

SAMRATS ride report for Sun 21 January 2018

Ride Leader Ian / Tail End Charlie Ken

The weather forecast all week had been 34 C for Sunday, then 35 C on Saturday night and 36 C on Sunday morning. This was right on the borderline of ride cancellation but it ultimately up to the ride captain of the day to decide to cancel or not and on this day Ian decided to push on and good thing too as we had a great morning ride then straight home after an early lunch to beat most of the extreme heat of the day.

8 intrepid riders turned out to brave the heat, mostly regulars but with a couple of newish riders on Buell sports bikes to welcome into the ranks. After the safety talk we took off from Civic Park Modbury promptly at 9.30am and went up North East Rd past Houghton and around the windy bits and onto the Adelaide Mannum Rd and through Inglewood, past Chain of Ponds and into Gumeracha. The next leg was left onto Forreston Rd and then heading north until Warren Rd, past Mount Crawford and Hale Conservation Park and into Williamstown for a rest stop and rehydration session. We found plenty of shade to park and sit down and rest and solve most of the world's problems.

A suitable length of resting but mindful of the increasing temperature we departed via the Williamstown Springton Rd which is always a pleasure to transverse, then a left turn at Springton to Eden Valley and a right turn to Keyneton. Next a left turn towards Angaston and just out of the township a left turn onto Stockwell Rd which is an excellent short cut / long cut to get further south while avoiding the built up area traffic of Nuriootpa and Tanunda. Stockwell Rd runs through parts of the more pleasant scenery part of the Barossa and comes out onto the Barossa Valley Highway where we turned left and headed into Lyndoch for lunch at the bakery opposite the Chopper Chicks Park. They were not operating their helicopter joy flights on this day, maybe their engines would overheat but maybe they were not there as the town was deserted. We had the bakery to ourselves as most people seemed to be staying home in their air con cocoon so we sat inside in the bakery air con to cool down and be better rested for the hotter trip home.

The journey back to Adelaide was pretty direct to get home faster but we still had some fun travelling via Lyndoch Valley Rd to Williamstown, South Para Rd to Kersbrook, then a right onto Kersbrook Rd, then left onto One Tree Hill Rd, Right onto Black Top Rd and winding down onto Main North Rd where the ride ended. We then went our separate ways home and every one should have been back home in the cool by 1pm or 1.15 at the latest. The day was generally quite pleasant riding with T shirt, mesh flow through jacket, draggen jeans and summer gloves. I don't think anyone had leathers on which would have been unwise on this type of day. The riding conditions only became a bit of a heat trial in the last half hour of the journey home and as we all started out cool and were well hydrated this was not much of a load to bare.

Many thanks to Ian, who is one of our stall wart ride captains, for planning and leading the ride over an excellent route taking in a variety of great MC roads.

Ken King

SAMRATS Coordinator