



The Odyssey

Ulysses Club Inc. Adelaide Branch Newsletter
December 2020 Issue

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From the editor

Hi fellow Ulyssians,

Here we are again, coming to the end of another year. This year has been challenging to say the least and 2020 will probably enter our vocabulary as a swear word, What the 2020! Many of us have found the lock downs and loss of life distressing. On a positive note however, Ulyssians and Australians in general are a tough, resilient lot and these sorts of events bring out the best in us. We have stuck it out and where possible helped each other albeit at 1.5 metres apart. While we are still not out of the woods yet, I know each of us can make it to the end and you all deserve a pat on the back.

This issue has a special article about one of our long-standing members, Don Freene. Thanks to Michele Wagnitz for all her work on the article. Don had always kept us amused with his stories from his eventful life and I'm sure you will find the article fascinating.

My Michelle was able to help with this issue, taking some time out from her busy schedule working on two publications since July 1st and spending time with our precious grandsons.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Christmas dinner. Family and friends are welcome. Details on Page 6

Sunday rides are covered as usual. I try to make it to as many as I can but appreciate photos taken on the ones I don't. Thanks Peter Wood

At the risk of sounding repetitive, I am always looking for articles to put in the magazine. We had some great contributions from Michele and Ken Wagnitz and Ray Murray. Please send anything you have to the magazines gmail. Obviously, it has to be print worthy but I'm sure there are some budding writers out there itching to put pen to paper.

Stay safe and keep well,

Cheers

Maurice Stevens



Please email your story ideas and contributions for the Odyssey magazine to ulyssesadelaide+editor@gmail.com or phone us on 0419 822 717– **love to hear from you.**

The Adelaide Branch Committee Members 2020



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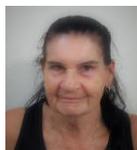
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Adelaide Branch President's, Secretary, Webmaster, Quartermaster Report.

Phew, so many hats!

By Ken Wagnitz

COVID19 - Maybe it was inevitable, but it's still a kick in the guts to have a recurrence in SA. It killed our Odyssey, now the inter-branch lunch. Fleurieu and Torrens Valley have cancelled their December meetings. No more rides to weekenders or member's houses for lunch. I'm not aware of any Ulyssian's being inflicted yet, but we'd better tighten up on the social distancing, handwashing etc etc. I've asked Joe to cancel our tea coffee & cake at meetings, because those shared facilities are definitely verboten. (I'm hoping he can sell us cups of pod or dripper coffee.)

Committee - Our branch AGM is not till February, but that will sneak up on us quickly. Pete says he is OK to continue as treasurer if no-one else wants to do it. While I'm happy to do the secretarial stuff, it's against the national constitution for me to do both Prez & Sec. roles. We do need a minimum number on the committee (3 ordinary members). So, if someone wants to step up and be secretary (or president), sing out. I've upset some previous secretaries by doing a lot of the communicating myself. But for someone who wants to do as little as the minutes, hopefully that won't bother you. I just insist on computer literacy and Internet connection at home or on the mobile. (We are fairly paperless.) We've had an easy ride this year, CV19 minimising events to manage. Hopefully that will improve, but being on the committee isn't too onerous.

Social stuff – We had a good weekender at Pt Elliot, and a ride ending at the Freene's for lunch, both just snuck in before the new virus restrictions slammed down. Those sorts of things (as well as rides) keep us connected and allow other ranches to join us. Feel free to step up and organise a social event. Michele has started *Chat n Coffee* mornings, 10am, 4th Tuesday of the month. Details on our website *Events* page and Google calendar. -All Ulyssian's welcome, men included.

Website - The Adelaide branch website continues as usual. The rides calendar is up for 2021, at least the dates and start points. We alternate Sunday rides with Fleurieu next year, so members should be able to join our southern cousins for rides (and have them join us). Don't forget that the *Odyssey* magazine gets posted on the website soon after it's printed. I tend to put important stuff (events) on Facebook as well as on the website and in our Google calendar. Other branches (eg Mallee) send SMS's to let member know what is going on. Fleurieu collect the email addresses of new members and send emails to everyone. We have a Mailchimp system where members can register to receive emails. (The link to register is on the top of our website Home page.) I'm open to ideas on what members think works best in getting news out.

QM store - We decided ages ago to forgo a QM store and quartermaster, when turnover dried up and it became too big a hassle to maintain. But we do need to have branch-specific items like patches and t-shirts. To that end, I organised a bunch of shirts with our new logo, thinking I could get more when they sold out. Take-up has been miserable! So, I will continue to bring the supply to meetings in case anyone wants a shirt. \$35 for men's, \$30 for ladies. (These prices are less than we paid for them.) We also have branch patches, a few stickers & badges, and some black & navy denim Old Man patches. The general items are at half price.

Sunday Rides Up Coming Dates.

Date	Ride Leader	Event	Destination	Start 9.30am
Sun 13 Dec 9.30am	Frank Pellas 0411 600 255	Day Ride. See ride guidelines here.	TBA	McDonalds, 303 Magill Rd, Trinity Gardens

[Please go to the website for next year's rides](#)

Adelaide Branch Christmas Dinner



Saturday 19th December

6pm to 11.30 pm

Venue: European Club
2 Chief St, Hindmarsh.

3 Course Dinner
Entertainment by DJ
 (60's 70's 80's & current music)



\$25 per Head

Friends and family welcome

So, you don't miss out, phone or text
Peter Castle on 0403 007 415





Guess Who
Which Adelaide Branch Member Is This ? Also, Guess the car year, model and make?



These bikes were introduced in the 60's for general patrol duties in the UK. The copper was told to keep both hands on the controls at all times. So instead of saluting other officers as they passed, they took to nodding their heads... Hence, they were forever after called Noddy Bikes...

Sunday Ride Round Up 18th October Mannum Ride Leader **Bob Braunthal**

About twenty bikes including a few from Torrens Valley showed up at Pelican Plaza in cool, cloudy conditions for a twisty Sunday ride. After a good chat session, we headed off through Inglewood to Chain of Ponds, then past Cudlee Creek Cafe where there were less cyclists than usual - (Good!!) We rode along Fox Creek where, with recent rains, a lot of trees are now regenerating from last summer's bushfires.

The views are nice along Stafford Road before heading towards Lobethal. Coming out of Neudorf Road onto Lobethal road, I spotted a sneaky camera draped in camouflage, there to raise revenue and catch speedsters on one of the few straight stretches on Lobethal Road. A white unmarked ute was parked nearby.

Past Lenswood we rode up Stentiford Road and again, there were nice views from there. After a stretch of Swamp Road, we descended into Balhannah via the tree-lined, winding Oakwood Road.

The only bakery in Balhannah open on Sundays is the one in the Junction Road shopping centre so there we went and had an extended morning tea and another chat session before heading off along towards Nairne, taking a short cut at Nitschke Road. The countryside is still nice and green and in places there were patches of Salvation Jane that match the 'blurple' wheels of the growing number of Yamaha Tracers very nicely. Unfortunately, I couldn't stop to take a photo of the Tracers and the matching 'blurple' paddocks. 'Blurple' is not a colour you find very often on motorbikes and not a colour you find a lot of in nature.

Beyond Kanmantoo the road straightened providing relief for the cruisers who had had to work at getting through all the twisting we had done to that point. After skirting the centre of Murray Bridge we took a winding way to Mypolonga and beyond. What used to be shocking pot-holed dirt roads are now lovely smooth bitumen. North Bokara Road is especially nice except the part where the dairy means the road has cow poop all over it. For our ride it wasn't too bad – at other times there's so much bullshit there you'd think Donald Trump was having a rally.

After riding through Caloote we headed on past the Mannum Waters Marina to Mannum where we found plenty of parking at the reserve on the riverfront. The cool conditions kept the (other) tourists away. (Good!!). When we were about to leave after having lunch a surprise visitor turned up on a black Harley Sportster that replaces her aged Guzzi. It was Linda Price, who was on her way back to Adelaide after camping in the Riverland. She took the usual stirring handed to new Harley owners in good spirit.

The weather warmed up slightly after lunch. I was glad to hear some people hadn't been on some of the roads before and didn't know where they were. (we like to keep it interesting) Everyone corner-marshalled well and no-one got lost along the way. Thank you tail-end-charlies. I enjoyed this opportunity to lead a ride for my friends of the Adelaide branch. As always, the best way to spend Sundays is riding.



Sunday Ride Round Up 18th October Mannum Ride Leader Bob Braunthal



Sunday Ride Round Up 1st November Nuriootpa

Ride Leader Mike Green



Sunday Ride Round Up 1st November Nuriootpa

Ride Leader Mike Green



Sunday Ride Round Up 15th November Freene's Lunch Ride leader **Brenton George**

After some anxious watching of the temperature forecast, we scraped in under the 37C cut-out. Sixteen riders turned up for the start with Ray and Trevor back out riding and taking a well-deserved break from Tail End Charlie duties. Thanks to Peter Wood and Felix for stepping up.

At the morning tea break at Wistow we got thunder lightning and rain. A toot and a wave from a passing driver in an E Type Jaguar (convertible, top down) who was also perplexed by where this unexpected downpour had come from. It was then onwards to the Freenes' for lunch via what was described to me as every speed hump in Adelaide.

Thanks to Sue and Don and all the helpers for a great lunch and a timely chance to socialise before the restrictions.



Sunday Ride Round Up 15th November Freene's Lunch Ride leader Brenton George



Don Freene's Eventful Life....

Born 24th February, 1937 at Korumburra Hospital. 2nd child after his sister.

I lived on a small farm until when I was three years old, Dad was kicked in the head by a horse and suffered a brain and skull injury. He lived 6 months and then died, leaving a widow with 3 kids and one on the way. He was only 32 years old. My Mother struggled to keep the family going, we were very poor.

Then when I was about 5, the farm caught fire due to a vagrant throwing a lit cigarette and our house burnt to the ground. We lost everything and I had to be farmed out to a relative in Melbourne, as was my younger brother. My sister stayed with Mum with my younger brother.

After 2 years, Mum bought a house which was transported on a truck from Wonthaggi, a mining town 33kms away. It fell off the truck while going under a bridge and crashed onto the railway track below. It had to be burned so the train could run.

The farm was sold and a small one purchased at Korumburra. The family moved, minus my brother who was fostered by a relative. I started primary school riding a horse 2up with my sister, sitting on a potato sack. My chores at that time aged 6+ were bringing in the cows, feeding the pigs and calves twice a day, plus catching rabbits to help supplement the table.

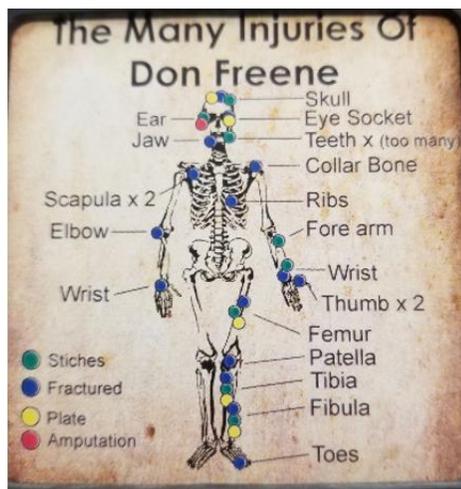
I left school on my 14th birthday and started a job at the local hardware shop in the timber yard and joinery shop. I used to ride my pushbike to work. I soon got a motorbike (no licence) called a D.O.T. (devoid of trouble) 2 stroke. It WAS trouble!

I did an apprenticeship with a local builder, but he died before I finished my apprenticeship so I had to finish it by correspondence but I got taken on by another builder.



Tshirt specially created by Shelley Telfer.

Evel Knievel Injuries vs. Don Freene Injuries list. But there have been more in the past 2 years – broken knee leading to replacement, 3 broken spine vertebrae which ended my riding, broken elbow from fall off ladder – plated. I have lost count of the number of accidents I have had, including broken bones, losing an ear (I have a fake one but don't wear it any more), Golden Staph infection.



