

## **Samrats ride report for Sun 30 Dec 2012**

Ride Leader Jim / Tail End Charlie Les

40 bikes (with riders) and several pillions gathered at BP St Mary's for the last Samrats ride of the year. The weather was quite favorable with 30 maximum forecast, light winds and it was a comfortable 22 at 9.30am departure time. We had several new riders, the regular crew and it was good to see the return of a few old faces that had not ridden with us for a while.

Jim did the safety talk and then led us on a southern run down Main South Rd, Flagstaff Rd, Chandlers Hill Rd to then do the traditional twisties down into Clarendon. Next was Bakers Gully Rd, where at the bottom of the hill a large black cow insisted on sitting in the middle of the road despite the farmers efforts to get it back through the gate so we could only go though a few bikes at time as the cow was hopping unpredictably from one side of the road to the other as it trundled along. Then to Kangarilla Rd, Wickham Hill Rd, Glen View Rd to meet up with Meadows Rd (formerly called Brookman Rd). All these are excellent for motor cycling with great corners, sweepers, climbs and falls.

At Meadows where a lot of riders stopped for an unscheduled toilet stop but then managed to catch up OK, then down our other traditional haunt Bull Creek Rd where there were no cows on the road. Bull Creek Rd has had an 80 speed limit for the northern half for the last couple of months but it is still quite a buzz shooting around the curves even sitting on the speed limit. Next we did a right turn into Nangkitta Rd leading us into Mount Compass for a rest stop and morning tea. We still had 36 bikes on board at this stop and everyone seemed to be enjoying the ride, the company and the good weather.

Back in the saddle and heading south down Victor Rd for a short stretch, then left into Cleland Gully Rd through Tooperang to meet up with the southern end of Bull Creek Rd. A right turn into Goolwa Strath Rd for a short stretch and then left into Winery Rd before reaching Currency Creek. Next leg was along the causeways that are easily flooded in the wet weather then right turn into Finniss Clayton Rd past Riverside to stop at Clayton take away / dine in seafood and fish café. The food was excellent but the wait a bit long for some of us who nearly passed out from hunger even though Jim had notified them of the arrival of 30 odd motor cycle riders. The weather remained pleasing and we enjoyed a nice view of Clayton Bay while we had our lunch.

About 10 riders headed for home after lunch and the rest of us enjoyed the afternoon leg from Clayton to Milang to Langhorne Creek to Woodchester to Mount Barker. This was a great ride especially the twisty rise up from Woodchester to Mount Barker. All the bikes and riders seemed to behave pretty well all day with no suicidal overtaking and moving along nicely as a smooth tight knit pack. A couple of complaints of overtaking on the left inside was the only negative in an otherwise excellent ride day. About 25 riders finished the ride at Mount Barker and about 15 of us had a jovial afternoon tea, wished each other Happy New Year and headed for home at about 3.15pm. The ride was about 200kms in total from start to finish, a good and not too long for a warm summer's day.

Thanks to Jim for planning and leading the ride and to veteran Samrats rider Les (ride captain in the mid 1980's) for going tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator