

Samrats ride report for Sunday 4 March 2012

Ride Leader Ken morning / Jim afternoon

Tail End Charlie Joe then Craig

11 bikes turned out, a couple with pillions, for the Members Choice ride for this 3 month rides calendar. The popularity of the Clipsal may have kept our numbers down and I noticed that some of the other clubs that were out on the day also had fewer riders than usual.

We had all the captains on the ride - me, Rohan, Ian and Jim which is pretty rare. I had hoped that we would get a rest from ride planning for the day and I had also hoped that more people would turn up with ideas for rides. As this was not forthcoming I led a ride by default to Normanville for lunch going via some of my own favorite roads. To get out of the city and escape the Clipsal traffic we went Anzac Highway, South Rd and headed straight up Shepherds Hill Rd to Blackwood. Then onto Main Rd and wound our way through Coro Valley and once past Black Rd we hit the great hills twisties all the way to Clarendon.

Joe's bike had breaking trouble and he had to bow out and head for home handing the tail end job to Craig. The weather had been threatening to rain but held off all day with a minimal amount of tiny spits and the autumn air was cool and refreshing and a wonderful change from the stinking hot and sweaty of the last few months. On to Meadows and then to Strathalbyn via the 15ks of Paris Creek Rd which is in my view a great road with long banking curves, small hill climbs and undulations. The road surface and camber is a bit uneven in places but I think that can be forgiven with the scenery and nice country feel of the area.

Morning tea at Strath and on to Ashbourne, Bull Creek Rd, Nangkita Rd which are all great roads for motor cycling. The wind was mild and almost undetectable so far but began to increase about now and make it's presence known with a bit of buffering. Through Mount Compass and right along the Victor Harbor road, then left onto the long stretches and occasional turns of Pages Flat Rd, another great favorite. Next taking the Reservoir Rd around the Myponga dam, across the spill way, around the hills and down into Normanville for lunch. The wind off the ocean in this area is often quite strong but today it was only moderate and not too prone to blow us off the road.

After lunch a couple of riders had to head for home and to give me a rest from leading all the time Jim took over and set the sights on a return to Meadows for afternoon tea. We went via Yankalilla then up Main South Rd to the top of Willunga Hill which is quite a fun stretch of road. Right onto Brookman Rd and through the Kuitpo forest for a coffee, tea, cake afternoon tea at Meadows.

A nice, relaxing and leisurely ride at 215kms from beginning to end and finishing at about 2.30pm in time to go home and do jobs or just relax as the need arises. A good day's ride in the excellent company of the Samrats.

Thanks to all of the riders on the day, Jim for leading the afternoon, Joe and Craig for going tail end Charlie.

Ken King - Samrats Coordinator