

## PERFECT ride from Eden Valley, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Despite the weather forecast, a small band of 7 'PERFECT' enthusiasts turned up for the Eden Valley ride. Last months ride report by Richard had us thinking about fried chicken...this months ride had us thinking about very cold beverages!

The plan, led by Kevin D, was to ride a 65km rectangle north of Eden Valley. That meant going west for a few kms then north towards Moculta. Then it was east for a short way before a long haul south finished off with a westerly descent to finish...oh, and we were promised a bit of climbing...900M or thereabouts!

The first climbs came after a couple of hundred metres and got the legs well warmed up. The morning was then spent on quiet traffic free gravel roads, the odd track, a northerly headwind, lovely rural scenery, a lookout (which I've driven past dozens of times but never bothered to go to) with wide sweeping views, plus the flies which caught up when we slowed down. We ended up going past the old church at Gruenberg before having lunch at the well maintained and sheltered Moculta Oval.



*Shady lunch spot.*

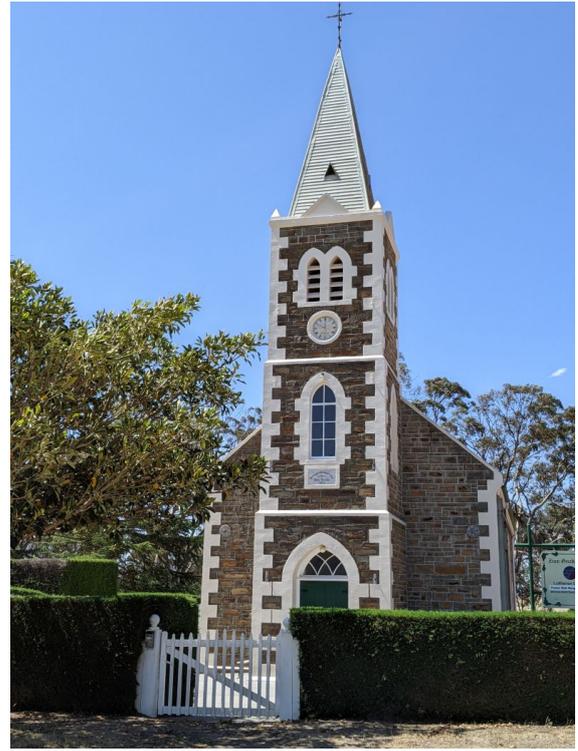


*Howzat!*

After a very pleasant lunch stop and re-application of sunscreen, we looked forward to the northerly giving us a bit of a tailwind. By this time it was warming up and we stopped at the old Gnadenberg church, (just down the road from the Gruenberg one, both same denomination...there's a story about local fallings out in the past etc, but you can research that if you like) and then south.



*Gruenberg Lutheran Church*



*Gnadenburg Lutheran Church.*

The promising tailwind sadly dropped away, the tree cover disappeared and the mercury started rising. Over the last exposed 10kms (which included a long'ish climb) the temperature shot up from 31C to 39C, so we were all feeling it a bit (the odd cramp here & there) when we headed down the last descent to Eden Valley. There was little time wasted getting the bikes on the cars and heading to the local where we topped up with fluids and de-briefed. Another great day out...challenging enough, but fun. See you on the next one.

Kevin B.