

Samrats ride report for Sun 9 Feb 2014

Ride leader Ian / Tail end Charlie Ken

Finally we got some good weather after the horrendous winds and heat waves of the last few weeks. Jim had organized an evening ride and dinner at Mannum on the Saturday night which turned out to be the usual affable and fun time with 30 bikers attending with 6 riders brave, or mad enough to ride to Mannum at 4.30pm in the heat while the rest of us travelled by air conditioned car. The dinner at Mannum the night before may have kept our numbers limited for an early Sunday morning 9am start at Civic Park Modbury but nevertheless 10 bikes and 11 riders turned up at the start point and we all enjoyed a mild day as luckily a cool change had arrived about 6am on Sunday morning. The 22 to 28C day was most welcome after the 40 + for the last few weeks. On most of our rides now we will have Samrats T shirts, long sleeved skivvies, thicker Samrats windcheaters, caps, badges, beanies etc to purchase at the beginning of the ride as we now have a MRA / Samrats stock controller who can supply me with the gear as necessary. On this ride 3 Samrats base ball caps were purchased.

After the safety talk we took off up North East Rd which we followed through a few twisties and onto the Adelaide Mannum Rd and along the Chain of Ponds section for some more twisties. Once through Gumeracha the road straightens out somewhat and we passed through Birdwood and onto Mount Pleasant where we had our first rest stop and a quick morning tea for those who were a bit hungry or needed to eat to nurse their hangovers. Next leg was heading north along the Eden Valley Way through Springton, Eden Valley, turning right to Keyneton and down the magnificent Sedan Hill. The scenery is still fantastic looking out across to the Murray River plains but also black and bare stretching out away from the road side from the recent bush fires. A quick rest stop at Sedan for those with twitchy bladders and left turn to Swan Reach. We crossed the river on the ferry and headed up to the Swan Reach Hotel for a pub meal over looking the river. The food is reasonable and above average for pub fare. We had a good social time over lunch the headed back out onto the road which is the main reason we go out for the day.

For the afternoon ride back to Adelaide we followed the eastern side of the river for about 30 klms and turned right to Walkers Flat where we crossed the river on the ferry and headed west along the Angus Valley Way to Sanderson where we turned left along Milendella Rd to then meet up once again with the Adelaide Mannum Rd where we turned right and rode the always brilliant and good fun road through Palmer Rocks and Tungkillo. Next leg was a left turn onto Mount Torrens Rd which we followed until Lobethal where we stopped for afternoon tea and the ride was done. One bike headed for home just before Lobethal and the rest of us had a rest, coffee, drinks etc before heading our separate ways home. The weather was near perfect all day with the exception of a few stretches after lunch heading south or south west where we had quite a gusty side wind to contend with. The ride was about 230 klms in total and we arrived in Lobethal about 3pm. We ride to Swan Reach about twice a year and it is always a good day. This Sunday was no exception and a very enjoyable day was had by all of the riders including the 3 riders who had only been out riding with the Samrats once or twice before.

Thanks to Ian for planning and leading the ride on the day and for leading the two previous rides when I was away interstate.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator