

Samrats ride report for Sun 21 July 2013

Ride leader Ken am / Rob pm

Sometimes riding in a small group is just as much fun as a large group and that was certainly the case on this Sunday. The weather report looked like the Sunday could have been as atrocious as the previous few days but as luck would have it we did not get rained on much at all with only the occasional sprinkle. As we had cancelled 3 rides in the previous 2 months due to wet or windy weather I was wanting to get a ride in if at all possible. We were all suitably rugged up in safety and rain gear so the cold temperature was not an issue.

We took off from Crafers at 10am along Upper Sturt and then turned off onto Sturt Valley Way which is very pretty ride though the trees and bush with lots of windy turns and meets up with Ironbark Rd where we carried on to Cherry Gardens Rd, Main Rd, Potters Rd to come out at Clarendon. A nice stretch of road so far except for the need to dodge the leaf matter which made the edges of the road slippery.

Clarendon to Baker Gully Rd and then out to Chapel Hill and by this time the clouds had temporarily gone, the sun was out, the roads dried off, and wind the blew the dried leaves off the road making for a much surer footing on the road. Chapel Hill to Blewitt Springs to McLaren Flat and we joined up with Kangarilla Rd and back to Dashwood Gully Rd.

We then went through Meadows and on to Macclesfield where we had a quick rest stop as the toilets have, unbelievably still not reopened at our usual Strathalbyn Railway Station stop even though they have been building them for months. The weather was holding out quite well with banks of rain to the north and south of our path but we managed to ride down the middle where the sky was clearer and even the sun shined for part of the way.

Next leg was Macclesfield to Strath and where we took the Wellington Rd and turned off to Milang. It looked like the recent rains had covered part of the low lying road but were now receding so we made it to Milang with no floods to cross. Late morning tea / early lunch at the Milang bakery and we were off to ride the Clayton Bay, Finnis circuit which was a nice ride except for the north westerly wind which picked up quite strong. We turned left onto the Strath Goolwa Rd to then pick up the southern end of Bull Creek Rd. Once we turned north we were more or less going into the wind making for a very pleasant and almost unbeatable ride through the smooth curves of Bull Creek Rd to Meadows.

Until this point we had been completely dry all day. On this leg the rain had a bit of a spit for a couple of minutes only but the wind soon dried us off. A fuel stop in Meadows and we called it a day and made our way home at 2pm. We had done about 200klms over the 4 hours with 2 stops and ½ an hour for lunch, managed to dodge the clouds and hardly get rained on at all. As we rode back together to Clarendon and then down Chandlers Hill Rd there was a thick bank of rain clouds moving in from the south and I was pleased to zip into Aberfoyle Park and into the garage before the rain hit. Hopefully the other riders made it home and also avoided the afternoon showers.

Ken King
Samrats Coordinator