

Ben Warden (leader)	Honda CBR1000	Steve Mudford	Suzuki GSXR750
Misho Zrakic/Pina Garasi	Honda CBR1000	Cindy Lee (rear rider)	Triumph 675
Ken King	Suzuki GSXR1000	Chris Tran	Yamaha R6

I'd been looking forward to the Jamieson Ride for ages. Having struggled on it previously, once or twice on the GSXR, I wanted to see how I'd go on the Triumph. I was a little nervous with rain forecast for the day and I'd barely ridden 300 kms in well over a month.

Steve and I rolled up early - Steve had a new rear tyre that he'd given a quick once-over with sandpaper so slipped and slid all the way to Yarra Glen. Predictably, Ben, Misho and Pina were there and not-predictably, Chris Tran, who I hadn't seen since his crash at Licola ages ago. Time to go, so Pina hitched a ride with Misho and we set off with me as rear rider.

It was a slow going from Yarra Glen to Marysville, not because of the traffic, but because Chris was not feeling comfortable on his bike. It was a friend's R6 that he was considering purchasing. The bike setup was all wrong and he felt unsafe. At Marysville, we decided to switch rear riding duties. There was a bit of adjusting and advice, courtesy of Steve, which led to some improvement.

Ken, a work-related colleague of Ben's, joined us at our first stop. After introductions, there were a few stories to accompany a bite to eat. Ken, who'd arrived from Ireland two years ago, spoke of his riding adventures through Europe. We heard a little of Chris' licence suspension woes and plans to buy his friend's R6. Then, it was time to hit the road.

We made our way to Eildon at a fairly moderate pace by Club standards - I only say this from the relative degree of pain I felt in my neck muscles as me and my naked bike pushed through the force of air resistance at speed. With the rotation of corner marking duties, I was the first to take off after Ben from the last corner to Jamieson. Ben was well out of my sights and I rode fairly cautiously on the damp, shiny start of the Jamieson Road. It wasn't long before Steve came screaming past and a few seconds later Misho and Pina. After a while Ken appeared in my rear view and I waved him past, not wanting the pressure of having him on my tail - better for me to tail him.

We came out of the trees, to the mountain ridge, from the slippery wet, to dry with smatterings of gravel. Definitely better! Compared to my memory of the last ride to Jamieson, there were barely any loose stones. Maybe I just didn't notice with the Triumph feeling a million times better than the gixxer with all its past problems.

We pulled up at a lookout for a group photo and to briefly admire Lake Eildon. We were full of exuberance, all smiles after a great clear run to Jamieson. It's gotta be one of my favourites!

After a few poses for Ben's camera, we headed down into Jamieson for lunch and fuel. It was like a ghost town after a long weekend and the end of school holidays. We camped outside the local shop to eat our packed lunches and enjoy the typical chatter that goes on during breaks. A few items were purchased and consumed, so the shopkeeper couldn't complain.

Lunch was over and we took off after Ben. Steve, Misho and Pina were off like a flash. I was happy to coast along at a more relaxed pace. Chris was still feeling awkward on the R6. I think we convinced him not to buy it; his tall figure looked too big for the bike. But it wasn't all about the look: we'd all seen the pace Chris was capable of and I couldn't imagine that his surprisingly slow speed was all Chris and not something wrong with the bike.

Ben led us out of Jamieson, then via the dam to Eildon for our last break to the finish point. We didn't hang around too long due to the heavy black clouds almost upon us. Not far out of Eildon, we hit a wall of water. I was tired, I couldn't see, my contact lenses were feeling gritty and dry and there was too much water in my visor. Despite the fact that I couldn't get home fast enough, I could only just manage the speed limit. The rain stopped by the time we arrived at Yea, and I limped to the Whittlesea finish. There was more talking and kidding around by the crew before our goodbyes.

See you on the next Jamieson ride - Rod Merrett leading!

**Cindy Lee**