

## Semi Southern Run - Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009

Friday night and it was pouring with rain. I was wondering if the weather would clear as the bureau was predicting for the run tomorrow and I knew I wasn't the only person wondering this.

Saturday morning came and I was up early and when I looked outside there was glorious blue sky, a bit cool but we are in autumn now and the cold I could handle. The wet I'm not so crazy about.



Got the bike out of the shed, packed up all the SABERS stuff I usually have on rides and geared up and headed down the road to the BR at St Marys. I got there just before 9am and there were already bike arriving so after a quick tyre pressure check and refuel and parked the bike and joined the rest of the gang that were there.



The newly weds Heath and Carrie were there with their dogs and people were enjoying the friendly atmosphere. By 9.30 we already had a dozen or so bikes and by departure time at 10, we had around 15 bikes, a few pillions too and Jackie and Doug following in their car as Doug can not ride right now. We left the BP and headed south on our semi southern run and up Flagstaff Hill Road, past the big roundabout and onto the end. The run into Clarendon was good, the roads mostly dry, though the shady patches were still a bit damp so I was taking it easy. Cars were too bad, some are good and if slower pull over, other just can't be bothered.

After Clarendon we passed through Meadows, now having missed two of the best southern bakeries and onto to Bull Creek Road. This is one of my favourite southern stretches and I feel more comfortable going through there every time. We had to back off a few times due to some dampness as well as so muddy patches on the corners after our recent heavy rains but we all got to the end and turned left to Strathalbyn. The run through the Strath continued to be smooth with very few cars and in Strath we stopped at the Railway station for morning tea.



After morning tea, a leg stretch and loo break we were back on the bikes again this time heading towards Goolwa with me looking for the turn to Nangkita and Mount Compass, our lunchtime stop. Found that one but then cruised past the Mt Compass turn off, so with a quick u turn headed on to the correct road, well, I thought it was the correct road. What's a SABERS run without the ride leader taking at least one wrong turn? They just don't seem to exist but I thought that we all needed u turn practice so with that done we continued on to Mt Compass, dodging the cow pats on the road as well as the wet patches. Got to just outside Mt Compass and had to turn right! That wasn't in my plans, so although I had taken the Mt Compass Road and even found Mt Compass, was not quite the right road. Oh well, we were there so that was good anyway.



After a good lunch at the Bakery or takeaway place we got back on the bikes and headed towards Normanville for our next leg stretch. I arrived at Normanville but found myself with very few other riders and after checking my phone and making a call, found that

there had been an incident further back in the pack so we returned to there and once all was sorted out, headed into Myponga for a chat and loo stop. From there we followed Darrin to Noarlunga and once everyone had arrived had a good chat and drink. From there, everyone headed off towards home.



### Summary:-

Great weather

Some roads great, some okay and some left a bit to be desired with cow pats, mud and wet patches as well as the poor road conditions that led to the incident

2 incidents, 1 rider a bit bruised but all okay and sincerely thanks all of us for our attention and help and a broken clutch lever making the trip home a bit tricky for the rider.

Thanks to the Marshalls and all those who helped on the day

Thanks to all the riders who showed what SABERS is about and that is that we ride as a group, stay as a group and are always there for each other, no matter what.