

FRED'S LEISURELY RIDE TO LUNCH AT GREENOCK 8th February 2009

Dear SABERS

Well...another great turnout! I made it 21 bikes & a tricycle at the start plus 1 joined us on the way...so 23 with 8 pillions.

This ride is incorrectly named...it should be "LYN'S LEISURELY RIDE TO LUNCH...". Lyn prefers shorter rides with longer breaks & ending where you can have a sit down lunch with "champagne". Judging by today's comments there are a quite a few more who appreciate the more social ride.

This was meant to be a Saturday ride however the weather was not conducive to pleasant riding on the 7th...41 degrees & strong winds were forecast early in the week. Midweek I put the ride off to the Sunday with all my faith in the forecast...25 degrees & cloudy. Just incase anyone had missed the communications about change of day I went to Bills Motorcycles in town Saturday morning. I was very pleased to find that no-one showed up.

Come Sunday & I was stunned to see the numbers of bikes there & then even more rolling in after we arrived a tad late to the BP Connect in Golden Grove.



I used up half my corner marshals in the first 3kms leading us on a cook's tour of Golden Grove Primary School...oops turned off The Golden Way too early. No drama...despite where "Karen" in the Zumo was telling me to go to get back on track we were soon enough on Greenwith Road.



This ride takes in some very scenic countryside. After One Tree Hill along the Kersbrook Road we enjoyed some long sweeping curves. And more of the same from Kersbrook to Williamstown. Sad to see such dry scenery though.



A leisurely break we had at Williamstown. Too leisurely even for Lyn. She dragged me away from a conversation with a guy who just dyno'd his new (but not very stock anymore) Hayabusa with 200 rear wheel horsepower! Grant was grizzling that his steed for the day (a 900 Honda) was just a bit coarse...vibrating him through the seat.



From Williamstown more open roads and soon enough we were down to 80kph for the run through that part of the Barossa. This was too slow for some...but they all acknowledged that they were forewarned. The pillions however were enjoying the scenery and being able to relax a bit rather than hanging on with tensed thighs & white knuckles. Gaby had a great time waving & pointing out exciting things to Chris. Meanwhile David up the back (Tail End Charlie) was struggling to stay awake.

After Tanunda we turned left for Seppeltsfield. I'm no wine drinker but this part of the Barossa just seems special to me. The Seppelt's family certainly built a nice little community for themselves here. Lovely tree lined roads, the old family mausoleum with palms leading up to it and of course the old gravity winery are picture perfect even in these dry times. On the left sides of the roads through Seppeltsfield are workers residences & old cottages.



We arrived in Greenock to find the carpark across the road from the Greenock Creek Tavern to be full. So we parked under the trees up the back & some even went through into the church yard.



In the pub we mucked up & sat in what I know as the main dining area. Out back they had prepared a table for us but as we had all found a seat we were not asked to move. They already had a party of 20 or so for lunch so our orders took a little while to come out. Thanks everyone for your patience.



That was the end of the official ride. After lunch Grant lead part of the group back to town through Chain of Ponds.

Thanks to Bills Motorcycles for the offer to start this ride from their city showrooms with breakfast thrown in. Unfortunately the weather was against us for the Saturday. However Andrew & Jason at Bills will have us back later in the year when the conditions should be friendlier.

Thanks to BP Connect Golden Grove for allowing us to start the ride from there.

A big thanks to the Greenock Creek Tavern for coping with us on mass...I never expected so many of us!

Great marshalling today guys. We welcome Tony & Gill on the VTX to their first stint as official marshals...well done. Thanks to David for tail.



Thanks to everyone attending...especially the girls who were most appreciative of the short run ending in lunch. Lovely to see some new faces again. And nice to catch up with Joyce at the start.

Thanks Sonya for the "moving ride" photos...more in the gallery on our website.



Good day
Fred

