

Samrats ride report for Sun 1 Sept 2013

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Darren

A beautiful spring day helped to bring out about 25 riders to the start of this ride at BP West Terrace. I was expecting a smaller number given that it was Fathers Day but apparently some families have Dad's day on the Saturday which is great as Dad probably wants to ride his motor cycle on a Sunday as usual as his reward for being such a great guy. Another point to consider is that some people don't have a living father and maybe don't have any children and they shouldn't miss out on Sunday ride.

We had 2 new riders on board, a couple of pillions and after the safety talk we got out of the city via a different route to namely Goodwood to Springbank to Blythwood and then up the Old Belair Rd to Blackwood. We followed Main Rd Blackwood for a short way then Sheoak and right into Upper Sturt which we followed until taking a right turn into Sturt Valley Way. This is a lovely windy road which is usually pretty safe but on this day there was a lot of building site type rocks and rubble on a lot of the corners which was a concern.

A muster up on Ironbark Rd and we had a wait due to a couple of mishaps although thankfully not due to the corners of Sturt Valley Way. One bike had a leak in a radiator and needed a tow and a minor collision between 2 bikes at a corner kept us on Ironbark Rd for about 20 minutes enjoying the scenery and the sunny day. Once the tow was organized and some duct tape on the damaged mirror we were off again to Cherry Gardens Rd and Main Rd to Clarendon.

Next leg was Bakers Flat Rd to a right turn into Maclaren Flat Rd then left and up Wickham Hill, Range Rd and Pottery Rd. I had intended to take a right turn at Brookmans to Mount Compass for morning tea but was informed that the Mount Compass bakery is currently shut on a Sunday so we hung a left to Meadows, then Paris Creek Rd to Strathalbyn where we had a late morning tea / early lunch. With this detour we had done about 120 kms and it was midday.

After lunch a few riders took off home and the rest of us pushed on to do the Victor Harbor Circuit as planned. We first went to Ashbourne, then along Bull Creek Rd south to Nangkita Rd and Mount Compass. A right turn on the Victor Rd, headed north to Pages Flat Rd where we turned left to Myponga where a couple of riders turned off to head for home while the rest of us continued on South Rd to Yankalilla then Normanville for a fuel stop.

Next back to Yankalilla and instead of continuing on the excessively bumpy road to Victor we turned off onto Parawa Rd to meet up with Delamere Rd and into Victor. Delamere Rd is still quite suspect on the road surface quality especially travelling towards Victor Harbor from the Delamere end where there are numerous pot holes and loose material covering sections that take up half or more of the lane. We had a free ride along Delamere Rd, regrouped at the bottom of the hill and turned left onto the ring road to bypass the Victor township. A couple of quick turns across the Main Victor Rd and we

picked up the excellent Crows Nest Rd and headed north until reaching the Victor Rd again. A right turn and following the main Victor road north for quite a while we turned into Mount Compass Goolwa Rd, a great little jaunt, which we followed to Currency Creek then left into Bull Creek Rd and to Meadows for afternoon tea.

This last leg of the journey from Normanville to Meadows turned into a mini Iron Butt adventure as we went about 120 kms in one stretch and although it was a bit tiring it certainly was good fun to be crossing back and forth between the main routes taking in the best roads for motor cycling of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

We had travelled about 330kms in total and arrived in Meadows at 3.45pm to enjoy a well deserved afternoon tea stop before we went out separate ways home.

Although only 6 out of 25 riders made it to the end we all got a good buzz out of the last long section of the ride day. We would not normally travel that far in a 1 day ride but circumstances conspired to bring us a longer run than usual.

Many Thanks to Darren with the invaluable duct tape for going tail end Charlie and to all the riders who attended on the day. Ken King Samrats Coordinator