

The Adelaide Branch's Engine Room

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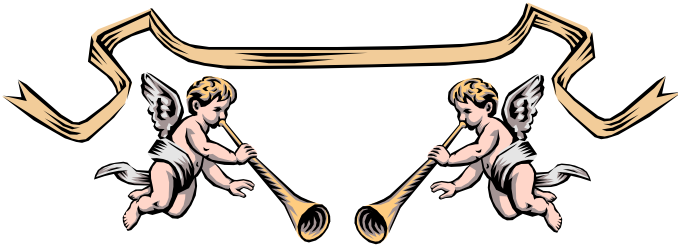
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The Odyssey is published bi-monthly as the magazine of the Ulysses Club Incorporated Adelaide Branch and is available by subscription - **\$12.00 for 1 calendar year, paid to The Odyssey Magazine Wendy King 26 Second Street ARDROSSAN 5571 or at the monthly meeting.** Contributions from members are welcome. The Editor reserves the right of final choice of material to be included in each issue and its format. All material should be sent to **The Editor, 26 Second Street, Ardrossan 5571 or by e-mail: king@netyp.com.au.**

Original photographs, images on CDs or e-mailed photos only should be submitted. **Please do not send photocopies of photographs.**

Closing dates for submission are:

- 19th July for the August issue
- 19th September for the October issue
- 19th November for the December issue
- 19th January for the February issue
- 19th March for the April issue
- 19th May for the June issue

Although all efforts are made to ensure accuracy, The Odyssey cannot verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in editorial material are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of the Ulysses Club Incorporated. All material and advertisements are submitted subject to the discretion of the members. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any advertising or delete any material which could be considered or interpreted as questionable, libellous or offensive, without consultation.

There goes yet another Ulysses AGM!! As expected, I had a good time in Penrith and caught up with some rellies, did a couple of day tours and a bit of shopping. We had our car, as Garry's bike broke down about 150 ks from home and had to go home on my bike and get the car, while the RAA took his bike off to hospital. Just glad we were so close to home!



Although Penrith is a city, it still has the feel of a 'country town' as I remember it. The people of Penrith knew who we were, why we were there and made Ulyssians thoughtfully welcome. I've come to the conclusion that it's not so much the size of a town/city that makes or breaks an AGM, but the **people.**

See page 21 for an important message from Piper. It is important, but hope no one ever needs to use it.

I wish everyone a Blessed, Safe and Happy Easter time. May you spend happy days with family and friends. Most of all, I hope you keep safe on our roads.

Wendy

Adelaide Branch is moving.....
 from April 2009 to **2 Chief St Hindmarsh**
 home of European Catering Receptions PL

meetings: as usual... 8pm
 1st Thursday each month

Off Street parking
 Meals & Bar available from 6pm



Adelaide Branch Committee for 2009

Adelaide Branch Committee for 2009: Top from left: Barry Hall, Russell Boyd, President Andrew Mill (sitting), Bundi Mill, Mikele (Piper) Amorico and Adrian Horan (the \$20 man). See page 11 for a look at your new Secretary, John Crowe.

Adelaide Branch Meetings

First Thursday of the month

European Catering
2 Chief Street
Hindmarsh

8.00 pm
Meals & bar available from 6.00 pm

Visit us on our Web Page

www.ulyssesadelaide.com.au

and check out the latest news on branch happenings

Barossa Group



Barossa rides leave The Old
Steam Train
(opposite the BP Station at
Nuriootpa)
at 10 o'clock
on the 1st Sunday of the month



Rides Captain

Andrew Mill

Phone: 08 7220 2266

Mobile: 0412 312 243

Wednesday Rides Captain

Mick Sandley

Phone: 8251 2435

Mobile: 0407 817 362



Wednesday Rides

All runs will leave at 10.30 am

1st Wednesday Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside
2nd Wednesday Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside
3rd Wednesday North: Caltex, Munno Para
or South: Victoria Hotel, Top o'Taps
4th Wednesday North: Tea Tree Gully Hotel
or South: Victoria Hotel, Top o'Taps
5th Wednesday Feathers Hotel
(3rd & 4th Wed: There are two rides - 1 north and 1 south
Bring or buy your own lunch

Contact Mick Sandley - 8251 2435
or 0407 817 362

SA & Broken Hill Branches' Boss Cockies

Broken Hill Branch

President	Don Bearman	0418 858 653
Secretary	Jenny Kappe	8882 2588
Treasurer	Mick Travena	0419 827 194

Eyre Peninsula Branch

President	William (Bill) Richter	86828212 0412 597 290
Sec/Treas	Patricia (Trish) Pruis	86822358

Fleurieu Branch

President	Robert Ryan	0404 478 741
Secretary	Suzanne Terry	0413 184 893
Rides Captain	Mick Corfield	8186 6697

0434 256 848

Limestone Coast Branch

President	Tim Snigg	8724 9408
Rides Captain	Chris Jackway	8725 3318

Mallee Branch

President	Rob Todd	85837131 0428 251 968
Secretary	Carol Beswick	85872232
Treasurer	Raelene Jackson	8582 2207
Rides Coordinator	Steve Gilgen	0428 894 760

Torrens Valley Branch

President	Mark Seja	0402 982 402
	Jester56@optusnet.com.au	
Secretary	Rod Stoneman	8396 0937
	stoneman@chariot.net.au	
Treasurer	Frank de	
Ruiter	0406 015 779	
	fdjr@optusnet.com.au	

Whyalla Branch

President	George Savaidis	8645 0808
Secretary	Sandy Sawley	8644 0951
Treasurer	John Edwards	8549 3549

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From your Pres

G'Day everyone, this is my first report as President of the Adelaide Branch and, boy, things have been busy since the Adelaide AGM. For those of you that are here, I hope you are enjoying the new venue for our meetings, and for those of you that are not here, you will have to come along and see our new venue for yourself. For a while people had been saying that we needed to find a new venue for our meetings, but nothing ever seemed to meet our requirements. However, it's funny that, when the need arises its surprising what you can do when necessity demands.



The Adelaide Committee and Sub Committees are working well and doing a great job; it was fantastic to have John Crowe volunteer to be our new Secretary - sure took a load off me. We are still looking for more committee members, so if you are interested, come and talk to one of the committee and you will be made most welcome.

For those of you that have been lucky enough to have been to the AGM in Penrith, I hope you had a good

time and enjoyed yourselves (I don't know how you couldn't have a great time at an AGM), and you have all had a safe trip home. Better start saving up for the Albany AGM next year.

Don't forget, Wendy King has a weekend away to Cobdogla on the Anzac weekend - sure to be a good weekend away as Wendy has organized some great ones in the past. Also, a big thanks to Wendy and the Odyssey magazine committee for the fantastic work they do getting the magazine out on time and with heaps of info and pictures from all over the state.

Don't forget for all the latest info on rides and other happenings to check the Adelaide web-site at ulyssesadelaide.com.au there is also a great collection of photos from weekend rides, monthly dinners, weekends away, etc. Many thanks must go to our web master, Ken Wagnitz, who has done, and continues to do, great things with our web site.

Anyway, that's enough from me, as I'm sure there's more interesting stuff to read in the magazine. So enjoy yourself always and have a good time doing it.

Andrew Mill
Adelaide Branch
President

Adelaide Branch Ride Calendar April-June

Date	Time	Leader	Event	From
5-Apr	9.00am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Bills Sponsored Ride	Bill's 368 Mn Nth Rd Blair Athol
12-Apr	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Wabbit Wun Easter Sunday	Civic Park, Main North East Road Modbury
19-Apr	9.00 am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	GC Motorcycles Sponsored Day Ride	GC Motorcycles
25-26 Apr	10.00 am	Wendy King 8837 3449	ANZAC WEEKEND Cobdogla Caravan Park	Munno Para Shopping Centre See ad on page7
3 May	9.00 am 9.30 am	Piper 0403 815 163 Andrew 0412 312 243	Learner Ride Experienced Ride	Civic Park, Main North East Road Modbury
10 May Mothers' Day	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412 312 243	Day Ride	Top o'Taps
17 May	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412 312 243	Day Ride	Civic Park, Main North East Road Modbury
24 May	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412 312 243	4 Captains' Ride	McDonalds 303 Magill Road Trinity Gardens
31 May	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412 312 243	Day Ride	Top o'Taps
7 June		Andrew Mill 0412 312 243	Queen's Birthday Weekend	
14 June	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412 312 243	Day Ride	McDonalds 303 Magill Road Trinity Gardens

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Monthly Dinners

**Note: Change of date due to Good
Friday**



**Friday
17th April 2009
7pm**

**Highbury Hotel
1017 Lower North East Rd
Highbury**

for bookings and cancellations
phone Kevin Brenton

on 8332 4719

(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL

bookings close
Wednesday, 15th April, 2009



**Friday
15th May, 2009
7pm**

**Somerset Hotel
505 Bridge Road
Para Hills**

for bookings and cancellations
phone Kevin Brenton

on 8332 4719

(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL

bookings close
Wednesday, 13th May, 2009



Friday 13th March for the monthly dinner we went to the Sussex Hotel and everyone was happy with their meals, we had plenty of room to mix and mingle and chat of course! Parking was available and inside another good night was enjoyed by all. See you at the Highbury on 17th April for the next one. Above: Ian ('Are these all for me?') and Annette Morgan.



**Friday
12th June 2009
7pm**

**OG Hotel
246 North East Road
Klemzig**

for bookings and cancellations
phone Kevin Brenton

on 8332 4719

(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL

bookings close
Wednesday, 10th June, 2009

'Hello' from Qatar

Kaif haalak – how are you?

After only 24 hours notice of our flights, we were out the door 7am on Wednesday 4th March and on our way, and many hours after that, we arrived in the Capital City, Doha, on Thursday 5th at 4am. The trip took quite some time, due to three time changes, three connections and long stop overs.

Qatar is in an economic boom that is not in line with the rest of the world. In essence, it is one massive building site. The sky is filled with cranes and 'tower' tops, and dust. There aren't many towers under 30 floors high. Our building is 33 high and we live on the 24th level of Ezdan Towers Apartments and Hotel Suites, which is generally consistent with the rest of Doha, spacious and opulent. Joe and I each have a bathroom and there is a third for visitors.

Doha is working really hard at trying to achieve the reputation of providing ultimate facilities in the Gulf. including amazing schools, sports facilities, shopping centres, art galleries and business centre. From what I can see so far, I think in 5 to 10 years it will be there. It is fortunate in that the economic down turn is not being felt here at all.

An alcohol free policy is in place hence, so far, we have discovered only one bar (20 minutes walk from here), and given we don't reside in the building, must go in before 8pm. Joe discovered that a pint of beer is between \$17 and \$23 depending on the night. We have only been there twice. A glass of chardonnay is \$20, not Australian and, honestly, not worth drinking. Coffee is \$6 to \$15 per cup. I won't be getting my hair done here, as one of the female engineers Joe works with said that she paid 1500 Qatar Riyal, which is just under \$700, for a colour and cut. There doesn't seem to be any price regulations. We can purchase a liquor licence to drink alcohol (only at home) for \$600. The Distribution Centre is 30 minutes drive from here and only the licence holder is permitted inside. No one is permitted to drink in the car, on the beach, in the park or anywhere else; if caught one does time.



Need a part for the bike?

In comparison to Australia, motorbikes and motor cars are cheap. One can just about own anything from a Mazzerati,

Mercedes, BMW, Porsche or Hyundi. The people with serious money, which seems to be quite a few, drive top of the range 4WD, mostly Hummers from what I see. The roads are horrendous due to speed and severe lack of indication. I believe this is the reason for lack of bikes on the road. Vehicles are LH drive, so it took me a couple of days to adjust to looking in the right direction before crossing. Intersections are limited and roundabouts are plentiful. Therein lies the problem - traffic approaches the roundabouts at great speed and do not stay within their lane. If one wants to go from the inside lane to the outside lane to exit the roundabout, they just do, at great risk to driver, vehicle and passenger. There are no 'rights' for pedestrians, and I have come across one pedestrian crossing with lights in my travels, so far. Even then a big, white Hummer ran the red, so watch out. Each road is 4 to 5 lanes one way and 4 to 5 lanes the other, so with limited or no pedestrian crossings or intersections, one must cross where one can. Due to the massive construction, there aren't footpaths either so the only option is to walk on the road. Depending on which direction one is going, it is always best to look death in the face, in other words walk towards the oncoming traffic. Catch a bus I hear you say. If only. The system here is geared to have a car. There is one bus station in the old quarter, so one would have to catch a taxi to it. There are no trains. Petrol and vehicles are very cheap.



Our house

We live in tower three, one of a block of four towers, which are designed as a quadrangle. The 4th level is the social get together and activity hub of the towers. We have the luxury (as residents) of the free use of the swimming pool, gym, sauna, spa and table tennis. There is also a coffee shop, seafood and Asian restaurant, a men's hair dresser, grocery store and children's swimming pool and playground. Also, poolside we can eat American 'grill' type food. We are still getting used to full waiter service wherever we go. No one but no one orders or pays at the counter.

Our cleaners are two very friendly Indian fellows who spruce the place up and take away the laundry twice per week. We are still waiting for our visas to be sorted out, so I am not permitted to work at this stage. Being the little adventurer that I am, I have found the Souqs (markets) housed in the old quarter. This is where the traditional food, herbs, grains, spices, clothing and genuine culture is found. The old quarter has traditional architecture and is more reasonably priced than the city

(continued page 11)



Come to Nappa's Weekend

25th & 26th July 2009

Mundoorah Club

Leaving Caltex Bolivar at 10.00 am

No hard accommodation but camping is **free**

Saturday Dinner \$9
Sunday Breakfast \$6

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shopping centres. It also has the most amazing characters and characteristics.

I walk everywhere, which is not common in these parts, and although I meet the dress code, a lone female walker creates interest. I have never felt unsafe except when crossing the roads, as I talked about earlier. We are reminded constantly about local culture and religion and, thus, our dress code is to have tummy, shoulders, knees and cleavage covered. The pool side is where the dress code goes out of the window so expats from around the world take advantage of 'getting it off', much to the joy of the guys working on building sites surrounding the 4th level. I wouldn't be surprised if there is a raffle, competition or buy off going where the winners get to work above the 4th level. At night, the towers and cranes all around Doha come alive with light, which creates another world of beauty and hides the scarring of the barren building blocks, dust and machinery. The glass in the building is double glazed for heat in summer, but is currently serving a better purpose of restricting the constant building noise of jack hammers and machinery to a hum. Outside, of course, we get double whammy with the loud noise **and** the dust.

The thousands of men working here are mostly from India and Indonesia. These fellows live in tin huts on site or they get bussed in from the outskirts. In all, there are 33 nationalities living in Qatar. Somehow we manage to communicate with one another. Except for the roads, there is no aggression present.

We are here for 4 months and the experience is fantastic, even with certain restrictions, but you learn to live with what you have and enjoy it.

**Assalam alykum – Peace be upon you
Shazz and Joe Cairns**



Andrew welcomes John Crowe who is our new secretary.

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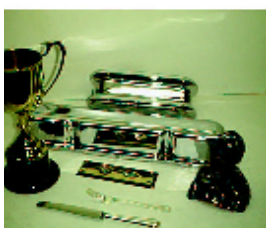
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AGM Pics



We met Owen Pahl on the way to our first AGM (Toowoomba) and met up with him at every AGM since. And, no, for all those who know Owen, he wasn't wearing his peg on his ear, this year.



Couldn't believe my eyes!!! Can't tell you his name, but Lee Bruland thought it was pretty funny! As you can see, I found it hard to keep the camera steady! And in case you are wondering, it cost \$20 for 15 minutes.



Grandad and Ding from Torrens Valley at the Bonanza Hour in the Hoeker early in the week



Some of the jubilant Mildura Committee for the AGM in 2012, after the announcement Friday of the AGM in Penrith. From left: Gayle Ellis, Leanne Hegedus, Stephen Hegedus, Brian Chamberlain, Peter Ellis



Above: Rob Hartridge, Robin and Paul from Newcastle, who Rob met at the Coff's Coast AGM

Below: Robin and Rob doing breakfast - Robin's an AGM Virgin!



Fleurieu Peninsula: Hobbitt in the cable 'bus' at Katoomba

Below: There were very few in the Hoeker for the Bonanza Hour on the first night, but word soon got around that the lovely Megan was giving out the prizes, and the numbers grew very rapidly.



We started 'bumping into' Jo (from Mount Gambier) at Lithgow. We also came across Jim Davies and his partner, Deb, at Condoblin, when they were on their way home from a holiday in Tasmania. Deb was riding her new toy, Harley Davidson Dyna. I think she went into the shop to buy something else and came out with a new Harley, as you do.



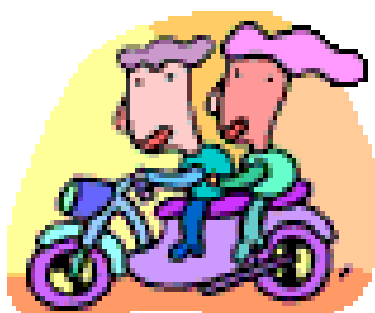
Left: Ronda wondering if she should have another beer!

UPCOMING S.A. RALLIES 2009

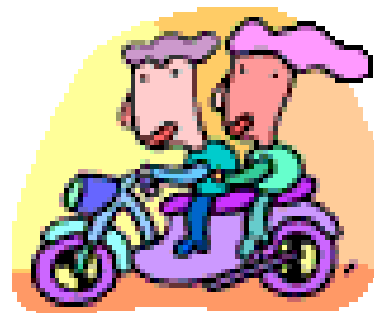
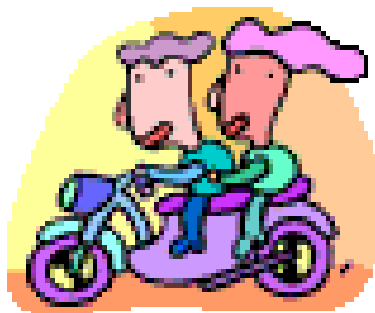
APRIL 3,4,5,	R.A.C.	COONALPYN HOTEL	ANDY 0411 212 076
APRIL 18, 19	BOOBOROWIE		AIDAN 8346 4071
MAY 2, 3	ROAMING SWAGMAN	BURRA CREEK GORGE	LEFTY 0412 767 945 MARK 8634 4377
MAY 9, 10	GREAT ESCAPE - back to basics		HARALD 0421 289 714
MAY 30, 31	WANBI PUB	WANBI	GROT 0412 602 272
JUNE 6,7,8,	WINTERSUN	MILDURA	JOHN 03 5023 7218
JUNE 27, 28	RADIATA	SOUTH END	FRANK 8765 1030
AUG 7,8,9	ALZ 10th (and FINAL) RALLY	SEDAN	MEATAXE 8540 2172 ADRIAN 8568 2503
AUG 21,22,23	WOMBAT	WARNERTOWN	MICK 0417 846 668
SEPT 5, 6	BUCKIN'	MARRABEL	GROT 0412 602 272
SEPT 11,12,13	GHOST TOWN	LAKE MENINDEE	0418 858 653
SEPT 18,19,20	BUSH PIG	CRYSTAL BROOK	GREG 0409 8424 34
OCT long weekend	OASIS	PARUNA	LERCH 0432 284 529
OCT 17, 18	REDBACK	LAKE BONNEY	IVAN 0403 210 925

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NO RESPONSIBILITY TAKEN FOR DATE CHANGES - CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL ORGANISERS



The Odyssey



Ride to Meadows via Mt Pleasant. There were 22 bikes at Civic Park, we set off through Chain of Ponds, Checkers Hill Rd, back to Kersbrook via Norseworthy Rd then along to Williamstown and on to Mt Pleasant for morning tea. From here we headed to Palmer, Monarto, Woodchester, Wistow, Echunga and on to Meadows for lunch. The weather was excellent, the company was great and the ride wasn't bad either.





Oop! Apologies to Jeannie Brenton, Janetta Caire and Liz Fairchild for covering up their faces with the Christmas banner in the last issue

A Little Lenten Humour

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each pint in turn. When he has finished all three, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender says to him, "You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; it would taste better if you bought one at a time."



The Irishman replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home,

we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days we all drank together."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks the same way: he orders three pints and drinks them by taking sips from each of them in turn.

One day, he comes in and orders only two pints. All the other regulars in the bar notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss." The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then a light dawns in his eye and he laughs. "Oh no," he says. "Everyone is fine. It's me - I've given up alcohol for Lent."

Road Side Assist

We do enjoy going for a ride. We all understand that situations (SHIT) can happen (AN OFF) such as a puddle on the road when we go through a turn, a tree branch falling and hits you as you ride, or some useless, blind driver cutting you off. These and more situations are not easy for us to control and we have (Offs), (Not wanted but happens).

So I am setting up a **Road Side Assist** on Sunday rides to let our loved ones know what has happened. For this to happen, we now have use of a PDA. (A hand-held device for storing personal details/database.)

On the PDA is your name, number, your bike or bikes' rego numbers, your first contact and your second contact, which are your family and friends? The phone calls to family and friends will be if (AN OFF) is not of a serious nature, but for a (SERIOUS OFF) the information will be given to the emergency personal such as the police. The PDA is to be carried by the one of the Tail End Charlies (myself) and kept updated by me; to do this, an emergency contact card has been, and will be, handed out to you on Sunday's ride for you to fill out. If you have filled a card and your details like bike rego or contacts numbers have changed, let me know, because this is beneficial to you and your family. You can contact me through our club website or phone me on 0403815163.

**Mikele Amorico
(PIPER)
Committee Member**

Mujibar was trying to get a job in India. The Personnel Manager said, 'Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except one. Unless you pass it, you cannot qualify for this job.' Mujibar said, 'I am ready.'

The Manager said, 'Make a sentence using the words **green, pink and yellow**.

Mujibar thought for a few minutes and said, 'Mister Manager, I am ready'

The Manager said, 'Go ahead.'

Mujibar said, 'The telephone goes green, green, and I pink it up, and say, 'Yellow, this is Mujibar.'"

Mujibar now works as a call centre manager for TELSTRA problems.

No doubt you have spoken to him.



Global Support Centre Employee of the Month

Yorke Peninsula

Mount Gambier Australia Day Weekend

Thanks to all of the Fleurieu Branch members for putting on a top weekend. Those of us who took the trip down there had a fantastic time. The Sunday ride, led by Meredith from the Limestone Coast Branch, was something else; her knowledge of the local roads made for an excellent ride. Thanks again to everyone involved for a well organised event.

Sunday February 1st

Unfortunately, the ride that was going to be led by James Bartsch had to be cancelled, due to excessive temperature forecasts. A reply by Chaddy to the emails sent out cancelling the event, suggested making the ride a BYO breakfast. A quick call to Leon and Natalie to change from a lunch time barby to a bacon and egg breakfast get together was confirmed, and it was on again. Somehow the BYO bit got misconstrued and Leon and Natalie supplied everything. A big 'thank you' to them for supplying and cooking the brekky, and providing their excellent venue once again. Everyone who attended not only enjoyed the food, but also the socialising afterwards.

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March

Combined Ride by Yorke Peninsula Riding Group and Fleurieu Peninsula Branch.

On Saturday 14th March, fifteen bikes, led by Crazee, arrived at Port Wakefield, many of them were two up, and they were met by members of the Yorke Peninsula Riding Group. After we made sure that every one knew each other, we enjoyed a casual, extended lunch with a lot of socialising.

Just before departure time, I spoke to the group and explained that I would not be leading the ride, due to a recent heart attack, and handed over to fellow YPRG members, James and Heather Bartsch, who kindly agreed to take over my duties as ride leader for the weekend, at very short notice.

After a briefing on the intended route and organising a Tail End Charlie, the group headed off for Balaklava. After booking in at the Hotel and Caravan Park, we had a bit of a tidy up and regrouped at the pub for the evening meal.

After breakfast Sunday morning, we all met at the Hotel for the mandatory group photographs and James gave a run down on the planned itinerary for the day. After about a 350km ride with quite a few stops for lunch, fuel and sightseeing etc., the group arrived at Leon and Natalie Hall's for a fantastic barbeque tea complete with drinks and dessert.

After tea there was a regrouping at the local servo to fuel up in readiness for the short 75 km ride back to Balaklava, and the ride home next day.

During breakfast, the highlights of the weekend were recounted many times and we then said our goodbyes, and groups set off in various directions for home. For quite a few members, this was their first inter-branch ride, from the feedback I received, I am sure that they will be joining in on our future activities with their new Ulysses friends. In closing, I would like to sincerely thank Leon and Natalie Hall, and James and Heather Bartsch from our group, for the effort they put in to make this ride such a success. Also, thanks to my wife, Rae, who had to cope with my

disappointment of not being able to participate as a rider. Thanks to all those from the Fleurieu Branch for supporting the ride, especially with so much going on at the moment ,e.g. MTTM and AGM. We are looking forward to you all joining us again on the long weekend in June on the Lower Flinders Ride.

Rodney Lind

COMING RIDES

Sunday 5th April 2009

Friends and Rellies run.

Meet at BP Port Wakefield

10.00am. This is an opportunity to invite non members to join us and see what we are all about. Shortish easy ride finishing at Port Broughton for lunch

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26 April 2009

Don't forget Wendy's Anzac weekend at Cobdogla; this looks like it will be a great show. Dinner will be at the Cobdogla and Districts Club with very reasonably priced meals and Saturday entertainment. Ride will depart Munno Para Shopping Centre Car Park at 10.00 am. Contact Wendy on 8837 3449 for information and dinner bookings. (ad on page 7)

Sunday 3rd May 2009

Meet at BP Port Wakefield at 10.00 am

Ride to Barossa Valley for lunch?

Saturday June 6th, Sunday June 7th, Monday June 8th

We will be hosting the Fleurieu Branch on a ride to the Lower Flinders Ranges. We will be Meeting at Pope's Café, Port Wakefield at 12.30pm for lunch, then riding to Port Augusta where we will be staying for two nights. Phone Rod for further details.

Sunday 5th July 2009

Casserole and Mornay Luncheon. Meet at Robert and Dianne Chadbourne's place (8 George Street Port Wakefield) at 9.30 am. Robert has organised a ride which will finish back at his place for a get-together, where the food will be pooled for lunch.

Sunday 2nd August

Would someone like to organise an outing for this day? Contact Rodney!

Friday 11th – Monday 14th Dec 2009

As mentioned earlier the annual Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula combined ride is on again this year.

It is imperative that accommodation be booked early.

This applies to both hard accommodation and camping sites. We have compiled a list of basic ride details and venues, if you wish to be part of what promises to be a fantastic weekend contact me and I can pass details onto you for booking purposes.

Rodney Lind
88377260



The leg on which SA stands

Sunday Rides

are held on the first Sunday of the month. Watch these pages for details and updates or contact Rod Lind on 8837 7260/0148 527 977 for info.

Wednesday Rides

leave the parking bay in the centre of Kadina Park at 9.30 am on Wednesdays. Please contact Clive Ford on 8821 1598 before **any** Wednesday ride to get the latest information.

Thank You

I wish to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation for the cards, emails, phone calls, visits and offers of assistance Rae and I received after my recent heart attack.

I was extremely humbled by the support we received from our Ulysses friends who belong to many Branches and Riding Groups throughout South Australia.

It was an extremely stressful time for us both, but I am pleased to say everything finished up o.k. and I am well on the way to making a full recovery.

It is certainly an honour and privilege to belong to such a great organisation where the bond between members is so strong.

Rodney Lind



At the Balaklava weekend: Back, left to right: Ian Kennedy (Brewer), Vicki Ryan, Robert Ryan (Hobbitt), Rodney Lind, Bob Reichman. Front Row, left to right: Marcia Foster, Dulcie Reichman, Lee Kennedy (Bottla) Rae Lind (Raels)

Outside the Balaklava Royal Hotel - 7-8 March



Vicki and Hobbitt



Pre Ride Briefing Mt Gambier



The Odyssey



Ulysses Adelaide Branch

DIARY OF AN ENGLISH-MAN IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Just got transferred with work from grey old London to our new home in Adelaide, South Australia. Now this is a town that knows how to live! Beautiful, sunny days with warm, balmy evenings. I watched the sunset from a deckchair by the pool yesterday. It was beautiful. I've finally found my new home. I love it here!!!

September 13

It's really heating up now. It got to 31 today. No problem though. Living in an air-conditioned home, driving air conditioned car. What a pleasure to see the sun every day like this. I'm turning into a sun-worshipper.

September 30

Had the back yard landscaped with tropical plants today. Lots of palms And rocks. No more mowing lawns for me. Another scorcher today, but I love it here.

October 10

The temperature hasn't been below 35 all week. How do people get used to this kind of heat? At least today it's windy though. Keeps the flies off a bit. Acclimatizing is taking longer than I expected.

October 15

Fell asleep by the pool yesterday. Got third degree burns over 60% of my body. Missed three days of work. What a dumb thing to do! Got to respect the ol' sun in a climate like this.

October 20

Didn't notice Kitty (our cat) sneaking into the car before I left for work this morning. By the time I got back to the car after work, Kitty had died - swollen up to the size of a shopping bag & stuck to the upholstery. The car now smells like Whiskettes & cat shit. I've learned my lesson though: no more pets in this heat.

October 25

This wind is a bastard. It feels like a giant f..kin' blow dryer. And it's hot as hell! The home air conditioner is on the blink and the repair man charged \$200 just to drive over and tell me he needs to order parts from Sydney.

October 30th

The temperature's is up around 40 and the parts still haven't

arrived for the f..kin' aircon. Been sleeping outside by the pool for three nights now. Bloody \$800,000 house and we can't even go inside. Why the hell did I ever come here?

November 4

Finally got the ol' aircon fixed. It cost \$1,500 and gets the temperature down to around 25 degrees, but the humidity makes it feel about 30. Stupid repairman.

November 8

If one more f..kin' smart arse says 'Hot enough for you today?', I'm going to throttle him. F..kin' heat! By the time I get to work, the car's radiator is f..kin' boiling over, my clothes are soaking f..kin' wet and I smell like baked cat!

November 9

Tried to run some errands after work, wore shorts, and sat on the black leather upholstery in the ol' car. I thought my f..kin' arse was on fire. I lost two layers of f..kin' flesh, all the hair on the backs of my legs and my f..kin' arse. Now the car smells like burnt hair, fried arse and baked f..kin' cat!

November 10

Weather report! It might as well be a f..kin' recording. Hot and sunny, Hot and sunny, Hot and f..kin' sunny! It's been too hot to do anything for two f..kin' months & the weatherman says it might really warm up next week. Doesn't it ever rain in this damn place? Water restrictions are on, so my \$5,000 worth of palms are drying up and blowing into the f..kin' pool. The only things that thrive in this hell-hole are the f..kin' flies. Don't dare open your mouth for fear of swallowing half a dozen of the buggers!

November 20

Welcome to HELL! It got to 45 f..kin' degrees today. Now the air conditioner's gone in my car. The repair man came to fix it and said, "Hot enough for you today?" My wife had to spend the \$2,500 mortgage payment to bail me out of jail for assaulting the stupid f..kin' little twit. Bloody Adelaide! What kind of sick, demented f..kin' idiot would want to f..kin' live here!

December 1

WHAT THE F..K!!!! The first day of Summer!!!! You are f..kin' kidding me!



Two priests decided to go to Hawaii, the island of aloha, on vacation. They were determined to make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their "tourist" garb. enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a "drop dead gorgeous" blonde in a topless bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare. As the blonde passed them she smiled and said, "Good morning, Father ~ Good morning, Father," nodding and addressing each of them individually, then she passed on by. They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests?



So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them! Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine. After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different colored topless bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them.

Again she nodded at each of them, said "Good morning, Father ~ Good morning, Father," and started to walk away.

One of the priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, "Just a minute, young lady." "Yes, Father?"

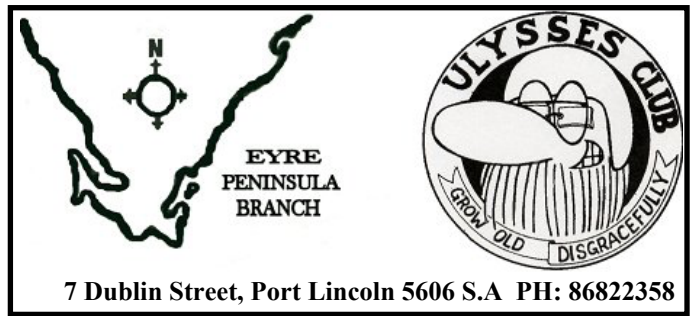
"We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?"

She replied, "Father, it's me, Sister Kathleen."



Eyre Peninsula Branch Ride Calendar

Come on any event on any sort of wheels
Scheduled Rides Leave On Time As Indicated
All Rides May Be Subject To Alteration
Visitors Welcome



Date	Ride	Contact	Advise by	Leave	Time
April 4-5 Sat-Sun	Elliston Overnight Book own accommodation	Mick Jesser 8682 4019	March 14	Town Jetty	10.00 am
April 18-19 Sat-Sun	Nyroca Scout Camp Overnight	Jack Ash 8684 3285	April 5	Town Jetty	1.00 pm Saturday
April 26 Sunday	Cleve for lunch	Herman Pruis 8682 2358	April 20	North Shields	10.00 am
May 2-4 Sat-Sun	Brossa Valley Accommodation to be notified	Kevin Warren 8684 2093	April 20	North Shields	8.00 am Ferry 10.30 am
May 24 Sunday	Borthwick Hill BYO BBQ	Jack Ash 8684 2358		North Shields	10.00 am
June 6-8 Sat-Sun	Nutbush Retreat (near Iron Knob) Cowell (book own accommodation)	Allan Smith 8682 1475	May 23	Town Jetty	8.00 am Saturday
June 27 Saturday	Christmas in June - Marina Hotel	Bill Richter 8282 8212	June 9	Marina Hotel	6.00 pm for 630



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Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, 'When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway.'

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

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Sunday January 18th - Breakfast at Boats & Bikes

Left Caltex at 8.30am for a short ride along the highway, up through Nelshaby and Napperby, back onto the highway to Warnertown turning onto the abattoirs road and back to Pt.Pirie where Leon & Debra (Boats & Bikes) very kindly put on a breakfast for everyone (scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, tomatoes, mushrooms, toast, tea, coffee & orange juice). Many thanks to them both.

Apparently we "lost" Lou, who was a corner marshal and as he didn't see a certain rider go past (Wayne) and went back to look for him. He finally arrived about 15 minutes later to the "relief" of his wife Paula.

Saturday January 25th - Kadina Speedway

Stax suggested we should get together and go to the speedway which was being held at the Kadina Trotting Track. We discussed the idea the Sunday before the speedway meeting whilst we were having coffee @ our usual meeting place on Sunday mornings (French Hot Bread Shop). We had a reasonable response from our members, the trip was on. There was only one problem, I wanted to go, but I couldn't ride my bike as I have had a shoulder operation and my arm was in a sling. Good old Stax came to my rescue and suggested I go on his trike with him, great idea, leave Kate home (Stax's wife) and take me. (by the way Kate didn't want to go)

We met at Caltex and left @ 4.00pm. Whilst waiting for riders to turn up we had a visit from the local law enforcement. One new rider and his wife were a bit concerned when they saw this 4 wheel drive police vehicle pull up next to us. Those of us who knew had a laugh as the officer driving was Cosy, one of our members. Cosy had come to see who was going on the ride, he was disappointed he couldn't come as he had to work. (There was a suggestion if we could organise a ruckus he would end up at the speedway or he could give us a police escort).

The ride to Kadina was a bit on the warm side, the speedway was fantastic with some good racing (looking forward for the next one).

We arrived back to Pirie @ 11.30pm. Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed the racing.

Good suggestion Stax.

Sunday February 15th - Ride to Pt.Broughton for tea

We all met at Caltex at 5.00pm and rode to Broughton through Crystal Brook and Merriton. Solly and I had to drive (under sufferance) as Solly shoulder can't handle the bike until 10th April. We met the guys and girls on the foreshore, and then most of us dined at the Broughton Hotel. We would like to congratulate Cosy on not being "Tail End Charlie" (for not being the last person served tea) even though Jules was about the last person to order their meal.

After good food and great conversation, we headed back to Macca's in Pirie for coffee and turned the place upside down when we walked in, the poor girl in the McCafe probably thought Sunday night-nice and quiet WRONG !!

Sunday February 22nd - Meet Torrens Valley Group at Snowtown

We met at Caltex at 9.00am and rode the long way round to Snowtown (I heard a little rumour some of the riders thought they were never going to reach Snowtown they actually thought Wayne was lost), eventually they met up with the Torrens Valley Group and headed back to Wayne and Bev's place for a BBQ lunch. Bev, Nan and with a little help from myself had

the barbie cooked for the riders and partners as they rode in. It turned out to be a good day and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Money raised on the day (for lunch) was \$170.00 which was donated to Make A Wish Foundation.

We would like to thank the Southern Flinders Group for supplying the salads, Bev and Wayne for organising and putting on the BBQ.



Sunday March 15th

Went on a short ride to Georgetown on to Crystal Brook through to Wandearah East and then on to Les and Julie Wyatt's place for a BBQ lunch. We had a reasonable number of people turn up, including Rod and Rae Lind, Chaddy & Dianne from the Yorke Peninsula Group. Les and Julie put on a lovely spread. A few of the ladies commented on the sweets that were made and were asking for recipes. One of our members was keeping an eye on his better half as they were heading off to England for holidays and poor ole Bev was supposed to be dieting.

A great time was had by all, thank you Julie & Les for the hospitality.

FUTURE RIDES

Saturday 23rd. May

Ride Leader Leon Stephens 8633 1211 or 0407 727 035.

Overnight ride to Blinman. This ride is up in the air, at the moment, as we are waiting to see if the road has been completely sealed. If it hasn't, we will probably ride to Parachilna and spend the night there. For more information contact Leon or Solly if you are interested going on this ride.

Sunday 24th. May

Riders who don't wish to ride to Blinman / Parachilna on Saturday, Meet at Caltex @ 10.00am. Group discussion on ride destination.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Where: French Hot Bread Shop. (In the main street next to the ANZ bank and opposite the playground)

When: Every Sunday @ 10.00am. All welcome.

All rides leave Port Pirie from the Solomontown Caltex service station. Riders are welcome to come on all or part of any ride.

The ride calendar will be updated every month. Any updates during the month will be emailed out and copies put on the counter at Boat & Bikes. The calendar will be on display in the window of Boats & Bikes.

All rides will have a ride leader and a tail end Charlie (will always stay at the back of the group) so that everyone can ride at their own pace. We will also use corner marshals when the ride leader thinks it is required. The rider immediately behind the leader will stop and wait on a corner if the ride leader indicates (by pointing to the corner) and will remain on the corner directing other riders until tail end Charlie goes past. If you are willing to be a corner marshal then you just need to ride up front, but if you don't want the job then don't ride immediately behind the leader. The system works well if adhered to and lets everyone ride in confidence and that they will not get lost even if they cannot see any other riders.

If you would like to have the rides calendar and any updates emailed to you, email me (Solly) at treena.solomon@yahoo.com.au. and I will email the calendar to you in future.

Any questions or ideas for rides please contact me (**please note the new mobile number**).

Glen (Solly) & Treena Solomon on 8633.0385 or 0420 859 492

**RIDER PROFILE FROM THE WEDNESDAY MOB
TEN QUESTIONS WITH ULYSSES MEMBER
ROSS MURRAY**

- Q1. How long have you been a Ulysses member?
A1. Around 20 years
- Q2. What influenced you to join?
A2. Lyall Zilm influenced me to join. We needed a new direction.
- Q3. What motor bike are you currently riding?
A3. NT650 Honda Deauville
- Q4. How many bikes have you owned over the years?
A4. About 20 bikes
- Q5. Name some of the bikes you have owned?
A5. 1952 Matchless Twin, 1973 750GT Ducati-midlife crisis, 1993 Honda ST1100 senior years
- Q6. What will be your next bike?
A6. The NT650 Honda Deauville is the last as I will be over 80 year old when this one wears out.
- Q7. What is, or was your favorite bike?
A7. My 1973 750 GT Ducati.
- Q8. If money was no object and you could have any bike in the world, what would it be?
A8. The new Ducati 1000GT Retro
- Q9. What do you enjoy about the Ulysses Club?
A9. The people and the Wednesday rides.
- Q10. Do you have any nick name? Come on I know you do!!
A10. No. Everyone calls me Ross

**Peltman
#22403**



The Odyssey

G'Day Folks

Well what a great start to the New Year. We went down to Mt Gambier on the January long week end. This has been a great way to celebrate Australia Day. Again it was fabulous to have so many members from other branches attending. Most members rolled up on the Friday for the Pizza and Beer night. Saturday was a bit of a lounge around and greeting the other folk that rolled up through the day. The FUCCers again provided a feast on



Saturday night with more than you could shake a stick at to eat.

On Sunday the locals took us out for a great ride to see all the local sites. Some rev heads went off to Mac Park Raceway to try out their riding skills. All returned with a grin! We arrived back, scrubbed up, and jumped onto the busses to go to the Pub for tea. Good meal, good chat, good fun then back on the busses and back to the Caravan Park. More yarns with lots of laughs then finally to bed.

How fast can a weekend go? Suddenly it's Monday and it's time to go. Thanks to all who helped and volunteered over the week end; it's this that makes the events so easy to do.

The President's rides this year turned into a picnic. After having a leisurely ride throughout the district we settled down at the Mylor Oval for a picnic. Everyone brought their munchies and some to share. It was lovely sitting on the grass in the shade. Good day and more fun than was required getting home.

Gonzo, one of our senior members has just got back onto his new bike, a Spider. We had a surprise party for him to welcome him back after his valve grind and ball joint replacement.

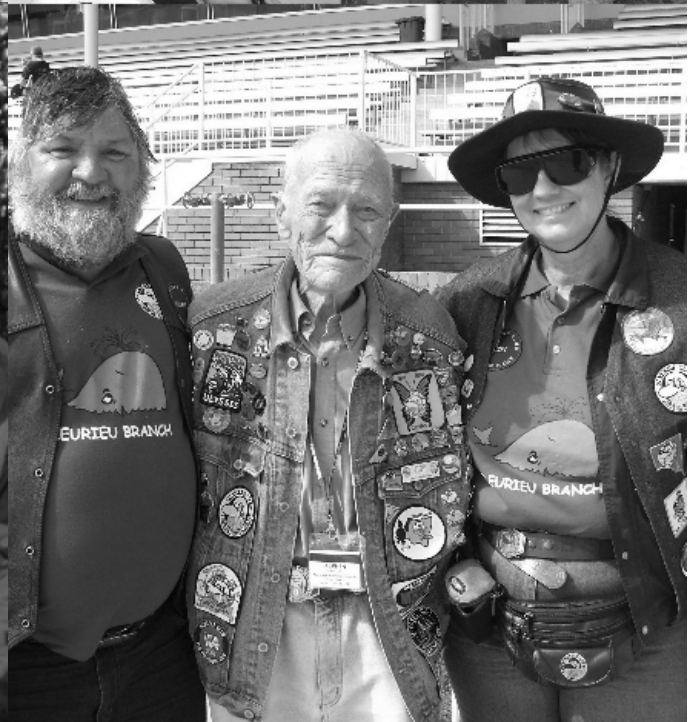
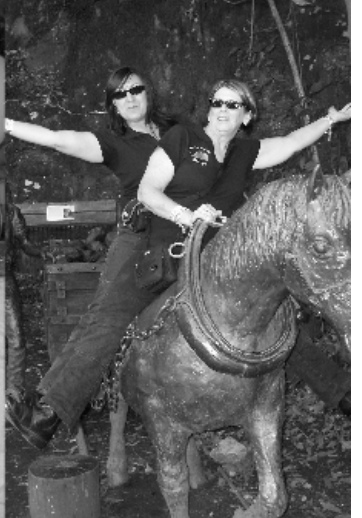
We have also started up mid week rides on the 2nd and the 4th Wednesday of the month. Please check out the web site for further details of these and our other rides. Feel free to come along and join the fun at any of our rides, meetings or events.

Wishing you all the best on two wheels.

**Regards
Hobbit**

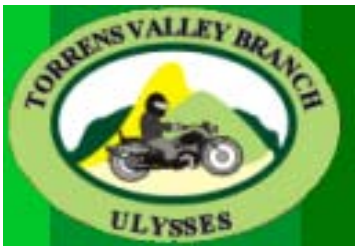


Hobbitt's AGM in Pictures



The Odyssey

Ulysses Adelaide Branch



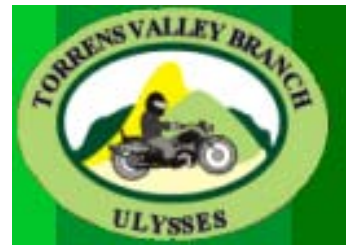
Torrens Valley Branch Meetings

7.30pm

Third Tuesday of the Month

Parafield Gardens Community Club
Shepherdson Road, Parafield Gardens

Meals available from the Club before the Meeting
All welcome



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Mouth to the Mountains

The Mouth to the Mountains Ride is now been and gone. For my part, it was a very successful event, raising \$8,336.60 for the Ulysses Club Arthritis Research Fund. There were a number of other benefits however, none-the-least the opportunity for the predominantly SA Branch members to forge new, and strengthen old, friendships.

The ride was planned over a twelve month period by a dedicated committee drawn from the Torrens Valley, Adelaide and Fluerieu Branches, and Yorke Peninsula Riding Group, and was a testament to how Ulyssians can work together if they believe in what they are doing. Arthritis research is something that is important to most of us, and this ride provided the ideal platform upon which to raise funds.

The route was easy - just follow the River Murray - getting the riders together was a little more difficult and here I'll quote Ol' #1, when he suggests that organising Ulyssians is "like trying to herd cats".

Be that as it may, on Wednesday the 11th of March 2009, approximately 65 bikes and their riders left Goolwa S.A. at the Mouth of the River Murray and headed to Waikerie, ably led by Paul "Vespa Boy" Hancock. It was a great sight, looking forward on the road and seeing a ribbon of bikes stretching ahead.

A great break at Murray Bridge on the banks of the River, and then on to Waikerie where we were looked after royally by Rob "Sir Riff of Raff" Todd and the stalwarts of the Mallee Branch, who provided us with a fantastic BBQ and wonderful company that night. Not happy with that, a hearty breakfast was also put on for us, with all the profits from those meals donated to UCARF. Just prior to leaving, Toddy presented me with two cheques - one for just over \$1,000 and the other for just under \$500 - an absolutely sterling effort. My sincere thanks go to the Mallee Branch for its great support of this event.

We were joined at Waikerie by Bill Richter and his mob from the Eyre Peninsula. One of our committee members, Rodney Lind, and his wife Rae, were supposed to meet them at Port Augusta and lead them in, but Rod had a heart attack the week before and sensibly heeded medical advice not to ride for a few weeks. He was bitterly disappointed, but became philosophical about the whole thing eventually. We were all thinking about him as we travelled and appreciated the hard work that he and Rae had put into the ride organisation.

After stopping at Barmera then Yamba, we all headed towards Mildura, our destination for the second night. The Mildura mob came to the BBQ we held that night, and again we managed to raise a nice amount of money for UCARF, as well as have a great time talking about just about everything.

The next morning, we were led to Robinvale by a couple of

local Ulyssians, who saw us off at the Swan Hill turnoff. Paul Hancock took over as ride leader and took us into Swan Hill for lunch at the Golden Arches. "Nifty" Neville Gray then led us the rest of the way into Echuca.

The rest of the afternoon and the following day were spent at Echuca with riders doing their own thing. Some left on the Saturday to get an "early start" to Jindabyne, and others explored the Echuca-Moama area. Penny and I joined the Eyre Peninsula mob on a twilight dinner cruise on an old paddle-steamer. What a great time we had getting to know the hosts of the 2010 Odyssey!

Sunday morning at 8 am sharp, Neville Gray led us off through the back roads of Victoria, heading toward the meeting spot at Bonegilla, near Albury-Wodonga. We met the early departures there and then made the decision whether to head to Jindabyne via the "north" or "south" road.

Some chose the north road and others, including Penny and I, chose the south road. After passing some very picturesque countryside, we started our ascent into the mountains via Tom Groggin and Mount Hotham. Those of us that were towing trailers really gave our bikes a work-out, as some of those corners were really tight and steep!

We got to Jindabyne at about 4 pm and began settling in to our accommodation, which was quite pleasant! We heard not long after getting to Jindabyne that Trevor Potter - another committee member, had come off his FJR Yamaha and broken his ankle. His wife and son drove from Adelaide to collect him. Trevor will be off his bike for a while and we'll see if we can talk him into buying a Goldwing! Well done to Paul Hancock, who unselfishly remained with Trevor and made sure he and his bike were looked after - missing out on the final night dinner.

Dinner was a fun event with everyone hopefully having a good time and enough food to eat! Two raffles were held that night and against all odds, the same bloke won both prizes!

The next day we all made our way individually to Penrith or to other destinations. Everyone I have spoken to has told me that they enjoyed the ride as it was something special. I think the best part of the entire adventure however, was when I presented Stephen Dearnley with a cheque for over \$8,300.00 in favour of the Ulysses Club Arthritis Research Fund at the extended Natcom Meeting. I could tell he was genuinely pleased with our efforts for such a great cause.

Mark Seja
President
Torrens Valley Branch
Ulysses Club Inc

The major raffle (bike jacket) was won by C Johnstone of Sellicks Beach, daughter of Rob and Helen Sainsbury (Gnome and Gnomette).

Three weeks in the Yukon and Alaska (Final)

- Roger Knapp

Saturday 9th August. Watson Lake, Yukon

We left Whitehorse at 8.30am prepared for a long days ride to Watson Lake, a distance of 420km. The temp varied from 8deg with rain in the morning to 25deg and clear skies in the afternoon and by the time we made it into Watson Lake I was exhausted from the ride and the heat as I was wearing far too many clothes by that time. Watson Lake is the first town in the Yukon on the Alaska Highway and has attracted many adventurers over the years that have all left a sign of their passing. The local council obviously fosters this habit as they have now installed several hundred 8m high posts in a semicircle and an entrance sign designated SIGNPOST FOREST. This is a very interesting place to while away an hour or two. There are at least 70,000 signs to view.

We booked in at the local camping ground and quickly made dinner after which three of us headed back into town to visit the Northern Lights Hall. We were astounded at the production we witnessed in such a small town. The Hall was effectively a planetarium designed to show films on the domed ceiling and we were shown a wonderful film on the exploration of the universe and then another on the Aurora Borealis of which I purchased a copy.

A quick shower, write up my journal and off to bed.

Sunday 10th August

After packing our gear and a quick breakfast at the campground we did a quick circuit of Watson Lake. As an update I have found out that Watson Lake is not at mile 0 on the Alaska Highway. Mile 0 is at Dawson Creek over 1000km south.

The weather was fine and warm, 22deg, and the sky laced with large fluffy clouds. Our journey today was to take us to Liard Hot springs on the west side of the Rockies. About 30km south of Watson Lake, while cruising down a long hill, the clutch suddenly disengaged and so ended a pleasant ride south.

I am currently in Fort St John, BC, having being driven here from just south of Watson Lake after the bike broke down again with a failed clutch. I was picked up by a friendly gold miner, named Chris Race, from Alaska who was driving back home to Wisconsin. I was just behind the group when the clutch went but they didn't see me so I waited until a pickup truck came along and hailed him down. By the time we caught up with the group Wes had turned around and was looking for me. As I didn't want to slow them down again I decided to accept a lift down to Fort St John, around 900km. On the trip south we passed through the Rocky Mountains from west to east witnessing evidence of the mountains growth as the valleys were strewn with recent landslides and flash flood creeks. The sides of the surrounding mountains were littered with snow pads left over from last winter which is unusual as all snow has normally melted by this time, at this latitude and altitude. Two Caribou were sighted close to the road and soon after, several small herds of Woods Buffalo with many young. Apparently they prefer the good grazing on the wide verges in preference to the forests. It soon started to rain and did so for the rest of the trip. Late in the evening we passed a sign on the road which said "Do Not Stop", apparently due to a nearby Chemical Facility which lights up the night sky while burning off noxious fumes. So much for ecologically sound practices.

We got into Fort St John at 12.30am and Chris dropped me off at the Best Western Motel. I am hoping to get the local Suzuki Dealer onto the problem today.

There was one bright moment as I did get to bathe in the Liard Hot Springs as Chris told me that he always stops there when on his way back and forth to Alaska. The springs are set in among trees and ferns and the hot water flows slowly over a gravel bed which you can see through the crystal clear water which starts out close to boiling at one end of the pool and is still around 40deg at the opposite end where it spills into a small creek. To minimize disturbance to the site it is necessary to walk about 400m along a low boardwalk through a swamp which adds to the mystery of the area. A must see site for any visitor to northern BC.

Monday 11th August 5.30pm

Fort Saint John is very much a mining, oil and timber town with not a lot to amuse a stranded traveler, surrounded by Pine, Spruce and Poplar covered low hills. I amused myself, since delivering the bike to the local Suzuki dealer, by walking around town and visiting the local Canadian Tire and Wal-Mart stores. Wal-Mart is much like Big W only less orderly and Canadian Tire is a bit like Bunnings but with more Automotive and Camping supplies.

Delivery of the bike to the Suzuki Dealer was a bit of a drama by the way. I called to book the bike in for repairs and the service manager said I was close by and to just push the bike up to the shop. It was only about 2km which I could probably have managed but it was all uphill. After the first 600m a friendly young lad took pity on me and assisted for a while and a little later, after the lad had abandoned me, a water truck driver stopped and pushed for awhile. He then decided that a tow would be the best way so he hooked me up with a tow rope, suitable for the Queen Mary, and we rode into the Suzuki shop in style.

About 4.30pm I walked back up to the Suzuki Dealer fearing the worst and was told that the mechanic had just finished dismantling the clutch. We went out into the workshop and were informed that the clutch plates were worn our and that it was unlikely that they would have them in stock and most likely have to come from Japan. After a half hour wait for the parts department to check I was informed that the unlikely had happened and that they had the parts in stock. I can now pick the bike up tomorrow, Tuesday, morning.

I have, also, just heard from my group that they will be in Fort St John tomorrow evening and that they want me to wait for them to complete the journey. I really have missed them over the last two days.

Thursday 14th August. Alone in Paradise. Charlie Lake, Fort Saint John

Little has happened for the good since my last report apart from joining up with my good friends late on Tuesday afternoon.

Not long after writing up my journal on Monday I made my way back to Transport Honda, the Suzuki Dealer to be told that the clutch repair had been completed only to reveal a greater problem, the final drive spline to the rear wheel had been severely worn over the life of the bike and had apparently completely stripped at the same time that the clutch let go. After waiting for

several hours I was told that the parts department had located a used part from a wrecker in Edmonton Alberta, about 1000km to the south east. I agreed to the repair price and the part was supposedly dispatched to Fort Saint John. It is now Thursday at 11.00am and the last phone call to the Dealer assured me that the part should be here this afternoon although, when pressed, the Service Supervisor could not even tell me how the part was being transported. Such is life in the bush. Fort Saint John is a town of 16,000 so it is not exactly a one horse town.

On a brighter note, on meeting up with the group on Tuesday Wes informed me that they were camped in the front yard of an old friend, David, so I was delighted to find that we were situated on the foreshore of a lake about 16km long and 2km wide. A quite idyllic site. Being without transport, I was picked up at the Motel by four bikes and we evenly distributed my gear and I rode Bitch on the back with Wes. A rather comical term apparently referring to the presence of a wife on the back, not the most endearing term but well meaning I am sure.

Yesterday, Wednesday, we did some grocery shopping in town and the usual sightseeing ride around the outskirts. This morning, Thursday, I farewelled my good friends for a second time as they had to leave in order to make various appointments at home and in Edmonton for Chris and Sue.

I am sitting at a park bench in Dave's front yard watching as a small float plane generates the noise of an angry hornet while attempting to take off from the lake. The intentions of the pilot were short lived however and the plane quickly dropped back to idle and commenced to taxi back to the start point. The weather is perfect, around 22deg and fine wispy clouds look from up high. The plane managed to take to the sky on its second attempt. I wait and wait but make the most of my castaway situation by reading a book by James A Michener, *Journey*, which chronicles the exploration of this area by five Englishmen attempting to find a way to the Goldfields in Dawson City from Edmonton, Alberta in 1897. A most enlightening read especially for one who has just ridden through much of the area.

Friday 15th August, Walhachin, BC

I have just arrived in Walhachin, where my sister in law lives. A tiny little establishment in the South Thompson River district, a dry and barren area first settled by the English Gentry in the late 19th century. But more about Walhachin later.

Yesterday, Thursday, I called the Suzuki Dealer at noon and was told that the bike would be ready for me to pick up at two pm. When I arrived at the dealer they delayed until 3.00pm so it was quite late when I left Fort Saint John to drive down south to catch up with the rest of the group just south of Prince George. The way south was through the Peace River Valley, a broad river carved through the thick layer of silt deposited by past glaciers rich in nutrients ideal for the growing of hay and grazing of cattle. The road wound up the valley passing over many bridges until eventually it came close to the first of several large dams housing the Hydro Electric Power Stations which feed electricity into the grid to power the cities in the south. From here the road climbed up, up ever up to the pass over the Rockies which form the Continental divide at this point. The day was warm but in the higher regions a pleasant 18deg with the usual collection of soft woolly clouds. As I neared Prince George, after dropping several thousand feet out of the mountains the countryside became rolling hills cleared to accommodate the many farms in the area. The Moon rose in the east while the sun was setting in the west and combined with the soft earthy smell of new mown hay the atmosphere was charged with romance. I was alone. An

ideal photo opportunity.

I passed through Prince George, a large town of around 50,000 people, in the dark and rode on to my rendezvous with the rest of the group on a small farm 40km south of Prince George. They had all retired to their tents when at last I arrived at 10.15pm. A quick setting up of my tent and I was out like a light. It had been a long day.

Penny and Brian, our hosts for the night, made breakfast of Sausages and French toast and we were soon on our way hoping to avoid the heat of the day. As we neared Cache Creek, where we were to part, the landscape changed from lush green, with the inevitable dead pines from the Pine Beetle, to dry grass on steep hills with stunted growth giving succor to the few cattle and mountain sheep. The rainfall in this area is less than ten inches a year but still we pass alongside streams and rivers fed from afar. Walhachin is just a short twenty minutes drive, along the mighty Thompson River, from Cache Creek and I was welcomed by Mary's sister Carol. It was nice to be with family for a while.

Saturday 16th August. Last day of the trip.

I said my farewell to Carol and Martin and was on my way south at 9.00am before the day reached its forecast 38deg. The road closely follows the Thompson River past field after field of irrigated Alf alpha, (Lucerne), which was being cut and baled ready to feed the cattle during the long winter months when they cannot graze in the open due to the long cold winter months.

At Lytton the Thompson joins the even bigger Frazer River to cascade between the rugged mountains through an even smaller ravine than both had previously flowed. To add to this chaos of nature man has built two railway tracks on either side of the ravine, at times double to allow passing, along which pass the freight trains of the Canadian Pacific Rail and Canadian National Rail, 28 trains per day for the former and 24 trains for the latter according to Martin, all over 100 cars long and often with four engines. While the terrain becomes steeper the vegetation changes to increased numbers of large pines which seem unaffected by the pine beetle and the road passes through a series of seven tunnels.

In order to get a photo of a train I left the main highway and rode down a small track close to the river, this was a mistake as the track quickly turned to sand and the bike and I were soon flat on one side. I shut down the engine and set about the difficult and dirty job of removing all my gear so that I might lift the bike back upright. After several minutes of intense sweating and cursing I managed to extract myself from this predicament and reloaded the bike having missed the perfect shot of the train. I never did get the photo. Six hours after leaving Walhachin I was back in Vancouver having completed my journey of 7400km in 22 days over some of the most spectacular scenery I have ever seen and having joined, in spirit only, Canada's early explorers who opened up this grand country.

I pay tribute to my fellow travellers, without whose company I would not have enjoyed the trip anywhere near as much as I did:

Wes, the leader of our expedition, a caring soul under a rough and boisterous exterior.

Debbie, while many years my junior, acted as my surrogate mother.

Sue, an intuitive person, as much a sister as a friend.

Chris, a deep thinker and good listener.

Sam, the quiet achiever, first up each day, with a Latin love of life.

NEWS FLASH!

Q: What do Ulysses riders wear when they take their helmets off, to look good and keep the sun off their scones?

A: A Barmah Leather hat

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Short and Sweet

3 friends at a funeral

Three friends at a funeral were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Don said: "I'd like them to say, "Look, he's moving!"

Joke of the year...

Two women were sitting together quietly.

Irish Joke

An Irishman applying for a job as a blacksmith was asked if he has any experience shoeing horses...

He said no, but he had told a donkey to f..k off once.

Maxine

Recipes are like a dating service - they never end up looking like the picture.



Classifieds

Ross Warrick, from Horsham, would like to hear from anyone who has a BMW K75S, to learn more about them.

(I would like also to buy a good one sometime)

My email is hobsonwarrick@sctelco.com and

AH phone 03 5382 3503 – I'd phone straight back!

Cheers

Ross

Member # 415



Better watch what you ask retired people

The next time someone asks you a dumb question wouldn't you like to respond like this?

Yesterday I was at my local Woolies buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Sheriff, the Wonder Dog and was in the checkout line when woman behind me asked if I had a dog.



What did she think I had, an elephant? So since I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off a curb to sniff an Irish Setter's bum and a car hit us both.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard. Woolies won't let me shop there anymore.

Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say, and we're working on new ones everyday!!

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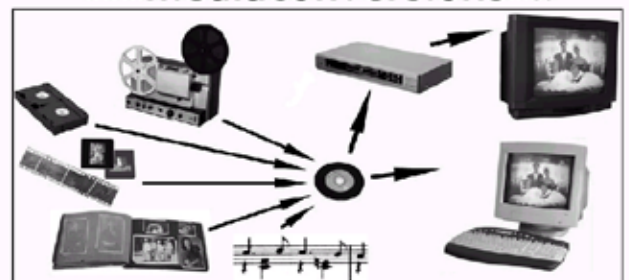
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