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'TINY' TIM STEWART #8959
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the spring edition of your Ulyssian, it's my pleasure to bring you this report on behalf of the National President. I need to learn to sit on my hand and stop waving it in the air, so here we are again.

I was recently invited to join an impromptu meeting of concerned members for lunch in Taupo, the weather was lousy, so I chickened out and went by car, everyone else was far more seasoned than me and went by bike. The meeting was called by members concerned about declining numbers attending rallies, social events and the number of rallies being cancelled.

As always there are plenty of different opinions of how this should be rectified, and agreement isn't 100%, but the consensus was that we would all like things to improve. You can see by reading back through old editions of the Ulyssian and all the articles relating to it that this is an issue Natcom are fully aware of, and are doing their utmost to rectify the problem. As a National Committee we can draw off our collective experience and put things in place or help branches to put things in place for you to participate in, what we can't do is get you out of bed and start your bike to get you there. I'm not trying to sound harsh but a lot of the success of the club is the participation you, as a member, put in. The declining membership is a fact, aging membership is a fact, facts can't be disputed and can't always be changed despite the best intentions. Motivation, well that's a whole different story, that is solely dependent on you. It is what it is, there is no sugar coating for it. We need to make the most of what we have.

The members who attended this meeting are trying to find ways to move the club forward and should be applauded for it.

Having listened to the ideas put forward at this meeting, myself and the Hawkes Bay runs committee have put an event together, again in Taupo. This was chosen as it is central to a few north island branches. We realise this will exclude some branches based

on distance, notwithstanding that, all are invited. It has been kept as a lunch event, so the time commitment is only one day, and the financial commitment is less. The details are further through the Ulyssian. If this is a successful event we are hoping to make it annual, which brings us back to the previous point of motivation, well this event's success depends on you.

As I immerse myself more into the role of VP, I keep coming across pockets of resistance from members who view Natcom with skepticism and mistrust. As I have stated many times I am a fairly short serving member in comparison to the majority, but I found this mistrust to be concerning. The depth of history in the club is immense and I'm not fully conversant in all that has transpired, I rely on my fellow members to educate me on these matters. I realise events for the club have not all been plain sailing, but we need to look forward, a good analogy for a motorbike rider, you go where you look, if we keep looking behind us we are never going to move forward. I look at my fellow Natcom members and I see honourable people, made up of Odyssey medal holders, Life members and dedicated hard working volunteers who care passionately about our club. I personally fail to see why they would be the recipients of such suspicion from such a small minority.

This misplaced mistrust was brought home for me in a recent conversation in which I was informed that "once they see the error of my ways that I would be unemployed" and "the Club could function perfectly well without a National committee". To me this showed a lack of understanding of how the club works more than anything. First thing being that we are all volunteers, and certainly not paid employees. Secondly, I fail to see how a club of this size could function without national representation. You all receive the minutes of Natcom meetings, you can see how much work is done on your behalf, but what concerned me most was the inherited distrust in me from a third party somewhere in history.

Unable to commit these words to the

page any sooner as I was still angry about having my integrity questioned over historical events I had no part in. (Never write articles or emails when you are angry!) Why should I be held accountable for the actions of others, I prefer to be judged by my own actions rather than the actions of others. How about we all look forward? If we look back continually we will fall-off for sure.

As I sit here writing this I'm looking forward to the North Island Remembrance Ride coming up on the 11th of August, by the time you receive this edition the day will have passed. Well done to the team at the Auckland branch for stepping up every year and organizing such an important event. Again, I will probably take the car, as the idea being cold and wet for a whole day does nothing for me. I'm still finding it difficult to find fully waterproof gear for a gentleman of a more generous circumference, my trip down to Mosgiel for the AGM proved that what I have currently just isn't cutting it. Any ideas for a fat bloke who needs to stay dry? All answers appreciated, some of the less serious ones would probably be appreciated more!

Moving on to skinnier subjects, Mike Dew (no seriously) and Jim Furneaux pointed out in the Last Ulyssian that we have funds available from the bike raffle that need to be spent so please keep applying for funding to go towards rider training. We need to spend this money to enable the club to keep running the Annual Bike raffle whilst the money can be used for Ride Forever training, Roadsafes training, the IAM Assessment programme and first aid training, there is plenty to do, so get stuck in. I was lucky enough to meet Jack van der Meer #8753 a few weeks ago, Jack won a BMW F800GT in this year's raffle and he is still smiling about it. Long may it continue.

That's it for this one, keep looking forward and remember, you never see a motorbike parked outside a psychiatrist's office.

Cheers Tiny #8959
National Vice President
The Ulysses Club of NZ Inc.

PAUL LANCE ULYSSIAN EDITOR EDITORIAL

**Last day for
submissions for
the next Ulyssian
magazine is
November 10,
2018.**



Yep, it's the spring issue of the Ulyssian which surely must mean that sunnier days and warmer temps are just around the corner... please! After what was apparently the warmest summer on record since, well, a long time ago, this has to have been a statistically monumental winter. It never seems to have stopped raining here in Paeroa, requiring a certain amount of dedication to kit up and head out on the bike.

Still, it's good to see that hasn't stopped many intrepid Ulyssians, with plenty of articles received this month of members out riding around our beautiful country.

Pick your time, plan your route and get your gear right and a winter's ride can be the best, thanks to less tourists clogging the roads and taking up the accommodation.

Still, it seems increasingly popular for riders to head overseas in the 'off' season, as they figure why put up with NZ's dreary weather and treacherous roads over winter when you can experience different cultures, climates and, most importantly, corners. And with a vast and varied selection of Kiwi tour companies offering overseas experiences, you can find a ride in almost any area of the globe that takes your fancy.

For some riders though, the challenge of riding in winter is all part of the appeal. Checking out the pictures of the Brass Monkey supplied by Ulysses President, Mike Dew, the prospect of huddling in a tent and waking to find ice on the saddle isn't my idea of fun. But for many, it's all part of the adventure.

And that's it, isn't it. Whether your riding consists of a cruise for a coffee or a lap of the globe, it's all an adventure. And life is always better when you're riding a bike. As John Sinclair put it, "Get on with riding or get on with dying."

See you out there.

Paul

NEW MEMBERS

Membership Number	First Name	Surname	Branch	Membership Number	First Name	Surname	Branch
9842	Sonia	Foote	AUCKLAND	9825	Romain	Martin	NELSON
9841	Steve	Crow	AUCKLAND	9824	Clifford	Garside	AUCKLAND
9840	Jacqui	Phillips	PALMERSTON NTH	9823	Varian	Wilson	AUCKLAND
9839	Chris	Phillips	PALMERSTON NTH	9822	Debbie	Martin	ROTORUA
9838	Mathias	van Geneygen	HAMILTON	9821	Norm	Martin	ROTORUA
9837	Robert	Moss	BLENHEIM	9820	Tracey	Hayman	ROTORUA
9836	Patricia	Windle	INVERCARGILL	9819	Brian	Hayman	ROTORUA
9835	Graham	Vincent	TAURANGA	9818	Steve	Crabtree	WELLINGTON
9834	Tim	Coopey	AUCKLAND	9817	Patrick	Walsh	AUCKLAND
9833	Peter	Wooller	AUCKLAND	9816	Philip	Crabtree	WELLINGTON
9832	Jim	Webster	HASTINGS	9815	Yvonne	Collins	NELSON
9831	Marion	Flynn	ROTORUA	9814	Russell	Johnson	NELSON
9830	James	Flynn	ROTORUA	9813	John	McLean	NELSON
9829	Rowena	Goddard	UPPER HUTT	9812	Stephen	Rogers	GISBORNE
9828	John	Goddard	UPPER HUTT	9810	Phil	Ness	TURANGI
9827	Kevin	Wells	NELSON	9809	Richard	Bleakley	WHANGAREI
9826	Russell	Martin	NELSON	9808	Andre	Pieterse	HAMILTON

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	15-Aug-17	14-Nov-17	11-Feb-18	10-May-18	Aug-18
Newest Member	9690	9728	9763	9807	9840
Current Members	2614	2656	2385	2446	2477
Lapsed Members	6012	6005	6211		
Resigned Members	667	668	763		
Deceased Members	426	429	436		
Life Members	15	15	15	15	15
Deceased Life members	5	5	5	5	5
Odyssey Medal Holders	27	27	27	30	30
Ulyssian Receivers	2459	2496	2239	2406	2438
NZ Directory Members	2183	2216	2003	2045	2074
Couples Sharing Ulyssian	128	130	116	118	130
Overseas members	15	15	9	9	9
Average Age					63.6
Average Membership Duration					11.5 years

This month's issue of the Ulyssian will be the first to be distributed electronically only to those members who have advised an e-mail address. Of these members who do have an e-mail address and have requested a hard copy magazine, and for all those who do not have an e-mail address, your magazine will be posted to you directly.

Only a limited number of magazines will be printed to keep costs down, so if you still wish to continue to receive hard copy magazines I need to hear from you before the December issue. Please remember, should you choose this option, your subscription payment will be \$10 more per year. i.e. one year \$50, three years \$130.00.

Subscription renewals will be sent either electronically or by snail mail in September.

Rates for subscription renewals are:

No hard copy Ulyssian Magazine

Single One Year	\$40.00
Single Three Years	\$100.00
Joint One Year	\$36.00
Joint Three Years	\$90.00

Hard Copy Ulyssian Magazine

Single One Year	\$50.00
Single Three Years	\$130.00
Joint One Year	\$46.00
Joint Three Years	\$120.00

Overseas subscriptions incur additional postage charges. i.e. One year \$90.00, Three years \$210.00.

A further \$10 late fee will be added to all subscriptions if payment is not received within one month of your membership expiring. E.g. January 2019.

Within approximately 2 weeks of renewing your membership, you will receive an updated membership card, this is not only acknowledgment of your renewal, but the only receipt of payment, so it is important that you advise me, after you have renewed, if you do not receive your updated card within a reasonable timeframe. Our card suppliers do close between Christmas and new year; therefore, this timeframe may increase.

Gear sales

I still have a very small number of the 30-year anniversary polo shirts. Sizes XL x 2, Size 2XL x 3, Size 3XL x 5. These are \$30 each, however not available for purchase online, so be in quick. Talk soon...

Debby National Administrator

RIDE the EASTERN SEABOARD of the USA

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Experience the Jazz of New Orleans, the Space Museum at Cape Canaveral, the museums and memorials in Washington DC, Broadway in New York, Country & Western music in Nashville and the Mississippi/Delta Blues in Memphis. We will also visit Boston, Niagara Falls, Gettysburg, Gracelands and much more. Ride the 'Tail of the Dragon', a legendary ride in the Smoky Mountains and be wowed by the autumn colours in Blue Ridge Parkway.



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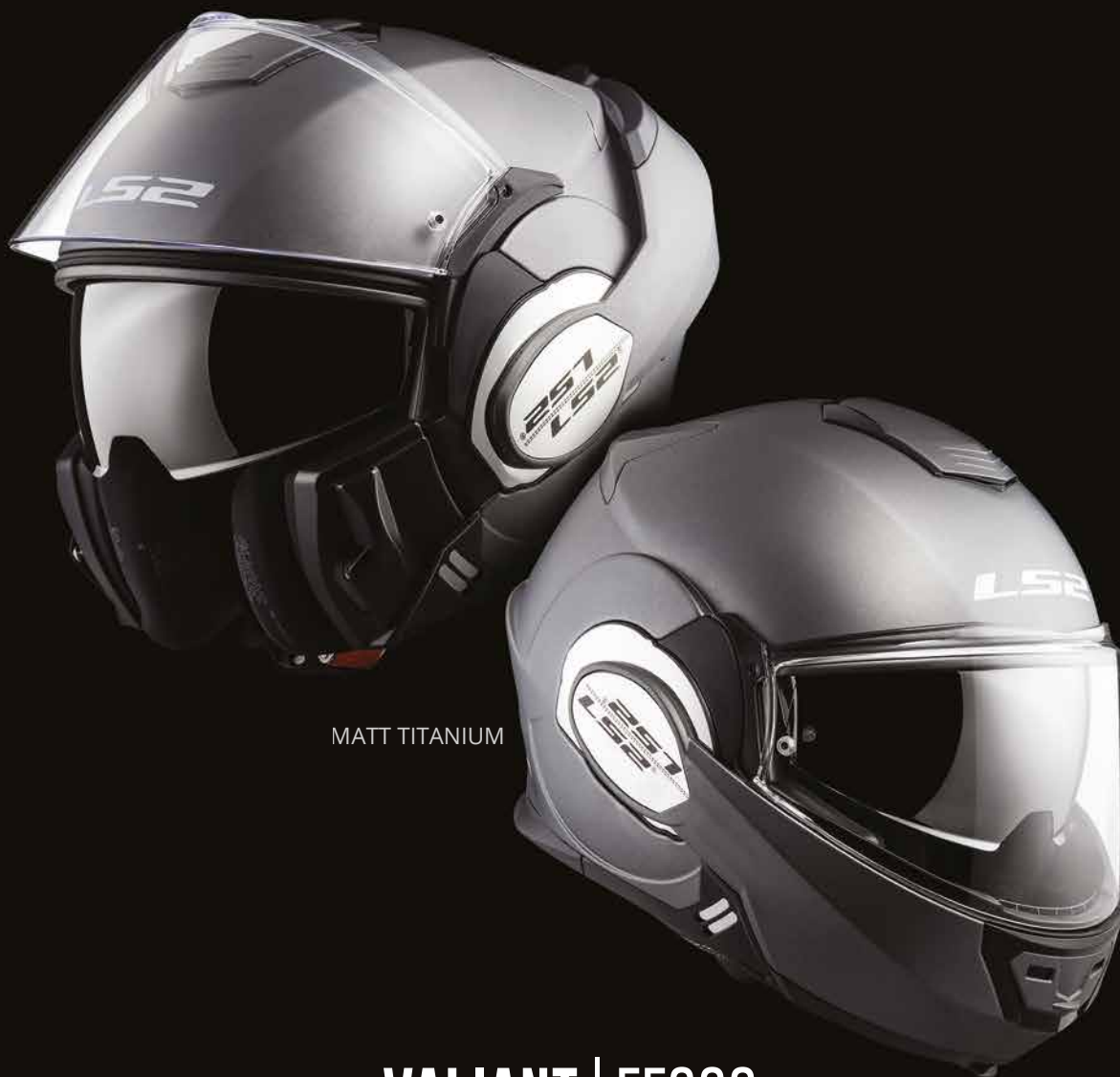
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SECRETARY'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

2019 National Rally and AGM

Planning for the 29-31st March AGM in Hastings is well underway and many members have beds booked already. All the info you need is in this month's Ulyssian. Also, think about taking the opportunity to be more hands-on running the Club; stand for National Committee (ALL positions are open for nominations each year). To be eligible, you need to be nominated and seconded; start discussions with your Branch members now and feel free to contact members of Natcom for further info and advice. More on the AGM, registration and nomination forms etc. elsewhere in this Ulyssian.

Odyssey Medal Awards

You have until early January 2019 to nominate Club members for this valued award. Now is the time to begin thinking about who in your branch would be a

worthy nominee. Check the detailed criteria for Odyssey Medal eligibility elsewhere in this Ulyssian.

Remits for Changes to Rules

Club Rules are available via the 'Links' page on the national website. Rules out of date? Too complex? No longer relevant? – if you have any ideas on how to change the rules of the Ulysses Club of NZ Inc. Remits must be submitted to the National Secretary by November 10th 2018 for publication in the December Ulyssian. Contact details are near the front of this magazine.

Club emails

I continue to push, cajole, gently persuade and otherwise drag Branch Officers into the 21st century, and some progress is being made. There are still several Coordinators and Branch

Secretaries who do not use their @ulysses.org.nz email addresses regularly, or even at all in a few cases. I will contact the offenders directly and resist naming and shaming on these pages. My aim is to streamline communication and continue to build links between the branches which make up our Club. G Suite (as the non-profit Gmail service is now called), allows a lot more than just email, but getting everyone using that regularly is the first step!

In other matters, I'm looking forward to ripping up a few gravel roads on my bike as spring weather arrives – it's been bloody wet here, not like West Coast winters used to be. Ride safe, and remember to take it easy on those first few rides if you've been 'resting' over winter.

Pete Graham #8196

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

I am providing this brief update on the financial position of the club for our first 6 months of 2018.

The unaudited accounts for the 6 months to 30 June 2018 show a loss of \$6,455. This is after taking account of the full costs of the Database development (\$3,400) and the fact that we had a full print run of the June Ulyssian at a cost of \$8,249.

For the full year to 31 December 2018, I estimate that we should record a surplus of approximately \$2,500 which will be a vast improvement on the loss for the 2017 year of \$21,610.

Much of this turnaround is as a result of not holding a co-ordinators meeting in September and savings resulting from the majority of members no longer wanting a print copy of the Ulyssian.

Natcom also continues to look at how its operating costs can be reduced.

Membership:

Membership subscriptions received for this year of \$74,960 are slightly ahead of last year. This is partly due to the increase in annual subscriptions and partly due to new member's offsetting those who have left the club. Joining fees are consistent with those received to date last year.

Gear Sales: The quarter master and Natcom are continuing to work on stocking a range of gear which is of interest to our members. Gear sales revenue to 30 June sits at \$6,010 and is also up on last year.

National Rally: The Otago Branch held a successful National Rally this year in Mosgiel which was enjoyed by all attendees. The event was also financially successful resulting in a \$727 contribution to the AGM equalisation fund.

Database: The new database is up and running. This year the club incurred a one-off development cost of \$3,400 in respect of the new database.

Magazine: Reference has previously been made to the issues surrounding the club magazine, "The Ulyssian". It is pleasing to see the significant uptake by members to only receive the Ulyssian in electronic format. This will assist with our financial viability and also maintain our subscriptions at the current levels.

As usual, if any member requires further information on any matters raised above, please feel free to contact me.

Stuart (Smokey) Burns #3703

National Treasurer

FROM THE NATIONAL QUARTERMASTER, AUGUST 2018.

Spring is not far away and by now you will be sorting your riding gear in readiness for the summer riding season. Check out the gear we have for sale on the National website – select items with our Ulysses Old Man Logo and wear them with pride.

The new lightweight neck warmers are selling well, they will make a great addition to your summer riding gear. To avoid the \$6.95 p&p on these, order them direct from Debby rather than online. PLEASE NOTE; this concession is only in respect of these neck warmers.

Also, a reminder that you need to get permission from NATCOM to use or reproduce the Old Man Logo. We need to see a mock-up of the 'proposed use' and a final impression before you get it produced. Recent applications have been for a Birthday cake, a Branch business card and promo posters for an upcoming fundraising ride. Thanks for your cooperation with this, it's important.

Jane Laing #6361

NOTICE OF AGM

LIFE AND ODYSSEY MEDAL NOMINATIONS RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE CLUB

Life Membership

Ulysses Club rules state that there should be a maximum of fifteen (15) living Life Members (Rule 2.6.1(h)). At present we have a full complement, so nominations for Life Membership cannot currently be accepted.

Odyssey Medal

An Odyssey Medal nominee must be a member who is not already a Life Member and has been a continuous financial member for at least ten years and given valued and meritorious service to the Club, particularly at Branch level.

Any Branch wishing to nominate a member shall give notice in writing in the prescribed form to the National Secretary not less than 90 days before the date of

the Club Annual General Meeting.

The election of an Odyssey Medal recipient will be discussed and voted upon at the Coordinators' Annual General Meeting. Nominations will be confidential and will not be disclosed prior to the Coordinators' Annual General Meeting.

To be successful, the nomination must be supported by not less than 80% of the Coordinators and National Committee members present.

The vote will be by secret ballot.

Nominations are restricted to one per Branch per annum.

Awards are restricted to a maximum of four per annum.

All nominations for this honour must come from the Branch Secretary and Coordinator and MUST be accompanied by:

- Nomination form (available on the Links page of the national website)
- A detailed justification setting out why it is believed that the nominee deserves the honour
- A photograph of the nominee.

In addition to this, the proposing Branch must be able to send someone (preferably not the current Coordinator) to address the Coordinator's meeting held the afternoon before the AGM in support of the nomination.

All nominations for an Odyssey medal are to be sent to the **National Secretary, The Ulysses Club of NZ Inc., P O Box 40218, Upper Hutt 5140**, postmarked no later than Monday, 14th January 2019.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ULYSSES CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 30th March 2019 commencing at 10.00am at Club Hastings, 308 Victoria St, Hastings.

In addition to the normal business of the AGM, the meeting will elect the National

Committee members for 2019-2020.

Nominations are invited for all positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Committee members).

These are to be sent to the **National Secretary,**

The Ulysses Club of NZ Inc., PO Box 40218, Upper Hutt 5140 and must be postmarked no later than Friday 2nd November 2018.

Please use the form below.
Please print this form.

NOMINATION FORM FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS 2019/2020

Name _____ Ulysses Number _____

Position _____

Nominator _____ Ulysses Number _____

Seconded _____ Ulysses Number _____

Nominees Consent Signature _____



Ulysses Club 2019 National Rally

Hosted by the Hawke's Bay Branch in Hastings, Hawkes Bay

Friday 29th – Sunday 31st March 2019



Venue; Clubs Hastings - 308 Victoria Street, Hastings 4122 Registration: - From 1PM Friday 29th Saturday Night Theme is:- "Last of the Summer Whine" Wear your flat cap, scruffy suit, baggy stockings, pinny, fish net stockings, mini skirt, frock or best suit and come as Clegg, Compo, Nora Batty, Foggy, Truly, Pearl, Marina or Howard etc. "The even'n be champion, plenty o chelpin, tha nite go-off chuffin well".

Name: _____ Ulysses Membership: # _____

Tick if Coordinator ☐ and/or NatCom member ☐

Partner Name: _____ Ulysses Membership: # _____

Tick if Coordinator ☐ and/or NatCom member ☐ and / or non Member ☐

email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Branch: _____

Registrations will be acknowledged by email.

For any queries, please email;

ulysses2019@gmail.com

More info at; www.ulysses.org.nz

Options and Payment	Number	per Person	Amount
National Rally / AGM Registration Fee		@ \$20	
Special Package deal: BOTH BADGES		@ \$16	
Local Hawke's Bay Badge x 1		@ \$10	
National 2019 Rally Badge x 1		@ \$10	
Friday Evening/M meal/Social/Games (Bar Open 4pm, Food 6:30pm) Lamb Shank on mash with vegetables and a jus.		@ \$18	
Saturday Evening/Full Buffet Meal/Dancing/Fun Bar open 5pm		@ \$35	
Saturday Evening/M meal/Dancing Non-Member attend only		@ \$45	
Sunday Breakfast full cooked (Member) (Natcom subsidised \$10)		@ \$10	
Sunday Breakfast full cooked (Non-Member)		@ \$20	
Rally T Shirt Active Wear – circle your choice			
Men S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL		@ \$22	
Woman 8 10 12 14 16 18 20		@ \$22	

	TOTAL add total here \$	
--	-------------------------	--

Please detail any dietary requirements;

Please tick ☐ I registered online at; www.ulysses.org.nz/2019-agm-registration

CUT OFF DATE

28th February 2019

With ☐ Payment by online banking into account 03-1517-0006290-002
(Please include Membership number and surname)

OR ☐ Scan and email registration to ulysses2019@gmail.com
WITH Payment by online banking into account 03-1517-0006290-002

OR ☐ POST completed form to: ULYSSES Hawke's Bay Branch, 61 Algernon Road RD2 Hastings 4172
WITH Payment by Cheque Payable To; Ulysses Club Hawkes Bay Branch

Please Note; Non-Members ONLY attending Saturday evening function and only paying \$45, are not entitled to attend the Friday function.

AUCKLAND'S ANSWER

Hi all, from the big smoke.

The Auckland branch is ticking along nicely and we have had some great rides, coffee, conversations and general socialising. It is good to see members participating in these activities. We recently had the North Island remembrance weekend in Taupo and the numbers attending were better than last year and the weather all weekend was fantastic so the event was a great success.



These events do not happen by themselves, I was very lucky to be surrounded by a fantastic bunch of people who helped bring the whole thing together. So, a big thank you goes out to the following. The Auckland committee who worked brilliantly as a team to make sure all tasks were done in a timely manner, the badge sellers Kevin & Lynne Piper and Bret & Mell Kennedy. Val Ottaway did a fantastic job of conducting the service as did the readers of names from the book, Brian Clearkin, Peggy O'Neal, Nick Grbin, Wayne Painter, Bill Keesing, John Busby and Mike Shaw.

Reading of the names is not an easy task when you consider they are reading the names of some old and dear friends. The piper this year was Eric Foley and again a job very well done. This year we chose one of our older members and a grandson of a member to carry the books in. Thank you, John de Lautour and Aden Deadman. I must also say thank you to Rick Kosterman (Taupo coordinator) and his team for organizing the ride in from Rotorua and the Saturday night entertainment, a good time was had by all who attended.

This year was my 26th remembrance and for me it is a weekend that is not to be missed, it is not only a time to reflect on the good times I have had with mates that have gone before me but also a time to catch up with friends, some of whom I only see once a year. I think the whole spirit of the weekend was summed up by one of our newest members. He did not know any of the people attached to the names that were read out, but was so moved by the whole experience that he hopes he can return year after year. If you have never done a remembrance run I suggest you do and as for the rest of you that attend annually I will see you next year.

Cheers

Clive Thomas # 2383
Auckland President

BULLER BANTER

It's not that we don't or won't ride in the rain, but we prefer to avoid it. With 270mm of rainfall in Westport for July, there was limited participation on planned rides. Small groups managed to get out on odd occasions.

I rode to Nelson on 22nd of June for a course and froze my (man) tits off.

A group rode to Punakaiki on the 12th of July. I couldn't go on that one because of a small, but sharp stone found in my new back tyre when I got my bike out.

Two of us (small group) went to Berlins last weekend, a nice, short ride.

We had a well-attended mid-winter social get-together on the 21st of July.

Cheers Rex

CANTERBURY TAILS

With the South Island Remembrance Service over for another year, I would like to thank your branch committee and the non-committee members of the branch who helped on the day, with a special thank you to Russell and Pat for all their work on the presentation. Yes I believe it was a great success, we will need to tweak a few things but overall the venue works well. I would have liked to see more members from around the South Island branches attending but I learnt a long time ago, we don't always get what we want. We even had a couple of visitors down from the North Island.

Just a personal point here; after discussions at the last Coordinator's meeting and feedback from some members on how long it was taking to read the names, it was agreed we would only read the numbers and the names without any comments from the readers, even if they had something extra or personal to add. It felt very impersonal and cool. It was missing that little bit of humour that I believe is important on these occasions.

By the time you read this we will have handed over the St John money raised on ANZAC Day. The branch and all the supporters; both those supplying raffle prizes and the riders (that are not club members) raised \$5000.00 after costs, a great effort by a good team.

Blue September is fast approaching. Have you got the 9th of September marked up on the calendar? Bikers in Blue is run over a small number of areas throughout the country, if you would like to run a local ride for this great cause, go to bikersinblue.org.nz and make contact.

Another date for those in the Canterbury area is the Kick Start (replaces the Bikers Breakfast) on the 22nd September, at the Mike Pero Motorsport Park (Ruapuna). There will be more on this as time goes on, watch Facebook etc.

August was a great time to do an ACC Ride Forever course. Did you do one? Probably not, Why?

We have a couple of fun rides coming up, and what's important here is that anyone who rides a motorcycle is welcome to join us on these. The Helicopter Hunt is all go and Bruce has things ready. Check the website and ads for details.

We presented the money raised last time around to the Maia Health Foundation to help with the helipad on top of the new Acute Services Building at Christchurch Hospital. It will now be able to handle two choppers at once. The other is the 1000k, with it various routes and offers of a ride to remember. Look for the ads and again check out the Branch website for entries.

As usual we have plenty of rides and activities planned and most of these are on the branch website and listed in the newsletters. We have a weekend planned for Kopara over Labour Weekend with the option of attending the Greymouth Street Races, due to limited numbers, early booking is essential. Another one to note will be the Christmas party, and due to limited seating, I would suggest you book early.

I am sure that there are plenty of us planning to attend the National Rally and AGM in Hastings in 2019. If you have never attended an AGM now might be the time.

On a final note, our branch turns 30 in September, so Happy Birthday to us.

I am sure I have missed plenty, so check out the website and follow us on facebook for up-to-date information.

Stay upright,
Steve Orpwood #2119
Canterbury Coordinator.

FAR NORTH FROLIX,

Is it time to do another report already?

Okay then, where do I start? We've been busy beavers up here in the winterless North. We had a well-attended Mid-Year Christmas at the Waipu RSA. Thanks to Mike Angelo for organising this. It brought a lot of ladies out of the woodwork which just goes to show that if ya put on suitable activities, they will show up.

Same with the monthly Friday-night get-togethers at a bar/restaurant. We get 'lotsa ladies' turning up, so there's an idea for some of you maybe...

Anne Grbin utilised the Shackleton Sea Scout Den (being a Leader there) as one of our lunch venues on a Sunday ride.

Soup, sausages and banana pikelets were supplied. Yum!

Thanks to Peter Groves for knowing Graham Crosby (from when they worked together in Auckland way-back-when). We visited his motorcycling workshop/rebuilding enterprise at Omaha on another Sunday ride. What an amazing set-up he's got there, restoring the 1970's Kawasakis. A once in a lifetime chance to meet a great World Motorcycle Champion.

We've done 'udder' things but that gives you an idea of what we've been up to.

Remember that if you're up our way we always have a ride leaving Burger King (where I get a free coffee on the Gold Card) every Sunday departing 10.30am We'd love to see you.

See you at our upcoming Rally in September.

Nikoff #1688

IN THE WILDS OF GISBORNE

Well, our 'wet and wild' winter weather has slowed the riding down for sure! Queen's Birthday weekend dawned, and was very wet. But we had a display at a 'local charity' bike show to set up. Six very wet bikes turned out for it, but many towels later, all bikes where sparkling again.

A popular drawcard to our stand were the Yummy chocolate cupcakes (I know hairy biker material!) What an amazing collection of bikes that came out to support a worthy cause.

Some of our branch had a weekend away to Whakatane and Tauranga, which proved costly for one rider, who came home with a brand new bike. I can highly

recommend the Chinese Takeaway at Awakeri (if you are ever in that area).

Rides to Tolaga Bay and 287 café Wairoa, have been enjoyed by all. Making the most of our beautiful days.

A Mid-Winter Xmas gathering (in a draughty shed), was an excellent evening. We have impressive gourmet cooks within the Branch.

I am enjoying a coffee in the sun as I write this, and trying to rescue my gumboot from the pup! Lucky it's not him in the shed bike boots!

Happy Riding
Chrissy #5993
Gisborne Branch President



Pup has found something savoury to chew

Charity Bike show



HAWKES BAY HAPPENINGS

Hi all, from sunny Hawkes Bay.

It's been a busy couple of months since the last Ulyssian. The highlights for me being the Brain Injury Trust ride and a 'trip' to see the Bike Show in Palmerston North. I say 'trip' because I cheated and took the car. Apparently you can't bring home shopping on a bike! (According to my wife). Anyway, the Brain Injury Trust ride to Patangata Pub raised \$310.00. Thanks to our riders, the manager of the pub and a few extra patrons.

Apart from those two rides, we have been on some shorter rides, with good turnouts of around a dozen members. A couple of rides had to be cancelled due to other more interesting venues and trips appearing on the calendar (like the Palmy Bike Show trip). We have the remembrance ride to Taupo coming up this weekend and The National Daffodil Rally for Cancer on the 26th August.

There is also the Fellowship Run to Taupo on September 23rd. This was initiated by Colin Kepple of our Tauranga branch and followed up by Tiny from Hawkes Bay. Its intent is to bring about more social interaction between branches. I think most of the branches in the North Island were invited, so we're hoping for a good turnout.

Preparations for the National AGM Rally are coming along, with a great venue and entertainment having been organised. We hope to see many of you there.

Cheers, Barry Robertson #8175

KAPITI CAPERS

Greetings all,

A relatively mild winter in our neck of the woods this year. We kicked off the season with a ride across the Rimutaka's to Lake Ferry for lunch. Fantastic weather and good company made for a great day out with many more to come.

At a branch meeting, on the 6th of June, Richard Schimpf (Rick) gave a presentation on his motor scooter journey of the Mae Hong Son Loop in Northern Thailand. A very interesting presentation, worthy of an article in itself, with some insightful travel tricks and tips gleaned from Rick's experiences. Thanks Rick for an entertaining and insightful look into your journey of the Mae Hong Son Loop. It's on the bucket list.

It was my pleasure to present Les Jury with a 20-year membership badge



Lake Ferry

Les Jury



at a coffee morning on the 16th of June. Congratulations Les and may the next 20 years be fulfilled by just as many disgraceful experiences as the first. Our coffee mornings remain a popular activity in winter so we have increased the frequency and varied the venue for these events to compensate for the reduction in rides over the winter months.

The mid-winter lunch, on the 15th of July, was held at the Fisherman's Table in Paekakariki with an impressive turnout from branch members and their families. The restaurant is an inexpensive option, situated on SH1 South of Paikakariki, and worth a visit for those passing through. Thanks to Jolene McPhee for making the arrangements on behalf of the committee.

A note to club members that we have advertised dates, times and meeting locations for events through our new website at www.kapitiulysses.com. You are welcome to catch up with us when passing through the Kapiti Coast (no passport required).

Finally, thanks to the new committee for all your efforts during what has been a reasonably busy period of change and to the branch membership for your continued support.

Ride safe.

Tony R #9172
Kapiti Coordinator

MANAWATU MURMURS

Apologies for the lack of an article from the Manawatu in the last Ulyssian. It was submitted on time, but a glitch in the system meant it did not make the Magazine.

The recent weather is a real mixed bag, with a fair bit of rain and wind (nothing new for the Manawatu). The occasional fine days are still providing opportunities to get out and enjoy some great riding.

The May club ride was around the Pohangina Valley, with lunch at the Apiti Tavern. The group departed from Ashhurst and made the most of the sunshine, despite the damp roads and liberal clumps of mud coming out of farm gates. Our group were joined by some members of the Manawatu branch of the Italian Motorcycle Owners Club. They were a great addition to the ride and fitted right in. The hospitality at Apiti was up to its usual high standard and after suitable refreshments everyone made their own way home.

The June ride was a run to Paraparaumu Beach for lunch. This seems like a fairly basic ride until you realised that Des on his Harley was taking a route that maximised back roads. It took 3 hours to complete the very interesting journey (you would normally do in half the time). The lunch stop was in a cafe at the beach. I cannot remember who chose it, but we had a great time with tasty food, helpful staff and lots of laughs. The trip home was a little more direct, but still enjoyable despite the traffic.

The July ride saw 10 bikes head to the scenic highlights of Mangaweka, via Kimbolton and Rangiwhia. Lunch was held outdoors at the Papa Cliff Cafe. Two intrepid souls decided to have the "Man" burger. This was a seriously large creation and they had to confirm they were man enough to eat it before it was served.

Bruce Ebbett lead the ride which included a side trip to an old hydro dam and power station site near Utiku. The group returned via Ohingaiti with refreshments at the Cheltenham Hotel.

On the social front the main event was our mid-winter dinner, held this year at Aqaba in Palmerston North. Around 34 people attended for a fun night of food and chatting. Initially it looked like there was not enough room, but all found a seat at the table and had a great time.

Our coffee mornings have been well supported and enjoyed by members and their partners. These are now so popular we are having issues finding venues that will accommodate around 25 people for coffee or brunch on a Saturday morning. This is a good problem to have.

The weather is changing and the days getting longer. We have a full calendar of events planned through to Xmas and beyond. We are looking forward to our branches' 4 Points Rally in October. I hope to see plenty of Ulyssians on the road during this popular bi-annual event.

Murray Cross #7908

Manawatu Co-Ordinator



Murray Cross South Island trip

Manawatu ride to Castlepoint



MARLBOROUGH MUSINGS

Greetings from the Marlborough Branch, While our Leader Kelvin and his wife Julia are enjoying warmer temperatures in Canada, he has asked me to bring you news from the gateway to the Top of the South for this month.

Things are ticking over nicely here, our Retreads riders have continued their Thursday rides throughout winter with good attendances of 20-30 riders. The social nature of these shorter winter rides means that even riders who have their rego's on hold over the winter months can still attend in their tin-tops. In the summer months they will venture a bit further. It's interesting to note that we are still attracting new members and mostly they are in this older, retired age group wanting to join these Thursday rides. This is food for thought, isn't this what Old Number 1, Steve Dearnely envisaged when he set up the Ulysses Club? Read the history and see what you think.

Sunday rides seem to have the same smaller group of 6-10 riders each week (depending on the weather), monthly Club night dinners are well attended, as are our Saturday coffee mornings. 70+ members enjoyed our mid-year dinner at the Clubs of Marlborough, it was great to see so many service badges presented. Gisela Schulze won the John Mears mileage trophy and Kelvin Watson was presented with our 'Hip to be Disgraceful' trophy for being our most disgraceful member in the past 12 months (You'll have to ask Kelvin what he did to win that), nice one Leader!

We had an impressive display of Ulysses Bikes at a recent Mitre 10 Mega Dads 'Lads and Lasses' evening, Thanks to the folk who bought their bikes



Kelvin Watson, Hip to be Disgraceful trophy



Retreads riders heading off for a winter Thursday ride

along. With the spring riding season just around the corner, our calendar is filling up fast. Our annual double overnigher to Pohara Beach is a weekend many of our members look forward to and Murray Brooks is organising a Branch 'Memorial Gathering' at our very own garden with commemorative rock, plaque and seat gifted to us by the Marlborough District council on the occasion of our 25th birthday. It's also our 30th birthday this year, so we will have a birthday celebration to look forward to in November.

If you're passing through Blenheim on your way to catch the ferry give us a call, as it's always good to welcome fellow Ulyssians from other parts of the country. Check out our website under 'what's on' and join us for one of our rides or events. In the meantime, check over your gear and polish up the bike, summer is just around the corner. Can't wait!

Jane Laing #6361

Marlborough Branch Committee member.

NELSON NIBBLINGS

Hello from Sunny Nelson,
We have been busy with rides every Sunday and Wednesday, coffee mornings every Saturday, social nights once a month, plus one special event that we ran one Sunday instead of a ride. This was a luncheon to celebrate 30 years of Ulysses.

We have five, 30-year members in our branch one of whom is Barry Hamilton #3, Ulysses NZ's lowest numbered member, as well as many 20 and 25-year members.

So, this called for a big celebration, where we awarded service badges for our 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year members.

We had a couple of beautiful hand-crafted raffles that were made by two of our talented committee members, and we also awarded an Outstanding Service to the Branch award to Dereck OBeirne

The 30-year badges were awarded to:

Barry Hamilton #3
Robert Gall #127
Claire Newton #128
Mike McKone #140

*The fifth member does not consider he is part of our branch so opted to not receive a badge.

Another initiative we have re-established is our good relationship we once had with our local suppliers of all things motorcycle related.

One of our local suppliers was quick off the mark by organising a special Saturday coffee and biscuits morning for 'Ulysses only' where they provided us with some very attractive incentives to shop. Giving us a large discount off gear until the end of the year plus, a hard to ignore, tyre incentive as well.

On top of that, for every \$100 any of us spend on gear for the next 2 months our name goes in the draw for a new Shoei Air-GT Helmet.

This will apply to our nearest neighbours

of Buller and Marlborough as well.

The main requirement from us is to produce our Ulysses membership card so they can check it is not out of date.

I have just got back from the South Island Ulysses Remembrance Run held in Christchurch and run by the Canterbury Branch. I must compliment them on choosing a great venue with plenty of room to expand and how well it was run. Thanks heaps Steve and committee.

Just one small criticism I, and other members of our branch had, was that we do not agree with the scrapping of the

personal comments about some of the more prominent members. I know that this was a National Committee directive and even though the actual reading out of the names gets longer every year I think we still need to mention any memories we have about some of these great people. For those of us with lower numbers that read out the names, we have a very personal connection to a lot of these members and would like to personalise this process more, as we have done in the past. It does not have to be a long drawn out spiel.

I, for one, would like to be able to acknowledge some of the awesome iconic characters that I partied hard with, especially at the early Okataina rallies. Plus mention some of the disgraceful behaviours they got up to.

Lorraine Lindsay #1117



Nelson Anniversary Lunch, 30 year badges presented to Clair Newcombe (#129 on left) and Robert Gall (#128) on right)



Nelson Anniversary Lunch, 30 year badge presented to Mike McKone (#140)



Nelson anniversary lunch Branch Service Trophy awarded to Derek O'Beirne



Nelson Anniversary Lunch, 30 year badge presented to guest of honour, Barry Hamilton (#3)

WHANGANUI NITTY GRITTY

Hi All,

In Whanganui, the last few weeks have been good, the weather has been kind and we've been out and about a few times, both weekends and mid-week.

By the time you read this, the Remembrance Ride and Service has gone. A few of us have been attending, some stayed overnight, others did ride back home. Shortly we'll be off to the Fellowship Ride in Taupo and it will be nice to catch up with mates from other branches again. Further rides are planned to Mangatainoka (the Tui bike show) and to Taumarunui.

The Mid-Week Rides are not on our Runs list, most of them are (decide on the day before), short to medium rides and someone will email or text and see if people are interested. Pity if you're still working, you'll miss out.

With the RSA and Cossie Club amalgamating, we have changed our meeting venue to the Cossie Club in Ridgway Street. Even the name will change later to Club Metro. At the moment, we'll stay on the 1st Thursday of the month.

I finally got the all-clear from my doctor, so I'll be off to see Mum for her 98th birthday. I will be away probably from Mid-September till Mid-November, back just in time for the Tri-Series. The Branch will be in capable hands of Rod and Rob. I'll just miss our Toy Run (17th Nov) but you all feel free to come over and join us.

A bit further away are the Boxing Day

Races and somewhere in this issue you'll see our Parking Ad for Boxing Day, start thinking about coming over. There's cheap secure parking and nice viewing from our stand on Taupo Quay.

That's it for now; hope BRM doesn't forget it this time.

Ride Safe and Keep Warm
Cheers..... Piet #1255

NORTH HARBOUR NEWS

Our branch continues to welcome new members although at a slower pace over the winter months. We are getting a steady turnout for our rides although our Wednesday ride seems to have more



than the weekend rides. A few of our members also go to the Auckland Branch Tuesday ride which is also well attended. Over the winter months members seem to want to do a shorter ride to allow them some family time in the afternoon especially on a Sunday when the grandchildren/great grandchildren arrive for a visit. The older we get the more we cherish these moments.

I thought our Mid-Winter Social was not going to be on, as many of our regulars had other important family things organised, however with the support of the 'Usual Suspects' and others from the Auckland Branch we ended up with 50+ members & partners dancing the night away to the music of 'Ran for Cover' a 6 piece band led by 'Griff' one of our branch members. Although the cost blew our budget, the branch subsidised the night through raffle funds and fines raised by Peter Webb our very able sheriff. 'Ran For Cover' will again play for us at our Xmas Breakup Social, I advise Branch members to order tickets early as this is a very popular night and tickets are limited to 100 people due to venue size.

November 11th is the date for our Ronald McDonald House Charity Ride which will again leave from the Bar Africa, 1 William Pickering Drive, Albany. As per last year registrations will be open and a cooked breakfast will be on from 9.00am, we appreciate the support from other branches and you are welcome to bring your 'Non Ulysses' mates along.

Once again Heritage Hotels will be giving away nine weekend's accommodation at any of their hotels and there will be prizes from our other sponsors.

Don't forget if you are coming to our area check out our website for club night, dinner night and rides. www.ulyssesnorthharbour.org.nz or give me a call, we're a friendly bunch so come and enjoy our hospitality.

L. Wayne Painter #1756NZ
North Harbour Branch President

NORTH OTAGO NUTS AND BOLTS

Hi there, from North Otago. I recall some time ago in our Branch news, I mentioned about the good weather we experience here in North Otago. Murphy must have thought I needed a lesson because the weather

lately has certainly interfered with our riding plans. But it is winter and it is improving, so we will hopefully be on our bikes more often in the future. We held a very successful St Johns charity ride recently, and we are planning a few more events for this and next month. The annual White Ribbon ride is planned for 22nd November.

Regards to all members,
Bruce #4383

ROTORUA RAMBLINGS

Fine Rotorua raptures to you all. We've had a few cool runs over the rainy season, including a beauty overnighter up to Hot Water Beach. Poured down there and back, but us hardy souls took it in our stride and did get a few hours 'fine time' while there, which allowed a dip in a hole in the sand in the hot water. Pleasing to see that in the foul weather, without any 'speechifying' we all spread out and maintained safe distances, kept up good speeds and had a great dinner in the converted church (the church was converted; not us, we kept up our disgraceful demeanour).

Most of you know that our fond and fantastic food place, the Lakefront Café, has been closed by our all-powerful 'lakes council'. No, there will not be another lake-front eating/coffee establishment for a few years yet, but the council have shown great wisdom by removing the one establishment that used our beautiful lake to proper advantage. I make 'no apologies' for not using capital letters for their name, they aren't deserved.

After many Saturdays at various other eateries, we have settled on Aroma. A friendly place with good food, good coffee, good vibes and broad smiles as our regular gossip venue. It is on Fenton St (main street; not far from the Police Station, but far enough). I hope those of you who by now have attended the Taupo Remembrance run got my message and joined us there before setting out for the Taupo service. All welcome, any time.

The combined lunch with other central branches at Okoroire went well, and seemed a good reason to hold more of these shared destination outings. Let's hope they turn into regular rides and gather some of the success that the Thursday runs have achieved. Ride easy, ride well, cheers for now
FLASH #1272



SOUTHLAND SCRIBBLES

Hi one and all,

The period since the last Branch report has been quite an active one, with the main event being the Branch AGM held in May, the election process resulted in the sitting members being re-elected, so congratulations are extended to those members.

On the social front; a number of events such as Coffee Mornings and Evening Dine-outs have been arranged, it has been pleasing to see that those who attended appeared to enjoy themselves.

On the riding front; although it is still 'winter' we are experiencing days that are certainly good enough to encourage members to get their 'hopefully' road-worthy bikes out. I understand that a number of our members are due to re-register their bikes in September. With this in mind, plans are underway to get events organised and get some miles/km under the wheels.

I must mention that two Branch members left NZ in May and completed a 'Big lap of Australia'. The trip took around 54 days and although challenging, was largely incident free and a great way to experience Australia.

The Southland Branch is due to celebrate its 30th Jubilee in August 2018. Planning is underway to mark this special occasion. The Committee propose to acknowledge and celebrate the establishment of the Branch, by holding a function involving past and present members (at which I would imagine some really good but unprintable tales will be told).

Will close off for now, cheers to all

Ross L #1177

TAUPO TIMES

G'day from Taupo.

Not a lot to report this time around. All is well in this part of the country. The weather has put-paid to a few of our planned rides, however we have had some, (to Pukahina Beach, Okere falls and Arapuni).

We had to cancel our ride to the Get-Together in Okoroire, it was 'very' wet in Taupo that day. A bit of a shame because I heard there was a good turnout. Next time maybe.

We had a Mid-year Xmas dinner late June at a local restaurant The Suncourt, that went down a treat with nearly 30

members attending.

Looking forward to a Get-Together in Taupo on the 23rd of September that Tiny is organising at the Pub 'n Grub. I am sure that Taupo will turn on a sunny day for that one.

We have been busy organising the Remembrance Night 'knees-up' and hopefully it went well for everyone. I am writing this 2 days prior to the event.

We are still getting new members because Taupo is growing fast, it seems we are getting half of Auckland here; might shut the gate soon.

Well, the days are getting longer again and a bit warmer too, so we will get some riding done.

Finally, a quote from Irish poet laureate Shannon O'Shananigan "Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations".

Cheers,

Rick #7552

WAIHI THAMES VALLEY

Kia ora koutou,

It's been a pretty quiet few months but boy haven't they gone by super-fast. Back in May we had our branch AGM, this went well with a great turnout.

Our new committee members are...

Coordinator: Marlene Johnson

Secretary: Dawn Williams

Treasurer: Annie Daly

Committee: Paul Johnson (Sheriff), Andrew Leigh, Bruz MacGregor.

Again back in July those of us that live in Coromandel or along the Thames Coast Road found ourselves blocked off thanks to the hideous winter weather, with no-way in or out.

We are all looking forward to the longer, warmer days of summer and getting back to our 'Bike Nights' this summer.

Until next time ka kite ano

WAIKATO UPDATE

Despite the long, cold and wet winter, things have been humming along in the Waikato. Our big news is that we now have a full branch Committee of keen, willing volunteers and are pleased to have David Musgrave, Les Raddekers, and Darryl Andrews to support the returning David Coy (Secretary), David Samuel (Treasurer) and Ron Sheil (Quartermaster).

We have had some interesting presenters added to our Monthly Meetings



including Andrew Stroud on his racing career, Jon Bennet on his stunt-ride over the Fairfield Bridge arches, the Sistema music group and Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari ecological project. Next month, we have a talk on prostate matters from a consultant urologist.

On the road, our weekly catch-ups via the TLR (Thursday Lunch Ride) with neighbouring branches in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty continue to be well supported despite the 'iffy weather'. Twenty to forty members from half a dozen branches pitch up each week; some come on their own, others in small groups, a great way to foster inter-branch relationships. We are trying to put more life into our weekend activities and have established a SLR (Sunday Lunch Ride) on the first Sunday of each month and a Breakfast followed by an informal ride on the Third Sunday.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to catching up with many old friends at the Remembrance Service in Taupo.

Jim Galt, #5991

Coordinator

CAPITAL CONFABULATIONS

While it was full on before the last Ulyssian, it has been rather quiet since then. The weather has not been the best. In July, the heavy rain flooded the Petone Workingmen's Club, so for the first time in almost 30 years there was no Branch meeting. Luckily our guest speaker – Mark from Scooterazzi – is a local member and will have presented at our August meeting on general motorcycle maintenance by the time you read this.

Hopefully the weather Gods are going to be kinder to us over the coming months and we can get in some good rides. We have some other speakers lined up for coming months including Dr Chris Lane who attended many of the crashes on the Kapiti Coast before the roads in the area were improved.



In the meantime, if you have your bikes in the garage over winter, now is the time to start getting them ready for riding when the weather does improve. To that end, I have already serviced and WOF'ed the VX and started getting the Matchless ready for its own WOF.

It went on its first run in years – just a short ride up the road to get it running. It will need some fine tuning to get it ticking over smoothly and like any old Brit-bike it needs a good tune up with a #3 rag-spanner.

When I took it for that first ride, it was very much like all those other 'first rides' we all remember. Whether it was the very first ride you ever did, your first serious adventure ride, or when you first realised that <insert road name> was your favourite piece of road to ride, there will be some – probably many – happy memories of the first time you did something with a motorcycle.

There are many things to love about motorcycling, and that is what draws us together as members of Ulysses. Unlike other 'Clubs', we are not just about a brand or type of motorcycle, or even simply riding. The Club is about celebrating all things related to motorcycles and for me, getting something running and taking it on the road to see how it goes, is right near the top of that list.

Why it is near the top, is (for me at least) – that it feels great, just like a favourite ride. The excitement when the engine coughs into life is only part of it. Often, as it was last weekend when I got the Matchless running, it is an impromptu run in what I call 'fettling mod' – just a litre can for the fuel, no seat, a spanner and

screwdriver in your pocket, just in case you need to adjust something. It just brings out that joy of motorcycling.

The engine is running, and the inner rider says, bummer the seat, let's see how well she runs. And you're off. As the pace gradually picks up, all those happiness hormones are released, and you are grinning from ear to ear. You feel great for the rest of the day and want to do it again.

It won't be long before we are all looking for that happiness that we get from our love of motorcycles. So, get your bikes ready, and while you are at it, why not give yourself a tune-up and undertake some Ride Forever training. Do a Bronze, Silver or Gold course, and the Club will give your 'Branch \$20' from the Rider Safety Reserve, so happiness all round there too.

We need to spend some of that reserve as the Rider Safety Reserve comes from the proceeds of the National bike raffles we run each year. If we don't spend the money, then there can be no raffle, which means no new bike for one of our lucky – and very happy – members each year. And we don't want to do that!

Four wheels move the body... two wheels move the soul.

Jim F #2098

WESTLAND WAFFLE

Hello from the Scenic West Coast. This is my first report since taking over from Grub as Westland Co-ordinator. I would like to thank Gary Sinclair (alias Grub) for his dedication to Ulysses Westland for the last 16 years. It's been a wonderful effort.

Our Saturday coffee mornings are well attended but a lot of our weekend rides have been thwarted by inclement West Coast weather. It's funny it always seems to be fine between Monday and Friday. Peter Morgan, our Rides Co-ordinator does an excellent job putting out the rides.

Several of our members went to the Brass Monkey. Our treasurer Muzza Bell said it was that cold his visor and 'mo' froze. Also a few of us women members attended the Babes on Bikes ride, this time in Rotherham. Babes on Bikes is a group of women from all over the South Island who met twice a year at different locations. We have been to places like St Arnaud, Waiau, Lawrence, Otematata, Manapouri and Havelock. The next one is in Alexandra, late September.

The club had an enjoyable Mid-winter Xmas dinner at the Paroa Hotel recently and had a great catch-up with some of the Buller members on our Westport overnighter over dinner at the Denniston Dog.

Organising is well-underway for our annual Harihari rally on the 15th of September. The 'Hetheringtons' are playing this year so it's sure to be a great night. Our very own 'Judge Judy' will also be presiding over the court session again!

Sunday 22nd July saw the opening of the new Taramakau bridge between Hokitika and Greymouth, replacing the old road rail bridge, which has claimed many motorcyclists in its time.

We have our annual 'Top of the South' ride at the end of November which is always enjoyed and well-supported.

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RETREADS TRIP REPORT HAPPY BIRTHDAY JG!

7th June 2018. The weekly email advising the proposed destination of today's ride implied there could be a 'birthday boy' amongst our group who may just provide a wee birthday cake treat for the rest of us, i.e. "The weather gods are talking another squirt of southerly tomorrow morning and all of my sources agree it is going to be wet, but not pouring, tomorrow. So here's the deal. Our Merry Mob will meet at The Vines at 12 O'clock. Come by car, bike, trike or magic carpet. Just be there with a story to share. And speaking of sharing, rumour has it that there may be a birthday cake to share."

Having just returned from the Brass Monkey Rally in some God forsaken

fridge called the Idaburn Dam in Central Otago; the thought of not having to ride the bike today tickled my fancy. Likewise something rang a bell in my noggin that our illustrious Retreads trip organiser mentioned recently that he was about to hit the big 70 milestone so it didn't take too long to align up the stars and come to the conclusion that our birthday boy was in fact JG himself. Bearing that in mind, it was too good an opportunity to let slip by so I hightailed it into town to buy an appropriate present for JG. Now JG is a bit of a gym bunny (oops that should read gym hippo!) and sure enough I found a little book entitled "69 & 1/2" full of risqué sketches of bedroom antics suitable for those of us who have managed to successfully reach our allotted time on earth of 3 score years and 10. As it ensued it was an inspired choice of present, as all through lunch poor old JG was constantly picking it up and flicking through the pages, just about choking with laughter each time.

To help celebrate JG's milestone were Murray Brooks, Lindsay Learmonth, Ray Beard, Lionel Graham, Ali Windleburn, Tom Brown, Kelvin Watson, Danny McGowan, John Hadfield, Allan and Jan Graham,



Jane Laing, John Neal, Bob and Dale McCrindle, Louise and Brian Pearce, Peter Beckett, Peter Nelson, JG's wife Barb and his son Shaun Sinclair.

The cake was a work of art; someone mentioned in passing that Peter Nelson's wife, Anne, iced the cake. If that is correct then come hell or high water Peter, you hang on to her for dear life! She has to be a gem! Likewise the cutting of the cake required skill and dexterity to ensure everyone present got to sample it. JG made the first incision in the cake and was promptly relieved of his duty by a waitress who took the cake away to deal with it professionally rather than leave it with JG to butcher. The fact that JG's son Shaun had come out from Australia to share in the celebration of his father's milestone birthday must have been very gratifying for both JG and Barb.

Unfortunately all good things come to an end and after a very pleasant hour and a half or so it was time to pack up and head for home to bring the curtain down on a rather special occasion.

Bob #8033



WINTER FUN

Even though it's been a mild winter, the grey days and wet weather get some folk down. And some get sick of riding the same roads all the time too. Let's face it; there aren't too many options from Blenheim.

This is a story about putting things right.

Yesterday (15th August) dawned foggy after overnight rain. There was a very strong southerly blowing up the coast with 70kph being reported at The Brothers where, along with most of the Sounds, it was still raining. But the radar showed a clearance could be expected. So after the gym workout, it was a 1045 departure with a Marlborough Sounds destination in the sights – Titirangi. Now Titirangi is at the very end of the road that branches to the right at Kenepuru Head. The question was, is this road as messed up by all the wet weather as much as Queen Charlotte Drive is? Only one way to find out.

The fog had cleared and the sun had come out in Blenheim. At Mahau the water was flat calm and at full tide. No sun but no low cloud either. The shaded side of the hill over to Mahau still had some remnants of chip but mostly this was windrowed into the middle.

The road has suffered an awful lot of

slumps on the seaward side (left as you go in). The road was still wet and some of these slumps had edges 200mm high so these edges were best avoided. I can't find a definition of Adventure Riding but I reckon riding all the way to Kenepuru Head like this qualifies – even though the road is sealed. The pace was definitely slower than usual.

A sandwich and a drink of water was consumed at the Kenepuru Head camping ground (see photo and bike that stayed this clean throughout!!!!) where there's clean toilets but no campers or rubbish tins. The road is unsealed past Kenepuru Head for the 25km to Titirangi. I know the thought of this turns off a lot of motorcyclists because I imagine most have experienced riding in thick deep gravel and hated it. Nobody likes doing that but it must be realised that very few unsealed roads are like that. In fact this road is far better to ride than the sealed road coming in.

Yes, the first six kilometres has some bedrock showing but this is easily avoided and there is little gravel. Then as the road climbs into the Mount Stokes Reserve the gravel disappears altogether and the surface turns to fine shallow sandy material that had 'set' after the rain. This surface has been like this as long as I can remember. It is magic to

ride on – fast, firm and friendly and easily doable on any bike! It is a tribute to bulldozer driver Bill Holley who pushed this road through in 1973. The road is high and tops out at 720 metres but runs mostly at 5-600 metres. Really close to Cook Strait now but still no wind as the southerly has enough westerly in it to keep it out of the Sounds. Cool up high but a beautiful day with glimpses of great views through the trees.

After leaving the Reserve the road takes you to a saddle where you can drop off to the right to Port Gore or left to Titirangi. The view from the top cannot be done justice in a photograph. It is nothing short of magical. The photo I took was into the winter sun and didn't do the scene justice so I've included a photo taken from the same saddle that I took another time. This view alone makes the trip worthwhile. The road down to Titirangi is a switchback in the same style of the ones you see photos of in Europe – except this one is gravel and novice riders may find it challenging.

Like most Sounds roads it's one way in and the same way out. But coming out keeps you away from all the slumps and so progress is much more brisk. And the road had dried out. Just watch out for motorists crossing over to your side to either dodge the slumps or worrying about going over the edge because they don't know where the left-hand wheels are tracking on their SUV. (For this reason I avoid this road in summer holidays).

The thing about the Kenepuru Road is that unlike QC Drive's 50kph limit, Kenepuru Rd is speed limited to 100kph. In other words, the powers that be have faith that travelers can manage the risks themselves without the Nanny State trying to do it for them. Sooo refreshing!

Total distance in and out is 250km from and to Blenheim. Allow two hours each way if you are hurrying – more if you are taking photos. I sometimes extend the trip to Hopewell as well which makes the round trip 310km.

These twisty roads are motorcyclists' heaven and riding them in winter is the best fix I know.

Get on with riding or get on with dying.

John Sinclair # 9272

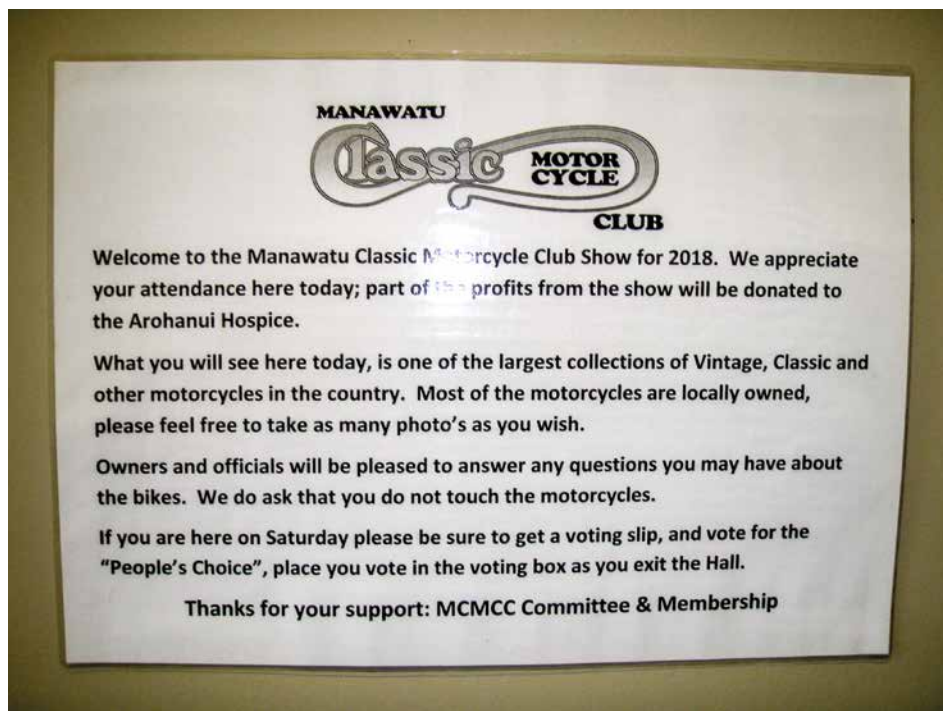




MANAWATU CLASSIC BIKE SHOW

Plenty of bikes and plenty of punters
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show. Here are some images and the
poster that explains it all,
Cheers

Lance Nixon 2310



HE'S A WINNER!



As most of you will recall, a group of our members attended the National Rally held in Mosgiel in March this year.

One of the most important fundraisers at these rallies is the Raffles.

This year, there were some great prizes up for grabs and when the raffles were drawn on the Saturday evening, John Laing was doing a certain mate a favour. 'Said' Mate had rather overdone the liquid refreshments and had to be taken home and put to bed. So John didn't hear his name being called.

Luckily, he had put his cell phone number on the ticket stub, so it was a great surprise to receive a message from Terry when we were on the way home to Marlborough (on Sunday) telling John he's won one of the raffles; A Revitt Jacket, donated by Mclver and Veitch of Dunedin.

John had to wait till he was on his way to the Brass Monkey Rally in June to collect his prize. Mclver and Veitch were great, they were very helpful and even allowed John to take one of the new BMW's for a test run out to Portobello so he could try out his new Jacket!

So, THANK YOU OTAGO BRANCH and Thank you Mclver and Veitch.

Johns a very happy chappie!"

John & Jane Laing

RUSSELL (TOWSER) SIMPSON #856

Towser joined our Branch (North Otago) in 1989 and we were close to planning a 30 year badge presentation for him before he departed. Towser certainly enjoyed riding his motorcycles, he owned several during his riding days, and he attended a large number of rides, events and rallies held throughout NZ. The large number of attendance badges on his waist coat is proof of that. Towser was a colourful character with a great sense of humour. He would often turn offensive comments and potentially hazardous situations into jokes that all of us would laugh at.

We are certainly going to miss you mate.





A TALE OF TWO STs

Day 1, Sara's cousin Gavin has flown into Nelson from Sydney, so we headed over to Mapua for fish 'n chips. Gavin was riding my old ST1300, Sara on her GSX and I was on my new/old ST1300. A lovely evening, but the next day cyclone Gita was due to hit, so we crossed our fingers and headed home, as we had an early start.

Day 2. Crap, it's pissing down, no worries we had a ferry to catch! Rained all the way to Picton and we arrived a tad damp. Bugger! Once on board with all the bikes strapped down, we headed up to have brekky. To our amazement, the crossing was a breeze; very calm, but really foggy so we couldn't see a lot. We hopped on the bikes at the other end and headed off to Sara's parent's place in Paramata for a nice meal and a warm bed. The wind picked up a bit in the evening, but basically, it was just another windy night in Wellington.

Day 3. We had to divert over the Paekakariki Hill as the Pukerua Bay section of State Highway 1 was only open to southbound traffic, due to cyclone damage. Fantastic ride over the hill, but blowing its mammaries off at the top. On to State Highway 1, and heading North was fun – heading south would have been crap. Traffic was backed up back to Paraparaumu and here we were on the new expressway bombing along at 100kph! We made good time up to Bulls, the only problem was Sara battling the usual cross winds on the Himatangi straights. A bakery stop, then we headed up to Whanganui, where we stopped by the river in a lovely park and devoured the aforementioned tucker. Up the Paraparas road (which was awesome) then across the central plateau where we stopped in Chateau Tongariro and Whakapapa ski village for a looksee. We then headed down to Turangi for fuel and that's when things got a wee bit interesting!

I worked in the service station industry for 35 odd years, so why did I grab the diesel pump and put 10 litres into my tank? F&#K knows, but I did. Dammit!



Started the bike up and it ran ok, so we headed off to Taupo where we were booked for the night. We headed down to the lakefront for dinner then back to the motel where I thought I would see if my bike would start. Guess what? Wouldn't go. Damn! Phone call to Shane Goodman, who basically said, 'don't ride it, drain it of fuel, then try again'. Hmmm. Another phone call to a local mechanic, Steve from W.O.T (Wide Open Throttle!) Motorcycles, who agreed to come by the next morning to right my wrong! I lost a lot of sleep that night chastising myself, but when Steve turned up the next morning (Thursday), he had the tank drained and topped up with new fuel in very short time. The bike still wouldn't start, so I whipped out the plugs to find them all gummed up. Steve raced back to his shop, grabbed a set of plugs, fitted them and she fired up. The relief I felt was amazing! PHEW! This guy Steve was fantastic and we really appreciated his help – if you're ever in Taupo and ya bike's full of diesel.....he's the man!

Day 4. We headed off to the Coromandel via Tirau where it was really hot, so Sara took all her liners out of her jacket. Off towards Thames and on the way, of course it bucketed down. It

Taupo bike repairs

remained hot but you could only see 50 odd metres in front of you. It was torrential and we were soaked once more. Bugger, again! The Thames Info centre found us the last motel room left in town (and it was pretty flash) so we left all our gear there, then hopped on the bikes to go up to Coromandel Town which, because of the extensive repairs being done to the road after the previous cyclone Fehi, was pretty slow going and it was HOT! On the way there, there was a wee bit of rain, and Sara experienced her very 1st tank slapper! The language through the intercom was some of the finest I have ever heard, but it give her a hell of a fright and we had Miss "I'm gonna ride my own ride" for the next couple of days, until she got her mojo back! A bite to eat and Gavin contemplated riding down the east coast side of the Coromandel peninsula, but it was pretty late in the day so he decided against that idea and we trundled back to our flash digs. Dinner was down on a local wharf where we had the best fish 'n chips I've ever had. A stunning evening, eating fresh snapper and oysters, bliss, jeez I can taste them now....!

Day 5. The “oh shit we are going through Auckland” day. I had a cunning plan! I thought we should stay away from the Harbour bridge and take Highway 16, which would take us up the Kaipara Harbour side, thereby missing the busiest traffic. Errr wrong! Traffic went from 100kph to stopped about 15 kms short of our exit, which was State Highway 16 West. We finally got there and I took State Highway 16 East. FAAARK! We ended up in the university at Albany and somehow fluked our way back onto 16 West, where we had to merge into traffic going at 100kph from the right hand side of the road. That was a bit weird. Once we cleared Auckland, I finally started to enjoy the ride. Fantastic views of the Kaipara Harbour and signs on the side of the road selling “farm fresh butt nuggets” for a dollar a bag (pony poo is 2 bucks a bag at home...wtf?). We also saw a farm that had 6 or so huge sculptures, which was really cool. Helensville for lunch, then on to Kerikeri to find the house that we were to stay in for the next 4 nights. Now I know it's around here somewhere....

After a bit of dicking about, we found it (7 kms out of Kerikeri!!!!). It was lovely. A wee cottage with covered seating area outside which was great, as the temperature would be in the late 20s for the rest of our stay. The property was run by a lovely ex-farming couple, Marie, who was 82 and Warwick, who was 87. They also had a pet donkey called Simon who was 50! True story! Warwick told us he bought his 1st farm (that was running sheep) and it was 1160 acres in 4 paddocks (do the math regarding paddock size!). He then turned it to dairy – imagine the fencing required to do that! A lovely couple who even gave us 6 fresh cackleberries (eggs!) for brekky. Great hosts.

Day 6. We decided to have a day off the bikes, so a lazy ride down to Paihia saw us catch the early ferry across to Russell, where we had a huge breakfast and then spent most of the day exploring, which included a swim at Long Bay and a walk up to the lookout. When we returned to the township, the place was packed. The QEII was anchored in the bay and a zillion tourists had taken over the place. We hopped back on a ferry, got on the bikes and rode over to Waitangi, where we chatted to Brian and Sue from Hamilton, who were helping friends to do the Northern Odyssey. They were in all their gear and it was really hot. Poor buggers. We were going to visit the grand-looking Treaty site but discovered that it was going to cost \$50 a head for that privilege, maybe next time.....! Just a wee observation here, but while we were at the entrance, several people looked at the price and beat a hasty retreat out the door, we were close behind them!

Day 7. Dawned bright and sunny. We headed off to Cape Reinga early so we could have a look around on the way up. We had breakfast at a cool little cafe at Awanui, which had a nice outside area beside a stream. Onwards and upwards to Houhora, where we pulled up to enjoy the view beside the boat club. On the way up, the golf club there had a big sign saying “the last golf course in NZ”, on the way back I noticed the sign said “the 1st golf course in NZ” Haha!

Another stop where we tried to get on to Ninety Mile beach, but there was several inches of sand in the carpark area which nearly resulted in a tip-over as I floundered through it. No harm, no foul – but it was close! The sand was even too deep for a sidestand.

Up to the top on a super smooth road (most of the roads in Northland are

fantastic in their smoothness. Really good!) and once there, we were ushered into a park by a super enthusiastic parking warden. We parked as requested, but those who didn't follow her rules were told in no uncertain terms that they had to park where SHE said! We walked around for an hour or so (we had changed into shorts, as it was bloody hot) and the views were fantastic. From the top of the hill we could see large shoals of fish swimming around, on the horizon were the Three Kings Islands (which I had never seen before!), truly a wonderful spot and well worth a visit.

On the way back, Gavin went down a short gravel road to see the sand surfers, which he said was great but we'd done it before and Sara doesn't do gravel, so we waited down the road under some shady trees and when Gav turned up, we were off once again.

On the way up I had seen a sign saying Karikari Peninsula and, although it had already been a long day in the saddle, we turned off to have a looky round. The only thing of interest was a huge winery/golf course/hotel complex named Carrington Estate. Back to Monganui for a big-ass



Russell breakfast



Paihia panorama



Cape Reinga

ice cream (Gavin caught his as it fell off its cone, bit of a mess but funny!) then on to Kerikeri for fuel and hit the supermarket for supplies, then back to our cottage to have steaks for dinner. It was a beautiful evening and quieter than the previous night, as there weren't any Harleys roaring by! (There had been a Harley rally at Doubtless Bay). Sara and Gav watched a movie and I tootled off to bed. Tired old man!

Day 8. We were greeted with another sunny day and today's plan was to ride across to the west coast and see Tane Mahuta, which is in the Waipoua forest. A gentle ride over to Opononi where there is a great spot to look over the bay to a massive sand dune while eating breakfast (Gav had his 1st ever mussel fritter!) After that, we came across a herd of cows crossing the road to be milked. As we approached we slowed down (as you do, John Macdonald!!) and the farmer gave a whistle and the cows who weren't crossing the road stopped and let us through! Once we had passed, they continued on. We couldn't quite believe what we had just seen! Brilliant!

The kauri forest is a pleasure to ride through, a very special place and Tane Mahuta is immense. A lovely Maori volunteer was giving a great spiel on the plight of the forest, which was very interesting and informative. Back on the bikes to the end of the forest where we turned around and returned the way we had come. Had to stop at a lookout above Opononi, for some totally amazing views over the harbour and sand dunes. In Kerikeri, we went down to the historic stone store for another ice cream then back to the cottage where a mother duck and all her ducklings decided we were a likely bunch of suckers and they were sure to get a feed. She was right!!

DAY 9. Big day riding today. Kerikeri to Taupo. The worst bit was "oh crap we missed the turn off" from State Highway 16 (yes, again!) so no Manukau tunnel, which is supposed to take a whole lot less time than the way we went! Highlights were the expressway out of Hamilton where you can travel legally at 110kph and then finally arriving at the Huka falls (which was really cool) knowing we only had 10 minutes or so before we could rest our tired butts. Our motel had a spa so we all piled in and had a soak, then a quick dip in the swimming pool and out for dinner. Yay, big day done and dusted!

Day 10. Started a bit misty, so unfortunately no views of Mt Ruapehu for Gavin. But we had all day to get to Sara's parents' home in Wellington, so we cruised down to Waiouru and spent a couple of hours at the war museum. The weather had cleared by the time we left there and it was a nice ride to Welly. Once there, we went for a short drive to check out the wee village of Pauatahanui, which is really nice. The backdrop is lovely

rolling hill country but unfortunately, this is where they are building the on-ramps for Whitby traffic to join up to the new Transmission Gully expressway. Its butt ugly and the on-ramps are vast. I guess its progress, but at what price?

Day 11. We had a bit of time on our hands, so Sara's mum dropped us off at the far end of the Cambourne walkway where we were supposed to walk their dog while Sara's mum went to do some shopping.



Opononi lookout

Opononi



Fine in theory, but when we hopped out of the car (and Sara's mum had taken off) we looked up to see the walkway was closed for repairs, so we were stuck a long way from home! Phone calls to mum were no good, 'coz her cellphone was turned off so there was nothing for it but for us to start walking. Busy roads and no footpaths, but we finally got hold of mum when she turned her phone on and she picked us up a few minutes later. Phew!

I suggested a ride around the Miramar peninsula before we hopped on the ferry, so we packed up and got going early, which proved lucky as there was traffic backed up down the motorway. Sara took us down the back of Johnsonville, through Kelburn then into town, past the Basin Reserve, through the tunnel then around Miramar, back through Seatoun



Tane Mahuta



Bulls

Tunnel, around Oriental Parade and on to the ferry. The crossing was sunny and smooth, and we arrived in Picton at 6pm. We took the Queen Charlotte drive which was great, no traffic, warm as. The ride over the Whangamoas was even better; there was nobody around so Gav and I had a wee fang with Sara not far behind! Riding into Nelson, we rode into an absolutely stunning sunset on Rocks Road, which was a great, great way to finish up a great trip. Gavin packed his bags that night and we dropped him off at the airport early the next day for his flight back to Sydney. Sara and I then sent the weekend cleaning up the bikes, so we are ready to go on our next adventure!

Chris Ruddlesden #6701, edited by whatshername!!! (love you!)

Nobody was injured in the writing of this story but my ego has been shattered by the diesel incident. Please be nice to me!!! LOL!

Total kms travelled 3,300.

Cost? Don't worry, its only money!

Best part of trip? All of the far north and coming back to Nelson on a stunning evening.

Worse part of trip? F@#king diesel pump!!!



PRIOR PLANNING PREVENTS PISS POOR PERFORMANCE... APPARENTLY

The TT2000 has only had two North Island starts in its 10-year history; in 2014, the start was at Bunnythorpe and in 2015, from Whanganui. If you ignore the results of those riders who – for whatever reason – used the extra 4-hour time buffer, in both events, Stretch and I finished in 1st place on points.

So when Stretch reckoned we could do pretty well if I came back north again this year, I was quietly confident and, in those immortal words from Guy Martin; what could possibly go wrong?

Over a few beers in our motel, we went over the meticulously planned route, made sure our bikes were ready and our riding gear in order for tomorrow, so when we rocked up to start at the Ashurst Pub around 11am, we were more than ready to go. In fact, Charlotte was hopping from one wheel to the other, barely containing her excitement.

The usual pre-ride banter was going on and – as politicians are wont to do – leather and Cordura-clad riders were sharing fake news and spreading misinformation: 'How many points are you after?' 'What route are you doing?' Nothing was being given away.

Testicles, spectacles, wallet and watch – all present. Following a safety briefing

where we collected our t-shirts, I took a photo of Charlotte's odometer showing her start mileage and time before galloping over Saddle Road, frustrated with double yellows and slow traffic, and our 1st waypoint at Waipukurau, a mere 98kms away.

Stop, T-shirt out, photo of bike and t-shirt in front of waypoint, T-shirt away, camera in tank bag. Keep it simple and stick to your routine, because it has been known for riders, who in their excitement and haste, have ridden off, leaving their t-shirts and cameras behind.

189km further north, WP2 was a photo of BJ's store at Frazertown. A number of other TT riders were in the vicinity, having already been there or choosing to fuel up at Wairoa. From BJ's, a whopping 10,000 points was on offer at Aninaniwa, 57kms further in on the Waikaremoana Road, of which the last 30kms was gravel.

What did that Martin fella say? Yeah, well, because around 5kms from the waypoint, I punctured, badly. Stretch was leading and not wanting to eat his dust, I'd hung back a bit so he never saw me stop. Another rider on a Chook Chaser pulled up to see if I was OK and I asked him to let the big bloke on the black FJR up ahead know what had happened.

Using the Snap-Jack to lift the back wheel off the ground, I eventually found

the cause and I wasn't at all happy. In fact, I was pretty bloody worried my ride was over, because it wasn't a simple 'quick fix' nail hole.

I was looking at a 10-12mm gash between two tread blocks. Despairing and angry; I was totally gutted and facing elimination 4 hours into the event with no cell coverage and no immediate or obvious way to get Charlotte back out to civilization.

Too big for one 'dog turd,' I jammed two into the gash, used my Stop-n-Go pump to fill the tyre, repacked the bike and when Stretch arrived I rode carefully east. 5ks later, with an audible 'pop,' the strings went flying past Stretch's ear. With two more rammed in and with the tyre full again, we were off but after a few kms, it happened again.

I had to stop eight, or nine times before we hit the seal and the last plugs failed just outside the Frazertown pub. A few locals with jugs in hand were leaning over the handrail offering helpful advice;

"Jeeze Bro, looks like you're f__ked."

"Shoulda bought a Harley, eh Cuz?"

I was hot, sweaty and getting more and more pissed off with every inane, knuckle-dragging comment. That aside, what was of real concern, was the fact that I was down to my last two strings, which I fitted and for whatever reason, these two hung in there. Holding hands, dog knotted or joined in civil union, I really didn't care because they were still in place when we reached Wairoa and happily, my tyre was still full of wind.

Having been run flat a few times over a rough surface the tyre was well shagged and needed replacing, but getting a motorcycle tyre – specifically a sport tyre – in Wairoa wasn't going to happen, at least not on Friday night. Enquiring at the petrol station, there was no accommodation in town either, due to some motorcycle gang event.



Start prep



BJ's Dairy, Frazertown



Now what the f__k are we going to do? The Tyre General was closed, but there was an after-hours number which I rang and within minutes, a dude rocked up.

"Bro, you're pretty much f__ked."

"Please don't say it."

"Eh?"

I asked if he had something better I could plug it with, but he didn't. Instead, he sold me seven cards (42) strings for \$10, which not only was extremely generous of him, if they lasted 5-8km a time I'd have enough to get to somewhere.

"Gisborne Bro, its closer and the road is smoother" he advised, and with a smile, wished me luck.

Checking the pressure and having a good look at the plug, which was not leaking and had flattened off nicely, I decided it was worth a crack. What other options were there? Even if I could find somewhere to sleep, waiting here hoping to get a tyre couriered down on Monday wasn't ringing my bells.

A young fella on a brand new Royal Enfield Himalayan rocked up. This was his first TT and with eyes like a possum's in the headlights, was somewhat shell-shocked realising the enormity of his task that lay ahead. He'd only done 380-odd kms and still had 1620 to go, but carry on he did. I understand he finished – albeit a bit over time – so all credit to him!

Charlotte took one for the team that evening and got us to Gizzy. With the NZ Stock Car Champs on we were lucky to find a bed; 'away in a manger, no crib... but there was a very 70's, very basic, very tired looking motel unit across the road from Waikanae Beach.

With the bikes stripped, we headed into town to find it pretty much closed up for the night except for a take-away roast dinner outlet that was about to close. The roast pork was more gravy and gristle and the spuds so overdone, they had shells as hard as roofing tiles and insides as flowery and explosive as puff-balls, but



it was food and it was hot. With a dozen stubbies of Kingfisher lager in Stretch's pannier, we headed back to the motel.

Saturday dawned clear, cool and sunny and by 8.30am, I was lying on the footpath outside CGM Motorcycles hoping they had a tyre. "Please have a tyre, please!" At 9am, the doors were supposed to open and they did, have a tyre I mean! In fact, they had the only 190/50 in town! A great sense of relief washed over me and – in between serving other customers – the owner fitted and balanced it.

That gave Stretch and me time to take stock of our situation. We'd lost too much time to achieve what we had wanted to do, but we could salvage something. It would be a close thing and go down to the wire, but if we could grab the bare minimum of 2000ks and 50,000 points, we could still finish.

With the new Battlax fitted, we had the old wharf at Tolaga Bay in our sights.

It's funny how one's mood changes from despair to elation. Sunny, warm and dry and with very little traffic, the romp to Tolaga Bay and back was awesome. This was more like it! What a great stretch of road, and by the time we'd negotiated the Gisborne traffic and seemingly endless 50k area, and were back at speed, enjoying the curves of the Waioeka Gorge, yesterday's drama was a fast fading memory.

We were going somewhere and I was finally back in a happy place.

The quaint Motu-vation café and Post Office at Motu was the next WP, followed by the historic Tauranga bridge a further 58kms towards Opotiki.

It was here we caught up again with our young friend on the Himalayan and we rode with him until we parted company at Taneatua, where Stretch and I stopped to fill up. We needed food, hot food, and a cold drink, but it appeared that – probably due to poaching – pies had become extinct in Taneatua.

Necking a Mammoth chocolate milk,



I did a few sums. "Mate, we can get the points, but we'll be way short of kms."

So the decision was made to fang it through to Whitianga, which had the added bonus of gaining a further 3000 points, but also meant we could drop one tomorrow morning if need be.

The new tolled expressway bypassing Te Puke with its 110kph limit, made for a fast transit through to the Mount and Tauranga.

Stopping briefly for a splash-n-dash, a pie and a cold drink at a Z station in Otumoetai, we pressed on passing through Katikati and Waihi before taking SH25 to Whangamata.

The famed 'Coromandel Loop' through Hikurangi, Tairua and Coroglen is bloody awesome, albeit slow at times with traffic, but nevertheless so much fun.

A quick photo of the Whitianga jetty and we were off. It was getting dark as we dropped down to the plains at Kopu and after that, well it was just a blur of blacktop, white lines and the occasional sign post, because I had no idea where we were. Stretch had chosen the quickest, shortest route and his GPS took us down empty, high-speed back country roads.

I'd rung ahead from Whitianga to let the motel owner know we would be arriving late, but the wife heard us arrive and showed us our unit.

It was 10.30pm. I was jaded, but Stretch appeared to be suffering more than me. Lying on his bed fully clothed, we had a decision to make. With the TT phone app, I did a few calculations on the back of my pace notes. Shit! We still had 700ks to ride, which meant a very early start tomorrow, unless...

"Stretch, we've gotta get one more tonight. We really need the kays mate, otherwise we're in trouble tomorrow."

Neither of us really wanted to do this, but we'd come too far to throw it away for the sake of another 2 hours of riding, besides, if we left now we could be back here by 12, 12.30am.



After a coffee, we hit the road and once underway, the 72km to the checkpoint on the banks of Lake Maraetai went relatively quickly.

Under a sky full of stars and a warm, dry night with very few bugs, it was another of those Zen moments. With the FJs red tail-light ahead and our high beams creating a tunnel of light in the darkness, I was again in a happy place. This is what the TT is all about; riders out there doing it, while the rest of the country sleeps.

We got back in at 12.30am. Stretch crashed and I had a hot shower and sorted my gear for tomorrow. I know, a little OCD, but I like to get up and go and, for the sake of a few minutes laying out what I'm going to wear, ensuring my phone and other electronics are on charge, my visor cleaned, the tank bag and pack rack ready to go, it takes the guesswork out of it. All I have to do is get dressed, load the bike and 20 to 30 minutes later, I'm away.

My alarm dragged me upright at 3.30am. Stretch appeared – red-eyed and yawning – and without a lot of conversation, we dressed the bikes, dressed ourselves and left.

The local Z station was manned, but 'Zedric' was reluctant to open his doors. He relented and a hot coffee and pastry would be enough to see me through. No pies though. What is it with pies around here? Like the kauri, is the central North Island suffering from 'pie dieback'?

The ride south on SH3 through Te Kuiti, Piopio to Awakino wasn't that quick, nor that enjoyable. It was chilly with thick fog and my visor, pinlock and glasses were streaming moisture. It wasn't until we dropped to the coast at Awakino where the temperature rose and the fog cleared, that everything dried out. The romp along the coast from Mokau over Mt Messenger was another delight I'll have to do by day sometime.

The first flush of dawn was making its presence felt when we turned off SH3

towards the next WP, the old tunnel carved out of the Papa clay on Kiwi Rd about 9kms in from Uruti.

Stratford was barely awake when we stopped for gas and again, we were disappointed.

"Does that have pies?" asked an exasperated Stretch, pointing to the dairy across the road.

"Dunno, I don't work there" the attendant replied.

I had a bit of a giggle as Stretch, muttering, wandered across the road.

With a wave, a trio of bikers roared past as the last pie crumb hit the pavement. A few minutes later, we were in hot pursuit.

The next WP was at the gates to Otiwhiti Station on Onga Road inland from Hunterville and – while there was a shorter route through Fordell, taking Kauangaroa and Mangahoe Rds – there was also a lot of road works, so I opted for a slightly longer, but quicker route, through Turakina and Martin. According to Stretch's GPS, we shaved 20 minutes off our time taking this option.

A couple of bikes were sitting at the junction of Turakina Valley Rd and I stopped to see what the matter was.

"We can't find it [the WP]. We've been up the road for 16kms, but can't see it."

Stretch was convinced it was only a couple of kms away; his GPS hadn't let us down yet, so we carried on and we found it, right where Aunty TomTom said it would be.

Well, that was that. We'd got the 50,000 points and so we just had to finish. We had time on our side, but the 77kms to home wasn't going to be enough kms for me. It was going to leave me short.

Another rider on a new Africa Twin had also stopped, and the three of us rode back out to SH1, turned north and a few kms later, turned right onto SH54.

Breasting Vinegar Hill, we stopped briefly to grab the easy 2000 points on offer at Stormy Point Lookout. Just out of Ashurst, I waved Stretch down. I was



11kms shy of 2000, so I said I was going back a ways to grab them before finishing.

After nearly suffering the ignominy of a DNF on Friday afternoon, we'd finished the TT – albeit with the minimums in points and kilometres – but nevertheless, an effort worthy of our ride badge.

2018 saw a record number of starters so, when the results came in for the North Island leg I was somewhat surprised; with 21kms more than me, Stretch finished 13th to my 16th and both of us sharing 7th place on points with a number of other riders. Not too shabby, all things considered.

My sincere thanks to Wayne Poll and his team at TTHQ for another awesome event. I fully appreciate the work that goes into running an event like this.

My special thanks to the staff at CGM Motorcycles, Gisborne, for their fortuitous and friendly service.

Also, to the rider that stopped and gave me his tyre Pando. Much appreciated.

And a big hug to Stretch Butler, my wingman, who despite me urging him to carry on and finish, stuck by me.

Captain Carefree
#3497

ANNUAL ULYSSES REMEMBRANCE RIDE TAUPO, SATURDAY AUGUST 11



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Riders initially met at Rotorua Ulyssians Saturday coffee stop, Aroma for a quick bite to eat, coffee and catch up. From there, those that travelled from the north met at midday in the Silver Oaks car park, end of Fenton Street.

We were instructed by Nigel Katene, Taupo Rides Coordinator, as to the route

and destination of the ride.

First stop and regroup via Reporoa was the Taupo Events Centre just out of Taupo. From there, after another briefing, we headed to and parked at the Great Lake Centre, where the service was held.

Several Ulyssians, took it in turns to commemorate, in yearly blocks, those

Ulyssians who are no longer with us.

Always a great memorable turn out of respect for our lost mates.

For those who wanted to make a weekend of this ride, a social was put on that evening, others opted to return back home.

Regards,

Mal 'Axle' Bain #8688





THE BIG LAP OF AUSTRALIA

MAY-JULY 2018 BY MOTORCYCLE

Notes taken by Neil Cowie, NZ Ulysses 331.

In July '17, I decided to do this ride; advertised, Woody McMartin and Brian Winslow were quick to say yes. We met and decided to leave Queenstown 13th May on a one-way ticket. Jimmy Mann and Graeme Dixon decided to join us. We bought bikes in Melbourne, set them up, rode, and sold or will sell later.

Woody and I had Honda Shadow 750s, Jimmy and Graeme got Honda Deauville 650s, Brian got an amazing Suzuki Burgman 650 scooter.

We rode for 45 days, had 9 days resting, so took 54 days to do the lap. For 9 nights we stayed in cabins in camping grounds, every other night we pitched our own tent and cooked our own meals in caravan parks, where the facilities were excellent. Most days we would stop and boil water for coffee on the road-side. Often we had bread and jam and another coffee for lunch somewhere. This kept the costs down. Not that we were trying to keep to a budget. We travelled 'on-average' over 400kms each day, the biggest day 671kms. So sleep came easy at night.

Robert Starbuck and Danny Johnson, (Ulysses members in Melbourne) were

wonderful and made everything easy for us in a strange big city.

May 13th Sunday. Arrived at Melbourne, met by Danny, taken to a booked motel at Greenborough. Had a BBQ at Danny's.

Mon. Robert took Brian and me to Vic Roads to get bikes rego etc, and a friend made up a carrier for my bike. We got lost returning to motel.

Tues. Added my crash-bars which I brought from NZ, and got my Vodafone phone Oz sim card. Big 'mistake' should have gone with Telstra and would have had much better cell-phone coverage around the country.

By Noon we were all together and ready to set off (raining), using google map on my phone mounted on the handlebar of my bike. Was hard to read in such conditions. We got stuck in traffic on the edge of the city but eventually found open road, Princes Highway, arriving in the dark to Paynesville at 6.00pm. Decided never to ride in such rain and darkness again. Stayed in a cabin at Allawah Camp. Connie Cunningham and her husband Graham live in Paynesville. She was the previous owner of my bike and over the months prior to



the start of our trip, we had a lot of contact and shared the excitement. Connie and Graham had a dinner prepared for us and coffee the next morning. Wonderful hosts at a beautiful spot.

Wed. Connie, on her new bike (a Honda Rebel), led us to Barnsdale where we found we had two little bits of gear to buy and Jimmy had to fix his fuel problem. We said goodbye to Connie and we set off mid-afternoon to Lakes Entrance. We stayed at Waters Edge holiday camp. I managed to get an 80 litre plastic big bin to hold my gear, as my Ventura bag was hopeless at keeping the water out from the day before. With a tool heated on the gas I was able to make holes and use good cable ties to set it up on my carrier. It became very practical but looked unusual, but did I care?

Thurs. At 9.00am we set off. I wanted to take the coast road to Sydney but didn't know the towns so I simply put Sydney into the GPS on Google and somehow we were taken via the Alpine Highway. Very



beautiful, nice riding, little traffic, and later found we were at Mt Hotham Alpine Village where there was frozen snow on the road side and no petrol. A quick 'hot' coffee and later we all made it to a camp at Wodonga.

Fri. We were on the Hume Highway, through Goulburn to a camp at Mossvale with heavy dew on the grass.

Sat. 8.35am we set off to bypass Sydney if possible. Set GPS to Gosford. Went through dozens of traffic lights, mostly green. Not easy to get all 5 bikes thru at once, especially Jimmy seemed to be lagging back a bit. Still we kept together. At Gosford Woody and Jimmy stayed with a friend. Rest went on to Little Beach and then to Putty Beach but there were no sites for us to camp in as surfers and overseas young people were on tour too. We went on to Canton beach and it was there we watched the Royal wedding of Harry and Megan.

Sun 20th. Went on the Swansea, waited



90 minutes for Woody and Jimmy, then off to Newcastle, and then to Taree twilight caravan park.

Mon. On to A1 to Coffs Harbour, where we were going to camp there, but got lost so carried on to camp at Broadwater.

Tues. Set off at 8.00am hoping to get thru Brisbane without tolls, on to Maroochydore. It was very stressful leading trying to read the GPS and the road signs amid lot of traffic and keeping an eye on the 4 bikes behind. In the centre of Melbourne I came on a fork in the road, one way was 7a and the other was 7b or something, couldn't read the fine print of the GPS, so guessed and went right off into the tunnel. Maybe this was where we collected a fine for a toll road. Camped at Cotton Tree Camp at the river mouth. Thieving birds there. RSL for dinner together. Stayed 2 nights.

Wed. Rested, did the shops, got maps, enjoyed the sun, guy next to us joined us for BBQ dinner of Spanish Mackerel he had caught.

Thurs. Brian led us off to Nambor and after a u-turn we got onto the Bruce Highway to Maryborough arriving 3.30pm to camp at Gladstone.

Fri. 7.45am departure, getting better at packing up our gear, then off to Rockhampton for petrol and after lunch made it to Big 4 at Mackay. I rushed off on my bike to get food for dinner to the Coles, Target and Woolworths where they are all



sited together with car parks two stories high at each side. Came out and couldn't find my bike in the park, no I couldn't find the parking place. Later discovered I was completely on the wrong side of the complex. A young trolley man saved me.

Sat. Set off, I went thru a red light to keep up, oops. Thru Prosperpine, Bowen then Home Hill, then to a camp called Bush Oasis, just south of Townsville. One of the nicest camps of the trip.

Sun. This day Brian and I took the direct road, Woody Graeme and Jimmy did a loop inland as they wanted to see more of the country instead of the Highways. After Townsville they took a left turn at Innisfail. Rain showers at Cairns. We all ended up together at a camp at Port Douglas. Time for a rest day.

Mon. Did washing, walked around the shops, fish and chip lunch, swim in the pool, sleep in the sun. Girl next to me made me homesick. Surf club for dinner.

Tues. Brian a bit slow this morning, his drugs hadn't kicked in.. Port Douglas to Kennedy Highway, wet and slippery. My tyre was low on pressure. Added 10lbs to the rear at Kuranda, wet and drizzled thru Monoba, Authurton, Ravensloe Mt Surprise; camped at Georgetown.

Wed. Continued on Savannah Way. Woody ran over a wallaby's tail. (Lucky). Jimmy decided to travel alone, leaving 4 riders at Lake Croydon. I almost ran over an 18inch lizard. Thru Normanton to Karumba Point Sunset Caravan Park. Enjoyed the sunset in the Bar and had Barramundi for dinner.

Thurs Set off for Cloncurry, where I lost my light gloves after getting food from supermarket. Nice camp.

Fri. Arrived at Mt Isa 10.30am met up with my step bro Jim Coster (ex Mataura). Woody got a new tyre and I got two. Noticed leak of coolant down between the cylinders, added bog and topped up; was fine for the rest of the trip. Later had pub meal together with Jim.





Sat. Jim gave us all a cooked breakfast. Off to Camooweal for lunch. Entered Northern Territory. Stayed at Berkley Homestead. No Wifi for me. Singer like Norah Jones. Met Luz.

Sun. 8.00am off to Stuart Highway, three ways on to Elliot. Not great camp dirt. Peacocks everywhere.

Mon. Continued to Katherine, got new gloves, on to Pine Creek completing 520kms for the day. Nice camp. Met Vera. Met a Maori guy who worked with Big Kev, led golden oldies to Chch, band.

Tues. On into Kakadu Park. Tracks closed as too wet. 30 degrees so stayed in Jabiru's nice pool. Brian ate 'roo' for dinner.

Wed. Headed for Darwin, saw wetlands, arrived at Noddy's place about 12kms east of the city where we stayed for 4 nights. Camped on his 5 acre section amid his projects. Joined Noddy's cyclist friends to watch State of Origin match.

Thur. Got lost finding Woolworths. Did washing. Went to sunset market for dinner and experience.

Fri. Took Noddy's car for a boat trip Jumping Crocodiles. Packed up. BBQ

Sat. set off for Litchfield park to see waterfalls, decided to turn back as too far. I got flat front tyre 20ks out of Batchelor. With help of 2 auzzies after 3 hours it was patched up. Lost my shorts. On to stay at nice camp at Katherine.

Sunday 10th. Got groceries, checked tyres, and arrived in Timber Creek for lunch. Some escarpment made for a nice change. Entered WA confiscated our fruit. Arrived to camp at Kununurra.

Mon. Set off to Halls creek for lunch, my tyre was flat, got new tube at garage. Woody tired so he and Graeme went on. I arrived with Brian at Fitzroy Crossing at 5.30. Did 671kms this day. No Wifi signal for me.

Tues. Up at 4.14am shower and breakfast, left Fitzroy crossing lodge camp and made Halls Creek by noon for lunch. Thought we might run out of petrol, sign said Derby next petrol, but when we get to T section discovered petrol much closer on route to Broome so me Brian and Graeme went that way. Woody was way behind and he turned to Derby and blew a back tyre close to town. It took 4 days to get a replacement up from Perth and fitted. We were in Broome so sent Graeme back to be with Woody. While Brian and I stayed at Discovery Holiday Park Roebuck Bay in Broome.

Wed. Rode to point lookout, cable bay and shifted tents to better site. Seafood dinner.

Thurs. Walked about Town Beach, listened to audio book, went to the mall, swam in cable bay...discovered later a Croc had been there last week. Water was magic. Had a Market next door in the evening.

Fri. 8.15am Picked up by bus to take Brian and me to a pearl farm. Trip very good, had a swim in the bay. Guys from Derby arrived and had a BBQ.

Sat. 8.00am Headed off, fuelled up, rode 640kms to Port Headland, then camped.

Sun 17th June. Up and rode to Newman, met Brian's daughter Nicole, husband Joel Yates, daughters Estelle, Layla, and young grandson Preston, had a cold swim. Pork Dinner. Slept in a bed!

Mon. Bacon and eggs for breakfast. Took tour of Whaleback Iron ore mine 9-11.00am; huge and interesting, visited the lookout then rested up. Brian stopped his tour here and stayed another few weeks with his family before flying back to Invercargill. We had a very enjoyable stay there.

Tues. We back tracked about 60kms turned into Karijini park, missed the turn off to the scenic pools, went on to Tom Price and Paraburoo and then onto Cheela Plains station campsite which was managed by a kiwi guy, nice fire in the evening.

Wed. Took off to Coral Bay. Great to see the sea. Arrived at 2.00pm went for swim with fish, watched snapper being fed. Nice holiday spot.

Thur. 9.00am Chartered a glass bottom boat, viewed healthy coral and fish. 10.40am Set off to Carnarvan and on to Woolramel camping on station with hot pool and fire, very social.

Fri. 8.10am to Northhampton, went thru flood water. Nice town saw paddocks, subway lunch at Geraldton, glued up my clutch screw. Went to Dongara then to Jurien Bay.

Sat. Rode to Lancelin, which was nice, then I went to stay with Kiri and Roger at Perth.

Sun 24th June. Kiri took me on tour, lunch at Freemantle, then dinner with Alan, Colleen and family.

Mon. Found Tyres For Bikes replaced both tyres \$500. 10.45am met with Woody and Graeme at Albany Highway, went to William then to Collie. Nice farms to Bunbury which was very nice. Where we camped after a ride-about.

Tues. Went to coast Capel Brusselton saw cows at Cowaramup, to Margaret river, very nice, to Prevelly and surf point, rain coming; thru beautiful forest of big trees to heavy rain at Augusta so took motel \$140.00 and dried out then had a big cook up. I had the double bed.

Wed. There were 3 ways to Albany, so decided to take coast road, Graeme leading and missed the turn, Woody and I carried on. Road wet thru forest. Fuel at Pemberton to Walpole and met Graeme at Denmark to camp at Albany.

Thur. Rode to see Port in heavy rain then off to Jerramungup to Ravensthorpe where I wanted to stop, a nice town. Outvoted and went on to next roadhouse no accommodation so 100km on to Esperance to a 2 bed cabin, tired and sore hand.

Fri. Went to the lookout, got fuel then at Salmon Gums got a for pie lunch, went to Norseman, population of 1100. Camped

and went to lookout of 'old gold' from Beacon Hill.

Sat. Dew on tents, used cover and then had Lunch at Balladonia. 90kms straight roads. Woody made History, he had his left winker on for over 80kms. 2.45pm arrived to a cabin at Cocklebidy \$150. Met Wanda, a girl from Dunedin, met lawyer Ross and David (tunnel inspector). Met 3 guys on Harleys, Jason and Stinky a road-train driver.

Sun 1st July 9.00am Sunny, crossed SA boarder, saw sea coast stopped at Nullbor Road-House Motel \$178

Mon. 8.30am start. Cold first hour, I had to back track 15kms until others came as they had taken side trip to coast. Went to Yaleta community to Nundroo for a hot pie. Went to Penong to Ceduna, where Graeme led us up a gravel road. I waited and didn't come along. Met up at Streaky Bay, Graham and Woody decided we should go on to Venus Bay, got a cabin, nice pelicans and fish.

Tues. Took off, I needed petrol at Ellison, pump not working but after 30 minutes got some, went to Port Lincoln, to Cowells. Very tired. Tented on grass, slept 7.00pm-7.00am

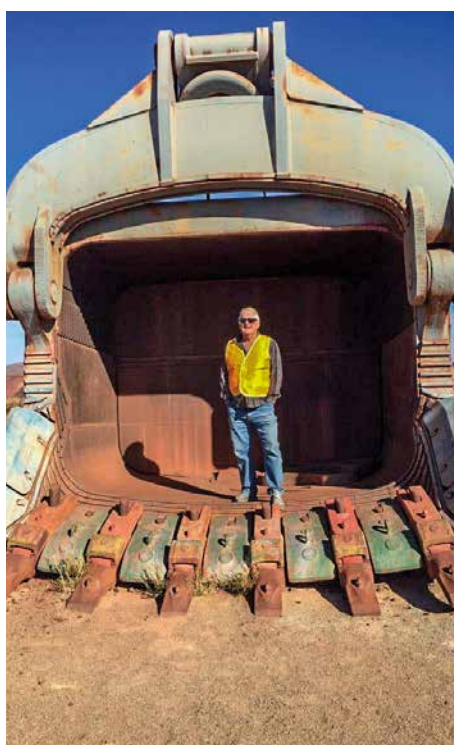
Wed. Off to Whyalla, Woody did U turn, found him 15 minutes later. Windy, went from Port Augusta to Port Piri, had lunch then to Kadina (road works in middle of street), then to a cabin in Port Wakefield.

Thur. We set off to go around the City

of Adelaide, took highway to Gawler, on to William, very scenic to Mt Pleasant to Murray Bridge, then to Bend, next to Pub 'Crown Inn' at Kingston. Bikes stored in shed. Young barman called Chalkie.

Fri. Heading home to Robe on nice coast road to Millicent, then to Mt Gambier, was wet and warm. Had lunch at Port McDonnell, nice farms now, moved on to Portland, then Port Fairy to a cabin in Surfside Holiday Park at Warrnambool, where I cooked dinner for all.

Sat 7th July. I got lost leading out of town because I listened to pretty girl in the office, instead of following google maps. 8.40am (bad weather report) but decide to stay on Great Ocean Road. Got to 12 Apostles in the rain and wind, walked out for photo. Lots of on-coming traffic all day toward Appollo Bay. Visibility was bad, heavy rain, Graeme and Woody stopped ahead of me. As Woody was putting out side-stand the wind gust blew he and bike over. He was hurt badly, but manly stood up and rode on, then at Apollo with hot food and bound up ankle, we carried on relying on Google maps to get us to our final cabin in a campsite in Melbourne. Because of rain and wind etc, our phones weren't charging properly and I ran out of Battery, so Woody led till his ran out, by such time I had some recharge and this ran out at a KFC, so we stopped to eat, was now dark. With about 5% battery we set off and got 300 meters (phone died again).





Next day Danny led us to Starbucks where Woody and Graeme stored their bike until the next trip and I parked up my Shadow to be sold from there.

Monday we rested, got rid of some gear and packed for home. Tuesday 10th July we flew home to NZ where Queenstown Customs took Woody's and my packs apart because we had camping gear. Woody also lost his tools in his carry-on bag at Melbourne. Tough.

Great trip. Got hundreds of pictures of the road and the surroundings, not boring, just interesting as so different from NZ. Can't take pictures while hands on the handle bars so missed many good views etc. We remained upright, healthy, and got home safely and are still good friends.

I took no insurance for me or bike so incentive to behave. Found that because it is hard to turn around and look behind when you are all geared up on your bike, that when the last rider was ready to go, they give a toot on the horn signal for all to go. I found this frustrating as the others had to put in their ear plugs etc, while I simply put on my helmet and gloves and was ready to go; but I became more patient eventually. Graeme had by far the best sense of direction especially finding his way in and out of towns.

Daily routine was up at 6.00am, have a shower, toilet, make breakfast from rolled oats and dry apricots and tea, while packing sleeping bag, mat, tent and gear onto bike. Got more efficient each day.

Travel for an hour, stop for 5 minutes to confer, pee, photo, then off and stop on the next hour to boil up coffee, maybe refuel. Have Lunch, travel on to until 2-4 pm to the town where we were staying find the caravan park, set up tent and unpack. Go to Coles, Woolworths IGA buy a spud, carrot, onion, greens, corn, steak, chops or cooked chicken and get red wine from Bottle shop. Most camps had good BBQ facilities, used my 'gaz' to cook veges and make gravy in cup. Then to bed at 8.00pm. Others (younger) often later to bed. Did enjoy some TV, royal wedding, Mamma Mia and News in some camps. Often some permanent people living in the camps. Cheap good housing.

There were 5 things to keep alert for every day.

1. Are my tyres ok, how is the tread lasting?
2. How are my tyre pressures? Wear quickly when underinflated.
3. Has the level of the coolant lowered?
4. Do I have water for the day? 2 x 1.5Litres. Found adding cordial made water easy to drink and bought soda water for 75 cents, much cheaper than bottled water. Filled from the tap at most camps.
5. Fill up with petrol at the end of the day. I could do about 260kms on a tank but if riding hard, fast or in wind, much less; so I was always planning ahead for the next petrol. Carried 5 Litres but never ran out and had to use it to get me



home. Travel mostly at speed limits, 100, 110 and 130kph. Did 150kph once when overtaking a road train. Bike ran best at 110-120kph. used 91, 95, and sometimes 98 petrol. (Whatever the pump had). Paid cash for everything, simple.

Health was excellent. Bit of cramp early on until legs got used to riding, bum got sore after 120kms but if I stopped for 5 minutes every hour, I could go all day. Took pills for the day during the night. Hated getting up during the night. Missed sleeping after lunch. "HaHa". But it was a challenge, and glad now it is over and everything went to plan. Took 960 photos to remind me of this lap.

A BRASS MONKEY VIRGIN'S COMING OF AGE

Words: Bob McCrindle Images: Bob McCrindle & Mike Dew

Having talked about doing it and then backing out at the last moment for the last two or three years, it was time to stop procrastinating and either man up or shut up. Finally the missus forced the issue by saying that, "if I didn't do it this time, don't even contemplate mentioning it ever again!" Having backed myself into a corner I had little option but to commit.

So, where does one start? At least 'She Indoors' kick-started it by suggesting that we do it in easy stages and that 'she' tows our caravan down and back, whilst I ride the bike. I thought that she was rather brave accepting such a challenge given that she had only towed the caravan a few times before, however the more I thought about it the more I warmed to the suggestion. The next step was to sort out what gear to take (and that was a major as I had no idea what to expect) except that there was a pretty damned good chance it would be very, very cold. So the next few days were a nightmare, pulling out, putting back and then pulling out again what I thought I needed. I was definitely coloured by the fact I could carry a lot extra in the Ute and caravan, then make a final decision before heading up to the rally from our proposed base in Ranfurly. At that stage my mind turned

to 'what possible road conditions' to expect and that started to really freak me out. Needless to say I was almost a nervous wreck before I had even started. However, I managed to persevere and all too soon 'D Day' arrived and it was time to embark on this odyssey.

Day 1 – Tuesday 29th May 2018. Blenheim to Kaikoura.

Spent all day stuffing around packing, unpacking & then repacking. The missus got the pricker with me, then took off mid-afternoon with the caravan in tow and suggested I meet up with her in Kaikoura. I finally got on the road about half an hour after she left and promptly calmed down as there was not a lot of traffic. You could motor along at your own pace. Unfortunately by leaving so late it was rather cool, but at least I was on my way. The trip was uneventful until you hit all the earthquake related road works, with stop/go people. Eventually I reunited with Dale and the caravan in Kaikoura. We headed south to the motor camp at Peketa for the night. Sleeping directly under the seaward mountains covered with snow meant cool temperatures but the heater in the caravan was sheer heaven.

Day 2 – Wednesday 30th May 2018. Kaikoura to Christchurch.

Woke up to a fine day but rather cool. As

My humble abode





**Sports Club Rooms, Frozen
Idaburn Dam, Hoar Frosted Trees
on other side of Lake**

Bonfire before being lit



Tent City – my tent is centre left

Fire just lit



I peeked out the window I spotted some idiot in a full wetsuit, carrying a surf board heading for the beach. I later heard there was a surfing contest being held there so maybe he was not as crazy as I first thought. Dale hit the road about 9.00am and I followed 20minutes later. The usual roadworks around the south coast meant delays every so often but nothing to worry about. The real problem was $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the start of the Hundalees. The traffic was stopped for a good 20 minutes which was fine in a car or truck but not so flash on a bike where you had no option but to keep the motor ticking over and holding the brake continuously and not helped by having a bloody great stock truck and trailer unit hard up your bum. Needless to say the hands were starting to get pins and needles and the like so when we were eventually allowed to proceed, my take off was not one of my best. At least the Truckie behind me delayed his take-off until I regained some semblance of control. From then on it was pretty straight-forward and eventually reunited with Dale at Cheviot where we stopped for lunch.

It was pretty cruisy to Mandeville which lies between Rangiora & Christchurch and is where our older daughter and her family live.

Day 3 – Thursday 31st May 2018. Christchurch to Oamaru.

The day dawned fine and clear, however we waited until about 9.00am before leaving. The ride down Tram Road to the Motorway heading south from Christchurch was rather cool with several shady spots and frost lying on the grass verges. However, as all other traffic was

moving at a good pace so did we without any problems. It's a bit of a long drawn out affair getting through Christchurch, but the new addition to the motorway has certainly speeded things up considerably.

Once clear of the City the next 80 odd kms to Ashburton were a bit of a bore and cool to boot, so we decided to pull-up on the side of the main drag half-way through Ashburton to have a cuppa in the caravan & stretch the legs a bit. It was then onward to Timaru and eventually Oamaru for our next overnight stop at the Top 10 Holiday Park there. The ride from Ashburton onwards was great, as was the scenery and the traffic. We also started to see a few other bikers on the road heading south loaded to the gunnels and obviously heading to the Rally.

Day 4 – Friday 1st June 2018. Oamaru to Ranfurly.

A relatively short hop today to continue down the coast to Palmerston and then head inland over Highway 85 to Ranfurly. Having read a few accounts by previous attendees about adverse road conditions experienced over the Pig Route, it was a bit of an understatement to say I wasn't feeling a little apprehensive of what was in store for me. We stopped at Palmerston for lunch and the few Cafés were full of bikers so I was not the only one going over the route. That saw my confidence level rise somewhat. Another boost was the fact that it was a sunny, blue sky day and we were going to be travelling over it early afternoon. Dale & I had been travelling in convoy & intended to continue that way right thru to Ranfurly. We had been warned to look out for shady corners and bridges and with the sight of heavy frost on the road edges in places we were rather circumspect initially. Several bikers and vehicles passed us at speed and we both gradually relaxed a little and found to our delight it was all easy peasy. Arrived at Ranfurly in bright sunshine and got ourselves set up in the Motor Camp. There were several other bikers already there, the majority of which had booked out most of the cabins in the camp. There were also a few with camper vans, one of which was towing a trailer which contained an older model bike with a side car. Both looked in immaculate condition & were obviously heading to the Rally as well. The side car idea appealed to me in that one could carry a bit of extra gear to enhance the Rally experience.

Day 5 – D Day – Saturday 2nd June 2018

The day dawned fine and clear which brought a smile to my dial. So with a bit of a spring in my step it was a case of loading up the bike and hacking a track up the main road for 20 odd kms before turning onto the Idaburn Road to Otirehua and the final short stretch to Idaburn Dam where the Rally was being held. Now, the 'smile on my dial' disappeared very rapidly upon turning off the main road. That was the point where the hoar frost had settled and had no intention of going anywhere in the foreseeable future. Visibility was minimal, the visor misted up as did my glasses. The next issue was registering for the Rally just inside the site entrance. The officials had taken up a position on an upward slope which made it rather difficult to hold the brake on with one hand & try and get the paperwork out with the other, as well as receive your badge and get a wrist band. At one stage a female official offered to hold the brake lever for me, which was great until she forgot she was holding it and started to let go of it. Fortunately, her off-sider spotted the impending disaster and grabbed the lever to stop me heading backwards down the hill. For an instant I was a tad worried about my underwear!

Having got through the formalities it was a case of scouting out the overall site to get an idea of where everything was and then finding a strategic spot to set up camp. This turned out to be a lot simpler than I first thought and pretty soon I had my tent up and ready for use.

The next few hours were spent exploring the area in greater detail, meeting up with a few familiar faces, and sussing out what the various retail outlets at the site had to offer. Around 5.30pm the biggest bonfire I have ever seen was lit. The crowning glory was the half dozen or so mature tree

trunks of about 4 or 5 metres in length placed on the top of the fire. As soon as the fire was lit it became the focal point for everyone to gather around and warm up. I had prepaid for both a hot evening dinner and a cooked breakfast, so it was a case of getting my knife, fork and plate from my tent, then head for the Idaburn Sports Club Pavilion a few metres above the frozen Idaburn Dam. The meal was pretty damned good, even though we had to stand outside on the balcony to eat.

Around eight o'clock the live band started up and so it was a case of fluctuating between the bonfire, the various food and drink outlets, the bandstand and the toilets, as nature dictated. As the night progressed the majority of males ignored the loos & simply moved 10 or 15 metres away from the fire towards the edge of the hill overlooking the dam to relieve themselves. Needless to say their silhouettes were very visible given the size of the fire but no one seemed to be worried about it and it was certainly better than using the makeshift urinals where you couldn't see anything as they were so dark.

A live fireworks display started up around 8.30pm or so which was spectacular. It was located on the hillside on the other side of the dam and Huey smiled down upon the venue as the constant hoar frost cloud lifted for the display to reveal a clear starry sky which enhanced the display considerably.

The band played through until 1.00am. I called it quits and headed off to the tent around 12.30am. The next 15 minutes or so were quite interesting. At 72 years of age I'm certainly not as agile as I used to be and having to crawl into the tent, remove ones boots and bike jacket, put an extra pair of thick socks on and get into the sleeping bag in a confined area with minimal headroom was quite a





mission but once in, it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I was relatively warm, the hip protested a tad at the hardness of the ground and the sleeping bag cover with a jersey stuffed into it for a pillow wasn't that comfortable but it had to do. I did manage to sleep however the call of nature interrupted that periodically. I had been told by a mate in Blenheim to take a plastic bottle with a screw top to use for the 'call of nature' during the night to save having to get out of the tent. I recommend this idea but be aware that the orifice at the top of the bottle needs to be on the larger size despite the cold weather!!!

Day 6 – 3rd June 2018 – Idaburn Dam, Ranfurly, Lake Hawea.

Having survived the night it was a case of getting kitted up to face the day, head back to the Sports Club for breakfast and then start to pack up and dismantle the tent. That was a bit of a mission as the tent was covered in frost and ice as was the tarpaulin I had covering the bike. Then came the moment of truth. Would the bike start? The short answer was no. The bike would respond to the start button being pressed but it wouldn't fire up. The guy next to me had a flash Boulevard which was responding just like mine. Along came a knight in shining armour in a truck who had spotted both of us and pulled out a bloody great car battery and jumper leads and within a couple of attempts my bike fired up, but the same can't be said for the guy with the Boulevard. The last I saw of him was being helped to move the bike over to the metal road through the centre of the rally venue.

I left the rally site around 11.00am and had to travel rather cautiously back to the main road as visibility continued to be an ongoing issue. At the intersection with the main road, blue sky and unlimited

visibility was restored to allow for a very pleasant ride back to Ranfurly and our caravan. Dale had been following the weather forecasts and it seemed West was the better option for heading back to Blenheim, as 'crap weather' was going to work its way down the East Coast, whereas the West Coast was going to stay clear until about Wednesday.

We decided to 'break' camp and head for Lake Hawea for the night. So an hour and a half later we headed off. I was definitely in a euphoric state of mind having survived the rally relatively unscathed and faced with a clear blue sky. It didn't take long to be brought back to reality though! 20 odd kms to be exact, which coincided with the turnoff to Idaburn Dam. From there it was going to be wall to wall hoar frost for the next 80 or 90kms. I wound up having to ride the bike most of the way with my visor semi-up and constantly having to wipe my glasses to see where the hell I was going. At breakfast this morning I had met up with John Laing, a fellow Marlborough Ulysses member and riding instructor, who gave me a very good tip after I had expressed some concerns. He simply said to ride to the conditions and use the back brake rather than the front brake in those conditions. All very simple and logical and I adhered to it pretty religiously for the next 300 odd kms until we hit the West Coast at Haast.

By the time we reached Omakau I was ready to throw the towel in and call it quits for the day. We decided to go into a Café and have a coffee before making a final decision. We managed to score a table right next to a heater and pretty soon I started to thaw out quite nicely. The waitress at the Café happened to mention that the hoar frost & fog had been around for a week up to now and wasn't going anywhere for another day or so, which didn't exactly



cheer me up a lot. When we returned to our vehicles I had a look at the map and realised Clyde & Cromwell were less than 50kms away so I said to Dale we need to get out of this 'crap' and I reckon I would be OK for 50kms, so let's do it. Thank God we did. As we neared Clyde we came out of the rubbish, the temperature was more acceptable and normal visibility was resumed. We stopped at the outskirts of Cromwell to have a wee discussion and I suggested to Dale we 'push on' to Lake Hawea as that was only about 80kms away. It was a joy to travel in clear conditions and we reached Lake Hawea around 5.30pm. As soon as the caravan was set up the bottle of brandy under the back seat of the caravan took a bit of a hiding as I relaxed for the first time that day. The heater in the caravan was, in my opinion at that particular moment, the best thing since sliced bread!

Day 7 – 4th June 2018 – Lake Hawea to Hokitika.

We were on our way just before 9.00am

and it was a pleasant ride around Lakes Hawea and Wanaka to Makarora where we stopped briefly but then continued on to Haast. There wasn't a lot of traffic which was good. I have to hand it to Dale, she towed the Caravan over the pass as if it was second nature, although she subsequently confided to me that she freaked a bit going downhill towards Haast when she saw a couple of road signs saying "Run-Off for Run-Away Vehicles 400metres Ahead!"

We stopped at Haast for an early lunch and then continued up the Coast to Franz Joseph for a coffee and muffin before the final push on to a motor camp just north of Hokitika! A 400km day with a caravan (and travelling in convoy) was quite a big day which was duly celebrated with a pre-dinner brandy, followed by an appropriate Marlborough Sauvvy with tea and a glass of Highland Nectar as a night cap. Life can be a bitch at times!

Day 8 – 5th June 2018 – Hokitika to Blenheim

Home will be quite do-able today and the weather looked like it was going to hold which was a real bonus. Unfortunately the trip between Hokitika & Greymouth was spoilt by a severe case of sun-strike which was further complicated by a rather dense fog for about 35 odd kms out of Greymouth on the road to Reefton. Once that lifted the remainder of the trip home was great. We stopped for a coffee at Reefton & then lunch at Murchison. Once



Fire burning at full tit

we turned off at Kawatiri it was plain sailing all the way to home, arriving there about 4.00pm to bring an end to what was an epic journey for me and a revelation that girls can do just as much as boys.

Some Reflections:

Would I do it again? Not sure, as I am getting older and I am not as agile as I used to be. But as the saying goes "Use It or Lose It" so who knows? It's a case of "watch this space!"

I now have a pretty good idea of what to expect and what would be required to enhance the experience, especially at the Rally itself.

We were bloody lucky with the weather for the entire trip. No rain whatsoever so that was a real bonus.

I understand it was 'up there' as being

one of the coldest rallies held at Idaburn with the temperature dropping to around minus 11.7 degrees.

Taking the caravan was a bonus as we were virtually self-sufficient as far as accommodation was concerned and the grog cabinet in the caravan helped me keep my sanity.

The sense of satisfaction of having the right to say "Been there, done that" will remain with me for the rest of my life.

And finally a big thank you to Dale for her role and encouragement despite the fact she thought I was absolutely bonkers to want to even attempt to do it, let alone actually doing so.

Bob #8033





BIKE REVIEW – 2018

HUSQVARNA 701 ENDURO

I told myself my DR650 was all the bike I needed. Enough power, adequate suspension and brakes. OK comfort with the addition of an after-market seat, and 30year old technology that still works fine. Then I saw the new Husqvarna 701 Enduro down at Nelson Motorcycle Centre. Resplendent in its blue, white and yellow livery. One ride and I was a convert to the brave new world of ABS, lightweight high-performance dual-sport riding!

Call me old fashioned but I never thought all this new-fangled technology was really necessary for a good ride. Those that know me will know I'm not a fast rider and hardly test the limits of any bike, but even I can appreciate the remarkable WP fully-adjustable suspension, the awesome Brembo brakes with switchable ABS and the refreshing lack of bulk and weight. My new bike burbles away happily round town, runs hard and fast on the open road when necessary (and let's face it, most riding is on the seal in transit between the interesting bits!) but its real spiritual home is on the gravel and backcountry trails, where the little bike shines. It turns a chump like me into a champ, and positively encourages you to push harder, try things you would never normally attempt, and generally lose about 30-years of age!

Fishers Track, west of National Park Village



Molesworth Station

The bike has a few compromises though, which may or may not be deal-breakers for you. I changed the seat pretty quickly to a Seat Concepts perch. The instrumentation is spartan – no fuel gauge or rev counter, the owner has to manage with a low fuel warning light and a trip meter. There is not much wind protection in stock trim – I've ordered a Madstad adjustable clear screen from America to take the wind blast off my chest. Mounting luggage was a challenge at first. I wanted to keep it light and narrow so went the soft luggage route – Andy Strapz panniers and a stainless exhaust heat shield made locally allows me to pack for long adventures. A rack on

the back with expanding Givi bag and my trusty Wolfman tank bag completes the picture. I've also added Barkbusters and lowered the bike 25mm from an inseam-stretching 910mm.

This Husky is the only bike in my garage now – it does it all, from open-road touring (no pillions though) and twisty seal (think Buller Gorge, Takaka Hill) to gravel road adventuring, even single track like the 42nd Traverse and Fishers Track in the North Island, to the Maungatapu Track, Porika and Braeburn, Rainbow, Hakataramea and Nevis in the Mainland. I love this bike – it feels light (144kg) it's super-smooth, quick-revving and lively. It has switchable ABS and ride-by-wire throttle with fuel injection. The Husky boasts 74hp@8000rpm with six speed transmission and creamy hydraulic clutch, even the stock Continental TKC80's work well on seal or dirt. Tyre life depends of course on how much drifting, wheelies and other juvenile antics you perform, but my back tyre will last 5-6000kms (a sad reflection of my conservative riding style).

So, there you have it – won't be everyone's cup of tea, but for me it's pretty-well perfect and best of all it makes me want to ride more than ever, which can't be a bad thing. I'm not missing my DR650 one bit!

Joe Moreton # 07670

RALLIES



26th Far North Ulysses Branch Rally 14th 15th 16th September 2018 Marsden Bay Youth Camp



Coming from south turn right at roundabout @ Gas Service Station onto Port. Marsden Highway. Turn left onto One Tree Point Road.
Venue is at 89a One Tree Point Road, Ruakaka

Contact Anne Grbin ☎ Ph 0272920465
or Email: Anne Grbin - algrbin@gmail.com

**Tent Sites, Bunk Rooms, Music, Raffles, Prizes, Meals, Free Tea/Coffee/home baking
Cheap Booze (No BYO), Plates, Cups & Cutlery Supplied**

An organised ride on Saturday

Please note: entry to venue after 4pm on the 14th

**FOR REGISTRATION FORMS – PLEASE CONTACT
BRANCH COORDINATOR
ANNE GRBIN ON 027 292 0465 OR VIA EMAIL
algrbin@gmail.com**

Waikato Ulysses:



Child Cancer Foundation

Poker Run

Sunday 2nd December 2018: \$20 pre-registration advised

(First 50 eligible for free entry Mike Pero Motofest, Hampton Downs 2&3 March 2019)

(Second 50 eligible for ½ price entry M P Motofest, Hampton Downs 2&3 March 2019)

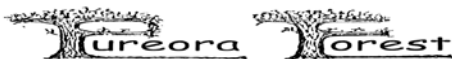
(Mike Pero Motofest entry includes 3 laps of the track & display of your bike).

Email: Waikato.sec@ulysses.org.nz for banking and registration details.



Hosted at: the RSA, Alexander Street, Te Awamutu 9:30am

8.30 – 9.15am late registrations. Briefing 9.15am



31st Waikato Branch Annual Rally 9th to 11th November 2018

Entry Fee - \$10.00 per person per night

Breakfast on Sunday, Tea, Coffee, Hot water, Gas rings. All inc. BYO food, utensils, refreshments & accommodation. Tin tops and caravans OK.

The Ulysses Club's first Back to Nature Rally and still going strong after 30 years. No bands. No organised entertainment.

Directions – From Whakamaru, travel south on SH32 (Western Access) for approx 24kms. Turn right into Kakaho Road (Look for Ulysses sign) then 3km to campsite.

NAME:

FRIDAY: Number attending x \$10 each \$

SATURDAY: No. attending x \$10 each \$

BADGES : Number required x \$10 each \$

TOTAL COST: \$

Cheque payable to Ulysses Waikato or Bank Transfer to Westpac Account: 03 1555 0013109 00

SEND ENTRY TO: Nev Tyler, 9 Dudley Ave, Huntly 3700



A New Event on the Ulysses Calendar.

**Taupo Fellowship Ride
23rd September 2018, midday
Destination ride
Pub & Grub
4 Roberts St (Lake Terrace)
Taupo**

Hawkes Bay Branch

would like to invite all members to attend a lunchtime gathering.
This is a social event for all branches who wish to attend - bikes, cars, campers or scooters are all welcome.
(distance allowing)

We are following the "Keep it simple" format.
Ride in, have lunch with your fellow club mates, share some stories and head off home around 2pm

Event Contact
Tiny 021 053 7842
vice.p@ulysses.org.nz

MAYHEM IN FEBRUARY

1997 - 2019

In the spirit of Ulysses
22nd - 24th February 2019

Whanganui's Almost Back To Basics Summer Rally: Mangatepopo Camp on State Highway 47

- What to Bring:** Your bedding and linen requirements, including pillows. Your food, drinks and tea towels for drying your dishes
- What's Available:** Heated bedrooms which sleep 3, 4 or 6 (get yourself a group together and book a room)
Plenty of showers and toilets
Well appointed kitchen for self catering plus spacious dining facilities
Games room, Large drying room
Room for camper vans, motor homes and tents
- Things to do:** Plenty of walks in the area
Fishing (arrange own licenses)
Less than 30 minutes drive from Whakapapa Village and Ski Slopes, Turangi and Tokaanu Hot Pools

Bring your dirt bikes, trikes, quads or Mountain bikes – (we are at the opposite end from Owango of the 42km traverse).

Be aware that the tracks are open to the public and are used by many different groups so care is needed

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Darryl Greeks and Camp Mother, Lorraine Greeks (06) 345-6624 or 027-229-1294 Whanganui
Don Morison (04) 476-9516 Wellington

The Longest Day Saturday 3rd November

Feel like a challenge? Wanna push the boat out? Are you a repeat offender or is this the first opportunity to find out what you and your bike can do? Or simply another badge for the man-tin? There is no fixed route. Kick-off: anytime, anywhere on whatever circuit tickles ya fancy, solo or as a group; it's about giving it a crack. For Christchurch riders who wish to, there will be a 0600 start from outside the Yaldy' Hotel. There will also be a BBQ for riders finishing in Christchurch. Details to follow on registration.

In order to register and receive information on the ride including route options, and to receive your badge, please email to zara.nevinking@zenithinteriors.com for a registration form. Any questions please give Steve or Chris a bell.
Steve Parr: steve.barbparr@outlook.com or Chris Carey captain.carefree@gmail.com

\$25 Rider / \$15 Pillion. Entries close Friday 26th October. Entries on the day accepted for riders departing Christchurch.

Waikato Ulysses Branch invites you to join

NORTHERN ODYSSEY 2019

You will be given a route of approx. 1000kms of North Island roads selected for their good riding, great scenery and points of interest along the way. Every hour or so, you will need to stop and find the answer to a question. The 2019 Odyssey will take you on a loop around the Central North Island starting and finishing at the Classic Car Museum in Hamilton.

The questions can be completed any time between Boxing Day (26 December 2018) and ANZAC Day (25 April 2019). The route can be completed as one continuous ride or several short rides.

REGISTRATION: \$30.00

ENTRIES: Entries accepted until end of March 2019; Early Bird entries before 15th December 2018 receive a \$10.00 Wild Bean coffee voucher with their Badge on completion.

Entries open to all, Ulysses members and non-members. The Fee is set to break-even on the event.

=====

To enter, simply send your Name, Postal address, Email address (if you have one) and phone number to: dcoy41@gmail.com OR by post to: PO Box 5232, Frankton, Hamilton 3242 AND pay the \$30.00 Entry fee to: Ulysses Club, Waikato Branch, Westpac Account No: 03 1555 0013109 00 or by cheque to PO Box above – cheques payable to: "Ulysses Club, Waikato Branch".

Bank transfer or cheque – make sure the sender's name is clear.

The Organisers, Jim Galt & David Coy of Ulysses Club, Waikato Branch, are not responsible for any damage or injury to participants in the Northern Odyssey.



Ulysses Club 2019 National Rally

Hosted by the Hawke's Bay Branch in Hastings, Hawkes Bay
Friday 29th – Sunday 31st March 2019

**Venue; Clubs Hastings – 308 Victoria Street,
Hastings 4122**

Registration: From 1PM Friday 29th Saturday Night

Theme is: "Last of the Summer Whine" Wear your flat cap, scruffy suit, baggy stockings, pinny, fish net stockings, mini skirt, frock or best suit and come as Clegg, Compo, Nora Batty, Foggy, Truly, Pearl, Marina or Howard etc.

"The even'n be champion, plenty o' chelpin, tha nite go-off chuffin well".

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS – PLEASE CONTACT
BRANCH COORDINATOR
MIKE SHAW 021 458 330 OR EMAIL AT
hawkes.bay@ulysses.org.nz

RALLIES

Runs & Rallies

SEPTEMBER

9 Bikers in Blue, Hamilton to Mt Maunganui (prostate cancer support)

14 – 16 **Far North Branch Rally**, Marsden Point

15 **Harihari Rally**, Westland Branch

OCTOBER

5 **Four Points Compass Rally**, Manawatu Branch, starts

27 **Four Points Compass Rally** finishes, Palmerston North

NOVEMBER

3 **1000k Ride**, Canterbury Branch

9 – 11 **Pureora Forest, Back to Basics Rally**, Waikato Branch

11 **Mountain to Sea Run**, Whakatane Branch (100th Anniversary of Armistice)

11 **Ronald McDonald Ride**, N Harbour Branch

16 – 18 **Auckland Rally**, River meets Sea, Port Waikato

17 **Whanganui Branch Toy Run**

23 -25 Magpie Madness Rally, Winchester

24 **Nelson Toy Run**

24 – 25 NZ Bike Show, Auckland

DECEMBER

1 **Buller Branch Toy Run**

8 **Marlborough Branch Toy Run**

15 Northern Odyssey, Early Bird rego deadline

26 Whanganui Boxing Day Races, (Ulysses parking & view stand)

26 **Northern Odyssey commences**, Waikato Branch

NOTE: Ulysses events in BOLD.

For more details of each event see ad at end of The Ulyssian, or Ulysses website – www.ulysses.org.nz or, contact local Coordinator or, use Google.

Coordinators: to have your significant Runs & Rallies included in the R & R list for future editions of The Ulyssian please advise David Coy at: dcoy41@gmail.com two weeks before the edition deadline. Thanks.

Ulysses Boxing Day Parking Whanganui Branch



Follow the signs when coming into Whanganui

Entrance off Guyton Street, look for the "Amdram" theatre on the left going away from the town centre or on the right towards CBD, well signed as you travel along Guyton Street also a Ulysses member wearing Hi Vis jacket will be directing bikes at the entrance.

Fee \$10.00 includes all day secure parking for **bike and gear**.

This year we have a speedy new system in place, so please have your cash handy on arrival.

Contact: Neil Ross 06-3488325 or Piet Meijer 06-3484141

ULYSSES AUCKLAND RALLY "RIVER MEETS THE SEA"

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 November 2018

PORT WAIKATO SCHOOL CAMP, PORT WAIKATO-
WAIKARETU ROAD,
PORT WAIKATO

On-site registration opens 4.00pm Friday 16
November 2018

NO PETS ALLOWED ON SITE

FACILITIES: Bunkrooms, Camping/Campervan Parking. Hot showers, toilets, Tea, Coffee and Home baking available at no cost. Eating utensils, cup, plates & cutlery supplied. **Bring your own bedding and Alcohol/Mixers please. Completed forms and payments will help allocate rooms.**

There will be a short ride leaving the camp at 10:00am on Saturday morning.

**FOR REGISTRATION FORMS – PLEASE CONTACT
BRANCH COORDINATOR**

**CLIVE THOMAS ON 027 481 2700 OR EMAIL
auckland.sec@ulysses.org.nz**

Ulysses Club Manawatu Branch

Four Points Compass Rally Motorcycle Poker Run

Complete all 4 Points in any order from Friday October 5th and finish with the drawing of the last card in Palmerston North on Saturday October 27th. Prizegiving is in Palmerston North. Winners must be present.

\$45 per Card Hand (includes badge and light refreshments). Extra Badge please add \$10
Pillion Supper (if not playing poker) add \$5.

**Email: chrisandtrishnz@gmail.com or
phone 06 3542922 or 021 2627919 for a
registration form.**

COORDINATORS' CONTACT DETAILS

The Ulysses Club of New Zealand Incorporated – New Zealand Ulysses Branch Coordinators, Meeting Times and Addresses
Version 01/05/2018 To update your Branch's information, please contact the National Secretary – contact details inside front cover.

Branch	Address	Phone / Email	Fax / Mobile
ADMINISTRATION: Debby Morgan	P O Box 40218, UPPER HUTT, 5140	0800 ULYSSES admin@ulysses.org.nz	021 072 3636
AUCKLAND Clive Thomas	1/541 Pakuranga Rd, Howick Auckland, 2010 Manukau Cruising Club, Orpheus Drive, Onehunga, 1st Monday monthly, 7.30pm	09 535 4579 auckland@ulysses.org.nz	027 481 2700
BULLER Rex Collins	49 Romilly Street, Westport 7825 1st Tuesday of each month at Club Buller	03 789 4030 buller@ulysses.org.nz	021 058 9960
CANTERBURY Steve Orpwood	24 Glencoe Street Burnside Christchurch 8053 Cashmere Club, 88 Hunter Tce, Christchurch, 3rd Wednesday monthly 7.30pm	03 358 7494 canterbury@ulysses.org.nz	021 127 3363
FAR NORTH Nick Grbin	7 Otaika Rd, Woodhill, Whangarei 0110 Burger King, Whangarei, Sundays at 10.30am	09 438 4855 far.north@ulysses.org.nz	027 483 5183
GISBORNE Christine (Chris) Cameron	277 Bloomfield Road RD 1 Makauri Gisborne 4071 Tatapouri Fishing Club first Thursday monthly 7-30pm	06 868 9661 gisborne@ulysses.org.nz	027 460 2430
HAWKES BAY Barry Robertson	4 York Ave, Tamatea, Napier 4112 Clubs Hastings, 1st Wednesday monthly 7.30pm	06 844 4506 hawkes.bay@ulysses.org.nz	021 424 638
KAPITI COAST Tony Russell	7 Cedar Drive, Paraparaumu Beach, Paraparaumu 5032 1st Wed Mth 7:30pm. Odd Mths The Jolly, Paraparaumu/ Even Mths Otaki RSA.	kapiti@ulysses.org.nz	021 127 9595
KING COUNTRY Graeme Hammond	17 Seddon Street, TE KUITI, 3910 Contact Graeme for details	07 878 5009 king@ulysses.org.nz	027 850 201
MANAWATU Murray Cross	26 Park View Ave, Fielding 4702. 2nd Tuesday each month (except January) at the Bunthythorpe Tavern at 7.30pm.	06 323 2660 manawatu@ulysses.org.nz	027 564 0640
MARLBOROUGH Kelvin Watson	143B Maxwell Road, Blenheim 7201 Vines Village Rapaura Road every Saturday Morning 10am	marlborough@ulysses.org.nz	027 306 7344
NELSON Lorraine Lindsay	11 Springlea Heights, Atawhai, Nelson. Speights Ale House (opposite WOW complex), every Saturday 10am to 12 noon.	03 545 1919 nelson@ulysses.org.nz	021 276 5656
NORTH HARBOUR Wayne Painter	P O Box 100 054 NSMC Auckland 0745 1st Thurs.Mth 5.30-9pm Pupuke Golf Club, 231 East Coast Rd, Campbells Bay, North Shore	09-444 2770 n.harbour@ulysses.org.nz	027 289 1018
NORTH OTAGO Bruce Thacker	123 Thames Street, Oamaru 9400 Criterion Hotel, Cnr Harbour & Tyne Sts, Oamaru, 3rd Wednesday of each month	03 439 5545 n.otago@ulysses.org.nz	021 501 102
OTAGO Terry Clapham	73B Factory Rd, Mosgeil 9024 First Tues. each month, 7:00 pm at the Otago M/C Club (OMCC) rooms 3 Clark St	otago@ulysses.org.nz	021 140 1344
ROTORUA Gordon White	10 Moke Road, Rotorua 3010 St John Ambulance Hall, Peririka Street 7.00pm last Sunday of the month	rotorua@ulysses.org.nz	027 345 8634
SOUTHLAND Ross Lawry	12 Martin St, Invercargill 9812 Ride 3rd Sunday of month. Meet at Southland Honda Clyde St at 10.30am.	03 218 2900 southland@ulysses.org.nz	
TARANAKI Suzi Pentelow	152 Kina Road, RD 31, Opunake 4681 New Plymouth Club, 49-55 Gill Street, New Plymouth. 6pm, 3rd Wednesday monthly	06 763 8571 taranaki@ulysses.org.nz	027 412 0913
TAUMARUNUI Bob Kendrick	4366 State Highway 4 RD 1, Ongarue, TAUMARUNUI, 3994 R S A, 2nd Tues. each month. Rides 10.00am , BP	07 895 9244 taumarunui@ulysses.org.nz	
TAUPO Rick Kosterman	53 Kiddle Dr, Hilltop, Taupo 3330 Taupo Cosomopolitan Club Taniwha Street, 7:30pm. 2nd Thursday each month.	07 377 3550 taupo@ulysses.org.nz	027 435 8259
TAURANGA Graham Vincent	Tauranga Citizens Club, Thirteenth Avenue, 7.30pm, 3rd Tuesday monthly	07 5711621 tauranga@ulysses.org.nz	0274 971847
TURANGI Deb Treweek	65 Te Rangitautahanga Rd Turangi 3334 Bridge Motel SH1 Turangi 7.30 pm 2nd Wednesday each month	07 386 0922 turangi@ulysses.org.nz	027 321 0619
WAIHI-THAMES VALLEY Marlene Johnson	210 Edward Street, Coromandel 3506 Paeroa RSA 67 Belmont Rd Paeroa 3.pm, Sunday 2 monthly Check www.ulysseswtv.org.nz	07 866 8019 waihi.tv@ulysses.org.nz	027 223 2629
WAIKATO Jim Galt	PO Box 5232, Frankton, Hamilton 3242 Waikato Commerce Club, 197 Collingwood St, 1st Mon Mthly 7.30pm (except Jan)	07 843 3119 waikato@ulysses.org.nz	021 901 557
WAIKARAPA Nik Player	461B High Street South Wairarapa Services & Citizen's Club, Essex Street Masterton, 3rd Monday monthly 7:30pm	06 379 7566 wairarapa@ulysses.org.nz	029 222 0562
WANGANUI Piet Meijer	33C Pitt Street Wanganui 4500 RSA 170 St Hill Street Wanganui, 7.30pm, 1st Thursday monthly	06-348 4141 wanganui@ulysses.org.nz	021 143 6137
WELLINGTON Jim Furneaux	47 Ward Street, Wallaceville, UPPER HUTT 5018 Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone, 7.30pm, 2nd Tuesday monthly	04 971 2893 wellington@ulysses.org.nz	021 244 2091
WESTLAND Annette Paterson	8 Park St, Hokitika 7810 Varies, contact Annette for details	03 755 5367 westland@ulysses.org.nz	027 439 8929
WHAKATANE Sue Holmes	103 Paroa Rd, RD1 Whakatane, PO Box 784, Whakatane Ohope Charter Club, Ohope, 7.30pm, 2nd Wednesday monthly	07 308 8738 whakatane@ulysses.org.nz	027 363 2177

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