

Samrats ride report for Sun 23 June 2013

Ride leader Ian / Tail end Charlie Ken

Only 6 of us turned out for this day ride and although the temperature was 14 C and pretty windy we did not get rained on much and we had a good ride despite the weather.

Ian led us on a mystery ride from the Munno Parra BP Connect up Main North Rd until we reached Mallala Rd where we turned off and went through Mallala and on to Balaclava for a rest stop. A short spell of light rain had us donning our wet weather gear and, as it was not that cold with the thermals on most of us were probably too hot. The north easterly cross wind was pretty strong and keeping us on high alert to compensate for the gusts and kept us at a safe speed suitable to the windy conditions.

The next leg was from Balaclava to Auburn to Saddleworth which is a great ride with plenty of curvy corners and undulations. The only down side was the variable winds which stayed strong all day. At Saddleworth we pulled into the pub on the left just after the Marrabel turn off and although it was pretty empty the staff were able to provide us with some rather large size serves of country fare counter lunches. As we were just about the only patrons we had to wait until they prepared the food from scratch but it was worth the wait. The pub was a typical ancient country hotel but the fire was warm and the staff friendly and our short stay was pleasant enough.

The afternoon ride was from Saddleworth to Marrabel and then to Eudunda. The cloud cover ahead was pretty dense and it looked like there was a lot of rain to the east. As we got close to Eudunda the land elevates and we climbed up into a thick fog which made visibility reduce to only a few metres. I think Ian intended to take us on a big circle from Eudunda to Truro to Kapunda to make a longer afternoon ride but as the weather seemed to be worsening with fog and rain we turned right just before reaching Eudunda and headed straight to Kapunda.

After a short rest and a fuel up at Kapunda we finished the official ride and we had covered about 180 kilometres. Four of us regular die-hards then rode as group down the Sturt Highway to Gawler and then picked up the express way back to Adelaide. We peeled off at different points along the way leaving those who live in the south to complete the 100 kilometres from Kapunda to the southern suburbs. An enjoyable ride day was had by all even with the wind and a bit of rain. If we never ride in bad weather then when you inevitably get caught in it you have not had any practice at experiencing safe riding in strong wind and a bit of rain.

Thanks to Ian for leading the ride and to all the riders who braved the elements for a good fun day.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator