

Ride Report

Brenton's Southern Run

March 5th 2011

My Southern Run this year was scheduled for Saturday 5th March. The morning was clear and a bit brisk as there was quite a stiff breeze blowing from the hills. Fortunately, this did drop somewhat before we started and continued to lessen as the day progressed.

The meeting place was the Caltex Service Station at O'Halloran Hill and as I arrived, it was pleasing to see a couple of bikes arriving. Paul and Sonya had already arrived having just returned from Phillip Island and the 'Super Bikes'. As we all know Saturday rides can sometimes have a smaller turnout due to work, family, sporting and other commitments. It was extremely pleasing therefore as the departure time approached, to see around 23 bikes, riders and a couple of two up teams as well.

As we were having lunch at the Boulevard Café in Victor, everyone who was intending to have lunch was able to pre order to cut the waiting time down and I was busy gathering orders and signing visitors in. It was great to see four new riders join us. Jason, John and the two Peter's. Recently joined members in Fred and Fletcher were also keen to be riding with SABERS again.

The 10.00 am start time arrived and we headed south on Main South Road travelling towards Woodcroft and on up to Piggott Range Road. They say timing is everything and mine was off. We pulled onto the start of this nice piece of warm up road directly behind a semi carrying a heavy front end loader. Not a great start but at least he was making pretty good time so didn't hold us up too much. We then dropped down into Clarendon and through Blewitt Springs to Kuitpo before turning back towards McLaren Vale arriving at Range Road where a left turn took us through to the top of Old Willunga Hill.

From here we travelled along Pages Flat Road to Myponga for our first rest stop. Unfortunately, John Hockley was not feeling a hundred percent with a sore back so had to pull out of the ride at this point. Gypsy was riding one of his stable of bikes from yesteryear and with a small tank needed to short cut it to Normanville via the Main South Road to fuel up. We would catch him up on the way through. After a short stop we were underway again and travelled back to Reservoir Road, crossed the Myponga Reservoir wall and on into Carrikalina. Gypsy rejoined and we headed to Yankalilla and onto the Yankalilla to Victor Harbor Road for a few kms turning right to cut through to join Delamere Road at Parawa.

My ride last year had to be re routed onto our usual route through Delamere as this section of road had been under repair and re surfacing. All was good on the pre run but you guessed it, half way to Parawa - dirt. Thanks to everyone who followed my decision to slow down and tough it out for the couple of kms to Delamere Road and not lynch me when we got to lunch. I am advised I only have about 10 bikes to clean BUGGA!!

Once back on tarmac we travelled a few kms on Delamere, when I threw everyone a curve ball by turning right and travelling down the Parsons Beach and Waitinga road just for a change. Apart from the few whose teeth were still chattering after the stretch of bumpy stuff just prior to re joining the Delamere to Victor Road again, everyone seemed to think that it was an interesting and pretty stretch for something a bit different.

We soon arrived at the Boulevard Café who had received our pre ordered lunches during our Myponga stop. This meant that our meals were starting to arrive almost as soon as we sat down. Thanks to Ian and the team at the Boulevard who again put on a top spread and made us all feel welcome. Even a few who were intending not to have lunch relented and partook after seeing the plates roll out.

During the lunch break we passed the hat for donations for the Christchurch earthquake appeal. This was brought close to SABERS as Gill Mace had been in Christchurch when this devastating quake occurred and sadly Tony and Gill knew people who lost their lives. We are all thinking of Tony and Gill and their NZ family and friends at this terrible time. This was reflected in SABERS riders being able to raise \$200 in the pass round. **Well Done** everyone and thank you for your generosity. Thanks too to Gypsy for running a quick raffle as well. The committee members present made an executive decision to add the \$25 from the raffle to the pot along with the other donations.

After lunch and a round of sweets (for further details if you dare, ask Paul, Sonya and Steve about the Rocky Road parfait and Mango and Macadamia Nut Custard all with masses of whipped cream of course), we headed to the BP for a quick refill and then via Waterport Road to Currency Creek and Milang via a couple of new roads including one very nice straight enjoyed by all. Well that was everyone except Aaron who had to back track to the Boulevard Café from the fuel stop to re claim his tin of “fudge”. He was smiling though when he caught up to the rest of us at Milang during our quick pit stop. I can only assume that it was an uninhibited trip with favourable winds.

We then travelled via the lakes road to Langhorne Creek making a right to Woodchester and then via Wistow and on into Mt Barker where the ride finished at Giovanni’s for coffee.

I would like to thank everyone for a fantastic day and especially the marshals and Michael Tini who took on ‘Tail End Charlie’ in Tony’s absence.