

SAMRATS ride report for Sun 4 Feb 2018

Ride Leader Andy / Tail End Charlie Ken

Andy's Mystery Ride to Williamstown, then Blanchetown.

The starting point was BP Evandale on Portrush Rd at the Summer time of 9am and by 9.15am we had 23 starters with 7 new riders and the rest old hand regulars. Martin Humphries promoted the ride and 5 of the new riders were from his recommendation, thank you Martin. All week the temperature was supposed to be 31 C but by Saturday night it was predicted to be 35 C. The show must go on and we don't usually cancel until above 37 and it is the ride leader's decision the evening before. It did not feel like it would be too hot so we decided to go ahead and good thing we did as a great ride day was had by all. After the safety talk we headed north via Montacute then Gorge Rd and through Chain of Ponds to Kersbrook. A few clicks north of Kersbrook we turned right onto Hill Rd then up the hill to Norsworthy Rd, then left onto Forreston Rd, then Warren Rd into Williamstown for a rest and fluid replacement stop. Andy deemed it not too hot so we decided to push on to Blanchetown for lunch. We headed south for a short way, then a left turn into Springton road and came out at Springton where we turned left and went to Eden Valley, then right turn to Keyneton then right turn and down what we call the Sedan Hill to Sedan. This leg must have some of the best scenery of any rides in the Adelaide region. The ride was staying together quite well with the back end only 5 minutes max behind the ride leader. Andy had a muster up between the major turns and the corner marshalling worked like a charm with no mishaps at all.

A quick stop at Sedan and we turned east and down to the Murray River where we crossed on the ferry to Swan Reach. There we turned left and headed north the last 30 kms to Blanchetown where we could see the scenery of the river cliffs on our left. On reaching Blanchetown we turned left onto the Sturt Highway and crossed the bridge and into the town where we stopped at the pub overlooking Lock 1. It was not too hot so we camped outside in the shade and all had a hearty pub meal with the river view spread out in front of us. We started with 23 riders and by lunch we still had 17 sitting down at our 2 long tables.

After our enjoyable lunch and congenial chit chat we fuelled up at the BP on the highway and took a pretty straight route back toward Adelaide to avoid too much afternoon heat. Andy led us on the Sturt Highway until we took a left turn to Sedan, then straight through to Cambrai and a right turn onto the Mannum road and through the undulating windy bits of hills and up to Mount Pleasant for afternoon tea. We arrived at Mount Pleasant about 3pm and although there were a few pockets of hot air during the afternoon run the heat was not too unpleasant and at times there was even an intermittent cool breeze. As they say in Monty Python we have been in a lot worse heat than this day. The ride ended at Mount Pleasant and after a rest, cakes and cold drinks we made our ways home riding in small groups in different directions. An excellent ride day with lots of great MC roads, up hills and down dales with twisties, sweepers and lots of great scenic views with all different landscapes covered. Many thanks to Andy for planning and leading the ride and to all the riders who came out on the day and braved the small level of heat which turned out to be not much of a bother at all.

Ken King

Samrats Coordinator