



Misho Zrakic/Pina Garasi
Ben Warden (leader)
Jesvin George
Tony Stegmar
Chrys and Eva Kiosioglou
Rob McDowall

Honda CBR1000
Honda CBR1000
Honda CBR600
Suzuki GSXR1000
Suzuki TL1000
Yamaha R1

Joe Klopfer (1/2 rear)
Andrew Newbury
Jason Wilson
Tim Walker
Geoff Dick (1/2 rear)

Kawasaki ZRX1200S
Kawasaki ZX10
Kawasaki ZX9
BMW S1000RR
BMW R850R
11 bikes, 13 people

At the BBQ:

Misho Zrakic
Ron and Julie Johnston
Chrys and Eva Kiosioglou
John Willis and Lou Tickner

Pina Garasi
Rob Langer
Tony Stegmar

Tim Walker
Andrew Newbury
Geoff Dick

Paul Southwell
Jesvin George
Ben Warden
16 people

OK, before I start I want to make it **loud** and clear that I agreed to do the write up but it has nothing to do with the **tyres** offered by the Committee. What's in a pair of **tyres**? They are just round and black - quite **tiresome** really. I was trying to hook Andrew Newbury into doing the write up on his first MSR ride after the Tassy dramas. Instead, Ben hooked me into this. Bad Karma.

We were all glad to see Andrew back on his 2014 Kawasaki ZX10 which has already done 2500km in a short time. After exchanging pleasantries, ride briefing and adequate engine revving, we set off to Warburton. As usual I started slowly and sat behind most riders. After breathing enough hot air from the mufflers of riders in front I started to warm up and slowly upped the pace. However, there were cars to overtake and sand to look out for.

My CBR600RR is not turning into corners easily which I reckon is due to different **tyres** – a Michelin Pilot Power 3 at the front with a flatter profile, and a Dunlop Sportsmart at the rear with a curvy profile. I am not sure whether this is a stupid idea or not but I scorched the **tyres** at Broadford with this **tyre** combination a few weeks back.

At Warburton I had a chat with Joe Klopfer about his Kawasaki ZRX1200S and he told me he had a Honda CB1000 before it. It seems the Kawasaki better suits his taste. Chrys Kiosioglou who has only been on a couple of rides, had his wife Eva Kiosioglou on the back today. Misho and Pina were also riding two-up.

After a leisurely break we set off to Mt Donna Buang. What sort of name is that for a mountain anyway? The ride up was bliss. The temperature had risen and **tyre** grip was now optimal. Corners were wide enough, flowing and easy to throttle control because we were going up. Andrew came up behind me and then passed. I engaged pursuit mode. We came up behind a group of four riders and I stayed behind watching Andrew passing them one at a time, slow and steady. I can't believe he has just come back from a big crash, he was riding so confidently. Good on him.

The **entire** crew reached the top with grins. There were three other riders on Triumph Bonnevilles, standing back admiring their bikes and talking to each other about how good their bikes *looked*.

We spent the next half an hour climbing up and down the fire tower in leathers and taking photos.

Now back on the bikes, I followed Tony Stegmar down for the first half. But for reasons I'm unaware of, he wasn't on his usual pace. On the straights he flapped his hands like a hen flapping her wings after laying an egg. This continued more or less till the ride end.

The downhill ride wasn't as difficult as I imagined.

At the intersection of the Acheron Way there were no corner markers. I waited and later flagged down Chrys who also had no idea which way to go. Then someone, probably Jason, rode through and we followed him down to Warburton for fuel.

Pina wanted to ride my bike to compare it to her CBR600RR. This translates to I have to be a pillion rider with Misho. Though it would have been an opportunity to learn Misho's riding techniques such as braking points and cornering lines, I didn't want to crap in my leathers. Misho is one of the safest riders I have seen. However, who wants to sit on a bike which overtakes two bikes at the same time on (*what appears to be ...Ed*) a blind corner with the bike leaned over so close to the road that you can see the wandering ant's eyes. So Pina had to wait until we reached Rob's home to take it for a spin.

We took almost the same roads back to Pakenham. At the big roundabout at Pakenham Upper, Jason and I corner marked. The rest of the riders passed through but there was no trace of rear rider Geoff. After waiting a reasonable time, Jason went back looking for him - and I followed. At the intersection of Gembrook Road and Harvie Road, Geoff unfortunately, had had a mishap on the right hander. A Good Samaritan rider stopped to help. The rider said he saw a head in the bushes and turned around to have a good look and noticed a bike lying in the one metre tall grass.

While Jason pushed the bike up through the muddy area I continued helping by taking snaps in Ben's absence. Geoff suffered only minor injuries including (surprisingly) some marks on his face which I guess were due to the flip up model full face helmet. I must ask Geoff next time to confirm my suspicions.

I texted Ben the reason for the delay and left Geoff and Jason to rest while I continued the journey. On two occasions I saw Tim Walker and Tony riding in the opposite direction coming looking for us. I signalled them to turn around and we three continued sweeping up the rest of the riders. There was Ben patiently waiting at the Cardinia Road roundabout getting soaked under the blistering sun.

Battling the freeway wind, we reached Rob's home at which point Pina took my bike for a spin. She came back saying my bike had crisper throttle response, which is no surprise as it is 50,000 km younger than her bike. She was waiting for new Brembo discs which were duly fitted for the next ride.

Rob was already cooking the BBQ which suited me as I was hungry. I jumped straight on to the food and then talked bikes while others watched the pre-MotoGP racing. There were more MSR crew at Rob's house and it was good to catch up with them. Geoff Dick arrived soon after we did.

By the time the MotoGP started at 4pm, I was preparing to leave. I got various frowns. I don't get excited watching someone else racing. I do not *watch* sport. I would get more excited mowing my lawn.

Thanks to Ben for leading a short but sweet ride, Joe and Geoff for rear riding, Jason for assisting Geoff, the Good Samaritan rider for the same, Rob for the venue and food, and others for preparing more food.

PS. I missed the ice cream. Was it in the fridge?

PS2. I am going to win the **tyres** for this article. Please send them in time. And gift wrapped please.

Jesvin George