The Odyssey

Adelaide Branch Newsletter August 2024 Issue





Adelaide Branch President / Editors Report

Hi to all our members,

I recently attended the Interbranch Committee meeting alongside Ken, Robin, Gary, and Ian. It was a highly productive session, providing a fantastic opportunity to share ideas with other branches and to socialise. We discussed various important topics such as Membership, the 2024 and 2025 Odysseys, Social events, Rides, and Fundraising. One key takeaway from the meeting was the unanimous agreement that we should continue sharing information and interacting regularly to strengthen our community and enhance our activities.

A special thankyou goes to Judy and Brett for graciously hosting the meeting in their home. Their hospitality was outstanding, and we greatly appreciate everyone who catered and put on such a great spread for us to all share. The delicious food and welcoming atmosphere added to the overall success of the event.

On July 24th, I joined a Wednesday ride, which turned out to be quite an experience. The turnout was impressive, with a significant number of riders braving the challenging conditions. The wind and debris on the roads from the previous day's weather added an extra layer of difficulty, but it was exhilarating to be out on the bike and share the adventure with fellow members.

In this issue, you'll find the usual reports on our Sunday and Wednesday rides, Breakfast Club, and RV Group. Additionally, there's a classic story by Neville Gray that some of you might have read before. I believe it's worth revisiting, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Don't forget that the SA Odyssey, hosted by the Fleurieu Branch, is fast approaching. Detailed information can be found on page 17, and I strongly encourage you to register early to ensure your spot.

Our front cover features the sleek BMW C400 GT. There's a fascinating story from one of our newest members, Alan Wallace, on page 12. It's always exciting to learn about the experiences and insights of our members, especially those who are new to the group.

Lastly, I want to extend an invitation to all members to contribute to the magazine. Your stories, experiences, and insights are what make this publication engaging. Whether it's a memorable ride or an interesting event, we would love to hear from you.

Regards





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



Benefits to Riding a Motorbike in Your Senior Years

Physical Benefits:

- Improves balance and coordination, crucial as we age.
- Engages core muscles and strengthens legs, contributing to better overall fitness.
- Provides a mild cardiovascular workout from the adrenaline and excitement.
- Enhances reflexes and motor skills through active engagement.

Mental Benefits:

- Enhances cognitive function and mental agility by navigating roads and reacting to stimuli.
- Boosts mood and reduces stress, providing a sense of freedom and adventure.
- Combats feelings of depression or loneliness through the thrill of riding.
- Stimulates the mind with new experiences and scenery.

Social Benefits:

- Fosters social connections and combats social isolation by being part of a biking community.
- Promotes a sense of belonging and support among fellow riders.
- Encourages participation in social events and group rides, enhancing social life.

Overall Well-being:

- Provides a joyful and invigorating way to maintain physical health and mental vitality.
- Offers a sense of independence and empowerment.
- Encourages a more active and engaged lifestyle, contributing to overall happiness and life satisfaction.

Tax Returns & Accounting Services



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

Marcel G Smith C.T.A

Accountant & Registered Tax Agent

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Sunday Ride Round Up 16th June 2024

