

Samrats ride report for Sun 17 July 2016

Ride leader Ian / Tail end Charlie Michael

This ride day was Ian's yearly ride to Burra which was scheduled for the previous weekend and cancelled due to foul weather. Finally the lousy weather abated for at least this one weekend and 15 of us turned out at Caltex Bolivar start point. The weather on this Sunday was a near perfect SA winters day with bright sun and no wind so those who were too lazy to get out of bed missed out big time. The temperature was about 15 to 17 most of the day and with a simple set of thermals and the safety gear we were quite warm and comfortable all day. About half the riders were regulars and the rest were occasional riders with our group and a couple who we had not seen for a couple of years. It is always a good thing to welcome back riders who we have not seen for a long time to have a chat and a catch up. The weather remained excellent all day from the 9.30 meet time to arriving home at 4.30pm to 5pm depending on which side of Adelaide one lives on.

After Ian did the safety talk we blasted off north up Port Wakefield Rd onto the freeway taking good notice of the speed limits, cameras and the point to point. Turning off at Roseworthy we went past Freeling and on to Kapunda, then a right turn onto the Truro Rd. At Truro instead of stopping for morning tea we made a left and took the Dutton Rd to Eudunda where thankfully we did stop for a rest, coffee and morning tea. Next leg was Eudunda to Robertstown, then World's End Highway (what a great name) travelling north to pick up the Morgan Rd and into Burra for lunch. The only minor mishaps were one rider running out of petrol 5ks short of Burra (easily fixed with a 5 litre container and a double back) and the pub where we usually eat no longer served food. This was remedied by eating at the new Café next to the pub which served us up pretty good burgers etc.

Lunch over we started back south down the Barrier Highway and took a right turn to Clare. There was road works virtually all the way to Clare from the turnoff which slowed things up somewhat. No major accident happened on the first 35k slow sharp right hand bend where the road began to dip down into Clare. This was a welcome thing given the serious crash on this bend on last year's ride. Through Clare the going was smooth with not much tin top congestion until a few ks out of Clare where we came upon a huge group of Harleys apparently on a funeral procession. PS nothing against Harleys as we have quite a lot of them in our ride group. After far too many ks of this Ian was disgruntled enough to change the planned route and we took a sharp left at Auburn and came back via Saddleworth, Marrabel, Hamilton and to Kapunda. This wise detour was a great way to go as the roads are generally clear, undulating, nice big sweepers and in pretty good shape. Although this made the ride longer it was a great extra section. We mustered up at Marrabel and had a short rest and a chin wag and the official ride was over. We then made our way back to Adelaide mostly as one group via the Northern Expressway and home.

A great day was had by all. Many thanks to Ian for planning and leading the ride. These roads we take on our yearly trip to Burra really are an excellent riding experience. Many thanks to Michael for going tail end Charlie all day and to all the riders who came out for the day to enjoy the winter sunshine, the roads and the good company.

Ken King
Samrats Coordinator