

Samrats ride report for Sun 9 June 2013

Ride leader Ken / Andy

Tail end Charlie - Simon / Michael

15 motor cycles (with riders attached) and 2 with pillions met up at the BP Newton under a cloudy sky which promised to be reasonably warm and dry even if there was no sun. I had thought to ride a circuit route around Williamstown and once we had completed that decide where to go next. We had one new rider on board and a bunch of Samrats stalwarts.

After the safety talk we took off up Gorge Rd which is still a pleasure to ride even with reduced speed limits and rapidly deteriorating road surface. At the top of Gorge Rd we turned into Tippet Rd then Little Parra Rd past Chain of Ponds and on to Kersbrook for a quick rest / muster up. So far so good with no slow cars. Next leg was to Williamstown where we had a good run until a few ks out where we were stuck behind a few cars and a Campervan with double lines for a while.

A rest stop at Williamstown and off to Lyndoch, then a right turn into the Barossa Valley Way. An enjoyable meandering route so far and I intended to turn off the main road into Menglers Hill Rd and cut across to Angaston but unfortunately I missed the turn and we ended up transversing the very boring and slow procession into Nuriootpa before we were able to take the right turn to Angaston. I could sense the vibes of disapproval and even revolt from the back of the ride so I thought of a way to make up for this mishap. A late morning tea or early lunch at the Angaston bakery a pleasant chit chat and we were on our way again.

Just out of Angaston we turned left into Swan Reach Rd and I had initially intended to turn off at Keyneton back towards Williamstown to complete the loop. It was quite early and I thought it would be a blast to go down the Sedan Hill and as soon as we got there to turn around and come straight back up especially as most riders enjoy going up this curvy road more than down. The leg there and back added another 50 kms to the ride but was well worth it in my view and blew out the cobwebs from the Nurioopta procession. The riders looked good and surprised.

Back at Keyneton we turned towards Eden Valley, then left into Angaston Rd to Springton, then right turn onto the Williamstown Springton Rd. This is a route we rarely take but it is a nice meandering ride with reasonable road surface. Back at Williamstown we had completed the circuit and done about 200 kms. It was quite early and no one seemed to want to eat just yet so I suggested that Andy leads one of his circuitous routes back to Balhannah for afternoon tea. A few riders had to take off for home and the rest of us followed Andy back to Kersbrook for a fuel stop.

Next a left turn up the Checker Hill Rd to Forreston Rd, Gumeracha, Lobethal Rd where we turned left onto Tiers Rd at Lenswood. Next onto Swamp Rd to eventually meet up with Greenhill Rd and on to Balhannah for afternoon tea. This was a zippy afternoon ride up hill and down dale where we had to hold onto our hats. The sun came out for this last half an hour of the ride making for quite a warm afternoon for this time of year.

The afternoon ride was great fun and thanks to Andy for leading it. After a relaxed chit chat, coffee and cake we called it a day and headed for home about 4.30pm. Also thanks to Simon who did tail end charlie till the first rest stop and then had to shoot off and to Michael who took over for the rest of the day. Thanks to all the riders who participated on the day and who make the Samrats such a good group to ride with.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator