

SABERS - Old Farts Ride 1st May 2010

Saturday morning dawned with a chill in the air and clear skies for the inaugural "Old Farts Ride".

The Old Farts ride came about by adding to the original Callington Pub ride from last year, after two "Old Farts" Fred and Brenton came across some interesting bits and bobs on an impromptu ride some months back. The start point was at BP West Terrace.



A good turn out for a Saturday of around 18 bikes and 24 riders and pillions started the ride and headed out on west terrace to Greenhill road and up into the hills for a great run to Lobethal. It was a reasonably clear run for a change through the hills and everyone enjoyed the twisty bits. We made the obligatory Loby stop at the Amberlight Café and enjoyed a brief round of chit chat.

It was great to see Fred back with the group after his surgery even if he wasn't quite ready to mount up on the trusty VMAX just yet. His DELICA however made a very good Tail End Charlie. Although Fred admitted it was a bit of a chore trying to keep up through the hills and that wasn't with the bikes it was the locals towing trailers on Deviation Road he reckons they must be rally bred in the hills.



We then moved on via a few back roads to bypass Woodside and come out onto the Princes Highway through to Callington. We then headed south to Woodchester and joined the

Mount Barker to Langhorne Creek Road and headed to Langhorne Creek. At one stage we encountered a helicopter dangling what looked like a huge crab net which we were later informed was the new method of prospecting. It certainly looked specky and caused a few heads to turn when it was first spotted.

We headed to Wellington and regrouped while waiting for the ferry. As usual everyone had smiles on their faces after that stretch and on such a fantastic autumn day. Poor Old Fart Fred was the only one to miss the ferry and kindly offered to catch the group up at Murray Bridge.



From Wellington it was a straight run through Taillem Bend to the Norton Motorcycle Museum just east of the Bridge owned and lovingly tended by ex Rokey Park speedway rider Dean Hogarth. Unfortunately Dean is having to sell his beloved collection due to failing health but he is certainly a character and entertained us with some stories of the glory days and some of the racing machines in his collection.

It was then on to the Murray Bridge Community Club on the riverside where we enjoyed a relaxing lunch and some of the Old Farts (who shall remain nameless) enjoyed watching some of the birdlife gathered on adjacent lawns.



After a long and leisurely lunch we had a brisk run back via the Princes Highway to Callington where after a slight unscheduled detour due to an insistent "Bitch in a Box"

demanding the ride leader "Turn Right at Road" it wasn't the right road but never mind we got there in the end. We were then treated to more nostalgia by Geoff Grant and his wife who kindly opened up his collection of motorcycles and "stuff". This certainly brought back some memories of our earlier days and first bikes.



It was decided due to the time that the ride would end at this point rather than travelling back to Dairy Bell as planned. This new ride was jammed packed and very enjoyable so I am sure it will be on again next year.

Thanks every one for another fantastic SABERS day. Special Thanks goes to the Marshalls for their efforts and to Dean Hogarth, Geoff Grant and his wife for their hospitality and interesting glimpse back into the early days of motorcycling.

Cheers
Brenton