

SAMRATS INC

Poker Ride – City to Mallala – “RIDE FOR A CURE”

November 12<sup>th</sup> 2006

I was very excited.... Couldn't sleep. What's with this weather? Rain, I know we are in a drought but the only time we don't want rain it's a wash out! I had been lying there since 5.30am watching the rain. Time was ticking away and 7.30am wash getting closer and either way I was going to head up to Civic Park to see who would turn up. It's the SAMRATS Inc first ride under our new name and I didn't want the rain.

So at 7.15am I jumped in the shower and was praying that the rain would stop by the time I was finished.

Out the shower and drying off.... no rain drops on the roof. YAY! No Rain ☺

“Come on Craig – we are out of here!”

Both of us geared up and hit the road. The rain was off but the roads were wet. Caution was going to be the word of the day.

Cruising through Cockatoo Valley the only thing going through my mind was “yes finally, SAMRATS Inc first ride”

We filled up at the BP in Gawler and as we were about to take off Rob shot past. We took off after him. He wasn't hard to catch as he pulled into the Shell servo just up the road.

Then there were the 3 of us.

The ride up to Civic Park was uneventful but we were not the first ones there. Paul and Sonya beat us there by a few minutes.

It wasn't long before more bikes and cars from other bike and car groups were gathering in the car park.

I was glad the Torrens Valley Ulysses was leaving at 9.30am and our group at 10am. That would have been a mess. It was good to catch up with Neville and a few of the other riders. It was great to see lots of SAMRATS are Ulysses too. There was lots of talk about rides, bikes and our charities. It's great to talk to other positive ride groups with riding as their focus and just riding for enjoyment. So come 9.30am we waved them off and they were gone.

Now it was on to registering for our ride and getting the poker hands organised. All this was done quickly then it came to the rider briefing and a greeting from Rob-SAMRATS Inc Public Officer and Treasurer, and Joyce – SAMRATS Inc VP. We also presented Fred Horvath with his membership card. Fred is the first financial member!!

Announcements went smoothly and we were all eager to get geared up and on the road.

Our ride up North East Road was very good and traffic was minimal. So much so that when we got up to our first stop at the Chain Of Ponds we were running ahead of time.

Its normally very slow though there as the car traffic can be a pain. There was only one car in front of us and he was going at a good pace. He had to he had a pack of bikers behind him, HAHAHA.

We had a quick break here as it was only to deal out the next card in the poker hand and to regroup then it was helmet on and back on the ride The card drawn at this stop was Miriam – SAMMOUSE #1 (Our first junior SAMRATS Inc)

As we were running so ahead of time we decided that the next card stop that we planned for Kersbrook was to be canned and we pushed on to Williamstown. It only added a few kilometres to the trip.

A few of the riders here decided to head across to the deli for a drink and munchies.

The next card was drawn by Brandon, a first time pillion who came along with his parents, Ian & Lee.

Once we were all finished here we cruised through Lyndoch and into Gawler. We pulled into the park that runs along side of the Gawler River. It was at this time Jodie pointed out that her chain was over tensioned. So a couple of us helped her adjust it.

Lots of chit chat was the go here as we waited for Joyce to join us here. Joyce had gone up to the start of the run in the car as the last run she nearly had a serious off when she hit an oil patch in the wet and went though the traffic lights at Grand Junction side ways.

We didn't have to wait long so we got Sonya to select the next poker card and the next thing to be sorted out was some swapping of bikes.

I swapped my Blackbird with Dave Yudkin ZZR600. Paul and Sonya on the Hayabusa swapped with Rob's ZZR600. Yes I know serious miss match in power but lots of fun.

So from Gawler to Mallala was a very different ride, as I am not used to the touring ride possie of the ZZR. Great bike for touring but it's not the best for chucking around the hills. The funniest thing was Dave's face when we all pulled into the racetrack at Mallala.

All Dave could go on about was how it was like riding a rocket and if it weren't for the gear sack he would have come off the back. Lucky Miriam got a ride to the track with Morris.

He had a serious case of death grip too.

Rob loved his ride so much he is looking at buying Paul's bike.

Mallala is fantastic as on these track days you can ride right up though the pits and park up near the grandstand. As long as you are not a hazard to any one you can just about park anywhere. We all parked next the scrutineering station in the pits. This is an awesome park as you can watch everyone going in and out the pits.

The SAMRATS Inc crew were all excited to be there at the track and wasn't long before they were all running around with cans of drinks and sausages. Smiles all around.

We drew the last card for the poker hand once we had food and drink. Ian on the Honda Shadow won the poker hand. Not bad for the first time on one of our rides.

It was fantastic for so many people to recognise our crew and the amount of interested people that were asking about how to join us as they heard of SAMRATS Inc and the fundraising we do for the Leukaemia Foundation. We will have lots of new faces joining our ranks very soon. It was awesome to have Bill Norman from Bills Motorcycles come over for a chat with us and we are looking forward to forging a relationship with him and his crew as we do with all our sponsors.

We also sold over ½ the tickets we have in our SAMRATS Inc fundraiser. The first prize is an OGK helmet valued at \$350. Dr Desmo – Blair Athol, donated this helmet.

Tickets are only \$3 ea or \$5 for 2. There are only 200 hundred tickets and they are selling fast. It will be drawn Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at our XMAS Bash up at Birdwood. If you would like a ticket get in contact with us real quick before you miss out.

As for everyone that turned up for our ride there was nothing but smiles all round. The ride was fantastic. Not many cars were encountered. We didn't loose any one. The rain held off all day. Some of the guys even got sun burnt. Hehe you should see the top of Paul's head. Some of the riders that came with us were so impressed with the track day they will be booking with Bills Motorcycles as soon as the next one is announced.

The photos from the ride are now up in the gallery:

[http://www.samrats.com.au/gallery/gallery2/main.php?g2\\_itemId=7492](http://www.samrats.com.au/gallery/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=7492)

\*\* Great work Sonya \*\*

If you have any photos' that you would like posted send them in to us.

Don't forget to leave a comment on the pics. Just keep them clean, as we are a kid safe site.

We also have a forum up and running on the site. Have a read and drop a line in.

See you all on the next run ...

SAMRATS Inc XMAS Bash – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Birdwood Motor Museum.

Watch the website for more details.

**STAY UPRIGHT!**

Bryan White

SAMRATS Inc Rides Captain

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