

SAMRATS ride report for Sun 7 January 2018

Ride Leader Ron, Tail End Charlie Ken

Greetings and a Happy New Year to all Samratians, past and present. The first ride of the year was Ron's ride south with lunch at Mount Compass. Ron led us on some roads that we had not been on for many a year and a good time was had by all. 12 of us turned up at the start point at BP Crafers / Crafers Deli which I thought was a bit lower number of riders than expected as the heat wave had just finished making for pleasant conditions for riding. A lot of people may still be in holiday mode and have not yet settled in to the usual weekly / fortnightly routine. Most of the 12 were old hand regulars but we did have a new rider join our ranks so were delighted with 3 female riders in total. After the safety talk we headed west from Crafers Deli on Upper Sturt Road until turning left onto Sturt Valley Road for the beginning of our morning dose of twisties, and then onto Ironbark Road. At Blackwood Golf Course corner we turned south on Cherry Gardens Road and carried onto Main Rd and down into Clarendon via Potter Road. All these road are highly recommended for MC fun times. Next step was Grant's Gully Road onto Kangarilla Road and turning off right before Kangarilla onto Bakers Gully Road and veering right onto Chapel Hill Road , then left onto Schuller and right onto Kangarilla Main Road. The next leg was turning up Wickham's Hill Road for some demanding corners and our MC version of car time trials. We continued heading south onto Range Road which we followed through alternating twists, turns and straights all the way to the end where Range Road meets Meadows Road (also called Brookman's Road). We turned right and then right again to go down Willunga Hill. I think there was only one car on the way down the hill which was considerate to our MC ways and turned in to the side of the road to let us pass.

We stopped on the left almost at the bottom of the hill at Willunga Bakery where a good morning tea was had and a bit of a stroll for some of us across the road and around the bottom corner to find the public toilets. As usual a nice and easy friendly vibe was had with plenty of chit chat and some recalling of old times and riders who we used to know over the last 10 or 12 years.

The next leg was a U turn and back up Willunga Hill and onto Victor Harbor Road which we followed for only a few minutes and then a left turn onto Yundi Road and then Enterprise Road to meet up with Nangkita Road which we followed until Bull Creek Road where we turned right and headed south until reaching the Strathalbyn – Goolwa Road. I think Ron was intending to turn into Cleland Gully Road so we did a U turn and found the turn and rode Cleland Gully back to Victor Harbor Road. It was slightly earlier than anticipated for lunch so Ron took us onto a new way via Woodcove Road which was good for quite a distance until it turned dirt and as we were mostly sport bikes we turned around and came back to Mount Compass for lunch. The Mount Compass Hotel served up some excellent food at a medium price and a whole variety of dishes were consumed all of which looked highly delectable. The food was served quite quickly which is a welcome break from some of the long waits we have had in other locations. A good social time was had and at Ron's suggestion most of us carried on for an afternoon ride which took in back tracking some of the roads we came in on. We back tracked along Nangkita, Enterprise and then Proctor Road to meet up with Range Road which we rode north all the way back to Wickham's Hill Road which we rode down to the bottom and then a left and into Maclaren Flat for afternoon tea / coffee. After our tea / coffee break and a well-earned rest up there were 6 of us left and we rode as a group north via Blewitt Springs Road (including about 1km of good dirt road) and Baker Gully Road to finish the ride at Kangarilla Road where 3 of us turned towards Meadows and 3 towards Clarendon as the best ways home.

A great ride day was had by all and we all should have been home by 3.30pm to do whatever week end jobs were still left to complete. Many thanks to Ron for planning and leading the ride and incorporating some of our old stomping ground routes like Yundi, Enterprise and Cleland Gully Roads reminiscent of the Jock Rogan Ride Captain era. Thanks to all the riders who came out on the day who without there would not be a Samrats ride club at all.

Ken King

Samrats Coordinator.