

SAMRATS Inc Ride Report
25th – 26th November 2006
Wilpena Pound

Finally we had an overnight ride. Wilpena Pond – Flinders Ranges.

The ride was one that I had planned in my “must do” book for some time, but for one reason or another, it always got canned. It was while we were planning our up coming monthly day rides that most of the committee and the others that were discussing what we planning for the 2007 season that next step for our group was overnights!!

So it was that Wilpena Pound was a logical destination.

After a few phone calls the ride was green lighted and posted on the website and sent out to our SAMRATS Inc email list.

Although the ride only had 2 weeks notice we had 11 adventurous people turn up to the Caltex at Munno Para for this ride.

The morning was the start of what was to be a warm weekend and camel packs and lots of sports drinks were the call of the day. By 9 am our group had done the obligatory luggage checks and chatted about how much they had been looking forward to a trip like this. My riders brief was short as everyone had been our rides before. The route was an easy one as all we had to do was to get to Port Wakefield Road via Smithfield and angle Vale and straight up to Pt Wakefield.

This was our first stop and one section of road that we had under our belt
Boring!!

The next section was another open section of road up to Pt Pirie and another leg stretch and more water. Yep the further up we were going the warmer it was getting.

At this time we lost Grant as he decided to head into Pirie and go fishing with a mate.

After drinking heaps of water we were all set to hit the road and the section of road we came up this way to experience. Horrocks Pass. It was only about ½ hr before we were indicating right and heading towards Wilmington via the pass. Horricks Pass is one of those must do roads for motorcyclists. It has some awesome sweepers and the scenery is very easy on the eye. As soon as I hit this section of road I just kicked down a gear opened the throttle and enjoyed the road. ☺ The road is probably one of the best in S.A. – no roadwork’s and the bitumen is all the same all the way to Wilmington.

At Wilmington I had a smile on my face that I couldn’t wipe it off and it was clear to me it was a winner with everyone who pulled up long side of me. Wayne even made the suggestion that we should make a trip just to do this as a planned trip staying at Wilmington and cruising up and down the pass all day.

When we went to get petrol but to our dismay every petrol station in town was closed!!

So a quick change of plans. We had lunch at the pub then we went for a small deviation to Melrose an extra 24km each way then it was up to Quorn.

At Quorn we picked up Janice on her trusty Yamaha. He was up visiting a friend in Pt Augusta and decided to join up with us for the overnight at the pound then ride back with us. By this time it was mighty hot. The ride to Hawker was very dry.

Paul was in the lead and from the waving of his hands I gathered he wanted to stop for drinks. No argument here. We soon found shade near the general store and to our amazement the ground temperature was a staggering 58deg and the air temperature was in the high 40's .

Out of Hawker and on the last leg to Wilpena and we saw some incredible dust whirlies as the pictures in the gallery will attest to this. The actual pound was a welcome site and cruising in though the trees was fantastic considering the last couple of hundred kilometers was pretty flat and dry farm land.

When we pulled into to the visitors center the only thin they group could say was did you see the size of that roo you went past? NO was there one?

Apparently there was one in a bush right next to the road and well yes I missed it! The roo just hopped away after Paul and I went past.

Once in the park we checked into the visitor center and then it was onto the tents and unload our gear. We were soon all set up, showered and off to the resort for dinner.

The restaurant was a definite thumbs up and every meal was fantastic.

After the meal it was back to the tents and a few drinks and chat.

At about midnight everyone started to head off to bed as it had been a long day.

It was at this time in our tent, a spider, and yes it was rather large, was spotted on the roof ... inside. Anyone who knows me would have been wetting themselves. I don't like them. Consequently it took some convincing to get me to come and sleep in the tent.

In the morning we got up and nibbled on apple pie ... thanks to Morris ☺ and

topped up on fluids. We had a welcome guest for breakfast, a cute little roo, it wasn't long before he was munching out on an apple and posing for photo's.

Once everyone was all packed it was up to the visitor's center for a top up of fuel and we were back on the road again.

We came back through Orraroo which was an experience. No Fuel. After talking to the girls in the bakery they agreed to call the petrol station owner but we had to wait for an hour as he was in church. So this gave us time to grab a munchie and top up on fluids again. Come 11am we headed down fuelled up and we were on our way again.

The road was fairly clear of traffic and we made excellent time.

As we came into Jamestown we could feel the temperature dropping the closer we got to Clare. It was funny to see everyone reach for their phones as this was the first time in several hundred kilometers that we all had reception. Hahaha all those msg's and missed calls.

The rest of the ride was done in relevant comfort as temperature was about 28 and we even had a sprinkling of light rain as we got a few kilometers towards Clare.

As we pulled into Clare it was clear that the clear run minus traffic was over. We headed into our favorite pub, the Clare Hotel to see if we could get a meal only to be told that it would be an hour before we could get a meal so a quick rethink and we were soon eating at Subway ☺. It wasn't long before Joyce, Phil and Cheryl came rolling up the street. They had come up to meet us and ride back to town with us.

Clare is such a nice place and I am looking forward to coming back here later in 2007 on our other run. The last 100 kilometers was a bit slower due to the traffic and all I could think of was , wow how good a shower is going to be and a nice bottle of wine and put my feet up for a while. This had been a long ride. 950 km's by the time I got home.

I would like to thank everyone that came along for the trip. I had the best time I have had for a long time. Listening to you all chat and smiling at each others stories is just awesome. It's great to see such a diversity of ages, professions and bikes on these rides.

For those who doubt if they could make it on a 250 , just ask Tony Wood – Suzuki Across he does all our runs. For those who want to bring pillions, the answer to that is also, yes☺ We had no breakdowns, no lost riders absolutely no problems at all..

It is going to be a pleasure to organize rides and the longer rides such as these for the 2007 season.

So watch out for them on the webpage and emails.

The pictures are now up on the website.