

Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Marc Marais	Kawasaki ZX10
Ian Payne (1/3 rear)	Honda CBR1000	Mark Copeland	Kawasaki ZX10
Tim Emons	Honda CBR1000	Aiden Baker	Kawasaki ER6-N
Paul Southwell	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Damir Djikic	Honda CBR1000	Rob Langer (2/3 rear)	KTM 990
Pina Garasi	Honda CBR600	Cindy Lee	Triumph 675
Michael Henriksen	BMW R1200ST		<i>13 bikes, 13 people</i>

Well, this will teach me to shut up sometimes. Mentioned to Ben what a great ride it was and “bang” drafted to write the report as a first time participant.

I have been riding for many years but had a long break of about 15 years before getting back in the saddle four to five years ago. At the time I found “NetRider” which was extremely useful from an information point of view and also facilitated group rides. At the time there was a very good “core group” who arranged good rides and a pleasant atmosphere. Unfortunately, NetRider has deteriorated over the last couple of years with many keeping within their own circle of friends using Facebook as their means of communication. It has been difficult to find good rides that suit me and often there are both riders who are not experienced enough and riders who are “unsafe” in their behaviour.

I had heard about MSR from time to time, more in the context of “crazy bastards”, but lately positive comments regarding the rides etc. and thought I’ll give it a try. Safe to say, I did not regret it. The meet was at Berwick – a smaller group than usual I was told – and made felt welcome. It was very humid throughout the day, but except for a few drops early on, it stayed dry and became quite warm and sunny in the afternoon.

The route took us through some of the best Gippsland roads – some I had done before and some were new to me. Very little traffic and no boys in blue. The speed was “fastish”, which suited me without feeling pressured to race anybody. People were well behaved – both overtaking and being overtaken. The corner marking is very smooth.

There were no incidents and the company was pleasant. I liked how organised everything was, from taking down names and emergency contacts to appropriate planned stops etc. No doubt I will attend again when I don’t have my every second weekend parental duties. It was fun and nice to get home on your newish tyres and see them used all the way to the edges.

Casual Observations ;-)

- Is the Fireblade the only sports bike available?
- Do they all come with Ohlins?
- Does the uniformed Ohlin technician always come along to take care of them?

Michael “Mikkey” Henriksen