



SPARE TYRE

JULY - SEPT 2018

MELBOURNE BRANCH WEB SITE :
WWW.ULYSSESMELB.COM



Editor's Thoughts

INSIDE... ..

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Thanks to all those who take the time to do ride reports and post photos on the website. - it makes "stealing the photos" for the Spare Tyre very easy for me.....

Winter with its short days is truly here and one tries to capture whatever warmth the engine throws out, in contrast to the summer days when you think you are riding on top of a furnace. One of the benefits of cold weather riding is you can delay as the day gets warmer and it feels great!

Now, what do you think about the state of our roads? My experience is that they are deteriorating rather rapidly. Yesterday, South Road was shut down due to a burst water main and since the Dingly Bypass was opened cracks and potholes are becoming the norm. But our rural cousins are really coping it tough and want to do something about it. Is there an election this year? If you think it is becoming difficult to avoid the road rails, widening cracks and the, "SLOW DOWN, ROUGH CONDITIONS," signs then maybe you should come along to the 'BAD ROADS RALLY,' in November in Bendigo.

But there's more news Melbourne City is considering the future of motorcycle parking on footpaths. This is a unique feature of riding in Victoria and if a move is made to remove this precious benefit other councils around Melbourne and the greater region will more than likely follow suit. With the tremendous growth in two wheel vehicles over the past few years it is natural that in some parts of the city parked bikes and scooters dominate some of the paths to the detriment of the pedestrian traffic, particularly in the small lanes. It would be understandable to put some restrictions in place to relieve this congestion. The offset must be more parking spaces for bikes without charge. However, we do not appear to have the same influence as the bicycling community has and as riders we may need to develop this capability. But what do you think? Is this an issue that could affect you?

Finally, our committee has sent out a survey seeking your input on our Christmas Function, a stalwart of many years. I hope you will take the time to respond. It is one of our events where it allows all of us to come together with our partners and enjoy an evening of fellowship. Doing some back ground checking I notice that only 28% of those members who are affiliated with the Melbourne Branch attend the Christmas function. Why so low? What can be done to improve the attendance numbers? It is the absent 72% the committee would like to hear from.

Well, that's it for me I hope you enjoy your read and yes I am always looking for articles to put in the Tyre.

BAD ROADS RALLY IN BENDIGO

Sunday, November 18, 2018

In January 2015 four young men died near Pyalong. Their car hit an *obsolete* wire rope barrier (WRB). The driver was stoned and lost control. **BUT!** The WRB made the crash much worse “vaulting” the car into a tree.

May 2015, a couple on the Great Alpine Road in eastern Victoria. They died horribly after their motorcycle hit a pot hole then ran into oncoming traffic.

November 2017, a Bendigo man died after his motorcycle hit a kangaroo on the Calder Highway then ran into a wire rope barrier right next to the road.

None of these deaths should have happened!

May they Rest In Peace.

Road users in rural/regional Victoria face two life threatening hazards daily, neglected country roads and the \$4 billion roll out of wire rope barriers.

Bad roads also lower the quality of life for people outside Melbourne. Bad roads cause costly vehicle damage. They put Mum taking the kids to school or sport at risk. They make country businesses including farms less productive so prices go up.

Bad roads put our emergency service workers at risk and slow response times getting to crashes, fires and medical emergencies.

In May 2018 we ran the first **BAD ROADS RALLY** in Melbourne on the steps of Parliament House. It was small but generated strong media. Six Members of Parliament attended, including the Leader of the Nationals.

Three MPs made speeches. The next Victorian election is on November 24, 2018.

Channel 7 Melbourne - Nick McCallum report including interviews with victims relatives.

<https://www.facebook.com/7NewsMelbourne/videos/10156565209019301/>

Prime 7 News Border - Albury/Wodonga - Interview with Bill Tilley, Member for Benambra

<https://youtu.be/iWK3sL-CncU?t=138>

Another BAD ROADS RALLY is planned in Bendigo on **Sunday, November 18, 2018**. It will be a lunchtime family activity with very serious message for those hoping to be elected on November 24.

FIX OUR RURAL ROADS.com and hold road authorities accountable for their neglect of country roads and their waste of billions of our dollars on road furniture that is too often a deadly hazard rather than a safety device and on very expensive media campaigns. If they are doing good work, why the ads using money that should be used repairing rural roads.

We invite Ulysses Club Branches across the state to make the **Bendigo BAD ROADS RALLY** an official activity. It will benefit people using all sort of vehicles from B-doubles to bicycles so bring the family and invite your non-motorcycling friends.

Please put aside Sunday, November 18, 2018 to rally for better roads across Victoria.

Damien Codognotto OAM

MRA Melbourne

Mobile: 0419 846 855.



RIDE REPORT : LILYDALE TO EUROA
RIDE LEADER : JOHN COOK
REPORTER : JOHN COOK
TAIL END CHARLIE : DENNIS



Euroa Ride 6 May 2018

We had a great mix of over a dozen people who came out to join me on the ride to Euroa in good riding conditions. These included Tony (of MC Cruise - branch sponsor who came out for his first ride with the branch and to test some gear) who was made welcome by all. Jeff and his entourage were on some very interesting bikes. Dennis readily volunteered to do tail end duties and Pat came out for a short part of the ride before heading off to gloat and watch his Tigers play. Many of the other usual suspects (*who weren't en-route to South Australia*) also came out. Greg G volunteered to go out ahead and take some photos but our communication on the planned route failed of course and he ended up **off course!** Gremlins then took over my helmet communications system (*actually fixed that night by charging the blue tooth*) so I couldn't answer Greg when he rang me. He did find us eventually.

Once greetings and briefings were done, we rode out to Coldstream in lovely riding weather and turned right off the highway. We then did a couple of loops and took in the scenery (numerous vineyards and some strawberry fields) before getting to Healesville via Yarra Glen. Then it was up and over the Black Spur (a bit busier than I expected) and kudos to a couple of drivers who actually pulled over and let us pass. The scenery was very pleasant until we reached Narbethong where we disappeared into a blanket of fog and the temperature plummeted! Despite the fog we had a good run to Acheron, left the highway, crossed the single lane bridge, climbed a small hill and were then greeted by sunshine as we rolled into Alexandra for a rest break after an hour and a half of riding.

After a leisurely break and chat, we rode straight out the highway to Merton and then turned left and got into the challenge of the hills again. We did get a short patch of road works at an infamous bend which is being straightened, but I do enjoy riding that bit of road. We turned right and headed to Strathbogie past Polly McQuinns Weir. That section of road is **very bumpy now**, but we were well compensated (rewarded?) with the outlook from Kelvin View as we left the escarpment and descended into Euroa after riding just over 200 km.

On arrival it was **great to see that John Wait had ridden down from Numurkah** to greet us and exchange some disgraceful lies. This is the sort of camaraderie that really makes me appreciate my Ulysses membership. After another good break and chat, discussions turned to the ride home and many decided on the Hume to get back to the northern and western suburbs.

Six of us stayed together and enjoyed a ride down though Creightons Creek, over the hills past Ruffy and back into Yea. These road surfaces have actually been greatly improved in the past couple of years. As we approached Yarra Glen, we encountered a significant traffic jam which appeared to have been caused by a nose / tail between a couple of cars near Yering Station and the tow trucks trying to clear them off the two lane road. I won't comment on the legalities, but I was glad I was on a solo bike and not in a tin top as we got past the clogged section.

Many thanks to all who came out to join the ride. It was good to see Jeff out riding again with his son and a friend, meet Tony and catch up with John Wait. I know it was my ride, but put simply I had fun thanks to the combination of people and riding.

John Cook

RIDE REPORT : KALKALLO TO YARCK
RIDE LEADER : VINCE GREEN
REPORTER : PAT RYAN
TAIL END CHARLIE : GLEN - (WHITTLESEA BCH)



A group of ten riders turned up at Kalkallo for the ride. This was most unusual for one of Vince's rides as the last time no one arrived and the time before only two. Both times due to miserable weather however, and not to any dislike of Vince's route planning. In addition Mike Fittall arrived in his car to see us off. Mike is currently recovering from an operation and whilst he is progressing very well, is not yet allowed to ride. Should not be long from the looks of him however.

We headed off in overcast weather but were confident there was to be no rain. Down to Donnybrook Road where we went left again to head up through Wallan and along the old road that parallels the Hume Hwy. There are some surprisingly good motorbike roads up this way and we all enjoyed the run up to Seymour where we stopped for morning tea. The fact that the coffee cart had no hot drinks and the men's was locked up did not deter us and we all enjoyed the break with Vince urging us to get ready to get on the road again pretty quickly.

Off along the Highlands Road with its sweeping bends, narrow sections and tight turns saw some light drizzle start but no need to put on waterproofs so we continued on. Highlands Road ends at Ghin Ghin Road where we turned left and headed out towards Gobur and Terip Terip. This is another great road for motorbikes with plenty of turns and not too much traffic. There was a lot of detritus from recent storms on the sides of the road but the centre was clear so we made good time. Eventually we reached the very tight turns of the run down from the escarpment to the flat land which runs into Yarck via some high speed bends.

Lunch at the Giddy Goat in Yarck which is always good before heading home. The writer made it to Yea before being told that it was pouring rain in Melbourne so I put on the wet weather gear and ten minutes later hit heavy rain which then stayed with me for most of the run home. I imagine everyone else got wet too so I did not feel too bad.

All in all another great ride thanks to Vince.

Sponsors'

We would like to thank the sponsors for their financial support which enables the branch to publish this newsletter, our webpage and also contributes significantly to the cost of running our day for

Very Special Kids.

These businesses support us in many ways and most offer discounts to Ulysses Club members, so **we urge you to show your support and consider these businesses when looking for accessories, bikes, clothing, parts and or servicing.**



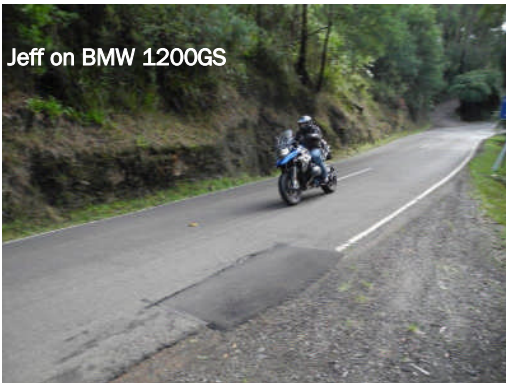
5 HEATHERDALE ROAD
RINGWOOD [03] 9870 3807

RIDE REPORT :KALKALLO TO YEA 27/5/2018
RIDE LEADER :PAT RYAN
REPORTER :PAT RYAN
TAIL END CHARLIE :BRIAN LACEY



A group of ten riders turned up at Kalkallo in lovely if cold weather for the ride. In addition John Cook joined us along the Myers Creek Road between Toolangi and Healesville with camera in hand and striking a suitable photographer's pose as we sped past him heading for the Beechworth Bakery at Healesville. Andrew, Jack and Martin also joined us at Healesville to bring our total for the ride to fourteen. Not bad for early winter.

But I am getting ahead of myself.



Jeff on BMW 1200GS

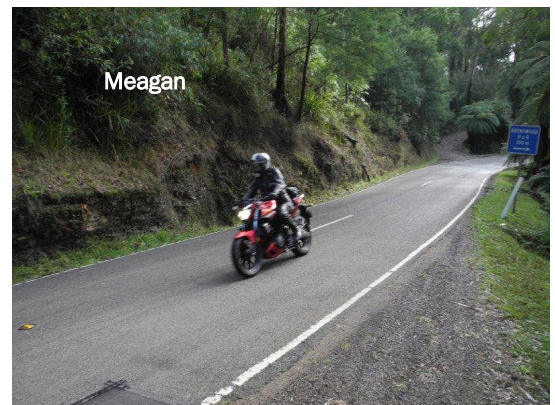
We left the servo at Kalkallo by turning left away from the highway and over two hundred meters of smooth dirt and a wooden bridge onto a narrow bitumen road which took us down to Donnybrook Road. This route saves us from joining the speeding cars and trucks on the Hume Hwy and is probably a much safer and easier departure route from this start point.

Up Donnybrook Road and left to Whittlesea then up those lovely sweeping bends towards the Kinglake turnoff. This road is now signed at 80kph which is rather ridiculous so most of us were doing 100kph or so. Through Pheasant Creek and Kinglake and down the nice curves through the forest to the Melba Hwy where we did a dog leg and headed through Toolangi. This is

another of our preferred forest roads. We turned off at Myers Creek Road and put on our best leans and smiles for photographer John as we negotiated the nice turns down this narrow little road and headed to Healesville for a break and to meet the rest of the group.

Suitably refreshed we took on the Black Spur with its nice scenery and tight turns. Traffic was not too bad but we were kept around the 80kph speed limit by some cars. This is not such a bad thing on this road as you never know who is coming the other way too fast and on your side of the road.

Past Narbethong and right to Marysville. Now this road is still 100kph and while hilly and winding is a very nice ride at the limit or a bit more. Straight through Marysville and on to Buxton where we followed the Maroondah Hwy up towards Alexandra. A few kilometres before Alex a left turn takes you on to the Whanregarwen Road which is a motorcyclists delight.



Meagan



Gary & Wendy

Speed limit is 100kph and the road is in good condition and sweeps through fairly flat farming country with lots of turns which you can see through. This makes it quite safe to power through the bends as you can see traffic (and cops) ahead. Some riders who shall remain nameless chose to hit this road fairly hard whilst the majority of the group had a very pleasant ride without putting their licences in jeopardy. This road ends at Molesworth where we went left and headed to Yea for lunch and eventually home to our various destinations.

No rain and plenty of sunshine but a little cold made for a great day's riding for a nice group of good mates. John's photos of the day are available on the website.



20th Melbourne Branch Odyssey

12th to 14th October, 2018 (Friday to Sunday)

Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park, 69 Loddings Lane, Nagambie

The 20th (We started in 1999) annual Melbourne Branch get together will be celebrated at Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park which is beautifully located between the Goulburn River and Lake Nagambie. Accommodation available includes a variety of cabins, bunkhouses or large powered campsites on which it would be feasible to set up several tents to enhance camaraderie.

The meal and live entertainment on Saturday night will be onsite. We plan to have an informal BYO BBQ on the Friday night for a relaxed night of camaraderie.

Please book your accommodation direct with Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park;

PO Box 90, Nagambie 3608 Telephone: (03) 5794 2373 / 1800 155 919

Please mention "Ulysses" when booking.

Email: info@nagambielakespark.com.au Web: www.nagambielakespark.com.au

You can arrive anytime Friday onwards, enjoy activities on Friday night, plus both Saturday and Sunday and leave on Monday or arrange your attendance times to suit your circumstances. There is no minimum accommodation requirement.

There will be an organised ride on Saturday and we hope to organise a river / winery cruise (at cost) on Saturday for those not riding. Nearby attractions include a variety of wineries, museums and merchants plus a good variety of roads for riding.

Registration

Rider _____ Pillion _____
 Address _____ Postcode _____
 Home Phone _____ Mobile _____ Email _____

Registration Fee of \$55 per person includes Saturday night dinner with live entertainment on site and badge for first 60 registrations.

Direct Deposit (preferred) for registration:

BSB 033 371 Acc 231845 with reference ***Odyssey (& your name)***

Account name: **"Ulysses Club Inc Melbourne Branch"**

For further information please contact John Cook on 0419 599 530, (03)97285769 or email kriscook@bigpond.net.au

Please make cheques payable to: ***Ulysses Club Inc Melbourne Branch***

Post cheques payable to "Ulysses Club Inc. Melbourne Branch" to Ulysses Club c/o J Cook, 5 Banksia Street, Montrose Victoria 3765 with form

Social Events

The Melbourne Branch hosts one informal Social Night on the:

3rd Friday of each month.

Commences from 6.00 PM

The East Malvern RSL, Stanley Grose Drive, East Malvern. (Melway 60 A12)

The East Malvern RSL serves bistro meals at reasonable prices and also offers seniors' deals. Drinks can be purchased from the bar.

If you haven't been to one of our social night get-togethers for a while, consider giving this venue some thought. Come along and catch up on all the news and enjoy the company of your fellow Ulysseans. What makes these nights special is the camaraderie and friendship enjoyed by all who attend with much laughter and frivolity emanating from the various groups and tables. For new chums and first timers, introductions are made in the normal Ulyssean manner which ensures that nobody is left standing on the outer and everyone is made to feel welcome.

Join the chatter about motorbikes and bike trips, travel in general, and the usual odd joke etc. Someone always seems to have an Australian Road Atlas which is often referred to and it is heartening to note that some members don't mind a little embellishment to make their story more interesting. One should never let the facts stand in the way of delivering a good punch line or yarn!

These nights are not to be missed so pencil them into your social calendar and come along and enjoy the fun.

Meet for a Saturday Morning Coffee at

Melbourne Bake House

210 Bay Street Port Melbourne,

Drop in for breakfast or just a coffee and a chat!

**** Plenty of bike parking available ****



THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: BRIAN LACEY

Phone: 0439 010 873

COMMITTEE MEMBER : JOHN COOK (WEBSITE EDITOR)

Phone: 9728 5769 or 0419 599 530

SECRETARY : BILL DUSTING

Phone: 0408 033 007

COMMITTEE MEMBER :

Phone:

TREASURER : MARYANNE TRIGGS

Phone: 0425 134 198

RIDE CO-ORDINATOR : PAT RYAN

Phone: 0412 223 146

Note : Committee members and Spare Tyre editor can be contacted by the "Contact Us" link on the web page

For contributions to the Spare Tyre, please contact the spare tyre editor

Got a funny story?? Something interesting you would like to share??

Something you want to advertise?? Please send it in.

Brian Quintal 0411 273 235 or 9555 8994

RIDE CALENDAR :

Please refer to the website for any last minute changes..... www.ulyssesmelb.com

EVERYONE WELCOME; Friends and family are most welcome to any ride or social event. All rides **start at 10am sharp** unless otherwise stated - Don't be late! For more information call the Ride Leader or our Ride Co-ordinator—**Pat Ryan 0412 223 146**

DATE	DEPARTURE POINT	RIDE DESCRIPTION	Ride Leader
1 JUL 18. SUN	OFFICER: COLES EXPRESS 437/439 PRINCES HWY, OFFICER Melway 214 H3/J4	First ride from the new southern start point at Officer! Brian L will lead us on a scenic tour of the Mornington Peninsula including Arthurs Seat of course. And if time permits, we'll swoop by the Mornington Racecourse and have a quick introduction to the venue for next years Ulysses Club National Rally.	Brian Lacey
8 JUL 18. SUN	KALKALLO: Caltex Service Station, 1340 Hume Fwy, Kalkallo Melway 367 D1	Vince will take us on a nice run from the northern start point. He has two routes in mind which he will discuss with the riders and jointly decide which one to take.	Vince Green 0412 333 787
14 JUL 18. SAT	Make your own way	July's VBC will be held at Wycheproof, on the 14th, at the normal start time of 9.30. The venue is ' Bakery on Broadway ', in the main street. There is a rumour, some may make it an overnigher, camping at the caravan park on Friday night.. Mount Wycheproof is the smallest registered mountain in the world. That has to make it interesting !!!	For further information email Paul on: pbutler8@hotmail.com
15 JUL 18. SUN	LILYDALE: Olinda Hotel, Maroondah Highway. LILYDALE 100 metres from Lilydale rail crossing. Melway 38 E4	To Emerald via Toolangi Another exciting ride through the eastern hills with Greg. Starting at Lilydale we set out on a circuitous route to Emerald for no reason other than the fact that the roads are exciting to ride. See the route here https://www.motowhere.com/maps/route/Greg-G-Ulysses-15	Greg Gleason 0424 956 078
22 JUL 18. SUN	OFFICER: COLES EXPRESS 437/439 PRINCES HWY, OFFICER Melway 214 H3/J4	TO YARRA GLEN. The ride is Gembrook, Cockatoo along Macclesfield Road via Yellingbo & Woori Yallock to Healesville & break at the Beechworth Bakery. Then up the Myers Creek Road through Toolangi and left at Kinglake. Warning, it now gets very tight with some corners recommended at 15kph. A turn left onto Buttermans Track which is quite narrow and windy and up and down as it traverses the range down to Yarra Glen for lunch. Don't be put off by the tight corners on parts of this ride it is very safe and speed is restricted much of the way. The reward is a very scenic and safe ride through some of the most beautiful and scenic areas of this part of Victoria.	Pat Ryan 0412 223 146 To view the route click on this link: https://www.motowhere.com/maps/route/Officer-to-Yarra-Glen-via-Healesville-and-Kinglake

RIDE CALENDAR CONTINUED :

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DATE	DEPARTURE POINT	RIDE DESCRIPTION	Ride Leader
29 JUL 18. SUN	LILYDALE: Olinda Hotel, Maroondah Highway. LILYDALE 100 metres from Lilydale rail crossing.	TO MALDON Another good ride from Andrew this time taking us from the start out East to finish at Maldon in the West.	Andrew Kennedy 0481 330 107
5 AUG 18. SUN	LILYDALE: Olinda Hotel, Maroondah Highway. LILYDALE 100 metres from Lilydale rail crossing. Melway 38 E4	TO SEYMOUR Thinking about stopping at the Seymour Club for lunch after a short visit to the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk . Morning tea will probably be at Broadford after coming up the Murchison Gap. Those coming from the north or west may want to join us at Flowerdale or Strath Creek - if so ring me	John Cook 0419 599 530 or (03) 97285769.
19 AUG 18. SUN	OFFICER: COLES EXPRESS 437/439 PRINCES HWY, OFFICER Melway 214 H3/J4	TO SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND Dennis is to lead us on a ride for the first time so come along and show him some support. He will take us on a route he knows well from Officer through Pearcedale and Warragul on some great roads. Look for updates on this ride a little later.	Dennis Alesi 0402 288 707
26 AUG 18. SUN	OFFICER: COLES EXPRESS 437/439 PRINCES HWY, OFFICER Melway 214 H3/J4	TO GIPPSLAND Alf will take us down through Gippsland and some of those wonderful roads he knows so well down on his home turf.	Alf Dennemoser 0409 205 396
16 SEP 18. SUN	DANDENONG: United Service Station 48 Princes Highway DOVETON Melway 91 B12	TO SORRENTO A run down south via Arthur's Seat and Sorrento this time with Greg. Despite the renowned traffic on the Peninsular Greg has found a route which manages to dodge most of that and takes us onto roads we don't very often travel. Route here https://www.motowhere.com/maps/route/Ulysses-7	Greg Gleason 0424 956 078