



# BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## June 2004

### Presidents Report:

H i O n e a n d A l l  
The weather has cooled but the rides have still attracted a reasonable number on the rides. The starting times as most of you know by now has reverted back to 10am starting times until the weather warms up again, don't let the cold starts deter you because we have had glorious warm days and nice sunny lunches where we are sometimes hunting for the shade. There has been a couple of new bikes in the crowd, Colin Hearne has just bought himself a new blue Honda CBR1100xx Blackbird and sold Jeremy Quale his trusty ol' Honda CBR 1000, Then after months of looking around for a suitable bike for my darling Ann, John and Teresa Van Der Heul's son Luke offered Ann his bike at a very reasonable price. So now Ann is the proud owner of a red with purple stripes and wheels Kawasaki GPX 250r (Little Snoops). If any of you out there have news or any other little jokes, personal ride experiences worth reading, send them to John. Cheers for now and remember KEEP SMILING because you take part in the best recreation ever invented. SO KEEP ON RIDING ON!

Hans

### Club Shirts

Club shirts are available, Hans has shirts instock for you to try on for size. Contact Hans Ph: 4472 3543 for costings etc.

### Narooma Camping Supplies



Narooma Camping Supplies has up to **10% discount** on all camping supplies all year round for all Ulysses Club members.

Just show your membership card

143 Princes Highway Narooma 44764100

**Special Bikers Swag now available**

### For Sale

Two sets of under & over tubular double bunks, one set red, one set white. With good mattresses.

All in excellent condition. \$200 / set.

Contact: 44764100 bus. or 44767134 aft.

### CONTACTS 2004

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### JOKE

A blonde hurries into the emergency room late one night with the tip of her index finger shot off. "How did this happen?" the emergency room doctor asked her.

"Well, I was trying to commit suicide," the blonde replied.

"What?" sputtered the doctor. "You tried to commit suicide by shooting your finger off?"

"No, Silly!" the blonde said. "First I put the gun to my chest, and I thought: I just paid \$6,000.00 for these breast implants, I'm not shooting myself in the chest."

"So then?" asked the doctor.

"Then I put the gun in my mouth, and I thought: I just paid \$3000.00 to get my teeth straightened, I'm not shooting myself in the mouth."

"So then?"

"Then I put the gun to my ear, and I thought: This is going to make a loud noise. So I put my finger in the other ear before I pulled the trigger."



### NEW ARRIVAL AT OTTEVANGER HOUSEHOLD

Ann is the proud mother of a cute little red and purple GPX250 Kawasaki and she has nicknamed it "LITTLE SNOOPS"

### SPONGE RUN 2004

Bay to Malacoota 14 -15 August. Depart Riverside Carpark next to Innes Boatshed 9.00am Saturday.

Accommodation & dinner at the Malacoota Hotel Motel Ph: 03 51580455 (mention sponge run for 10% discount on accommodation).

### AGM 2004: Guess Who ????



## **Newnes, Hill End, Sofala & Beyond Trip Report**

### **Day one**

At 7am, on a rather crisp, clear morning on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May, Bob Bennett (BMW80) and yours truly (BMWGS1150) took off from Narooma and headed up the Clyde into an even more crisp Braidwood morning to meet up with "musketeer" #2, Fergus Hood (BMW650 Dakar).

After the obligatory 3 coffees, the three musketeers, on bikes over loaded with camping gear and casks of red wine, headed off in the cold, blustery direction of Goulburn where more obligatory coffees, fuel and toilets were ordered. From there, it was 50kms (out of 103kms) of corrugated dirt to Oberon via Taralga and Black Springs, a good run, especially through the Abercrombie River gorge which is now sealed from one side to the other.

After lunch and a warm up in Oberon, it was SW onto the Jenolan Caves road loop. If you have not done this, it's a "must-do", but watch for the odd tin top that cuts corners and keep in mind the section of road between the Caves and Hampton is closed to north bound traffic between 11.45am and 1.45pm (Buses only).

North to Hartley on the Great Western, watch out for the sneaky 50km zones. Two of the intrepid musketeers (#2 & 3) got "flashed" by an oncoming, very friendly highway patrol car for doing 105kms in what our 1st musketeer correctly pointed out to be was a 50km zone. Not sure how we managed to get away with it but.....

