

Samrats ride report for the 5 Ferries for Jock Sun 11 Nov 2012

Ride Leader David Povey / Tail End Charlie Michael

We had a big turn out of around 95 bikes at the start point in Mount Barker for the 5 Ferries for Jock which is considerably more than the usual 5 Ferries ride. There were members of other clubs as well as the Samrats with Sabers, CMA, Northern Riders and Ulysses well represented. This illustrates the respect and high esteem that every one felt for Jock Rogan the MRASA Samrats Ride Captain who passed away last December. Dutchy, Sue Rogan and I said a few words about Jock, about how we were his family, how it was good to have a memorial ride in his honor and to remember what a great bloke Jock was and what an enormous contribution Jock made to the motor cycling community in South Australia. Most of the riders on this 5 Ferries had ridden with Jock as ride leader as illustrated by the 75 or so badges that we sold on the day which can remind us that this was a special 5 Ferries ride in memory of Jock.

Jock was Samrats ride Captain for over 5 years and during this time he led the Saturday or Sunday rides virtually 50 weeks per year, he organized week ends away, charity rides and was also Web Master and MRA Membership Secretary. He was a man of many hats and many talents and is keenly missed by all who knew him.

David led the group to Winchester, Langhorne Creek and to Wellington where we crossed the Murray for the first ferry. Not all the riders at the Mount Barker meeting point came on the ride with about 75 bikes crossing the river at Wellington. It took 2 full ferries to get us all across.

Next leg was to Tailem Bend and back across the Murray at Jervois where the smaller ferry took 3 trips. The day was warm and sunny with a moderate northerly which did act as a strong cross wind on the Langhorne Creek to Wellington stretch. Murray Bridge was next stop as a rest stop and morning tea at the Service Station just over the bridge.

The day was getting hot by now so to get back on the road was good to cool off. Next leg was a run along the eastern side of the river to Mannum where we boarded the third ferry and crossed the river to park on the reserve and have lunch at the Kiosk. Alas the Kiosk which we had eaten at for many a year was no more, probably demolished under the misguided whim of some council bureaucrat. There were also not enough parks for all of us to fit so half the bikes parked up in the main street. Lunch was takeaway bakery fare or fish and chips.

A short rest and we were off again heading north east to the next ferry at Purnong. A few kilometers of dirt road works on this stretch was a bit of a drag for the nice clean shiny sports bikes and cruisers. Once we were all on the eastern side of the river again at Purnong we headed north to Walkers Flat for the ferry number 5. A fuel stop at Walkers Flat and off again along the Angus Valley Way to Mount Pleasant for afternoon tea. The official ride ended at Mount Pleasant and was about 280kms.

The day was a bit hot at times which led to a few bikes leaving the ride at lunch time. The day ran very smoothly and safely with no mishaps or accidents.

A great 5 Ferries ride day for Jock with all the riders seeming to enjoy the 5 Ferries experience. Sue Rogan was pleased with the number of riders who came out on the day to pay their respects and to honor Jock's memory. Many thanks to David Povey for leading the ride, to Michael for going Tail End Charlie all day which included a few challenges managing the large group, to Sue Rogan for her support and advice, to Dutchy for his support and input, to Cathy and Ebi Lux for helping to organizing the ride and to our Web Master Graeme for his role in poster design and web site promotion.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator