

the odyssey



newsletter of the ulysses club inc., adelaide branch February, 2014



Above: Carol Moore, Toy Run 2013

Below: Breakfast



The Adelaide Branch's Engine Room

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president@ulyssesadelaide.com.au

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2 Hughes Court, secretary@ulyssesadelaide.com.au
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Chris Roberts 0478 589 854

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8277 3339
Monthly Dinner Co-ordinator: Chris Roberts 0478 589 854

Quartermaster: **Volunteer needed**
Librarian: Bob Matthews 08 8555 1845



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In this issue -

Engine Room	1
Editorial	3
President's Report.....	3
Adelaide Calendar.....	5
Adelaide Branch Information	6
Boss Cockies.....	6
Monthly Dinners.....	7
Hotties from the Past.....	7
Social/Ride Activities	9-13
MRA Rallies.....	10
Rego Forms for 21st Central Odyssey	14-15
21st Central Odyssey Information.....	17
Sunday Round-up.....	18-19
Thao & Michele's Venture to the Mekong Delta.....	20-22
To Run Breakfast.....	23
Christmas Dinner.....	24
SA Branchs' & Groups' Info.....	25-27
For Sale.....	28
Directory.....	28

All newsletters and magazines survive on the submissions of subscribers; The Odyssey is no different.

Do you have anything interesting to tell our subscribers - holidays, poetry, jokes, motorcycle stories, reports on Ulysses activities, hobbies, photos? Send it in and get yourself in print! The Odyssey, as always, is receptive to 'stuff' from all branches. We want to know what you've been up to.

How about some wedding photos?

**Wendy King
Editor**

The Odyssey is published bi-monthly as the magazine of the Ulysses Club Incorporated Adelaide Branch and is available by subscription - **\$12.00 for 1 calendar year, paid to The Odyssey Magazine Wendy King 26 Second Street ARDROSSAN 5571 or at the monthly meeting.** Contributions from members are welcome. The Editor reserves the right of final choice of material to be included in each issue and its format. All material should be sent to **The Editor, 26 Second Street, Ardrossan 5571 or by e-mail: king@netyp.com.au.**

Original photographs, images on CDs or e-mailed photos only should be submitted. **Please do not send photocopies of photographs.**

Closing dates for submission are:

19th July	for the August issue
19th September	for the October issue
19th November	for the December issue
19th January	for the February issue
19th March	for the April issue
19th May	for the June issue

Although all efforts are made to ensure accuracy, The Odyssey cannot verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in editorial material are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of the Ulysses Club Incorporated. All material and advertisements are submitted subject to the discretion of the members. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any advertising or delete any material which could be considered or interpreted as questionable, libellous or offensive, without consultation.

Hi Everyone

I hope that 2014 is good to you!

I have the two weekends away (Morgan in March and Berri in May) under control.



Morgan is 2 nights, and all meals will be at the hotel, except lunches. There will be an organised ride on the Sunday. Rick & Ronda Nappa have been good enough to lead you all there, leaving from Caltex Munno Para.

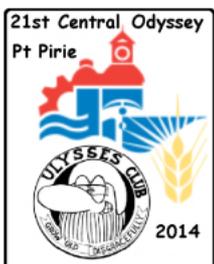
Not the AGM at Berri looks to be lots of fun! I can't emphasise enough how important it is for me to have numbers for meals, the boat trip and the bus to have one of the evening meals at the Golf Club. The proprietor of the Caravan Park highly recommended that we go there. I have been in touch with a bus company which can supply a 21 seater bus for \$300. This works out to \$15 pp. If we need two trips, (42 passengers) it will cost \$400. This means it will cost only \$10 pp. So you can see how important it is to get the numbers early to secure the bus bookings.

Breakfast provisions will be purchased at Berri and prepared at the Caravan Park. The facilities will suit our needs very well. Costs to be shared.

The River Cruise looks great! Two and half hours, afternoon tea and a singalong together with various instruments to play (washboard, etc.). We don't even have to know the words - the boat has drop down screens.

Featured in this issue is an article from Michele Wagnitz and Thao Coates about their trip to Vietnam. It gives a wonderful, descriptive insight into the daily lives of the Vietnamese villagers.

Also in this issue, you will find **Registration Forms** for the Odyssey at Port Pirie in October, together with an information sheet. **If you wish, you can go to the Adelaide web site and fill in the forms on-line.**



Cheers
Wendy

Hello Everyone



Well, here we are again at Branch AGM time, we have received nominations for branch office bearers and several committee positions which is good to see, we may even get a Quartermaster in the future which will be great.

I hope everyone had a great Chrissy and New Year and are planning to attend the weekends away that Wendy has organised for this year; these are always great fun and well organized.

Please submit your registrations for the 21st Odyssey, to be held in Port Pirie, as early as you can, as it makes it easier for the organizing committee and the caterers.

Our rides calendar is a full one again with 2 Friends and Rellies picnic rides this year and will be the same as we tried last year. You can come on the ride with any friends and rellies, or your friends and rellies can meet us at the destination for lunch. The first one is now listed in the Ride Calendar for April 6th with the destination being a great park in Kanmantoo. 'Where?' you ask? Kanmantoo is on the Old Princess Hwy between Nairne and Callington.

It's always good to see Ulyssians out and about participating in organized events and having a great time; there is always something to partake in whether it's weekly rides, monthly dinners, weekends away, Odysseys or AGMs, but remember this great club is manned by volunteers and we can always use a few extra hands.

Andrew Mill
President/Rides Leader
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08 8391 5375

Anyone wishing to view the camper or get more details, contact Robert or Lesley on 08 8391 5375. You would be welcome to come to the house for a demo on how to erect the camper, the kettle is always on. If you see us at a rally, feel free to come up and see the camper while it's in use.



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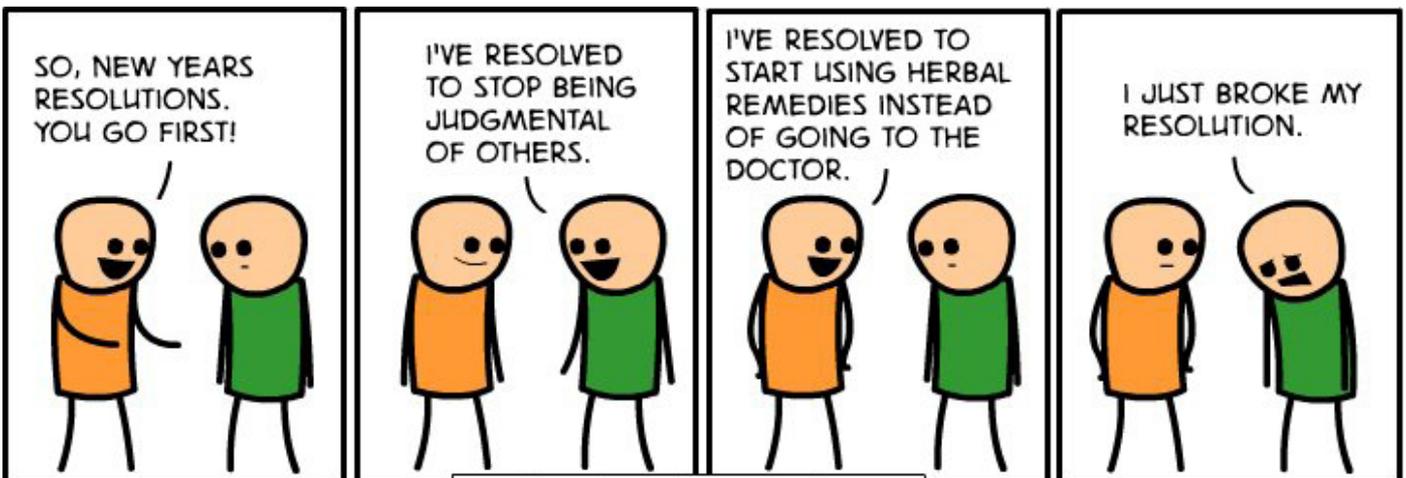
19 Clifton Street, MALVERN 5061 (entrance off Duthy St.)

ADELAIDE BRANCH RIDE CALENDAR 2014

Date	Time	Leader	Event	Destination	From
February					
9	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Strathalbyn	McDonald's Magill
16	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Angaston	Civic Park
23	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Milang	Top of Taps
March					
2	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Wellington	McDonald's Magill
8-10	9.00 am	Rick Nappa 82551179	WEEKENDER	Commercial Hotel Morgan More info further on	Caltex Munno Para
9			NO RIDE	ADELAIDE CUP WEEKEND	
16	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Swan Reach	Civic Park
23	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Meningie	Top of Taps
30	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Day Ride	Yankalilla	McDonald's Magill
April					
6	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Friends & Rellies Picnic Day Ride or meet us there	Kanmantoo	Civic Park
12	Saturday	Guy Malpass 0402 414 276	Guy's Far Ride	Please contact Guy for information	
13	Sunday	Andrew Mill	DayRide and BBQ lunch	Waggies' Place	Top of Taps
20	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	WABBIT RUN	Milang	McDonald's Magill
27			NO RIDE	ANZAC DAY Weekend	
May					
4	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	5 Captains' Ride		McDonald's Magill
9-11		Wendy King	Not the AGM Weekend More info further on	Berri Caravan Park	Make your own way there
11	9.30 am	Andrew Mill	Mothers' Day Ride		Top of Taps

For further information, contact: Andrew Mill on 0412 312 243

Macca's, 303-306 Magill Road, Trinity Gardens
Civic Park, North East Road, Modbury
Top of Taps, Main South Road, O'Halloran Hill



Cyanide and Happiness © Explosm.net

Adelaide Branch Meetings

First Thursday of the month

European Catering
2 Chief Street
Hindmarsh

8.00 pm

Meals & bar available from 6.00 pm

Visit us on our Web Page

www.ulyssesadelaide.com.au

and check out the latest news on branch happenings



Rides Captain

Andrew Mill

Mobile: 0412 312 243

Wednesday Rides Captain

Kevin Brenton 8332 4719

Wednesday Rides

All runs will leave at 10.30 am

1st Wednesday	Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside
2nd Wednesday	Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside
3rd Wednesday	Victoria Hotel, Top o'Taps
4th Wednesday	Victoria Hotel, Top o'Taps
5th Wednesday	Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside

Bring or buy your own lunch

For details, ring Kevin Brenton
8332 4719

Monthly Dinners

2nd Friday of the month

At various venues

Co-ordinator
Chirs Roberts
0478 589 854

SA & Broken Hill Branches' & Riding Groups' Boss Cockies

Broken Hill Branch

President	Rickie Cooper	0408 884 588
Secretary	Jose Wasley	

Eyre Peninsula Branch

President	Robert Young	86831254
Sec.	Lloyd Parker	86831184
	latsk.parker@westnet.com.au	
Treas.	Ainsley Parker	86831184

Fleurieu Branch

President	Mike Nilsen	
Secretary	Julie Hendrickx	0457641507
Rides Captain	Peter Burrows	

Limestone Coast Branch

Spokesperson	Peter Brown	08 8739 4089 0417 889 461
Secretary	Jill Gilmore	08 8725 2529 0409 152 529
Rides Captain	Tony Ziemplanej	08 8725 5174 0438 872 551

Mallee Branch

President	Graeme Rule	0408 689 707
	graemerule@gmail.com	
Rides Coordinator	Neville Whitehead	08 8595 8032 0417 868 378
	nevillewhitehead@bigpond.com	

Lower Murray Branch

President	Steve Jones (Roobar)	088 532 0706
	cyndi_steve@Internode.on.net	
Secretary	Daryl Sparks	0427 813 817
	sparks.ds@bigpond.com	
Rides Captain	Roger Faehrmann	0412 713 966 0438 324 605

Southern Flinders Riding Group

Co-ordinator	Bev & Terry May	8632 3420
	tbgemay@westnet.com.au	

Torrens Valley Branch

President	Mark Seja	0402 982 402
	Jester56@optusnet.com.au	
Secretary	Peter Mahony	0417 869 768

Whyalla & Districts Branch

President	Graham Gill	0412 059 564
Secretary	Christine Clothier	8644 2264
	cclothie@bigpond.net.au	

Yorke Peninsula (Wednesday Riders)

Leader	Clive Ford	8821 1598
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Yorke Peninsula Riding Group

Co-ordinator	Rod Lind	0418 527 977
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Monthly Dinners

For bookings and cancellations for all dinners,
phone Chris Roberts
on 0478 589 854
(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL



14th February, 2014
7.00 pm

Maid of Auckland
926 South Road
Edwardstown

Bookings by 12th February



Harley Seat



Hottie from the past!
Can you guess who he is?
Turn to the last page for the answer.



14th March. 2014
7.00 PM

Lord Melbourne Hotel,
63 Melbourne St,
North Adelaide

Bookings by 12th March



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A nice mother-in-law comes home and finds her son-in-law furious, and packing his suitcase.

What's happening ?? She asks.

Eli screamed, "What happened? I'll tell you what happened!

I sent an email to Rachel saying that I was coming home a day early from my trip. I got home and guess what I found? My wife, yes my Rachel, your daughter, with a naked guy in our bed! This is the end of our marriage. I will leave forever!"

"Calm down!" says mother-in-law. "There's something not right about this story, there must be an explanation. Rachel would never do such a thing! Wait a minute while I check and see what happened."

Moments later, mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. "You see, I told you that there must be a simple explanation.

.....
Rachel never received your email"

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Adelaide Cup Weekender

Saturday, 8th March - Monday, 10th March, 2014

**Leaving Caltex Servo, Munno Para
9.00 am on Saturday**

Leader: Rick Nappa

Destination is the **Commercial Hotel, Morgan**

secure lock up for your bikes, live music (if enough people)

dinners à la carte and breakfasts (\$10) in the Hotel

**Saturday afternoon, a trip to the Caudo Winery at Cadell,
just a short trip across on the ferry, might be in order.**

Sunday ride

**If you wish to travel as a group, meet Rick & Ronda Nappa at the Caltex Servo, Munno Para
at 9.00 am on the Saturday, and they'll lead the way.**

Cost: \$40 per room and no matter how many are in the room.

Here is a list of what is in each room:

- room 4 - double and a single
- room 5 - 2 singles
- room 6 - 1 double and 2 singles
- room 7 - one double and one single
- room 8 - 1 double, 3 singles and floor space for a swag
- room 11 - 2 single
- room 12A - 2 singles
- room 14 - a double and a single
- room 15 - 1 double and 2 single also floor space for a swag

Please phone

Bronwyn or Phil on 8540 2107 to reserve your bed(s)!

Wendy King on 8837 3449 to let her know you are attending!

If the hotel gets booked out, the caravan park is just down the road a bit (08) 8540 2207



MRA Rallies 2014

Date	Name	Contact	Venue
Feb 7-9	Redback Rally	redbackrally.com	Charlton (Vic)
Feb 8-9	Redback Music Festival	Ivan 0403 210 925	Cambrai
March 8-10 (long weekend)	Rivergum back on the River	Les 0411 616 232 or Grot 0412 602 272	Paringa
April 4-6	RAC Coonalpyn Pub Run	Andy 0411 212 076	Coonalpyn
April 12-13	Bit on the Side get-together	Beatle 0458 294 271 or PJ 0428 315 815	Mannahill Pub
April 25-27 (long weekend)	Sidecar Rally	Monarchs Club	Strathmerton (Vic)
May 2-4	Roaming Swagman	Mark 08 8634 4377 or Lefty 0412 767 945	TBA
May 17-18	MRA Great Escape Rally (back to basics)	Harald 0421 289 714 or Peter 0414 399 000	Marrabel
May 24-25	Wunkar Pub	Les 0411 616 232 or Grot 0412 602 272	Wunkar Pub
June TBA	Farina (SA Rangers)	Beatle 0458 294 271	TBA
June 7-9 (long weekend)	Wintersun	John 03 5023 7218	Mildura
July 4-6	Up the Creek	Marie 0417 113 675 or Greg 03 5385 2846	Jung (near Horsham)
August 8-10	Flat Earth (back to basics)	Feral 08 8568 2503	Sedan
August 15-17	FTMA Wombat Rally (back to basics)	Lefty 0412 767 945	Warnertown
August 24	V&VMCC of Northern Yorke Peninsula <i>Cousin Jack Rally</i>	Kerry girracr1@gmail.com	Kadina
August 29-31	Peregrine Rally	Chris 0402 428 468 or chrismcale@gmail.com	Jabuk
Sept 5-7	Ghost Town Rally	Chickenman 0419 983 193	Copi Hollow
Sept 13-14	Gulnare Pub (SA Tourers)	Raymond 0400 202 994	Gulnare
Sept 21	Lee Russack Memorial Run V&VMCC of Northern Yorke Peninsula	Les 08 8821 11851	Kadina to Kadina (170k)
Oct 3-6 (long weekend)	Oasis Rally	Bear 0407 394 322	Paruna
Oct 18-19	Redback Tourers Rally	Shaz 0428 878 113	TBA
Nov 7-8	Marrabel Pub (Z Owners)	Grot 0412 602 272 Les 0411 616 232	Marrabel
Nov 7-8	Fish Holes	Phil 0412 838 765	Portland (Vic)
Nov 15-16	Caltowie Pub Run	Phil (pub) 08 8665 5003 Rabbit 0408 082 257	TBA
Nov 23	V& VMCC of Norther Yorke Peninsula Christmas Appeal Ride	Kerry girracr1@gmail.com	Kadina



The Odyssey



10



Ulysses Adelaide Branch

NOTE CHANGE OF DATES

Not the AGM Weekend
Friday, 9th May - Sunday, 11th May, 2014

Berri Caravan Park 08 8582 3723

Evening Meals: At the Berri Resort Hotel & the Berri Golf Club

Breakfasts: At cost at the Caravan Park Function Centre

Happy Hour: Friday

Highlight: Boat cruise Saturday by
www.houseboatadventure.com.au

Cost of \$55 includes:

Pick up and return to Caravan Park

2¹/₂ hour cruise to The Lock and Salt Creek

Afternoon tea

Singalong with drop down screens (in case we don't know the words)

BYO alcohol if you wish or it is available on board.

It is imperative that you contact me if you intend taking the cruise, so I can book!

IMPORTANT: If we have one of our evening meals at the Golf Club, we will need a bus, so it is imperative that you contact me asap if are attending so that I can make a booking for the bus. Cost: \$10-15 depending on the number. (21 passengers \$300, 42 passengers \$400)

RSVP and more info: Wendy King

8837 3449 or 0409 881 726

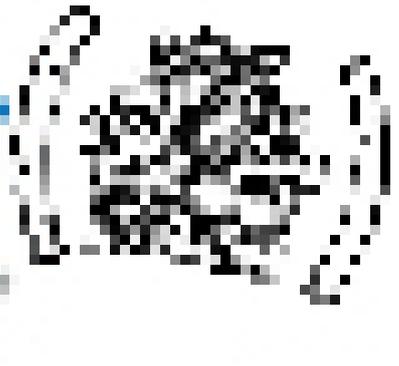
or email king@netyp.com.au

As usual, all Ulyssians are welcome to this event.



1 DAYER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

Black Dog Ride 1 Dayer



Since 2010, over 6,650 Black Dog Riders have hit the hijjghways on Black Dog Ride 1 Dayers to amplify awareness of depression and suicide prevention in local communities right across Australia. Will you join us on the road to raising awareness in 2014?

Registrations for the 2014 Black Dog Ride 1 Dayer to be held on 23rd March are now open! To assist us with safety, catering, and merchandise please pre-register for this Ride. If you pre-register by 9th March you will go in the draw to receive a unique hand crafted 18 carat gold Black Dog Ride 1 Dayer ring valued at over \$1500, which will be drawn on ride day.

This year there are 30 legs of the Black Dog Ride 1 Dayer in every state and territory in Australia! To register in SA, please go to <https://1dayer2014.eventbrite.com.au>

Looking for the world famous Winston to ride pillion with you on the 1 Dayer? Take advantage of the 1 Dayer Deal and adopt one these popular puppies from the BDR Kennels before they sell out! Your own Winston plus 3 Black Dog Ride stickers for only \$27.50 - save \$5.00!

See you on 23rd March!

Steve

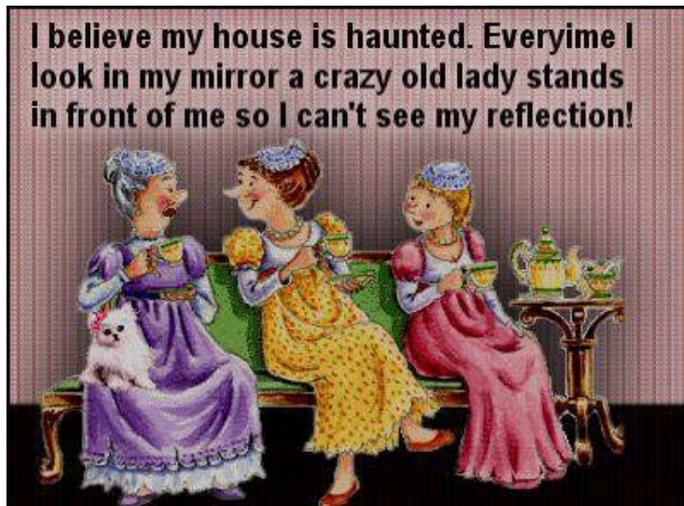


The 10 Indian Commandments

1. The Earth is our Mother; care for Her.
2. Honor all your relations.
3. Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit.
4. All life is sacred; treat all beings with respect.
5. Take from the Earth what is needed and nothing more.
6. Do what needs to be done for the good of all.
7. Give constant thanks to the Great Spirit for each day.
8. Speak the truth but only for the good in others.
9. Follow the rythms of Nature.
10. Enjoy life's journey; but leave no tracks.

Shanti R.

I believe my house is haunted. Everyime I look in my mirror a crazy old lady stands in front of me so I can't see my reflection!



Guy's FAR RIDE 700

Ph: 0402-414-276

This is the second ride in my Far-Ride Series.

How it works:

The destination for this ride is Naracoorte. It is the participants' aim to get there and on time. They must also complete 700kms within 18hrs. This will be a Friends and Rellies ride, so bring your friends, family and even the grand-kids.

You will need to plan your route, fuel stops, toilet breaks and coffee/lunch breaks yourself, and to arrive at the destination on time; also plan your own activities whilst there. There is heaps to see and do. You need to be mindful that you have a schedule to keep, so don't stay too long.

This is not a ride for everyone and the fact that it will be run on a Saturday will probably omit some people. This is going to be a long ride for many; hopefully, this isn't too daunting and won't put anyone off.

What I suggest is for you to work out how far the destination is from your starting point, using anything at your disposal, paper maps, Google maps, GPS, etc., subtract the distance from the ride distance and plan to have that distance covered by the time you check in. Example: If you live 250kms from the destination, subtract that from 700kms which leaves 450kms. So ideally, your ride needs to be 450kms when you check in. What you can do is ride to the destination of 250kms, ride past it another 100kms or more, then return back to the location, leaving the required trip back home to complete the 700kms.

Another method, and probably more interesting, would

be a zig-zag or a circular route. You need to be careful that you don't fall short of the 700kms target. It is hard to make up the shortfall around town on busy 50kph roads with traffic lights!

Time is not your friend. Try and avoid leisurely rides through the hills on roads of low speeds. You have to make your way quickly using the most direct route through to high speed roads and highways capable of 100kph and 110kph. As a guide, I use the formula 1 hour and 20 mins per 100kms to be travelled. In the above example, I would need to travel 450kms or more to check in, so I would allow 4.5hrs X 1hr 20 min = 6hrs travel plus coffee breaks, etc.

Think you can plan and do this ride? Then give it a go!!

On Saturday, 12-Apr-2014, we are heading to the park in Naracoorte on Smith St, between Bank Place and Jones Street. Arrive between 13:00 – 13:15. This time the ride is petrol station/shop to petrol station or shop. Make a purchase to get a printed receipt clearly showing the date and time. Take a photo of your receipt next to your odometer, send me the pic in an SMS, with your name and if you have a pillion his/her name. I will get the rest of the details I need at check in. At the end of your ride, fill your tank or make another purchase, send me another SMS with another pic of your printed receipt and odometer, and your name. If you can't SMS the pic I will make arrangements with you to view it.

I hope to see you there!



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Sunday Round-up

1st December Day Ride to Angaston

There were around 15 of us at Macca's in overcast but mainly fine conditions. Route: Norton Summit, Picadilly Valley, Crafers, Stirling, Carey Gully, Lenswood, Cuddlee Creek, Kersbrook, Forreton, Gumeracha and followed the Torrens to Birdwood for morning tea. We left here as it tried unsuccessfully to rain and made our way to Mt Torrens, Mt Pleasant, Springton and Williamstown where we took Yettie Road, on through Cockatoo Valley and to Sandy Creek. We then made our way through the Barossa to Tanunda, over Menglers Hill and eventually to Angaston for lunch. As usual everyone seemed to have a good time and the weather even played its part and didn't rain until I was well and truly home :-)



16th December Day Ride to Strath (well sort of)

A good size group of over 20 gathered at Civic Park, before leaving up Anstey Hill, Paracombe and Chain of Ponds to Cuddlee Creek, Lenswood, Woodside, Brakunga to Nairne, Mt Barker, Echunga and to Meadows for morning tea. There is an old saying that sh** happens and, boy, did it on the second half of the ride. We headed off to Macclesfield, Echunga Mylor, Cherry Gardens and Clarendon. I stopped by the bridge here to wait for the next bike to come along. After about 10 minutes, I new something was amiss, so tried to ring one of the tail-end charlies but got no answer so I called the other one. Things started to go wrong back at Macclesfield when Ivan's rear suspension collapsed and, after sorting things out, our two tail-end charlies went different ways. The one that went the right way got to Echunga and didn't see a corner marshal ('cause there wasn't one as we went straight) and then headed straight to Strath. So, I proceeded back along our route and picked up all the corner marshals, who had all stayed on their respective corners (well done guys), and we all rode to Strath together, but not on the intended route. So, eventually we all got to Strath for lunch in High Street. Oh yeah! The weather was perfect all day.



22nd December HO HO HO Ride

A nice sized group of around 20 assembled at Top of Taps in overcast but fine conditions. Route: Clarendon, Blewitt Springs, McLaren Vale. Next we turned left (all but one of us) and headed up to the Range, Meadows and Strath for morning tea. We then set off on to the second (sh** happens) part of the ride: We made our way to Ashbourne and along Bull Creek Road to Meadows, and it seems between me going by the Macclesfield turn off, and another group becoming inter-twined with our group. Some of our group followed *their* corner marshals (dunno how as we didn't have any Harleys on our group). We eventually got back together at Mt Barker (well, all except 1) and made our way to Nairne. We next made our way towards Woodside, Mt Torrens and Tungkillo, where an unmarked police car pulled out in front of us and no one was game to overtake him. We then made our way to Palmer and the house on the hill for a magnificent lunch wonderfully prepared by BUNDI, Mary, Barry, Chris and Ann. It was a great day, even for Harry, who decided he would like to lay under his Goldwing while parking at lunch. Many thanks to all who have come along on the rides this year.



Sunday Round-up

5th January Day Ride to Normanville

A group of around quite a few, including 3 new members, were at Top of Taps for our first ride of 2014. We set off and made our way to Mylor via a couple of new roads, then headed to Echunga, Macclesfield via Stamps Road Meadows, our route then took us Currency Creek then Goolwa for morning tea. The sky started to look very average as we set off and made our way to Victor Harbour where it started to rain. We then rode along Range Road to Parawa where we turned and headed down the hill to Yankalilla, Myponga, over the dam and into Normanville for lunch.



12th January Day Ride to Williamstown

There were 20 of us assembled at Macca's at Magill, including Ivan on his FJR with new dogbones. We headed up to Greenhill Road, through the Picadilly Valley and on to Crafers, towards Stirling and then on to Longwood. We next headed to Mylor, Echunga, Hahndorf and Verdun. Then we went up Beaumonts Road, along Tameranah Road, then to Carey Gully and on to Greenhill Road. We then made our way to Balhannah for morning tea. Next, it was on to Swamp Road and Stienford Road, which we followed to the Lobethal Road to Lenswood, then down the hill to Cuddlee Creek and along the river to Gumeracha. We

then went to Burford Hill Road and made our way through Mt Torrens, Tungkillo and Mt Pleasant, Birdwood and back to Gumeracha where we turned to Forreston, where we turned, over the hill to Kersbrook, and then on to Williamstown for lunch under the shady verandah and grape vines. 'Twas a great day out in glorious sunshine with some mighty fine company.

19th January Day Ride to Goolwa

A great crowd of around 25 assembled at Civic park, and in fantastic riding conditions, we headed off through Chain of Ponds and on to Gumeracha where we turned and made our way towards Lobethal before turning along a new road (to us) and making our way to Charleston. We next made our way to Brakunga, Nairne, Wistow and down the hill to Strath for morning tea. It was then off to Macclesfield and Meadows where we followed Bull Creek Road through Ashbourne and then to Mt Compass. We then went along Cleland Gully Road to Currency Creek, went over Flagstaff Hill and finally to Goolwa for lunch where we were met by Kim and Ray, who should be back on his bike soon.



Ho Ho Ho Ride lunch at Bundi and Andrew's home.



Thao & Michele's Venture to the Mekong Delta

Thao Coates (wife of Brian) and Michele Wagnitz (wife of Ken) are Ulyssians. Vietnam is Thao's birth country and they recently travelled together to Vietnam for the wedding of her sister and to tour the country.

Saturday, December 14, 2013

We travel by big bus to Binh Minh, the family rice farm, 150 kms, 3 hours by bus. This small town is between Vinh Long and Can Tho (where we will later catch the bus to go to Chau Doc to get on the boat to cross the border and go to Phnom Penh. It is only about 32deg but steamy.

The family farmhouse is 13 kms off the main road so we have 3 motor bikes (125s balancing 2 suitcases and 2 backpacks) with her Dad and two brothers to take us. Half way into the ride it starts to rain heavily, so we pull into one of many roadside shops and have a soya milk whilst waiting for the rain to ease.

On arrival, we are warmly welcomed by the family: Dad (Phuoc), Mum (Thuy), eldest brother (Thuan) divorced with a 9 year old son (Thang, nicknamed Sumo because he is a big boy!), middle sister (Xuan) who works on the farm and is married with an 11 year old son (Cuong) and works on the rice farm, youngest sister (Cuong) (a government accountant) and also the bride about to marry Nam (policeman), youngest son (Van) and about to go into the army and engaged to Ai (who we will meet later). Children in Vietnam are not known by their names, but rather by their position in the family (number 1, 2, etc). And, of course, Grandma (Phuoc's mother), who is 93 and has dementia - so very dependent on everyone.

This is the Mekong Delta and we will be here for 14 days for the wedding preparation, celebration (over 4 days) and to generally enjoy and investigate life here.

The Mekong is one of the world's greatest rivers. The name derives from 'Mae Nam Khong' meaning 'Kong River' or 'Mother of all Rivers'. It originates in the mountains of Tibet and meanders for 2,800 miles (4,500 kms). The Upper Mekong runs from the Tibetan Plateau gathering silt through China's Yunnan province via the Golden Triangle, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia to Myanmar (Burma).

The Mekong Delta is the region of Southeast Vietnam where the river approaches and empties into the South China Sea. Here, the river splits into nine estuaries that lead into the ocean, thus naming the River of Nine Dragons. These nine waterways are what give Vietnam's southern plain the rich alluvial soil that has made it a "rice basket" and a "fruit basket" filled with coconut, longan, mango, rambutan, mangosteen, etc. We are also to see many sweet potato farms, and many farms that grow the numerous green vegetables that are the cuisine here. Life on the Delta revolves around the Mekong, it's green expanses of paddy fields, the orchards, vegetable gardens and intricate patchwork of canals/waterways. Floating houses, markets, and fishing boats are everywhere. About 90 million people rely on the river's rice production as their main livelihood. Many varieties of rice are grown here and there are 3 crops a year.

The delta has long been a site of conflict and upheaval such as in 1978 when the Khmer Rouge savagely massacred

numerous villages, plus the ravages of frequent floods, French and Cambodian occupation, many bombings and the devastating effects of the chemical defoliant, Agent Orange by the US. The Cambodian occupation is the reason that many Vietnamese do not like Cambodians.

The farm is across the narrow pathway from a canal and from dawn to dusk you hear boats going down it collecting water plants, fishing and, sometimes, selling things. The path is too narrow for cars (there are very few here anyway), but ideal for the bicycles and scooters/bikes that are the most common form of transport.

Our passports must go to local Police Station as the family has to ask permission for a foreigner (Michele) to stay at their farm. Because of the rules, foreigners usually cannot stay on farms or in private homes, but with the connection of the groom being a policeman, we complete the several forms required and are granted permission. Thao is a citizen of Vietnam, doesn't need permission.



As evening comes, we see more and more geckoes on the inside walls and hear their occasional bark throughout the night.

The water is cut off to all houses at 9pm so we have a shower (cold) at 8pm. The mosquitoes are huge, and in the white tiled shower we can see many awaiting us! They are a grey cloud against the white tiles. This family is very fortunate, because they have an inside bathroom and toilet. Most do not have these luxuries! However, most of the family still chooses to use the outdoor facilities.

We sleep in Thao's old room (which has been vacated by Van including the wardrobe half emptied for us). We are on a queen size mattress raised on a cement plinth, and have a fan and a mosquito net. Most Vietnamese do not have mattresses; they sleep on a cement plinth or wooden base with a grass fibre mat.

Sunday December 15

Let us tell you about rice farming...

The family farm is 16 hectares. A good size for a rice farm, as the average is 10 hectares here. The Mekong Delta is very fertile and so they can get 3 crops per year, with each crop taking about 3 months from planting to harvesting. There are no rice terraces here, because the land is flat.

Firstly, the sack of dry rice is immersed in water overnight. The next day, it is taken out of the water and covered to keep warm. When left for a few days it has shoots. It is then thrown out into the field like fertilizer where it takes root. At the time of planting, a snail killer, imported from France, is also distributed, because in the first few weeks, the snails can eat a whole crop in a night. Once the rice has been growing for 3-4 weeks, it is able to cope with some snails and has passed the most vulnerable time. However, snail killer may still need to be used through the growing season.

After a few weeks, any spots that are bare or have died are replanted by hand from the nursery or baby rice area. The crop is fertilized every 10 days.

Thao & Michele's Venture to the Mekong Delta

Beetles and caterpillars are also a pest and so the growing rice is sprayed whenever needed with a US product. Contract sprayers do this task.

Michele "working" the rice farm....



Monday December 16

These farm people do not have breakfast, they get up and go out in the fields to work, then come in late morning, have a big meal, rest for afternoon, then go out in the fields again until dark, then come in and have some tea. However, no one (father, Phuoc and oldest brother, Thuan nor sister, Xuan) are working because all the rice is planted and the preparations for wedding are happening. Cuong (bride) has this week off work and today is again writing invitations. Approx. 450 in total are to come to bride's house on the first and second day of celebrations. Parents and the bride have been writing and delivering over the past week and it will continue for today and tomorrow.

Medical attention is "user pays" so people do not usually go to the doctor until they are very sick. This means that many are not diagnosed with serious illness until shortly before death, according to Thao. Ambulances are not called because the people cannot afford to pay them, and so many people die of untreated injuries after even relatively minor falls or accidents. Everyone is very matter of fact about such things over which they have no control. They say the Government does not spend money on the people, but rather use it to buy many houses, send their children overseas to schools, and buy cars!

Thao's mum, Thuy, has had a stomach complaint for a long time and treats herself with a special snake – about 20 inches in length and still alive from the market! She will kill, cook it on the stove, then put in rice wine. After about 6 weeks, she will drink the medicine to help with her illness. Thuy has spent all day going off on the scooter the 2 kms to the village market to get things to prepare for tea or for the wedding. This is our dinner not sure what they are.... A bit like eels but have big bodies with long, fat tails and four legs like a frog! (Salamanders??) Still alive, not sure how they will be cooked.....



Tuesday December 17

Bedtime here is about 9 pm for all, with the water being turned off "by the Government" at 9 pm until 6 am the next morning. So if we want a shower before bed we must have it by 8.30pm. We use the shower, but the family wash from a bucket in the separate, outside building for washing. Thao and her husband have been improving life for the family over the past years, with the inside kitchen, bathroom and toilet added to the back of the house, plus buying the "Sanyo", that is the washing machine, which doesn't get used very often; only when her mum is really busy. Most families do not have these luxuries.

This morning we get up and go out the back to see the hen who had been sitting on seven eggs in a hat since we arrived. The chickens are now hatching and everyone thought it was hilarious when Michele was so excited and took photos!

There are 5 chickens about 4 weeks old, running around already, that have to be put in a bird cage at night to stop the rats eating them. There is a never ending cycle of broody hen and chickens, thus the family is kept in chicken meat. There are 4 roosters but 3 are Van's (youngest son) precious belongings. He takes them cock fighting twice a week, and they are in separate cages with the hens being put in with them regularly. The roosters must be put in bags each night, because otherwise the mosquitoes will "take away their strength". Bugger the other creatures – hens, chickens, ducks, etc. So, there is a nightly ritual of everyone having a wash in the wash house, the running around with great squealing to catch the chickens, and the bagging of the roosters. Though just about everyone has chickens as a back up to other meats, they are not highly regarded. Everyone likes the wings, particularly marinated, coated and deep fried. But they only have two of those! So chicken wings are one of the most expensive meats at nearly \$5 Australian. Pork is one of the most common meats and that is about \$4 kg. Fish is prized too, it depends on the type.... small fresh water fish are small and about the same as pork, but big freshwater is expensive, sea fish is cheaper. Meat/fish is expensive and is always just a small part of any meal. People in the country earn about \$1.50 Australian a day, but especially the young people (as young as 14) go to HCMC or Hanoi as wages are more like \$100A a month. These young people work from dawn until late, have very poor living conditions and work 7 days a week.

Thao has a cold and so we are off to the village doctor. The rooms are open to the road in a galvanized iron building. The only instruments I can see are a stethoscope and a home torch. He sits behind a desk with a glass cabinet in front of it with medicine boxes in it that look like they have been there for 20 years. On his desk is a huge box of syringes and some little packets of rainbow pills. There are two wooden slat beds and a curtain to pull around. He looks in her throat with the torch and proceeds to give her an injection in her bottom and one in her hand. Then he gives her 2 little cellophane packets of pills – 6 in each, rainbow coloured and various shapes. Thao pays \$3 (this expense is why people only go to see even the local doctor only when they are very ill). Thao suggests doctors always guess rather than do any tests

Thao & Michele's Venture to the Mekong Delta



Wednesday December 18

This morning we go to the beauty shop, just a few houses down. On the way, we found three children using long bamboo to get spiders from the trees beside the waterway. Evidently, these make fantastic fishing bait!

The beauty salon looks just like a normal house, but the front room is a simply equipped beauty shop for hair and nails. For example, the hair colours come from individual sachets, the hairdryer is a home rather than commercial one, the basin empties via a long pipe to the garden beside the house. It was a very social occasion with only one other woman having her hair roots dyed black when I arrived, but very quickly 5 more women arrived to "gossip" and laugh at/with Michele – the Westerner, who is a source of entertainment and talk for everyone. It is a very relaxed lifestyle here, with a hammock even in the beauty shop for people in which to relax. The hammock in the family house is used non-stop daily with everyone having a turn sometime during the day. I am told once again that I have beautiful arms and feet, purely because I have white skin. Everything you use on the skin here has "whitening" in the name and on the label – whitening moisturizer, shower cream, etc.

Amazingly, here today it has been cool – completely overcast all day, perhaps 24 degrees but very little humidity. Everyone has jackets and jumpers on except us!

Thursday December 19

We rode on the busy highway to Can Tho (the main town on the Mekong about 45 mins by bike, 1.2 million people) and across the amazing bridge that Australia helped build.

We return to Binh Minh to collect Michele's "ao dai" (traditional dress) she is having made to wear to the wedding. The traditional dress is a very fitting silk tunic and trousers, so the tailor has made the dress saying she only does it because it is for a Westerner. She would not do it for a big Vietnamese because it is supposed to go on a very small body! Just another indication of the importance of looks in Vietnam.

We have slipped into the daily ritual: 6 am everyone starts stirring, first job is teeth cleaning (because if you don't you are "very dirty", they are not done again until bedtime), quick shower, sit at kitchen or in back doorway (a favourite place of everyone's because you catch the breeze), watch the hen and chickens fossicking, hear the cocks crowing for the next hour. Michele has breakfast of Vietnamese iced coffee and fresh fruit, nobody else has anything until 11am. Everyone does jobs, washing, cleaning, sweeping, building the wood fires outside, setting the stock to cook for the meals, etc. This takes us to 11am, when we sit down for lunch. Then same combination in the afternoon: work, shopping, food preparation, afternoon snooze in the heat of the day, and the added obligatory turn on the hammock for everyone. Throughout the day, you have the occasional noisy long boat up and down the canal at the front of the house, either fishing with nets or women picking floating plants or plants at the water edge. An occasional boat goes down selling something such as fish or bread, and you know it is coming because it makes a very loud duck sound!

In the evening, about 5 and onwards, the family have turns in the outside washroom to have a shower. You can hear them gasp as they get under the cold water. Then dinner is about 5.30 or 6, more conversation and bed about 9 (this is when the mains water gets turned off).

Preparations for wedding continue such as putting up the shade & decorations in the front yard plus preparing the cooking/prep area on the back verandah, getting in bar stocks, food stocks – 22 trips to the market and still counting.....!!!

(Next issue: The Wedding)



Note the doctor's motorbike is in the consultation/examination room.



Everyone is concerned about my not being covered up on the bike, so I buy a face mask and neck cover. I will have to pull out my long sleeved shirt tomorrow to wear on the bike, but I am not about to wear the long sleeve heavy shirts and warm winter jackets the Vietnamese wear in this heat. However, you may think covering up is for protection, but it is to protect from the sun. White skin is

greatly valued here, and so everyone always covers up every centimetre of skin when outside.

We have visited some relatives today, travelling a total of about 70 kms today, mostly on narrow roads (about 1.5metres on the main ones, 1 metre alongside the waterways) amongst the winter melon, mint/coriander/lettuce farms, sweet potato, watermelon and rice fields. It is all very lush and green.

We travel only a maximum of 50 kph, but mostly much slower than that. The majority on the road are on motor bikes, but occasionally a bicycle.

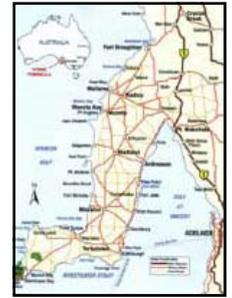
Toy Run Breakfast





Christmas Dinner

Yorke Peninsula



Wednesday Rides

leave the parking bay in the centre of Kadina Park at 9.30 am on Wednesdays.
Please contact Clive Ford on **8821 1598** before **any** Wednesday ride to get the latest information.



We meet at Dundee's Hotel, Murray Bridge on the 2nd Tuesday of the month; Dinner @ 6.30, Meeting 8 pm. Everybody most welcome.

We have coffee every Saturday morning @ 10am in Strathalbyn, at Jack's Cafe in High Street.



Rides every 2nd Sunday, with a Wednesday ride monthly. Phone for details.

Branch contacts as follows:

President Steve Jones (Roobar) 088 532 0706
cyndi_steve@Internode.on.net
Secretary Daryl Sparks 0427 813 817
sparks.ds@bigpond.com
Rides Captain Roger Faehrmann 0412 713 966
0438 324 605



There are no rides on the calendar at the moment, but we continue to meet at the Hot Bread Shop for impromptu rides



Spokesperson Peter Brown
08 87394098
0417 889 461

Secretary Jill Gilmore
08 87252529
0409 152 529

Rides Captain Tony Ziemlanej
08 8725 5174
0438 872 551



Sunday Meeting Place : Sunday Coffee/chat will be held "The Whistling Cat" café in Commercial St West, (near the Odeon Plaza), from 9 – 10am. Any rides, on the day, will depart from here at 10am.

Check our ride calendar on the website as some rides may depart earlier.

Rides : As per Ride Calendar on the Web

Web Site: www.branches.ulyssesclub.org/limestonecoast
Our Web is now updated regularly, with Ride Calendar, Ride Reports & Photos.



SA RV Events

RV events are open to any Ulysses member or partner.
Any type of vehicle can be used to get you there, what is important is that you are there.

Any further enquiries contact Hobbit or Hoppy on
Hoppy on 0428 567 811
or Hobbit on 0404 478 741

February	15-16	Rapid Bay
March	22-23	Towitta
July	5-6	Melrose
October	24-26	Black Cockatoo RV AGM

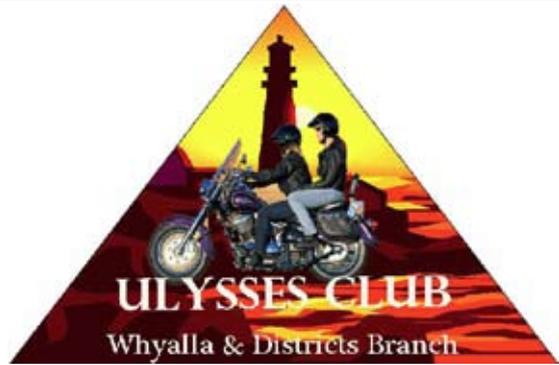
Ulysses Club Inc. Whyalla & Districts Branch

Meet and Greet

top shopz deli on McDouall Stuart ave, [Next to Harris Scarfes].
At 9:30am on the first and third Sunday of the month starting
Sunday 22nd January.

Ride Co-ordinators

Di Lehman - phone **0409 675 829**
Graham Gill - phone **0412 059 564**



Branch Meetings

When: Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month

Where: Willunga Golf Club in St Peters Terrace, Willunga

Meeting starts at 8pm, but come along at 6:30pm if you want to grab a bite to eat before hand.
All welcome.

All rides leave Alma Hotel, Willunga at 10am.



Southern Flinders Riding Group Port Pirie



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT HOT BREAD SHOP

We meet at the Hot Bread Shop on Sunday mornings for impromptu rides.

Co-ordinators: Bev & Terry May 8632 3420
tbgemay@westnet.com.au

Pres: Robert Young 86831254

Sec: LLoyd Parker 86831184
0458536992

Treas: Ainsley Parker 86831184

Committee:

Jack Ash 86823285

Kevin Warren 86842093

Phil Green 86823553

Bill Richter 86828212

Media Ed: Trish Pruis 86822358

Welfare: Bill Richter 86828212



Come on any event on any sort of wheels!
Sunday impromptu rides from Town Jetty 10 00 am
All rides subject to change.
Visitors welcome.



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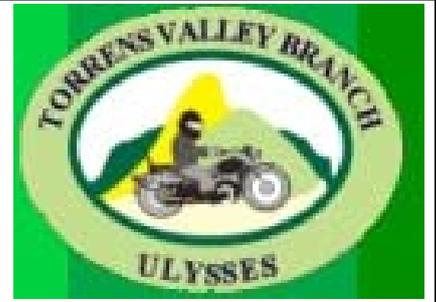
Torrens Valley Branch Meetings

7.30pm

Third Tuesday of the Month

Parafield Gardens Community Club
Shepherdson Road, Parafield Gardens

Meals available from the Club before the Meeting
All welcome



Torrens Valley and Yorke Peninsula Riding Group Calendar

Inquiries: Rodney Lind 0418 527 927

Ride Calendar January 2014

Friday 24-Monday 27 January	Rodney Lind 0418 527 977	Meet up with Fleurieu Branch Australia Day Gathering	Kalganyi Caravan Park Mount Gambier	Friday, 24th January 10.00 am Shell Roadhouse Taillem Bend
Sunday 9th February	Rodney Lind 0418 527 977	Novice Ride	Barossa Area finishing at Williamstown for BBQ at Pat & Gwen Hannigan's Gold Coin donation BYO drinks	BP Port Wakefield 8.30 am Julian Terrace, Gawler 10.00 am

Sunday December 1st – Torrens Valley Branch Birthday/ Family day.

Even though the weather was a bit overcast and thundery early in the morning it turned out pretty good for most of the day. It was a bit unfortunate that the late leavers copped a bit of rain on the way home. The attendance was fantastic, about 85 turned up to enjoy a BBQ on the beach at Port Clinton.



The meat was supplied by the Branch and was cooked by Sparky and his family on his new BBQ trailer, supplemented by a selection of salads prepared by Penny. The Port Clinton Progress Association loaned us the tables, chairs and electric urns, which made setting up for the day a lot easier for Rae and myself.

It turned out great day with a multitude of helpers pitching in with the cleaning up and other chores, thanks to all who assisted. By far the highlight of the day for me, was to be the inaugural recipient of the Phil Jones service award. It was truly a humbling experience but something that I appreciated greatly.

Sat 4th & Sun 5th January 2014 – Rob Watts Memorial Ride

First of all, thanks to Guzzi Bob for leading the ride from Gawler to Port Wakefield - saved me a couple of hundred kilometres. After leaving Port Wakefield, we rode to the Ardrossan Cemetery where we met up with members from Adelaide, Whyalla, Barossa and Yorke Peninsula.

At the graveside Bob recited a poem that he wrote about Rob. After a quick photo shoot we went back to Wendy and Garry's place where we spent the afternoon socialising on their deck.

Saturday night's meal at the Ardrossan Hotel was up to its normal high standard and was enjoyed by all.

An early 8.00am on Sunday, we headed off to Port Pirie to have morning tea with the Southern Flinders Riding Group at Macca's.

Our last port of call for the weekend was the Caltex Roadhouse at Clare for lunch. It was a fairly full on weekend, but was enjoyed by all who attended.

Rod Lind





Elite camper, excellent condition, only used three times from new. Includes many extras.

Price: \$6.500. ONO.

Classic trailer, good condition, spare wheel, includes a 4 man tent as new, two ring cooker and hot plate. **Price: \$1.700. ONO.**

Phone: Steve (Nashy)for details. 82817727.

Elite Camper Trailer, 2 berth with a fully enclosed annex. Disc Brakes, Mag Wheels, brand new, suitable for motor cycle and small car towing. **\$5,600 o.n.o. Ring Derek on 85 231494**

Bike Leathers Jean style, fully lined, zippered legs. Excellent condition. Only selling because I've grown out of them! Garment measurements are 86cms inside the waistband and 72cms inside leg. **\$70 neg. Phone 0427369620**



FOREVER AND ANON

DUST IF YOU MUST

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed,
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
Music to hear and books to read,
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go – and go you must –
You, yourself, will make more dust.

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Tindall Gask Bentley	16
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GOTCHA STRAPS	3
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Mastervac Engineering	28
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Tyres

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Hotties from the past:

Answer: Ray Murray with his first car, a Vauxhall Viva, in 1972
(I would like some more photos, please. This is the last one in my file..) Ed.

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