

Samrats ride report for Sunday 6 May 2012

Ride leader Ken, Tail end Charlie Steve / Darren

Heavy clouds and over cast sky didn't stop 10 of us venturing forth on the yearly ride to Blanchtown. As it turned out we only got light rain on the last leg coming back from Sedan and until that time of the day there was virtually no wind which made for pleasant riding. The bikes on the day certainly illustrated the variety of motor cycles ridden by the Samrats members as we had sports bikes, sports tourers, naked bikes, a road / trail cross over, a big cruiser, a trail bike and a Goldwing.

We left West Terrace and got out of the city via Magill Rd and then did the magnificent twisties of Old Norton Summit Rd and Lobethal Rd to Lobethal. A muster up where the slowest bikes were only 5 minutes after the fastest and off to Mount Torrens, Birdwood and then Mount Pleasant for a rest and morning tea. Mount Pleasant to Angaston / Nuriootpa is a nice stretch and then turning right onto the Sturt Highway for the 60 kms to Blanchtown. Apart from the road works in the first 10 kilometers which have been unbelievably going on for at least 3 years this is a great stretch of highway with excellent surface, 110k limit, a few twists and turns and on this day not much traffic.

A fuel stop at the BP at the turn off to Blanchtown and down the hill to the pub overlooking the river and lock 1 of the mighty Murray. The day was by now a bit more pleasantly warm and we sat on the verandah to eat our excellent meals with the view of the river and the partly opened spillways of the lock. The friendly banter and enjoyable company made lunch a bit longer than usual.

We saddled up and crossed the Blanchtown bridge and took the Swan Reach Rd on the other side of the river. This road follows the river with the cliffs on the right side and the 30 kms to Swan Reach is a good ride with open road speed limit and while it has less cornering than the Swan Reach to Walker Flat road it is still an excellent ride.

At Swan Reach we crossed back over the river on the ferry and did the 30kms to Sedan where we encountered the first wind and rain of the day. I had intended to return via Walkers Flat but the vote was to go up the Sedan Hill which we duly did. The 20 kms up the hill to Keyneton was a good run except for the wind, light rain and most of the riders got stuck behind a slow car which was intent on spoiling the fun. The weather was worsening so instead of riding to Lobethal for afternoon tea as I had planned we rode as a group to Eden Valley and back to Mount Pleasant and Birdwood where the north dwellers went straight to head for home and the rest of us turned south to Woodside to pick up the freeway back to Adelaide. The ride to Blanchtown is a longer trip than our usual rides with my trip meter showing 370klms for the day but if your into riding I reckon it is well worth the effort.

Thanks to Steve who did a sterling job as tail end Charlie all day up to the last leg from Keyneton.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator.