

Samrats ride report for Sun 24 Nov 2013

Ride leader Marcus, Tail end Charlie Jennifer

This begin the last Sunday of the month was originally Jim's ride but as Jim was unable to attend on this day he asked me to take the ride which I would have been happy to do. However as the Samrats needs some new ride leaders to reduce the load on our current 3 ride captains, including me, I passed the ride on to Marcus who was willing to lead us on a ride around the Mount Barker area taking in some of his favorite country back roads. As we only had 9 riders all of whom were veteran Samrats we needed a brief safety talk and we were off into the hills. The weather was cloudy but not predicted to rain and did improve as the day went on to become sunny with only a mild if fairly chilly southerly wind.

We headed north along Portrush then turned onto Payneham and the east onto Montacute Rd and through the Black Hill Conservation Park. This way into the hills is a great ride with bush scenery, windy curves and a good road surface. Montacute road runs into Marble Hill Rd for more of the same. When we reached Ashton we turned left onto Lobethal Rd which is a also a good twisty ride and followed this path until reaching Deviation Rd where we turned right and wound our way across to Greenhill Rd. Here we turned left and followed the road towards Balhannah and then turned off to head south onto Beaumonts Rd, then Onkaparinga Rd for a short stint and then Johnson Rd, Shelling Rd, into Hahndorf, River Rd and onto Echunga Rd to Echunga. Most of these roads were quite new to most of us and were a real blast to experience.

Next leg was to take the Aldgate Strath Rd to Macclesfield where I think Marcus intended to stop for a toilet break as we had been in the saddle for 1 ¼ hours. However, there was a huge fair in the Macclesfield Park where we usually stop so we turned right onto Todd Rd, then left to Meadows where we thankfully stopped for a well earned rest and late morning tea / early lunch. After having been rested, fed, talked and toileted but not in that order we took off for another leg along Bull Creek Rd, Ashbourne Rd to Strathalbyn where we had a quick muster up and then headed to Wood chester, then veered left onto Wellington Rd to Wistow. Before reaching Mount Barker we turned right onto Peach Rd then Hartmann, past the Mount Barker Golf course and onto Bald Hill Rd which crosses in a tunnel under the SE Freeway. Next was a right turn into Little Dublin Rd, then Henry Rd, Blackiston and left into Nitschke Rd from which we turned left into Junction Rd which we followed into Balhannah where we had afternoon tea at the usual Cafe which turned into a nice long and relaxed time.

We arrived at the end point of the ride at about 2pm after covering about 160klms. Many thanks to Marcus who showed us some new excellent motor cycling country roads and to Jennifer for going tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator