

Samrats ride report for Sunday 15 July 2012

Ride Leader Rohan / Tail End Charlie Simon

We met at the Victoria Hotel car park and the weather was holding out not raining but was threatening to drizzle and thick foggy clouds were evident in all directions. This ride seemed to have evolved over the previous week or two to be a combined ride with MRA Samrats and maxi Scooters, Northern Riders Group and it was rumoured that some of the Sabers were coming as well. In good weather we would have had a large combined ride group but on the day we got 18 bikes and riders and a couple of pillion riders.

Dr Phil of the maxi scooters had organised the Yankalilla bakery to give us a good deal on the day for lunch so Rohan revised the ride to have lunch at Yankalilla with the idea of doing Delamere Road to Victor Harbor if the weather allowed instead of going to Goolwa. We were a mixed bunch of bikes and scooters with a couple of L plates in the group. After the mandatory safety talk we shot off down Main South Rd until Chander's Hill Rd which we took to Clarendon. As we went up further into the hills the fog became quite thick where you could only see a short way reminding us that it was indeed winter time. The fog stayed with us to Meadows and only began to clear when we were half way down Bull Creek Rd.

Those of us who follow the speed limit changes in the hills were disappointed to see that the Alexandrina Council had recently dropped the speed limit in the northern half of Bull Creek Rd to 80 kmph as they had previously stated they would. We had been hopeful that our protest campaign and articles in the papers had worked to prevent this but this was not to be.

The fog cleared and the roads were not very wet, the temperature was not too cold and there was not much wind. The wet roads did make for a cautious ride south to Nangkita Rd and Mount Compass, then to Pages Flat Rd and Myponga for a rest stop. All riders who started from Victoria Hotel were still present and the scooters and new riders including L platers all arrived in good time with the last riders to arrive only 5 minutes behind the first. The maxi scooters sure are able to get up a head of steam.

A short ride down Main South Rd part of the way behind the slowest car in history and we were in Yankalilla for an early lunch. We stopped at the Yank bakery on the left hand side of the road when travelling south and Dr Phil announced that the bakery was going to give all our MRA ride group a coffee or juice and a plain meat pie or pasty for absolutely for free. I don't think any one actually believed this but when we went in the owner announced exactly that so we mostly lunched for free. We said our loud thank you very much and assured him this was good PR relations for us motor cyclists and we would all be back regularly in the future. A nice lengthy lunch transpired sitting in the warm bakery with the friendly company of old and new riders.

A few riders called it a day and went home from Yankalilla but about 10 of us carried on for an afternoon ride. The weather was becoming more windy, looked like another rain front was on the way and one of the forecasts said it might hail so we made an executive decision to abandon Delamere and come back via Normanville, Myponga Dam and then back track the way we had come to Mount Compass, Nangkita, Bull Creek and to Meadows for afternoon tea. The wind was a bit challenging over the Myponga Hill but otherwise the trip back was thankfully uneventful with no spills in the wet. 4 riders split off along the

way to head for home and 6 of us had afternoon tea at Meadows. Lunch had been quite early and we got to Meadows about 1.30pm. The rain was coming down heavy at times and the temperature was dropping so we headed for home where most of us should have arrived by 2.30 to 3pm after doing around 200kms.

Not a bad effort given the weather. Hopefully future combined rides will be in better conditions. Thanks to Rohan for adapting his ride for the day, to Simon for his first excellent effort as tail end charlie and to Dr Phil for organising the generous free lunch.

Ken King Samrats