

Samrats ride report Sunday 4 Dec 2011 – Ride Leader Ken Tail end Charlie Dutchy / Kay in the morning and Gordon in the afternoon

Sunday 4 Dec was a lovely sunny day and would have been just about perfect if there had been less wind. I didn't know how many riders would turn up on the day as the Toy Run was the following week and it had been Jim's ride the previous week which is always a hard act to follow. However it was heartening to see about 20 bikes at West Terrace.

After the usual formalities we took off south on our way to Cape Jervis via South Rd, Panalatinga and then onto Cox's Rd and Pigget Range Rd which are great motor cycling roads that lead towards Clarendon. On to Meadows and then instead of the usual south via Bull Creek we turned left and took Paris Creek Rd also a great motor cycle road that the Samrats had not been down for many a year. The wind was pretty strong but not extreme as yet and we stopped at Strathalbyn for morning tea.

The road to Ashbourne from Strath and Nagkita Rd to Mount Compass are also excellent riding. At the briefing I had said we would turn left after Mount Compass and take Pages Flat Rd to Myponga but I missed the turn and took most of the riders down to Willunga and Aldinga to pick up South Rd. About 6 rides worked this out and took the right route as planned and got to Cape Jervis a lot earlier than the rest of us.

The Main South Rd down to Cape Jervis is always a real good fun ride, did not have much traffic and has especially great views of the coast and hills but on this day the wind picked up seriously and made for big time concentrating on riding to avoid getting blown all over road. We met up with the rest of the crew, had a short rest and filled up with petrol. The original plan was to take Delamere / Range Rd back to Victor Harbor and thus to go around the Peninsula but my view was that Delamere Rd would be even more windy and the safer and quicker route back was Yankarilla Rd to Victor.

We still had not had lunch and it was after 2pm and we had already done over 200kms. A few riders decided to do Delamere Rd and brave the wind and the rest came with me back to Yankalilla to have lunch at the bakery. Most riders then made their way home as it was about 3pm but 3 of us pushed on to finish the ride via Yankalilla Rd to Victor Ring Road to Currency Creek, Bulls Creek Rd and Meadows. This route makes an excellent blend of roads and was a great leg of the days ride even though the wind kept up quite strongly all afternoon.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day whether they did part or all of the ride and next time we go south we will put in an order for no strong southerly wind. Most riders would have done over 300 to 350kms for the day by the time they got back home which considering the strong winds was a pretty good effort for us born to ride types.

Thanks to Dutchy / Kay and to Gordon for going tail end and to all the riders who turned up for the day to make it happen.

Ken King – Samrats Coordinator