

## **Samrats ride report for Sun 12 August 2012**

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Simon

18 bikes and riders and 1 pillion gathered at BP Mount Barker car park at 9am to enjoy a rare moment of winter sun and although the temperature was 6 degrees C it was still a pleasant moment. The sun unfortunately did not last long and only came out from behind the clouds a few times all day. We had 2 new riders who had ridden quite a distance from Victor Harbor and Tailem Bend to get to the start of the ride. It was noted at the mandatory safety talk and discussion of the imminent doubling of demerit points for speeding due to come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

We took off along some great country roads to Woodchester, Callington, Old Princes Highway to Murray Bridge where we had a rest stop at the service station on the left just over the bridge. A quick morning tea rest then onto the road to Mannum on the east side of the Murray, then a right turn for the 60 kms to Karoonda. This is a great road for motor cycling with only about 8kms left of the previous bumpy, undulating road surface that used to extend from the turn off all the way to Karoonda. The road is much improved and has a great combination of S shaped twists, corners and small hills to climb around.

One rider had to get back home early at morning tea time while the rest of us lunched comfortably at the Karoonda Café and Bakery situated in the main street across from the park with the Ram statue. The pastries, cakes etc are all excellent and tastes like they are all home cooked on the premises. The usual friendly banter from our likeable bunch of rogues stretched lunch time out to about one hour. It was a surprise when 2 more riders joined us in the middle of the day. Martin had been to the Flat Earth Rally at Sedan and caught up to us at Karoonda and Reini caught up with us at our Tailem Bend fuel stop. Lunch was done and it was only 12.30pm.

The next leg was to back track to the Tailem Bend turn off about 25 kms back on the Murray Bridge Rd. This avoided having to go Lameroo and the Mallee Highway. The road from the turn off to Tailem Bend has a good surface and some nice long curves. The wind had been kind to us thus far and we got to our petrol stop at Tailem Bend with little buffeting.

The next leg was to Wellington via the SE Princes Highway where we reached the ferry in time to ride straight on and cross the Murray. Wellington to Langhorne Creek was a free ride for those who wanted to stretch their legs but we ran into some moderate head wind on this stretch but no where near as strong or difficult as the last few weeks.

We regrouped at Langhorne Creek, turned right onto the road to Mount Barker then left at the top of the hill T intersection to get to Strathalbyn. A muster up at Strath, a couple of riders left the group to run for home and the rest of us hit the Paris Creek Rd which is another classic motor cycling mecca to finish the ride at Meadows.

About 15 of us reached the end of the ride and most of us stayed on for some afternoon refreshments and friendly chit chat. The sun came out and unusually the weather looked

like it would sunny and fine for the late afternoon. Most of us would have been home by 4pm and the ride was about 270 kms from Mount Barker to Meadows plus the k's getting to the start point and home again. A great day ride with reasonable weather and good company. Thanks to Simon who is doing a sterling job as tail end Charlie and to all the riders who came out on the day who all help make the Samrats ride group such an enjoyable experience.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator