

# SABERS Inc. / Leukaemia Foundation 5 Ferries Run "RIDE FOR A CURE"

*Sunday 23rd September 2007*

*Ride report by Bryan White, SABERS Rides Captain*



After many weeks of planning for this ride the only thing that wasn't able to be controlled was the weather but on that Sunday morning the sun was shining and it looked like the day would shape up to be perfect.

After getting the bike out and getting ready the excitement really got going. We rode down to Adelaide Road to collect Jason then it was off to collect Joyce at Mobil at Hillbank. It was just a short ride up to Civic Park. We thought that we would be the first ones there only to find that Paul and Sonya had been there for a few minutes before us, and that's before 7:30am!! Very shortly after us getting there riders started to come in from all directions.

Rose and Rebecca from the Leukaemia Foundation were kept busy with registering the riders and Sonya was busy running the Poker Hands and all the time riders and pillions kept coming ☺ This was awesome as we were leaving at 9am (not our usual 10am ride start) but with the length of this ride leaving at 10am wasn't an option. The great thing to see are riders from SABERS and nearly every bike club in Adelaide coming together for such a great cause.

As 8:45am rolled in it was time to do the Riders' Briefing and a speech from Joyce (SABERS Prez). We counted the 57 bikes; by the time we had finished the ride we had collected a few more and by the time we finished the ride the final count was 63. There were also quite a few pillions on the run. Once we had gotten through the formalities it was time to get geared up and head off for our ride.

Morris (Tailend Charlie) and a few of the SABERS Marshals got out to the park entrance and stopped the traffic so as to let the riders exit in one large group. The start of the ride going up North East Road is great as the road has some nice sweepers that go all the way to our first turn off: Mount Pleasant to Cambrai and the first stop at Sedan. This section of road has a tendency to be a bit treacherous for being windy. It runs on the top of the hills before the drop down the twisty bits to Cambrai. The wind here was probably the worst I have ever experienced here and comments from the other riders confirmed it was the worst they had too. We had a 15 min break here, long enough to fill up some of the bikes then off again to get to the first ferry at Swan Reach.



With so many bikes you know you are going to have a long day when it takes two ferry loads to get of the group to the other side. Once over, the group was back on the road to the next ferry at Walker Flat. It was only 30 kms and very open here. The views to the river were very scary as the normally very green and full back waters were bone dry and nearly all the vegetation was dead or struggling to make it through.

It's not until you're on the actual ferry that you realise how low our River Murray is.

Again it took two ferry trips to move the groups over the river. This was to be the norm all day. The Walker Flat River Front Store run by Shirley and Ian Thompson was prepared for us as we informed them previously we were stopping there on our pre-run a couple of weeks before. As soon as we rocked in we were welcomed by them and it was then that Shirley and Ian presented SABERS a \$100 cheque for the Leukaemia Foundation.



Our break was soon over and we were back on our ride.

The ride to Mannum is 39 kms and is pretty straight until you turn down to the river level where it gets interesting. Very nice scenery and open sweepers.

We had a short break here while we regrouped. Even though the ferries were larger it still took two runs to get the whole group over the river. We rang the Leukaemia Foundation volunteers at Murray Bridge to inform them that we were on the way and to start the BBQ. The ride to Murray Bridge is only about 40 kms and very straight. Not much to see!!

I was hungry so I wasn't really looking but I was enjoying the ride.

We rode into Sturt Reserve at Murray Bridge and were greeted by Deanna, Tony and the L/F volunteers cooking the BBQ. It wasn't long before everyone was off their bikes and queuing up to fill their hungry tummies



Our break here was long enough to get everyone fed and most of us refuelled for the rest of the ride. Some of the others opted to refuel at Taillem Bend. So it was off to the Jervois Ferry. Even though a couple of riders had to leave us at Murray Bridge it still took us two ferries to get the group over.



Once we had everyone over and regrouped at the petrol station it was down to the Wellington Ferry. That would complete the five ferry crossings for the ride and now there was just a short blast to Langhorne Creek and finish the run. The normally blowing section that runs past the Coorong was calm and made this section a dream to complete.

We pulled into the Langhorne Creek Pub carpark and there were lots of very happy faces. It would appear that the little blast here was definitely what the doctor ordered to complete the ride.

The last card for the Poker Hand was drawn and Doug & Jackie Roberts won the best hand and then donated the \$40 straight back to the L/F. "Well done, thanks guys!"

With the run over for this year it was time to head home. Some of the group decided to head back south via Strathalbyn and others went back via Mount Barker.



Okay with that little story out of the way I know you want to know how we went with the fundraising.

Once the Leukaemia Foundation has banked the money there will be approx \$1310.

The final number of bikes was 63.

No one got lost and no injuries or breakdowns.

Now there a few people to thank . . .

Thanks to Rose, Rebecca, Deanna, Stuart, Barb and Bob from the Leukaemia Foundation.

- They organised the rider registration desk at Civic Park and the BBQ at Sturt Reserve.

Thanks to Morris.

- Morris was able to get suppliers to donate all of the food for today. His time is appreciated and indeed the generosity of the suppliers.

Thank you Grant.

- Grant donated all of the soft drink personally.

Thanks to all of the SABERS Marshals, what an awesome job you all did, you kept everyone safe and made the pack feel secure and confident.

Thanks to all the SABERS Committee as there is a lot of organisation that goes on behind the scenes to organise events like this that does not get seen.

Thank you to Shirley and Ian at Walker Flat River Front Store for their donation of \$100.

Thank you one and all for turning up to this ride for without you organisations such as the Leukaemia foundation would cease to exist. The L/F receives no government funding and relies on events such as these.

SABERS proudly support the L/F and looks forward to our ....

**SABERS Inc. / Leukaemia Foundation 5 Ferries Run**

**"RIDE FOR A CURE" - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008**

The photos are now up in the gallery.

If you have photos from this or any other ride send them to us and we will gladly post them for you.

See you all on the next SABERS ride, bring your friends.

Just a quick note: If you ride with another group and would like us to advertise it drop us a line. If your ride group/social organisation has a charity event please inform us as we as a group or individual would like to know and maybe help by promoting it.

We are just a happy group of social riders that live to ride with our friends and if it has a cause all the better

Before I sign off and send this out I on a personal note would like to thank everyone that attended and assisted with this ride. The smiles on everyone's faces and the positive comments on how we organise the runs and events is why I keep doing this

It is a pleasure to do this for you and I know the SABERS Committee feel the same way

STAY UPRIGHT!