

Samrats ride 29 July 2012

Ride leader Jim / Tail End Charlie Chris

Jim's ride to Sedan is a yearly event and attracted about 20 riders on 29 July. The weather on the day was a bit cold and rainy but as luck would have it we managed to skirt around the heaviest falls and so we encountered only light rain during the ride. The weather however probably put a few riders off accounting for the lower than usual number on this ride. Mainly the old regular crew came out to play but we did have 1 new rider on a Harley to welcome along for his first ride with us.

Jim led us on an excellent and varied route to Sedan on some country roads with quite a lot of twisties that most of us rarely go on. We took off at 10am after the safety talk and the first leg was from Hillcrest BP on North East Rd to Williamstown via Golden Grove Rd, One Tree Hill Rd, Kersbrook Rd and Lyndoch Hill Rd. A rest stop at Williamstown then to Eden Valley, Keyneton and down the Sedan Hill road with it's amazing views of the plains across to the Murray river.

About half the pack got stuck behind a slow caravan for most of the way down which somewhat reduced the fun of the down hill curves into Sedan. Most of the roads we encountered were pretty dry with only the occasional damp patches from the preceding showers. The Sedan pub put on a barbeque and salads every Sunday lunch which is quite cheap and pretty good food. All the riders on the day came to Sedan for lunch and we had a merry time together as usual. The day was as changeable as an April day in England with sunny bits then cloudy and rainy and back to short bursts of sun again.

While lunching the weather threatened to turn quite stormy and most of us donned the wet weather gear but as we took off most of the dark clouds passed on to the east and we got the afternoon ride from Sedan to Mount Barker done with little rain. As usual the rain seemed to build up in the late afternoon and some of us probably needed the plastics more for the run home from Mount Barker.

The afternoon ride was via Cambrai, Punthari, Monato, Callington and Woodchester to Mount Barker. The ride was about 250kms from start to finish and 10 of us completed the ride with the others peeling off home at different points along the way after lunch. After a nice afternoon tea of coffee, snacks and good company we said our goodbyes and headed for home which most of us should have reached by about 4.30pm.

An enjoyable ride day was had by all even with the colder temperature and short damp spells. Thanks to Jim for planning and leading the ride and to Chris for going tail end charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator