

## **Samrats ride report for Sun 23 Sept 2012**

Ride Leader Andy / Tail End Charlie Simon

12 bikes and 13 riders met at the BP Mount Barker for a early spring ride. The weather forecast was 40% chance of rain but we did not see any of it all day. Cloudy and windy with some sunny breaks over the day made for a pleasant not too hot and not too cold riding weather. All the riders were regular Samrats and it was good to see Dutchie and Kay out riding Jocks old favorite Valkarie.

This was a rider's choice day so Andy volunteered to lead a mystery ride around some of his preferred roads which turned out to be an awesome route taking in some roads we rarely if ever go on. This made the route enjoyably different to our usual rides and more scenic. We did the formalities of the safety talk which did not take long as we were all Samrats veterans and with Andy leading we went to Wistow, Woodchester, through the Callington township and turned left onto the old Princes Highway. We then took some excellent motor cycling back roads which we rarely go on turning right before reaching Nairne and going through Harrogate and then coming into the back of Woodside and riding east to pick up Lobethal Rd to Lobethal for morning tea.

Apart from the wind the riding conditions were excellent and there was little cross wind during the morning ride. The next leg was from Lobethal to Cudlee Creek, left into Fox Gully Rd to head south again and back onto Lobethal Rd which we took until Basket Range Rd, then south again to Aldgate, Echunga, Macclesfield and to Strathalbyn for lunch.

After a jovial lunch time at the Strath bakery we headed to Ashbourne, Bull Creek Rd and to Meadows for afternoon tea. 8 of us completed the ride to Meadows with some riders having to branch off to get home earlier. The wind was picking up for the last leg to Meadows and a bit blowy for those on light sport bikes or trail bikes but was not bad enough to detract from the fun.

The ride was about 200kms from Mount Barker to Meadows and made a circular loop which had Mount Barker in the centre and was about 60kms north to south with Lobethal at the north top end of the circle and Strath at the southern end. An interesting circular ride with more twisties on a day ride than we have done for a long time.

Finishing not far from where the ride started also meant that it is a short trip home for most riders and most of us would have been home by 3.00 or 3.30pm. Many thanks to Andy for leading the ride and Simon for doing a sterling job as tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coorodinator.