On to Lithgow, then north again into Hawkesbury river sandstone country to the "jump-off" into the Newes valley..... The view from the top, very spectacular, especially in the late afternoon setting sun.

Basically, the road down into Newnes is a steep, switchback, single lane, patch-tarred fire trail that is just 2W drivable. The steep descent levels out on to a fantastic 8km dirt valley ride into Wollemi National Park, Newnes camping area, exactly 510kms from my driveway in Dalme.

A very gentlemanly and chivalrous night was had by all 3 musketeers with lots of red wine had and many stories of daring motorcycle feats told.

### **Day two**

Woke to a thick layer of frost on the bikes and tents and after a slow gear pack, if was off to Cullen Bullen, Carpenter, a left turn at Ilford and a terrific bitumen run into the very quaint and historic village of Sofala. During coffee and toasted sandwiches there, about 30 bikes from the Bathurst Ulysses turned up to really get the good Sofala folk out of their beds and next to their cash registers. Otherwise, an interesting place and worth a visit.

With most of the Ulysses bikes heading south along the bitumen back to Bathurst, we took the 40kms of corrugated dirt to Hill End, another very quaint, historic village, also worth a visit, but if you do, you will need at least a full day to take it all in.

From Hill End, we headed north to Mudgee, involving 50km of picturesque scenery, corrugated dirt and narrow tar.

After a late afternoon tea at Mudgee, we pushed northeast on dirt towards Goulburn River National Park looking for a warm campsite. After a further 80kms of corrugations and dust through Buckaroo, Cooyal and along the Goul-

burn River, we were kindly given permission by the local Bylong storekeeper to camp in the paddock at the back of the Bylong tennis court just on dark.

After setting up camp Bob noticed his fuel tank was leaking from the rear mount and after further investigation found the tank had a small stress crack, probably due to the last two days of corrugations.

After more red wine and a repeat rendition of the previous nights deeds of bike bravery, we hit the sack a little earlier due to the big day on the dirt.

### **Day three**

Woke to about 5cm of frost on everything. In fact, there was little colour difference between the ground, bikes, tents and anything else lying around Bylong, it was all white and bloody freezing.

After partly drying out wet tents and gear, we headed off into a glorious, clear day through the Goulburn River National Park..... this is a spectacular, must do run.

From Bylong, the dirt turns to bitumen at the Park boundary and passes through Kerrabee and over the Great Dividing Range to Sandy Hollow. It is a terrific switchback run through a couple of sandstone passes and gorges with amazing views of the Hunter Valley to the east. By the way, I am told that this road used to pass through a rail tunnel near Kerrabee, which is now closed, to the public.

After an early lunch at Denman, Ferg and I parted company with 1# musketeer (Bob) at Bulga who headed off to visit his parents in Newcastle.

This left musketeers 2 and 3 (Ferg and I) to do the infamous Putty road, which commences at Bulga and finishes at Windsor in the south.

Not having done this road before, to tell the truth, I was disappointed. In summary, too many trucks, cars, few passing lanes and dodgy surfaces. The scenery is OK, not terrific and the road works were a pain, all this in the "off-season". Still, it's a ride worth doing if you are looking for an alternate (non-expressway) way home from up north or if you are skirting Sydney to the west to head north.

Windsor, 3.30pm. The afternoon was warm, clear and fine and we were only 350 kms from our own warm beds, so we decided to ride through making it a 750km day.

In conclusion, a fantastic 3 days of riding in crisp, clear weather through some of the State's best touring bike country. Arguably, the route we took is not suitable for the larger road bikes, especially those fitted with fairing.

Our only criticism is of our own itinerary which was the long distances we did in the relatively short time. Our remedy?.....can not wait to do the ride again, following the same and different routes over a longer time.

Safe riding

Ross Constable

(musketeer # 3)

#29723

### **Highland Fling Rally 2004**

Organised by Central Highlands (Vic) Ulysses on 8-10 October at lake Burrumbeet Caravan Park, 18km west of Ballarat CBD. Contact John Eurobodalla Ulysses for entry form or visit our website and download entry form.