

Samrats ride report for Sun 8 Sept 2013

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Ian

The weather was kind to us for our yearly ride to Morgan with a nice warm spring day with some clouds but no rain. We saw a lot of bikes out and about on this day including some club rides which all seemed to be heading north. The ride to Morgan is one of our longest day rides being about 350kms from start point at the BP Newton to end point at Mount Pleasant, and for most riders an extra 50 to 80 kms to get to the start point and home again. 12 of us came on this ride making for a very relaxed and friendly ride group. We were treated to some great spring time green scenery and with some farms so brightly colored with flowering crops on both sides of the road that it looked quite surreal.

We went up Gorge Rd to get our usual morning dose of twisties and thankfully encountered minimal push bike riders. Straight ahead to Gumerarcha, Birdwood and on to Mount Pleasant for a quick early morning tea and rest stop. Just out of Mount Pleasant is the right turn to Walker Flat which is a 50 km stretch with a beautiful view of the country side down to the Murray as the road winds it's way down to the flats. Once the first few curvy kilometers are done the road is pretty straight to Walker Flat so those who wanted to had a free ride to the ferry.

Across the river at Walker Flat and we turned north and taking the road to Swan Reach and then staying on the east side of the river we continued north to Blanchetown where we had a fuel stop. We then continued north up the east side of the river to Morgan where we were ferried back across the Murray and parked our bikes next to the reserve. Another bike club had also ventured north east from Adelaide to Morgan and were finishing their meal at the Terminus Hotel as we arrived. This was lucky timing as if we had arrived at the same time there would have been a very long wait for the meals.

The day was still warm to hot and we sat in the outside bistro area over looking the river and had a good quality leisurely lunch. It was 2pm by the time we departed Morgan via the Mount Mary to Eudunda Rd which is about 60 kms of mostly straight road which is a bit bumpy and the most boring part of the trip. Just out of Eudunda we turned left and travelled south to Truro which is nice 30 kms of undulating road to ride except for the pot holes between Truro and Dutton which seem to have been there continuously for at least the last 3 years. The signs say slow down which is very necessary as the broken surface and deep pot holes are quite dangerous and cover most of the lanes of the road making swerving around them difficult. Next leg was Truro to Nurioopta where a couple of riders continued on down the Sturt Highway to get onto the Northern expressway and home quicker. The rest of us carried on to Angaston, Eden Valley and back to Mount Pleasant where we had a relaxed afternoon tea and even at 4.30pm the day was still pleasantly warm when we made our own ways home.

A great ride day with no mishaps or incidents. The once a year ride to Morgan is well worthwhile and the Terminus Hotel over looking the reserve and river is highly recommended for a lunch of good quality food at a moderate price. Thanks to Ian for going tail end Charlie and to all the riders who participated on the day.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator