

Samrats ride report for Sun 20 January 2013

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Ron

The day promised to be great for motor cycling with fine sunny weather, not too hot at 30 C maximum and only some moderate wind. I was repeatedly reminded at the pre ride meeting from 9.30am that the roads were swarming with push bike cyclists and we could come to a screaming halt if we got stuck behind them. I decided to stick with the Lobethal circuit route even though that was the cycle ride start point, hoping that they would be mostly gone by the time we got there and the gods were kind as virtually all the cyclists were going the other way.

We had about 25 riders at the start point and after the safety talk which was especially necessary as we had a few new riders on board we took off up Summit Rd. Within a few minutes riding we came across a downed motor bike and rider who failed to take a sharp corner and was now down an embankment in the trees. The rider did not look too hurt and there was already a crowd of bush walkers and cyclists assisting him. It would have been pretty dangerous for us to stop on that narrow windy road so we pushed on reminded of the perils of concentration loss while riding the twisties.

This first part of the ride was our big dose of twisties from Summit Rd, Greenhill, Wood Hill and on to the long stretch of windy road from Marble Hill to Corkscrew which then emerges about half way up Gorge Rd. Once we were onto Gorge Rd there was a never ending stream of thousands of cyclists coming down the hill which I am sure made for a high level of frustration for cars and motor bikes going that way.

Next was Cudlee Creek Rd to Fox Creek Rd and Cold Store Rd to meet up with Lobethal Rd and on to Lobethal for morning tea and a rest stop. The next leg was a Lobethal circuit from Gumeracha to Forreston to Mount Pleasant where we took a right turn onto the Sedan Walkers Flat Rd. We turned off to head south just before Sanderson to take Milendella Rd to the Palmer Mannum Rd where we turned right and went through Palmer and Tungkillo. The curves and elevations along the Mount Pleasant to Sanderson and Palmer to Tungkillo are really magic for the motor cycle.

We completed the circuit by taking the Mount Torrens Rd back to Lobethal for lunch where half of us went into the pub for a proper lunch and half went back to the Amber Light Café where we started from. Most of the riders went home after our long leisurely lunch but as it was 2pm and we had only done 170kms. 6 riders headed off for an afternoon ride from a Woodside fuel up to Balhannah, Littlehampton, then the Old Princes Highway to Nairne, Callington, then Callington Rd to Strathalbyn and Paris Creek Rd to Meadows for afternoon tea. This leg put about another 90 kms on the tally making for a very enjoyable ride day with good weather and excellent company. Thanks to Ron for going tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator