



# Freewheeling

The Newsletter of The Canterbury Branch, Ulysses Club of NZ  
Website -- <http://www.ulysses.org.nz/canterbury>






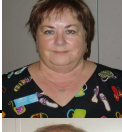


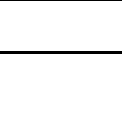


## January 2011



**The winner of the Christmas Dinner Fancy Dress Competition—And the Santa even played a tune!**

**Note:** Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, or the Canterbury Branch of Ulysses Club of New Zealand, or, or the Ulysses Club of New Zealand Inc but are those of the contributing or original writers.

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## Co-Ordinators Comments

Welcome to our first Branch newsletter for 2011 and I hope you all had a good break over the Christmas and New Year period.

On behalf of all the Canterbury branch members I wish to welcome George Prime, Roger Swann & Thea Turner to the Ulysses Club. I hope you enjoy your time in the Club and remember to uphold the Club motto "Grow Old Disgracefully".

The dates for the Canterbury and South Canterbury Branch Motorcycle Mentoring training have been confirmed for 8 and 9 April (Friday & Saturday). If you're interested in becoming a Mentor then you now need to complete the Application form. The application forms can be downloaded from our Branch website or get a copy from me. A total of ten mentors will be trained and 3 slots have been allocated to our neighbours from South Canterbury.



I managed to attend two of the Wednesday knitting Club rides over the Christmas holiday period. The first was to Hanmer Springs (29 Dec) and I must say how pleased I was to see everyone staying together as a group and not leap frogging all the vehicles on the road. The road was very busy as Arthurs Pass was closed due to a bridge being washed out. Well done to the RIC (Peter O'Connor). The second ride (5 Jan) was to Whitecliffs and although a wet day five riders still came out for a very enjoyable ride. Well done Bob.

It was good to see a very good turn out for the Christmas function on 15 December with 110 people pre paying (\$5) to attend the function. The grocery hampers were a great success again and I'd like to thank all those that made the effort to drop off the items either at the October or November Social evenings or at home, as this allowed Maureen time to make up the hampers before the function.

I would also like to thank Brian & Raylene very much for organising this event and to the ladies that assisted with setting up of the tables and serving the food and to the gentlemen for cooking the meat on the BBQ.

At this month's social evening we will discuss all the remits/resolutions that have been submitted (in the December 2010 Ulyssian, page 46) for voting on at the National AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup> March in Lower Hutt.

Remember if you can't attend the AGM then at least cast a postal vote (pages 47 of the December 2010 Ulyssian). You'll also need to cast a vote for a new Vice-President, as two members (Lance Nixon & Howard Mansell) are standing for that position.

Next month we are holding our Branch AGM on Wednesday 16 February at 8:15pm. We'll still have our social evening from 7:30 – 8:00pm then break for approx 10 minutes before the AGM gets under way.

Nominations for all Branch committee appointment (Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer and 5 x Committee members) will be accepted in writing only and are to be in the Secretary's hand no later than 5:00pm on Friday 14 January 2011.

This month's social evening will be held on Wednesday 19 January and our guest speakers this month will be Don and Annett Pannett who will be talking about their trip around the USA.

Until next month keep the shiny side up.

Mike # 2415

## **Notices:**

### **Woodstock Rally**

For those attending the Woodstock Rally over the weekend 28-30 January a group will be departing on Friday (28<sup>th</sup>) at 9:00am from the Yaldhurst Hotel. We will be stopping at the Jackson's Hotel for lunch.

For those leaving on Saturday (29<sup>th</sup>) meet at the Yaldhurst Hotel at 7:45 for an 8:00am departure.

### **Goose Bay Weekend**

Grant (Sky) and Pauline are still accepting registrations for the Goose Bay weekend being held over the period 25-27 February. There are still two cabins available and as of the 4th January, 25 people have registered. The registration forms are available via the Branch website: <http://www.ulysses.org.nz/canterbury> or by contacting Sky: [grant@machines4wood.co.nz](mailto:grant@machines4wood.co.nz)

### **National AGM (Wellington) 25-27 March**

Bob Tanner has two spare beds available in a motel unit near to the AGM venue. If you're interested in attending the AGM then please contact Bob for more details on (03) 365 0309 or [bobndit@gmail.com](mailto:bobndit@gmail.com).

### **Ulysses Club Motorcycle Mentoring Programme 2011**

The date has been set for the South Canterbury and Canterbury Branch mentoring training in Christchurch. The training will take place on Friday and Saturday 8 & 9 April 2011. The venue is yet to be confirmed.

For an overview on what the training will involve down load an application form from our branch website.

The training will only cost you your own time and fuel for your motorcycle, as ACC and the Ulysses Club are funding the training. A maximum of ten places are available with three places being allocated to the South Canterbury Branch. Completed application forms are to be handed to Mike Dew (Branch Coordinator) by Friday 25 February 2011.

# City Motorcycle Rentals

32 Allen Street, Christchurch  
Phone +64 3 365 3544 Fax +64 3 365 3543  
Www.citymotorcycl rentals.com  
info@citymotorcycl rentals.com



interislander

NGĀ WAKA · NEW ZEALAND'S FERRIES

## GROUP RATES QUOTED FOR Ulysses Motor Cycle Club

Group Booking Reference: FA5485

<b>Off Peak Fares:</b>	<b>Each Way</b>	<b>Off Peak Dates:</b>
Adult	\$39.00	26 Jan—20 April 2011
Children	\$24.00	27 April—20 October 2011
Motorcycle	\$37.00	26 October—15 December 2011
Car/Van up to 5.5 metres	\$122.00 each	
Each half metre over 5.5 metres	\$17.00	

<b>Peak Fares:</b>	<b>Each Way</b>	<b>Peak Dates:</b>
Adult	\$46.00	01-05 January 2011
Children	\$24.00	21-26 April 2011
Motorcycle	\$47.00	21-25 October 2011
Car/Van up to 5.5 metres	\$140.00 each	16-31 December 2011
Each half metre over 5.5 metres	\$22.00	

### Group Booking conditions and instructions for members are:

Each reservation must be made direct with Interislander – Phone 0800 878-898

Group Desk Hours: Monday – Friday 0830-1730. Saturday 0800-noon.

- To access these rates members must quote group reference “FA5485”
- Every reservation will be given an expiry/payment date, required to be paid in full by that date
- Space is subject to availability at the time of the booking request
- Membership card is to be shown at check in - no membership car then retail fares will be charged.

**Refunds**—Once paid for fares are **90% refundable** if cancelled prior to check-in and non-refundable if cancelled after check-in.

**Fares valid from 01 January through to 31 December 2011.** Members to bring their own tie downs.

**The following questions were set in last year's GED examination. These are genuine answers from 16 year olds ..... and yes, they will go on to breed.**

Q. Name the four seasons

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink

A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists

Q. How is dew formed

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

Q. What are steroids

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs  
(Shoot yourself now , there is little hope)

Q.. What happens to your body as you age

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery (???)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A. Premature death

Q. What is artificial insemination

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour

A. Keep it in the cow (Simple, but brilliant)

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorised (e.g. The abdomen)

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I,O,U.. (wtf!)

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby

Q. What is the most common form of birth control

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condom (That would work)

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a terminal illness

A. When you are sick at the airport. (Irrefutable)

Q. Give an example of a fungus. What is a characteristic feature?

A. Mushrooms. They always grow in damp places and they look like umbrellas

Q. Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand its meaning

A. Hands that judicious can be soft as your face. (judicious = do dishes; OMG!)

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight (brilliant)

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Shrek wears on his head

### **Brian's 4th year Overnighter**

**Meeting at Rolleston BP leaving Saturday 16 April 2011 at 10.00am travelling to Geraldine, Tekapo, Twizel, Omarama through to Wahao Twin Forks Hotel just outside Waimate after travelling 430ks.**

**Depending on the weather we will visit Mt John, a salmon farm, ride the canal roads, ride over the Benmore Dam and see some fantastic scenery.**

**The theme of the ride is travel at your own pace but no one gets left behind.**

**Accommodation is typical relaxed country pub and cost is \$55.00 each.**

**For \$55 you get a bed with bedding, (shared rooms) showers and towels, an evening pub meal and a cooked breakfast.**

**Sunday is a short 220 ks home to Christchurch.**

**Booking is limited to 18 people.**

**If a southerly storm ride may be cancelled.**

**Booking is by the following:**

**Email [schlaadt@paradise.net.nz](mailto:schlaadt@paradise.net.nz)**

**Or phone 981 2453**

## The Pike River Ride

The Christchurch bike shops were raising money for the families of the Pike River coal mine disaster through badge sales and a ride to the coast where monies raised would be presented to the Mayor of Greymouth while Roger 'GPS' Mills was going camping at Okains Bay so what was it going to be, go camping or riding, camping, riding. Make ya mind up Carefree.

I'd bought my ride badge on Thursday from Rolling Thunder so there was no need to actually go on the ride but Jim Hickey was forecasting fine weather with a possibility of showers and because it would be a while before I got the chance for another blat, riding won the day. Sorry Rog, the open road was a callin'.



Saturday dawned fine and warm. My Little Spitting Cobra was peacefully asleep as I slipped from under covers and crept from the workshop. Pushing Alison out of the garage I fired her up, cringing because that initial "pop" of exhaust gas in the cans probably just woke her.

The ride was due to leave Rolling Thunder at 0815 where it was rumoured they were expecting over a 100 bikes. As most would probably be topping up at Springfield, I rode directly there to beat the congestion at the pumps and I wasn't the only one with that idea because I was soon joined by a number of other riders. It wasn't long before the forecourt was chocker and both sides of the SH73 lined with bikes. Impressive!

Rob Antonovich (ex Casbolts now Rolling Thunder) arrived on the shop's yellow V-Rod Muscle and we got talking about his move from the Enlightened Ones to the Dark Side. He was off to scout the road ahead and firing up the V-Rod in a cloud of blue smoke I asked him he was running that thing on coal, out of sympathy. It's a Porsche for Christ's sake; that simply shouldn't happen. Anyway, I decided to follow him because I wanted to stop at Porters Pass to take photos of the bikes climbing the hill.

It was a lovely ride out of town and into the foothills; it was too early in the day for the usual buf-feting of the Katabatic NW'er and the new chain and a different ratio back sprocket fitted to the VTR was noticeable; Allison was pulling like every good girl should.

Now, for a meteorological lesson courtesy of Wikipedia. The [Greek](#) word [katabatikos](#) means "going downhill" and is the technical name for a drainage [wind](#) that carries high density air from a higher elevation down a slope under the force of gravity. Katabatic winds can rush down elevated slopes at hurricane speeds, but most are not that intense and many are on the order of 10 [knots](#) or less. Not all downslope winds are katabatic. For instance, winds such as the [Foehn](#), [Chinook](#) or [Bergwind](#), are [rain shadow](#) winds where air driven up-slope on the windward side of a mountain range drops its moisture and descends leeward drier and warmer. Examples of true katabatic winds include the [Bora](#) (or [Bura](#)) in the [Adriatic](#), the [Santa Ana](#) in southern California, and the [Oroshi](#) in [Ja-](#)  
[pan](#). The [Barber](#) is an enhanced katabatic wind that blows over the town of Greymouth when there is a southeast flow over the South Island. It is a wind that is known in the area for its coldness.



I pulled to a stop at the top of the pass behind a Harley which looked vaguely familiar and who should be standing there but Graeme Raxworthy, with his camera. Great minds? Anyway we talked a bit before Graeme shouted a warning. Spinning round I saw Alison in a slow motion fall. A campervan exiting the lookout area had just touched the back of her knocking her off the side stand. How I got back there and managed to grab her before she went right down I don't know. With Graeme's help we got her back upright but a horrible cracking sound confirmed my fears. During the lunge to stop her, my helmet, sitting on the mirror had pushed against the screen and cracked it. There were also some hairline cracks on the fairing where the screen was attached.

Shouting out, the van stopped and the driver and occupants came back. We swapped details and I copied the rental contract guff for insurance purposes.

"I say, you were rather lucky" he said, a resident of Harpenden in the UK. "Your lovely machine could quite easily have fallen over."

"I'm lucky? It wouldn't have fallen over if you'd looked where you're going?"

"Well, you shouldn't have been parked there" she said, wife of resident of Harpenden, U.K.

"Every other motor vehicle is parked beyond this barrier. You should also have been parked behind the barrier."

"Lady, if I'd parked it there in that deep gravel it would almost certainly have fallen over."

"Oh look Colin, the chap has a personalized registration plate" said 3<sup>rd</sup> female occupant; probably of Harpenden, UK. "Grow Old Disgracefully. How positively quaint."

Spare me! So I never got to take any photos and I was the last bike away. Somewhat pissed off I caught up with a group of riders near Castle Hill. Riding in brilliant sunshine under clear skies it was looking black and ominous up ahead and within a few k's big fat rain drops were coming down and riders were taking advantage of every layby, rest area and driveway to stop and don the wets as the rain drops joined hands. It was hosing down but Jim Hickey said...

By Jacksons, were the ride reassembled, it had eased to a drizzle and soon had stopped altogether, the sun slowly but surely winning her battle with the cloud cover as the 30 odd bikes in my group rode a comfortable and well mannered ride through to Paroa, just south Greymouth. Over the road-rail bridge a phalanx of blue-n-yellas were heading towards Kumara, to pick off the stragglers still on their way or setting a trap for those going home.



Lining the road at Springfield

A team from TV1 was wandering round the bikes talking to the punters. I asked the cameraman when Paul Henry was coming back; that I'm sick and tired, as I expect most red blooded Kiwi males are, of the touchy feely, sensitive and caring, PC BS on Breakfast TV least some minority or soft minded individual is offended. "I'm offended. I have rights you know." Bollocks! What about my rights as an individual and hey, part of the majority, to hear what he has to say and not to be offended? You see it's perfectly normal to be offended. It happens on a daily basis; someone, somewhere is being offended and surprise, surprise; nothing happens to you when you're offended. You won't develop a rash or break out in a mass of suppurating sores or collapse to the floor in fits. No it's just a mental state; your insecure mental state. You're an adult, deal with it. Now we have Petra Bratwurst or Bagsnatcher; whatever her name is, as the new face to Breakfast TV. She's a man hating femi-nazi for Christ's sake! The cameraman said Paul will be back but not on TV1; mores the pity.

The pub had put on a bit of a spread but they had underestimated the number of mouths they were to feed. Nevermind, a pie and a Fanta from the dairy next door and I was ready to go; I didn't want to hang round for the presentation to the Mayor.



Regrouping at Springfield

Rob and two others were also filling up at the Mobil station and invited me to join them for the ride home through Stillwater and Moana. Good idea. The other way was fraught with dangers; microwaves and ticket books for those who found the urge to strong to overcome. What a glorious ride around the western shores of Lake Brunner; a light NW'er, warm and dry, it was thoroughly enjoyable. Over the bridge at Jacksons and back onto SH73, a couple of motorists flashed a warning. Playing piggy back, two patrol cars parked between the railway crossings ensured that those urges were indeed, under control.

It was just above the viaduct on the climb up Arthur's on a sharp, uphill left hander that we were flagged down by two motorists who had stopped to offer assistance. Another yellow V-Rod looking a little worse for wear was leaning against the Armco, the rider looking a bit sheepish and a bit sore. He said his back end had stepped out and he'd just laid it down. From the scratch marks he hadn't slid far and it looked very much a slow speed off.

We stopped up the road parking our bikes where we could and walked back down to the bike. It's not until you actually hop off do you realise how steep that part of the Pass is. Helping the poor fella into a car, it was decided to drop him off at the Police station in Arthur's Pass village and call for help.

I followed the car into the forecourt of the station and we offloaded the casualty only to find the station isn't manned on the weekend. However the courtesy phone was working and I explained to Coms (Christchurch) what had happened; we needed an ambo or a first response vehicle. "Hey thanks Mate for stopping. The name's Steve."

The driver who'd helped was heading to Christchurch and offered to take Steve but he was in some pain and couldn't sit so it was decided leave him here and I agreed to stay until help arrived.

Making Steve comfortable as best I could on a makeshift bed of bike jackets and a roll of carpet I'd found round the back of the station, it wasn't but a few minutes before the local the 'Trampers Shuttle' van arrived with the local volunteer medic, who as it turned out was also part of the fire brigade and SAR team.

"What happens if there's a fire, a car accident and a missing climber at the same time?" The Medic took a detailed account of Steve's history, the accident and kept monitoring his vitals while we waited, and waited, and waited still for the ambo which was coming from Christchurch. All the while, Steve's pain level was getting worse. With a history of previous lung injury and fearing further damage the local medic was loath to give him happy gas. If in doubt, leave it out...Steve would have to grin and bear it.

I felt for him. He was really hurting, trying hard not to moan but every now and then one escaped and he'd apologize. No worries mate, moan away. You're allowed to. I won't be offended. 2, 3 hours; it seemed forever as we waited shooting the shit on a whole range of unrelated topics and listening to bike after bike heading towards Christchurch.

Despite the shade it was bloody hot and we were slowly drying out so I shot back to the village to get some water. By chance Wayne and the Rolling Thunder van were still there and they agreed to go back and pick up the bike.

At 10 to 5, the St John ambo arrived and on advice, the call was made to give Steve EntaNox so we could move him into the ambo but even with a bit of pain therapy knocking the top of it getting him on the backboard was a struggle and he was putting a very brave face on it. "Breath deep Steve. C'mon, you've got to breath, breath."

"I can't, it f\_\_kin hurts...sorry, didn't mean to swear."

"Don't worry about swearing my dear, but you've got to breath. Come on breath, breath" she urged. "You'll hate me soon, but it's for your own good. Breath, breath, suck it in."

Safely in the ambo I phoned his wife Jackie and reassured her he was going to be OK; just very sore and feeling very sorry for himself. The St John medic called the base and asked for a priority 'something' to meet them on the way with morphine.



The forecourt at Springfield

Being volunteers, the two ambo officers weren't allowed to administer it; only trained paramedics can because it's all part of the dangerous goods/restricted drug scene.

"Why didn't they send a chopper" one of the Ambo officers commented, to no one in particular. I felt a bit guilty because when I rang coms initially I told them Steve was just sore and otherwise OK but since then his condition had deteriorated.

"It's not your call Chris' she said. "The base should have done that. It's a long way to drive here and back."

The ambo pulled out just after 5 driving very cautiously; it was going to be a slow drive back to Christchurch. I passed another Ambo at Castle Village with lights on going like the clappers; Steve would have his Paramedic and morph soon.

I finally arrived home around 1830, the stiff NW'er and empty roads making for a quick ride home. I rang Steve the next day; he was in the Emergency Observation ward with bruised kidneys, a few broken ribs, some muscle injury and pain in his lower spine they still had to check. He thanked me for sitting with him and told me there had been a bit of carnage on the roads; 4 other bikers admitted that evening but none were part of the Pike River Ride and another 3 carried in this morning.

If anything, this accident reinforces how important the right protective gear is. Steve's 'off' was similar to mine when the dog and I met early one morning; a moderate speed close encounter with the road. We're not as flexible as we once were; things break now instead of bending; the nurse explaining my broken ribs were typical of a person of my age and of someone who rides bikes. You go down, your elbow digs in to your abdomen and you pop ribs as you roll over and over. I don't wear one around town because they are a nuisance taking them on and off and carrying them round but on the open road I always wear a backbrace. They won't stop you pinging ribs but I wonder if Steve had been wearing one would he have sustained the potentially life altering injuries to his kidneys and spine?

Cheers  
Captain Carefree  
#3497

## **2010 END OF YEAR BBQ DINNER**

First off and most importantly, Raelene and I would like to thank all those who assisted us on the day as for without their help dinner would have definitely been served close to midnight and that just wouldn't do would it? We had a great team of 6 to 8 members so the work load was shared and everyone remained relaxed and enjoyed themselves in the process.

The second thank you is to the rain gods who teased us a little for a while there but in the end held off from dropping in on us.

I would like to comment on the idea of members prepaying for their meal either by groceries or a donation of \$5.00. From an organizers view it is brilliant knowing in advance how many people have made the commitment to attend. This allowed us to plan catering to ensure everyone was well feed while minimizing food wastage. Of course the \$5 and food went to raffles and I am sure it much appreciated for those who won one of these.

This year our plan was to increase the variety of food available and there was no less than 10 cold salad dishes, 2 cold vegetables, 2 hot vegetables, 4 different meats and an assortment of breads to fill up on. This was topped off with 5 types of cake of which the feedback received; the carrot and chocolate were very popular.

The result of this type of menu has meant less volume of each dish so you may have notice a shortage of some items but on the other side of the coin apart from the coleslaw everything moved and wastage was minimised.

Over the last 3 years we have noticed the beef steaks have become less popular and a preference for Ham steaks, lamb cutlets and patties so is something to consider for 2011. So if you have any constructive comments and suggestions to make we would be only too happy to hear from you. You can also pass them on to the committee remembering of course that cooking faculties are very limited.

Finally and again our thanks to those who gave up their time and assisted us this year.

Cheers, Brian and Raelene

## Some Christmas Dinner Photos



Everyone having a good time



Our organizers for the Dinner



Chefs for the night

## A Game of two Halves

I've always believed my leathers are better than the modern Gortex riding apparel and for the most part they are. I can lie down in them on all sorts of surface, kneel down on rough ground in them, get covered in grease and oil and body fluids without destroying their outer layer integrity thus rendering them useless. I can, or could, slide along the road in them time and time again and they live to tell the tale and if oiled or waxed they're relatively water proof. If you sweat, the leather breathes; you don't feel like you're in a sauna.

However, on Tuesday when I donned my leathers, wrestled with the Dri-Rider plastic over pants, waxed my jacket and slide into the silicon sealed reflective vest I thought the worse I could get was damp sleeves and wet gloves. Wrong! I'd seriously underestimated how much water Old Huey was chucking down.

By the time I'd pulled into the forecourt at Rolleston BP, I had a hydroponics farm germinating in my crotch; the overtrou leaking through every seam. Despite the vest, my trusty leather jacket was sodden and a wetland had established itself in my boots. I've had a number of expensive touring boots over the years and while all have been extremely comfortable, none have been as waterproof as claimed. My hair was wet from water bubbling in through closed helmet vents. It was absolutely bucketing down.

I was aiming for Timaru and Waimate and beyond if the weather forecast was to be believed. Not wanting to spend the day drenched and with the weather forecast from the check out chick I headed back home, binned the over trou with a mental reminder to email the manufacturer that they're anything but Dri-Rider. Slipped into the \$15 Warehouse plastics, hung my leather jacket up to drip dry and reluctantly reverted to a Gortex one, a sheet of bubble wrap between it and already wet my merino top, changed my socks and with my feet cocooned in supermarket bags, I hit the road again, pointing south.

I don't know how much rain fell that morning but the Rakaia and Rangitata were bank to bank; it was bloody impressive seeing that amount of brown water, trees and debris tumbling and rushing around the bridge supports. The Gortex was working to a point with the bubble wrap keeping the chill out and diverting any leaks down and out. The Warehouse pants and supermarket bags bloody brilliant!

I pulled to a halt at #3 Berth in Timaru in driving rain and blustery winds. Gordon Mitchell was waiting by the *Meagan J* but we decided to head to his house to do the interview rather than risk climbing aboard a boat bucking and fetching at her lines. What a character and I was looking forward to transcribing the recording I'd made of his life when I got back home. Wrapping a few precious old photos of his in several layers of plastic I put them in the back pack, said good-bye and headed towards Waimate where I was to meet my neice and her fiancé on his family's farm. It was supposed to be clearing but showed no sign of it yet so I enjoyed a hamburger and hot coffee at Burger King, the warmth very welcome as puddles formed under my stool and the frown from the waitress becoming more severe as I took my time eating.

Turning inland at Makikihi, I arrived at Cecil Peak Station shrouded in cloud. After introductions and a proper cup of tea you could stand the spoon up in, a scone the size of a paver smothered in real cream and real jam; they took me on a 4WD tour of the 3500head Red deer farm and the two separate dairy farms. It's the first time I've seen an fully automatic rotary milking shed in operation and it was bloody impressive; the data on milk volumes against for each cow displayed on touch screens and verbal messages relaying everything to the milkers putting on the cups. Even the cows knew what to do, trained I guess to enter and exit the stalls, their tags determining which gates opened and which race they entered to take them to specific paddocks with the right amount of feed determined by the amount of milk they'd just delivered.

By 1500, it was time to leave. Do I carry on or head back? The rain radar on Sky showed it clearing to the south and, it was time to hit the road again...in for a penny, in for a pound. The road out through the gravel and fords was a bit slippery but at least the rain had eased to a drizzle and by Waimate it had stopped replaced by a gusty, bothersome wind which was at least drying the roads out.

From Ikawai to Hakataramea, SH82 is straight and boring and hard work heading into a howling gale of wind. I had plans of pitching the tent somewhere along the Haka Valley however as I approached the bridge ominous black clouds and rain showers over the ranges put paid to that idea.

Kurow was basking in sunshine and the gusty winds had eased to a gentle zephyr. Topping up I rode along the southern bank of Lake Waitaki, the road full of holiday traffic, to the turn-off at Aviemore. Riding across the dam I followed a campervan at a sedate pace meandering along a lovely stretch of road bordering the northern banks of Lake Aviemore. Every available spot was packed with campers under canvas, buses, campervans, portaloos, boats and jet skis...you name; people simply enjoying the great scenery and recreation the lake provided.

I found a spot a few feet back from the lake edge not far downstream from the Benmore spillway with no tents within 100m either side of my spot and immediately started to strip off, hanging damp riding gear over the branches of a willow or spread out on the grass. What an awesome spot! With the tent up and everything drying fast, it was time to lie back, open the bottle of Merlot and soak up the sun.



I don't know where this recession is but there was no sign of it here. The lake was buzzing with boats of every shape and size, biscuits, jet skis, water skiers, thundering V8's or outboards. About 2100 the water sports ceased as if turning off a switch and the lake was suddenly very quiet, very still, very serene; a few fishermen drifting with the flow chancing their luck at an evening bite.



Lake Aviemore

A few early anglers were the only things moving on a peacefully still, warm, picture postcard morning. While packing up, the local warden pulled up in his 4WD asking for fees for camping. I didn't know I had to pay any; I wasn't actually in a designated camp ground. Normally \$15 a night, he charged me \$5; he rode a GSX-R. The lake level had risen a few feet overnight. He said it was going to get even higher; everything upstream from Tekapo to Pukaki was overfull and they were dumping flat out.

I was on the road about 0900 and stopped briefly at the Benmore spillway. My photos don't do it justice. The noise, a deep down thundering you could feel through the soles of your feet was amazing, a huge rooster tails of white water and sheets of fine spray creating a number of rainbows.

A station wagon pulled up; Dad and two kids with a camera. Climbing the barrier and ignoring the DANGER DO NOT ENTER sign he lifted his two children up onto the concrete buttress and began snapping away. I have no idea how many gazillion gallons of water a second rushes down that slope but it creates a bit of a wind as it hits the bottom and shoots skyward and here were two little tots rocking with it barely feet away from that maelstrom while dad safely at a distance, took happy snaps. I was gobsmacked! Some kids don't deserve their parents.

Climbing back over the fence to a f\_\_kin' awesome eh mate isn't it, he piled them back into the car and with a shower of mud and gravel bounced back up the track to the road.



Lake Tekapo

The MacKenzie put on a cracker of a day, warm and windless and the ride through to Omarama, Twizel and Tekapo and despite the holiday traffic, one of the better ones. Topping up, I grabbed a sticky bun and headed down to the lake to brew up a coffee but my favourite spot was under several feet of water.



Lake Benmore Spillway

I can't recall seeing the lake this full. Oh well, plan B, find somewhere else. I got home around 1600. What a great two days; and as far as weather a real game of two halves. It just goes to show that the more expensive, designer riding gear is not always the best.

I'll stick to my Warehouse wets, bubblewrap and supermarket bags; they're cheap and they bloody work every time.

Captain Carefree  
#3497

## Happy Birthday to our January Members!



David Thomas  
Diane Richardson  
Marilyn Molloy  
Ian Tennant  
Maureen Dew  
Bruce Sparks  
Carla Brittain  
Chas Packer

Lindsay Grant  
Paul St John  
Dave Harding  
Jean Crawley  
Pauline Delore  
Shane Morgan  
Peter Parkyn

## Marlborough Ulysses Toy Run

I had been tired of the earthquakes here in old Shakey Town and planned a trip to see my two sisters in Blenheim, one of whom is a biker and member of Marlborough Ulysses. She rang me and suggested that I plan the trip for the weekend of their toy run and Christmas Party so my partner and I decided to change the weekend away and take the VMax for a spin on its first long trip since buying it.

Some of our Canterbury colleagues will remember the red and black VMax I owned which sadly was written off when two motorists u-turned in front of my partner near the Palms shopping centre, giving him no time to avoid the second motorist though he did a fine job of avoiding the first one, who shielded the second one from his vision thereby causing a massive collision which eventuated in the write off of both my bike and the van it collided with.

So we hunted down and purchased a replacement bike, this time a younger one in better condition and black and silver. Time to give it a longer run and see how it goes.....

We left Christchurch in cloudy weather on the Friday afternoon, running soon into soft misty rain which we outran in Waipara, much to our relief though we were dressed in leathers anyway. At about the Staging Post we were startled to see flashing lights behind us (made the old heart race a bit ....) which turned out to be a fast travelling police car heading to an accident where a motorist had gone over a slow curve down a bank – there was a couple of fire engines present, along with an ambulance and a helicopter standing by on a grassy patch of paddock but nobody seemed to be in a hurry at the scene. We later heard that the sole occupant, a middle aged male, had died just on reaching hospital. The trip from there was uneventful, with a couple of stops for leg stretching and refueling as the Vmax does not have a large capacity tank and can use up gallons given the chance, depending on how heavily the rider twists the throttle.



Decorated bikes



Café turnout

Arriving at my sister's home we settled down for the evening, planning on rousing ourselves early enough the next day to do



the "Café Run" which works so well in Blenheim but for unexplained reasons does not work in Christchurch. There were about 15 bike at a local café and the company was pleasant, all very happy to see visitors from Canterbury. The toy run was planned for early afternoon, with gifts to be taken and handed over at the destination.

We had come prepared for this but not for the way the bikes were decorated up for the run, tinsel running amok and lots of lights, xmas decorations and general dressing up. The run was preceded by a police motorbike and a red Ducati borrowed for a day from Wellington and ridden by a Santa dressed rider and wound a slow cruise through the afternoon town shoppers to a local school where a cheque and the trailer load of gifts were handed over. The weather was extremely warm and some bikers were worried about over heating, not a problem for us.

Once that was completed we headed home to get dressed up for the Christmas party with a secret santa planned. This was held at a member's huge house and garden with several barbecues going and plenty of food for everyone. All in all a pleasant time was had by all and most of us even got a sit on Santa's knee to tell him what we really, really wanted (not that most of us were likely to get it!!).

