

Sunday Pleasure Ride 18th August 2024 – Gawler

Six of us met at the Gawler Central station, the terminus of the northern line. Ominous patches of dark cloud dotted the sky however we decided to attempt the full ride rather than the shorter, safer and less interesting wet weather alternative.

A 100 metre ride across the main road and we were in Clonlea Park and gazing at the towering red cliffs of the North Para river as it cut it's way into Gawler. Taking a shortcut across the abandoned Angaston railway line and skirting the eastern edge of Gawler soon saw us hurtling down [Dead Mans Pass](#) following the South Para river using the Tapa Pariara bike path.

The river took us through the middle of Gawler to the confluence of the North and South Para rivers becoming the Gawler River that heads westward across the plains to eventually empty into the gulf. Having crossed the Gawler river we were now riding north alongside the unused Gawler to Wasleys/Balaklava/Port Wakefield/Moonta railway line and using it's underpass of the Sturt Highway to head into green cropped fields of wheat and broad beans.



Unusual structure. Any ideas what it is for?

Arrived at Roseworthy campus (formerly agricultural college) to larger crowds than anticipated as it was the Roseworthy Railway Club's Run day. Spent some time exchanging information on electric bikes for information on model trains ... (apparently they are proud to use real Queensland black coal for the steam locomotives). Quite an interesting display of model steam trains running on a large circuit of track and carrying passengers.

It was a bit early and busy for lunch so we continued along some rather sticky roads (a bit more rain and we would have been in trouble) to the town of Roseworthy crossing the abandoned Roseworthy to Freeling section of track for lunch in the Railway Terrace park.



The red cliffs of Gawler.

Some time was spent discussing an unusual structure in one of the paddocks. Not sure that we settled on a plausible use for it but suggestions ranged from a farm kid's cubby house to equipment used for the wartime aerodrome at Mallala.



Non-abandoned railway track.

After lunch we took a sketchy little shortcut through town to join a gravel road back into Gawler and then followed the North Para River around Hewett on the bikepath until we arrived back into Clonlea Park to end the ride.

Despite the threatening clouds we experienced no rain but maybe a little sunburn.

Kevin D.