

SABERS Kingston on Murray Weekend Also the Z1000 experience

With the weather looking the best it had all week, the ride to Kingston on Murray was looking like an awesome weekend.

The only thing slowing us down was the fact that I had to work on Saturday morning. It wasn't long before everyone started to turn up all excited about this new run. Come time to close up at 11.30, we had 14 of us all set for the ride!

And so it was that with great excitement I took the lead on the Z1000. As it was being run in, it was the smart thing to set me out the front of the group and set the pace. The first time I threw my leg over this fun machine I could not wipe the smile off my face, it's an awesome machine. This weekend was going to be great taking it for an extended trial ride.

The sun was out and the day was warming up very nicely ... just perfect for the ride. Cruising down Main North Road and looking at the faces of the people in the cars just made my day. You could see the envy on their faces. ☺

There was almost no traffic on the road to Morgan which made for great time and no need for overtaking and getting the group split up. The "Z" through this cruising section is great .. Smooth and heaps of power. I couldn't wait to see what this bike was like once it had loosened up after its run in.

At Morgan we stopped for a break at the bakery. This is a highly recommended stop! ☺ Lots of pies, pasties and cakes. There is a good rand of sandwiches too.

Our next section was to Waikerie. It was only a quick ride to cross the ferry and fill up at the petrol station. It was then another short stint to Kingston on Murray. The "Z" was still having the smile factor. I couldn't wait until the ride home as I had planned some twisty bits ☺ Hehe as the ride leader would! ☺

At the Kingston on Murray Caravan Park we welcomed by Lisa and her family. We all checked in. Some of us were in cabins and others into tent sites. Yep, we all have different accommodation needs, hehe.

The cabins were excellent by all accounts and the tent sites were great too. Lisa's husband mentioned it was going to be cold so he brought a fire down for us and supplied all the fire wood too!

Once we had set up our beds for the night we headed up to Banrock Station Winery as it was just up the road. It was here I noticed their driveway was dirt. I got into their carpark and started to count the bikes... One short, then yes, David came up the driveway, something he said he would never do: dirt roads. He now has the confidence on the ST1100, confidence that he never felt on the ZZR600. It figures that with the bigger bike and more confidence. Go David☺!

We looked at wetlands from a distance and noticed that they were dried up due to the drought. The notice board made mention that they will be refilled in September just in time for the return of most of the birdlife.

So with that minor disappointment we headed inside and some wine tasting... Well for most of us, sorry Miriam you're underage!

After the wine tasting we decided that we would head in to Barmera for dinner. A great idea, as I was not up for cooking. None of us were! The local pizza shop does good pizzas and other take away food.

Once we had eaten we headed back to the caravan park and the warm fire.

We all had a great night chatting and lots of laughter was heard. It's great when we all just sit around at the end of the day. This is what SABERS is all about!

In the morning we got up to the sun shining and the possibility of a great day. David had the breakfast underway. Bacon and eggs were the call of the day. The group was soon all packed up and ready to hit the road and head back home.

We stopped at Blanchetown for a coffee and a splash of fuel before heading to Swan Reach and crossing the river back to Sedan. Most of the roads to Sedan were pretty straight. All this time on the "Z" I could not fault the bike, as cruising on the bike was great and I was very impressed at the amount, or should I say the lack of wind buffeting that the tiny bikini fairing offered.

Sedan marks the start of the winding section of roads as you climb up the hills and out of the Riverland plains. The "Z" comes into its' own through here as its short wheel base is superior for this environment.

I have to say that from this section to home just went to finish off what was a fantastic weekend.

Yes, I finished with a smile ☺

Ride & Z in Summary

An awesome weekend was had by all 14 of us.

Kingston on Murray Caravan Park is biker friendly

Z1000: On loan from SA Motorcycles, Shop 4/580 Main North Road, Gepps Cross. Awesome out of the box streetfighter. Its' Z10 motor in a short wheel base is a tyre spinning wheelie machine that is great as a commuter bike, café cruiser/poser and capable of some distance work too.

Two bad things .. Limited luggage carrying and the seat after a long period was a bit on the firm side. Nothing an Air Hawk would not solve, and Oxford soft panniers solve the luggage problem

Apart from that, it was a great seating position and a smooth, fast responsive feel in corners and breaking, and it's a great looking bike too!

Thanks to Evan at SA Motorcycles for the loan of the Z1000 while my bike was in being repaired. ☺

Thanks for everyone for making it a great trip away and also Marie and Mandy for offering the support vehicle.

The photos are now up in the gallery to you all to see! ☺