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### Ed's bit

A big thank you to Hans our founding and outgoing president for all the work he has done for our branch .

New beginnings for 2007 as we welcome a new president and secretary/treasurer , and an extended social committee for 2007. We hope all goes well.

Two members have forwarded routes for travelling to Coffs AGM, see website for details or contact editor for printed versions if not on internet.

Contributions on all topics will be most welcome, email to vd00@people.net.au

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Incoming President's Report

My first action as your new Branch President is to thank all the out-going Office Bearers for their dedicated hard work and accomplishments over the last few years. As a relatively new member it is clear to me that our Branch is very much alive and well and ripe for growth and development. This happy position is due to the tireless efforts of a few people who so generously gave of their time and efforts for which we are all extremely grateful.

My second action is to sincerely thank the in-coming Office Bearers, particularly those who were willing to be re-elected. The new Committee Members including myself will rely heavily on their knowledge and experience in order to launch our Branch into an era of stimulating growth.

My third action is to listen and learn. I am somewhat overwhelmed by your trust and confidence that I will steer our activities in the direction that you want it to advance, therefore I am more than willing to represent your wishes with integrity and the occasional splash of passion.

I will depart for a ride throughout Tasmania this week so I will not be around for the next three weeks, however I am really looking forward to seeing you and meeting others when I return in time to participate in the Tallangatta Ride.

My very best wishes to you all, Suzanne

### CHRISTMAS TOY RUN

Congratulations to all. Thank you everyone for all your support and donations for our toy run 2006 - a fantastic time was had by all.

We had good weather luckily - the mayor awarded the trophies - Bega Heritage Motor Club attended and santa arrived in a big red truck !!!!

Approx 60 bikes participated from all over the shire - we thank Eurobodalla Ulysses Branch for attending also - we always enjoy having them along.

Approx money raised at this time is close to \$3000.00 - so we are very proud - we couldn't have done it without you all !!!!- members , riders , committee , helpers , supporters , donators , the public , the salvo's , families , husbands , wife's and the list goes on. please if I have forgotten anyone I apologize - again I thank you all.

Gary Smith

Sapphire Ulysses Branch

*Thank you to all the Eurobodalla members that participated, it was a good turnout. Ed.*

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our branch Christmas party held on 9Dec was well attended by approx 35 members. A great time was had by all. The food was terrific, and one must thank Di & Tony Pye and their helpers for putting on such a fine spread. Thanks to Col & Kaye Black for having us at their property, it is certainly a great spot for such an occasion. See some pics on page 4

### DON'T FORGET

**AGM 4th Feb at Moruya**

**Ulysses AGM: Coffs Harbour 17—21 May 2007**

### IN THIS EDITION

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## A QUICK WORD FROM ROSS

*(and very interesting)*

To one and all,

For what its worth, just some news which might explain my absence from Club activities. Great to see the club newsletter still up and running and containing a lot of good fun info.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to participate in any of the terrific club activities advertised for some time due to work commitments, nor have I thrown the leg over the Beemer very much, these days due to the bush fires all over the State.

In the last two weeks, the agency (NPWS) I work for has assigned me a very interesting role which I thought may interest some members. The role I have been doing is Fire Air Attack Supervisor, which is a fancy label given to a person who sits on their bum in a small helicopter for many hours at a time and directs other water bombing aircraft where to drop their water on bush fires.

One of the many aircraft I have been supervising is a Sikorsky S64 Air Crane shown on the attached pic. This aircraft is owned by a US company under contract to the NSW State Government for the bush fire season and operated out of Granville Sydney for the fire protection of the Sydney basin area. In the last 2 weeks I supervised this and other aircraft in the control of 7 fires located in and around Sydney and as far west as Lithgow and Crookwell. I must say it has been spectacular and very rewarding work in terms being able to get to fires quickly, get them out and see at very close hand this amazing helicopter in action.



Some quick specs on the Air Crane. Engines: 2 x 5,000hp gas turbines. (it also has a third gas turbine starting engine). Fuel consumption: 2,000 litres/hr (in old terms that's 10 x 44gal drums of fuel per hour). Range: 2 hours flight time with a 30 minute reserve. Speed: 100 knots (unladen at sea level this aircraft can climb vertically at 100 knots also). Load carrying capacity: Between 7,000 and 9,000 litres of water. Crew: Pilot, co-pilot, engineer. The very best to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Ross Constable (old ed)

*Thanks Ross, very interesting & would e a great experience to fly in one. Ed*

## LYELL AND HELEN !!!!!

Lyell and Helen received a photo (not this one) taken quite recently of themselves and he commented ' I didn't know I looked quite as old, maybe I should be trading the Wing on one of the little 4 wheel scooters.'



Is this Lyell and Helen down the track ???



*I didn't know I looked quite as old, maybe I should be trading the Wing on one of the little 4 wheel scooters.*

### NEW PRODUCTS



**Warm Up Jacket** from the Ulysses Club Gear Shop  
New Warm Up black microfibre jacket w/mesh lining. Full front zip, 2 zip up pockets, Ulysses logo on left chest and word Ulysses on back under collar \* Very Generous Sizing\* Suggestion—order 2 sizes smaller than usual size.

### SPEEDY RECOVERY

We wish our founding sec/treasurer Keith Miller, now living in Rosebud, Victoria a speedy recovery from brain surgery just before Christmas. Contact Keith on 03 5986 8074 or email: kmiller569@optusnet.com

### NAROOMA CAMPING SUPPLIES

Looking for that gift ? Call in and see Teresa at Narooma Camping Supplies 10% discount for Ulysses members. Excludes specials.



143 Princes Highway, Narooma

Call 4476 4100

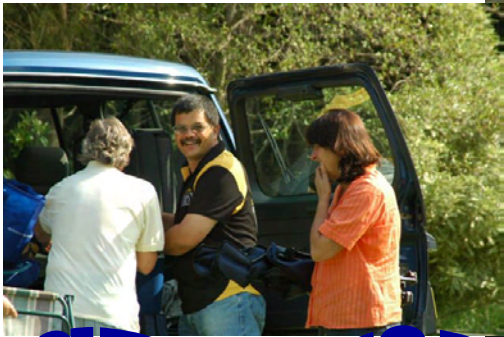
### PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi One and All

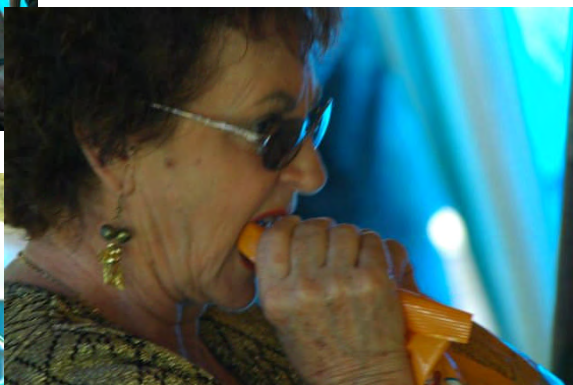
I write this my last Presidents Report with Relief and yet some Sadness in my heart, Relief in that I believe that Suzanne our New President can possibly be the person that will take the branch to the next level, one which I have not been able to achieve because of my work commitments. Suzanne and the New Committee will have my full support in any way I can. Sadness in after going through the labour of the birth of our branch taking it through it's crawling and standing stages to walking steadily, I remember at the first meeting at Caseys Beach (show of interest) and then at Narooma (our formation meeting) I said on both occasions "**that we have to walk before we can run**" well I think the time has come for me to let the baby's hand go so it can run!

I have been ready to do this since the last elections but I was not going to retire and force someone to step in, I was actually quite relieved when the secret ballot was called for and a true vote was recorded. I thank All the People that have supported me these past four years, I have made many Good Friends whom I will Treasure.

Hans Ottevanger # 27366



# CHRISTMAS PARTY 2006



*Photos supplied by Col Black*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a member I would like to extend my gratitude to those who took on Social committee membership this year...I believe the Branch has benefited and grown from Social events over the past year...as a former Social Committee Member I also extend my condolences to the new committee. Already they have 'copped flack' – so I am also offering some advice (for what it is worth) – someone once said ...”you can't please all of the people, all of the time. You can only please some of the people some of the time” – remember that ??? – someone else also once said “this is a democracy that we live in.....”

Is it not democratic of the Social Committee (and indeed the club) to give members a choice ..? The new Social Committee put forward just one suggestion at the AGM to get the ball rolling for this year and was howled down (notably by a minority) The Social Committee last year tried to cater to all (or most members – the majority vote being the basis of democracy) with a variety of events and venues. Not all events suited all members (which is virtually impossible) which is why the variety was offered – variety being in the form of venue, activity, cost, timing.....members were able to choose – they were given options and the majority were more than happy to support the club when they could, if they could, and because they could and without reserve, all those who attended their choice of event had a great time and much enjoyment. It is noteworthy that the minority (1) who voiced their opposition to one particular event under the banner that it was not democratic, created an overwhelming majority attendance to prove just how democratic the club is. Which leads me on to a further choice or option members should have .....that of partaking in a charitable event.

Participating in such an event does not necessarily mean 'donating' – again, it is offering members a choice – attendance, participation, donating is optional. The club is a social club – not a fund raising club, however in the interests of democracy our members should be given a choice.....some 'fundraising' is in the self interest of members, and such an event may be the only way they feel they can contribute (eg Snowy Hydro Southcare Helicopter Service could be a lifesaver to any one of us as motorcycle riders – already has been -) Again, the Social Committee (and the club) will give members a choice.....it is up to members if they wish to take up the options, AND it seems our members, in true democratic form wish to have these options made available to them.

Dianne Pye.

### Letter to the Editor

I wish to submit something small but important I feel. I was very disturbed in the way some of our members treated the assault upon myself at our last Christmas party. To mention the word “entertainment” when referring to the assault, is somewhat degrading not only to myself but to each and everyone of us. I do not want to appear thin skinned as it were, but would like to point out that I spent more than four hours in hospital. My eye, and the area surrounding my eye was very sore for the best part of three weeks so that I had trouble concentrating on my job and sleeping was a problem without assistance of tablets, to ease the pain and tablets to

help me sleep. It was my eye that wepted continuously during that time and my eye had blurred vision as well. Not the members. My eye was bruised so badly that I looked quite hideous for that three weeks and having a job which puts me in front of the public, let me assure our members that my confidence and standing in the community went to an all time low.

Next time someone wants to make light of the assault, and treat the matter in a flippant manner please remember just how close I came to losing my eye. The incident should be treated with the seriousness that it deserves as it was by our committee at the time and also by our National President. Members if the cap fits please take this on board and thank your lucky stars that it was me seeing stars and not you, and try and have a little more compassion as I would not wish my suffering on anyone.

Keith Brain 39648

### Letter to Editor

Just a few words about AGMs, formality and the success of our branch.

As fellow members may know, I'm a rather irregular attendee at organised rides and functions, being still limited in free time. But I very much appreciate the efforts of our ride organiser and the main and social committees. It was really pleasing to see how many turned up to participate in the AGM – full credit to Hans and the outgoing committee for the way the branch has prospered over the last couple of years. It would never have grown as it has without their efforts and enthusiasm.

As one of the more elderly members (hands up those who are over 73?) and one of the more disassembled (two plastic and titanium knees, one stitched together shoulder, and one lower jaw with five titanium implants and abutments but, at the present time, stitches instead of teeth), I must support any move towards formalising and at the same time simplifying the elections of office bearers and committee members. As we have grown in numbers, so it becomes more efficient to be more formal in these annual procedures, and in fact using proper procedures will make elections and any other decision making both quicker and less open to subsequent disagreement.

Obviously, being Ulysseans, we are all getting longer in the tooth at the same time as we are getting shorter in patience with those who don't see how eminently sensible our own views are. But also as Ulysseans we surely subscribe to what is one of the main tenets of our National organisation – Tolerance for the whims and choices of each other, within the bounds of (un)common (dis)courtesy.

Using formal election and voting procedures involving having nominations (and acceptances) and notices of motion for AGMs in the hands of the secretary and circulated amongst members well prior to the meeting makes for a smoother and quicker formal part of the meeting and we can turn to the enjoyable pursuit of arguing with each other about inconsequential such as why do people ride B.M.s when there are so many other good bikes on the road for half the price? (Tongue in cheek, there – I've had three, or is it four, B.M.s for a good part of my last fifty four years of riding).

Semi finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to Hans for getting the Branch off the ground and nursing it through its foundation years and to John the editor for introducing me to the local Branch a couple of years ago. And finally my congratulations to the new members of the committee, particularly Suzanne for taking on the responsibility and to the sturdy continuing members who, despite knowing the burdens, are prepared to keep on with their jobs for our benefit. Keep the bum on the seat and the rubber on the road and may never the four mingle (or is it mangle)!

Neil (Doc) Adams.