All this time, various bikes came and went. The D.O.T. went, then 3 Triumphs, a Tiger 100, Thunderbird Sprung Hub, Speed Twin Jampot Matchless, 500 Enfield Single which had a very dangerous kick start, Tena and new Tiger 110 which was the fastest bike in the world at that time. I bought it on hire purchase but couldn't keep up the payments (it cost 450 pounds). So, I sold it and bought a Waller Harley for 15 pounds... hand change, foot clutch, minimum brakes, gutless, uncomfortable and noisy. All of this time I was playing a lot of sport football, tennis, table tennis, basketball.

I volunteered at the Phillip Island Racetrack, building the control tower and the pits, as well as helping Phil Irving who was quite well known in Victoria and overseas. He gave me the key to the back gate so of course some mates and I had a great time roaring around in the dark after being to the pub at Phillip Island. I swapped bikes with a mate who had a Harley Outfit – I tipped the bike over and thought I could hear hissing noises and it turned out to be broken long necks in the sidecar. A few more bikes followed, mostly governed by cost and opportunity.

I went to Phillip Island many times and Wayne Gardner worked really hard to get the Moto Grande Prix at Phillip Island.

In 1968 I took off for work in Western Australia in the mining towns. Sue joined me in 1970 after we married in Mornington and we lived in a caravan for 2 years. We came back east and decided to settle in South Australia.

I hadn't ridden bikes for some years and let my licence lapse so it was fortuitous that I heard about the Ulysses Club and had to go through Ride Safe because it taught me a lot that I didn't know. I joined in 1991.

Well this wonderful club has been our social focus for 30 years and more bikes came with us being members. We have had wonderful times.... Odysseys, AGMs, South Australia Toy Run Breakfasts (which we organized for many years), weekends away, meetings and good friendships.

In particular, the Alice Springs AGM in 1994. Sue had a 250 Suzuki. There were 5 of us in our group and the Suzie was the noisiest so we put her out the front to scare off the roos! That was our first AGM and we remember it as the best. Mudgee and our own at Nuriootpa were also memorable.



Enjoying the 2020 Not the Odyssey Pt Elliot Weekender.



BBQ Don at one of the many, many Toy run breakfasts.



Naughty Don – up a ladder AGAIN recently



The Port Elliot Weekender as I recall it...

By Ken Wagnitz

Michele and I travelled to Pt Elliot Big 4 caravan park on the Thursday morning 29th of October, her in the car to bring stuff, me on my bike, staying in a cabin. There when we arrived, were Brian & Val Cullinan with their luxurious caravan. I emptied out my top box quickly so I could go fetch a carton of beer. The bottle shop guy wondered if I'd fit it on the bike. He evidently hadn't seen a decent sized top box! Then it was lounging around with Brian & Val, and talking A-vans with their neighbours (I have one).

Friday, we drove to Goolwa. A nice lunch on the wharf at Hector's. The Lions bookshop on the way into Goolwa is great. Lots of second-hand books, well ordered, extremely cheap. We all found something, I came away with an armful. (I like spy and detective fiction, and a bit of sci-fi.) Shopped at Woolies there for tea supplies. Expected numbers kept climbing. Peter Castle joined us Friday night, leaving Sunday. (Some people still have to work.) He came by car, finding his Harley battery flat at the last minute.

Tea was a BBQ of sausages, steaks and patties, with salads brought along by various ladies. We used all four electric BBQs at the camp kitchen! Brian and I were assisted at the BBQs by a couple of others (thanks Ian). Then around 35 of us tucked in. Sweets and a bit of fruit followed. No-one went hungry. (Guy would have been beside himself, but he wasn't there.)

Saturday morning saw 6 bikes go for a ride to Langhorne Creek, led by Brian on some scenic sweeping roads most of us hadn't been on before. Lunch at the pub was good. Just my type of place: old-world atmosphere, friendly people, tasty food, not expensive, and perhaps the best house red I've had anywhere (local Bleasdale). A combustion stove and gas burners served to warm us up, in the big front room.

Saturday tea was at the Hotel Elliot. Michele had booked for 20. We ended up with around 35, which they couldn't accommodate, so some of us ate in the beer garden, brrrr. We knew we were due there at 7pm, the pub operating shifts to cater for a busy night. Too bad about the Torrens Valley mob who occupied a long table from 5.30. The glares from the staff didn't work! Frank and Bron turned up to join us. Good to see them again. Frank is mobile again on his big BMW scooter. Nice hotel. Too bad things were very hectic on a busy Saturday night.



Sunday, Waggies & Cullinans did the Goolwa markets. Seems to have improved in class, (but books were too expensive). Lunchtime and teatime, we polished off leftovers in the camp kitchen from the Friday tea, with a top up of chicken that Michele bought. And we still took a bit of food home! The caravan park camp kitchen is large, well equipped, with an outdoor area well sheltered from prevailing winds. -A good thing, since we had a cool and damp weekend. Inside was nice and warm, but all hard-surfaces noisy, which I'm finding it harder to cope with as I get older. Most left on the Sunday, but some of us lingered on. My solo ride home Monday morning was very pleasant. An unhurried cruise on a good bike though meandering southern hills roads is quite cathartic. Traffic was pretty light.

Folk I spoke to about the weekend enjoyed themselves. The weather was very cool and a bit wet, but not enough to spoil it. The big breakdown was in communication. Michele didn't know how many were coming for Friday BBQ or the pub, until the very last minute. Some people just turn up and expect to be fed. Some thought the BBQ was free (we had a \$5 honesty box). Some thought the weekend was an RV group gathering. One person asked if it was organised by Fleurieu branch! (I think we only had one Fleurieu person there.) I'd put notices of the event on Facebook, our Google calendar, and our website, all linked to the *Events* page, where there was a link to a flyer PDF giving details. I don't know what more I can do to get the news out. Torrens Valley evidently have a Chinese whispers system, where vital bits of info get dropped off along the way. Frustrating. I can see why some branches sell tickets for dinners.

Thanks to Michele for all the planning and organising of the weekender, and thank to the others who contributed salads, sweets and effort.

For me it was a very long weekend of bludging, riding, eating, drinking, chatting, a bit of sightseeing, and some book reading. I'll be there next time.



October Branch Meeting



November Branch Meeting



Nuts & Bolts



Ingredients

- 600g Kellogg's Nutri-Grain cereal
- 300g salted mixed nuts
- 45g cream of chicken instant soup
- 45g salt-reduced French onion soup mix
- 1 tsp mustard powder
- 1 tsp curry powder
- 1/3 tsp cayenne pepper *to taste
- 1/2 cup oil warmed

Method

1. In a large container combine Nutri-Grain and nuts.
2. Mix together, soup mixes, mustard, curry, cayenne and oil. Pour over nuts and bolts and mix very well.
3. Store in airtight container.

Ulysses Chat'N'Coffee... 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am - 12noon

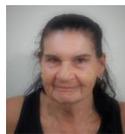
**Venues to be decided, alternating between central, north, south, hills places.

22nd December - Green Valley Strawberries, 686 Nairne Road, Nairne

All members are encouraged to send your suggestions to michele.wagnitz@gmail.com.



Welfare Officer - Friendly Reminder



As Ulyssians we greatly value the camaraderie and support that is provided by our fellow members.

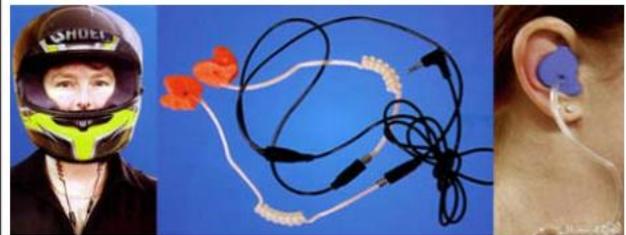
Adelaide's Welfare Officer is a central person in our branch to ensure members in need are assisted in whatever manner is appropriate for that individual.

All members have a responsibility to inform the Welfare Officer if you know of someone who needs support. Perhaps they are unwell, had a close relative / companion die, or experiencing any other physical or emotional need.

Let the Adelaide Branch Welfare Officer know immediately so he/she can organize a hospital visit, home visit, send a card or arrange any other appropriate help.

