



RIDING ON TOO

NEWSLETTER OF THE ULYSSES CLUB

CANBERRA BRANCH

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**WWW.ULYSSESCLUB.ORG/BRANCHES/CANBERRA/
PO BOX 387 CURTIN ACT 2605**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT

Ian Paterson

iansallypaterson@inet.net.au

TREASURER

Peter Higgs

phiggs@netspeed.com.au

SECRETARY

Marilyn Starick

starick.marilyn@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Perry

judyperry@netspeed.com.au

Trish Holdsworth

tonkatough10@hotmail.com

Kyla Harvey

mickandkyla@hotmail.com

EX OFFICIO POSITIONS

Ride Coordinator

Andrew Campbell

amcewan2@optusnet.com.au

BBQ Coordinator

Kyla Harvey

mickandkyla@hotmail.com

Editor

Lyn Munday

RO2Editor@live.com

Historian

Peter Newark

pjnewark@ozemail.com.au

Quartermaster

Jan Wills

janw@clicksrecruit.com.au

Webmaster

Gary McDonald

kurrajong@internode.on.net

G'day all,

It's great to see the return of warmer weather and the start of another riding season. We're lucky here in Oz that we can ride year-round, unlike those in much of the northern hemisphere who have to pack their bikes away for months because they just can't ride in ice, snow and -30C temperatures. Nonetheless, it's much more pleasant riding in the warmer weather, and the number of rides and rallies over the next few months is testament to that.

We kicked off the season a week or so ago with a three-day ride to Gilgandra and Mudgee that also took in the Warrumbungles and the post-Bathurst race traffic (who'd have thought it could take 20 minutes to ride the 2km from Bathurst to Kelso?). It was fantastic being out on the road for a few days without having to be bundled up in all our winter gear. The countryside is looking beautiful after the spring rain, the canola is in flower, the speed limit on the Newell Highway is back up to 110 km/h and all is right with the world!

Motorcycle Awareness Week starts this Saturday with the Ride for Remembrance and the official launch and finishes on Sunday October 30 with BikeFest at EPIC. We'll have a stand at BikeFest and we need as many of you as possible to spend some time there, chatting to each other, potential members, other riders and the general public. I guarantee you'll have a fun time!!

We'll need help setting up from about 9:30am and pulling down at 2:30pm to 3:00pm, so if you can be there early or late, that would be a big help. Otherwise, just turn up on the day and stay for as long as you can. Wear your Ulysses gear – and bring your bike and park it at the stand to demonstrate to everyone the variety and excitement that is a part of Growing Old Disgracefully.

Our beloved secretary Marilyn Starick is taking part in The Long Ride 2011 to raise money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. She leaves Canberra on November 5th for Nyngan, Broken Hill, Loxton, Hamilton, Queenscliff, Sale and back through Canberra to Sydney on November 12th. This is a great effort on behalf of us blokes and I urge you to support her with a donation. Go to www.everydayhero.com.au/event/thelongride2011 and click on Sponsor a Friend.

Cheers,
Ian

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ACT REGION: 700+

“TWISTED TORQUE”

Tuesday 20th September 2011.

President Ian Paterson opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

61 members in attendance

Apologies from Derek & Margaret Titheradge, Mark McGavock, Peter & Kim Gibbins, Alex & Val Sloots, Leo Farrelly, Dave McIlroy, Kyla Harvey and Caroline Palin.

New members/visitors: Geoff Howard – recently returned from the USA after several years and Kerry Clifford.

Corro: Anthony Adams advised the club that he has moved to the coast and wished to be taken off the e-mail list.

Treasurer: Peter said we have money in the bank and the financial report is in the RO2 for perusal. A \$2000 payment was made last month to SouthCare, so our balance is a bit low.

RustyRiders: Gary mentioned that the next Rusty Riders is scheduled for 2/10 with the chomp and chat.

Ride Coordinator: Andrew gave a brief itinerary of this weekend's ride to Nowra/Kangaroo Valley. All welcome. The ride calendar is up to date and available on the website.

Social Sec: Judy mentioned that this Saturday 24th is the next Social BBQ for the club. Commencing at 11.00am at Black Mountain peninsula BBQ area and going through till approx 2.00pm for those who wish to socialise with other club members and fill your bellies. This was wonderful last time, having met members who hadn't been able to get to meetings. So come along.

Judy thanked Lyn Munday who knitted 64 squares for shawl/scarfs for Ethiopian women.

Reminder that the Club Xmas party is scheduled for 3rd December at the Canberra Rifle Range. CLAIM the DATE.

BBQ: Excellent day at CMC and Bryson has a new way of making Egg and Bacon Rolls, there were some great pictures in the last RO2 of Gary Mac enjoying his.

Quartermaster: Jan has all the usual gear for sale/order. This week she has a 2nd hand Triumph Jacket (which sold) and women's leather riding pants size 12-14 for \$100. Still available.

RO2: Lyn received accolades for the wonderful newsletters of late. Many thanks for the great read. Lyn would still like to receive more ride reports, whether it be a small day ride or other, from club members. Reminder, that reports need to be with Lyn the *Thursday prior to the social meeting*.

National Council: Jen reported that the committee had visited Mildura and reports that the grass is growing very well and the venue and ride route are great. Put the Mildura AGM on your Claim the Date calendar.

General Business:

- Peter Arday will be leading the ride on 8-10 October to Gilgandra and Mudgee. Check the details on the webpage and book your accommodation.
- **P** Helen Dutton has received her P's. Well **done**.
- If you want a great day out then visit the Australian Motor Life Museum <http://www.motorlifemuseum.com.au/> at Kembla Grange.
- Barneys at Bookham have great Pies.
- Marilyn mentioned the 'Pink Ribbon Ride' leaving Old Parliament House on 23 October at 10.00am. Cost is \$15 per bike and all funds raised go to NBCF.
- Marilyn is participating in "The Long Ride" raising funds for Prostate Cancer Foundation from the 5-12 November. She is seeking sponsorship/donations for the Foundation. See separate information on the Long Ride in this month's RO2 which will show a donation link.
- Andrew gave us an interesting ride report through photos on the laptop of his recent trip to Colorado. Great countryside, didn't seem to be a lot of people around, roads were brilliant, coffee lousy. He thoroughly enjoyed his time there.
- Ian also had a recent trip to the east coast of USA and stayed with his in-laws. He had some great shots of his Sally and his borrowed bike, along with some very wet ones, as he was there when the big rain depression hit the east coast.

So come along to the next meeting for an informative get together, you never know who you might meet.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.



Ulysses Canberra
Committee Meeting
Tuesday 27 September 2011

Meeting opened by President Ian at 6.35pm

Present: Ian Paterson, Peter Higgs, Trish Holdsworth, Marilyn Starick and Kyla Harvey.

Apology: Judy Perry

That the minutes from 5 July 2011 be approved. Moved: Peter Higgs; Seconded: Kyla Harvey.

Business Arising from previous Minutes

- Ian to contact Stuart regarding the status of the "Heather Shilton Memorial Trophy".
- Name badges and Branch shirts – Carried over to next meeting – Ian to get more information
- Ian to follow up with other advertisers for the RO2. CMC has paid for their ad.

Correspondence

Outgoing: Letter to David Howard re Life membership payments

Incoming: e-mail from Anthony Adams advising change of location

e-mail from Jen Woods clarifying MAW week

Act Health confirming authority to conduct BBQ's

Ulysses Club Inc – Advising passing of Jack Lewin

CPS Credit Union re term deposit

Snowy Hydro Receipt letter

Treasurer

Peter is still organising the change of banks to Bendigo Bank.

Admin Bandit (software which National use) will be used from January 2012 to organise the accounts; this will allow generation of reports etc for auditing purposes.

Proceeds from the last BBQ of approx \$170 are still to be banked.

National have requested that our accounts be audited.

Other Business

Guest Speakers: Trish advised that Paul or Andrew from CMC will be attending the October Social Meeting and Peter Toet from Vintage and Veteran Club will be presenting a talk on 'Oils in Motorbikes' also at the October meeting.

Alternative Venue: It was suggested that we consider Café E'Cibo at the Wetlands for our social meetings. Trish is to follow up with the owners whether they would be amenable to opening up for us on Tuesday evenings. They currently host Canberra Riders every Monday evening. Café E'Cibo provide great food ranging from light to main meals at reasonable prices and great coffee.

MAW – Motorcycle Awareness Week: This is being held from the 22 – 30th October for all riders and interested public. Bring your friends to the events and invite workmates.

22 Oct Remembrance Ride from OPH to Civic and launch of **JOE RIDER**

23 Oct **Pink Ribbon Ride** - www.girlsonthemove.com.au

25 Oct Liz de Rome – presents her findings on Motorbike Safety gear.

28 Oct Bikers Breakfast

30 Oct BikeFest at Epic Centre – Follow up with volunteers to man a Ulysses tent for the day

Detailed information can be found at www.mraact.org.au

BBQ – Our next BBQ will be held at CMC Fyshwick on Saturday 22 October. So after the Remembrance Ride come on out and have a sanga.

Meeting closed at 7.05pm

Some of the people gathered at the Black Mountain BBQ on 24th Sept 2011



Early Morning Police

A Police STOP at 2 AM

An elderly man is stopped by the police around 2 am. And is asked where he is going at this time of night.

The man replies, "I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asks, "Really? Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replies, "That would be my wife."



Ulysses water bottle.
500ml capacity strong
but light, stainless steel.

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**Ulysses Club - Canberra Branch
Report for September
2011**

Income			Banked S1	Banked S2	Investment
13/10/2011	BBQ	\$ 115.30			
13/10/2011	QM	\$ 6.00			
13/10/2011	Newsletter	\$ 4.00			
14/10/2011	Banking		\$10.00	\$115.30	
Presented cheques					
21/10/2011	QM Supplies (Phiggs EFT)	\$ 204.40			
13/10/2011	BBQ Supplies	\$ 129.65			
Expenses					
13/10/2011	Cheque Book	\$ 4.50			
Account Balances					
	S1 03409312	\$1,330.95			
	S2 03505049	\$ 262.15			
	Investment	\$4,386.64			



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A snail slides into a Ferrari dealer and orders the flashiest fastest Ferrari on the lot. As the deal is about to be closed the snail says he wants a big 'S' painted on the sides. The salesman asks him why and the snail says he wants everyone to know it is him. The salesman agrees and now the snail races around town with people saying 'Wow, look at the S-car go!'

(Escargot – cooked snails)



Teddy bears in cream or brown wearing a Ulysses t-shirt, jacket & bandana
Price \$35



Headsocks are great to wear under your helmet on those warmer days.
Price \$17



Ugly fish sunnies.
Price \$55

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30PM AT THE ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB, 78 FRANKLIN ST, FORREST. ARRIVE EARLY FOR DINNER WITH OTHER MEMBERS, BEFORE THE MEETING, FROM 6.30PM

Next meeting Tuesday 15th November 2011



MOTORCYCLE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING: PROTECTION FROM INJURY OR JUST THE WEATHER?

Motorcyclists are encouraged to wear protective clothing, but little is known about the effectiveness of motorcycle clothing in crashes. The GEAR Study investigated the performance of motorcycle clothing and body armour by talking to riders who crashed in the ACT between 2008-2009.

The Motorcycle Riders Association of the ACT invites you to a presentation on the findings of The GEAR Study. This event is a part of Motorcycle Awareness Week 2011.

Speaker: Liz de Rome, The George Institute for Global Health, University of Sydney

Date: Tuesday 25 October 2011

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

RSVP: committee@mraact.org.au

Place: The Hellenic Club, Moore St, Canberra City

The GEAR Study was sponsored by Swann Insurance



THE GEORGE INSTITUTE
for Global Health



swann
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Hi Everyone,

Spring is finally here and believe it or not, it is almost time to think about your Christmas orders. The office will be open until the 23rd December, but to guarantee dispatch before Christmas, the cut off date is 30th November. Orders will still be processed after this date but may not be delivered in time.

Also, remember that Teddy Bears are a great gift for Christmas for young and old alike. There are some wonderful items in the Gearshop for you to consider.

Regards

Chris Glover

National Purchasing Officer

Xmas in July 2012

Have a think about where we can go for Xmas in July next year???????

Have a look at the below place in Narrendera and provide your thoughts to judyperry@netspeed.com.au

<http://www.newcriterion.com.au>



Overnight Ride to Huskisson 10th & 11th December 2011.

Mick Harvey will be leading a ride to Huskisson on Saturday 10th Dec, returning on Sunday 11th Dec.

Recommended accommodation for Saturday night is at:

Huskisson Beach Motel

9 Hawke St

Huskisson

Ph: 4441 6387

<http://www.huskissonbeachmotel.com.au>

Saturday night for 2 will cost \$110.

If you are interested in joining Mick on this ride, please book your own accommodation and meet at BP Watson at 9.30am on Saturday.

If you are interested in going down on Friday, it will cost you \$100 for 2 people and the rest of the group will join you on Saturday.

Bombala Celebration of Motorcycles 19th November 2011

www.bombalabikeshow.com.au

Tallangatta Rally - hosted by Albury-Wodonga Ulysses Branch - 2nd - 4th March 2012

Contact: Bill Abbott 0417 652 974 or
Heather Knowles 0429 962 419

FOR MORE WHAT'S ON:

HTTP://WWW.ULYSSES.ORG.AU/BRANCHES/CANBERRA/HTML/WHATS ON .

Rider Development – October 2011 – Biketober

October is Biketober. Biketober is a special name. It reminds us that this is the month that traditionally bikes come out of their sheds, sales go up, motorcycle parking spaces get harder to find and more bikes are seen on the road. The weather is warmer, (well sort of), possibly a little wetter, but with daylight savings having started a lot more riding time is available.

I hope some of the emerging riders take their time to be re-acquainted with the roads, their ride and their riding skills. I know there is a hard core who didn't stop riding over the Canberra winter, but a lot do park during the cold months. It's a long break for some, and it's important that they bring both their machine and themselves up to speed, as it were, before they seek too much adventure. A check of tyres, pressures and a service would be a good idea.



Speaking of adventure, the MotoGP at Phillip Island is on again & I have seen a steady stream of two wheeled travellers head through town. It's good to exchange a wave or a nod, and I definitely wish I was going. It's a great atmosphere, and I enjoy the ride through the mountains there and back again. There's risk though. There will be a few riders who will forget themselves and go a bit too fast, confusing road with track. Hopefully the worst will be a "moment" or perhaps a speeding fine. I've had to stop for the odd one who got it wrong though. A bent machine rather than rider fortunately, but it doesn't always go that way. I have learnt that the getting there, and the getting back, on the same two wheels you left on is a pretty admirable part of the experience too.

There's some other interesting things happening in Biketober. One of those is Motorcycle Awareness Week. It's an opportunity to remind the car drivers, the truck drivers and even other riders that we are legitimate road users too and that we deserve the same respect. Look out for "Joe Rider" if you can, or even help out. Encourage your friends, workmates and family to look out for Joe too. This is an awareness campaign that everyone can take part in and it just may help save a life.

Don't forget Liz de Rome's Gear Study talk on the 25th at 6.30pm the Civic Hellenic Club in Civic (Moore St). Liz will be presenting her findings from her 12 month PhD study. This is a study on how our good gear fared, its effectiveness and more. An evening well worth our time! Look for more details in this month's RO2, or have a look on the MRA ACT website at <http://mraact.org.au> for a whole calendar of activities.

Bike Fest. will be on too – don't forget to speak to Ian if you want to help out with the Ulysses stand.

An annual favourite, the Snowy Ride will be on again early next month. It is a great ride, and like the GP a fantastic atmosphere at all the stops, at Jindabyne and especially Thredbo. It does attract a lot of folk unfamiliar with the terrain and rural roads though. Ability and aspirations can be confused. I definitely recommend a relaxed pace for this one. Worth a look even for a day ride, although having done a few this way, I also recommend a rest break. An early start, a long day on challenging roads and fatigue will sneak up on you. Overnight if you can, party just the right amount and the ride home will be a pleasure. Don't forget that the weather can change rapidly and to the extreme in the mountains. Make sure you have warm clothing and wet weather gear with you just in case. For more info check out <http://snowyride.org.au>

Riding Safe,

Gary Mac



Safety barriers or barriers to safety?

An update on WRBs

- Margo Saunders

Wire rope barriers. Three little words guaranteed to generate angry passion among motorcyclists.



Also known as ‘cheese-cutters’ (and sometimes Brifen® fences or barriers), these barriers have been the subject of discussion and debate – with no satisfactory resolution – for more than a decade.

The subject of WRBs was recently raised on the MRA ACT email forum, where it touched a nerve and kept the emails running hot for several weeks. People wanted to know why WRBs are still being used in Australia when they have been shown to increase the risk of injury to motorcyclists (from both the wires and the posts). It seemed logical, and beyond argument, that barrier systems should enhance, and not decrease, survivability for all road users. So why are these things still being installed and what can be done about this?

Peter Major and Jennifer Woods provided helpful background on the history of the issue and efforts to address it, both locally and nationally. Shaun Lennard, Australian Motorcycle Council Chairman and Tasmanian Representative on the Ulysses Road Safety Committee, intends to prepare a document summarising what is known about WRBs in terms of their impact and use. (Road Safety Committee minutes are on the Club’s national website and are well worth a look.) In the meantime, concerns have been raised about proposals to introduce more WRBs down the centre of the road where lanes move between one and two lanes. This simulation shows a proposed “treatment” in Tasmania -- it has been claimed that the GDE comes close to this (http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/infrastructure_projects/community_roads_program/west_tamar_highway_near_bradys_lookout_upgrade).

According to the previous ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Jon Stanhope, the ACT Government’s position was as follows: despite motorcyclists being recognised as a key element of the ACT Road Safety Strategy and the ACT Road Safety Action Plan, the ACT has no specific policy in relation to WRBs, as these comply with the relevant Australian Standard and ‘have a number of proven road safety benefits over other barrier systems’.

Getting State and Territory officials to seriously consider a moratorium on WRBs or modifying them to make them safer has been difficult, given the view that the barriers work well for cars, are relatively inexpensive to install and maintain, and conform to current Australian Standards. The lack of maimed or dead bodies has also been cited as evidence that the risks to motorcyclists are ‘unsubstantiated.’

The AMC was highly critical of the draft National Road Safety Strategy, claiming that Austroads has little knowledge, understanding or interest in motorcycle safety issues and their research programs do little to improve motorcycle safety. According to John Meara, Queensland representative on the Ulysses Road Safety Committee, the entire national strategy is based on flawed data, with funding urgently needed for improved police crash investigation and reporting.

Information about the risks of WRBs can be found on the internet and some has been provided on the MRA ACT email forum. In the August 2011 issue of *Riding On*, Ian Parks describes what happened to an experienced rider who lost control of his motorcycle in heavy rain and hit a WRB. Parks’ article also raises questions about the theory that hazards which are a known danger to motorcyclists should be deliberately installed on the theory that these will get motorcyclists to ‘slow down’ and be ‘more aware’.

Good research is important, and most of what we currently have is based on crash findings from overseas. There is certainly a need for more Australian information, as well as more scope for other research techniques such as crash simulations and computer modelling.

(WRB's Continued)

Even given the current evidence, however, the Australian approach to WRBs seems contrary to the way we approach other public health risks. A 'precautionary' approach is commonly taken where 'ironclad' evidence is lacking for a potentially serious health risk. This is especially justified where alternative measures are available which could reduce the risk and which do not require the health and safety of one group to be sacrificed for the sake of another. Also, where there is a suspicion, rather than scientific consensus, that a product is a risk to health, it is not unusual to expect those who advocate the use of the product to provide evidence as to its safety. Would it therefore be unreasonable to expect supporters of WRBs to show that they do *not* pose an unacceptable risk to motorcyclists?

There have been several small but positive developments. First, the Australian Standard for Roadside Barriers is to be revised. Second, constructive relationships have been established with federal MPs and Senators who are motorcycle riders. Luke Hartsuyker MP (#24466) has been particularly active in highlighting the dangers of WRBs (see: <http://www.lukehartsuyker.com.au/mediacentre/mediareleases/2011/447-hartsuyker-raises-danger-of-wire-rope-barriers-raised-in-federal-parliament.html>).

And third, there have been recent developments on the local front. Amanda Bresnan MLA (Greens) has indicated that the Greens have raised the issue of WRBs with the Chief Minister. Minister Corbell has said that he has asked RoadsACT to monitor the results of a trial of modified WRBs currently being conducted in Victoria. If the trial is shown to be effective and to improve motorcycle safety, then he will ask that the additional measures be adopted in the ACT.

It's obvious that no one plans on whether, when or where to have an accident. The role of responsible authorities is to ensure that everything possible is done to minimise both the risk of accidents and the severity of their consequences. In his *Riding On* article, Ian Parks refers to the excellent point made at the 2008 Motorcycle and Scooter Safety Summit by the head of the Victorian RTA: a road issue fixed for motorcyclists is a fix for all road users.



It should not be beyond our capability to provide roadside infrastructure with improved outcomes for riders which would not disadvantage other road users. If you believe that more should be done to make this happen, please write to your federal and local politicians.

Webmasters Report - October 2011:

A peer into the webstats for the month gone by and we find we are down a little with 178 individual visitors this month, but they made 47 more visits for a total of 410 visits to the site.

The "Whats On" RO2, "Ride Report" and RO2 are the perennial favourite pages,

As always most visitors came from Canberra, but we had a bit of interest from Dubbo and Caloundra, Albury and Port Macquarie.

Russia, Ireland and New Zealand generated some of the virtual visitors.

As always, articles and ride reports (with photos) are always welcome for the RO2 and for the website.

The average time our visitors spend with us is a little over 4 minutes, so please keep up the good work.

Cheers,
Gary Mac



DOWN THE BONANG TO MARLO.

Words: Kerry Mulgrue Photos: Janet Mulgrue Research: Steve Green

Steve had been rabbiting on about the Bonang Highway for quite some time and on two occasions we had arranged to do the ride but had been put off by the weather. We knew that there was about 18km's of dirt road. This time, however, we decided that the weather wasn't going to beat us. Despite a forecast of rain for most of the week-end we decided that we were going to go anyhow. I had telephoned the police constable at Orbost to check the state of the road and he informed me that it was in good condition but we needed to be careful about other traffic, including timber trucks, and wildlife. He did tell me there was 999 right hand curves, and when I asked him "how many left handers" he said "999".

The week-end started wet and we delayed departure by about 45 minutes. Setting off from Steve's place about 9:45 AM we headed down Horse Park Drive and Majura Road to the Monaro Highway, with Janet on her 650 Burgman, Steve on his Piaggio X9 and me on the T-Max. From there it was pretty ho-hum with a stop at Cooma for a slash (aaah) and at Nimmitabel for a pie lunch (yum yum). After refuelling at Bombala we headed off to Delegate where the ride started in earnest.

First-up the road was just open gentle sweepers with about 7 km's of good well graded dirt road. Then the twisties started and after about 5 – 10 km's of reasonably tight twisty road we came across an advisory sign. (see photo) The distance on the sign is also the distance to Orbost. If you have a close look at the sign it is plastered with stickers from different motorcycle clubs. From here to Orbost was 105km's of wonderful, windy, twisting road which ran down below the ridge lines, along the bottoms of pretty little valleys and through some of the most pristine wet sclerophyll forests you can ever experience. It was a motorcyclist's and photographer's dream. We didn't take many photo's as about the time we hit the second section of dirt road, about 11 km's, the weather had turned to heavy rain. Despite the rain the surface of the dirt section was quite good and we covered it at a reasonable clip.



The road was mostly tight curves separated by very short straight sections. During one section of many 10's of kilometres I reckon the only time the bikes were up-right was when we were going from one tight curve to the next.

Anyhow, after a wonderful 105 km's of tight twisty road, even in the pouring rain, with the occasional section of open sweepers we arrived at Orbost. If you intend to do this ride allow for about 2.5 – 3 hours for the trip from Bombala to Orbost (about 160 km's), and, if you're a keen photographer, add another hour.

After a brief stop at Orbost to check that everybody was still good and had a good time – thumbs up all 'round – we headed off down along the road that runs along the mighty Snowy to Marlo.

Marlo has reasonable accommodation in either the Hotel or at the Motel/Caravan Park. The pub has a reasonable restaurant with substantial basic fare and, well, it's a pub.

After a good night's sleep we headed back to Orbost to refuel and top up the brake master cylinder on Steve's bike. From there we returned to Canberra via Cann River, Bombala, Nimmitabel (more pies) and Cooma. A fun part of the trip but nothing like the Bonang Highway. The option to return via the Bonang was discounted as the weather had not improved.

Despite the cold, wet weather we had a wonderful time and even before the week-end was over we were planning a second trip, with possibly doing the Bonang in both directions.

CHOMP & CHAT - BOOKHAM 18th September, 2011.

Well it felt like the introduction to Spring, sun shining, not a cloud in sight and expected 23 degrees. 10 am is a very civilized time to start a ride, but we were all so keen to get riding we were there early. I realised it must have been a while since I have been on a ride as I only just noticed the “new” MacDonald’s next to the Nicholls servo, which they say has been there for a while! Of course having half an hour to kill we went over for a coffee and a bite. That’s one thing about riding we never starve or go thirsty.

The troops started to turn up:

The lovely Andrew & Catherine Campbell	GL1800	
The helpful Garry McCurly	VFR1200	
The travellers Ian & Sally Paterson	GL1800	
The unfortunate Gary McDonald (That’s it, run out of inspiration!)	Ducati 6005	
Terry Mills	750 Shadow	Peter Schrieher SV650
Les C Blackbird		Jennifer Buchanan 250 Virago
Geoff Howard XVZ 1300T		Christine Cassilles CB400
Yvonne Laird Z1000		

We had such a good time milling around chatting that it was difficult to get going. One thing about the rides is that its great to catch up with friends and meet new riders (new to me not necessarily a new riders!). I met Christine and Jennifer for the first time – great gals!

We had a very pleasant ride, out past Yass down the Bowning Road, , and as Terry and I were corner marking so that no one would get lost, it was amusing to see the ride leader come back and head the other way, so if you are going to get lost its good to take the rest of the pack with you! It was right towards Harden and left tosomewhere then on to Bookham. I am not any good with directions so I like to stay in the pack and follow, and that’s pretty safe most of the time.

A few did arrive late for lunch as the only red (very fast) bike had a flat and they did a repair job and then joined us at Barney’s cafe. I was thinking how lucky Gary was to have a tool kit with a patch. Then I thought, do I have a tool kit? Do I have a patch? Would I know what to do with them if I did? Maybe there’s an opportunity for a maintenance course!

Barney’s cafe was good, on first arriving I thought it was Pie Shop at Collector, both have similar entrances that look like a converted garage. So I was a bit bewildered, but then realised it was not the Pie shop although they did have pies and other yummy options.

I am sure we talked and had lunch for longer than we actually rode. We had some good story tellers regaling their adventures, and around 1.30pm we took off along the highway to home. It was a great day and I am looking forward to the next ride!

Cheers

Yvonne





BMW GSs on safari near Beltana SA

BMW GS Safari - by Leo Farrelly.

For those of you with a taste for dust and wobbly roads the BMW GS Safari is a must.

The Safari this year started in Broken Hill and headed out to the northern end of the Flinders Ranges in SA, then up to Lake Eyre and down to Port Lincoln via Roxby Downs and the Gawler Ranges.

Prior to departure I did the two day Stay Upright off-road course in Broken Hill. As usual, the bike learned heaps on those two days and it's quite surprising what such a big bike can do. I was even more surprised at what I could make it do.

Some 200 riders took part on a mixture of 1200GS, 1200GSA, 800GS and 650GS bikes. BMW provided a gear truck, tyre support and a back-up mechanic. With so many riders the support crews are quite busy. The first day was mostly across properties and we had half a dozen accidents requiring ambulance/ RFDS evacuation of the injured. These were all single bike accidents and probably a combination of unknown terrain, over enthusiasm and over estimation of personal abilities. Sadly one of the accidents was a fatality.

The second day saw us in the beautiful Flinders Ranges and I'd recommend it to anyone. Absolutely stunning and you don't have to be a gravel surfer to get there. I dinged my front rim in a creek with the inevitable flat and quickly learned the mysterious art of roadside tyre repair. Also learned that I didn't quite have enough tools for the job. However, a friendly Ulyssian from Pottsville happily stopped and gave me a hand.



Flinders Ranges - SA

From the Flinders it was up to Marree through Leigh Creek and a quick aeroplane tour over Lake Eyre to goggle at the water. Lake Eyre had the most amazing range of colours in the water. From Marree our route took us up the Oodnadatta Track to Lake Eyre South then we turned south to Olympic Dam and Roxby Downs. These are excellent towns and it's marvellous what a bit (a lot) of company money can do in such a remote area.

Our route through the Gawler Ranges was modified after the police and emergency services advised that they would have trouble getting support to us if we had another day like the first one. This was disappointing but understandable. Still we made Streaky Bay and then Port Lincoln with no further mishaps.

From then it was a quick 1500m home with a detour through the Clare Valley for some wine tasting before scuttling home ahead of a bank of wet weather. All in all a great trip but it was quite strenuous and I was bugged afterwards.

Leo



Improvised jack for the 1200GS Flinders Ranges SA

Gilgandra and Mudgee

8-10 October 2011

Riders: Trevor McLeod, Peter Arday, Bruce Black, David Robinson, Chris Dietzel, Nick and Therese Hicks, Brian Agius, Andrew Campbell, Ian Paterson.



We gathered at Nicholls bright and early on Saturday with nobody really sure whether or not to put on wet weather gear. Andrew solved the problem by donning a brand-new pair of high-tech rain pants covered in zips, corsets, Velcro and hidden features. It took him a while because he didn't have the instruction manual but eventually we were ready and headed off with Trevor in the lead.

There was a fair bit of traffic as it was a long weekend but by the time we got onto Burley Griffin Way we had left most of it – and a few rain showers – behind. The countryside looks fantastic after the spring rain and everywhere we looked there were green pastures and wheat crops and golden canola flowers. We had a coffee break at Young and rode via Eugowra (where we dodged around a nasty looking storm) to Parkes for lunch in a little café in the main street. This set the tone for the rest of the trip as Peter left the waitresses looking a little baffled but laughing anyway. Nick and Therese went visiting rellos and so missed out on all the fun.

We shot up the Newell, enjoying the restored 110 km/h speed limit and mostly good road surface, and turned off at Tomingley for a pleasant ride to Narromine, with its beautiful main street, and eventually Gilgandra. We stayed in the Gilgandra Motel, which was pretty good as country motels go. It was only a short walk down the rather dowdy main street to a pub for a couple of welcome ales and back again to the Chinese restaurant next to the motel for a rowdy banquet dinner.

Bruce had to return to Canberra for work so on Sunday morning we were down to eight bikes as we headed north on the Newell to Coonabarabran for coffee and cake. From there we turned off in bright sunshine into the Warrumbungles and up to Siding Spring Observatory. It's a spectacular road that twists and turns past rocky crags and peaks but as you might expect it's a bit bumpy in places. You can go inside the observatory and check out the huge telescope, and there is a magnificent view of the ancient trachyte spires of the 'Bungles and the billiard table-flat plains to the west.

Andrew & Chris at Warrumbungles



We rode back to Coona, headed south on the Newell for a few kilometres and turned left for a great run to Coolah. This is only a small town but it has a couple of pubs and a nice little café that unfortunately had run out of pies. They served the tea in beautiful china teapots with matching cups and saucers while the hamburgers came skewered on a steak knife! Nick and Therese were again visiting rellos so they didn't share in this bounty or the view of the pig shooters across the road loading carcasses into a ute.

From Coolah it was a fast and fun ride down the beautiful Coolaburragundy valley and then a quick right-left onto the Castlereagh Highway and down through Gulgong to Mudgee. We stayed at the Motel Ningana, which based on the crowded room I shared with Andrew I'd give three stars at most. Dinner that night was another banquet, this time at an Indian restaurant with a bizarre Indian musical love story movie playing on the telly.

We were a bit slow off the mark on Monday morning but had a great ride through Ilford, Sofala and Wattle Flat to Bathurst. We wondered at the constant stream of 4wds, camper vans and caravans headed the other way until we remembered that thousands of people were heading home from Bathurst after the 1000km touring car race the day before. We had coffee at a very busy Beck's Bakery and the others headed for Goulburn while I went visiting some rellos.

The main group got caught up in a huge traffic jam heading out from Bathurst towards Sydney. It took them 20 minutes to ride the 2km to Kelso but once they were on the Oberon road they were OK. After a very quick ride along Tablelands Way I caught up with them having lunch at Roses Café in Goulburn.

(Gilgandra ride report continued)

From there half our crew headed straight home while the others rode down the Hume and Barton highways to Murrumbateman to meet up with some SES riders from Melbourne and escort them into Canberra. They never turned up so after waiting in the cold for an hour with another half dozen Ulysses members we rode home. We found out later that the SES blokes had fuel and mechanical problems and got caught up in a car accident and didn't get to Canberra until 8pm!

Ian Paterson



Some of the crew at Coolah

Motorcycle Awareness Week - 2011

Motorcycle Awareness Week kicks off on Saturday 22nd October with the Ride for Remembrance and the official launch and finishes with a bang on Sunday 30th October with BikeFest at EPIC. We need you on your bikes at all events to make this bigger and better than last year. Drag your non-riding buddies along to see what they are missing:

Day 1: 22nd October 2011 – A full day of activities for the family:

9:00am At Old Parliament House for the **Ride For Remembrance** – The ride commences at 10:00am and will follow the same route as the Blanket and Toy Runs into Garema Place. The ride is to celebrate and remember those who have “ridden on” and give the community a time to reflect. In Garema Place there will be a Roll Call for those families that have submitted names of love ones, followed by a short service from the Padre of the Vietnam Vets, then a minute's silence.

11:00am **The Launch of Motorcycle Awareness Week in Garema Place** – This will see the commencement of **Joe Rider** and the official launch of the week by Senator Kate Lundy. We still have a few vests that need riders to wear and be visible during the week – contact Jen Woods on 0418 215 336 if you'd like to be a “Joe”.

Once all the formalities are over, head out to Eurotune and have a test ride on the new Triumph range that Anders has lined up for you. You'll be surprised at what you may find.

Day 2: 23rd October 2011 – **Pink Ribbon Ride** organised by the Girls on the Move. This should be a great ride so log onto the GOTM website <http://www.girlsonthemove.com.au> and get all the details

Day 4: 25th October 2011 – **Gear Study talk**. An evening with Liz de Rome at the Hellenic Club in Civic (Moore St). Liz is a leading expert in motorcycle safety gear and author of the Good Gear Guide. She will be presenting the findings from her 12-month PhD study – and these findings will open a number of eyes! The evening kicks off at 6.30pm. This is proving to be popular so email Jen Woods at jen.woods@mraact.org.au to let her know you'll be there.

Day 7: 28th October 2011 – **Ride to Work Friday** and **Bikers Breakfast**. There are 13,000 of you riders out there and 36,000 license holders, so get on your bike and ride out to East Lawn, King Edward Terrace at 7:30am for a healthy egg and bacon roll and a coffee and chat with fellow riders before heading off to work.

Day 8: 29th October 2011 – This day has activities for everyone. We have the Vietnam Vets annual **Poker Run** heading off from Bredbo. Check out the Vets website <http://www.vvmcfederal.com.au>. In addition, Rolfe will be holding a demo ride day including their new 6-cylinder BMW mile muncher for you to play on (whoops, test ride).

Day 9: 30th October 2011 – This is the big one, the huge one, the one you can't and mustn't miss – **BikeFest 2011**, from 10:30am to 3:00pm at EPIC. And what a day we'll have for you! There will be dealer displays, club displays, gymkhana events for certificates and prizes and the Show 'n' Shine with trophies for the first 3 place getters. Catering this year will be by EPIC

and they have promised a great range of snacks and good coffee. While listening to the band you can chat with your friends and take in the displays, admire the bikes and look through the Swap Meet in the adjoining area.

The Swap Meet and BikeFest, while on at the same time, are separate events. Entry into BikeFest is by a humble gold coin donation but the Swap Meet will cost an additional \$3.00. Use the main entrance at EPIC and park in the carpark in front of the Coorong building.

Volunteers Needed!!

The Ulysses Club Canberra Branch will have a stand at BikeFest on Sunday 30th October. We need as many of you as possible to spend some time at the stand, drinking coffee and chatting to each other, potential members, other riders and the general public. I guarantee you'll have a fun time!!



We'll need help setting up from about 9:30am and pulling down at 2:30pm to 3:00pm, so if you can be there early or late, that would be a big help. Please let our Prez know (at the October meeting, 0427 291 728 or iansallypaterson@inet.net.au) if you can assist in this area. Otherwise, just turn up on the day and stay for as long as you can. Wear your Ulysses gear – and bring your bike and park it at the stand to demonstrate to everyone the variety and excitement that is a part of Growing Old Disgracefully.

See you there!!
Ian Paterson



Hi there from Secretary Marilyn,

Some months ago I contemplated a ride to raise funds for something worthy. Well this year I am about to endure 'The Long Ride' to Sydney of all places, but taking the LONG way round as Ewan McGregor would say. The Long Ride raises funds for **The Prostate Cancer Foundation** and every rider is expected to raise funds for this worthy cause.

I will be leaving Canberra on **Saturday 5 November** for Nyngan, Broken Hill, Loxton, Hamilton, Queenscliffe, Sale, Canberra concluding in Sydney on 12 November. Details on The Long Ride can be found here <http://www.freewebs.com/longride2010/>. Riders will be leaving every major capital city and meeting in Sydney to celebrate the ride and to raise awareness of Prostate Cancer in our men.

Last year over 347 riders raised over \$209,000 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. With your help we hope to make it a record this year.

I am appealing to you to make a donation towards my fundraising by clicking on the link below which will take you to my Everyday hero secure webpage. You will be issued with a receipt for your donation which of course is tax deductible.

https://secure1.everydayhero.com.au/donations/new?hero_page_url=marilyn_starick

If you do nothing, and if you are male, at least see your doctor for a check up.
Take care
Cheers for now
Marilyn

This Ride Calendar covers weekend club rides only. For ride details, see the Canberra Branch Ride Calendar on the Ulysses Club national website: www.ulyssesclub.org/tabid/86/BranchID/16/Default.aspx.

Club Rides have a ride leader and may be longer rides on challenging roads suited to more experienced riders.

Chomp & Chats are shorter rides suitable for most riders with the added aim of having a relaxed lunch together.

Decide & Rides are informal rides in which the route and destination are decided by the riders on the day. Chomp & Chats and Decide & Rides may not have an official ride leader.

Most rides start from either the BP Servo, cnr Federal Hwy & Antill St, Watson; the Caltex Servo, cnr Monaro Hwy & Sheppard St, Hume; or the new Caltex Servo, cnr Curran Drive & O'Hanlon Place, Nicholls.

Please Note: Please Check the Ride Calendar on the National Ulysses Website for the most current information. **Please be fuelled up and ready to leave at scheduled departure times.**

Date	Locations	Ride Title	Skill
23-Oct-11	From: Caltex Hume 9.00am To: Tathra	Club Ride Leader: Alan Munday	Long & Difficult
30-Oct-11	From: Caltex Nicholls 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined
6-Nov-11	From: BP Watson 8.30am To: Oberon	Club Ride Leader: Andrew Campbell	Long & Difficult
13-Nov-11	From: Caltex Nicholls 10.00am To: Moonrock Cafe	Chomp & Chat / Rusty Riders Leader: Gary McDonald	Short & Easy
19-Nov-11	From: BP Watson 7.30am To: Temora Air Show	Club Ride Leader: Ian Paterson	Long & Difficult
27-Nov-11	From: Caltex Hume 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined
10 & 11-Dec-11	From: BP Watson 9.30 To: Huskisson	Overnight Ride Leader: Mick Harvey	Medium

Mother and Baby pigeon are planning a long flying trip when Baby pigeon says 'I can't make it, I'll get to tired'. His mother says 'Don't worry, I'll tie a piece of string to one of your legs and the other end to my leg' but the baby starts to cry, 'What's wrong?' says the mother. The baby replies 'I don't want to be pigeon towed'.

A director is screen testing Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzeneger for a new film about classical music composers. Not knowing who to give each part to he asks Sly who he would like to play. "Mozart" says Stallone "I like Mozart". The Director says "Ok you can be Mozart" then turns to Arnie and says 'Who do you want to play?' Arnie replies, "I'll be Bach!"

Life is too short to wake up in the mornings with regrets. So love the ones who treat you right, forget the ones who don't. Remember that everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance take it, if it changes your life, then let it. No one said it would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.

TJ's Tyres
19 Lonsdale St
Braddon
ACT 2612
Tel: 02 6247 6804
Fax: 02 6257 5485
gearup@tjstyres.com.au



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