

SAMRATS ride report

Sun 4 April 2018 Ride Leader Ken / Tail End Charlie Guy

15 riders turned up at the start point of BP Evandale on Portrush Road which was not too bad given it was a Clipsal and Fringe weekend. The weather was mild, not too hot and not too cold just perfect for a ride day. Cloud cover was on the way and made for a cooler journey through the hills. A couple of new riders and the rest were regulars. The safety talk done we headed north to Payneham then Montacute and into the hills climbing up Montacute Road past the famous Corkscrew Rd and onto Marble Hill and Stoneyridge Rd as we headed south for a rather long dose of sharp bends and twisties. Lobethal Road was closed to through traffic so we kept heading south to Summertown where we took a left turn onto Greenhill Rd and followed it all the way to Balhannah. A couple of muster ups along the way and we kept heading south onto Junction Rd to Littlehampton. Next a left turn and through the town and heading east onto the Old Princes Highway through Nairne, past Callington which is the Toy Run finish point. At the end of the Old Princes Hwy a left turn and into Murray Bridge. We crossed the bridge and pulled up at the Caltex on the left for a rest stop and morning tea. After the 20 minute rest 2 riders headed back to Adelaide and the 13 of us diehards carried on to the next leg which was the next main road left towards Loxton and then next right turn onto Karoonda Rd.

This is about 70 klms of undulating road with a few bends and turns and it is a bit bumpy for the first half the distance then smooths out with an upgraded road surface. It is an interesting ride and most of the bends allow sitting on the speed limit with no need to slow with the exception of the railway crossing bends which are typically much too sharp to continue at the speed limit. Where the road is known the modern bike with cruise control can be just set at the speed limit and then just hold the line through the corners, good fun really if one has the confidence in the machine, tyres, suspension etc and the requisite riding skill but otherwise not to be attempted. If the corner gets a bit hairy a gentle touch on the front and / or rear brake disengages the cruise control and soon drops the revs and speed.

We pulled into Karoonda about 12.30pm but the back half the ride were missing in action. A rider arrived to report that a top box had fallen off and bounced a few times and ended up in the bushes. Luckily the riders behind were able to avoid the flying object. They soon arrived with the top box attached to the side of a bike scratched but still serviceable, and in need of a refit with bigger washes and / or a stronger metal base. A leisurely lunch was eaten of burgers or fish and chips and we were off on the next leg backtracking about 20 klms to then turn left on the back road into Taillem Bend. A fuel up at the Shell and on to Jervois Ferry, crossing the Murray and taking the back road through Jervois past the dairy farms and into Wellington. A muster up and then the 50 klms to Strathalbyn, then a right turn onto Paris Creek Road for some more undulating bends and turns and into Meadows for afternoon coffee and cake at the bakery. A couple of riders had to head straight home as it was about 3.15pm. The rest of us had an enjoyable time and headed our own ways home about half an hour later. Most of us should have been home by 4.30pm which made for a slightly longer than usual but quite satisfying ride day. As Steve Macqueen said in the movie *On Any Sunday* you know what you must do. Thanks to Guy for a sterling Tail End Charlie job.

Ken King

SAMRATS Coordinator.