

Samrats ride report for Sun 30 Nov 2014

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Reini

9 riders turned up at Caltex Bolivar for the annual ride to Clare. The small number probably was related to the weather forecast for 35C and 38 C for Adelaide and Clare but as per lately the forecast was way out and it was not very hot in the Clare region, approximately 32C and there was a cool breeze for most of the day making for very pleasant riding. This was scheduled to be Jim's ride on the calendar but as he had family commitments I led the ride. With the potential for heat we discussed options with different ways to get to Clare or even go south but by consensus we decided to stick to Clare for lunch. I gave 3 options for getting to Clare short, medium and long ways and given the enthusiasm of the group I decided to take the best roads which meant the long way round. We had 4 new riders on board and 3 of them finished the ride which was quite an achievement given that the ride day ended up near to 400kms in all.

After an extensive safety talk ensuring that each person rides to their own ability we took off north at 9.30am on Port Wakefield Rd to Two Wells where we went down the main street past the WWII tank reminding us of those who fought the good fight and turned right to Mallala. There was little wind, a nice breeze and we rode the straight pathways to Balaklava via Mallala. A quick rest stop and off towards Auburn where the land rises up a bit and there are some nice smooth sweepers coming into Auburn but just as we arrived on the good bits the one and only big semi for the day turned onto the road to slow us up. A muster up at Auburn which did not take long as the back of the ride was not far behind and we were off to Saddleworth with a few more bends in the road to enjoy. Next a left turn to Marrabel a few straight and gently winding roads and a right turn towards Kapunda and then a left towards Eudunda.

Marrabel to Eudunda is a great ride with sweepers, undulating hills and little S bends to make it interesting and in my opinion was the best section of the day. Another muster up at the top of the hill and a left turn onto the main road to Morgan and into Eudunda for a few kilometres and then left onto the Robertstown / Burra Rd. Some of the new riders had not been on the aptly named Worlds End Highway so they were in for a treat. This section to Burra was a bit more demanding as the coolish breeze had picked up to be a strong cross wind blowing the lighter bikes all over the road and needing a lot of effort to ride straight. This cross wind slowed up the pace somewhat to keep it safe but did not spoil the fun too much and gave the muscles of the arms and legs a good workout. Turning back to the north at Robertstown reduced the wind effect and we rode through the ups and downs of the water course dips and then to Burra via the Morgan to Burra Highway. A quick fuel stop at Burra and then south down the Barrier Highway and a right turn to Clare which was about another 40 kms.

It was 1.30pm when we pulled into the Clare Hotel car park, only half an hour later than the usual lunch time and we were ready for a well cold drink and a pub meal. Roast of the day or fish and seafood was the order of the day which was pretty good for the price. My trip meter said we had done 268 kms from Caltex Bolivar to Clare which was a bit longer than the 100 kms direct route. 7 out of the 9 starters were still on board for lunch at Clare. Everyone was in good spirits and ready for a longer rest and a meal. The pub took a while to serve which was good as we needed the rest time. We had a leisurely lunch and decided that as we had a long morning ride we would come back to Adelaide via the direct route. We departed at 2.30pm and the ride from Clare to Tarlee had an even cooler breeze than the morning and the closer we got to Adelaide a cooler sea breeze made for a pleasant effect through the summer mesh jacket. The 10% chance of rain did not eventuate as expected and the temperature was pleasant all day. At Tarlee we said out goodbyes and headed for

home though most of us rode as a group to the Northern Expressway and peeled off to our respective suburbs.

A great ride day was had by all and by the time we got home between 4pm for northerners and 5pm for southerners we had done about 370 to 400kms for the day. A near perfect ride for the last day of spring.

Thanks to Reini for going tail end Charlie all day and to all the riders who came along.

Ken King.