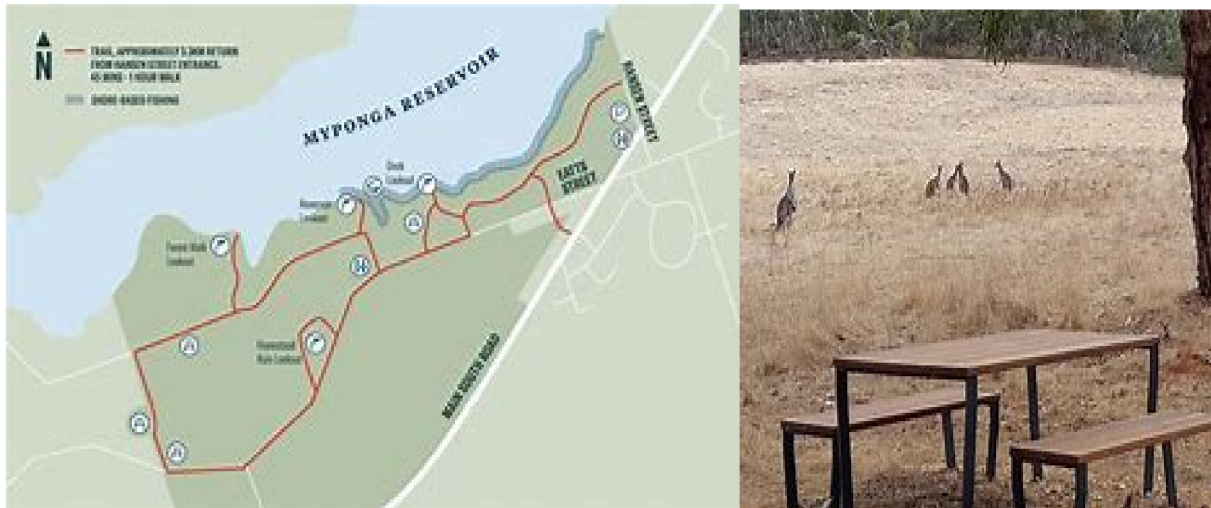


SARCC "PERFECT RIDE" MYPONGA NORMANVILLE 16 JANUARY 2022

9.00am Sky is clear. Temp 20C Very little wind. 11 riders assemble to commence the ride near the Hansen Street entrance to the Myponga Aquatic Park with several dozen Kangaroos in attendance but not showing any interest in our presence

Riders – Cathy, Lee, Marienne, Robyn, Ros, Derek, Justin, Kevin B, Kevin D, Paul, Roger, Steve C, Sven



Map of Myponga Aquatic and some of the local residents

It's 9.00 and no sign of Paul and Robyn. In phoning them it's realised they had thought the ride commenced at 10.00am not 9.00am and were at Seaford. We agree to meet them at Normanville.

Our leader takes us up and out of Myponga township heading east for about 1.5km before he makes his navigational error and takes the group up along a rough track designed for bushwalkers. Anxiety spreads through the group but the leader remains confident. After passing through farm gates and ending near the top of a ridge the leader finally agrees that this path is not going to get us back to the designated route. The views and downhill ride did reward us for our climbing efforts. Watching a very large kangaroo attempting to get away from us over fences amused us for a while as we contemplated our next move.



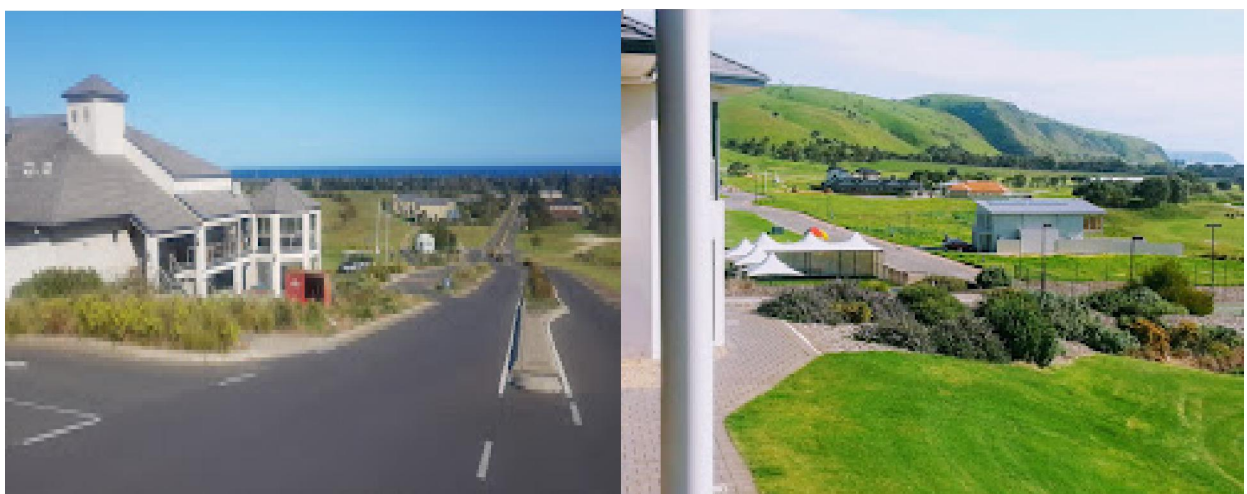
Near the start of our "Track trek" as we go off course! James Track Signage Weathered Signage (Courtesy Kevin D)

Back on route now we climb again through really nice farmland with views across to Gulf St Vincent and also across to the south coast region near Tunk Head. The gravel roads are in pretty good nick and we enjoy some nice downhill runs.



Pitstop near top of James Track with Gulf St Vincent in the background (Courtesy Kevin D)

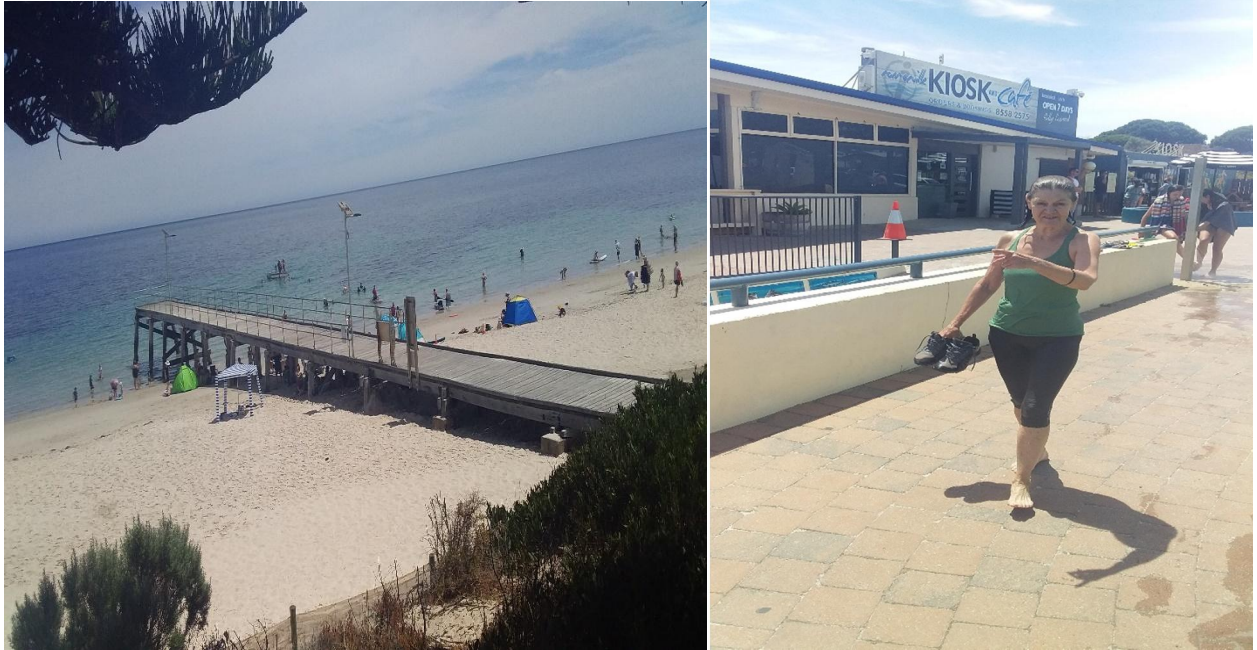
We cross Inman Valley Road and head generally slightly downhill along Dairy Flat and Hay Flat roads towards Normanville. The sniff of sea breezes begin to emerge. We enter St Andrews Boulevard (Perhaps should be renamed given current proceedings) climbing a short steep hill and are rewarded with a glorious water view over Lady Bay as we crest the hill.



