, a new rider on a working visit to Australia from Greece, was riding a black TL1000 Suzuki, bringing back fond memories of my red one a decade and more ago. (10 years without a bike, how did I survive?) After a little while I noticed no Misho, no Pina. Unheard of! I haven't been on a Club ride without at least one of them in the last three years since I've been back riding with the Club.

I'd never heard of Johns Hill Lookout. On the way I found myself closing up on the Beemer S1000RR HP4 - the one with all the extra goodies, Ben tells me - when the rider had a big moment on a tightening left hander. I wondered what happened; it wasn't a difficult corner? Lack of concentration? He was lucky to stay upright. We all have lapses, I guess. I took advantage and squirted past.

After half an hour or so on some of the best roads around the Dandenong Ranges, we started up Ridge Road in Kallista. I thought, I know this road, I've worked in a few of the houses on this road - and most of the roads around these parts - there's always another little old lady somewhere with her life savings hidden under her bed! [joke] I'm a plumber, for those who didn't know. My patch is anywhere from Ringwood heading out as far as Gembrook, Eltham and down to Pakenham, [nowhere near the big smoke for me; you can keep all that traffic] but I didn't know the lookout along Ridge Road was called Johns Hill Lookout.

Quick stop for a photo and to let my Lou know we were aiming to be in Healesville for lunch in another 45 minutes or so. She was heading over in the Suubie to meet us. A couple of photos later and lunch here we come.

Chrys was doing very well on the TL, a new bike to him, in a foreign country, with a load of nutters on sports bikes. He rode at his own, pretty good pace, and never put a foot wrong. I hope he comes back as he seems a nice guy.

I was in conservative mode on the open roads, but come the twisty bits I was in a different mode. Knowing the roads well inspires the devil to course through my veins. (I now realise how Ben feels wherever he goes. After all those years, everywhere is his back yard!) And so it was on the first half of the road between Woori Yallock and Healesville, the red mist descended and, after passing a few bikes, the next bunch had Ian at its head. Apologies Ian, but I just couldn't contain myself and sailed past, intending to slow on the straight and wait. But the ride never re-appeared! Ian had turned off and

I missed a really nice loop of 20 odd kays of twisties up to Mount Toolbewong and down into Healesville. The moral of the story, of course, "Don't pass the leader!"

While I was being a BAD Committee member, Ben found his bike doing weird things in the handling department, eventually discovering a 2 inch screw right through the rear hoop. He followed me straight to Healesville, via the servo, to install a plug and some much needed wind. You can't beat being self-sufficient. We all carry plugs and air bottles don't we? I know I do.

Lou was waiting to meet us and have a bite to eat. Ronny and Julie were there too, just a coincidence not knowing the Club was on the way until they met up with Lou. Ronny told me about losing his job - last in, first out - unfortunately. The queue was long for a coffee, but I did my bit, before the rest of the crew arrived.

Heading up to Toolangi via Myers Creek Road I passed a few bikes. I squeezed by Chris Pointon, travelling really well, a few 100 meters before the top, just as a 4 wheel drive cop went the other way. I wasn't doing the speed limit, oops. Horror of horrors, I was now expected to corner mark with the cop doing a u-turn I was sure. I quickly hopped off the bike and cleaned the terribly dirty number plate. Everything now in order, the lovely police person never showed. Phew!

As I waited for Rob doing tail duties, several bikes came from Kinglake direction and headed down to Healesville getting amongst our lot. Rob arrived and I took off in a hurry down Chum Creek Road, rounding up the foreigners as though they were standing still. I wonder what they must think as team MSR flashes past in the blink of an eye, ("mad bastards" or "wish I could ride like those loonies") I pulled out of the ride approaching Yarra Glen to visit to my radio flying club where there was a Scale competition happening, and caught up with some friends performing in my other much loved hobby.

Thanks Ian for an enjoyable half a ride for me, Rob for rear riding, and everyone else's enjoyable company.

John Willis

P.S. Don't forget MSR members are welcome at John and Lou's home after a shortish ride on Sunday 15th December to join us for our wedding day festivities. The ceremony is in the morning at a beautiful spot in Toolangi, with the river running by, before heading home for a feed and hopefully to see you there. Come over, even if you're not on the ride. The address is 15/17, Melrose Ave Coldstream. Anytime after 2.30pm.