

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters (leader)	Kawasaki ZX10
Misho Zrakic	Honda CBR1000	Phil Hotschilt	Suzuki GSXR1300
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Ron Johnston	Suzuki GSX1250
Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Billy Simpson	Suzuki GSXR1000
Jesvin George	Honda CBR600	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Cheeky Dunlop (1 st ride)	Suzuki GSXR600
Win Nghiem (2 nd ride)	Honda CBR600	Rob Langer (rear rider)	BMW R1150
Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1		<i>13bikes, 13 people</i>

Cliff's way out west rides always appeal and after a month away, mainly on cruise ships, it was a no miss for me. Weather looks great and the electrics on the R1 seem to be behaving so drone down the Calder and fill up at Point Cook servo. Early start and soon most of the riders roll up, Moriac the actual ride start.

Ben took the group over the West Gate and off at the Little River off-ramp for the straight run to Lara and the back road to Batesford. The day's first corner at North Corio caught out Cheeky on the 600 who had an off but was soon back and running thanks to help from Paul. Running south from Batesford and into Moriac where Billy, Tony and Cliff were waiting.

Top up the R1, talk some talk and then a sermon from a motorist who informed us of the mother of all police blitzes just out of Moriac. Some "at the speed limit" running today, methinks.

Cliff did the pre-ride spiel and commented on the state of the roads. His advice: "believe the rough road signs". As it turned out there was some interesting surface options.

Cliff rolled out and I slotted in behind. We approached the 60km/h road works and sure enough there was an unmarked police ute booking a 4WD and just off the road a bit further on two police bikes and another car. It seems the police group proceeded to Moriac and had some discussions with the late starters though no money changed hands it seems.

Through Bambra, always on the lookout, into Deans Marsh to corner mark and a wait for the reason mentioned above. Pace up a tad as we head west, away from the police and on to some roads I have never been on before. Map reading no use but we did go through Carlisle River and onto a 3km section of unmade road where it seems Cheeky ran into the back of Win and had another off, resulting in a fractured collar bone. Holed engine cover and a 20km pillion ride into Simpson on Rob's BM.

Somewhere on this section we had a half-way break. I know not where but there is a Jesvin photo of the group on the Club Facebook page.

Fuel taken in the very Simpson way followed by a lunch break. Some discussion of how to get Cheeky to hospital and what to do with the bike resulted in an elderly couple taking Cheeky to the Colac Hospital and plans to collect the bike from a farm later in the week. Win stayed to accompany Cheeky and was very apologetic about the delays. Ben suggested some training for Cheeky may be in order. Seems the bike was on loan with a "bend it mend it" clause.

Kit up and head for Cobden via Jancourt and Swan Marsh. As I was lost at this stage you need to take this with a grain of salt. A bit of highway running and then into Beeac for next break. Shop shut at 2pm so Phil legged it to the pub for a can of soft drink. More mystery roads to Inverleigh for fuel and food, more of Billy's humour, and then into familiar territory. Billy left here.

Then Lethbridge, Maude and Anakie before the blast along Granite Road and into Werribee for the ride break up. Thanks Cliff for the lemonade icy pole; very tasty, very cool. Phil followed me to the Western Highway and I headed north on Plumpton Road only to be flashed by an oncoming

Highway Patrol. No money changed hands, thankfully. Ron may have been on his last ride for some time, points and all that.

Thanks for the ride, Cliff. New roads indeed. And to Rob who did the rear ride thing including the Cheeky incident.

Geoff Jones