Gayle McDonald P: 0437 327 930
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What's On Page

Wednesday Midweek Rides- All Rides Depart at 10.30am for more details phone **Steve 0405 120 542** or **John 0407 794 147** – 1st 2nd & 5th **Wednesday depart** from **The Feathers Hotel Car Park Burnside**. 3rd 4th **Wednesday** depart from the **Top of Taps**

The SA Breakfast Club- Postponed until Further Notice

Adelaide Branch Monthly Meeting – Thursday 7th January 2021– Thursday 4th February 2021 (Branch AGM) - Venue: European Catering Reception, 2 Chief St, Hindmarsh. Official meeting starts at 7:30. Come early and enjoy a meal and drink available at the venue at very reasonable prices. A raffle is held on the night with numerous prizes with free tea, coffee & cake following the meeting.

Adelaide Branch Monthly Dinner – Postponed until Further Notice

Contact Sue Freene E: ulyssesadelaide+dinners@gmail.com P: 8277 3339 or M:0413 567 747

If you have or know of an upcoming event and would like it to be included on the Odyssey **'What's On'** page, please email editorsodysey@gmail.com or phone 0419 822 717

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Fleurieu Peninsula

President Brett Wise

Secretary Mike Thorpe – 0405 174 741

Treasurer David Polkinhorne

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Lower Murray Branch

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Torrens Valley Branch

President Terry Mader

Secretary Yvonne Pascoe

Treasurer Merylin Braunsthal – 0419 829 543

Southern Flinders Riding Group

Rides Co-ordinator

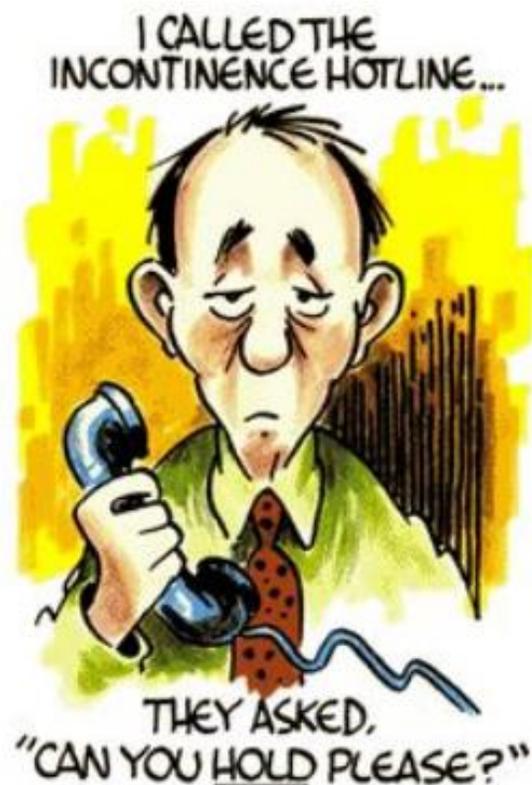
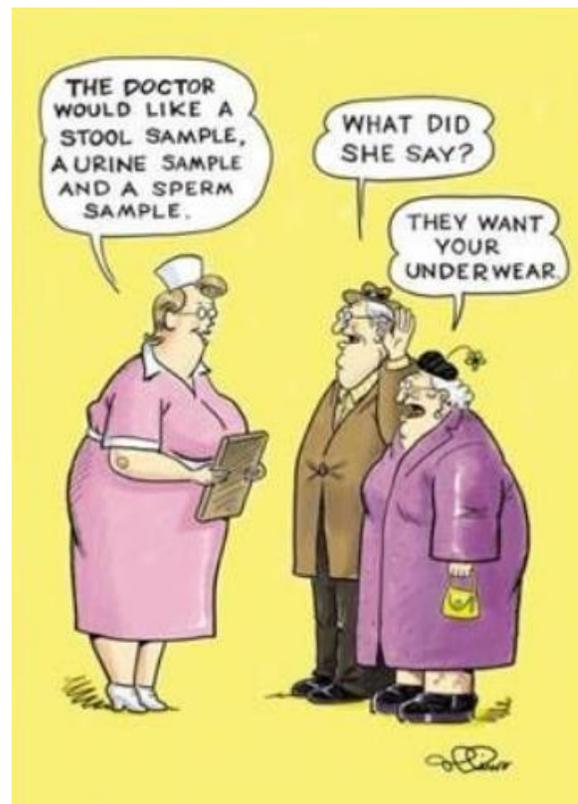
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