

Samrats ride report for Sun 14 Sept 2014

Ride leader Domonic / Tail end Charlie Ken.

This Sunday was a beautiful warm 25 degree spring day with blue sky and no rain and no wind. 15 riders came out to enjoy the day. The ride was a Riders Choice and after a bit of banter Domonic stepped up to lead the ride. It is excellent to have some new blood leading the ride with different routes in mind to get from A to B in a new way. Domonic did such a great job I think he should be a regular ride leader. All the riders were the usual Samrats crew though a couple we had not seen for a few months.

After the safety talk we took off from BP St Mary's and went up Shepherd's Hill Rd to Blackwood, then straight ahead through the dangerous round about onto Main Rd. We wound around Main Rd until Aklands Hill where we turned left and shot up to Cherry Gardens. Instead of the usual right turn and down to Chandler's Hill / Clarendon we continued along Ironbark Rd through Iron Bank and around the twisties along the bottom of the Sturt Valley to Stirling.

Domonic then lead us left at the Stirling round about and along the freeway for a short section to Crafers where we turned right and up the Summit Rd to Mount Lofty. This road has lots of great twisties and winds it's way around past Cleland Conservation Park. Next onto a short section of Greenhill Rd and first left into Woods Hill Rd, Stoney Rise Rd and then right turn onto Lobethal Rd which we wound around all the way to Lobethal. This motor cycling mecca road was OK as most of the winter time green moss was gone and the road surface while not being what it used to be was a bit more repaired than last time we went this way.

We had a short consensus meeting at Lobethal where it was decided that the Lobethal Cafe would take too long to serve so the consensus decided to back track to Lenswood and take Tiers Rd to Woodside for morning tea at the bakery. We arrived at Woodside about 11.30am in time for a late morning tea or early lunch. After being suitably replenished Dom lead us along Onkaparinga Valley Way to Mount Torrens, then straight ahead to Palmer where we turned left to Mount Pleasant. Next leg was Mount Pleasant and then a right turn to Williamstown. We arrived at Williamstown about 12.30pm where most of the riders said they were not hungry enough for a lunch so we sat outside in the sun on the verandah of the old pub where we usually eat and had a lazy drink.

By 1.15pm after a sociable chit chat most riders needed to get home so we called it a day for the official ride and made our way home. However most of us rode home together with Andy leading to Kersbrook, Chain of pond and Gorge Rd and Marcus leading through Cudlee Creek, Fox Creek Rd, Coldstore Rd to Lenswood, then Swamp Rd back to Greenhill Rd and to Balhannah. We had not done that route for a while and there was little or no traffic on most of the section making for a spirited ride. From here we did part to make our own ways home.

On reaching home most riders would have done about 200kms, had a great days riding and still got home by 3pm to keep the domestic vibes happy. Many thanks to Domonic for leading the ride and taking us on some different ways to get to our favourite places and thanks to all the riders who came out and participated on the day.

Ken King
Samrats Coordinator