

## Yarra Ranges

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

Ben Warden	Honda CBR1000	Joe Klopfnor	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 <sup>nd</sup> )	BMW K1200R
<i>18 bikes, 18 people</i>			

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 where 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**