

Samrats Ride Report for Sun 23 Dec 2018

Ride Leader Ken / Tail End Charlie Les

Crafers to Normanville

About 35 riders turned up at the start point Crafers Deli for this last ride of the year. This ride was from the late Ride Captain Jim's playbook so we stuck to the same route as previously with one small diversion. This was a pretty good number of riders especially as a lot of people had already left town for the holidays. The weather was suitable for a great days ride being warm, no rain and little wind. Most riders were in holiday mode so the atmosphere was relaxed and festive. The weather was warm but not too hot. A few were new riders and the rest were regulars or ancient old hands. The safety talk and corner marshal needed to be complete to help the new riders so it took longer than usual.

At about 9.40am we headed out on the freeway and straight off at Stirling and then right at the first roundabout and made out way onto Sturt Valley Way and to Ironbark and then Cherry Gardens and into the hills and down into Clarendon. Sticking with the main road we made our way to Meadows then veered right and onto Bull Creek Rd. We had good luck thus far with virtually no dawdling Sunday car drivers to get in our way. At Nangkita Road we did a sharp right turn and zipped into Mount Compass for a rest stop and morning tea. I counted 30 bikes present and I later found out one rider had a flat tyre on Cherry Gardens, fixed the leak and the caught up with us at Normanville. The others must have had to turn for home along the way for various reasons.

The next leg was north on Victor Harbour Rd until Pages Flat Rd where we turned left. Lunch at Normanville was planned for about 1pm but as we were going to arrive too early I put in a surprise extra bit by turning left before reaching Myponga and took the curvy but a bit bumpy Hindmarsh Tiers Rd towards Victor Harbour. This road climbs up and down several times before reaching the main Victor Harbour Rd. I deemed the distance too far to take the Victor bi pass road and the ridge road towards Delamere even if we dropped down the first turn off to Yankalilla. Thus a U turn and we got to ride the same road back to Myponga adding an extra 70 kms to the ride day. Back nearly to Myponga and we turned right onto Main South Rd and then quickly left to the Myponga Reservoir Rd. Excellent scenery on this road with world class views over the ocean. We crossed the dam wall and made out way along the ridges and then down the hill into Carrickalinga Beach and to Normanville for lunch at the bakery. We still had about 25 riders on board coming into Normanville and most stayed for lunch at the bakery.

The temperature was rising and it was about 2pm so we called it a day and went our separate way home with much Merry Xmas'es. Lots of us rode roughly in a group straight back north along main South Road which for a main road is a surprisingly enjoyable ride. The day turned out very well and all the riders seemed to have a great time. The only mishaps were 2 punctures probably from nails and no bikes came down. I cannot recall any crashes on Samrats rides in 2018 not even minor ones so that is probably a record to have nil safety related episodes in a whole years riding. Most riders should have been home by 3pm to do the domestic jobs and begin the Xmas family activities, after doing about 200 to 240 kms round trip depending on where they live.

Thanks to all we came out on the ride to make the day an enjoyable ride day. Thanks to the veteran tail end Charlie Les who has clocked up way over 30 years on Samrats rides. Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all. The Jan Feb Mar 2019 rides Calendar is up on the MRASA website, click on Samrats on the right hand side of the home page and go to up-coming rides.

Ken King - Samrats Coordinator.