

Samrats ride report for Sun 6 April 2014

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Steve in am and Reini in pm

This ride was the annual MRA Ridden on Ride to Second Valley which has been held every year for the last 8 years. The ride was originally conceived by the MRA Samrats Ride Captain the late Jock Rogan and the current MRA President Phil McClelland. The ride is to honour and remember our motor cycling friends and family who have passed on to a better place leaving us behind. This 2014 Annual Ridden on Ride had the biggest number of participants we have had for quite a few years with approx. 140 bikes and 160 people taking part. The Ridden on Ride is an interclub ride organised by the MRA SA in which we encourage as many members of the motor cycling community to attend as possible. On this day we had a number of clubs attend including the Sabers, Samrats, CMA and the Cruiser Club. The big turn out was due in large part to the support of the Cruiser Club who made up about half of the total bikes participating. There were also a lot of unaffiliated riders present who come out for a group ride only for the Toy Run at Christmas and also for the Ridden on Ride. We had the safety / information talk including a short but moving address by Phil McClelland on the history of the Ridden on Ride and what it meant to him personally. Phil Greer from the MRA Committee / SA Scooter Club used this occasion of a larger than usual gathering to present Rene Borst with a Certificate of Appreciation and Life Membership of the SA Scooter Club for his large contribution over many years to the MRASA Committee's work as Membership Officer.

The large group took off down South Rd and stretched out a good 2 to 3 kilometres making it necessary to take it pretty slow to keep the group together as much as possible. Once we had cleared the last traffic lights at Moana it was easier to keep the mob in one group. There being no sufficient space to safely muster up for such a large group we continued on to Myponga where we had a short muster up stop to let the tail end of the group catch up. Next leg was straight to Second Valley where we pulled in under the pine trees and took up all of the car park. At arriving Second Valley we still had about 120 bikes / riders / pillions and about 80 chose to walk down the hill to the jetty and around the southern path to the rocky beach. The sounds of the sea lapping at the edge of the rocks and the beautiful surrounds made an ideal back drop to Simon Coward's address / non denominational service. As usual Simon delivered an excellent and thought provoking talk on the theme of danger, achievement, unpredictability, motor cycling and our spiritual nature. The group list of our loved ones, friends, family who have passed on was read out by Kaye van Halm. We then had a few minutes silence to reflect and show our respects and we made our way up the hill.

The ride carried on with yours truly leading the way and something like 80 or 90 bikes following as we made our way to Delamere and on to Victor Harbor. Unfortunately, as I had been warned by a number of riders, about half of the 50 kilometres had been recently resealed which is great in the longer term but it still had a lot of loose surface stones which made for a careful ride to not lose traction. Once we hit Victor some of us found parks in the centre of town while others carried on their way. A few of us lunched together, had a bit of a rest up on the grass and then made our own way home about 2.30pm. The ride was by every measure a great success and about 80 ride commemoration badges were sold on the day.

Thanks to Steve on the Maxi Scooter for the tail end Charlie job to Second Valley, to Reini tail end Charlie to Victor Harbor, to Reini, Ian and Brenton for corner marshalling, Harold for organising the badge ordering and to Cathy for helping with the badge sales.

Ken King MRA Samrats Coordinator.

