

SAMRATS ride report for Sunday 15 January 2012

Over 40 riders came out on the day for the SAMRATS Jock Rogan memorial ride. I had envisaged a small ride mainly for the regular SAMRATS riders which is why I did not promote the ride to the wider motor cycling community. I did not wish to reduce the importance of a more official and more widely promoted Jock Rogan memorial ride planned for later in the year by the MRA committee. I had forgotten that the MRA committee wanted to have one event only and I am sorry for the upset that resulted from my memory loss especially for those who needed more notice of a memorial ride and were upset that they were unable to attend on Jan 15. In the motor cycling community the word got around quickly and there were many riders from other motor clubs in attendance which was great on the day although it was not my intention.

I planned the ride for 15 January as a mystery ride because Jock often did mystery rides and they nearly always went one way or another to Mannum for lunch and that was my aim. Mystery was usually code for Mannum. However the roads to the north and east were said to be full of cyclists with roads blocked off etc so we went south instead to avoid the push bike riders. This was good because it gave us a chance to follow some of Jock's favorite rides in the south.

Jock was a unique individual who had the highest level of honesty and integrity possible. He always had something to say on most topics and you always knew where you stood with Jock. He had a highly tuned bullshit detector and at the same time he was able to talk to any one and make them feel welcome. His enthusiasm and motivation for the sport and lifestyle of motor cycling rubbed off on all who know him. He also was a likeable and loveable larrikin who had a twinkle in the eye for a politically incorrect joke and a great dry humor and wit.

After my short speech as to the above qualities of Jock and a few words from Sue we took off down the freeway to Mount Barker, then to Wistow, Woodchester and to Strathalbyn all great roads for the motor cycle. Then on to Langhorne Creek a great favorite of Jock's, followed by Milang, Clayton, Finnis, Currency Creek and Goolwa for lunch. Only 2 or 3 riders had to peel off before lunch to attend other commitments and it was great to have several large groups lunching together. A quick fuel stop and about half the group had to get back home and the rest of us rode on to Mount Compass, Nangkita Rd and back to Meadows for afternoon tea via Bull Creek Rd.

Every one I spoke to said it was a great ride and all on some of Jock's favorite roads. The strong wind in the early morning dropped off, the sun shone and it was a simple and honest day's ride. It is a sad thing indeed that we shall never hear helmet up and let's have some fun in Jock's accent and those of us who are the current ride captains will carry on but we certainly have big boots to fill. Thanks to all the riders on the day.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator