

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Dennis Lindemann	Honda CBR600
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Ian McPherson (1 st ride)	Honda CBR600
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Chris Pointon	Suzuki GSXR1000
Ian Payne (rear)	Honda CBR1000	Michael Srb	Suzuki GSXR1000
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	Dean Bonthorne (2 nd ride)	Suzuki GSXR750
Ron Johnston	Honda CBF1000	Marc Marais (leader)	Kawasaki ZX10
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ER-6N
Roman Berjoza	Honda CBR600	Rob Langer	KTM 990
Matt Considine	Honda CBR600	Tony Ripepi	KTM 990

Today's ride was similar to the ride I led last year, but instead of going to Rawson, we would go to Thomson Dam. Last year's ride to Rawson went a little awry due to a last minute decision to skip Rawson and head south into Gippsland. It got a bit messy with a missed turn ending up in a detour ending up in a dead end. So I was determined to make today's ride work, applying the lessons learnt.

After much tweaking of the route to get it right with the time available (short days without daylight saving) I headed out to Berwick. Eighteen riders, a large number, turned up which is always good.

After the usual briefing we headed off from Berwick to Noojee for morning tea. The Powelltown Road was great with a few damp spots (despite the weather forecast of a perfect 26 degrees) before Noojee, but no problems on the Michelins. I've switched to Michelin Power 2CTs from the Pures; they're cheaper and have a more rigid carcass. Time will tell if they wear better.

At Noojee there was a cycling event heading to Mt Baw Baw. It wouldn't affect us as our next leg was down through Neerim Junction, Willow Grove and then to Moe for lunch. After a leisurely lunch and socialising, we set off to Thomson Dam. Another great road with some unwelcome damp spots just short of the dam, but they didn't pose any problems.

Just before reaching the dam, with a group of riders behind, snaking through the sweepers, a bike came flying past. I wondered who it was and why they passed the leader (although everyone knew where we were stopping, so it was technically okay). Then another bike came past, a woman on an R1. Definitely not in our Club! The last time I saw an R1 on a Club ride was in Licola, and that R1 got written off! Anyway, I decided to follow the two bikes and eventually passed them as they were a bit slower in the corners. They disappeared completely on the wet corners.

At Thomson Dam we did the usual touristy things: taking pictures and checking the water level - which seems a bit higher than last time. I had a good chat with the two riders that passed us, Yvette and Fred; told them we were the MSR. I was pretty sure I'd met Yvette before but couldn't figure out where; probably from my previous life with NetRiders (shudder).

From Thomson Dam we headed back via Tyers to fill up at Moe. I need premium juice for the green beast! Then we took the scenic route via Jindivick to end the ride at the Officer BP service station after 427 km. It was a short ride (for me at least) to home.

Marc Marais

Leg 1: Berwick, Pakenham Upper, Gembrook, Yarra Junction, Powelltown, Noojee. (100km)

Leg 2: Noojee, Nayook, Neerims, Crossover, Buln Buln East, Willow Grove, Moe. (80km)

Leg 3: Moe, Erica, Thomson Dam. (50km)

Leg 4: Thomson Dam, Tyers, Yallourn North, Moe for fuel. (73km)

Leg 5: Moe, Willow Grove, Old Sale Road, Crossover, Neerim South, Jindivick, Longwarry North, Officer.