

Samrats Ride Report – The 3 Dams Ride - Sunday 5 June 2011

The weather report for this Sunday was all over the place over the preceding days mainly saying rain and wind for Sunday 5 but possibly not till late in the day. At 9.30am the weather was quite good with blue sky, little wind and a lot warmer than the predicted 17 maximum. 10 bikes with 11 riders turned up, all regulars which is great though it is always nice to also have a couple of new members as we had the week end before. We got out of the city ASAP and made our way to Chandlers Hill road which skirts the Happy Valley Reservoir (dam no 1), then down the twisty Clarendon Rd through the town and turning off the road to Meadows into the Mount Bold Reserve (dam no 2) where we discovered there had been a landslide and the road to the dam and spill way was closed. Dark clouds to the south made an ominous skyline. U turn back to Kangarilla Rd turning off just before Meadows into Brookman Rd with it's long straights and few corners through the Kuitpo Forest. The weather was threatening but holding off with a little rain only and not much wind. Few cars made for a good ride across to the Victor Harbor Rd, left then quickly right onto Pages Flat Rd and another long section with few cars and little wind made for a speedy ride across to Main South Rd and up the hill to Myponga Reservoir. At this point the wind began to gust strongly, coming off the ocean and over the top of the hills to give the bikes a real shaking. The wind quickly reduced our speed to much slower than normal for those roads which made for a greater appreciation of the majestic scenery of those rolling hills down to the cliffs and beaches. We stopped at the look out at the top of Myponga dam (dam no 3) for a quick rest and to appreciate the view over the reservoir and the whole area, which is in my humble opinion just as good a view as you get in NZ or Norway. Some of the group had never stopped at the look out and were suitably impressed with the beauty of the place. The wind was in strong gusts and after a discussion we decided to avoid Delamere and instead take the Yankarilla to Victor Rd as it would be much more sheltered from the ocean wind than Delamere Rd. We crossed the Myponga spillway and made our way slowly, and therefore safely down to Normanville with the wind gusts buffeting us around. Lunch at the bakery and then to the Yankarilla to Victor road where the sun came out for the whole distance and as predicted was sheltered from the wind and made for an excellent stretch of motor cycling. Victor to Goolwa to Currency Creek to Bull Creek Rd and Meadows for afternoon tea. The first half of Bull Creek Rd was great with no cars, no rain and light winds but in the second half the rain and wind picked up and a slow car stayed way under the speed limit with double white lines all the way. Some drivers must never look in their rear view mirror or maybe they do and just don't care there is a whole line of bikes / vehicles strung out behind them and they almost never pull off even when there is a dedicated lane for slow vehicles. At Meadows the rain became heavier and we called it a day earlier than usual after doing about 220klms. I planned the ride at about 300klms but the weather stopped us doing Delamere to Victor across the bottom of the peninsula which would have added about 80 ks. A enjoyable ride day given the weather and as the rain buckets down it is good to know that at the end of the day our bikes are safe and in one piece in the shed and we are also the same in the house, or maybe it's the other way round. Ken King – Samrats coordinator.