



SAMRATS RIDE REPORT

14th June 2008

“An MRA supported activity”

Christmas Feast in Winter Event



Kingston SE

It was such an amazing start to a winter event! As we left home it was foggy and drizzly and brisk and well, real wintry weather! Yep! The a bowl of hot soup and a plate of Roast Turkey and Cranberry sauce and a sticky Christmas Pud with Brandy Sauce was going to go down well for tea!

As we left Strathalbyn, Dave on his Suzuki joined in and so we rode to Mt Barker where we lost Dave – well for the time being.

Let those who Ride Decide!



Sue and I continued down to the muster spot at Mobil Glen Osmond. After going through the Heysen Tunnels we had a real “Jurassic Park” experience – you know, when they opened the big gates and you were in a different world! Well as we exited the tunnels the sky was blue, the roads were dry and it even seemed a little warmer.

After Sue and I got off our bikes we just stood looking at each other watching the water shed off our wet weather gear.

It wasn't long before the band of Merry Men and Women had gathered for the epic trip. It was also clear from the gleam in their eyes that everyone was really looking forward to a good time.

I did get a few frowns when I mentioned the drizzle above the tunnels but this is a winter event so out with the waterproofs and off we went.

Just to put some variety into a very straight run we pulled off at Mt Barker and collected three others at Baldy's service station, Littlehampton. It was good to see Trevor and Phil on a ride again. And the Third Musketeer was Dave ☺ (the one we lost earlier in Mt Barker)

Here we changed ride leader and let Marcus lead the mob through the twisty bits. I am still running in a new motor and didn't want to put temptation my way☺.

At Callington we got back onto the SE Freeway for the run to Tailem Bend. It seemed like a very quick trip into Tailem Bend though we were travelling at the speed limit. This ride had been well advertised so we expected EVERYONE to know where we were going. We wanted to be sure that the only photos we had at the end of the weekend were taken by SAMRATS.

At Tailem Bend it was obvious that everyone was feeling the chill of the day. Munchies time BIG TIME! So after everyone had their snacks we phoned the Meningie Bakery so they could fill the hot box for our lunch stop! It seems run time from Tailem Bend to Meningie is just about the right heating time for a meat pie.



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At the Meningie Bakery Jamie joined us with his beautiful brand new Honda VTX which he bought from Bridgland Motors. (BTW Jamie – *I like your bike!* ☺) It seems many riders on our rides have bikes sporting Bridgland plate surrounds. After the way Graham supported Trevor it is good to see other riders getting that sort of support.

After seeing the riders munch out at Tailem Bend I was amazed to watch various pies and cakes disappear so eagerly. Well they did taste so good! So after emptying the hot box it was time to ride again.

I rode off with the parting comments from the lady at the Bakery ringing in my ears – “Watch out for Kangaroos!” Something didn’t feel right so I kept the speed right down. Just passed the Needles turn off, two massive Kangaroo’s ran across my path. I pointed to the riders behind me in case the ‘roos turned and ran back again. I then noticed another large roo step onto the road in my path. The road was a little too wet to slam on the brakes. Well! I kicked down a gear and shut off the throttle. The VTX let rip with two of the loudest back fires I have ever heard! Obviously, this Kangaroo had been well trained by a famer and a shotgun at some stage. You rarely see an animal move that fast – thankfully!

We continued to Salt Creek for our next comfort stop and leg stretch. There was a lot of chatter about Kangaroo’s. Only God knows why he gives something as large as a Kangaroo the IQ of a rabbit!

On a separate note: This is the “Third Encounter of the Fauna Kind” that I have had in the last couple of months and we had reports of seeing animals on the road edge on the way home. I am suspicious that with the dry conditions that a lot of animals are gathering at the road verge to salvage the condensation of the road surface.

The rest of the run into Kingston was almost uneventful. Except for the last fifty kilometres of rough road surface! Many of us have experience of this road and expect it to be rough. Almost everyone felt that the last fifty kilometres set a new standard. I think one rider even checked out the local supermarket just to see if he could buy a kidney belt!

We received a hearty welcome as we entered the Royal Mail Hotel from our gracious hosts Mark and Bronwyn. The massive log fire also bellowed out a welcome of its own as the afternoon chill was just starting.



Let those who Ride Decide!



So after putting all the machines in the lockup compound it was time for pre-dinner drinks. There was also time for a shower or a nap for those who chose.

We had managed to fill the accommodation at the hotel and the caravan park and the motel around the corner took the overflow.

We even had some members of the SE Register join us for dinner.

Come seven' o'clock it was time to eat. The tables had been set out in Christmas fair with festive napkins and bon-bon's. It wasn't long before everyone was sitting around with silly hats on, telling each other stupid jokes whilst staff were placing plates with very large meals of Turkey and Cranberry sauce or Steak and Seafood sauce in front of them. I think the only time I have seen such a large group shut up was when the Christmas Pudding and Brandy Snap Baskets with berries arrived. In fact, that was probably more entertaining watching all the girls drool!



We had a special occasion to celebrate on this weekend. John McLelland and Vicki Rose announced their engagement. We would like to take this opportunity to repeat our wish that they find every happiness together and that we can enjoy their company on many, many more rides!



Let those who Ride Decide!



The rest of the night was taken up with football on the big screen TV, chatting and drinking. In fact, everyone was having such a good time I was shouted down when I suggested a 9.30 set off time in the morning!

It wasn't long before we were all snug in our rooms' upstairs or other accommodation. Everyone reported a great night's sleep.

So much for all the poo-pooing about a 9.30 am start! When I walked down to the breakfast room I was on my lonesome! So where was everyone else? Walking on the jetty, jogging, checking out the town, fishing – you know, having FUN!



Well after taking some photos it was off to the BP to give everyone a chance to fuel up the bikes and to munch out on their hot ham and egg roll! (You sort of see a theme developing here – don't you!)

So from here we ran over to the Keith Bakery (guess why?). This is where some riders saw a kangaroo sitting on the side of the road, rubber necking while all the bikes road past. We also saw three echidnas' sitting along this section. You would hate to think what running over one of them would do to your tyres!

I won't ask you to guess what we did at the Keith Bakery! I'm pretty sure you will get the guess wrong.

I will say, the Keith Bakery does a great job and if you are in the area I would be surprised if you couldn't find something to please you!



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After fuel for those who needed it, it was off to Coonalpyn. This time we got Dave to lead and I sat at the back with the learner. Yes we had a learner on this ride and she did a magnificent job.

After a chat at Coonalpyn, some riders decided to run for home the rest of us decided to meet at the BP Tailem Bend. This seemed to come around too soon and after a consensus that we NEED to do this again next year we headed for our homes.

We arrived home about 4.30 pm and judging by the SMS's I received many other riders arrived home about the same time. This pleased me as most riders would have got home at a reasonable hour.

Now for some thank you's. To Sue for acting as TEC wingman, to Brenton for being the TEC and carrying luggage for those who needed to lighten up their rides, to Martin for following after the ride with your ute in case we needed a recovery vehicle and for being TEC on the run home. To everyone who took and sent in photos' a HUGE thank you (guess what idiot forgot his camera!).

To Mark and Bronwyn of the Royal Mail Hotel, Kingston SE for being so "Bike Friendly" and literally turning your hotel over to us for a weekend, we are so grateful!

To everyone who is yet to send in their photo's – Thank You in advance.

...and finally to everyone who made this a safe, friendly and fun weekend a most special *Thank You!*

More photos here:

http://www.mrasa.asn.au/gallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=album108

Ride Safe,

Jock Rogan

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