

Samrats ride report for Sun 30 Mar 2014

Ride leader Jim / Tail end Charlie Ken in am and Les in pm

It was a perfect sunny, warm autumn day with no rain making it a great opportunity for getting in a day ride before the cold weather begins. 30 bikes, two with pillion turned out at the start point at BP St Mary's, most of which were regulars on the Samrats rides with a few occasional riders and a couple of new riders. Jim announced a change of plan in that we would lunch at the new Finness café instead of the usual Clayton café as there were good reports of the food and Clayton café took too long to serve in previous years. Finness is only about 15kms northwest of Clayton so it was virtually the same destination.

After the safety talk we took off along South Rd until we turned off to go up Flagstaff Hill Rd to head out into the hills where we rode Chandlers Hill Rd and then down some of our favorite twisties into Clarendon. Meadows was to be our first rest / morning tea stop and we got there via an enjoyable meandering country route along Bakers Gully Rd, Chappell Hill Rd, Schuller Rd, McClaren Flat Rd, Range Rd and then Brookman / Meadows Rd into Meadows.

We had some morning tea but the toilets were not working in either of the bakery / cafes so Jim had to factor in a second stop at Mount Compass for the bodily necessities. Next leg was therefore south down Bull Creek Rd (officially known as Adelaide Goolwa Rd) for the magic of that particular through fare, then right turn at Nangkita Rd to Mount Compass for said toilet break. Mount Compass down Victor Harbor Rd for a short length and left onto Cleland Gully Rd which is another great stretch of road to ride, to meet up with the southern end of Bull Creek Rd. A left turn onto Strath Rd (officially known as Sandergrrove Rd) and then a short distance later a right turn off the main drag onto Finness Rd and just over the Strath to Goolwa railway line is the new Finness Café.

About 30 of our group were there to eat and to their credit they did serve us reasonably quickly. We had soon eaten a collective mountain of good tucker. After about an hour break we were ready for the afternoon run. About 15 riders headed for home after lunch and other duties while the rest of us took off towards Mount Barker which was the planned stop for afternoon tea. As I am not exactly a stranger to the role I volunteered Les to go tail end Charlie for the afternoon.

We took off towards Clayton and a few of the riders on chook chasing road / trail cross over bikes turned off the bitumen onto dirt road short cuts and were therefore already at Milang and Langhorne Creek before the rest of us arrived. The rest of us zoomed along the tarmac from Finness to Clayton to Milang to Langhorne Creek to Woodchester and up the hill to Mount Barker all being excellent routes for the motor cycle especially the Wellington Rd to Mount Barker.

A few riders headed for home on the freeway to Adelaide without stopping for afternoon tea while about 10 of us diehards stayed for a coffee or drink and a short chit chat. We were ready to head home by 3.15pm making it not too long a ride day out. We covered about 220kms and had a great ride, good weather and no safety issues or other mishaps.

Thanks to Jim for leading the ride and to Les for going tail end in the afternoon.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator