

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS 2010

We received 50 responses to the survey earlier this year. Flip did the initial analysis (after 30 responses had been received) and I have updated her report.

Rides: Nearly half the respondents are happy with Sunday rides, although a quarter would like Saturday rides. Long rides are twice as popular as short ones. Almost half like having a meal, a third want overnight rides, and almost half are happy with anything. **Conclusion:** We should consider running the odd Saturday ride and more weekend rides. Rides to specific attractions would be popular.

Social events: Seventy per cent voted for trips away, while almost half would like to go camping. Meals, ten pin bowling, films and go-karting were also popular, motorcycle racing, theatre, dancing and lawn bowls decidedly less so. Other suggestions included paintball, visits to historical or interesting places, train rides and whale watching. **Conclusion:** Potential for more overnight trips with the option of staying in caravan park cabins or camping, and more non-riding social events.

Meetings: An overwhelming number want to see industry and bike shop presentations. There was also some support for member profile interviews, bike debates and competitions and suggestions for speakers from the police, ambos, etc. Only 2% want meetings to last longer, 14% want them to be short and 2% would like them on the weekend. **Conclusion:** We have begun a calendar of speakers and these appear to be popular. We should consider the odd member profile (true confessions anyone?) and debate.

Events: There was overwhelming support for involvement in the Toy Run, Blanket Run and training, while just over half supported bike shows and BikeFest. There was a suggestion for long fundraising rides.

Further participation: More than half indicated they would take part in more rides and overnight rides. Further participation in BBQs and social events also appeared to be popular but only 12% would contribute to RO2. It was unclear whether the BBQs referred to social BBQs or the monthly event at CMC. **Conclusion:** It is hoped the Heather Shilton Memorial Award will encourage more contributions to RO2.

Further contribution: There was a disappointing result in the responses to this question. About a quarter said they are prepared to help further in the ride team, BBQ roster and events organisation, while very few nominated the branch committee, RO2 preparation or the website. **Conclusion:** the branch needs further contribution in all these areas if it is to thrive. Would all those who said they'll help on the BBQ roster please contact Kim Gibbins!

What we like about the club: The rides, friendly, inclusive, like-minded people, fun, camaraderie, sense of family, socialising, positive outlook, mad people, dinners, informality, advice and support from experienced riders, social atmosphere, help to riders, participation in the local community, acceptance, easy going, not too serious, the committee is doing a great job. The vibe!

How can we make the club better:

- Do more with other Ulysses branches.
- Lever off other clubs' rides.
- People should accept things as they are and stop criticising those who volunteer.
- No more ill-mannered interjections from the floor at meetings (this was a recurring theme).
Do we need a sergeant-at-arms and/or fines to stamp out bad behaviour?
- Respect the ride leader .
- Ride as group on the way back as well as the way out .
- Stop just outside Canberra to say goodbye.
- Use corner markers on all rides.
- Ride leaders should give verbal ride reports at meetings.
- Get RO2 out a day earlier.
- Don't always stop at bakeries .
- Hold meetings on weekends at a ride destination.
- Hold test ride days.
- Make meetings less formal.
- Regular short road craft presentations at meetings
- Information sessions and speakers at meetings need not be bike-related.
- Shorter formalities, longer time for fun.
- White stick award for the leader who got lost.
- Seating at tables so people can socialise.
- Correspondence and other reports could be circulated in a folder so if anyone is interested they could look at them without using valuable socialising time.
- More bike maintenance and safer riding techniques – on rides rather than at meetings.
- Teaching about bikes and riding.
- Spotlight on a member/funny stories.

Ian Paterson