



# NEWSLETTER

2nd Edition, May/June 2005

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## Stir-the-pot and change the world?

Finally, the 2nd edition, and, contrary to what I stated in the first, this one is a larger, feature packed, 4-pager. The reason? Lots of support from our Branch President and individual members, especially John Van Der Heul for keeping my cranky old computer and software going. Speaking of which.....if your \$20K motorcycle behaved liked some of the modern computer soft or hardware, I am sure there would be rioting in the streets and motorcycle dealers hanging from lampposts. The reliability of this technology is bloody awful.....or is it just me?

My thanks for the encouraging emails and positive feedback from members regarding the 1st edition, very heartening indeed. Ulyssians are disgustingly, the nicest people! My very special thanks to those terrific members who went to the trouble and contributed to the newsletter.

A lot has happened since the last edition: In world events; Australia sadly lost nine of its finest military personnel due to a helicopter crash. We lost an old Pope and gained a brand new, old Pope. Finally and least importantly..... Prince Charles got to marry his first love....or was it his childhood nanny? (my half hearted apologies to Pope fans and Monarchists).

On the local Branch scene: There was the Dungog BMW run (still waiting on that trip report guys!), the National AGM where Rebels went of their "Rockers" over something. There was the Talbingo camping trip in March, the Cascades/Big Hole camping in the dirt run in May and Rob's usual north, south and east ride calendar runs.

Finally people; again I plead..... get those contributions in! While jokes and funny pics are fine, instead, how about your thoughts in words, letters to the editor maybe, in which your opinion is voiced on any motorcycle issue, in fact... any issue you choose. Its your soapbox, get on it and stir-the-pot (in a Ulyssian sort or way or course!)..... and possibly change the world. Ed.



Above: Sandi (Madame Virago) den Hertog, Rob (thinking of a BMW) Overdijk and Arthur (Kawasaki Kid) Flower taking a break at Dalgety on the way home from the Jounama (Talbingo) Easter weekend camping run.. Next year, due to the great time had by all, our Ride Coordinator will be extending this annual Branch camping run to 3 days over Easter 2006.....so put it in your "must-do-run" diary now!

THE BIGGEST WASTE IN MOTORCYCLE RIDING MAY BE THE BRAKING DISTANCE BEHIND YOU!

## The President's Report

HI One and All,

I just want to start with a small reminder that even though the weather might start to cool down lets not let cobwebs grow, autumn and winter has some of the best riding days.

I am trying to organise a Basic First Aid Course run by St Johns Ambulance after hearing about this one-day course (which only costs \$62.50) from Sandi Den Hertog whom had attended this course in Canberra organised by The Girls On The Move and found it to be very beneficial. So what I need is for anyone interested in doing this one day course to let me know and if we get enough interest will organise a date and place down here (possibly Moruya). Also some time in the not to distant future I would like to get the H.A.R.T riding instructor team (or another team) if some one knows of one that is suitable to do a course like we did before for those who missed out and would like to, Please let me know and when we get enough interest we will organise it.

Wednesday rides need a contact for people to be able to ring, If some one who likes to go on Wednesday rides on a regular basis wants to volunteer to be a contact so you can better organise a group instead of not knowing if you are going by your self or not, can they please get in touch with Rob Overdyk so your phone contact No can be included on the ride calendar.

It has been brought to my attention that there people who forget that to a lot of people their bikes are their pride and joy and prefer to be asked before people jump on or lounge all over them (sorry wont make that accidental scratch go away!) So a bit of respect for other peoples property should always be remembered.

Please note that if you call me and you get my message bank please leave a name and No so that I can ring you back at a later time, unfortunately I cannot leave my mobile on at work for obvious reasons.

I would like to once again Thank Everyone that makes the effort to come to the Quarterly meeting also the new committee members who are like John Van Der Heul was last year, making my life a lot easier.

We need some people to put their hands up for the selling of tickets for this years charity ride and we will also be running a raffle before then for a \$100.00 dinner for two at the Wave Bar & Grill who have generously donate the prize as well as donating a prize of the same value for the charity ride raffle so please support this business when you are in Bermagui.

I have saved the Best till Last I am in the process of organising a Club Person Of The Year Award sooo if you know some one who has been an Outstanding Club Person, I am taking nominations and the winner will be voted on at the Xmas party, because this the first time, I will be taking nominations for people who have been Outstanding in the last couple years.

