

Samrats ride report for Sun 24 Mar 2013

Ride leader Jim / Tail end Charlie Les

23 bikes, 3 with pillions met up at Caltex Bolivar for Jim's annual ride to Robertstown and another 3 riders joined us at various places along the way. The day was cloudy but unlikely to rain and as the day went by it got progressively hotter and was more like summer than autumn. Most of the mob was our regular crew but we also had 5 new riders on board mostly on sports bikes. Jim had moved this ride to earlier in the year to avoid the locust plagues that we had encountered on previous years. After the mandatory safety and procedures talk we took off up the main Barrier highway north until we reached Tarlee where we had a quick rest stop. At Giles corner we merged left taking the road to Auburn and Clare. The day was pleasant, the roads in reasonable shape and there were not too many cars in the way making for an enjoyable ride to Clare where we fueled up and some of us had morning tea. By this time we had already seen 2 police radar units but as we were not over the speed limit all was well. From Clare we took the road to Hansen which is a nice undulating route but was a bit spoiled as most of us were stuck behind a slow truck and trailer for a lot of the way. Then back onto the Barrier Highway to Burra and on to the Morgan Road for about 20kms where we turned right into Worlds End Highway to Robertstown. Jim made this leg a free ride for those who wanted to blow out any cob webs. A couple of riders headed back at morning tea and a couple carried on straight back from Robertstown but the rest of us numbering about 25 riders and pillions enjoyed the lunch put on by the local bowling club. The lunch was a good spread of salads, cold meats, desert and ending with a selection of their famous Robertstown slices. They only charged us \$23.00 each which was a \$1.00 cheaper than we advertised. Our ride to Robertstown once a year does help the struggling local economy. After we had eaten more than our fill we continued on the Worlds End Highway to Eudunda where the road works are unbelievably still not complete making the resurfacing of the road into Eudunda town from Worlds End now in it's third year of construction. At least it was no longer dirt as per the last 2 years. Another fuel up in Eudunda for those who needed it and we took the road to Truro which is a great motor cycling road. The cross wind was picking up as we headed south making the lighter sports bikes needing to lean into the wind to prevent bouncing around the road. Next leg was the Sturt Highway to Nurioopta, then Barrosa Valley Way to Tanunda, Lyndock and on to Williamstown for a rest stop. About half of the riders went their separate ways home from here as it was about 4pm and we had covered about 340klms. The other half of us pushed on to Kersbrook for a fuel stop then on to chain of ponds to meet up with Gorge Rd. Chain of ponds is certainly a good fun twisty ride. Most of the remaining riders took a right turn to go down Gorge Rd to get back to Adelaide but 6 of us turned left to Cudlee Creek, then Fox Creek Rd, Coldstore Rd and Swamp Rd to meet up with the top of Greenhill Rd and left to Balhannah for afternoon tea. This last leg was a great blast to finish the ride and by the time we got home we had done over 400klms making this day ride one of our longest on the calendar. All in all another great Samrats ride day with good weather and great company.

Thanks to Jim for planning, organizing and leading the ride and to Les who did a super job as tail end Charlie especially up to the Williamstown stop where he nearly ran out of fuel.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator