

Alli's Lakes Run - September 5th 2009



Okay, so my first ride report is late - but as the saying goes, better late than never!! Well what a fantastic turn out for this ride. 25 bikes and about 30 people. The day started tremendously well for me because for the first time I actually got to the meet point with hours to spare from departure (well 1 hour). I was so looking forward to being on time because I usually turn up with just minutes to spare having missed the ride brief and I just blindly follow someone or run around asking major questions like 'which way are we going and when can we stop for my coffee!'. Well to my surprise when I got there at 9 am (thinking I'm so good) there was already a mob waiting! Boy, are THEY eager I thought. Why would you get there a WHOLE hour earlier?? Don't they have chores to do or sleep to catch up on?? But I soon realized the benefits of getting to that meet point with time to spare. It's a fantastic feeling watching others rock up on bikes of all colours, shapes and sizes and hearing the roar, whiz or rumble of their gorgeous machines. You get to welcome people into the mix - old and new riders, talk about the day, talk about bikes, check out home made and off the shelf accessories, compare clothing tips, hear stories of rides gone by, savour good times and scoff at the bad times. It all made for an excellent start to the day for me and I thoroughly recommend the experience of getting to the meet point early.

My next para of waffling is about the ride. Grant very graciously agreed to lead the pack through the twisties to Mt Barker, because I'm still not familiar with the masses of intertwining country roads that are the Adelaide Hills and most likely I would have ended up back at the meet point before the first hour. I kinda think it wasn't difficult for Grant to take up the challenge. He loves the squiggles and he led the group like a trooper and with safety at the forefront, making sure he left plenty of space for the next rider (lol). Now I can't tell you EXACTLY where we went in the Adelaide Hills but I know we started up Norton Summit Road (my personal favourite) and squiggled our way along Lobethal Road. I'm not sure if we stayed on Lobi Road or snuck off if for a while but apparently some of it was a bit mossi, but we got through it without a hitch. Just before Lenswood we turned right on to Leslie Road and which led us down, down, down, (way down) toummmore squiggly roads?? Eventually coming out at Nairne I think. I'm lucky my ride report goes through QA before it's loaded onto the Website because it's at this point I say to the 'accrediter' please feel free to fill in the gaps because I've no idea where we went really,

but I do know it was FANTASTIC..... (neither does the 'accreditor', I just follow the corner Marshalls ☺)



So we end up at Mount Barker for our first stop - weather's good, no hiccups, everyone's still with us. We stop between the BP and Macca's. So it's stop, eat, drink, fuel, quick chat, swap lead vests with Grant, and go. Hey we're missing a few..... they've settled in at Macca's stuffing themselves with something called the Angus Burgers! (Apparently it's new.) Okay, so with 8 minutes warning (yes 8, not 9 and not 7 - it's called 'accommodating the masses') we're off again and head out of Mt Barker on the Wistow Road, pass the Strath turnoff and head towards wonderful Langhorne Creek. It's beautiful countryside out there, the views are fantastic, vineyards, rolling hills, scenic panoramas, good roads. So it doesn't take us long and just to the left of Langhorne Creek a little way out, we turn right (a back way to Milang) and head straight down to Lake Alexandrina. It did puzzle me why people built moorings and boat landings in the scrub. Perhaps in the last century there was actually water there?????? If you stand up on your pegs you can see the Lake - way way WAY out. Nevertheless I was pleased. We were on a Lakes ride, and we saw Lake.



Passing through pretty Milang and reaching Clayton we turn left into Island View Drive passed the luxurious holiday houses, round the point, past the new dam (damn??) wall (or rather, big ugly dirt barrier that holds in the water) and we stop at the very quaint Sails Café with its take away side, its eat in side with big soft lounge chairs, and its wooden sun deck outside (and garden complete with row boat.....again, in the scrub.....). Now I did warn Graham at Sails Café the week before, that we were coming. How mean it would have been to just turn up with 30 people suddenly at your counter wanting to be fed and watered! So he very kindly put on extra staff for us which doubled the kitchen staff (from 1 to 2)!

Apparently the kitchen's quite small so it still did take a while for us all to get our meals. Nevertheless, I got time to lay on the grass in the sun and groan occasionally with contentment. (Actually I was really just practicing for Phillip Island.). Big kudos to Michael and Jen - they ordered their meals first and got them delivered last yet they patiently and politely waited (as we did for them - well maybe we did hint that they scoff it down and choke a bit, so we could get going! Thanks guys!



At Clayton a few riders fessed up to having to (reluctantly of course) leave the ride at that point or shortly thereafter to go do chores or something equally as horrible (poor things). Others were heading on to Goolwa so we rode out and said our goodbyes along the way. We headed through Finniss and after a couple of turns right and left along the way we're on Tooperang Road heading to Ashbourne on another gorgeous road that leads into the very popular Bull Creek Road (another favourite of mine and of others' too I found out later!). Before we know it we're in Meadows with some saying "let's do that road again!!!!". But alas, it will have to wait until next time when I think I'll make that last leg a bit longer, maybe loop back on Paris Creek Road - and we'd get to do Bull Creek Road twice!!!!

At Meadows the ride officially ended and we were all smiling and head nodding and hand shaking and hugging (well the girls were hugging mostly) and generally agreeing what a great day it was, great weather, great route, great crowd and let's do it all again. As usual, people headed off in different directions home or to other destinations. I joined a small group of troopers (Mark, Bec and Grant) and pushed on down Greenhill Road, taking a wide berth to avoid the Royal Show traffic.

A big thanks to the corner Marshalls Bec, Grant, Fred and Lyn, Brenton, Jill and Tony and to those who cornered when the Marshalls couldn't get there. Thanks to Jason and David as TECs. It can be a tricky job being a Marshall and with it comes a sense of responsibility that contributes to the safety of our rides, and ensures we all head in the right direction and everyone can ride at their own pace trusting that they won't get lost. So that's my ride report. Hope it's entertaining and not too long and waffly - I'm sure I'll hear about it if it is.

Stay tuned for the next ride report on the (more recent) 5 Ferries Run!

Cheers, AlliCAT.