Adelaide Branch Monthly Newsletter – March 2026

Adelaide Branch Meeting Thursday, 5th March 2026

Held at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, 926 South Road, Edwardstown. Meeting starts at 7.30pm and members arrive from 6pm onwards for a meal, drink and catchup.

The results of the February AGM: Main positions remain unchanged but we welcome to the committee, Val Cullinan taking over from Ian who is stepping down as Welfare Officer, plus new committee members Michelle Stevens and Brian Cullinan

South Australian Breakfast Club (SABC)
9:30 am Saturday 7th March 2026

The venue: Bombora on the River, 94 Barrage Rd, Goolwa, SA 5214.

Monthly Dinner Friday 13th March 6.30pm

At Flagstaff Hotel, 1497-1503 Main South Rd, Darlington SA 5047.
Please let Maurice if you will be attending phone or text 0407 011 251

Upcoming Rides

Wednesday Rides – depart at 10.30am from

1st, 2nd, 5th Wednesday of the month - Feathers Hotel, 516 Glynburn Rd, Burnside

3rd, 4th Wednesday of the month - Victoria Hotel, Main South Rd, O'Halloran Hill

Sunday Rides – depart at 9.30am

Sunday 8th March depart **Victoria Hotel** Main South Rd, O'Halloran Hill to Meadows

Sunday 22nd March depart **Pelican Plaza** 1007 North East Rd, Ridgehaven to Lyndoch

Historic Rally Saturday 20 -21st March 10.30am.

Short ride from the beach car park. Saturday night dinner at the Normanville Hotel.

If interested contact **Craig Mc Donald 0468 492 921**

Up Coming SARV Event

May 8th – May 10th Wellington Caravan Park, 3437 Jervois Rd, Wellington P: 08 8572 7302

Saturday evening dinner: Wellington Hotel

On Any Wednesday February Report

By Claire Hartley

After a short break, I am back reporting the goings on of the Wednesday Ride. Lots of happiness about the MotoGP coming to Adelaide in 2027. A few misgivings have been expressed about the safety of a street circuit when we have The Bend.

Mostly good riding weather with a few hotter days.

February 1st

Lester planned one of his famous Sunday breakfast runs to The Appleseed Café at Strathalbyn. We were blessed with perfect weather and met at the Victoria Hotel for a 9am departure. No mucking about, we rode straight to Strath. A great breakfast which finished around lunchtime with coffee at Pik-A-Pie in Meadows on the way home.

February 4th

Twenty-two riders and six apologies today. To Lobethal via Birdwood and circle work in warm to hot conditions.

February 11th

A shorter ride today led by Lester who did not submit a ride report. Dave did manage to catch up with the group. Our thoughts go out to Dave as he is unable to ride at the moment but hanging out with the group really makes his day. Also, to Gerry who drives Dave around so that he can meet up with us, she's a keeper Dave!

February 18th

Twenty-four riders, including one new rider, Steve P, and eight apologies today. Willunga via Kangarilla and circle work. It was great to see Colin, Newell and David S at the ROAR, and hope to see Dave M soon. Safe travels to those attending or heading to Phillip Island. Do we assume that the Moto GP for 2026 will still be at Phillip Island. Perhaps a group ride for the last MotoGP?

February 25th

Twenty-six riders and seven apologies today. To Victor Harbor via Normanville and all places South in cloudy and very gusty weather despite the contrary predictions from Bruce. Bruce commented that he is averaging the same results as the BOM!

Ride safe

Claire

Ken's new bike

October 2025, I bought a new bike, a Yamaha MT09A.

My Tiger 1200 was becoming too much to handle when stopped, or at low speeds, or manoeuvring around tight spots. It was time to get something smaller, lighter, not so top-heavy.
(It didn't help that the Tiger had developed a fault of not idling.)

I had three bikes in my sights to downsize to (had to have cruise control), a Tracer 7, a Tiger 800 Sport, and a CFMOTO 800NK Advanced. Turned out that the Tracer 7 with cruise, isn't yet in Australia, despite lots of Youtube revues; the other two I couldn't even find in SA to look at, let alone test ride. When I told Dave at Pitmans of my problem, he said he might have something there for me, an MT09. I said I needed lighter, that might still be too heavy. He came back with the fact that the MT09 is lighter than a Tracer 7!

I rode to Pitmans, did a short test ride on the MT09A, loved it. That it was an automatic was just icing on the cake. 8000Km on the clock, in as-new condition. A price I thought I could get back if I didn't like the bike and later sold it. It felt like someone above (or below) was giving me a nudge.
Left my Tiger 1200 there, rode home on the Yamaha.

I've now done around 7kkm on the MT, including runs to Stawell, Ballarat, and to the Riverland toy run ending at Barmera. I can do long distances on it, just not with Michele on the back.

Plusses on getting a smaller bike (at 890cc, still pretty grunty)**:**

- My cornering is much better, with me more confident and capable on corners.
- No problems handling the bike, either at speed, slow, or stopped.
- Park almost anywhere without thinking. Don't have to worry about not being able to stand the bike up if it is leaning too far, or pushing up a small incline backwards.
- Fun to ride with a nimbler bike that moves around on the road effortlessly.
- Automatic is great. Can still ride in manual mode, which is just like using a quickshift in all gears.
- Has given me added enthusiasm to get out on club rides.

Negatives compared to the Tiger:

- Harsher ride, with less weight and no long-travel suspension to soak up the bumps.
- Less comfortable seat and seating position, -more cramped, especially for Michele on the back. No more long-distance rides with Michele going pillion. But that was getting hard anyway. Sometimes I felt like a blundering whale with Michele and luggage aboard.
- No wind & bug protection compared to having the big Tiger screen. -But I don't feel the need to add a screen. Full naked is OK. Just need warmer clothing.
- Dash is up close, necessitating looking down more to see speed etc.
- Luggage/weight capacity is waaay less.

Conclusion:

Love the smaller bike. Won't be selling it any time soon.

For any other old farts out there struggling with your large bike, downsize.
You won't look back, and riding will be more enjoyable and safer

Ken Wagnitz.