



SPARE TYRE

APRIL - JUNE 2018

MELBOURNE BRANCH WEB SITE :
WWW.ULYSSESMELB.COM



Ulysses Club Melbourne Branch

Presidents Report

2018 Committee

Your Branch's 2018 committee is; Brian Lacey (President), Bill Dusting (Secretary), Maryanne Tigges (Treasurer), Pat Ryan (Ride Coordinator), John Cook (Website Editor) and Brian Quintal (Spare Tyre Editor, Ex Officio).

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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.....

Under our constitution we can co-opt an additional committee member and will consider doing so this year. Any members with particular interest in any of the Branch's functions (or non-functions, ahem) are welcome to contract us to start discussions about being co-opted.

Branch Activities

In pursuing and promoting the fundamental purposes of the Ulysses Club, the functions of the Branch are:

Saturday morning social gathering: An informal turn-up-and-say-G'Day gathering over coffee (or orange juice for us non-conformists).

Monthly social dinner: Another informal (just turn up and join us) occasion, for dinner on a Friday evening.

Sunday rides: Nearly every Sunday there'll be a ride leader to follow to interesting places on interesting roads, just turn up and ride!

The Melbourne Branch Odyssey: A weekend away on the wonderful Nagambie district including riding, entertainment and dinner with Ulysses members from Melbourne and other branches.

VSK Day: This is our charity event, supporting the Very Special Kids organisation.

Christmas Function: A special social gathering for Melbourne Branch members, family and friends.

Somewhere along the line we seem to have lost the BBQ ride which I can see referred to in past President's reports.

The current committee is also re-considering the VSK Day and working with VSK to seek an alternative format to the day. Participation numbers are very difficult to predict for the present format, meaning that we risk over catering and over spending. So we are investigating an alternative format – possibly combining with another VSK event to minimise these risks. It would be remiss not to use this opportunity to acknowledge and thank member Libby Bakewell for her hard work on the VSK day both currently and in the past.

We are also reviewing the Christmas Function to ensure that it is what the members want and expect: A survey is going out by email soon – make sure you let us know your thoughts on the Christmas Function.

Ride Leading

Don't be bashful about becoming a ride leader! It's not really hard. Although there are a few responsibilities associated with the job, it's all pretty low-key. If you think that you might lead a ride for us but are concerned about any aspect of it please do not hesitate to contact myself. There's lots we can do to introduce you gently to the process. We can talk through it the key issues and pre-ride your route together to review (even if that's only an excuse to get the bike out..).



While I'm a late starter to riding motorcycles, doing my learners in 2006, 'mid-life crisis,' said my wife, one of the first things I noticed was the strain on the wrist from holding the throttle open. It was annoying and while one became used to it keeping the right hand on the bar lessened the enjoyment of the ride.

Purist's would say, 'Tough! Live with it or give up riding.'

But! On the new machine, Kawasaki Voyager, cruise was standard and BOY! Did it open my eyes. Once engaged the whole ride experience became even better. The ability at not having to hold the throttle open, relaxing the limbs, now viewing the road in a more relaxed frame and at the end of the day after a long stretch on the machine to get off without having to loosen the stiffness from wrist to shoulder.

Having direct experience of the positives of having cruise control I would urge all of my fellow riders to look very closely at MCCRUISE Control systems. All the reviews I have read talk about:

- The well documented instructions supplied for DIY installation.
- The quality of the manufactured product.
- The experience of riding with cruise control.
- The improved safety aspect of more relaxed vigilant riding experience.
- Improved fuel economy.
- The service and back-up of the MCCRUISE TEAM.

But, don't take my word for it, read some of the buyer's comments a few I have downloaded from their website.

When I change machines, if the next one doesn't have cruise I'll be contacting MCCRUISE.

Why don't you do the same.

MOTOR CYCLE CRUISE CONTROL



Want Cruise on your GSX-R 1000R?



I went for a 560km test ride the next day (yesterday) and everything works very well, it's hard to imagine how you could possibly improve something that works this well, I can't think of a single thing I would change to improve anything, it just works, it's perfect,

Thanks again and well done on creating an excellent product mate.

Best regards,

Phil - Ulverstone, Tasmania 22 February, 2018

Hi Tony,

Just had to tell you: Loving the cruise on my ST1300. Ha ha what a joy!

Getting the hang of using my right hand after many years of holding the throttle open. The MCCRUISE holds steady and smooth as silk when I engage it.

Mighty!

Cheers, Ian - 26 February, 2018 Tuckombil, NSW, Australia

Hi

This cruise is just fantastic! It doesn't vary any more than 2km/hr up and down hills. You should have called this "Mountain Runner Cruise". Honestly, it is really that good. A lot of guys are mucking around with cheap cruises like Rostra, then complain bitterly about them later. I am so glad I spent the money and bought yours. Thanks again!

Cheers

Peter GTR1400 Queensland

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AUSTRALIA

Ph +613 9808 2804 Fax +613 9808 2445

Email: sales@mccruise.com

Web Site: www.mccruise.com

RIDE REPORT : LILYDALE TO WALHALLA
RIDE LEADER : MIKE FITTAL
REPORTER : JOHN COOK
TAIL END CHARLIE : STEVE BAILES



Mike's Walhalla Ride 4 February 2018

It was great to arrive at Lilydale and find over 20 people in attendance ready for Mike's ride to Walhalla. I noticed John and Graham (the website's two most recent registrants) deep in conversation and that says a lot for the camaraderie in the Ulysses Club. I actually had to point Graham out to Mike as Graham had actually bothered to ring Mike and let him know that he was coming along. After a brief chat I headed out a bit early and stopped at Powelltown and took photos of the group as they came through. I then joined in behind Steve who had volunteered to do Tail End duties and started enjoying that wonderful ride through towards Noojee. A number of cars flashed lights at me and I started expecting to see a "camera car" or police. I was pleasantly surprised to find there were police doing safety duty while other workers were actually getting rid of a tree which had recently fallen over the road. We continued on and I took a short diversion to have a look at the Noojee trestle bridge. Whilst up that side track I came across a guy on a new BMW R1200GS who was not having a good day! Put simply, his back brake was locked solid and unfortunately I was unable to help him.

We all stopped at Noojee and enjoyed a leisurely break and chat. There were numerous other groups out on bikes enjoying the roads and weather and one guy with an old bike did not appreciate his bike being touched while people were looking at it!

Then it was off again with a lovely ride towards Mt Baw Baw before turning off and enjoying the lovely winding road through to Hill End and Willow Grove. We then rode on past some nice views of Blue Rock Dam before turning north through Erica and enjoyed more winding roads before arriving in Walhalla for our lunch break. Walhalla was quite busy and there was a lone piper on a rock above the town. Quite something to see and experience. While enjoying lunch and a chat at a shaded picnic table in the middle of town I noticed a Suzuki V Strom ride past and I commented - "Gee, that looks like Bill." So much for my powers of observation. It was Bill, who had decided to come out and join us after all. Eventually talk turned to the ride home and we all headed off in small groups. I kept company with newer member Graham and after a few kilometres we caught up with Nick who was nursing the fuel in his Yamaha after failing to fill up before the start. We hung back to ensure he was OK and finally abandoned him about 3 km north of Moe (where he could get fuel) and we turned off and headed east through Westbury. We then enjoyed the Old Sale Road through to Crossover where we took a rest and water break and also checked out another old trestle bridge which I had first been made aware of some years ago by former member Raymond Herd. Graham and I then enjoyed a great run via Neerim South back to Powelltown with virtually no traffic and in perfect riding conditions.

Mike, many thanks for a well planned and led ride. I enjoyed it and I know many others did too.

John Cook.

RIDE REPORT : ARDEER TO TRENTHAM
RIDE LEADER : STEVE BAILES
REPORTER : STEVE BAILES
TAIL END CHARLIE : NOT REQUIRED



Ardeer/Balan/Trentham

A small but stalwart group of eight gathered at Ardeer for our Sunday Ride. As zero hour approached so did a rather nasty little squall bringing with it some windblown rain, far from being discouraged we happily donned our Wet Weather Gear (WWG) and set off. Not long after the start we were out of the Squall and had a mostly dry run through some beautiful countryside which offered some magnificent views. The challenge was trying to keep the bike from being blown away as the wind was extremely strong with even stronger gusts far from being detrimental the wind added a touch of excitement to the ride.

The inhabitants of Ballan had obviously heard we were due to visit as the whole town had thrown a Street Party in our honour, the town was indeed bustling and bristling with folks in fancy dress and others in fancy cars many of the latter from before I was born! Once out of our WWG we fought our way through the crowds in our fancy dress to find a cornucopia of morning refreshments.

As luck would have it as we were about to leave another bout of rain came through this time with a much colder wind, hurriedly donning our WWG we made ready to start the second leg to Trentham. Leaving Ballan was a bit of a challenge as nearly all of the roads were blocked due to the Parade however we persevered and eventually made it with only one U Turn and were soon on our windy way to Trentham this onward leg was much of the same with us challenging the wind to stay upright.

In Trentham we took refuge in the Red Beard Bakery which is down a little alley way at 38A High St. Sitting in their rear courtyard we found both the coffee and the Vanilla Slice to be perfect.

The restrooms in Trentham were also inspected by the whole team and were judged to be well up to standard.

All in all a windy but enjoyable day riding with mates.

I would like to thank Pat for encouraging me to take on this ride as it forced me to learn how to programme the GPS on my bike (I've only had it four years!!!!)

RIDE REPORT :LILYDALE TO YEA
RIDE LEADER :BRIAN QUINTAL
REPORTER :BRIAN QUINTAL
TAIL END CHARLIE : STEVE BAILES



It was the plea from Pat Ryan a change of ride leader was there a replacement for Steve Bailes ride; Lilydale to Yea, that saw the Kwaka and its rider heading out to Lilydale on an unusually cool Sunday on January 21. Steve Bailes the preferred leader had a family emergency and wouldn't be able to do the ride. Before committing a review of the ride identified someone's fetish for inspecting public toilets, particularly Trentham.

This was not the Kwaka's idea of a Sunday ride and a plan was afoot to make changes. Again Lilydale is not a rave destination either, for the machine. But you can't change everything so there we were, waiting for the others a quiet voice saying, ' *Maybe no-one will turn up and a return to warm home might be on the cards.*'

Not to be, as bikes with all the usual riders began congregating at the start point. One machine, in particular, caught the eye a **BLUE GOLDWING?!?! And its familiar driver, Steve Bailes.** With a grand sweep into the assembly point step off with a big grin of satisfaction, ' *Emergency over thought I would come on the ride.*' How does one explain the change, with difficulty, but no problem Steve volunteered to be tail rider.

The ride route chosen was to dogleg back to Victoria Road turning onto Macintyre Road, past Lilydale airport re-joining Melba Highway into Yarra Glen. From here we swung left onto Symonds Street and headed towards the hills. A nasty dogleg right onto Mount Wise Road and the climb in earnest up to a right onto Buttermans Track to eventually join the Heidelberg Kinglake Road with alternating views of re growth from the devastating fires of Black Saturday, a few years earlier, and reaching into Kinglake with a short run to the Flying Tarts Bakery, a popular stopping place for all riders and our coffee stop.

Refreshed, it was now the run to Yea via Flowerdale, Strath Creek rounding Mt Sugarloaf and joining the Goulburn Valley Hwy into Yea. It was on this run that Sam on his pseudo police machine caused my hair to curl as visions of a stern talk and ticket flashed before me, then realising I'd been suckered again. The weather by now was warm and sunny and the heat was making itself felt.

Yea, is always busy as we all sought lunch from the two bakeries and riders reminisced on the ride and other trips in and around this town. Gradually, the group split and separated some heading back via the Melba, others like me taking the ride over to Molesworth then Whannregarwin Road back onto the Maroondah Hwy and home via the Black Spur. For myself it was into Marysville then over Reefton Spur to Warburton then homeward via Gembrook arriving home to a welcome beer and wind-down.

So ended the relief ride that wasn't, Steve gets his chance to lead another public toilet viewing ride on a future Sunday whilst the Kwaka tinkles and cools in the garage, that ever so often reminds me that I need to replace the leaking box gutters another project.

RIDE REPORT : KALKALLO TO EYNSBURY
RIDE LEADER : ROGER FITTAL
REPORTER : JOHN COOK
TAIL END CHARLIE : N/A



Eynesbury Ride 15 April 2018

The weather forecast had been very unkind so it was a very small group of us who joined Roger for a great ride on some roads less travelled or in my case "*some roads never travelled*". I got the predicted rain as I left the Dandenongs and headed northwest. By the time I approached Kalkallo I was enjoying both dry weather and roads. On arrival Roger greeted both Greg and me and then we were off with a minimum of fuss. We rode east and then looped north through Wallan and headed towards Romsey. Roger then turned south and led us through Darraweit Guim, Bolinda and other places that left this lad from the eastern suburbs *severely geographically challenged*. The roads (many of which were new to me) were interesting and scenic and I started to chortle to myself as we approached Riddells Creek (on dry roads) about the people who hadn't turned up because of a pessimistic weather forecast.

Silly me! Roger then took us along another great mixture of roads all around and over Mt Macedon. That was great apart from the fact that if it is wet anywhere in Victoria, it will be wet around the Otways, Kinglake and Mt Macedon and so it was. Water inside my visor wasn't improving things for me either! We continued through places such as Heskett, Newham and Rochford before arriving at Lancefield for morning tea. There was a very busy swap meet going on in Lancefield but we avoided the crowd and happily succeeded in finding an indoor (warm and dry) table at the bakery where we were given very friendly and good service. By that time I had also confirmed that I definitely do need new wet weather pants before I go out in the damp again.

After a very leisurely break and chat we headed off again headed west towards Woodend before heading south and then Roger took us along more roads foreign to me (I did see mention of the Toolern Vale Hills) before we came into Bacchus Marsh from the north via Long Forest - I think!

Then we rode south through Bacchus Marsh and continued on to Eynesbury where we stopped for lunch and another pleasant chat. We eventually decided to head home and we joined the Western Freeway at Rockbank and bid farewell to Roger as he turned off at the ring road. Greg and I continued over Westgate and bid each other farewell. I had a surprisingly good run via Power Street, Olympic Boulevard, up Punt Road (despite football crowds) and then out the Eastern Freeway before being subjected to a preliminary breath test in Croydon (I was OK) just before arriving home.

I had a great day riding including being introduced to some roads and scenery I had never previously seen. Roger - Thank you. As Greg said during one conversation,

"There is no such thing as bad motorcycling weather, just bad motorcycling clothing.", or words to that effect. He was right, now all I have to do is get new wet weather trousers for winter.

John Cook



5 HEATHERDALE ROAD
RINGWOOD [03] 9870 3807



Well, it's on again the annual Ulysses Club AGM Event 2018. This year it's being held in South Australia in the Riverland region at Barmera, close to Renmark and about 150 KLM from Mildura. It is a significant event this year being the final time it will be known as, Ulysses Club AGM Event. Melbourne, specifically Mornington will hold the inaugural, Ulysses National Rally 2019 at the Mornington Racecourse planning which is well under way in February 2019.

A number of us will travel over for the event to meet up with fellow riders and old friends and mates. For some it will be the first time attending the AGM Event and hopefully they will be enthused to attend future rally's. These annual get together's are an important part of Ulysses advertising itself to Australia of older Australians who having raised and seen their young families step into the world of adulthood hanker to once again get aboard a machine to rediscover a lost passion and to, hopefully, encourage their partner to join them.

The week of events, riding, social evenings, the plethora of traders in biking equipment, clothing and local goods, inspecting, test riding and probably trading up to a newer, better bike will keep campers busy over this time. The chance to consider the past year's activities of branch and club and to have a hand in electing the new committee allows **you** the member to know you are part of a larger organisation.

Being part of this club permits you to strike up acquaintances with fellow Ulyssians visiting our shores and knowing that by keeping in touch, a friend and even a bed may be found when you land in USA, Great Britain, South Africa or New Zealand.

This year the club is trialling a 3 day pass (Thursday through Saturday) as it is realised that many of our younger members have career responsibilities that prevent attendance over a full week and even longer if one has to travel far. I feel this option will become popular as one may be able to get a 10 day leave pass allowing one to travel to, enjoy the event and be home early the following week.

If you have been a member for some time and never attended an AGM, or next year, 'National Rally,' plan for 2019 it's in your backyard, it's close to home and you may be hooked! Even now it is not too late to register for Barmera.



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.**

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.

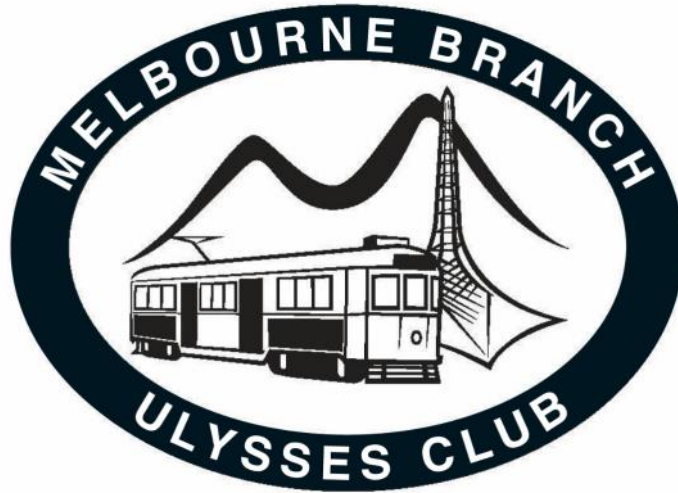
Meet for a Saturday Morning Coffee at

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 : APRIL - JUNE 2018

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—Doug Shearer - 0418 984 791.

DATE	RIDE DESCRIPTION	CONTACTS
SUN 22/04/18 10:00 - 13:30	<u>DANDENONG TO WONTHAGGI</u> A lovely ride down into Gippsland through the hills and farms to Wonthaggi for lunch.	Ride Leader: Alf Dennemoser 0409 205 396
SUN 29/04/18 10:00 - 15:00	<u>Dandenong to Drouin</u> Dandenong to Drouin, via the Beaconsfield hills and some good little backroads south of Drouin.	Ride Leader: Brian Lacey 0439 010 873
SUN 06/05/18 10:00 - 14:00	<u>LILYDALE TO EUROA</u> A run over "The Spur" before morning tea and then over the Merton Gap and past Polly McQuinns before lunch in Euroa. <i>Return trip via Creightons Creek & Highlands to Yea</i> before we head off in various directions to home. From Yea I will return to Lilydale and probably via Break O Day.	Ride Leader John Cook 0419 599 530 or (03) 97285769
SUN 13/05/18 10:00 - 14:00	<u>LILYDALE TO ELTHAM</u> Greg will lead the ride through some quite curly roads around the hills north east of Melbourne. Check out this very scenic route at the link: https://www.motowhere.com/maps/route/Greg-G-Ulysses-14	Ride Leader: Greg Gleason 0424 956 078
SUN 20/05/18 10:00 - 14:00		

DEPARTURE POINTS

LILYDALE: Olinda Hotel, Maroondah Highway. Left hand side out-bound from Melbourne—100 metres from rail crossing. Melway 38 E4	DANDENONG: United Service Station on Princes Highway (next door to the old Safeway/Maccas Location, near the corner of Doveton Avenue Melway 91 B12	ARDEER: Seven 11 with a McDonalds, Western Ring Road. Left hand side out-bound from Melbourne. Melway 40 B5	KALKALLO: Caltex Service Station, Hume Freeway. Approx 1 km north of Donnybrook Road intersection. Melway Page 8
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