

Tony Stegmar	Honda CBR1000	Cliff Peters (leader)	Kawasaki ZX10
Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Gordon Heydon	Kawasaki ZX6
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Willem Vandeveld (rear)	Honda ST1100
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Geoff Jones	Yamaha R1
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600		<i>9 bikes, 9 people</i>

Old style winter weather persists but after a long break from the Sunday fix due to the arrival of a new granddaughter, Ashleigh Laine, and turning 65 all happening during June, I ignored the radar and headed for Whittlesea. Patches of dry road and no rain but “cold-as” saw nine bikes and riders gather for an on-time departure as the days are still very short. Participants: refer to list above.

Tony had been adding some air at the servo, which it seems is soon to close, so we will have to choose another start point in Whittlesea. As the group left he discovered he was missing a glove and inner. Some touring around the main drag and back to the servo with Willem in tow, to no avail, so on with a spare set of gloves and we are finally away.

Up the Eden Park twisties, testing the grip level, and on to Wallan, running in tight formation as is the case with a smaller group. On to the Romsey road which has been improved and widened in parts. Pace up, as the road was mainly dry, through Romsey, Hanging Rock, Newham and on to the Three Chain Road for some hydrocarbon action and so to Lancefield for the first break.

Food taken and some talk about the new Ducati Panagale with its 112mm bore. Single plug or two? Does anyone know? Its combustion control must be top drawer with such a wide bore. “Flame propagation” seemed to catch Pina's attention for a short time.

Standing around in what turned out to be the coldest Melbourne day for four years was not the best option, so rug up and follow Cliff towards Pyalong and its 80km/h *tax* road. Left again just north of the town and west towards Kyneton. Through the short dirt section and on to Baynton and Pastoria.

Kyneton main street and in to the rain. Grip gone, water seeping into all those usual places, constant visor wipes the order of the day. Past the now overflowing reservoirs, left to Tylden and on to Woodend which had replaced Trentham for our lunch stop.

Pull off soaked gloves to fuel up then realise that wet gloves do not go back on, so swap for a spare pair. Then park up at Bourkies Bakery. As the wait for a coffee was about 30 minutes, I decided, as did Willem and Paul, to cut and run. An email from Ben tells me that the ride ended here as the rain showed no sign of easing. An easy ten minutes down through the Black (and wet) Forest and I was home. I guess it was a longer trip home for Cliff and others. Maybe there will be more info on the ride completion from another scribe but I think the weather had the final say.

Thanks to Cliff for the lead and Willem for rear riding.

Geoff Jones