

## **Samrats ride report for Sun 11 Aug 2013**

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Michael

This Sunday the weather finally decided to dish up something decent with no clouds and warm sunshine from 9am to 3pm which is the time most of us on this ride were out and about. 15 bikes with 2 pillion met at Crafers which for the first time all winter was not shrouded in fog. We had 1 rider who had not been out with the Samrats for some years and the rest were regulars.

After a brief safety talk we went up Piccadilly Rd which has some nice sweepers to join up with Greenhill Rd which we took to Balhannah, then Junction Rd to Littlehampton and into Mount Barker. Next was a right turn into Flaxley Rd and then some better fun was to be had on the country roads that link up Flaxley and Strathalbyn. Flaxley Rd to Stamps Rd comes out at Maccelsfield where we picked up the Aldgate Strathalbyn Rd to Strath. The section from Maccelsfield to Strath has an increasingly deteriorating road surface with breaks in the tar and loose material on almost every corner which is probably part of the reason the authorities lowered the speed limit. However for motor cyclists giving the road a proper resurface would be much safer to stop the back wheel sliding out on the corners from lack of traction.

The toilets at Strath railway station are open again so we stopped at the railway park for morning tea and to enjoy the sunshine. I had thought to double back to Mount Barker as the name of the ride suggests but after a quick canvas of ideas we were off to Paris Creek and then to Meadows, a left turn along Brookman Rd and down the Willunga Hill to Willunga for lunch. Some of us had a pub meal and the rest hit the Café near the pub.

Outside the pub a group of bikers were leaving and a Harley slipped off the side stand and knocked another bike over in the process which can so easily happen if a bike is parked on a slope. It looked like it would have been an expensive mistake for both bikes.

After a leisurely lunch, a fuel up for those who needed it, the consensus seemed to be to go up the Willunga Hill then to Mount Compass, Nangkita Rd and Bull Creek Rd to Meadows for afternoon tea. Luck was with us as there were no cars on the hill to slow our progress. On Nangkita Rd cars and trucks were flashing us to go slow and a few kilometers from Bull Creek Rd we could see why as there were 2 Ambulances and 2 Police cars and it looked like 1 or more motor bikes had gone down.

Our group reached Meadows and the end of the ride safely with no mishaps at about 2.15pm after covering about 180 kilometers. Seeing other riders go down first hand is always a sobering reminder to take adequate care with all aspects of riding motor cycles.

The first warm weather can bring out riders who don't ride all year round, who may not have done an adequate safety check on their bikes after the winter break, who may be a bit out of practice with their riding skills and over estimate their current ability. There certainly were a lot more bikes on the road compared to the colder winter months and we went past a few other club rides mostly of the vintage type with the BSA motor cycle club, E Type Jag and MG among the groups. With all the diverse motoring enthusiast clubs out and about with the warmer weather it certainly illustrates that we really do need better quality roads in the Adelaide region. Thanks to all the riders who came out to play on the day and especially to Michael who did a sterling job as Tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator