

## Samrats ride report for Sun 13 August 2017

Ride leader Ken, Tail end Charlie Michael

An excellent weather day helped to gather 20 bikes at the BP St Mary's start point. Mr Social Media Martin Humphries helped to swell the numbers with his promotion of the ride, many thanks to Martin. The weather was warming up at 10am to be a bit hotter than the prediction and probably reached about 23 C, or maybe even a bit more during the day with blue skies all around and no hints of rain. Spring had begun even if only for a short time and we were going to take full advantage of it. It was also time to remove the thermal lining or get cooked.

After a longer than usual safety talk as we had about half a dozen new riders we took off on South Rd and braved the Darlington road works and made our way to Panalatinga Rd, went past Woodcroft and onto Piggot Range Rd which makes a great entry point up into the hills with lots of nice smooth sweepers. As luck would have it we only had one car to slow us up which soon turned off and we zoomed up to Clarendon Rd, mustered up in the main street and carried on towards Meadows where we were planned to have morning tea. To make it more interesting and to get away from the main roads we turned off at Baker Gully Rd and made our way out to Chapel Hill Rd. We came up on 2 slow cars so we did the usual loop in reverse turning left onto Blewett Springs Rd, then Whiting Rd, Kays Rd and back onto the top part of Chapel Hill Rd and then reappeared where we had turned off and carried on to Schuller Road. Next was a left turn onto Kangarilla Rd and back onto Clarendon Rd. On the whole way of this loop we did not come across any cars and very little lycra which makes for a much improved riding experience. On reaching the main road again we fell in line behind tin top funeral procession and on into Meadows. We parked at the rear of the shops and had morning tea in the Old Bank Café which did seem to serve us up good coffee and cake and did it a lot quicker than some of the other food outlets in Meadows.

After suitable refreshments and resting were completed we hit the next leg to Milang for lunch. We did this via the famous Bull Creek Rd where by a small miracle we only came up to one or two cars which did not present much trouble to pass. A left onto Strathalbyn Rd and then towards Strath until reaching the Finniss turn off to the right where we went through Finniss, then Clayton Bay with a small unintentional detour where we missed the scenic Island View Rd turnoff, and then headed straight to Milang. At lunch we still had all 20 bikes plus 3 pillions riding as a group which compared to a lot of rides is quite an achievement. Most if not all riders opted for the Fish and Chips or Bakery options for lunch and thereby saved money by avoiding the counter lunch option at the Milang pub. After a long winded lunch and friendly chin wag we set off on the final leg which was along the coast road with views of Lake Alexandrina, then to Langhorne Creek, Woodchester and up the hill towards Mount Barker where the ride ended at Wistow where we still had 18 bikes still riding as a group.

All in all a great days riding, good friendly vibes and definitely in keeping with the spirit of Steve Macqueen's On Any Sunday movie which is a good watch if you have never seen it. Thanks to Michael for going tail end Charlie all day and to all the riders who gave up their Sunday to be part of the ride.

Ken King

Samrats Coodinator and Ride Captain.