So we snuck home eventually and crawled out of bed the following lunch time in time to cruise on home as we had to be at work the next day bright and early. The ride home was also uneventful, with us reaching home just before tea time.

We enjoyed our weekend and would like to thank the Ulysses Marlborough branch for making us so welcome, and of course my sisters who were so pleased to see us.

Carolyn Falkenberg #7210



# **ULYSSES CANTERBURY GOOSE BAY WEEKEND** **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

## **Registration Form**

*All forms of transport acceptable (come by bike, car - bring your caravan, van, truck, or what-ever)*

Please complete this registration form and return to Grant Lomax before  
Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011, as we need to confirm catering requirements.

### **Registration form: (\*must be completed)**

\*First Name:.....\*Surname: .....

First Name:.....:Surname .....

\*Address:

.....

\*..... Post Code:.....

\*Telephone:.....

\*Email address: .....

Registration @ \$15 per person Total \$.....

Cabin @ \$20 per person (Be prepared to share) Total \$.....

**minimum 4 people per cabin –(make up your 4)**

Train-spotters Cottage @\$20 per person (sleeps 7) Total \$...FULL.....

Tent site @ \$13 per person – Powered and unpowered Total \$.....

Event Badge @ \$10 each Number required ..... Total \$.....

**Cheque Total \$.....**

Please make cheques payable to: *Ulysses Canterbury Branch (Goose Bay weekend)*

**The \$15 Registration fee includes the Saturday night meal for the first 50 people registered only.  
This has to be limited due to catering restrictions.**

Extra people are more than welcome to attend but they will need to provide your own meal on Saturday night.

***Post this completed form with your cheque to:***

Grant Lomax

Goose Bay Weekend,

PO Box 9421

Christchurch

Contact -Grant or Pauline: 03 322 8764 – 0274 472 685 or email [g.lomax@xtra.co.nz](mailto:g.lomax@xtra.co.nz)

### **Please note:**

Receipts will not be issued

If unable to attend there will be no refunds. It is your responsibility to fill your spot

If you turn up without booking (tent sites only) you are more than welcome **HOWEVER** all meals are your concern. Please bring a cheque for registration still, and pay your camping fees to the Camp Management.

**FIRST IN GETS A CABIN/COTTAGE AND SUPERB MEAL ON SATURDAY NIGHT**

## **Kaikoura Coastal Camp, Goose Bay, Kaikoura Ulysses Weekend**

**Date:** Friday and/or Saturday nights **Friday 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**Departure Friday:** Depart at 6.00pm sharp from the Belfast Hotel (the Peg)

**or Saturday:** Depart at 9.00am sharp from the Belfast Hotel (Peg)

(If any other departure times they will be announced closer to weekend)

**For Canterbury riders – organise your RIC and rest stops before leaving**

**Saturday Afternoon:** Group ride from Goose Bay, with refreshment stop, for those who wish to go

**Saturday Night:** Hot spit roast for those who are eligible, then music and a social chat with a drink of your choice in the camp dining area

**Sunday:** Make your own way home at your leisure.

**There will be a \$15 per person registration fee as well as the cabin or tent site fee, which is to be prepaid to Grant Lomax. The registration fee includes the cost of the Saturday night hot spit roast meal with potatoes and vegies for the first 50 to register. (Refer Registration form below.)**

### **Camp has:**

5 x cabins which can take 4 -5 people - \$20 per person. 1 x double with single above and 1 x set of bunks includes toaster, jug and small oven. If using cabins, please organise yourselves into groups of 4 to utilize as many beds as possible in each cabin OR expect to be asked - who you can share with by Grant or Pauline.

1 x train spotters hut which sleeps 7 (already booked) so be early for the cabins

Tent sites available \$13.00pp and power site \$13.00pp

Usual camp facilities are available – toilets, showers, laundry and has a large kitchen which is reasonably well equipped with toasters, oven, pots, TV etc and has covered area with BBQ's, tables and seating where Saturday night dinner and get together will be held.

**While at the camp tea/coffee/sugar and milk will be in the kitchen - provided by Ulysses.**

### **Organise and take:**

Own linen/sleeping bags – plates/utensils/cups/ drinking glass plus food for breakfasts etc as these are not provided

**All registrations & bookings to:** Goose Bay Weekend, PO Box 9421, Christchurch –

Contact -Grant or Pauline: 03 322 8764 – 0274 472 685 or email [g.lomax@xtra.co.nz](mailto:g.lomax@xtra.co.nz)

**Please book ASAP: Catering can only be provided for maximum of 50 people.**

Extra people are welcome to attend but they will need to provide all of their own meals including Saturday night.

All Cabins will be held for Ulysses Members exclusively until end of January 2011 approx.

An invitation to attend this weekend in Goose Bay, Kaikoura has been extended to Nelson, Marlborough, South Canterbury and the West Coast Ulysses Members, so make your decision and book early.

Looking forward to catching up with you all at Goose Bay.

