

Kevin`s Perfect Murray Bridge Ride

Report 14th April 2019



Sunday the 14th March 2019 the group of 7 intrepid / explorists cyclists gathered at 0900am at Murray Bridge which was a later start than the previous month due to daylight saving finishing but also the warmer weather which also has been subsiding. This ride was being led by Kevin and Peter was taking a back pedal (back seat in other words) to give opportunity to other members of the group to increase their skill level in planning rides , utilizing skills in formulating GPS file for navigation and safety. This also provides the opportunity for other members of the group and club to fulfill a ride that they have been contemplating but did not feel confident by themselves to plan and lead but had the educational support of Peter Harrison to assist them in Mapping, Creating GPX / GPS Files, Leadership Skills, Group Safety and taking into consideration for varying riders fitness levels .

After a briefing by the ride leader Kevin and a quick safety check of bicycles, hydration fluid check along with spares and food we headed off in a northerly direction along the Murray River Banks.



Above: One of the beautiful pieces of architecture that was discovered at Sturt Reserve on the banks of the Murray

Right: The amazing river bank that we rode out of Murray Bridge on in the Northerly Direction , so smooth, flat and easy riding. (False Sense Of Security)



Above: No visit is complete without visiting the Terrifying Bunyip At Murray Bridge. (Scared Me)

Murray Bridge has changed a lot since I was last there and they have decorated the area with artistic sculptures of Bicycles on Poles etc , I reckon they only did this as they may of heard that members of the South Australian Recreational Cycling Club were in the area for the day.

We headed off along the banks of Murray along this gorgeous piece of riverside and thinking to ourselves how great and easy this ride is going to be today, 60 kilometers of enjoyment.



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Above: Picture of the glorious old paddle steamer just cruising

Right: The signs says it all and we were excited by the words as indicated a true Peters Perfect Ride was instore for us all

Below: Some of the riders of the day, you will possibly recognize all except for young Julian who is 17 years old and joined us for the ride, more about him later.



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We continued in a Northerly Direction and then headed inland to pick up the old disused Monarto to Sedan Railway Line . The weather out here was just exceptional, but we were unsure whether we would be able to navigate the terrain as it was something none of us had done, but that doesn't stop intrepid cyclists does it now?

Left: A beautiful old property with character and charm waiting to be discovered and perhaps renovated.

Below: The scenery along this road / track was purely exquisite and we realized how lucky we were to be out here cycling in such terrain.

Remember in last months report we discovered a line of many Caterpillars crawling along in a line and it was something that we had never seen before ? Well Kevin the ride leader quickly came to a stop again and indicated to us another line of Caterpillars and we were amazed at how we had witnessed this event in consecutive months.



Left: The line of Caterpillars which is truly extraordinary event for consecutive months.



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We discovered the old Monarto to Sedan Rail line and off we set riding down along the old line. This was a truly exceptional part of the ride as he encountered many obstacles along the way including crossing old railway bridges as there was no other way around them and this proved quite challenging to some (well me in particular) as some of us have fear of heights and walking across these bridges holding your bicycle with gaps in the old sleepers indicating the ground height below you. I must say we overcame our fears and walked the plank. and all riders crossed safely.



Upper Top: Part of the group admiring the natural wonder of the world the Caterpillar Line.

Centre: Crossing the Railway Bridge which assisted some of us in overcoming our fear of heights. (with the gentle encouragement of the leader)

Right: Along the old disused Monarto to Sedan railway line that was so interesting and to see it still in one piece considering it had been built in 1919 and its use has ceased in 1995



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Some of the riding along the railway line was challenging at times and many skills were utilised in navigating along a sandy part of the track, the Abs and Upper arms got a good work out along this stretch of the ride due to the many skills being utilised



Above: A very challenging section of the ride along the Monarto side of the rail line.

Left: A great lunch spot while Kevin got to repair a tube without air in it. (That's why we carry spares) for in time of need

To the left is Julian who we believe is the youngest rider ever to participate in a Peters Perfect Ride at the young age of 17 years and possibly the youngest rider to participate in a club ride. We look forward to seeing Julian out again for next months ride.



Above: As always there is always time to catch up after a great ride and reflect on what a great ride we had and to re:hydrate and thanks Keven for organizing this months great Peter Perfect Ride.

Next Months Ride: will be starting from the township of Eudunda at 0900am on the 19th May 2019. Peter Harrison will be leading this ride so come along and give it a go and see what you are missing out on in life and see parts of our great state that you may have never possibly seen.

You can contact Peter Harrison 0448 364 138 for further information and to express your interest in coming along for the ride

Ride Report Written By David Wilson

Club Member SARCC