

Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Bill Simpson	Suzuki GSXR1000
Ron Johnston (1/2 rear)	Honda CBF1000	Dave Chisma	BMW F800ST
Pina Garasi (1/2 rear)	Honda CBR600	Jesvin George (2 <sup>nd</sup> ride)	YamahaFZ6R
			<i>6 bikes, 7 people</i>

It was a relief to go riding today as I have been working overtime on Kelly's new car, a Mazda 121 bubble, my own car, and my son's car. Now for some "me" time.

Julie and I saw Clifford last weekend staying overnight Saturday. He seems happier in himself, now just waiting for the doctor's clearance to ride in about five weeks.

I left home, late as usual, but I wasn't too worried because we live not that far from Yarra Glen. When I arrived I couldn't see anyone and I thought the group had left. Then I spotted a couple of heads above a car roof, so all was well.

At Yarra Glen, there was only a small contingent: Ben, Bill Simpson - who travelled from Geelong, good effort, and Jesvin on the FZR. Then Dave arrived followed by Pina. Ben gave the usual spiel, I volunteered for rear rider duties and the write up; it is about time as I haven't done one for a long time. I have a couple of write-ups on the go, but they are unfinished. Pina said she would also like to be the rear rider as well, so we split it half and half.

We left Yarra Glen and headed for Healesville and Chum Creek Road. I followed Bill, meeting a few cyclists which made it awkward in places.

At Toolangi there were a caravan and a couple of Ulysses riders on cruisers going slowly. In Toolangi the council had knocked trees down on a corner last year to reveal a very old wooden house. I thought the owners might restore it, but it appears to have been demolished. Another bit of history that has bitten the dust.

We hit the busy Melba Highway to the Murrindindi turnoff. This back road is great. I passed a shed that had collapsed on a sheep's foot roller. It was still standing last time I was through here.

We rode the four kilometres of gravel and came out on the Limestone Road. A few kilometres up the road we cross the rail trail which starts at Tallarook and goes through Trawool, Kerrisdale, Yea, and Molesworth to Cathkin where it branches off to Alexandra. Then Cathkin to Yarck, Kanumbra, Woodfield to Bonnie Doon, Maindample to Mansfield where the Terminus was. The station building still stands and you can ride your pushbike the whole way.

We have bypassed Yea. Next on to Molesworth and we do everyone's favourite road, Whanregarwen Road to Alexandra. There was some traffic at Alexandra, and for once, I rode ten km/h under the speed limit. Dave was corner marking and Ben had stopped around the corner and down the road outside the BBQ area.

Dave came down and said that Pina had been stopped by a police officer in a plain Subaru station wagon. I didn't even see it, probably because I wasn't looking. Pina finally arrived and let us in on the sordid details. Not happy. She said that the police had clocked other riders in front of her speeding, but instead of following them, they took easy way out and booked her. Three points, \$244.

It makes you a little angry: the points are the least of the problem; it's the donation to Ted's Retirement Fund that's the piss off. (Maybe we could pass the hat around?) *[I would have thought the points were the most important... at any one time up to three MSR members are "walking" ...Ed.]*

After the break we make our way to Yarck, passing a camera car parked off the side of the road. No donations this time, Uncle Ted.

Bill and I followed a VE wagon towing a trailer. In the trailer was an electric wheel chair with an unusual and interesting triangular track set up. It looked cool.

The run through to Gobur is a terrific ride, the road fast and flowing. At the “Y” junction we turned right and continued on to Kanumbra and then the highway to Merton. This next piece of road is alright for the first few kilometres but then you have to be on the ball, otherwise you will come unstuck. On to Polly McQuinns and Strathbogie.

Near Kelvin View I met a Falcon ute towing a large horse float turning in to a property. I was coming into the right hander, wondering what I could have for lunch, when in the corner appears a Volvo prime mover with an excavator on a low boy trailer. Now, the road being narrow and the truck needing more room than I do, I suddenly realise he isn’t moving and I have to try and move left a bit in a confined space. It was close but I did it. I don’t think I would look pretty plastered on the front of it; I’d probably come off second best.

We ride in to Euroa to get fuel. Ben got mixed up with his directions and we ended up going on some different roads, but still found the bakery near the railway station on the same street that we usually park on. Dave left us here to visit some friends that live on Mt Wombat.

After the lunch break the ride continued heading south down through Creightons Creek, Ruffy, Caveat, Highlands and on to Seymour. The scenery was interesting with a lot of water damage from recent rains, though the roads were mostly in good condition.

From the outskirts of Seymour we cut through to the Goulburn Valley Highway to Trawool turning right along the Upper Goulburn Valley road to Tallarook. Then on to Glenaroua and Broadford where we had our last stop. The shops we usually stop at were shut, but we found another little coffee shop open but they had turned their machine off. Damn... I had to have a cold drink instead.

Bill was entertaining us with the usual jokes; he ought to be a stand up comedian. He told us that he’s changed jobs and gone back to fitting and turning/boiler making. So, Broadford to Wandong to Wallan to finish at the side of the road at the Eden Park turnoff.

Thanks to Ben for leading, and Pina for sharing rear rider duties. Good weather, good roads, good company, no incidents, brilliant day.

**Ron Johnston**