

Samrats ride report for Sun 11 March 2012

Ride Leader Ken, Tail End Charlie Michael

As 15 or more of our regular riders had gone to Mt Gambier for the long week end we had a small group for the regular Sunday ride. A small group is good for some rides as it is easier to get to know people. We all rode well together and everyone seemed to greatly enjoy the day out in the autumn sunshine. The weather was perfect with a warm but not too hot day and virtually no wind throughout all of the ride.

7 of us took off from Bolivar and went north up Port Wakefield Rd to Two Wells, then to Mallala and Balaclava for a quick rest stop. Auburn was next stop for morning tea at about 11.15am. The roads thus far were mostly straight but coming into Auburn the land rises a bit and the sweeping curves begin. A quick section to Saddleworth with a few more sweeping curves as the land gets a bit more hilly in between the straight lines.

Reaching Marrabel we got stuck behind some slow traffic, had a muster up to get the group back together and took the left turn to Eudunda. This section Marrabel to Eudunda was probably the best part of the ride as the road undulates around some small hills and has lots of big sweeping curves to power through. On reaching the Morgan Rd we turned left and went through Eudunda until the Truro turn off to the right. We followed the Eudunda to Truro Rd south through Dutton and this is also a great motor cycling road with nice curvy corners and good surface until the last 5 ks where it gets pretty rough with multiple pot hole repairs all over the road.

Lunch at Truro bakery at about 1.15pm almost exactly at the 200ks mark so far on the ride. Fill up with petrol and head down the highway to Nuriootpa. Last year when I planned this ride I picked the route partly as we were able to go from Two Wells to Truro and all the way except for the small towns was open road 110km/h speed limit. Now with the changes in the 150 km zone around Adelaide it was all 100km/h speed limit except for a small section at the end near Truro. These ridiculous changes are not fair to bikers and the country dwellers, truckies and bus companies are all united in their opposition to these speed changes as it considerably reduces their profitability and productivity with extra time lost in travel. The road works from Truro to Nuriootpa have been going for at least 2 years and although they are partly completed there are still long sections of 60 km/h on a 110km/h highway.

Nuriootpa to Angaston, Eden Valley and Mount Pleasant makes for a nice afternoon ride. Some riders peeled off and headed for home and the rest of us went Birdwood to Lobethal where the ride ended about 280 kms from the start point. A perfect time of the year for riding with out the stinking, sweaty heat. Some of the riders on the day had not done that route before and I think they all enjoyed the countryside and especially the sweeping curves. Adelaide is a lucky place to have such great motor cycling roads on our doorstep while in Sydney and Melbourne you have a ride much further to get to a half decent road. Thanks to all the riders who turned out on the day and especially to Michael who was tail end Charlie all day.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator