

## 5 Ferries Run - 20 September 2009

What a great day for a ride after the shocking winds we experienced the week before. John and I attempted a pre run on the Saturday when it was blowing a gale and after getting `speed wobbles` at under 100kmh due to the wind, I had had enough by the time we reached Mannum. Thankfully we had near perfect conditions for the actual ride today ☺ It was also great to see a number of riders from other clubs turn up to support this worthy cause.



Brenton surprised a lot of people by dragging out his back up bike to join us for the day after his experience with a falling tree. Heath and Carrie also arrived at Civic Park to wish us well and have a chat. It was good to see Heath is still in fine form even though he has to use crutches to get around at the moment (no tree will stop this bloke lol). Great to see you guys all got through that horrific event relatively OK.

The five ferries run has been a bit of a poker run the last couple of years as we have had to adapt to changes occurring within the leukemia foundations volunteer network. The poker hand makes it a bit of fun instead of just a registration fee and there is a chance to cover your fuel expenses if you win ☺

This seems to be working well and ALL money raised goes directly to the foundation which is self funded so every little bit helps. The girls are starting to make a bit of a tradition on this run by wearing Fairy wings on the ride (see pic gallery). This is good fun but the wings got a bit battered on some of the more spirited sections of the ride ☺



The first leg of the run up through chain of ponds was marred by an inconsiderate cage driver who refused to use the slow turn out lane virtually all the way through to the Lobbie turn off . Fred got past him here and slowed him down, giving the other riders a chance to get past. The driver must have finally got a clue and pulled over shortly after Fred's slow down maneuver. One of our group took this opportunity to explain road etiquette to the driver who sat clutching the steering wheel and staring straight ahead lol. Perhaps he will be more courteous in the future ☺

We had a short comfort break at Gumeracha where we nearly lost Alli as she and Genevive decided on a coffee stop lol. As the group were pulling out from Gumeracha the girls turned up just in time to hurriedly gear up and rejoin us ☺



From Gumeracha we had a great run through Birdwood, Mt Pleasant and onto Sedan, our next stop. I was thankful that the wind across the ridge prior to Cambrai was light and did not throw the bikes around as it often does through there.



From Sedan we had a short hop to Swan Reach and the first of our five ferries and then onto Walker Flat where we had another ferry crossing and a chance for a leg stretch, fuel (for bikes and riders) before carrying on to Mannum. The sight of a ferry chock a block full of bikes caused a bit of interest at each crossing and the ferry operators did a great job getting 33 bikes on each time we crossed with one exception and that was the Jervois ferry. We have had occasions on previous rides where it has taken 3 crossings to get everyone over.



Marie, Em, Christie, Katie (birthday girl) & Darrin joined us for lunch at Mannum and caught up on all the events to this point in the ride.

After everyone had filled their hungry tummies and had a good chat we geared up and set off over the Mannum ferry toward Murray Bridge before winding our way down to the Jervois ferry and another fuel stop/leg stretch at The Tailern bend BP.

One last ferry to go at Wellington before we ended the ride at Langhorne Creek pub. The car park looked awesome with all the bikes parked up there. Some including myself raced inside to get a well earned beverage to finish a great ride. It was here that the last card was also drawn. The winning hand (Jen) was gratefully donated back to the leukemia foundation increasing the proceeds to a total of \$570. Thanks to all who contributed to this tally.



#### SUMMARY

- 33 bikes + pillions
- Great weather
- Great company
- Thanks to the people who couldn't ride, attending and donating
- Excellent pics yet again from Paul, Sonya, Danny & others (its great to have so many pics to capture the fun)
- Fantastic support from the corner marshals as always
- Thanks to the guests who attended and added to the funds raised as well as the company they provided on the day ☺

Stay upright

Grant

SABERS Ride Coordinator