

Samrats ride report for Sun 25 Jan 2015

Ride Leader Jim / Ken, Tail End Charlie Les

25 riders turned out for this ride on a nice sunny day which ended up being quite cool in temperature for a Summer time ride especially down south on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Most riders were regulars but there was a few we had not seen for a while and it was good to catch up with them. After the safety talk Jim led us off onto South Rd and into the hills via Flagstaff Hill Rd, then Happy Valley Drive and left at Chandlers Hill Rd, straight ahead onto Clarendon Rd and through the classic twisties down to Clarendon. Next leg was a great motor cycling run along Kangarilla Rd for a short stretch then right onto Baker's Gully Rd, Kangarilla Main Rd, Wickhams Hill Rd, Range Rd, Pottery Rd, Woodgate Hill Rd, Burma Rd and Enterprise Dr. This brought us back out into civilisation at Nangkita Rd where we turned right and into Mount Compass for morning tea. All 25 of us were still present for a jovial eating and resting time. The traffic on Victor Harbor Rd was as thick as pea soup being a long weekend and we had to cross the road in small groups and line up facing north to take off again. At his point Jim's bike had trouble starting and he quickly realized that his battery was not adequately charging and was unlikely to make it through the day so he had to make a run for home and hope there was enough charge to run the fuel injection etc to make it home. Apparently the modern Japanese bikes of all brands are sold new either with a battery made in Japan that can last way more than 4 years or they can have a battery made in Indonesia which will last only 2 to 4 years even if trickle charged in between rides.

I became ride leader by default and after we had all finally made it safely to the other side of the road we took off travelling north on Victor Harbor Rd until we reached Pages Flat Rd where we turned left and travelled to Myponga. Pages Flat is a good ride which is mostly straight but has some ups and downs and slight bends to make it interesting. There have been 2 fatal car crashes on this road in recent months and the papers have been calling for it to be upgraded. The road surface is not perfect especially the edges but it is still safe and passable for motor cycling purposes. At Myponga we picked up Main South Rd to Yankalilla where I should have thought of taking Yankalilla Victor Rd and then Stone Rd to get up to Delamere Rd and this would have been a shorter route and got us to lunch at Ashbourne a bit earlier. This is probably the route Jim would have taken but I did not think of it and we carried on straight down Main South Rd to Normanville, then left to Second Valley and on to Delamere. Even though this is a main road it is still great ride with world class spectacular views of sea and country side and it is a great MC ride if there are not too many cars and caravans. We did the Delamere Rd (not the correct name of the road but it is what we all call it) to Victor and it was in pretty good shape since the extensive road works in 2014. It is always a great ride especially if the wind is not too strong which was the case on this day. A muster up at the bottom of the hill and then onto the Victor bypass ring road, then a fuel stop for those who needed it and we took the main Victor Harbor Rd almost back to Mount Compass to get to lunch a bit quicker as it was past 1pm.

Next and final leg was a right turn onto Cleland Gully Rd which is also a nice ride to come out onto Bull Creek Rd where we turned left and into Ashbourne for a later than usual lunch. Jim had booked a table for 20 which was perfect as about 5 riders had to turn for home since morning tea. We had a long

leisurely lunch between 1.30 pm and 2.30pm and as we had already done about 220kms we called it a day and headed for home after lunch.

The Green Man Inn served up good meals at a reasonable cost and we sat out the front with great country side views and in a pleasant temperature as the day had warmed up by then.

It had been a great ride day with only one other mishap apart from Jim's battery which happened on Delamere Rd where a rider had an unfortunate episode on his Yamaha V Max where the diff spat the dummy at speed causing the rear wheel to skip back and forth in a nice dance which those behind him said made for a spectacular tank slapping experience. Les pulled over and was assured the rider was fine and able to call up his son to come pick him up with a trailer as the V max was not going anywhere until a complete diff rebuild.

Thanks to Jim for leading the first part of the ride and to Les for going tail end Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator