

Yarra Ranges

Sunday 5th February 2012

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| Ben Warden | Honda CBR1000 | Joe Klopfner | Kawasaki ZRX1200 |
| Paul Southwell | Honda CBR1000 | Marc Marais | Kawasaki ZX10 |
| Ian Payne (rear) | Honda CBR1000 | John Willis | Kawasaki Z1000 |
| Mirko Strasser | Honda CBR929 | Jason Wilson | Kawasaki ZX9 |
| Pina Garasi | Honda CBR600 | Aiden Baker | Kawasaki ER6N |
| Chris Pointon | Suzuki GSXR1000 | Rob Langer (leader) | KTM 990 |
| Paul Simonson | Aprilia RSV4 | Pierre Ong | Ducati 1098 |
| Cindy Lee | Triumph 675 | Marty Ruschena (2 nd) | BMW K1200R |

18 bikes, 18 people

Today's ride was planned as a leisurely social-type day with lunch at the Toolangi Roadhouse and finishing with a coffee at Warrandyte. Rob Langer would lead on his now reliable KTM!

From the servo we zig-zagged our way around the back streets of Berwick: past the hospital, the Beaconsfield train station, the 'old' Princess Highway, a new housing development in O'Neil Road until we popped out beside the Cardinia Park Hotel. From here it was back on familiar ground to Harkaway, Narre Warren North, Upper Beaconsfield, Emerald, Cockatoo, Pakenham Upper and Gembrook. So far, so good, with only an abundance of leaf litter on the roads to contend with.

We continued on through the Gembrook twisties to Launching Place before cutting across to Yarra Junction and the Warburton Highway. From here I thought it would be a straight run to Warburton, but no, Rob threw in another diversion past the cemetery to Station Road were we came out at Wesburn! Now it was straight to Warburton and the Bakery for a coffee.

After the break it was off to the Reefton Spur where this once superb road is now zealously policed, as Mirko was to find out as he overtook a slow moving white 4WD! As he was not speeding the constabulary were unsure what the offence should be, so they just took his details and would post out the misdemeanour at a later date! With Mirko keeping Mr Plod occupied, the pace upped a notch or two as we enjoyed this great piece of road.

We continued on to Marysville and the Black Spur where Paul Simonson had stopped with a large stick wedged under the fairing of his Aprilia. Once the stick was removed most of the traffic had gone, so we were able to enjoy the road at a reasonably brisk pace until we caught up to the rest of the group. After safely negotiating this over-policed section of road, we refuelled in Healesville before tackling Myers Creek road to our destination at Toolangi for lunch.

The Toolangi Roadhouse was very nice except for the waitresses who were quite dictatorial in laying down the ground rules of what we could or could not do! But the good food and pleasant company more than made up for this issue.

With the skies darkening, most people were keen to get moving before the predicted storm arrived, so it was off to Castella and Mount Slide. As we were about to head for Kinglake, Marty had a handling issue on his BM which turned out to be a VERY flat rear tyre! With the closest servo being in Yarra Glen, Ben would accompany him and catch us up at Warrandyte later. I continued on to Kinglake to find only Rob waiting. Apparently all the others were keen to keep moving and had gone! So Rob and I rode together to St Andrews, Panton Hill, taking Alma Road to Kangaroo Ground and then Pigeon Bank Road to Warrandyte.

We just made the confines of the coffee shop before the heavens opened up, so we settled in for a nice hot latte. Wrong! The storm had knocked out the electricity from here to Ringwood, so an iced coffee would have to do!

Thanks to Rob for leading and the others for coming out on this social day.

Ian Payne