

ASHBOURNE RUN 29th May 2011

Dear SABERS

Another beautiful day...with just a couple of bits of drizzle. A smaller group than I expected made the start at the BP Express on South Road St Marys.



We had the usual coffee and chat before the ride briefing. We were joined at the start by Jeffrey and his carer Helen. Jeffrey is making a go of living off of the Minda grounds and part of his settlement program is to get him out interacting with the likes of us. He is keen on motorbikes so with a bit of help from Alli providing taxi services Jeffrey and Helen came to the ride start to see us off. He had a great time checking out all of our rides and took a fancy to Bec's Suzuki (Geisha). Thanks Alli & Helen for making time for Jeffrey's outing.



We bid Jeffery farewell and headed south to Flagstaff Road, Happy Valley Drive, Chandlers Hill Road and Grant's Gully Road to Clarendon. No stopping here this time. Along the Kangarilla Road to that awkward right turn at the Brooks and Bakers Gully Road intersection. Beautiful scenery through here to a right turn into Chapel Hill Road. Then Chaffeys Road and Seaview Road. A couple of Alpha's watching me behind rather than where they were going had the front runners taking it very easy for a while. Soon enough we turned left on the Victor Harbor Road and left again into McLaren Vale. Morning tea was at El Torro...recommended...plenty of room inside and out with friendly staff.



We pressed on to McLaren Flat after which the bitch in the box tried to lead me astray (didn't have time for a pre-run...can be embarrassing!) and over overshoot the Wickhams Hill Road turnoff. A rally was to use this road but later in the day so we were allowed through. The first part of this road may have been recently tarred and gravelled...the max was unhappy on the little

blue marbles...so was most everyone else behind me. Range Road was wet till about Pennys Hill Road but the scenery was fantastic. Watch this Pennys Hill intersection if you head the same way we did...2 of us (us me is part of us!) went through without seeing the Give Way sign! Scary stuff! Then hard left into Meadows Road and a nice easy cruise past Kuitpo and into Meadows. Straight on and right turn for the run along our favourite Bull Creek Road. Something weird happened along here...the usual culprits weren't breathing down my tail. Eventually that beautiful Laverda you see above appeared in my mirrors and all too soon we were in Ashbourne.



As we were a little early we enjoyed the sunshine outside having a good gawk at Paul & Sonya's new VFR...way cool! 5 more joined us for lunch which went down very well. No missed meals this time.



Before we left we checked out Carol's bike in the car park...



...and a pair of stereo cars!



A quick squirt in minor drizzle along the Ashbourne Road had us at Garage Motorcycles in Strathalbyn for a top up. Mary-Lou came out to drool over the Laverda...she used to have one. Check out this Guzzi in her shop.



We left in some minor drizzle again taking the Callington Road through Woodchester, under the freeway past Callington to the Old Princes Highway. With the rain behind us now and no slow idiots in cars along here today we had a lovely ride through to Kanmantoo then right turn after Dawesley on Pyrites Road, through Brukunga along Military Road and the Woodside–Nairne Road to Woodside. From here an easy run along the Onkaparinga Way & Woodside Roads to Lobethal for end of ride and yet more coffee at the Amberlight Cafe.

Fantastic day. Started with 11 bikes and 3 pillions, picked up a bike on the way, another joined us at Ashbourne as did 5 in cars...excellent turnout of 21 by lunchtime. Good times had by all.

Thanks to Bec for tail end duties and everyone who marshalled along the way. Sincere apologies for not doing a pre-run which should have identified the obscure Give Way Sign.

Good day
Fred