The view down St Andrews Boulevard & south towards coast

A gentle ride through the golf course surround and along the southern outskirts of Normanville takes us to the Normanville Beach front for lunch. Paul and Robin are already there! During the period the main group were off track they had actually passed us and got to Normanville first despite starting well after our departure.

The beach and the warm weather encouraged Ros to go for a swim in all her riding gear. A fresh water shower got rid of the salt and not long after riding she was completely dried out. 37km down by lunch I was thinking this ride is not that hard! How wrong I was.



Normanville Beach and Ros dripping wet recommending we go for a swim.

Departing the beach we head through northern parts of Normanville and the climbing begins again in earnest. Several homes are built here set away from the busier parts of Normanville taking advantage of the brilliant views.



Our after-lunch tailender enjoying the view south to Second Valley region

Travelling up through Smith Hill Road we encounter a very long and hard climb as we head towards Myponga Reservoir. From the rear of the field I see many strong riders walking so that tells me this is one tough hill indeed.

On Forktree Road a heavy and unexpected volume of traffic including a large loud group of black leather clad motor cyclists are encountered. Views to either side of the road continue to be enjoyed. Turning off to Reservoir Road we enjoy a downhill run (all too brief) and are met with really nice views of Myponga dam and reservoir. We cross the dam wall and head upwards to the lookout for a brief stop. The fitter riders having reached the lookout earlier take the opportunity to throw banter at us slower types.



Myponga Dam and Reservoir looking North East (Courtesy Kevin D)



Looking North towards Adelaide (Courtesy Kevin D)

Undulations and a short fast down-hill run took us to Main South Road where the group wisely elects to complete the slightly longer loop back to Myponga to keep off the main road.

Reaching Hansen Street we realised we could walk from our cars to the Smiling Samoyed Brewery, and so we did for a brief debrief.



Handy to have a debrief location so close to end of ride.

A tough ride but very satisfying and had many variations in riding surfaces and constant picture post card views. No one fell and there were no bike malfunctions despite some tough terrain.

The understatement of the day goes to Kevin D who as he smiled mischievously says to me “we probably should work on your navigational skills”! Cannot but agree. He then followed up by re-stating the ethos of a PERFECT ride - “Peter’s Exploratory Rides for the Enjoyment of Country Tracks”. We did explore a track or two and did enjoy the downhill bits!!

Thanks to Roger and Ros for sharing Tail Ender duties.

Plaudits to Steve C who travelled from the Barossa Valley to join the ride. Plaudits also to Justin, who having had his Covid booster shot on the day before, finished the ride despite feeling unwell.

The 16th January shows again things often happen in three’s. I got home and **collapsed** into my favourite chair, heard that Novak Djokavic’s appeal to play in the Australian Tennis open **collapsed** and the English cricket team **collapsed** in Hobart!!

Including the extra distance travelled in error the ride was approximately 68km and 1200m elevation.

Sven H. 16 Jan 2022