

SAMRATS ride report for Sun 18 Feb 2018

Ride Leader Ian / Tail End Charlie Ken

Ian's Ride to Langhorne Creek for lunch

Our fortnightly rides are continuing to attract riders and this day was no exception with about 40 riders at the start point at Crafers Deli / Coffee Shop just down to road from Crafers BP. The usual regulars were in attendance with a few of our recently joined riders and a few from the internet contact 'Meet Up'. A few old hands were also present who had not ridden with us for years. It was good to touch base with people who we had not seen for many moons.

The safety talk done and we jumped on the bikes and headed off on the freeway and first turn off to Stirling, through the town and around the bends to Mylor, then Echunga to Macclesfield where we turned right before the township and headed towards Meadows. Next a sharp left turn onto Bull Creek Rd which we continued on past Ashbourne until reaching Nangkita Rd. Here we took a right turn and followed Nangkita all the way to Mount Compass where we stopped for a rest and morning tea. The weather was warm and pleasant but becoming overcast and looking like a cool, wet change was on the way. We had a few slower first timers in a group ride which spread the ride out a long way, but with the quarter marshalling working perfectly there were no lost sheep.

Next leg was south on Victor Harbor Rd a short distance and then left turn onto Cleland Gully Rd which is a great windy and undulating ride back to Bull Creek Rd into which we turned left and headed north to Ashbourne where we turned off on to the Strathalbyn Road to Strath. There is a saying in this region that all roads from anywhere will lead to Strathalbyn. The temperature was falling and looking like rain soon so Ian went straight to Langhorne Creek where we stopped for a somewhat early lunch at the Bridge Hotel.

A few riders had turned for home at Mount Compass morning tea or before Strathalbyn leaving about 30 of us to pile into the Hotel for lunch. Ian had phoned ahead to tell them that our number was larger than expected and the hotel responded excellently with most riders receiving their lunch quite quickly. Lunch was excellent fare for a moderate price and we all seemed to have an enjoyable catch up. The rain started soon after our arrival and looked to be set in for the rest of the day so after a discussion a lengthy afternoon ride was ruled out. We decided to head towards the freeway via Langhorne Creek Rd, through Woodchester and up the hill to Mount Barker for afternoon tea. Most of the riders headed straight through Mount Barker and onto the freeway for home. The rain was not heavy but did drop the temperature and some of us did not come prepared with warmer gear and plastics making for a chilly and damp journey home. The few of us that stopped at the Giovanni's Italian Café enjoyed some warm coffees and then headed for home.

Ian took us on some of the great MC roads in the southern Adelaide region and we would have had a longer afternoon ride had the wet weather not intervened. Most riders should have been home by 3 pm or 3.30pm to enjoy the rest of the day out of the rain. Many thanks to Ian for planning and leading the ride and to all the riders who turned out on the day and help make our riding adventures so enjoyable.

Ken King

Samrats Coordinator