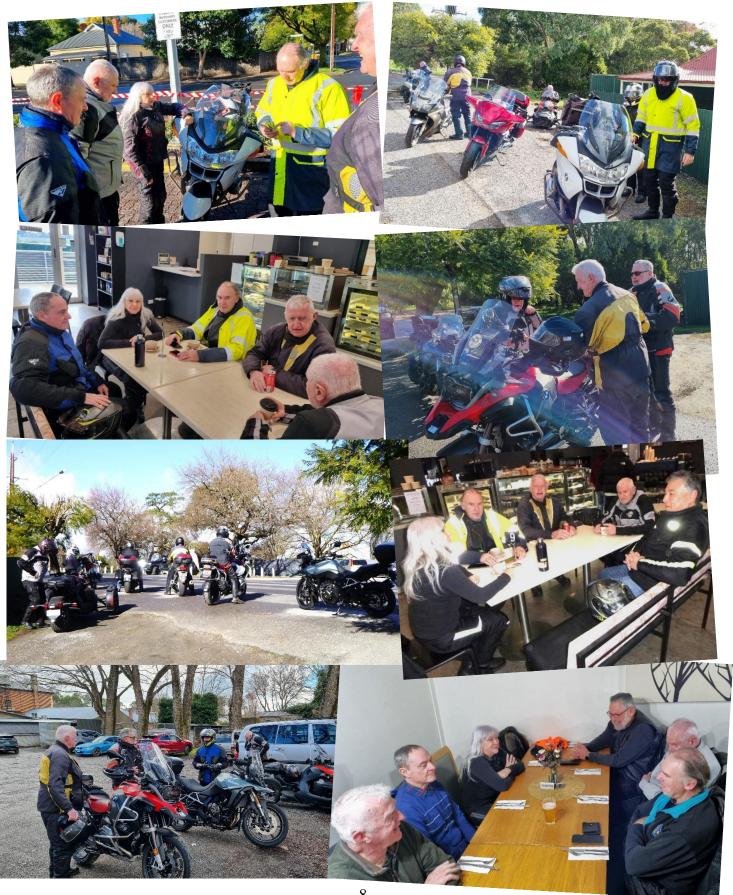
The ride started with the mercury struggling to get into double digits but the sky was clear and the forecast said 16 degrees, so we followed Brenton with high hopes. While it was a little cool, the roads were mostly dry and Brenton had planned plenty of twisties to negotiate. The run took us south through Clarendon, Blewitt Springs and onto Range Road where the run down into the valley saw us enter thick fog with a subsequent drop in temperature. Thankfully this didn't last too long and morning tea was at Meadows where most stood out in the sun. The remainder of the ride was relatively uneventful as we made our way to Birdwood for lunch. Thanks to Felix for tail end Charlie duties.





Sunday Ride Round Up 14th July 2024

Woodside Ride Leader Rob Hartridge



Up Coming Sunday Rides All Rides Depart at 9.30am

When	Leader	Event	Destination	Departing from
11 Aug	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Littlehampton	Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury
25 Aug	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Williamstown	McDonalds, 303 Magill Rd, Trinity Gardens
8 Sept	Brenton George 0432 535 163	Day Ride to Freene's for lunch	St Marys	Top of Taps, Victoria Hotel OHalloran Hill
22 Sept	Peter Wood 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Balhannah	Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury
6 Oct	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride to Waggie's for lunch	Craigburn Farm	McDonalds, 303 Magill Rd, Trinity Gardens
20 Oct	Frank Pellas 0411 600 255	Day Ride	Strathalbyn	Top of Taps, Victoria Hotel OHalloran Hill
3 Nov	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride - BBQ at Rob & Judy's place. All welcome. 225 Deviation Rd Forest Range	Forest Range	Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury
17 Nov	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Bow Hill	McDonalds, 303 Magill Rd, Trinity Gardens
1 Dec	Brenton George 0432 535 163	Day Ride		Top of Taps, Victoria Hotel OHalloran Hill
15 Dec	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Pt Elliot	Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury

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

By Claire Hartley

On Any Wednesday



I start this report by paying tribute to Kevin Brenton who passed away on June 20th after a long battle with cancer. Our group feelings are best summed up by Colin Snr with "Kevin will be very much missed by all the Wednesday Riders who knew him. A huge amount of work preparing for the amazing number of rides he planned and led. A good measure of Kevin was that so many of us benefited from his work. We all owe him greatly. RIP Kevin." Kevin was a ride leader and active within our group for at least ten years and a memorial ride is being planned for the near future.

May 15th Seventeen riders and twelve apologies today. To Victor Harbor via Myponga and Delamere. Ken got safely to Peter Stevens with his battery problem. Thanks to all for Participating.

May 22nd Sixteen riders (confirmed today) and eight apologies today. To Mount Compass via Macclesfield and circle work. Then to Meadows for meeting with ROAR group including Colin Snr, Newell, Bruce, Ross and Dave. Thanks to all for participating. Steve. PS for some: Retired Or Absent Riders.

May 29th (via John) Nineteen riders today enjoying sunny day, to Cudlee Creek via Mt Pleasant. Welcome back to old Darryl and also welcome to new Darryl on the big Indian. Thanks to TEC's Fred and Brenton.

June 5th Twenty riders (including 1 visitor and Bernie) and eight apologies today. Plus, one new bike and one non cake birthday. Bruce has returned to the ride and Ross appeared in 4X4. Good to see them both. To Woodside via Williamstown. Thanks to all for participating.

June 12th Ten riders and twelve apologies today. To Lobethal via Birdwood and JA circle work on the Husky and Bruce on the Niken. Cool but sunny day with great scenery on the Angas Valley Road for those going slow enough to appreciate it. Thanks to all for participating.

June 19th Twelve riders and eleven apologies today. Cool, dry and sunny all day To Strathalbyn via Nangkita and JA circle work. Thanks to all for participating.

June 26th Six intrepid riders and multiple apologies today. To Meadows via Normanville and chasing the sun down South. Thanks to all for participating.

July 3rd Sixteen riders 9including one new member, Andrei – Yamaha) and eight apologies today. To Mannum via Nairne and a scenic tour along the river. A dry sunny day but a maximum of 11 degrees,

July 10th Twenty riders and seven apologies today. One new bike. Sunny, dry but cool and windy conditions in places. To Lobethal via Mt Pleasant and big circle work.

July 17th Seven intrepid riders and multiple wimp apologies today. To Meadows via Mt Compass and rain avoidance strategies down South.

July 24th Sixteen riders and nine apologies today. To Milang via Mt Compass in sunny but windy conditions. Then to Meadows for the birthday cake with Andrew and feedback to Chris on his prospective Suzuki purchase.

Much travel within the group with Chris and I heading to Canada and Alaska. Clive taking his annual trip to France. Robert reporting in from London and Rob and Derek reporting in from the Finke Desert Race. But everyone still monitors WhatsApp to see what's happening at home and posting the odd photo of their travels.

SA Breakfast Club

1st June 2024

 W_{e} had 16 attend the June 2024 SABC breakfast at Caffe Buongiorno Mitcham.

They had plenty of room -could have coped with many more.

A nice cool sunny day, but only two came by bike.







6th July 2024

We had 36 at the July 2024 SABC breakfast at Strathalbyn RSL. The venue was lovely. nice outlook over the oval, with a comfy lounge area around the corner with plenty of memorabilia and books. Breakfast was a bit meagre at \$10 for an egg and a bit of bacon between slices of white bread, with instant coffee and tea available. It was a donation! -Ken.





My road to the BMW C400 GT

Hi, my name is Alan and I am a new rider to the club. This is my first BMW motorcycle and I thought I would introduce myself and log my route to getting here.

I have owned many bikes over the years, most notably an old Honda 750 VFR which introduced me to the freedom of motorcycles. At the time living in Ireland, I would make a break for the ferry on a Friday evening after work, getting off in Scotland and riding the length of England during the night to get to the World Super bikes at Brands Hatch in the south of England. I still can't get over the sight of 20,000 bikes taking over several paddocks attending the event.

That was my first experience of a road trip. I passed my motorcycle test on the Monday, purchased the old VFR on the Wednesday and stands up sheepishly on the Friday with work colleagues who declared all would be good. Within an hour on the English motorways at night-time I caught a last-minute glimpse of building material in the outer lane and by sheer luck, a shift of weight probably curling into the foetal position I managed to shimmy around it somehow. Skill most definitely did not play a part in it. It certainly kept me alert the rest of the journey.

The VFR was upgraded a few years later to the 800 variant and



it was then a few years after that I emigrated and made the silly mistake of selling the bike instead of loading it onto a shipping container bound for OZ.

That got me out of riding for a while until a few years ago I saw the benefits of free parking in Adelaide. There started my scooter journey.

I have owned a few, with the last one being a Kymco 150. Perfect for commuting but let's just say that full throttle was required to get my lard arse up to anything resembling commuting speed and travel on a Ulysses club ride was out of the question with the suspension.

It was at that stage I came to the epiphany that my machine was designed for a person of Taiwanese stature and me with my heavy whole and 10kg of motorbike clothing was just asking too much.

Having come to this realisation I was faced with 2 choices. Having decided that the ozempic route was problematic with supply issues and not particularly inviting I settled on a bike upgrade and my first BMW. I did test ride the 310GS but it felt a bit cramped and I had gotten unfamiliar with the whole gear and clutch thing.

That is when I planted myself on my armchair on wheels. Heated seat, grips and auto cancelling indicators. Technology had moved on somewhat compared to the Kymco. Not to mention that TFT screen.



Having recently started to reduce hours at work (the whole work life thing) or just the realisation finally after 30 plus years (I am a quick learner I hear you say) that it is just slavery with another tag, I have set about trying to enjoy life a bit more. My first trip was to meet a work colleague for a coffee. I parked in an underground car park close to the coffee shop.

After coffee and buns (plural) I returned to the bike. She is called snowball. Ball as the last three letters of the rego are BOL and snow as she is white. The work colleague came over to have a look and we got chatting at the bike with me showing and explaining all its attributes.

At this stage I noticed an Indian gentleman standing a few feet away from me and the bike and noticed a taxi parked in the bay beside me. I am ashamed to say my bias brought me to assume him being the vehicle owner and I carried on my conversation with the colleague. At one point after a further 5 minutes the Indian gentleman moved closer and I asked did he

need me to move to get into the taxi. He replied no and that he had been waiting for me. I asked how long. He replied 30 minutes. He then proceeded to tell me that he owned a 650 BMW scooter and he was waiting to ask what I thought of mine. I laughed and asked him did he want to ask me anything, explaining that I had just purchased it and he replied no, I think you have covered everything. With that he announced that he was going to trade for one and of he walked.

I thought that I have never owned a bike, never mind a scooter, that has attracted any attention before. Obviously, a wise choice.

Anyway, that's the end of my short intro and I hope to see you on a Sunday ride for more coffee shop experiences.

"You're all over the road!!!!"

I quite often get this retort when I ride with my fellow Ulyssians – allow me to explain. The best place to ride on a carriageway is in the right-hand wheel path and for good reasons. It gives me a wide escape route both left and right when something goes wrong such as dodging a stray animal on the road or suffering a tyre blowout. I would rather have to emergency brake on bitumen than on dirt or grass! It is also the smoothest place to ride, the left lane being the roughest as it is closest to the pavement edge.

There are some exceptions to my 'right wheel path' plan. When approaching a crest, I veer over to the left wheel path as I never know what is about to come over the hill towards me. I also go to the left when any vehicle approaches – passing a large truck with my left elbow a metre away with a combined closing speed of 200 kph is just scary and you never know what the other roads users' state of mind is so I need to be as far away as I can as they pass. The other exception is during wet weather when the centre of the lane is my preferred place to be. As the pavement wears down with time, the wheel paths are subject to subsidence caused by the vertical forces of heavy trucks and this is where water will pond causing possible aquaplaning. The middle is not subject to these forces and therefore has a courser aggregate texture depth - you can easily see this when riding along. The centre wheel path is therefore drier and will dry out more quickly.

Of course, when riding this way, it virtually eliminates the possibility of riding in staggered file formation of which I am not a huge fan. I like to ride obeying the 3 second rule. That is keeping at least 3 seconds away from the bike in front of me which allows plenty of time to take evasive action when something goes wrong. The 3 second rule is independent of speed. When staggered riding is practiced, the 3 second rule becomes the 1.5 second rule as really you are only riding 3 seconds directly behind the rider in front. On corners all this theory goes pear-shaped as bikes come together as each rider changes their position in the lane to safely negotiate the corner. The other problem with staggered riding formation is when a fellow geriatric Casey Stoner wantabe blasts past and pulls in front thereby destroying the staggered pattern system that has been carefully set up by the majority of the riders.

The Ulysses Club National Committee however, has a policy that it never instructs members how to ride. Natcom assumes that each rider has a valid licence, has been instructed in road-craft practices and needs no reminding of the road rules. The above explanation is purely the way I prefer to ride, honed from many years of crash free riding especially when riding in groups – touch wood!! One possible extension of the way I prefer to ride is when on long trips with each rider practicing the above techniques of 'riding all over the road'. If all riders in the group did this and then someone 'forgot' and maintained a constant position, then quite possibly that rider is starting to suffer fatigue and maybe it is time to pull over and take a break. It is like a little game that we can play that maybe could save a fatigue related crash from happening especially on the longer trips.

So far this year to date, South Australia has had 9 motorcycle fatalities which is way down on this time last year – let's keep the trend going by constantly thinking as we ride. The road-craft we practice and where we place our bikes within the lane is a good start to this process. So, there you have it, I am not drunk or reckless as I veer all over the lane but just practicing my chosen road-craft techniques.

Ride Safer Neville Gray #3394

SA Branches & Riding Groups Contacts

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Secretary Marie Wilson – 0413 795 833
Treasurer Peter Swallow - 0411 364 940
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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 Steve Slee 0412 839 466

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



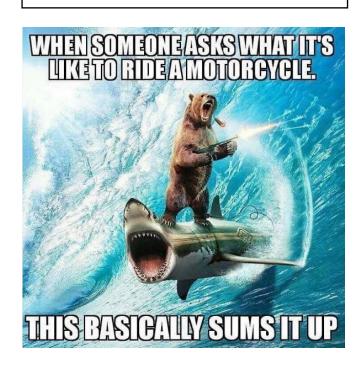
As Ulyssians we greatly value the camaraderie and support that is provided by our fellow members.

