

Samrats ride report for Sun 14 Oct 2012

Ride Leader Ken / Tail End Charlie Martin

A beautiful spring day for riding enticed more motor cycles to be out on the southern roads than I have ever seen before with a number of clubs out and about on this Sunday. The Samrats put in a decent showing with 25 bikes and 3 pillions at the BP St Mary's meeting point. We had mostly our regular riders, including all 4 ride captains, a couple of new riders and a couple who had not ridden with us for a few years.

After the safety talk we took off down Main South Rd and then branched off at Panalatinga Rd to get into the hills. The top of this road is a great motor cycling stretch with nice sweepers and pretty smooth road surface as the road climbs up. Left for a short stretch of Grants Gully Rd and then right into Chandlers Hill Rd / Clarendon Rd which winds itself though some great twisties down into Clarendon.

A quick muster up, through Clarendon and then right at Baker Gully Rd and out to Chapel Hill and Blewitt Springs where we did a couple of circuits of these roads that divide up the many wineries in this area. There is some very picturesque scenery, pretty good road surface in most places and some great views of the south coast from the higher sections of this area. Blewitt Springs Rd led back up to Chapel Hill Rd to complete the circle then back tracking a short distance to Schuller Rd, Moritz Rd and Douglas Gully Rd to meet up with Chaffery Rd for the second time. Next a right turn into Kangarilla Rd and into McLaren Vale for a rest stop and morning tea.

All 25 bikes were still with us for morning tea at the McLaren Vale Bakery. It is always a good opportunity to get to know newer riders at these breaks and catch up with people we have not seen for a while.

The next leg was south along the rather boring Main Rd McLaren Vale to Willunga. Thus far we had been lucky with very few slow cars to have to over take but our luck ran out as we crawled up Willunga Hill with double white lines behind cars going 20kms under the speed limit. At the top of the hill we turned left onto Brookmans Rd formerly called Meadows Rd and our luck returned with no troublesome traffic to speak of. The run into Meadows was uneventful but a pleasant leg with the overhanging trees shading the road from the sun which was by this time quite warm. The next leg was Meadows to Bull Creek also with little traffic and the main car that we were following drove at a cracking pace faster than we needed to go to have our fun and still stay safe.

The Bull Creek Rd is still a classic ride even with the lowered speed limit. A muster up at the southern end where we amazingly still had all 25 bikes on board. Next leg was a left turn and along the main road to Strathalbyn for lunch. At Strath the train station park and the street was full of bikes with at least 2 other clubs, mainly Harleys and other cruisers having already arrived for lunch. We had an enjoyable lunch time eating Strath bakery food with plenty of friendly banter from the Samrats motley crew sitting in the shade of the park.

We had covered about 160kms at this stage so after a bit of discussion we decided to go one more short leg to Meadows via Paris Creek Rd as we had already done Bull Creek Rd. A few riders decided to take off home, probably to start watching the Moto GP earlier and the rest of us took off to Meadows making the 'official' part of the ride about 200kms a relatively short one by usual Samrats standards. Most of us should have been home by 3.30pm with the rest of the day to do whatever tickled our fancy.

The weather stayed good for all of the ride with the warmth of spring but not too hot and very little wind. I think every one enjoyed the ride and the good company. Thanks to all the riders who came out on the day and especially to Martin who did a great job going tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator