

Samrats ride report for Sun 1 April 2012

Ride leader Ken / Tail End Charlie Reini

A beautiful warm autumn day with no rain and little wind and 11 of us set off from Bolivar to Two Wells, Malalar and Balaclava. Unlike a few years ago there is now quite a lot of traffic along the Two Wells to Balaclava road and although the cars in both directions were a pain it was still a nice journey especially with the autumn air.

A quick rest stop and turning left to Port Wakefield where we had a bite of morning tea and drinks. Up the highway and swing left and left again and down Yorke Peninsula along the highway towards Ardrossan. There was a mild cool sea breeze off the gulf which was pleasant as the day was now quite hot in all the leathers and other protective gear. This stretch of road has good views of the top part of the Gulf of St Vincent in the fleeting seconds where one can safely take the eyes off the road.

A rest and fuel stop in Ardrossan and then a right turn to Maitland. The roads thus far had been quite good but from here they started to become undulating and this made for a bouncy ride. We travelled via Maitland down to Port Victoria for lunch where the road improved somewhat. We parked over looking the jetty and the view over the water was pleasant and a gentle sea breeze made the conditions on the foreshore very relaxing.

Lunch in the one pub in Port Victoria which also overlooks the bay. The food was excellent and served very fast especially as we did not ring ahead. The service however did not come with a smile and you would have thought they would be happy that we probably doubled the number of patrons for the day.

After enjoying the view and breeze for a while we went back up the same road to Maitland where we had a fuel stop and then headed north up the road to Kulpara. This was the most bouncy undulating road we had been on for a long time and it probably shook all the lunch calories out of us. I had hoped for a few more corners along this road as we had mostly been on pretty straight roads all day. There were some nice banking curves but the bouncing road made it a bit unpleasant. I should have taken Rohan's advice and taken the Moonta road back which would have had a better surface and maybe a few more corners.

Kulpara to Port Wakefield is a drop in height and has some enjoyable curves on the way down. We had afternoon tea in a nice bakery and then all headed for home our separate ways with most of us taking the main Port Wakefield road back to Adelaide.

The ride was about 330 kms from Bolivar, around the top of Yorke Peninsula and back to Port Wakefield. With another 90 kms back to Adelaide made for a ride day of about 420 kms all up making it one of our longer rides. Next time we will leave out the Maitland to Kulpara 50 kms of bouncing castle road. All in all a good and satisfying days ride with superb weather and great company.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator