

Ulysses Club Upper Hunter Branch Newsletter

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

May 2010

The State of the Nation

Hi everyone, thanks for voting me in as president. I have big boots to fill after the Jim years, but I feel that my role will be to chair the meetings, try to add some value & humour and hopefully with everyone's ideas & help throughout the year, we can have some great rides & good times. It has been a slow start to the year, but looking at the ride calendar there are some good rides coming up, so let's get behind them. We have made a charity donation thus far this year & I'm pretty sure we have voted on the next donation but can't think of it at this stage. To all those that were nominated & have taken up positions within the club, thank you very much. I'm sure between us all, we can keep within the salary cap. We keep talking about different rides or things to do throughout the year, but, a lot of it never gets bought up at meetings. If you have an idea to do something or a different ride in mind don't be shy & bring it, or pass it on to our committee or liaise with Graeme.

Things that will be coming up in the near future will be the memorial ride for our members that have ridden on. Also start thinking of the local AGM next year, it will be upon us before we know it. If anyone wants to get involved in any way shape or form, I'm sure Lyn or Janet would only be to happy to help or give some advise. I will be in touch with the AGM committee & see if they can come & gives us an update in the near future. I'm looking forward to catching up with Ned & Bear about their trip. Should be some good stories. Till next time.

A joke that some of the folk will relate to.

And it's very infectious ...

Recently, I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. -

Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests itself:

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I head towards the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I picked up from the post man earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car..

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the recycling box under the table, and notice that the recycling box is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the recycling first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the post box when I take out the recycling paper anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table, and notice that there is only one cheque left.

My extra cheques are in my desk in the study,

so I go inside the house to my desk where

I find the cup of coffee I'd been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the coffee aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The coffee is getting cold, and I decide to make another cup.

As I head toward the kitchen with the cold coffee, a vase of flowers on the worktop catches my eye - the flowers need water.

I put the coffee on the worktop and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I put the glasses back down on the worktop, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote control. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.
So, I put the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.
Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:
The car isn't washed
The bills aren't paid
There is a cold cup of coffee sitting on the counter
The flowers don't have enough water,
There is still only 1 cheque in my cheque book,
I can't find the remote,
I can't find my glasses,
And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all damn day, and I'm really tired.
I realise this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....Do me a favour. Forward this message to everyone you know, Because I don't remember who the hell I've sent it to.

Don't laugh - if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!!

Regards,

Garry Knight

Birthday wishes go to All those having a Birthday This Month

8 Day Ride down into the NSW and Victorian Alps 10th to 18th April 2010

7.30 am Singleton Maccas, 8.15 am Muswellbrook Maccas, 7.00 am Davis Creek. Headed off in good time with eight bikes and 12 happy travellers out through Denman and the now tarred road through Bylong. Stopped at the shop there for nibblies and then Kandos for fuel - no premium at Bylong. Bathurst for lunch after a lap of 'the Mountain'. Arrived in Young, stopped for fuel and regrouped so we could travel to the motel together. Did a bit of a pub crawl before we found a good place to have tea. George and Garry headed home in the morning and the rest of the crew set out for Cootamundra for breakfast. The countryside looks wonderful, grass and crops and full dams. Much different to when we were out there last and the sheep were eating rocks. Topped up with fuel at Tumut and then on with the wet weather gear because it was drizzling and some hardy souls on bikes who had just come down off the hill said "Do you really need to go up there, the weather is pretty wild?"



Ha! "We do it because we love it" we said. Onwards and upwards, temperature dropped as the altitude increased, we had intermittent drizzly rain, fog and wind. Lovely! Lunch at Cabramurra and 'on ya bike' again for the trip to Thredbo. Wet road, ride carefully, but the scenery was raw, wild, dead trees still standing, white and stark and bare.

Thredbo was cold. We woke to a bright sunny day but outside the wind was blowing, “up the hill” it was 80 to 100 klms/hr. We wandered around the village admiring the unique architecture and found a warm sunny corner to have lunch. We visited the memorial site and later we all walked down to the pub for a great tea. The next morning after a cooked breakfast in our lodge we saddled up and head off through the forest again, up & down, through the Monaro, this year green and bountiful, covered with grass, through Cooma and Bombala down the beautiful Cann River Highway, through the forest again winding down, down to the fertile valley bottom and the smell of cows and lucerne. Cann River for lunch and then off through East Gippsland to Lakes Entrance and another two night



stopover at the Glenora Motel. A free morning and a little shopping for some and then a cruise on the Gippsland Lakes. Thursday and heading north again now up the stunning Tambo River valley back to the high country and Omeo and then on to Mt Hotham which was (this time) fine, clear and warm. From the top of the world we could see the mountains extending off into the blue distance.

Then we set off down the mountain, “Keep left of the guide posts” said the signs, because to the right the mountains dropped away steeply into the depths. Where is the cheese cutter fence when you need it? Down that huge hill, down

and down to the pretty villages of Harrietville, Bright and then onto Mt Beauty. What a gorgeous spot and the boys amused themselves by taking Cannonball’s bike apart and putting it back together again before tea.

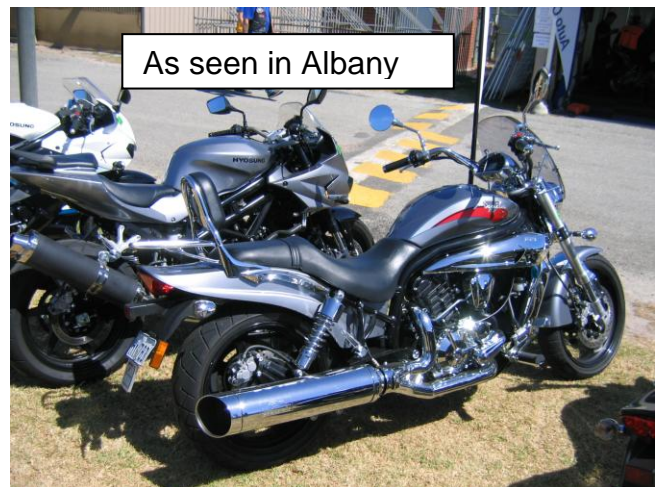
The drive along the Kiewa Valley Highway the next morning was like being in a living postcard. We then encountered some troublesome traffic in Albury/Wodonga and back onto NSW’s bouncy roads and up to Cowra for our last motel. The group headed home the next morning while Mark & I with Oigy & Sue, who had ridden across to meet us, stayed the extra night and travelled home on Sunday. A great ride, well researched, paced for enjoyment rather than endurance, good food (lots of it), good company and all arrived home safely.

Ten out of ten!

Dianne

Mudgee Ride Report

11 bikes and 13 bodies enjoyed the ride to Mudgee. John Nichol rode his new Spyder from Singleton to Muswellbrook but left the group there to visit with friends. Cool and foggy start to the day which eventually turned warm and sunny. Barbara rode her new Hyosung, she was a bit sedate as the bike hasn't got a windscreen and she felt buffeted about, a new windscreen will appear as soon as possible, but it looks like a beaut bike. Rode the scenic



Bylong Valley, what a great ride that road provides us all with. Passed several bikes heading towards Sandy Hollow, can certainly see the attraction of riding this particular road. Enjoyed a smoko stop in Rylstone, very pretty spot. Upon arrival in Mudgee, we refuelled the bikes and then the bellies with lunch at the local Club. After lunch, Kerry & Gasket decided to return home via

Bylong Valley and the rest of the group went a different route, via Ulan & Merriwa. Was a very enjoyable ride, good weather and great company.

Donna

January Ride Report

Dave & I set out at about 7.20am 22 Jan to meet up with family for a long weekend in Parks, being halfway for us as they were coming up from Finley. Nice morning for a bike ride, rode through Merriwa and there, parked at a café were 2 police cars and 2 police motor bikes, well at least we know where they are. We didn't ride too fast and only found out when we got to Parks that it was a double demerits point weekend, oh well. Rest and fuel stop as usual Gulgong, both bikes and riders going well. Onto Wellington for a break and food at KFC. It was 11am and KFC had just opened, can't say I really enjoyed the food, think next time we will find a different spot to eat. Time to leave Wellington and head off to Parks, boy can you feel the heat kick in now, oh to be somewhere cool. About 30kms Wellington side of Parks the wind and heat was terrible, the heat just burnt into you, just keep telling yourself it won't be long now.

Finally at Parkes, time to book into the Motel and see if the family had arrived yet, as we did so they just happen to come back to the office to see if we had arrived yet. All done, now to go to our room and change, oh yes please. With all the perspiration I should have lost kilos but alas not the case. Fond greetings from everyone, time to check out little bro's Harley, first time we have seen it since he brought it last year, very nice, sounds good too!

While us big kids went to the supermarket and grog shop the little people (in the capable hands of their 16 year old sister) went for a swim. Back the motel time to chill, get a cold drink or 2 and watch the kids in the pool. Time for Dave to have a Poppy nap before we went off to the restaurant for dinner.

Walking back to the room after dinner it was time to check out another Harley Soft tail Deluxe that hadn't long ago arrived at the Motel. The fellow was from Melbourne and



found this bike on a web site around Brisbane somewhere for \$25,000. So he flew up to Brisbane to pick up the bike, it had braided hoses, chrome everywhere, great buy and well looked after. His wife did tell him she was not riding a Harley but he did tell us he would take her to her favourite winery and buy her some of her favourite wine and she would soon get back on the bike again.

Time for bed as it was rather late. Brekkie at Maccas, (1 car full and 2 motorbikes) then after that time to go back to the Motel and go for a ride on the bikes only two though, the BMW and Harley. David & Vicki on the Harley, Dave & me on the BMW. We headed back towards Wellington then took a left turn and rode on until we got to the Newell Highway, (which now has had its speed dropped from 110 kph to 100 kph) and into Parkes. Took us about 45 minutes round trip. Now I wanted a ride on the Harley, only as a pillion though so Dave stayed at the Motel with Vicki and the Kids while I went for a ride with my brother David (yes very confusing I know but I also have a brother-in-law named David). Now that little seat wasn't uncomfortable to sit on as I thought and the pipes not as noisy as I thought they would be either. Back to the motel and time for the boys to do their thing and take the Guzzi and Harley for a run and me well it was time to get into the pool it was soooooo hot. Dave wouldn't hop on the Harley until they were out of town. Then they changed bikes and went for a ride then back and time for yes cold drinks, food as well. Dinner over with time for a game or two or uchre another fun and late night. Brekkie at Maccas, again time for the kids to play then time for us to go our separate ways. What a nice day to ride

home not like the ride over, had a rest at Wellington then onto Gulgong for fuel and lunch. Thought it may have been the fuel but both bikes fuelled out of same bowser, but the Guzzi running like a hairy dog, well surging as if it had water in the fuel. Stopped at Merriwa for another rest then onto Muswellbrook and refuel the bikes before going home. Now I didn't even think I was going to make it up over the rail pass in bridge street, poor thing running terrible. So through the week my friendly service man did all he could to try and fix the problem you know new fuel filter, spark plugs etc but she still not 100%. Couldn't get in contact with our Muswellbrook mechanic so off to Rides in Tamworth on the back of our son's Toyota ute. That ride's another story. Ride safe,
Kerry & Dave M.

UPPER HUNTER ULYSSES BRANCH RIDE CALENDAR May 2010 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.

If you intend going on an overnight ride can you please let Donna know. She will keep a record of who intends going so that a telephone call to her will also let you know who is going on a particular ride. Donna can be contacted by telephone or email
Home 65 432 402 Work 65 422 025 Email donna44a@bigpond.com

May 1 2010	Social Night & AGM Meeting, Albion Hotel Singleton. AGM Meeting 6pm. Please come along to your AGM
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 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 for lunch. Depart MM 7-45am SM 8-30am. Our route takes us via Wollombi and Kariong.
June 18/19/20 2010	3 Day ride. Tenterfield (Friday night) and Inverell (Saturday 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 the Bendemeer Pub for lunch. . Depart SM 8-00am. MM 8-45am. Ride to Bendemeer via the New England Highway to Wallabadah then follow the scenic Fossickers Way to Nundle and back onto the New England Highway at Kootingal and up to Bendemeer. After lunch home via Tamworth, Currabubula, Werris Creek, Quirindi, Willowtree and then down the New England Highway to Singleton. Approx distance from Singleton 515km. If we think this is too many kilometres we can shorten the ride on the day to suit the riders at that time.
July 16/17/18 2010	3 Day ride. Port Macquarie (Friday night) Armidale (Saturday night). On Friday we depart MM 7-45am SM 8-30am Our route takes us out to Gresford, Dungog, Gloucester and then up Thunderbolts Way to Walcha stopping for lunch. We then take the Oxley Highway on to Port Macquarie for our overnight stop at the Townbeach Motor Inn, Gordon Street. Port Macquarie. Tel 02 65838899. On Saturday we head up the Pacific Highway to Urunga then take the road to Bellingen, Dorrigo, Ebor where we turn right and follow the road to Guyra then down the New England Highway to Armidale for our overnight stop at at the Westwood Motor Inn, 62 Barney St. Armidale. Tel 67728000. On Sunday we head back home via Uralla, Walcha, Gloucester and Dungog or alternatively back down the New England Highway
July 17/18 2010	2 Day ride to Armidale). On Saturday we depart MM 8-15am SM 9-00am. Our route takes us out to Gresford, Dungog, Gloucester and then up Thunderbolts Way to Walcha and Uralla then on to Armidale for our overnight stop at the Westwood Motor Inn, 62 Barney St. Armidale. Tel 67728000. On Sunday we head back home via Uralla, Walcha, Gloucester and Dungog or alternatively back down the New England Highway

Links of interest

www.ezy2wheel.com.au

<http://www.royalbikeriders.com>

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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.