



RIDING ON TOO

NEWSLETTER OF THE ULYSSES CLUB

CANBERRA BRANCH

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**WWW.ULYSSESCLUB.ORG/BRANCHES/CANBERRA/
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G'day all,

Happy New Year and welcome back to another year of great rides and companionship. As most of you know, that word "companionship" was one of the main reasons I joined Ulysses – not because I liked the sound of the word or thought it was etymologically exceptional, but because Ulysses is a great place to make friends and do things with them.

And one of the most companionable things I do with my Ulysses mates is go to the national AGM. I have been every second year – to Ulverstone, Townsville and Albany – but some Ulyssians have been going every year since they were two inches taller than they are now.

The AGM is really just an excuse to get together with Ulysses members from all over Australia and the odd other country for a week of fun and – yes – companionship. This year's event is at Mildura from 26th March to 1st April and, as usual, plenty of Canberrans are going. During the week there will be organised rides, self-guided tours and of course the chance to do your own thing and explore the surrounding region, visit a plethora of tourist attractions and dine in some great pubs and restaurants.

If you haven't registered yet or are in two minds about going, now is the time to stop pussy-footing around and decide in the affirmative! You'll need to register soon, either on line at the national website or using the form in Riding On, and book some accommodation or a campsite. If you don't go you'll be kicking yourself when everyone else returns with tall tales and true of their adventures.

We usually go to the Saturday night AGM dinner in the giant Hoecker tent but on the Friday night it has been our tradition to dine together as Canberra branch members in a local pub or restaurant. To help us continue this, and to make it easier for us to keep track of each other, I am inviting everyone from the branch who is going to the AGM to email me and let me know your mobile phone number.

That will allow us all to keep in touch during the AGM and do any last minute organising, inviting or even rescuing. Also (optional) let me know if you are looking for someone to ride with to Mildura and/or back, or if you would be happy to have someone else tag along with you.

Cheers..... Ian

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ACT REGION: 700+



Ulysses Canberra Social Meeting *“Twisted torque”* 20 December 2011

Meeting opened by Ian at 7.30pm.

Members attended: 42

Apologies: Peter and Kim Gibbins, Rae Bayre, Andrew Campbell, David Grieg, Peter Higgs, Alan Munday, David Robinson, Trish Holdsworth, Gordon White.

New Member: George Scarfe – George is a self confessed rally nut with four bikes.

Visitor: Suzanne Stoddart from Queanbeyan and rides a Virago 250 and a Vstar 650.

Correspondence: Newsletters from Vintage and Veteran Canberra, and Registration and Insurance for catering trailer.

Treasurer’s report in the RO2. Ian thanked Kyla and team for the efforts fundraising through the BBQ.

Rusty Riders: Gary says there will be 3 Rusty Rider trips: Jan 15th, Feb 19 and Mar 18, full details on the web. Best wishes to all for 2012.

Ride Coordinator: In absence of Andrew, Ian mentioned the 2012 Ride Calendar is now on the National Website, with a New Year’s ride to Tumut on 8th January. There will be 3 Overnight rides next year –

- Corryong - Australia Day long weekend
- Mallacoota - February 25/26
- Katoomba – 3 day over the Canberra long weekend in March.

Last weekend’s ride to the coast was a great ride and the Huskisson report will be in the next RO2. Peter Arday and crew did a midweek ride to Mt Hotham in perfect weather, which in itself is a miracle.

Social Secretary: Judy thanked everyone who celebrated a Ulysses Christmas at the Rifle Range in December. Everyone had a great time, either chatting, singing, dancing, drinking or test riding the Smart Car. Judy will commence the Katoomba accommodation shortly.

Jen Woods reported that the MRA Toy run was a very successful venture, raising \$6000 in cash for St John’s care and a wonderful variety of toys for the Salvation Army. NATCOM requests that we register for the AGM in Mildura ASAP so they can get an idea of numbers. UCARF raffle tickets are also available.

General Business:

Ian thanked members who have contributed to a great year for the club either as a rider, volunteer etc, everyone is appreciated.

Next meeting Marilyn S will fill us in on ‘The Long Ride’ she completed in November. Stephen has a Towbar which fits a Honda Shadow and a Ventura Bag for sale.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm. Next meeting date is **17 January 2012.**

CANBERRA MOTORCYCLE CENTRE

for the ride of your life.



MITCHELL

26-28 Kemble Court

Ph: (02) 6241 8107

FYSHWICK

Shop 1, 30 Ipswich Street

Ph: (02) 6280 4491

www.canberramcc.com.au

You know you're Australian when:

- * You understand that the phrase 'a group of women wearing black thongs' refers to footwear and may be less alluring than it sounds.
- * You pronounce Melbourne as 'Mel-bin'. You believe the 'l' in the word 'Australia' is optional.
- * You believe that cooked down axle grease makes a good breakfast spread - you've squeezed it through Vita Wheats to make little Vegemite worms.
- * You believe all famous Kiwis are actually Australian, until they stuff up, at which point they again become Kiwis.
- * You call your best friend 'a total bastard' but someone you really, truly despise is just 'a bit of a bastard'.
- * You believe that the more you shorten someone's name the more you like them.
- * You know it's not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle and a seat belt buckle becomes a pretty good branding iron.
- * Your biggest family argument over the summer concerned the rules for beach cricket.

Joe's Motorcycles Pty Ltd



15-17 COLLIE STREET

FYSHWICK

ACT 2609

Contact

Ph:02: 6280 6223

Fax: 02: 6239 1442

www.joesmotorcycles.com.au



Our Treasurer has advised no action this month - so no report was submitted.

METRO PETROLEUM

QUEANBEYAN

65 Tharwa Rd

Queanbeyan

Ph: 6297 1471

Supplier of gas for Ulysses BBQ

This Cod was caught at Burrinjuck Dam last weekend, by a guy I work with - Lyn



"You will never find time for anything. If you want time, you must make it" ~ Charles Buxton



Dean Benstead Designer

At just 21, Dean Benstead has already made a name for himself in the design world. Dean will graduate with a Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) from RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, in December.

Over the last two years, he has gained valuable experience working with product design consultancy Joneschijoff. This practical experience, combined with his studies at RMIT, helped develop Dean's design skills to a level where he became confident to enter competitions.

In 2010, he won the Product Design – Automotive and Transport category at the inaugural Melbourne Design Awards. This year, he was selected for the 2011 DesignEx mystery box challenge, in which four young Melbourne designers designed and prototyped their vision of a "bathroom of the future" in just three days, using only 10 materials.

Dean's major project, in his final year of study, explores the future of motorcycles through aesthetics and air as the power source. Engineair and Yamaha Motor Australia have generously provided materials in order to bring Dean's design to life as a working prototype and the **'O2 Pursuit'** is now a reality.

For further information on the O2 Pursuit, contact Dean Benstead:

Dean Benstead

Industrial Designer

E: deanbenstead@gmail.com

M: +61 402 549 849

issuu.com/deanbenstead

coroflot.com/deanbenstead



This is a 6 cylinder Goldwing!

Japanese Tow Trucks

Look....there's one now....

Here's two of them....



How do they work, you ask???



....and away you go.....

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

Next meeting Tuesday 17th January 2012

Canberra Day Long Weekend

A tentative booking has been made at Katoomba YHA for **Sat 10th and Sun 11th March, 2012**

For 40 beds 3 x 8 bed dorms and 4 x 4 bed dorms

\$26.50 per person per night [plus a share of group membership]

BBQ dinner on the Sat night \$15 pp Breakfast \$7 pp

Expressions of interest at Tuesday's meeting. Or you can email me judyperry@netspeed.com.au

Alan Munday will be leading the ride - contact 0438 510 137 or alanwmunday@bigpond.com

Corryong 2012 - January 28th & 29th

For those who enjoy riding in the mountains here is an opportunity to enjoy approximately 700kms over two days. Wherever possible we will be using alternate sealed roads not highways. Should the weather not be kind to us on the Saturday we will have a discussion in Cooma as to any concerns and possible route change.

Accommodation is to be organised by each individual. Details below are based on previous experience and Fiona has been great. The next best in terms of value is also listed below.

Mountain View Motel

There are some 14 rooms in total currently available.

Owner: Fiona

74- 76 Towong Rd, Corryong VIC 3707

Phone: (02) 6076 1766

Rooms available:

Remodelled Double Rooms (\$85)

Older Rooms Single - \$65 Double - \$75

Alternate Accommodation : **Corryong Hotel Motel;** 54 Towong Rd, Corryong VIC 3707
Phone: (02) 6076 100

Meals

Saturday Lunch at Jindabyne

Saturday Night Dinner will be at the Corryong Hotel/Motel (3 minute easy walk from Motel)

Sunday Lunch at Cootamundra

Fuel: 98 Octane is available in Cooma, Jindabyne and Tumut.

Refuelling: Jindabyne, Tumut (options if reqd. Khancoban, Cootamundra)

If you are coming then please advise me (tmcleod@au1.ibm.com) or 0411 269 276.

Once I have your email I can provide any changes that may need to occur due to circumstances that arise between now and the weekend.

Please also consider providing an emergency contact number. If something does occur it makes it that much easier to contact your family or a nominated party.

CheersTrevor

Rider Development – January 2012 – A Hidden Agenda

Here we are at the start of yet another great riding year. New years resolutions abound. I'm wanting to ride a bit further, go to some new places, ride some new roads, and work on my riding to be that little bit better. (the incremental approach). Sounds good! Sounds like a plan!

For many January is still a time for holidays. (I gather from my friends who have retired that the year is one big holiday – that's their story at least.) Those of us who are still working and riding to work during the week will know that its all quiet at the moment. The local roads are surprisingly light in traffic and smooth and free flowing.

There's still enough dills about though, who have to rush to the front of the queue, but there's room to let them do that without causing us too much of a worry. Shortly however February will bring us the start of the first school term and traffic volumes will be back to normal, folk will be a little more stressed and maybe not take as much care. It's a good thing to be mentally ready for the change.

I like to refer to this aspect of riding as the “hidden agenda”. We all take to the streets with a straightforward plan to go somewhere, to the shops, to work or just for a ride. The hidden agenda is how we are planning to go about that. Sometimes drivers appear to be wide awake, but there seems to be a few who are vague and unfocussed, aggressive or some other combination, that when asked many won't be able to explain. It's as true for riders as well as drivers.

Sometimes our mind is simply on other things, and not on our riding. If a “moment” occurs that weren't prepared for, the adrenalin rush associated with the fright will certainly shock us into focus. Its possible that there may be no more time left. Wiser then, to start out focused and prepared.

It's far better to have switched on before the ride rather than after a moment has begun. Far better to be operating according to a focused ride plan and not reacting to someone else's hidden agenda, just revealed.

So welcome back from the seasons celebrations. Here's good wishes to all of us for some great rides with our fellow club members in 2012, and lets all pause for the briefest of moments to shift our mental gears into “the moment” be sure that its our own agenda we are riding to and be ready for all that this year holds for us.

There'll be some great opportunities if we are ready for them. Safe riding all!

Cheers, Gary Mac

PS – on the planning front, there's only a few meetings before the next National AGM. If you are going and haven't considered your riding companions, the route you plan to follow, your stops and so on, best you do now! There's still time.

Don't be afraid to speak up at the meetings if you are unsure or have just begun to plan your journey . There are others who may be happy to ride with you or share knowledge and advice. Google maps shows me the most direct route is a trip of a little over 9 hours and something around 800ks.

A little planning and you can split the trip into two or even three stopovers, avoid fatigue, take in a few sites and arrive in a good state and with good company to enjoy the AGM and all it has to offer. Set your own agenda!



Webmasters Report - January 2012:

Web traffic has been relatively quiet over the holiday season, but interest and visitor numbers to the website is ramping up again. 169 individuals visited the site over the last month and stayed for an average of 4 minutes per visit.

They came mainly from Australia, with a couple from Brazil and single Canadian. The great majority of our Australian visitors were from Canberra, with an assortment from NSW and interstate.

We must have something here to interest these folk - and indeed we do. Two more ride reports have come in the last few days, the RO2 can be downloaded for a snapshot of the past and Andrew has a great list of upcoming rides in the calendar.

If you haven't visited, please drop in and take a look around. Thanks again to those making contributions to the reports both on the web and in the RO2.

Cheers.....Gary Mac

<http://www.ulyssesclub.org/branches/canberra/index.htm>



Forum Members Get Together

Canberra branch member Big Al Rolph has organised another annual get-together for Ulysses Forum members (the forum on the national website) on the Australia Day weekend and he has invited any other Ulysses members to drop by and say hello.

They will be at the Canberra Rifle Club on Majura Road from Wed 25th to Sunday 29th January and expect to have 20-25 Ulysses members attending from near and far. Any surplus monies will be donated to the Fred Hollows Foundation as in the past.

"I intend to take our forum friends for a ride on the Saturday 28th - we usually go up into the Brindabellas, Orroral Tracking Station and Corin Dam areas, with lunch usually at Moon Rock Café. Nothing too strenuous," Big Al advised.

This is a great chance to meet some other Ulysses members. Details are on the Ulysses national web site under Rallies and Events, Australia Day Canberra 2012, or ring Big Al on 0412 112 226.



ALMOST ALL OF US
WOULD HAVE RATHER
gone SWIMMING IN THE
creek INSTEAD OF A PRISTINE POOL (TALK
about BORING), NO BEACH CLOSURES THEN.



What took them so long????!!!!

Finally - A wine glass that makes sense!



My Mum used to cut chicken, slice eggs and spread vegemite on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

(This ride report was meant to be a precursor to last month's "Extended Ride from Moon Rock Cafe", but did not get through to the Editor... so here it is - from Linda Blake)

Sunday 13th November 2011 Chomp & Chat - Moonrock Cafe

It's a beautiful morning and what better way to spend the day than to catch up with other Ulyssians and go for a ride.

Today's ride was only a short one but a good one, taking in some of the best views around the ACT. It was to the Moon Rock Cafe for lunch at the Tidbinbilla tracking station. Chatting amongst ourselves whilst we waited for our leader Gary Mac, who was coming from the wrong side of the tracks (QBN) and on his arrival did wonder why it was him. So with a gathering of 13 bikes with a few pillions we made our way through suburban Belconnen along Kingsford Smith Drive then on to Coppin Crossings Road.

As we waited to cross the Cotter Bridge there was the distinctive smell of people firing up their BBQ's. This truly is a great time of year to live in this region. Onwards over the rolling (and still very green) hills and the twisting corners this ride is in fact a favourite loop for all bikers.

We arrived at our destination and proceeded with the usual re-arranging of the tables and the hunt for more chairs. The early lunch must have caught our young caterer's slightly off guard with a few little mistakes with our orders but all was sorted, however some unanswered questions remain over what was a salad and what was a garnish. I must say as a Chef, grated carrot with a meat pie was unusual.

Today's entertainment was brought to us by the thrill seeking sulphur crested cockatoo as he enjoyed his ride on the tracking dish. We chomped and chatted away, admiring the views and tranquillity - all in all it was a good outing.

We all disperse to find our own ways back, to do Sunday arvo things. I decided to conquere one of my fears and make a day of it by checking out Corin Dam, as it was 30 years ago when I was still in my teens and on my first road bike a DS7 250Yamaha (with a nasty power band). I had my first bad accident and never made it to the dam on that day but the scar will always be with me, however at this stage in my life I can use it to my advantage. Although I have been back in the ACT area for 3 years, today was the first time I made it to the Dam.

Participants:

Gary McDonald BMW R100S
Michael & Tracey Winters Triumph ST1050
Jennifer Buchanan Virago 250
George Attard Triumph Speedmaster
Richard Hay Yamaha FJR 1300
Loni Hoffmann Piaggio 250
Andrew & Catherine Campbell GL1800
Terry Mills 750 Shadow
Garry McCurley Honda VFR 1200
Dave & Wendy Mossman Honda DN-01 680
John Storn CBR 600RR
John Hadsell Soft-tail Heritage Classic Harley
And myself on my trusty CBR 1000F - Linda Blake



**Three old guys are out walking.
First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'
Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!'
Third one says, 'So am I.
Let's go get a beer..'**

**RAC Motoring Services
Caller: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy
cover me when I am Travelling in Australia ?'
Operator: 'Does the policy name give you a clue?'**

Ride Report – Sunday 18 Dec 2011 Brown Mountain loop via Narooma

At 9AM on 18 December, 7 riders gathered at BP Watson with their trusty steeds. Chris with his daughter Cherita on the back. Gary had his son Cameron along, which is a great way for younger riders to build safe riding skills in the presence of us older (and apparently wiser) folk!

The weather looked fine, and after the usual safety brief we set off via Macs Reef Road for Bungendore and Narooma. Glad it's this weekend and not the next, being Christmas! Traffic down Kings Highway was moderate, and despite there still being some road works on the Clyde the road surface was good, leading to some smooth quickish riding down the hill, even with the 18 year old 'little one' on the back.

We stopped as usual at the Braidwood bakery for pies and coffee, and hit the road again for Narooma, catching lunch at one of the Wagonga Inlet waterfront seafood restaurants. Lunch was a bit slow in turning up, and turned out to be not that great. We should have seconded Hartmut to the kitchen to show them how it's done (being the chief chef at a well-known Canberra hotel).

Over lunch, our branch President Ian gave us an insight to his kinky side; he was relating a story about a long ride he did some years back. Riders like being free, right? Well apparently so do their family jewels (at least, under the riding pants they do...). But after being on the bike for a while it was getting a bit uncomfortable, so he did some shopping. Couldn't find anything but a Kmart store that had G-strings, and the only one that fit was of the Playboy brand, rabbit ears and all. Not sure a G-string will add much in the way of comfort though! A good laugh had by all.

After lunch we headed south for Bega (the road again being void of much traffic), and turned up the Snowy Mountains Highway for the favoured Brown Mountain, uphill. With lunch still sitting heavy in the tummy, we didn't stop at the Bemboka pie shop ☺

What a joy to ride the Brown this day! Two trucks going the other way, and no slower vehicles our way. The road surface was cleaner than it's been in a while, with no deadfall and no road works. Needless to say, led by our branch president we had a quick run uphill, with me scraping the pegs at times even with the pillion.

Our last stop of the day was for coffee at Nimmitabel, where we said our goodbyes and headed our own ways. A great day out (again) with great company, and by the time I got home after 520km I was a tad knackered.

Chris Dietzel.

List of riders:

Ian Paterson GL1800
 Hartmut Kehm R1200GS
 Steven Hausfeld ST1300
 Chris Dietzel & daughter Cherita FJR1300
 Gary Dunne XT1200Z
 Cameron Dunne GSX650F
 Neil Goldfinch CBR1100XX



Cherita, Hartmut, Steven, Chris, Gary, Neil and Cameron

Ulysses trip to Huskisson 10th-11th December, 2011

Mick and Kyla Harvey, Yamaha FJR
 Chas and Jen Towie Honda ST 1300
 Al and Lyn Munday -GTR1000
 Butch Wills - BMW 1100
 Jan Wills - Honda DN01
 Bryson and Maxine Holden (and Diamond-Holden) - Yamaha FJR
 Ross Anderson - Aprillia
 Chris Dietzel (met us at Huskisson and travelled home with us) - Yamaha FJR

Ride leader Mick Harvey advised attendees to meet at the very respectable hour of 9:30 at the Federal Highway Servo at Watson. After briefing us on which way we were likely to go, we headed off, 7 bikes 11 peeps.

Not to be specific, however, I can't write this report without saying what a fabulous route we took, thanks to the combined knowledge of Mick, Chas and Ross. It is not only a great ride through great corners, the scenery and the pace to enjoy it was fabulous.

Weather was fine if a bit cool heading to Goulburn through Bungendore and Tarago. A quick stop in Marulan for a Caffeine fix (Al Munday had a Pie) then off to the Bundanoon turnoff and through the beautiful Southern Highlands.

After Marulan we headed thru Wingello, Penrose, Bundanoon, Exeter, past Fitzroy falls and down to the Robertson Pie shop for Lunch (Al Munday had 2 pies)

As we got ready to leave RPS, we noticed some very dark clouds looming and were hoping they weren't ready to burst on top of us all. Fortunately we took the right turn past the RPS through Jamberoo and on to Kiama, and we missed a bucketing apparently.

Through Kiama and on to a bit of Highway - lucky the view is so great - then a turn off to Werri Beach, Gerringong, Nowra and on to Huskisson - the long way (someone missed the turn). Thankfully Ross knew the way and even though we were heading back in the direction we had just come from, it was a nice scenic ride.

Arrived safely and followed Mick to the Motel - soon to discover it was the wrong Motel. Back onto the main road and 100 or so meters further we found the right Motel.



Lyn, Al, Chas & Chris returning from walk

After booking in- down the road on the grog and nibble run ready for Happy Hour and happy massage for Lyn, Jen and Kyla -compliments of Ross!!!!

Ross & Jen enjoying being disgraceful



All made plans to party in Jan and Butch's bigger (family room) room 6 after Dinner at the RSL.

Later that night, as Jan and Butch returned to room 6, they heard a Family arguing that someone had moved into their room. One of the women called to Butch and asked if he happened to be going to room 6. "yes, that is our room" said Butch, to which she said "that is our room".

A quick check of the keys and indeed Butch's key didn't unlock the door to room 6 - must be room 9. How did this happen? *(Butch can't read upside down, obviously - Ed)*

The family had come to the motel earlier in the day - Checked the room out, left it unlocked *(silly people)* and gone to the beach, so naturally the door opened for Butch. Shame Jan and Butch had settled in, used the Shower, towels etc and these poor people had to now have the room while J&B moved to a clean room. Clean towels from room 9 were turned over to the family. However that wasn't the worst of it for the poor family.

Kyla and Mick returned and Kyla decided to wake Butch and Jan in room 6 - poor family. The motel owners turned up, Kyla was hiding, however she fessed up that it was her banging on the door. Bet that family never stays at that Motel again.



Bryson, Kyla, Maxine, Chas and Ross - ready to leave Motel.

The following morning we had a leisurely breakfast and departure at 10:30. Headed towards the Bay and up the Clyde.

The Clyde is always a nice fairweather ride, so when we saw Butch coming down again, we figured he was doing his usual 2 trips on the Clyde, only to discover he was actually recovering BMW parts lost on the way up first time. (He had forgotten to secure his radio cover).

Stopped at Braidwood for lunch and said our goodbyes.

Although the weather again looked threatening the only rain we had was a brief downpour on Macs Reef Road, which ended before we got to the end of it.

Fantastic weekend thanks Mick and the crew - we are all up for another Mick and Map boys - excellent ride and excellent disgraceful weekend.

Jan Wills

Last ride for the year (Decide and Ride)

Saturday 31st December and gathered at the Hume Caltex were:

- Mike & Sharon Kelly BMW RT1200
- Michael Winters Triumph ST1050
- Neil Goldfinch Honda Blackbird CBR 1100
- Linda Blake Honda CBR1000F

What a glorious day for our last ride of the year. Mike Kelly was made our leader and managed to plan a pleasant ride that took us on a 300 km round trip and mostly avoiding the major highways.

The plan being Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Currawang, Komungla, Goulburn, Crookwell, Grabben Gullen, Gunning, Gundaroo, Sutton and Home.

Once off the King's Highway the roads became ours with the odd random lizard and a few flocks of Cockatoo's that as we found out later proved to be not as much as a hazard as the idiot powering down a dirt road pulling a

trailer and approaching the road we were on, with no sign of letting up resulting in flinging up a rock and striking Neil on the knee!!!!

Reaching Goulburn it was time to stretch the legs and basked in the sunshine as we talked about our ride on the road through Currawang. Michael then came up with the question of who opened the door to the Butterfly farm?

Onwards to Crookwell (what a strange name like are you crook or well?) This is the sort of thing that plays on one's mind when you are not tuned into an iPod or intercom, not to mention those dreaded one lines from a song that get stuck in your head, although the line from the 1979 Patrick Hernandez song "I was born, born, born to be alive, be alive....." is one of my favourite.

Arriving at Crookwell we decided it was too early for Lunch so coffee it was. I am trying to come up with a name for this one, it's a long black with a dash of milk, topped with froth and sprinkled with coco powder.



As we continued to travel along the pastoral roads taking in the amazing views of the countryside and the wind farms onto Gunning and Lunch at Do Duck Inn, Bentley Cafe. Sitting outside in the tranquil garden under the shade of a beautiful tree we all enjoyed our meals. I had a very tasty Mediterranean Lamb Burger and after checking out the menu I did agree with Sharon with the suggestion on coming here for a brunch/morning tea ride.

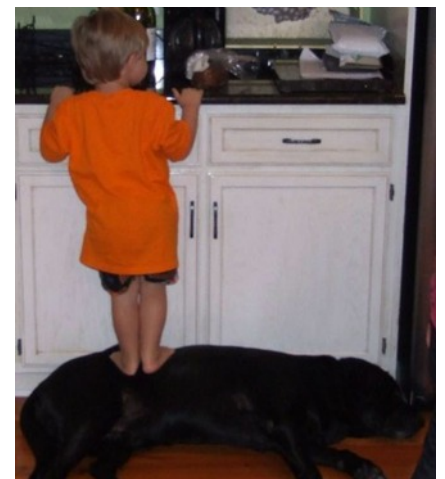
Michael felt the need to treat his dear wife Tracey who didn't end up coming on this ride, with a lovely batch of takeaway Devonshire Scones, hope they travelled well.

Homeward bound and with still enough energy left for those of us who are planning to see the New Year in. First to taper off was Michael, taking the Bungendore turn off, then Neil and myself (Linda) in Queanbeyan with Mike and Sharon continuing back to Tuggers.

Wishing all the best for the New Year and looking forward to some great rides in 2012.



Why Kids need a Pet



**1ST RIDE ON THE CALENDAR FOR 2012.
8th January - Club Ride to Tumut**

Sunday began with conflicting weather forecasts and a few phone calls asking if the ride was still going ahead. Decision time would be at Hume Servo prior to departure and the general consensus was let's go for it.

Our ride down the Monaro Highway was the usual boring bit and luckily enough no rain, however in the far distance some not so nice clouds were gathering. Our first stop was at Adaminaby along with another group of riders who were out to enjoy the day.



After our coffee break a small shower came so we all donned the appropriate wet weather gear and then the rain stopped.

Trevor could not find his set of keys and after much searching the surrounds of Adaminaby we could not locate them. Luckily Trevor had a spare set. However on preparing to ready for the next leg Saint Pedro found he had Trevor's keys. (Kleptomania & Alzheimer's combined I think).

Off up the Snowy Highway with damp roads and slight drizzle along the way, with warnings of Brumbies possibly appearing, so be on the lookout - fortunately none came our way but Garry McCurley spotted the roaming emus not all that far away.

Climbing up through the passes we were sitting comfortably behind two 4WDR's when suddenly the lead 4WDR had a massive LPG fountain erupt from the rear of the vehicle. The gas shot upwards like the Captain Cook fountain in Lake Burley Griffin.

Tumut saw the lunch break. Most of us ordered Roast Of The Day i.e. simple, fast and easy. However, 50 minutes later we were still without our meal. (Give that one a miss in future). Three of the group decided to return from Tumut back via the Snowy Highway and enjoy the mountain again. Derek Titheridge took us on a different route from Tumut to Colac. Most of us had not travelled this route before and it was very interesting travelling between mountain and river along with some nice little twisty's to enjoy.

Colac back home via the concrete and farewells at the Hall lay bye. It was a most enjoyable day with lots of laughter shared among the group. If the prospect of inclement weather put you off then you missed out on a great first ride for 2012.

Thanks to the crew that came along and enjoyed another great day.

CheersCT.

The Crew were.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Garry McCurley | VFR1200 |
| Derek and Bindi | Goldwing 1800 |
| Peter Arday | Honda ST1300A |
| Trevor McLeod | Yammie FJR1300 |
| George Attard | Triumph Speedmaster |
| Mark Walker | NT700V |
| Marilyn Starick | DUC MTS1200 |
| Michael Minters | Triumph Sprint |
| Gary Dunne | XT1200Z |
| Cameron Dunne | GSX650F |
| Chas Towie | Honda ST1300A |



A Multi type of Christmas by Marilyn & Steve.

After buying the Multistrada what better way of getting to know each other than a big road trip, so off to see the rellies in Brisbane. The weather had been threatening all week, but cleared and looked promising. Not knowing how far Steve (hoppo) could travel in one day because of previous accident injuries, we decided to take our time going up. Canberra to Goulburn via highway was boring as ever as we departed Boxing Day. Traffic was pretty good really.



Goulburn to Oberon stopping at Taralga for a snack and talked to a couple from Medowie then onto Victoria pass. Onto Causeway to Bells Line of Road and then down to Kurrajong. Not a cafe open. Onto Colo and down the Putty road. Stopped at Grey Gum café halfway along for bite to eat. Ended up meeting a guy from the Canberra area I did the advanced riding course at Eastern Creek with, he had graduated to a Triumph Tiger 800 and was loving it. Still riding with liner in round 23 deg. Left the Putty at Broke turnoff with lovely sweeps and vineyards; riding through groves and labels galore. Hoppo took another 'scenic route' adding another few kms

before we went through Cessnock to Newcastle. Wrong turn again, not good for a local boy. Mum's curried snags were fantastic. Total 590 for the day and a good sleep was needed.

Day 2

Newcastle to Gloucester via Bucketts way. Little traffic and reasonable road. Morning tea at Roadies Cafe in the main street. People fascinated by M's bike.

Out of Gloucester to Walcha via Thunderbolts Way. Don't know what the fuss is all about as the road is very chopped up in places. Hoppo in trouble at Carey's lookout for laughing at M while she tried to park the Multistrudel..... sorry Multistrada. Stopped at Walcha for lunch where Hoppo ran into a guy he worked with at Williamtown years ago.



Walcha to Uralla via thunderbolts was pretty good. Uralla to Glenn Innes was via highway with a few police on the road who were not the least bit interested in a couple of big tourers travelling quickly (Think the police presence may have been for fugitive Malcolm). Domestic while entering GI as Hoppo thought M might like a strawberry milkshake but M had her race face on and was not stopping for anything. The booked motel just through town on the right, turned out to be on the left when entering town. The owner of the motel was a Ulysses member who liked M's bike. The Clansman hotel is quite good although close to the highway and offered renovated rooms with the use of the sauna. Dinner in town was brilliant at the Central Hotel with a steak to die for. Early night after an infrared sauna.

Day 3

While packing the bikes next morning a QLD member admired M's bike. Hoppo (on the faster red Ducati) was getting rather peeved with everyone's fascination with the white bike. Off to Tenterfield via highway with police once again ignoring the quick tourers. Breakfast at an old inn while listening to a table of old pastoralists talking about how much society has changed since they were young and how sad it was that OZ agriculture is being sold off to Asian interests.



Tenterfield to Drake (Bruxner Hwy) was an interesting road in reasonable condition. Once again the police were not interested in the Ducati's. Onto the Clarence way via the Scenic Rim. Road is pretty narrow but at the last section travels through some amazing forest with huge stag horns, palm trees and ferns growing right by the side of the road. Woodenbong is a little town with not much going for it but on the Qld border. The road past Mount Lindsay is incredible with lots and lots of slow speed corners. M decided to practice her riding skills and passed Hoppo on the road. Hoppo was mesmerised watching

M riding through the corners with such confidence but who nearly came to grief himself when M stood up on the pegs and wiggled her bum to get some circulation going (naughty woman).

The road to Beaudesert was boring after the Mount Lindsay road, but stopped at a driver reviver in 30 deg heat and planned the way through Brisbane. That plan went quite well until we took the wrong exit off M1 over the Gateway bridge. Arrived at M's sister's place after a 'scenic tour'. Beautiful place, great dinner and lovely bed. Was asleep at 2030 after three days and 1420 Ks.

What a brilliant couple of days !!
Marilyn and Steve

(PS Some text was written by **Hoppo (Steve)** and remain MOSTLY unchanged.)



(Watch this space in next month's newsletter for Part 2 - the return trip)

IAN & SALLY'S TRIP

Phillip Island

29 Dec 2011 – 3 Jan 2012

Participants: Ian & Sally Paterson Honda GL1800

Old friends who live half the year on Phillip Island and the other half in British Columbia – but who are now spending two years in Peru – were back home on the island for Christmas-New Year and they invited Sally and me to join them for a few days.

With the best weather forecast of the summer ahead, we loaded the bike, jumped aboard – and didn't even make it to the end of our street. The Wing was wobbling from side to side and when we got off to check, the back tyre was flat. I gingerly rode back home while Sally walked sheepishly, helmet in hand.

I eventually figured out that the tyre was probably OK but that something had made the valve start leaking when I had the tyres topped up the previous afternoon. I used my 40-year-old hand pump to get the tyre to about half pressure and rode to Jax for a new valve core and a refill.

Chanting “better late than never”, we got back on board and, two hours later than intended, headed off up the Barton Highway, not really knowing whether the tyre was going to stay inflated or not. By the time we pulled in at Jugiong for a coffee at the Long Track Pantry the weather was perfect, the scenery was magnificent, the traffic was moderate, the rear tyre was still fat (not flat) and all was well with the world.

We turned off at South Gundagai and took one of our favourite roads through Tumut and Batlow to Tumbarumba for lunch at the 4 Bears Café (recommended – great burgers!). From there we headed south-west on a newly renovated road bursting with smooth sweeping bends to Jingellic, followed the south bank of the Murray River and full-as-a-tick Lake Hume to Wodonga (another great road) and tootled down the freeway to Wangaratta. We stayed in a cabin at the Big4 North Cedars and dined on juicy steaks at the historic Vine Hotel.



Sally and the Gold Wing beside Lake Hume

On day two the roads got even better. From Wangaratta, C521 (route numbers are the best way to navigate in Victoria if you don't have a GPS) took us up the beautiful King Valley to Whitfield and over the range to the cattle and ski town of Mansfield. The 63 kilometres from Whitfield to Mansfield is nothing short of awesome! Bend after bend, twist after twist, with big views over deep, steep gorges but nowhere to stop to take photos. Oddly, coming down the Mansfield side of the range every bend had a 45 km/hr advisory sign whether we took it at 40 or 80. We could only presume that the road workers had a truck full of left-over 45 km/hr signs and couldn't be bothered going back to the depot for any others.



Sweeping bends beside Lake Hume

From Mansfield we rode west on the Maroondah Highway (various route numbers), skirting around Lake Eildon to Alexandra for coffee and then south on the same highway (now B360) towards Melbourne. This was part of the country devastated in the Black Saturday bushfires of February 2009, and riding through mile after mile of blackened forest brought back discomfiting feelings and memories of the 2003 Canberra firestorm. The trees are now sprouting new growth but it was still an eerie ride, particularly as Pink Floyd's "Shine On You Crazy Diamond" was playing in our headphones.

We took a detour through Marysville, which was pretty much destroyed on Black Saturday but is slowly rebuilding and was packed with tourists, and got back onto the highway at the start of the Black Spur, one of Victoria's most raved-about motor cycle roads. Fortunately, there were stop-go road works at the base of the climb and we, along with two other bikes, got to the front of the queue. Once we got the green light, we didn't see another vehicle all the way to Healesville.

The Black Spur's reputation is well deserved. It is only 25km but it is simply one of the finest roads I've ridden anywhere in Australia. It climbs up almost endlessly, winding through a spectacular forest of giant mountain ash and tall tree ferns, until it crests the range and performs a breathtaking encore all the way down to Healesville. By the time Sally and I stopped in Healesville for lunch, we were both in the mythical seventh heaven. Yea, though I ride through the valley of the shadow of mountain ash, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; my Gold Wing and my wife, they comfort me. And I was very comforted!

From Healesville it was but a hop, skip and a jump up the Yarra Valley to Woori Yallock – with a detour up to Warburton and back – Cockatoo, Pakenham, Koo-wee-rup and on to Phillip Island.

We spent three nights on the island and returned home via Gippsland, including a great little back road that followed an elevated ridge through steeply rolling dairy country from Dalyston through Archies Creek and Krowera to Loch. From Loch we travelled through Korumburra, Leongatha, Mirboo North and Churchill to avoid Morwell and join the Princes Highway at Traralgon. It was a pretty warm day – it got up to 37° near Bairnsdale – but we had a pleasant lunch and a snooze at Lakes Entrance and spent the night at Orbost on the Snowy River (excellent steaks at The Orbost Club). On day six we rode home via Cann River, Bombala and Cooma after a truly wonderful 1750km ride.



Ian Paterson

Sally and the Gold Wing on the road from Archies Creek to Loch

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date	Locations	Ride Title	Skill
22-Jan-12	From: BP Watson 9.00am To: Bowral	Club Rider Leader: Peter Arday	Medium / not too scary
28th & 29th Jan-12	From: Caltex Hume 9.00am To: Corryong	Overnight - details TBA Leader: Trevor MacLeod	Long & Difficult
29-Jan-12	From: Caltex Nicholls 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined
5-Feb-12	From: Caltex Nicholls 9.00am To: Taralga	Club Ride Leader: Ian Paterson	Medium / not too scary
12-Feb-12	From: Caltex Hume 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined
19-Feb-12	From: Caltex Nicholls 10.00am To: Honeysuckle Creek - BBQ/Picnic	Chomp & Chat / Rusty Riders Leader: Andrew Campbell & Gary McDonald	Short & Easy
25th & 26th Feb-12	From: Caltex Hume 9.00am To: Mattacoota	Overnight - details TBA Leader: Trevor MacLeod	Long & Difficult
26-Feb-12	From: BP Watson 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined
4-Mar-12	From: BP Hume 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined
10th to 12th Mar-12	From: Caltex Nicholls 9.00am To: Katoomba	Canberra Day Long Weekend - details TBA Leader: Alan Munday	Long & Difficult
18-Mar-12	From: BP Watson 10.00am To: Captains Flat	Chomp & Chat / Rusty Rider Leader: Peter Arday & Gary McDonald	Short & Easy
25-Mar-12	From: Caltex Nicholls 9.00am To: Up to You	Decide & Ride Leader: Decide on the Day	Undefined

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