Always remember your smile might just make someone's day so just keep thinking about the next ride and you should always be smiling, till next time ride safe and enjoy, Cheers.

Hans

## Got any skeletons in your closet?

As an on-going feature of this newsletter, each edition will contain a no-holds-barred, in-depth profile of one or two members in which much dirt and many closet skeletons may be unearthed. Unfortunately, many of the things revealed may be unknown to the profilee but, in the true Ulysses spirit of not letting the facts get in the way of a good story, who really cares? So, don't be surprised, nor try and hide if I appear in your face on the next run with my camera and note book, because..... I know where you live. Ed.

### Member profile: **Fergus Hood**

**Birth year:** 1952. (same year as the big S.E. bushfires).

**Occupations:** Stared working life as a Patents Clerk, Canberra



Fergus (Mr. BMW) Hood relaxing at the Air Raid Pub, Moruya.

Patents Office. 1974, travelled to Europe and toured 26 countries in four months on a BMW R90S. Definitely the best run I have done and would recommend it to all. Studied Industrial Design at Canberra Uni. Moved to the Deua Valley (30kms west of Moruya) with my wife Trish in 1978 and took up farming on my property "The Lagoon". In 1997, I set up "Country Wide Motorcycle Tours" with a business partner that catered for overseas customers wanting to tour our outback on 1100GSs.

**Biggest fopar:** Altercation with a Roo just south of Batemans Bay on a GS 1100, resulting in fairly serious injuries and a 1.5 month stay in hospital.

**Best bikes ever invented:** BMW R90S followed by the GS 1100. Now looking to getting a 1150GS Adventure.

**Worst bike ever invented:** A "Ural 2". A bloody horrible machine where the Russians stupidly tried to copy BMW.

**Likes:** Finding Swedish blonds wandering around camping areas. Something Ferg promises on most a camping runs. Ferg! We are still waiting. Ed.

**Dislikes:** Bikes that are polished more than they are ridden.

**Ambitions:** Continued retirement, a good income and having "the" elusive Swedish blond drop by for a visit.

*Having now ridden and camped with Ferg over many thousands of kms since his very serious accident, I and others who know this BMW aficionado have been amazed at his ability to "get-back-on-the-horse" of life and of course his remaining motorcycles, like nothing has happened. Ferg! You have done exceptionally well and are a fine example for us all. Keep it up! Ed.*

### Member profile: **Sandi den Hertog**



Left: Sandi (Madame Virago) den Hertog at Talbingo on the Jounama camping run in March

**Year born:** 1953 (Canberra).

**Occupation:** Girl Friday.

**Started riding:** 1970 on a Honda postie bike.

**Worst bike experience:** Falling off on gravel. I still have enough gravel to pave a road in my knee to prove it.

**Kids:** 3 (2 girls and one boy).

**Best bike owned:** Yamaha 250 Virago, my present bike.

**Dislikes:** Arrogant, bossy people, food shopping, falling off my bike in public, done it four times now. . Newsletter editors who ask too many personal questions then threaten; "I will only make it up if you don't answer" (must have been another ed. Ed)

**Likes:** Living on the coast, violets, Cadbury's chocolate, my Virago, clothes, good company and red wine.

**Ambitions:** Good health, being happy and continue riding.

*I had the privilege of getting to know Sandi on the Easter weekend run with Rob and Arthur to Talbingo. As many readers know, Sandy tragically lost her husband (Hank) not long ago who was a very keen rider. Despite this great loss, like Ferg, Sandy has also learned "to get back on the horse", to live and enjoy life to the full. Sandy, you are not only honoring Hank by continuing to ride, but you also, are a fine example to us all. Ed.*

### **STOP PRESS: Ferrari Sacks Pit Crew**

The Ferrari Formula 1 Team fired their entire pit crew yesterday. The announcement followed Ferrari's decision to take advantage of the Australian Government's Youth Opportunity scheme and employ people from Macquarie Fields.

The decision to hire them was brought on by a recent documentary on how unemployed youths from the Macquarie Fields area were able to remove a set of wheels in less than 6 seconds without proper equipment, whereas Ferrari's existing crew can only do it in 8 seconds with millions of euros worth of high-tech equipment.

John Howard went on record as saying this was a bold move by the Ferrari management, which demonstrated the international recognition of Australia's employment practices under his Liberal government. As most races are won and lost in the pits, Ferrari now have an advantage over every team.

However, Ferrari may have got more than they bargained for..... At the crew's first practice session, the Macquarie Fields pit crew successfully changed the tyres in under 6 seconds, and then within 12 seconds they had re-sprayed, re-badged, and sold the vehicle to the McLaren team for a slab of VB, a kilogram of speed and some photos of Montoya's girlfriend in the shower.

Source: Unknown. Ed.

### **STALLED MOTORCYCLE**

(September 2001, Virginia USA) "I work in a motorcycle shop. We see many who have no business being behind two wheels. But the owner of a bike brought in for service really takes the cake.

The entire front end had been ripped off, which is an odd damage pattern. The owner offered the following tale:

He had allowed the motorcycle to sit idle for several months. When he attempted to start it again, the wait had drained the battery. Undeterred he attempted to bump start the bike. A manual transmission vehicle rolling with sufficient speed, popped into second gear, will often start right, and this is called a bump-start.

The owner lived at the top of a long hill. After a number of repeated and unsuccessful attempts to bump-start the bike, he was left with another problem: a stalled bike sitting at the bottom of a long incline.

The man called his girlfriend to bring her truck to tow the bike back up the hill. A length of rope was procured. One end of the rope was affixed to the truck's bumper, the other was affixed to the waist of the bike owner "riding" the stalled motorcycle up the hill.

They set off, she in her truck and he on his bike. All was well until he chose to make one final attempt to bump-start the motorcycle. As soon as the clutch engaged, the engine turned into a brake. The bike stopped cold. The owner did not.

His girlfriend was blissfully unaware of what had happened behind her and proceeded to drive to his house, dragging him slowly behind her.

Despite his injuries, he is expected to recover.

Source: [DarwinAwards, 2002 Urban Legends.](#) (Jack Adams).

# Fires, dust, floods and rough red plonk

A Wee Jasper Run Report

## Day One

On a stinking hot, last Friday in January, Fergus and I took off from his bush retreat in the Deua River valley for yet another one of our 3 day camping runs in the mountains. On Beemers (R1150 GS and F650 Dakar) loaded with camping gear, red wine and less important items like food, we headed west into the heat on the dirt towards Araluen. After coffee in Braidwood, Queanbeyan appeared next on the route followed by Canberra and Cotter.

Even after 2 years, it is still amazing to see the aftermath of the Canberra bushfires. For those that knew the old Mt. Stromlo with the tall pines, well, now its just another barren hill. The old kiosk and huge Cypress pines are also gone due to the fires at Cotter, now replaced with a couple of acres of sterile bitumen carpark.

The day was now getting hot, especially on the bikes, and we both agreed that our German friends do not think too much about Australian conditions when they design their machines.

After lunch at Cotter it was on to the Brindabella/Yass road, a left turn before Yass put us on the 55km run into Wee Jasper and the Goodradigbee River. The road to "Wee" starts as bitumen, and becomes corrugated dirt about 20kms out.

For us coastal dwellers, it was very hot and dry, the dust hanging on the road like fog for hours.

Afternoon smoko was had eating fly sprinkled bacon and egg rolls on the veranda of the Wee Jasper general store discussing wild dog problems and other worldly matters with the a couple of the local, beer-sipping rocket scientists.

After inspecting Wee's camping (dust bowls) spots we headed out towards Tumut on tight, narrow, winding, dusty and corrugated dirt for the first 20kms. No room in many places for cars to pass. The remaining 40km run to Tumut is loose, white gravel that winds through very scenic country with the road turning to bitumen about 15kms out of town. After quick stop at Tumut, it was down the "furry" highway (given the name by locals due to the high number of road kills) with Blowering Dam on the right, to Jounama Creek, one of our favourite camping spots in the mountains. After 2 hours floating in the creek in our birthday suits, sipping rough red and trying to tickle trout, we managed soak away the dust and heat of the day..... it was bloody marvellous!

## Day Two

Started with a beaut run up Talbingo Mountain into the cooler temperatures, a very quick run across Kiandra Plain, (didn't know a F650 could do warp factor 8) a quick look at 3 mile Dam and a slow run through the Elliot Way to Sue City, (this is a "must do" bit of road) with a stop at the underground Tumut 2 power station. The day was getting hotter than the first and got hotter as we descended towards Khancoban through Tooma. After a quick bite at the "Khan" we headed for another soak and a bit more trout tickling in the Swampy Plains River, Geehi, on the Alpine Way. With still a few hours of day remaining, we decided to push on for a late camp at the Cascades Camping area, via Cooma, Numeralla and Badja road. Located on the northwestern edge of Wadbilliga N.P. it is a beaut camping spot with spectacular falls on the Tuross River for those that don't mind a bit of dirt riding. However, as we got near Jindabyne, an ugly, purple looking storm loomed. Using my experienced weather eye, I knew it was going to be a fizzer and pass to the east. However at Ferg's insistence we set up an early camp at the Sawpit Creek Mountain Retreat on the Kosciuszko road. About 30 minutes after setting up camp, during lightening flashes, we observed my tent floating out of the camping area. After a dramatic tent rescue

operation, we settled in for a long wet night, which was made bearable by stories of fantastically endowed women, great motorcycle deeds and the art of weather forecasting. All made more believable by much red wine and bourbon.

## Day Three

A bleary eyed start into a very bleary day, influenced the decision for a straight home run via the Dalgety and Springvale roads (the latter consisting of 6kms of dirt) to the Nimmitabel bakery for a caffeine hit and sticky bun. Finally, it was home via a wet Brown Mountain. The storm I had accurately forecast the previous night had dumped inches of rain in Dalgety/ Nimmitabel area which "gully raked" most of the local creeks and put a lots of gravel across roads making the ride home and our 1,000km, 3 day run far more interesting.

For Ferg and I, this was another one of our short "spur-of -the-moment" trips arranged to fit in between both of our work and home commitments. Fortunately, for us and you other bike enthusiasts, living as close as we do to the mountains, allows us to do these runs that takes in, without question, the best riding country in Australia.

So! why are you still reading this crap? Grab ya gear, get on ya bike and go!

Ross & Ferg.

## The popularity of motorcycling among females

In 2003, females comprised 9.6 per cent of all licensed motorcycle riders in NSW. The number of licensed female motorcycle riders in NSW increased from 35,804 in 1999 to 38,569 in 2003, an increase of 7.7 per cent. The total number of licensed motorcycle riders increased by 4.3 per cent over the same period.

Source:

Christie, R. and Harrison, W. (2001). *Investigation of motorcycle crash patterns for riders aged 17-25 in NSW and development of countermeasure strategies*. Motor Accidents Authority of New South Wales.

Unfortunately, this research also revealed that female motorcycle related fatalities now account for nearly 8% of the total NSW fatalities: Reasons?

-Females taking up motorcycle riding were younger.

-Females had less experience (average. 7.4yrs compared to a males 20yrs).

-A greater percentage of females rode in built-up areas.

-A greater percentage of females rode on weekends (this reason was not qualified in the research paper).

-The average annual distance traveled by females is 30% less than males (this also was not qualified).

Guys! Before we get too smug about these stats, keep in mind our old-farts are already over represented in the total fatality and injury stats.

**Question for members:**

Is it time our Branch did its bit for motorcycle safety, if so, HOW? Ed.

## HAVE WE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?

**Like, who is organizing this years charity ride?** Hans would really appreciate your help on what is our biggest and most important event.

**What about the ride calendar?** Rob will be waiting by his computer and phone around the clock for your ideas and input.

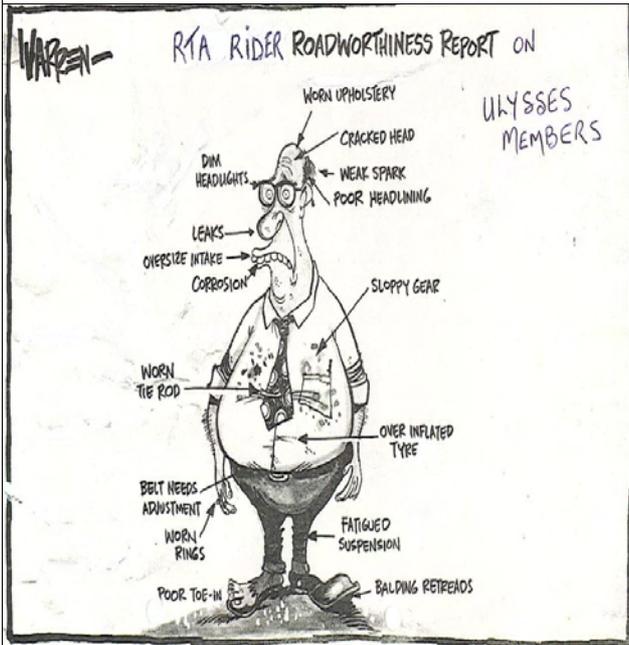
**It wouldn't be your Branch fees would it?** If you haven't paid them, don't worry, Barbara's boys know where you live. Just wear your helmet when you next answer the door.

**Your contact details and Ulysses member #?** If you want to be contacted about all the good stuff going on in the Branch, make sure our Secretary has all your latest contact details (phone, email, fax, postal address and member number).

**How about the Branch Website?** Check out and contribute to the Branch's own site put together by our resident web master, John Van Der Heul. [vanderheul.com.au/EuroUlysses.htm](http://vanderheul.com.au/EuroUlysses.htm)

## Branch Notice Board

### Member's Parking



#### GUESS WHICH MEMBER?

As this was not sent with captions, please decide yourself which member/s this best applies to. Submitted by Tony & Dianne Pye.



#### HONDA'S LATEST NEW TURBO-CHARGED BIKE

Thanks to Barbara & David Reynolds for this tasteful contribution which exemplifies the Ulysses motto perfectly. Or, is this really one of their long lost relatives?



#### HEAVY HONDA METAL

Proud owners of identical twin Goldwings at the Narooma Visitor centre: Mitch & Ronda McAdams left. Lyell & Helen Jenkins, right. Dam fine machinery folks!

The **Hotel Pinset** located in beautiful downtown Wangaratta Vic. is offering "bike friendly" accommodation which also featured in the latest edition of Australian Roadrider, so it must be good.

A publication called "**RoadSafe North East**" has also produced a safe riding brochure that covers the Wangaratta area. Our very efficient Secretary, Barbara can provide further details on both of the above for those interested.

Folks! don't forget to patronize the following terrific businesses who have kindly offered very good deals to Ulysses members:

- ⇒ **Capital Coast Cycles (Honda)**, Batemans Bay who have offered members a 10% discount on just about every thing in the Shop.
- ⇒ **Motorsport Motorcycles**, Batemans Bay who are under very friendly, new management and offer 10% off to members on servicing, accessories and most tyre brands.
- ⇒ **Narooma Camping and Office Supplies** (our ex-treasurer and web master John) offers the same 10% discount and very friendly service to members on all camping gear.
- ⇒ **The McPhersons Plains Alpine Retreat in Tumbarumba is holding a "Christmas in July" function.** Accommodation, Christmas dinner PLUS a cooked breakfast for \$84 per person/twin share. Groups of 25 minimum. If you are interested, Barbara (Madame Secretary) needs to know numbers fairly quickly, so get in quick for this great deal.

**Mitch McAdam** forwarded the following ride suggestions to Rob our ride coordinator which would probably be week long outings for those interested.

- ⇒ Glasshouse Mtns. Branch Valley Rally Friday 3rd Saturday 4th Sunday 5th June 2005.
- ⇒ A "Back to Basics Rally" to be held on the Queens Birthday Weekend June 11,12,&13th at the Riding for Disabled grounds approx 6km from Gympie.
- ⇒ Coffs Capers Odyssey 2005 this will be held the weekend 5th-6th November.

For further information on all of the above beaut rides go to : <http://www.ulyssesclub.org/forums/>

### By Presidential decree and popular demand!

#### WE ARE GOING "BI".....

..... OK! don't panic, it's nothing to do with Hans's, Barb's, Rob's or my sexual preferences.

It means (you dirty minded people) the newsletter is going bi-monthly. Next edition will be out sometime in August and will, among other things, include, :

- ◇ Our trip coordinators gripping account and dramatic photos of the BMW Touring Club rally to Dungog.
  - ◇ Our guys and gals doing it in the dirt on the Cascades to Big Hole camping run.
  - ◇ Motorcycle concepts and techno talk.
  - ◇ Your contributions, and.....
- .....lots of other riveting stuff. Safe riding to all. Ed.