

## 5 Ferries Ride

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011

WHAT A DAY!!!!

The 2011 5 Ferries ride was held on a spectacular spring day, with a forecast of 26 degrees and light winds. The start location as usual was Civic Park. On arrival there was a large group already assembled and a quick count just prior to the ride start indicated 46 bikes ready to go.

Following the ride briefing we set out on a slightly modified schedule than previous years with the first stop being Mount Pleasant for morning tea instead of the usual first stop at Gumeracha. The Whistle Stop Bakery was the location of the first stop with ample parking and nice clean facilities in the car park opposite the Bakery. The food was excellent even though service was a little slow for such a large group. This didn't seem to upset anyone however and everyone enjoyed the time there.



That is all but Paul and Sonya when Paul identified the rear preload on the VFR was not functioning and unfortunately they had to pull out of the ride and call it a day.

We then made our way through Eden Valley and onto Kyneton. A good run through to Sedan followed and again a change as we continued on to Swan Reach without the usual early fuel stop at Sedan.

There was a bit of excitement up the front of the ride a couple of kilometres out of Swan Reach when a couple of emus decided to wander out and stop in the middle of the road for a close up look at all the bikes coming their way.

We then crossed the ferry and headed for Walker's Flat our first fuel stop. Another ferry crossing and wouldn't you know it the usual fuel stop immediately exiting the ferry had "run out of Fuel" just yesterday. Fortunately there was a plan B with fuel available only a couple of kilometres around the lake at the Walkers Flat Deli and the few who needed fuel at that time soon re joined us and we headed off for Mannum and lunch.

On arrival at Mannum it was bike heaven with a vintage bike run and several other clubs in attendance which caused a massive split in the group over lunch as it was every man for themselves finding a park and we were spread out almost the full length of Mannum.



This didn't phase anyone however and many enjoyed a wander through all the gathered bikes taking a look over the old BSA's, Vincent's, Indian's and Royal Enfield's along with many other makes, model, shapes and sizes too numerous to mention.

Everyone managed to gather at the appointed time and we were joined by Mark Drake and his son for our departure and the next leg of the trip to Murray Bridge after another ferry crossing.

We rode straight through Murray Bridge to avoid the traffic associated with the annual peddle-pre which was on at the Reserve. John Hockley and Jase Perry joined us on Swanport Road for the final section of the ride.

We were soon at Jervois and our 4<sup>th</sup> crossing to Taillem Bend and the final fuel stop. The home stretch from Taillem Bend to Wellington was uneventfully and we all had time for a chat prior to our final ferry ride due to a long que for the crossing. Fortunately, for the first time on the ride we managed to squeeze all of the bikes onto the Wellington Ferry and the run to the ride end at Langhorne Creek.



A total of \$425 was raised for the Leukaemia Foundation. Well done to Michael Cini for his efforts with the lucky numbers and taking donations.

Thanks to all who made this a fantastic day and a special welcome and thank you to all of the non SABERS riders who joined us on the day as well. Everone had a great time and it looks as though we will win a few new members as well.

Thanks as always to everyone who marshalled corners and to Tony Warner who again did a great job as Tail End Charlie.

See you all at the next ride, Bec's "BITCHES Run" on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Check out the event calendar and join in to support our Girls who will rule on the day.

Cheers  
Brenton