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.

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



SARV Weekend wellington June 2024

As we were in no hurry, we went via the tourist route. Through Mt Compass, Nangkita, Finniss, Milang and onto Wellington. It was a very pleasant trip with very little traffic.

It's a pretty spot as it is right on the River Murray and walking distance to the pub, a blessing on Saturday night. There were already quite a few members there already. It was fabulous to see Nita and Sam there after their Covid bout last time. Rod pulled out his Pig, 2 infamous fire receptacle and soon we were basking in the heat of the Pig. We all had a great afternoon catching up with the events since Crystal Brook. A very pleasant day indeed.

Saturday morning, we had a few more members pop in for the day. Quite a few went for a drive along the Coorong to Meningie for breakfast and of course the op-shop. Always good value. At the caravan park we had a valued group discussion led by Professor Guv on the various weights, tyre pressures and standards relating to caravanning. It is a topic that we should all know as it will become more enforced in the future. As the sun set the temperature fell to -12C, or there abouts. Lucky we were going to the pub for tea and what a fantastic night that was.

Thank you to all who came and made it such a great weekend.

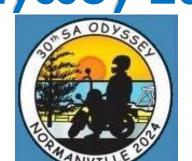


SOUTH AUSTRALIA ULYSSES RV CALENDAR 2024

30 th August-1 st September	Murray Bridge @ Avoca Dell Caravan Park Ph 8532 2095 to
	book
13 th – 21 st October	Ulysses RV AGM is at Yarrawonga Caravan Park (03)5744
	3420, also on the same date is the South Australian
	Odyssey at Normanville.
15 th -17 th November	Stansbury Foreshore Caravan Park 8852 4171 This is the
	end of year event for SARV

Ulysses Club South Australia Odyssey 2024







18th - 20th October

Hosted by Ulysses Club Fleurieu Branch

BIG4 Normanville Jetty Holiday Park

Registration Fee - \$30 per person (Includes Odyssey patch, pin and sticker)

Register online - https://ucfb.au/odysseyreg.html **Event Itinerary** - https://ucfb.au/odysseyritinerary.html

FRIDAY NIGHT BBQ DINNER - \$15 per person

Gourmet sausages, beef patty, bread & salads will be available to purchase

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST - \$10 per person

Eggs & bacon, toast, condiments, tea & coffee will be available to purchase

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER - \$40 per person

3 course meal held in the Beverley Room of the Normanville Hotel (about 900 metres from the holiday park)

SUNDAY BREAKFAST at the Aqua Blue Café if you wish

ENTERTAINMENT will be provided by Maryanne "Songbird" www.maryanne.net.au

SATURDAY RIDES: 1 @ 153kms and 1 @ 121kms

SUNDAY RIDE: To cater for those wishing to head home on Sunday, there will be a ride heading towards the metro area before doubling back to Normanville.

ACCOMMODATION has been reserved at the BIG4 Normanville Holiday Park P: (08) 8558 2038 Mention the Ulysses Odyssey when booking to obtain discount.

Ode to Senior Motorcyclists

Old folks on motorbikes, revving with a roar, Speeding down the highway, like kids once more. Leather jackets flapping, helmets on so tight, Grandmas popping wheelies, such a wild sight!

Bifocals and dentures, all strapped in place, Zooming past young bikers, in an epic race. Hearing aids a-whistling, as they hit top speed, Laughing like hyenas, what a daring breed!

With their silver hair flowing, in the breeze so cool, They ride with such swagger, breaking every rule. Knees might be creaky, but their spirits soar high, Oldies on their hogs, under the wide blue sky.

Their hearts are still young, their souls full of fire, Fuelling up their bikes, fulfilling each desire. So, here's to the seniors, who refuse to be mild, On motorbikes they're legends, forever wild author Mr GP Chat







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, Victoria Hotel, O'Halloran Hill. Please arrive with a full tank of fuel.

The SA Breakfast Club

When: Thursday 3rd October 2024



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: **7**th **September 2024 at 9.30am** Where: <u>TBA Please check our website nearer the time</u> When: **5**th **October 2024 at 9.30am** Where: <u>TBA Please check our website nearer the time</u>

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

Contact **Ken Wagnitz** by the Wednesday before either <u>ulyssesadelaide+ken@gmail.com</u> 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. A raffle is held on the night (bring your gold coins)

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

When: Thursday 5th September 2024 Venue: The Mile End Hotel, 30 Henley Beach Rd, Mile End

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





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