

The Odyssey

Adelaide Branch Newsletter
April 2024 Issue



Tax Returns & Accounting Services



I come to you on my **Honda CB500X**
mobile office

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From the editor

Hi to all our members,

The new committee has been selected and they appear on the front page. Mostly familiar faces with a couple of role changes. Myself as President and Gary still contributing as a committee member.

In this issue there are a number of reports from the AGM in February. There are the usual Sunday ride reports and What's on. I am pleased to have a couple of stories from members included in this issue and you can find them on pages, 16. Ulysses RV Group, 18. Wednesday ride report by Claire Hartley, 20. Monica and Sasha, 22. Ken reports on his new helmet.

Thanks to all who contribute to the magazine. Keep the stories coming.

Cheers

Maurice Stevens



Please email your story ideas and contributions for the Odyssey magazine to ulyssesadelaide+editor@gmail.com or phone me on 0407 011 251

Adelaide Branch President's Report

Hi to all our members,

Following our recent AGM, I am honored to have been entrusted with the role of President for the next 12 months. I recognize the significance of this position within our branch and am committed to representing the diverse interests of all our members.

Your input and ideas are invaluable to me, regardless of their size or perceived significance. Every contribution plays a part in shaping our branch into a more inclusive and vibrant community.

We are still in need of someone to oversee our raffle, which serves as our primary fundraising activity. These funds go towards subsidizing events that benefit all members. If you are interested in taking on this role or have suggestions for alternative fundraising ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out to the committee or myself.

I would like to take a moment to send our best wishes to Ian Pascoe, our Welfare Officer, who recently underwent bypass surgery and was unable to attend the March meeting. We are relieved to hear that the surgery was successful and wish him a speedy recovery.

On another note, I had the opportunity to represent our branch on Coast FM's Motochat program at short notice. It was an hour-long discussion covering a range of topics related to Ulysses Adelaide Branch, and I am grateful for the chance to promote our community.

As we embark on the year ahead, I encourage each of you to make the most of what our branch has to offer – a warm and inclusive environment filled with friendly faces and shared interests.

Wishing you all a wonderful year ahead.

Regards



Maurice Stevens



The Adelaide Branch Committee Members 2024/2025



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Ian Pascoe

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024/2025 Volunteers

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Welfare – Ian Pascoe

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Postal Address for all Committee Members – 2 Hughes Court, Craighburn Farm, S.A. 5051
ulyssesadelaide.org.au

AGM Reports

Treasurers Report

Ulysses Club Inc - Adelaide Branch		
	Income	
Item	Amount	GST collected
Club Activities	\$ -	\$ -
Events Activity	\$ 551.00	\$ 50.09
Quartermasters Store Ulysses Gear	\$ -	\$ -
Quartermasters Store Branch Gear	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.09
Odyssey Magazine	\$ 101.00	\$ 9.18
Admin	\$ 109.50	\$ 9.95
Interest	\$ -	\$ -
Raffles	\$ 909.00	\$ 82.64
Donation	\$ 32.00	\$ 2.91
	\$ 1,852.50	\$ 204.86
	Expenditure	
Item	Amount	GST paid
Club Activities	\$ 587.76	\$ 53.43
Events Activity	\$ 551.00	\$ -
Quartermasters Store Ulysses Gear	\$ -	\$ -
Quartermasters Store Branch Gear	\$ -	\$ -
Odyssey Magazine	\$ 24.00	\$ 2.18
Admin	\$ 241.85	\$ 21.99
Raffle Costs	\$ 473.93	\$ 43.08
Club Promotion	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ -	\$ -
Meeting Costs	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 1,878.54	\$ 120.69
Income / Loss	(26.04)	
GST Calculation		
GST collected		\$ 204.86
GST paid		\$ 120.69
GST owing /(refund)		\$ 84.18

Income and Expenditure as submitted to NATCOM Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Statement 1/1/23 - 31/12/23

Item	Asset Register		Supplier
	Date Purchased	Cost inc GST	
PA system	Unknown	100.00	Unknown
Gear Shop Float	Cash	50.00	
Gear Stock Actual	Stock	522.00	
10x HiVis Safety Vests Printed	13th Sept 2018	195.00	Safety Shop
6x HiVis Safety Vests Printed	2nd Nov 2018	114.00	Safety Shop
2x Folding Picnic Tables	Pre 2018	80.00	Officeworks

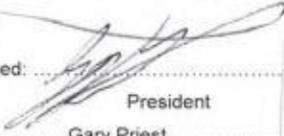
Assets disposed of in 2023	Income	Write Off	Reason
	Nil	Nil	

Bank Balances 31December 2023	NAB Edwardstown SA		
	Main Account No: 085-183	18-276-7973	\$4,774.67
	Events Account No: 085-183	73-017-2902	\$0.00
	Magazine Account No: 085-183	19-614-7951	\$1,106.00

Accounts Signatories:		
	Gary Priest (President)	Robin Butler (Treasurer)
	Member 64998	Member 68702
	0413 609 742	0419 264 049
	ulyssesadelaide+president@gmail.com	butlerro@iinet.net.au

Branch Statement

We certify that this Income and Expenditure statement and Asset Statement and other documents included in the Annual Financial Return represent a true and correct extract of the books of account for the Adelaide Branch of the Ulysses Club Inc.

Signed: 	Signed: 
Treasurer	President
Name: Robin Butler	Name: Gary Priest
Membership # 68702	Membership # 64998
Date: 31st January 2023	Date: 31st January 2023

Quartermasters Report

Item	Stock	Retail	Total
Belt buckle small pewter	5	\$9.00	\$45.00
Fridge magnet – Ride Safely	4	\$2.00	\$8.00
badge Ulysses round small brass	3	\$2.00	\$6.00
badge Australia small	6	\$2.00	\$12.00
Patch Australia large	6	\$3.00	\$18.00
Patch Adelaide Branch 7cm	5	\$8.00	\$40.00
Patch Adelaide Branch 7cm coverup	5	\$8.00	\$40.00
Sticker Australia medium	5	\$2.00	\$10.00
Sticker Ulysses bumper	23	\$0.50	\$11.50
Patch Old Man denim large black	7	\$5.00	\$35.00
Patch Old Man denim large blue	19	\$3.50	\$66.50
Shirt Polo Adelaide badged ladies short sleeve 10	1	\$30.00	\$30.00
Shirt Polo Adelaide badged ladies short sleeve 14	2	\$30.00	\$60.00
Shirt Polo Adelaide badged ladies short sleeve 18	1	\$30.00	\$30.00
Shirt Polo Adelaide badged mens short sleeve L	2	\$35.00	\$70.00
Shirt Polo Adelaide badged mens short sleeve XL	1	\$35.00	\$35.00
Shirt Polo OLD Adelaide badged mens short sleeve XL	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
			\$517.00

Rides Coordinator Report

2023 has been another successful year of rides. Fortunately, the weather has been mostly in our favour, so we didn't need to cancel any rides. We have recently had a couple of new riders join the Sunday group, boosting our numbers. We have had a few of the Torrens Valley riders join us, which is great. I'll soon have a bit more spare time and am looking forward to joining some of their rides. If anyone has any suggestions for destinations, or has come across suitable morning tea stops, please feel free to talk to me or any of the other ride leaders.

A big thank you to the ride leaders who have contributed this year. Mike Green, Peter Wood, Brenton George, Dom Carli, Neville Gray, Frank Pellas, Peter Sellen & Judy Hartridge.

Thanks also to all the people who have helped out with Tail End Charlie duties throughout the year.

Have fun, ride safe and enjoy the 2024 rides.

Cheers Rob Hartridge

Sunday Ride Round Up 28th January 2024

Lyndoch Ride Leader Rob Hartridge

We left Macca's with mostly blue sky and no rain forecast. Heading up through Montacute and down Corkscrew (which was a little dirty at the start, I think someone has tried to take a shortcut through the bank). Lots of twisty's to morning tea at Balhannah kept the riders of 10 bikes & 2 Can Am's awake. We lost one of each at morning tea. Great to have a couple of the Torrens Valley group join us. The run out to Lyndoch for lunch was surprisingly good considering such magnificent weather. The bakery there has a good selection of meals and takeaway, which I'd recommend if you are out that way & looking for a place to eat. It was great to catch up with everyone over lunch. Many of us were still chatting until 2 o'clock.



Sunday Ride Round Up 11th February 2024

Wistow Ride Leader Brenton George



Sunday Ride Round Up 25th February 2024

Angaston Ride Leader Peter Wood

There were 8 bikes and riders on a beautiful Sunday morning at Pelican Plaza for our ride to Angaston, where was everybody else? It was another uneventful ride, other than the very slow trike rider on Fox Creek road who wouldn't let us pass until Rob offered some persuasion. Thanks Rob. We had a pleasant morning tea at Mount Pleasant with about 30 other bikes and riders before heading on to Angaston for a pleasant lunch at D&M Bakery in Angaston. We lost Mark at morning tea, as he had other duties to attend to for the rest of the day. Thanks to Felix and Ken for fulfilling tail end charlie duties. Hope to see more of you on future rides. Peter



Sunday Ride Round Up 25th February 2024

Angaston Ride Leader Peter Wood



Sunday Ride Round Up 24th March 2024

McLaren Vale Ride Leader Frank Pellas

Distance: 184km

Riders: Eleven adventurous riders embarked on a scenic journey through the picturesque hills and dales of the Southern Vales vineyards. Members of the esteemed Adelaide Ulysses Club, united by their passion for motorcycling and camaraderie.

Weather: The day dawned bright and beautiful, with the sun casting its golden rays upon the winding roads ahead. Perfect riding conditions greeted us as we geared up at the Victoria Hotel for the day's adventure.



Route: The journey commenced from the Top of Taps at 9:35am, where engines roared to life and spirits soared with anticipation. The route promised a mix of stunning vistas and thrilling twists and turns, spanning a distance of 96km. Up to Chandlers Hill, along Piggot Range Rd, down to Hackham, then to Old Noarlunga, and via Seaview Rd, through to McLaren Vale, across to Sellicks Hill, Pages Flat Rd, and through Yundi eventually ending at our first stop. Morning Tea: By 11:00am, we made a pit stop at Mt Compass, a normally tranquil spot

nestled amidst rolling hills, except today there was a constant stream of traffic on the Victor Harbor Rd. Here, amidst the busy surroundings, we enjoyed a well-deserved break and indulged in some revitalizing coffee and pastries, refueling both body and soul for the road ahead. Lunch Break: Continuing our excursion, we made our way to McLaren Vale. Although only ten minutes from Mt Compass, the round trip along Cleland Gully Rd, through Ashbourne, Strathalbyn and Meadows, a distance of 88km, took more than an hour. Upon arrival, our group dispersed, with some opting to savour the flavours of the local pub, others delighting in the treats from the bakery, and two riders bidding farewell as they headed homeward.

Special Mentions: A heartfelt salute to Camo, the rider adorned in camouflage attire, whose unique style added a dash of flair to the journey. Special recognition also goes to Brenton a member of the Fleurieu branch, who joined us for the day. TEC (Tail End Charlie): Gratitude is extended to Felix, who valiantly assumed the role of TEC on his Can-Am trike, ensuring that no rider was left behind and that the group remained united throughout the adventure.

Thanks to all who came along. Frank Pellas



Sunday Ride Round Up 24th March 2024

McLaren Vale Ride Leader Frank Pellas



Up Coming Sunday Rides All Rides Depart at 9.30am

When	Leader	Event	Destination	Departing from
7 Apr	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Aldgate	<u>Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury</u>
21 Apr	Peter Wood 0487 452 200	Day Ride	Finnis	<u>McDonalds, 303 Magill Rd, Trinity Gardens</u>
5 May	Brenton George 0432 535 163	Day Ride		<u>Top of Taps, Victoria Hotel OHalloran Hill</u>
19 May	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Mt Pleasant	<u>Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury</u>
2 Jun	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Clarendon	<u>McDonalds, 303 Magill Rd, Trinity Gardens</u>

*Accurate at time of printing. Please check the Website nearer the time of the ride

SA Breakfast Club

3rd February 2024 Plant 4 Bowden

There were 22 attendees for the breakfast at Plant 4. The wide variety of foods available meant everyone was catered for and satisfied with their meal. A good time was had by all.



2nd March 2024 Largs Bay Sailing Club

We ended up with 19 members attending the breakfast at the Largs Bay Sailing Club. There was a good selection on the menu and all were happy with what they ordered. Service was reasonably quick and cheerful. All had a good time chatting with most staying until after 11am.



SA Branches & Riding Groups Contacts

Eyre Peninsula Branch

Secretary

Teresa Baddeley – **0403 507 697**

Fleurieu Peninsula

President Philip Wilson – **0405 226 284**
Secretary Marie Wilson – **0413 795 833**
Treasurer Peter Swallow - **0411 364 940**
Webmaster Grant Glassman – **0407 799 311**

Mallee Branch

President Scott Crockett – **0402 500 037**
Secretary David Moore - **0438 839 998**

Lower Murray Branch

President Terry Phillips - **0401 320 665**
Secretary Brenton Williams– **0408 842 840**

Torrens Valley Branch

President Terry Mader - **0409 427 380**
Secretary Yvonne Pascoe – **0410 508 828**
Treasurer Marilyn Braunsthal – **0419 829 543**

Southern Flinders Riding Group

Rides Co-ordinator

Greg Fidge – **0437 676 596**

Whyalla & Districts Branch

President Perry Zimmerman – **0419 134 511**
Secretary &
Treasurer - John Lawson – **0421 170 181**

Welfare Officer - Friendly Reminder



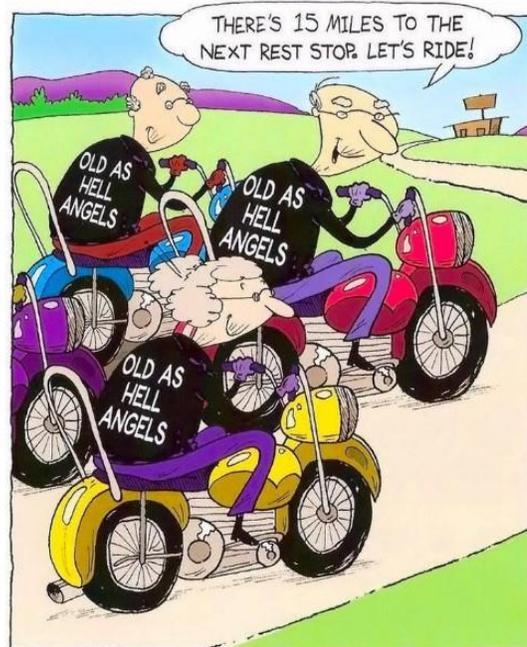
As Ulyssians we greatly value the camaraderie and support that is provided by our fellow members.

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 she can organize a hospital visit, home visit, send a card or arrange any other appropriate help.

Ian Pascoe P: 0410 444 962
E: ulyssesadelaide+welfare@gmail.com



SARV Rally at Port Elliot Feb 23-25 2024

When you combine the cool summer, we have been having with the cooler climate in God's waiting room (Encounter Bay to Goolwa) you have a weekend more like April than February. Nobody was complaining. we just had to wear cardigans or jackets to our outdoor dinners.

The Port Elliot caravan park was half full, quieter than school holiday time but there were still probably a hundred vans on site. Most Ulyssians were clustered together and were busy catching up and chatting soon after arriving. A different bike was in our midst. Peter Sellen had a neat little black GN 250 Suzuki which he recently acquired for the princely sum of just \$1100 in good going order. All he had to do to it was a bit of polishing and it looked really neat, even though it's a historic rego job. Of course, he had to start it up to show how good it was - there was no smoke, no rattle, nothing untoward, just a typical reliable Suzuki ready for thousands more trouble-free kilometres.



With a lot of people on site it was not easy to get a barbecue, so dinner was quite late, but nobody was bothered, we just sat around chatting as Ulyssians are wont to do. After eating it was getting quite chilly so most people drifted off to their vans to keep warm.

Saturday was not as cloudy as Friday. It was a bit warmer but hardly summer weather. Most Ulyssians wandered



off to walk along Horseshoe Bay or the paths by the granite belt where it meets the sea and the waves crash spectacularly over them with fine spray floating on the wind. After a pizza lunch in nearby Victor Harbor we picked up a Ulysses friend, Sue Carli, and visited other Ulysses friends Kym and Lenore Osborne on their farm near Parsons Beach. Kym waxed lyrical about his recent ride on Royal Enfield in the Himalayas. His photos of their trip were awesome.

All too soon we had to make tracks to be at the dinner at the Port Elliot

Hotel and a good outdoor meal it was with more than twenty Ulyssians there. We at the dined until it became dark and a yellow full moon rose above the horizon. As it was cool most people departed for the warmth of their vans.

Sunday was cool again. Some left for home while others staying did their own thing. We spent the morning chatting. Gail Priest went for a ride on her electric bike and came back rather excited after running over a large brown snake on the bike path. She said she screamed and raised her legs as high as she could in case it reared up to strike, but luckily for her it did not Well-done Gail! Hopefully it slid off to feed on the many pest rabbits that were about.

We Visited relloes in the afternoon before catching up with Dom and Sue Carli for a Pizza dinner in Victor Harbor and a walk along the beach until nightfall. Then we decided to hit the hay early after a great weekend. Those unable to be there missed a great event.

If you could not make it to this rally, be sure to join the next one at Crystal Brook in April. We could not take our A-van this time so we stayed in a pub. Where there is a will there is a way.

Bob



SOUTH AUSTRALIA ULYSSES RV CALENDAR 2024

12th -14th April	Crystal Brook Caravan Park 8636 2640
7th -9th June	Wellington Caravan Park 8572 7302
30th August-1st September	Murray Bridge @ Avoca Dell Caravan Park 8532 2095
13th – 21st October	Ulysses RV AGM is at Yarrowonga Caravan Park (03)5744 3420, also on the same date is the South Australian Odyssey at Normanville.
15th -17th November	Stansbury Foreshore Caravan Park 8852 4171 This is the end of year event for SARV

On Any Wednesday

By Claire Hartley

Bonjour a tous / Hello to all,

We welcomed our new president, Maurice who came to check out what all the excitement was on a Wednesday. Maurice said that he enjoyed the day and impressed a number of riders with his abilities on what proved to be one of John's twistier routes. Our illustrious leader, Steve had an incident in the dirt on a Tuesday and was out of commission for a short while. Other riders stepped up to the plate with brief summaries of the ride via WhatsApp. Here's some of their comments –

January 31st

(Via Colin Snr) 24 Bikes, 5 apologies, 1 new rider – Maurice, the president elect – Williamstown via Woodside

February 7th

(via John) 25 riders and 6 apologies today, to Birdwood via Nairne and lots of circle work in between. I have received a letter from Steve's lawyers regarding breach of copyright and from next week will cease and desist from using "Gather Round" at the start of the ride briefing. I forgot to mention that there was one new rider with excellent taste in bikes. (It was an Aprillia.)

February 14th

(Steve via Rehab) Hi All. Twenty-five riders and four apologies for our Valentine's Day Ride today with our favourite motorcycles (sort of). John A took most of the group to Mannum via Williamstown. The Rehab group rode direct to Williamstown then back to Lobethal. Thanks to all for participating.

February 21st

(via John) 14 riders today (including 1 new rider) and multiple apologies today. We braved the heat and had a shortened ride to Normanville, road closures and U-turns notwithstanding. Thanks to Brenton for TEC duties.

February 28th

(via John) 16 riders and 9 apologies today, to Victor Harbor via Strathalbyn. Weather was perfect albeit a bit windy. Steve get your black book out and write Symens's name into the naughty column, he overtook the ride leader today. Thanks to Fred for TEC duties.

March 6th

(via Steve) 16 riders and 13 apologies today. To Mt Pleasant via Gumeracha and circle work around the hills. Thanks to all and safe riding for all those going to the Ulysses AGM in W.A. and the High Country Ride.

March 20th

(via Dave) 16 riders and 5 apologies started to Mt Compass only 9 continued to Pt Elliot via the lovely Delamere Road. My total distance door to door was 305 km. 1 minor accident, 1 speed camera into Myponga, 2 road diversions roadworks, 1 bushfire out of Myponga, cool temperatures no rain.

March 27th

(via Steve) 19 riders and 9 apologies today. To Strathalbyn via Willunga and birthday cake with Bruce at Meadows. Thanks to Mick for sighting Ross in the first instance and Andrew and 2 locals for helping Ross. Hopefully all fixable. Stay safe over Easter.

During one of our February rides, Mick's Ducati developed a worrying noise, the ride was over and we were at Cudlee Creek for the end of day coffee. Dave offered to go home to Nairne and pick up his van and transport Mick and the said Ducati home to O'Sullivan's Beach. Well done Dave and I hope that noise wasn't too expensive Mick!

We currently have a "Rehab Group" (apologies to the late Amy Winehouse) Even though Steve is carrying some injuries to his hand after his dirt bike incident and Bruce is experiencing some non-bike related problems you can't keep good men off their motorcycles.

February 28th was a strange day which was forecast to be quite hot and ended up being quite "rideable" when the Bureau of Meteorology got it wrong. Symen made the naughty list when he accidentally overtook the ride leader when the group was held up by road works. Finishing at Meadows for a meeting of the R.O.A.R. with Colin Snr and Newell meeting the group at Meadows. The R.O.A.R is open to everyone, not just the usual Wednesday crew so don't feel shy about attending!

March 13th was a day when numbers were down due to the AGM and another group who had headed for the high country. Brenton planned a route for us to Mt Compass and Pt Elliot. He had checked out all roadworks in his route but obviously his source was incomplete. We started down Blacks Rd to find we had to turn around and detour. Brenton had planned a circuit of the Myponga dam and again we turned around because of more roadworks! Just out of Normanville we came across a fire started by a car towing a trailer which had lost a wheel! After all that excitement we had lunch at the Pt Elliot Bakery and then home. A big day, Chris and I pulled up at home with both fuel tanks on reserve.

March 27th became eventful when Ross left the road unintentionally. Luckily Mick saw him go otherwise we would have had a hard time trying to find him down a steep incline on Wickham Hill Road. His bike was recovered and he went home with the Tow Truck driver. He seemed OK at first, just a little bruised and battered but an examination showed up a crack in the left hip cup bone and surgery followed. Another candidate for the Rehab Group. No, no, no!!! (More apologies to Amy Winehouse) Get well soon Ross.

Ride safe. Claire

Monica and Sasha on the CB500F

I was 12 when my best friend Cassandra and I made a pact that when we grew up we would buy matching Kawasaki motorbikes and ride around Australia. The fact that neither of us came from a family where anyone rode a motorbike, did not deter us from our childhood goal.

Fast forward to adulthood, and career, kids and family got in the way pushing childhood dreams into the background, with the pace of life taking their place.

Both of us became Registered Nurses, and I had to go one better and complete a back-to-back degree in Midwifery also. (Cassie later completed a law degree) The motorbike became a distant memory which surfaced after a few drinks on rare occasions when we managed a reunion catch up.

Turning 50 was a huge year for me. After raising my kids as a single parent and working two jobs most of my life. I decided I wanted to do something for me before my life came to an end. We had never had a family holiday, so I organised passports for everyone and we went on a two-week cruise to the South Pacific. This was a lovely holiday and I vowed there would be more of the travelling kind of thing, but when I arrived back home, I thought “what now?” And I remembered the motorbike dream from long ago, thinking, “DO I DARE?”



I still didn't know anyone who rode a motorbike, but the hankering was still there, so I booked into the learner's course and went for it. I got my learners on a Thursday afternoon and walked out of Peter Stevens freshly decked out with a brand-new Honda CB500F at 4 pm on a Friday afternoon. The guy on the floor asked me if I wanted him to wheel it out to the road, he must have been able to tell by the petrified look on my face that I was definitely having second thoughts about this mad scheme. I gratefully accepted and more than half jokingly asked him if he would consider riding it home for me as well! I definitely hadn't thought about the sensibility of riding my new bike home to Gawler in peak hour at 4pm on a Friday afternoon with

nothing but a two-day learning course behind me!

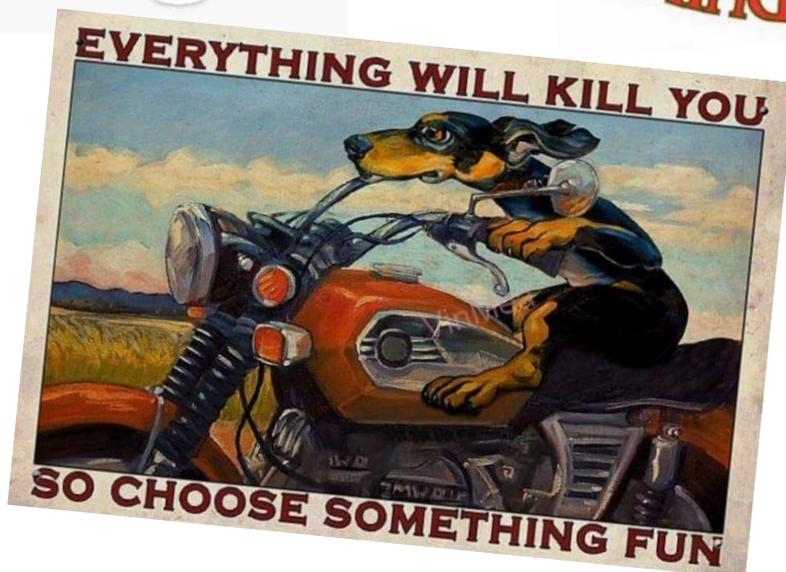
Somehow the bike and I made it home in one piece with my heart still beating and still in my chest! The reaction from my children should have been recorded... their mother had lost her marbles and had become a BIKER!! (I had told no one what I was up to)

I spent the next few weeks gingerly learning how to keep the thing upright and mobile. Then I decided I should tell my parents. No, I wouldn't, I would SHOW my parents. So, I loaded up the bike with the plan of riding to their house in Port Augusta. We had never been allowed to be near motorbikes as kids, they were dangerous

things and only temporary Australians rode them! I had no idea how they would take the news...I had a vague memory of hearing somewhere along the way that my dad had had motorbikes before he met my mum, but she put a stop to that caper pretty quickly when they met. When I rode into their driveway and they figured out it was me, the looks on their faces almost made me turn straight around and ride back out again.

My trusty Jack Russell, who was used to coming with me often in the car, put on a major performance when she saw me packing a bag, wanting to come. "Why not?" I thought. Sure, I could strap the cat carrier onto the back somehow and take her.

I did, and the rest is history so to speak. Since then, Sasha and I have ridden to Mount Gambier, Quorn and the Yorke Peninsula, camping out and feeling the breeze. She loves it and has graduated to her own luxury carrier which she can put her head out of if she wishes. She objects vocally every second Sunday when we get the bikes out for the Ulysses ride and then leave without her! Last Sunday, I took her with me and she was thoroughly spoilt by all when attended. I think she should qualify as an honorary member now!



Ken's New Helmet

I recently had a head-on collision with a car. The other old fart decided the coast was clear on a Y intersection, just as I was approaching at around 80km/h. He drove off from a stop sign, straight into this old fart. My bike fared quite well, considering the damage to his car. Broken plastics, weeping fork seal, scratches. My body busted his windscreen. I could have come off much worse than I did. (Writeup in our Feb 2024 magazine on the Adelaide Branch website.) Fork seal fixed, waiting for plastic bits to come from Triumph England, via Mars. Meanwhile, back healed, I want to ride my bike -e.g. to Mandurah. But everyone tells me I should bin my few months old helmet. Insurance will contribute to a new one, so out shopping.

On my recent ride around Oz with friend Paul, I did think his flip-face helmet was an advantage in a few ways. Could open it for a sip of water or a muesli bar etc, while riding. (I'm not a fan of the camel-back.) Could position it just so, to block out the sun when riding toward it. And he reckoned the sound from his Shoei Neotec 2 was pretty good, with the built-in Sena headset. He could hear me OK, but without earbuds I couldn't hear him at speed with my full-face Nolan N80-8. I've had quite a few Nolan helmets over the years. I like them. But not the flip-face ones, too noisy. The current one my wife has is a Nolan N90-3. Noisy.



I decided to lash out. Bought a Shoei *NEOTEC 3 GRASP* helmet. The latest and greatest. With \$100 off list, white was \$1,190. Gulp. Sent a photo of it sitting next to my old red & black Nolan, to my wife currently holidaying in Vietnam, saying the red/black one in stock was another \$200, surely not worth it? She replied yes. So, I swapped boring white for a matte red & black model, handing over an extra \$200. Gulp.

Uncharacteristically, I read the handbooks supplied. One tells you how to choose and use a helmet. The other relates to the actual helmet. The very first sentence is "This product is a motorcycle helmet.", just to dispel any doubt one might have, and set the tone. No, not a flower pot. All the warnings in both booklets and a paper slip, were enough to scare anyone off from ever getting on a bike again! And lots of warnings about what to do and not do with the helmet. My trick of putting duct-tape across the visor to shield from high sun would be a no-no. Bugger. Might do it anyway.

Two thick booklets in multiple languages, needing either very bright light or a magnifying glass to read. If they used half the amount of paper for just an English version, the font size would be reasonable. Grr. One reason I had for reading the manual was to help with mounting my Sena 30K headset from my old helmet. No help. Managed anyway.

Now to some actual comment on the helmet, from the perspective of a Nolan owner. Fiddling with the pads to fit the headset, was... very fiddly. Yes, the pads do all come out for washing, but the fitting is a bit tedious. Nolan do it better. And what the Shoei doesn't have, is the red tab system of the Nolan, where you can pull out the cheek pads while the helmet is on, e.g. with an unconscious rider.

I rode to the servo then a club ride start, with music playing through the headset speakers, hoping the helmet would be quiet enough to block external noise and give me good sounding music.

Nup. The music sounded OK, but engine and road noise were obtrusive. Rats.

On the club ride, I wore my Etymotic earbuds, which act like sound-blocking earplugs while providing good audio for music/speech etc from the headset. Worked well. (Sadly, Etymotic don't now sell earbuds suitable for motorcycling.)

An advantage of not using the flash inbuilt (expensive) Sena comms, is that I can use plug-in earbuds instead of the helmet speakers. Also, cheaper. Disadvantage is, not internal to the helmet. The external headset does add a small amount of wind noise.

I listened for wind noise with my screen up and down. I judge it less than my Nolan full-face helmet, and definitely less than the Nolan flip-face. Win. The vent on the top does add a bit of noise when open (warning about this in the manual), but not as much as with my Nolan. The face shield fogged up more readily than the Nolan does. I think the airflow is less (with both vents open). A breath guard is supplied but I didn't fit it. Left the chin curtain on, -reduces noise.



The chinstrap is fastened with a metal tab quick release system (the Nolan has a plastic tab). It is easier to use than a D-ring, but not as easy as the Nolan. And the helmet is a bit trickier to put on because the catchside-strap is so short. (The straps are equal lengths on the Nolan.) Even with the front flipped up, I can't put the helmet on with my glasses on. Rats! I found the disadvantage of a metal tab, when I inadvertently left it in the sun while at lunch on a club ride. (I park my helmet on a mirror, with gloves inside cushioning it.) Warm!

The internal sun shade is like most, not very dark. One good aspect is that it slides continuously up and down (no detents), so is easy to place just above eye-line to shield from the sun. It stays down with the front flipped up. It's convenient to just push it up with a finger on the bottom of the shade when opening the flip, but the manual warns against it, for no good reason I can see. The shade works well, and with bright sun, it is fine in combination with my polaroid clip-ons.

The visor view is quite wide. It locks down hard, with a clip lever just below where your finger would go to lift it up, so it is natural to press it. (Difficult to release if you don't.) The manual warns about leaving it unlocked in case it flies up (so what?), but also mentions leaving it up a little to clear fogging! -A pinlock comes with the helmet, but I won't fit that until Winter.

The padding totally encloses the head, it might get a bit sweaty on a very hot day, but felt really comfortable. No problems after half a day wearing it. Weight at 1.815kg (quoted, increasing to 1.850 with internal comms) is more than I'm used to, but I didn't notice the extra.

A good helmet? Definitely. Expensive? Very. Worth it? Maybe.

Ken Wagnitz #21315



Wednesday Midweek Rides

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



The SA Breakfast Club

The SABC meets at an eatery somewhere around the state, on the first Saturday of the month, from 9.30am. It doesn't matter what the weather is. Come by motorbike, bicycle, car, or on foot. The SABC is about socialising with members from other branches.

When: 6th April 2024 at 9.30am
When: 4th May 2024 at 9.30am
When: 1st June 2024 at 9.30am

Where: Oasis Gardens, 726 Langhorne Creek Rd, Belvidere
Where: TBA Please check our website nearer the time
Where: TBA Please check our website nearer the time

Please confirm your attendance as venues require numbers to provide adequate staff.

Contact Ken Wagnitz by the Wednesday before either ulyssesadelaide+ken@gmail.com or SMS 0417 353 389 with - SABC, your name, how many require breakfast.

Adelaide Branch Monthly Meeting. Official meeting starts at 7:30pm

The Adelaide Branch Monthly meeting is held on the 1st Thursday of the month and issues regarding the branch are relayed to the members. New members are welcomed and general business raised.

When: Thursday 2nd May 2024

Venue: The Mile End Hotel, 30 Henley Beach Rd, Mile End

When: Thursday 6th June 2024

Venue: The Mile End Hotel, 30 Henley Beach Rd, Mile End

Come early and enjoy a meal and drink available at the venue.



Meeting
Reminder