

Hills Ride Woodside to Mt Barker and Return

On the last day of January fourteen of us gathered at Woodside almost shivering as we prepared for another Hills ride, this time led by Kevin Burrett. Ironic really, as several of the preceding rides had been cancelled or rescheduled due to exceptional heat. We have very interesting rides in the hills mainly along the quiet back roads, a combination of dirt and bitumen. A fortnight prior we had viewed the Women's TDU as they passed Lobethal and then again at Gumeracha and for that ride the roads were very busy but usually we pedal along with very little traffic.

Kevin lead ten of us around the undulating roads and finally down the very scenic breezy Piney Ridge Road into Brukunga and on to Nairne for coffee at Millies where we reunited with our two bitumen road riders. We are always well received at Millies and like to savour our drinks in their out door area.



Then it was time for the untested part of the ride which was a very long downhill on gravel towards Petwood where we crossed the Adelaide to Melbourne railway line before turning right and heading uphill parallel to the freeway finally arriving at the bridge which crosses the Freeway just near Mt Barker summit. By now the sun was high in the sky and it was quite hot.



Unfortunately we did have a minor accident when one of our group got into some loose gravel and took a spill. He was only slightly injured and had then decided to backtrack to Nairne. We all met up at the gazebo in the pretty Nairne wetlands for lunch.

The return ride to Woodside was almost all on gravel and is always scenic, probably nicer when green, but so typical of the fabulous Adelaide hills. Wineries, fruit trees, horses, alpaca, cows, rolling hills and lots of birdsong. I never tire of it. Kevin our leader, peeled off to head home and the remainder of us joined the Amy Gillett Bike Path to ride the final two kilometres back to the cars. Another fantastic Hills ride completed. I always return weary but somehow feel restored and re-invigorated by having been close to nature for the day.

Written by Robyn Davill

Photos by Paul Davill

