

Ulysses Club Upper Hunter Branch Newsletter

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.ulysses.org.au/branches/upperhunter/>

February 2010

Bear & Ned's Update!

No President's Report Received.....

Guess who Loves Mad Max?

Greetings from Whyalla. We have arrived safe and sound if not a little sun burnt & tired.



Some lovely country has been travelled. Water to the edge of the tar on the way to Broken Hill,
We had to ride through water to get to Silverton where this photo was taken.



The rest of the group are miss behaving & are in the Naughty Corner. (as can be seen from this photo)

Will keep you posted on our progress if you keep us informed as well.
(That is when I can get the Computer to work properly)

How did the Nambucca Ride go? Nothing heard yet!!!!

Birthday wishes go to All those having a Birthday This Month

(If you have been missed, Please let me know & I will fix the data base)

MEET TINY TIM THE TRAILER

Age dulls the enthusiasm for adventure and discomfort, both of which seem to accompany minimalist motor cycle touring. So when we started to look at the 2010 AGM in Albany, and possibly camping enroute, we accepted that we needed a trailer to carry our gear.

While there are a couple of mono trailers available, we decided to stay conventional and use two wheels. That left us with four options for non camper trailers;

1. An imported trailer,
2. A 'Classic' fibreglass trailer,
3. An 'Ali Lite' alloy trailer, or
4. A 'Bandicoot' alloy trailer.

The imported trailers are the cheapest, (available for under \$2000, but probably built in China), and use 12in wheels. They are heavy, around 90Kg, and are better suited to a large cruiser than a small touring bike. The 'Classic' is a well proven trailer available in a range of sizes, but is heavier than the equivalent size alloy trailer. Of the two alloy trailers available the 'Ali Lite' is the better looking with its curved profile, but is more expensive than the

'Bandicoot'. On cost and simplicity the boxy 'Bandicoot' got the nod. It runs on 8in wheels, Holden hubs, has a steel frame, weighs 60kg empty, and has a GVM of 175Kg. It comes in a range of colour options.

We were tempted to order a red one, to match the Deauville, but then what colour will the next bike be? (Helmets on for a bike story; Those of you with a Christian upbringing will know that in 6 days God made Heaven and Earth and all contained within. On the seventh day he rested and hallowed it. While he was hallowing, Satan sauntered by and called out from behind his hand, 'God, what colour will motorcycles be?'. Where upon God became agitated and animated. After a few seconds he bellowed; 'The bloody things will be black!' And so it came to pass. Alas today Gods word is not taken as seriously as it once was and motor cycles can be bought in a kaleidoscope of colours, the purchasers unaware of the satanic symbolism of such silliness. Helmets off). We choose black onyx with a silver lid. Our next bike had better be black.

Following the Dorrigo Xmas party we rode on to Samford near Brisbane to collect our trailer from the guy who builds them. He had ours all ready to go, it takes 10 to 12 weeks to get one built, and we hooked it to the towbar. (Helmets on for another story; I bought our towbar from Classic Trailers as they have a very extensive range, and offer a fitting service. But they do not fit towbars to a Deauville, too much work. So I had to fit it myself and it was a pain. The whole rear end of the bike had to be stripped down to the chassis, the support bars fitted then the bike reassembled. It took me three days! Even the fitting instructions for the Deauville quoted 'Degree of difficulty – 9 out of 10. Helmets off). After testing lights and how things operated, we set off for Muswellbrook via the Sunshine Coast. The trailer looked so small we called it 'Tiny Tim'.

So how does it go? Very well! It tracks well, is stable in corners, and apart from having to remember that your rig is now longer and wider than the bike, it does not intrude. The Deauville pulls the trailer without protest but runs a tad warmer, and fuel consumption rose so we got 20km per litre rather than 23km. On steep hills (i.e. Ben Lomond) it is necessary to drop down one or two gears and sit in the power band. On flat road the Deauville and trailer will run at 110kph with ease.



The trailer swallowed all the gear we took north on the bike with heaps of room to spare. I did think of buying a slab of beer to weigh it down on the trip back, but in the end settled for our luggage and some shopping we did. When we arrived home and opened the lid, it looked like Tim had a tantrum on the way home and had thrown our gear all around the trailer. Packing things into zip up bags before putting them into the trailer will be the go. Will it do the job for the run to Albany? Tell you after the AGM. Are we happy with it? Yes, - despite the no frills look, it fulfils the intended function. The Pleasant Pluckas.

Breakfast Ride 7th February 2010

Sunday morning and rain can be heard on the roof. A look out the window confirms what Bruce Black said, "It will be raining!" Bugger it!

Off to the heated pool to swim laps for some exercise, and a coffee afterwards. But after the exercise some blue patches could be seen in the sky.

Do we risk it and go for a ride? Do we stay home? Should we go and hope for the best? Where shall we go, too late for a breakfast ride to Darby Street? Bugger it! Lets do some house chores while we can.

But more blue could be seen in the sky and even some rays of sunshine.

Do we risk it and go for a ride? Do we stay home? Should we go and hope for the best? Where shall we go?

Bugger it! Lets go! Where shall we go? Not too far. Just a short trip along Elderslie Road through Luskintyre and Maitland Vale to Morpeth and return. A lovely country road with very green scenery by now from all the rain that has fallen. Do we wear the wet weather gear or not? Or should we take it? Bugger it! We wont be long, just a quick trip. That decided, off we go. No worries.



In deed the scenery was lush and green, big fat cows chewing away on all the grass. Couldn't fit a watermelon or corn cobs from the road side stall at Phoneix Park on the bike. Bugger it!

Bugger it, is that a big black rain cloud over there or what? No coffee in Morpeth but a quick turn around and off we go.

Should we go out to the highway and a quick run home or return as we came? Home the way we came only 30 minutes or so. The very big very black cloud was growing and looking more menacing. Onwards we go. Drop, drop drop, etc etc etc. You all know how it goes! Yes a fine mist of rain turned into drops of heavy rain. No wet weather gear. Bugger it! The rain stings when it hits flesh. Is that water running down the back of my jacket. Bugger it! Is that rain getting heavier or am I just a little tide of riding in the rain now. Home safely and wet – the 24 year old son laughing. Bugger it!

The moral of the story is, if you are a fair weather rider only and the sky looks like it might rain – don't, just don't go.

If you are the rider who will go riding whatever the sky looks like – go and enjoy. There is always a warm shower, dry clothes and hot coffee afterwards.

Post script: Monday morning – not a gray cloud in the sky. Sunshine and birds singing. Bugger it! Off to work we go, in the car!

“The Sheedys”

UPPER HUNTER ULYSSES BRANCH DRAFT RIDE CALENDAR Feb to July 2010

NOTE: ALL OUR RIDES LEAVE FROM McDonalds EITHER IN SINGLETON OR MUSWELLBROOK, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.

Unless other arrangements are made, all accommodation bookings are your own responsibility.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, turn up on ride days with a FULL tank of Petrol.

Feb 19/20/21 2010	3 Day ride. Friday night at Armidale and Saturday night at Nambucca Heads . Depart MM 7-15am. SM 8-00am. Our route takes us via Dungog, Gloucester, Walcha, Uralla and onto Armidale where our overnight accommodation is at the Westwood Motor Inn, 62 Barney St. Armidale. Tel 67728000 . On Saturday we take the road to Dorrigo, Bellingen and onto Nambucca Heads where our accommodation is the White Albatross Caravan Park Tel 6568 6468 . Our route home on Sunday will be as the 2 day ride below.
Feb 20/21 2010	2 Day ride to Nambucca Heads . Depart SM 7-15am, MM 8am and head up the New England Highway via Scone, Murrurundi, Tamworth, Armidale, Ebor, Dorrigo, and Bellingen. Overnight accommodation at the White Albatross Caravan Park. Nambucca Heads Ph: 6568 6468 Leave MM 7-15, SM 8-00am. Approx distance = 550km. Return home either down the Pacific Highway or back across to Armidale and then down the Thunderbolts Way to Gloucester, Dungog and home.
Mar 6 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
Mar 7 2010	Day ride to Forster via Lambs Valley, Bolwarra, Seaham, Bulahdelah and on the lakes Way road into Forster for lunch. Return home the same way. Depart MM 8-00am. SM 8-45am.
Mar 6 to14 2010	ALBANY ULYSSES AGM WEEK
Mar 20/21 2010	2 Day ride to the Brigadoon Holiday Park at North Haven . Depart MM 7-45am SM 8-30am. Our ride takes us via Gresford, Dungog, Gloucester following the Buckets Way to join the Pacific Highway near Taree and then turning right at Kew and on to North Haven. Accommodation at the Brigadoon Holiday Park, North Haven, Tel 0265 599172 . Approx distance 270km. When booking please let them know that you are a member of the Upper Hunter Ulysses Club as Keith has reserved some cabins at the discounted price of \$??? per night. I suggest that you book accommodation early as this is a busy time of the year. On Sunday we can return home via the same route or for those who want a longer ride (if it is not stinking hot) you can ride up to the roundabout West of Port Macquarie, head West along the Oxley Highway to Walcha, take the Thunderbolts Way down to Gloucester and then back home via Dungog and Gresford. Approx distance 460km.
April 3 2010	There will be NO Meeting in April as this day is Easter Saturday
April 10 to 17 2010	Depart SM 7-30am, MM 8-15am for an 8 day ride down into Alpine Country staying overnight at Young, Thredbo (2 nights) Lakes Entrance (2 nights) Mt. Beauty and Cowra. See separate XL file for all details. This will be a fabulous week riding some of the most picturesque roads in Australia. Last year we did a similar ride with 14 bikes participating and it was a great success.
May 1 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.

May 2 2010	Day ride to Mudgee for lunch. Depart SM 7-30am, MM 8-15am. Head out to Denman then follow the Golden Highway to Sandy Hollow where we turn left taking the road to Bylong, Rylstone and Mudgee. Return on the same route or via Ulan & Merriwa (approx 500kms)
May 9 2010	Donna & Jill's ride up into Queensland. Away for approx 3 weeks. See Donna for details
May 15/16 2010	2 Day ride to Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungle National Park. Depart SM at 8-00am. MM 8-45am. Our ride takes us up to Scone turning left at the roundabout and on past the airport to Merriwa where we stop for morning tea. We then follow the Golden Highway turning off to Coolah, Binnaway and on to Coonabarabran (approx 330kms) checking in at the All Travellers Motor Inn, Oxley-Newell Highway. Tel 02 6842 1133. On Sunday our route back home takes us via Mullaley, Tambar Springs, Premer, Spring Ridge, Quirindi joining the New England Highway at Willow Tree.
June 5 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
June 6 2010	Day ride to Patonga. Depart MM 7-45am SM 8-30am. Our route takes us via Wollombi and Kariong.
June 18/19/20 2010	3 Day ride. Tenterfield (1 st night) and Inverell (2 nd night) Depart SM 7-30am MM 8-15am and head up the New England highway to Tenterfield for our overnight stop at the Tenterfield Bowling Club & Motor Inn Tel 02 6736 1023. On Saturday we take the Bruxner Highway to Casino, then highway 91 to Grafton, then follow the Gwydir highway west to Glen Innes and on to our overnight stop at Inverell staying at the Inverell Motel, 49 Otho Street, Tel 6722 2077 On Sunday we head back home via Bundarra, Uralla, Walcha, Gloucester, Dungog and Gresford
June 19/20 2010	2 Day ride to Inverell Depart SM 8am, MM 8-45am riding up the New England Highway to Tamworth, then up through Manilla, Barraba, Bingara, Delungra and on to Inverell staying at the Inverell Motel, 49 Otho Street, Tel 6722 2077. On Sunday we head back home via Gilgai, Bundarra, Uralla, Walcha, Gloucester, Dungog and Gresford.
July 3 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
July 4 2010	Day ride to Bendemeer (details to come)
July 16/17/18 2010	3 Day ride Port Macquarie (1st night) Armidale (2nd night) (details to come)
July 17/18 2010	2 Day ride to Armidale (details to come)
Feb 6 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
Feb 7 2010	Breakfast Ride
Feb 19, 20, 21 2010	Nambucca weekend ride.
Feb 22 2010	Bear & Ned's big adventure. Albany & Beyond.
Mar 6 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
Mar 7 2010	Day Ride to Foster
Mar 20/21	2 day ride. Overnight at Laurieton
April 10 to 17	8 Day Snowy Ride
May 1 2010	Bear & Ned May return this day!!! Watch for updates
May 1 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
May 2 2009	Day ride to Mudgee via Gulgong for lunch. Bear & Ned's Big Adventure ends.
May 9 2010	Donna & Jill's 3 week adventure in Qld.
May 15/ 16	Weekend ride to Coonabarabran
June 5 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
June 6 2010	Day Ride to Patonga
June 18 - 20	Inverell ride.
July 3 2010	Social Night & Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. Meeting 6pm. All Welcome.
July 4 2010	Day Ride to Bendemeer

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Remember, If you have some photos or do a ride,
Write up a ride report, no matter how small & send some pictures
& the rest of us will enjoy your good fortune.

Dear Ulysses Branch Webmasters and Newsletter Editors,

We all know that the real driving force behind keeping our respective members informed are the hard-working Webmasters and Newsletter Editors.

With this in mind, we would like to ask for your help in circulating the information concerning the running of our 8th annual Moree Muster from Friday, April 30 to Monday, May 3, 2010, which is also the Queensland Labour Day long week-end.

I've included a copy of the Moree Muster flyer, both pdf and jpeg formats, and we would like to ask if you would please include this on our web site and in your newsletter as we are sure that it will be of interest to your members.

Our plans are for a Friday Night Camp Oven Dinner, Country Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings, a Thunder Run through town on Saturday morning, followed by Bikekana Games and a Show'n'Shine on Saturday afternoon, plus a great Saturday Night Dinner Dance.

If past events are anything to go by, the 2010 should be a whole lot of "disgraceful" fun.

Of course, full details including accommodation suggestions and the registration forms are available on our website. (<http://www.ulyssesclub.org/branches/cottoncountrycruisers>)

In the meantime, please let me know if there are any questions or additional information we can provide.

Hoping to see you at " **The Muster** " .

Ros Rose
Ulysses Cotton Country Cruisers Branch Secretary