Grant (Sky) Lomax # 6851

MARLBOROUGH BRANCH  
ULYSSES CLUB NEW ZEALAND

# Beavertown SCOOTER RAMBLE

**\$10 per  
scooter**

*Open to 50cc  
and  
stepthrough  
Scooters & 50cc  
Bikes (650  
scooters are OK too)*



MARLBOROUGH BRANCH  
ULYSSES CLUB NEW  
ZEALAND

Early Postal  
Registrations and all  
enquiries to;  
Jeff Champion  
23 Bary Street  
Blenheim 7201

Phone: (03) 577 9399  
E-mail:  
wjbwc@xtra.co.nz

**VENUE:** Moa Brewing Company,  
Jacksons Rd, Blenheim

**DATE:** Saturday 12th February

**REGISTRATIONS;** from 9.30 am at Moa Brewery

**START TIME;** 10.30am

*Join us for a Ramble amongst the  
vines in sunny Marlborough.  
Scoot around the old Hawkesbury  
race track and enjoy a sweet treat  
along the way.*

*Bring your own lunch or  
buy it at the Lunch stop.*

*Visit a bit of Marlborough history and return to the Moa Brewery  
to enjoy a well deserved cold one at the end of the day.*

*The Course will have 3 stops, total distance (approx) 75 kms*



**NB:** All scooters must be roadworthy and meet legal standards for  
road riding. Riders must have current driver/rider licence.

Prior to the start time, all riders will need to fill out a registration  
form, pay \$10 registration fee and ensure scooters are gassed up and  
ready to leave at 10.30am.

## A chance to join other Canterbury Ulyssian on The "World famous Route 66" in the USA 2011

EagleRider's World famous Route 66 motorcycle tour travels the original Route 66, known as the "Mainstreet of America" or "Mother Road", is 2400 miles long from Chicago to Los Angeles, crosses three time zones and 8 States: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California.



Day 1 Chicago Illinois Day 2 Springfield Illinois Day 3 St. Louis, Missouri Day 4 Joplin, Missouri  
Day 5 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Day 6 Amarillo, Texas Day 7 Santa Fe, New Mexico Day 8 Santa Fe, NM  
Day 9 Gallup NM Day 10 Grand Canyon Arizona Day 11 Laughlin, Nevada Day 12 Las Vegas, Nevada  
Day 13 Victorville, CA Day 14 Los Angeles, CA

Cost from only \$5865

### Operates

Departs: On set departure dates: 19 May, 09 Jun, 4 Aug, 08 Sep and 30 Sep 11

### Price:

\$5865.00 per person share twin (two people, one bike, one room)

\$0.00 per person for a single to share room with a friend (two people, two bikes, one room)

\$10,089.00 per person for a single (one person, one bike, one room)

\*\* The above prices are for 19<sup>th</sup> May departure – prices may fluctuate slightly for other departures \*\*

### Includes:

Two Professional Tour Leaders

Support Vehicle equipped with spare bike, first aid kit, drinking water and additional tools

Late Model Harley-Davidson, Honda, BMW, or Triumph motorcycles (on a request basis)

3 and 4 star accommodation, Fuel and Oil, Unlimited Mileage, Eagle Rider Custom Riding Jacket

Pre-Tour Welcome Dinner, Post-Tour Farewell Dinner, Daily Breakfast

Souvenir Quality Road Book, Helmets for driver and passenger (limited)

Transportation between Eagle Rider Location and hotel (after arrangement; restrictions apply for various locations)

Daily Photos and Videos uploaded to Eagle Rider Face book page

National Parks entrance fees, Hotel Parking Fees, Discounted Activities

GPS Unit (depending on availability), One-Way Fees (if applicable), Environmental Recovery Surcharge

Sales Tax, Eagle Rider Gifts and Apparel

### Excludes:

VIP Theft and Damage Walvers

Food, snacks and beverages

Tour Leader Gratuity

Airfare

### Rental Requirements:

21 years of age or older

Valid motorcycle license

Minimum of one year of riding experience on heavyweight motorcycles

Major credit card

Note this is an unofficial version Details need to be verified Contact Grant Sellers # 6768 Ph981 2086 or Direct to

**Rochelle Hannah-Evans at House of Travel** Barnington Ltd PH 3-331-7182



## Calendar of Rides Rallies and Events

**Note** --- unless stated below, ALL rides will leave from **Shell Curletts Road**, or from the **Belfast Hotel (usually known as The Peg)**. Sunday rides leave at **10.30am**, OR as stated below.' **Note** -- RIC = Rider in Charge .... TEC = Tail End Charlie

***Any Time Saturday Mornings 9am-Meet at Dennys for a chat over Coffee/Tea, Breakfast - Stay as long as you want, drop in by car or bike.***

Any time you eat/drink here, say you are from the local Ulysses Branch and you will earn reward points for the Club!

For a full up to date list of future rides and events go to:-

<http://www.ulysses.org.nz/canterbury/>

Date	Event	Remarks+
Sat 22 Jan	Riding Skills Training	0900 hours See Website for details
Sun 23 Jan	Three Gorges Ride	1000 hours at The Peg
Fri 28 to Sun 30 Jan	Woodstock Rally Hokitika West Coast	See website for details
Sat 5 Feb	Riding Skills training	0900 hours See Website for details
Wed 16 Feb	Ulysses Canterbury Branch AGM	Cashmere Club see website for details
Sat 19 Feb	Riding Skills training	0900 hours See Website for details
Sat 25 and Sun 26 Feb	Ulysses Goose Bay 2011 Weekend	See website for details
Sun 27 Feb	Chamberlains Ford	1000 hours at Shell Curletts

If not found, please  
return to  
PO Box 4611,  
Christchurch 8142